



Cal Delta Spotlight

USC House Corporation of Phi Delta Theta | Fall 2015 | University of Southern California

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USC House Corporation

A Word From Our President



As I write this, a Trojan Football is attempting a turnaround, something that is not necessary at our Phi Delt chapter, which is consistently posting numbers

that would actually look good on a scoreboard: 31 pledges this semester will bring the chapter's membership to over 130 men.

Another number that looks better is the mortgage debt on the house. It now stands at just over \$1.5 million, which is challenging but a huge improvement from the peak of \$3.5 million during the house's reconstruction. Once again our thoughts turn gratefully toward the generous donors who have made this progress possible. It has been six years since the house reopened, and we see a jump in upkeep costs now that the maintenance honeymoon of a new building is over. So we continue to contact potential donors as we near the end of the Securing Our Future capital campaign.

Beyond the numbers, there are the students in the chapter. I don't know about you, but these days I'm often less than overwhelmed with optimism about America's future. However, I never feel more hopeful than when I am around the current actives. If you want to see impressive, non-tattooed young people, come by the house for a lunch or dinner. You'll meet young men like Alex Liu, who served in Afghanistan before entering USC and becoming a Phi Delt. Or Taylor Vaughn '15, who graduated with highest honors last spring and now holds a fascinating job at Disney Imagineering. You'll also hear about the pledge program, which holds seminars on topics from handling personal finances intelligently to using power tools. The actives apparently are pretty good managers too since the meals are a lot better than my student days.

Another indication of the chapter's

USC House (Continued on Page 4)

Alumni Spotlight: Daniel W. Hubbs '93

Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter, we're shining the Spotlight on Brother Dan Hubbs '93, head coach of the USC Baseball Team. As an active brother, Dan pitched for the Trojans after walking on as a freshman player. He also served the chapter as Rush Chair for two terms. From his hometown of Renton, Washington, Dan earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration before heading off to the minor leagues. After a seven-year minor league career with the Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies, Dan began coaching. He went on to work with the Yakima Bears as pitching coach before accepting a position as assistant coach at Pepperdine University. Now in his third season as head coach at USC, Dan was recently awarded a contract extension by the Athletic Department. During his down time, Dan enjoys spending time with his wife, Alison, a USC graduate, and their two sons, Patrick and Charlie.



What led you to join Cal Delta?

I wasn't actually going to participate in rush during the spring of 1990 but a couple of the guys on the team, Billy Morris '93 and Eric Hughes '93, said I should just come see what I thought. After checking out a few of the houses, I felt very comfortable with the guys and decided to accept a bid.

How did the draft process work out after graduation?

I had a very good senior year playing at USC and was getting some calls from a few of the Major League teams asking if I was interested in playing professional baseball. The process was drastically different then. Now everyone has an idea where they might be drafted due to the Internet, and the draft is actually broadcast on TV and online. When I was drafted, I didn't have one conversation with the Dodgers, and they were the ones who drafted me. I was back in Seattle at my parents' house, and my girlfriend (now wife) and mom were with me watching TV when the phone rang and the Dodger's scout told me they just took

me in the 16th round.

What was it like being on the team?

I loved my professional baseball experience and felt like I did it at the perfect time. (Right after college graduation.) Playing in the minor leagues is not glamorous by any stretch of the imagination. The cities I played in were:

- Great Falls, Montana,
- Bakersfield, California,
- San Antonio, Texas,
- Albuquerque, New Mexico,
- Reading, Pennsylvania, and
- La Romana, Dominican Republic.

In the minor leagues you don't make much money, so you scrape by. But I loved playing baseball, so it was worth it and fortunately I married a woman who encouraged me to pursue my dream and supported it. We were married a year and a half after I signed with the Dodgers and she was with me every step of the way.

When did you discover a passion for coaching?

I actually asked my college coach, Mike Gillespie, about coaching in college during my junior year. Guys on the team would ask my opinion about their pitching and I felt like it was something I was good at. When I played professionally, the same thing happened. Guys on the team would ask my opinion about different aspects of pitching or their delivery. I hurt my arm in 1998 and had surgery. After surgery, the Dodgers asked me to be the pitching coach in Yakima, Washington, for their newly drafted guys. I really enjoyed it but wasn't ready to give up playing at that point. During the fall of 1998, while finishing up my rehab for my shoulder, I was the volunteer coach for Pepperdine University. My pitching coach at USC, Frank Sanchez, was the head coach at Pepperdine and asked if I wanted to help them out

Hubbs (Continued on Page 4)



Hubbs enters his fourth season at the helm for the Trojans in 2016.

CHAPTER NEWS

President's Message Alex Budde



Greetings brothers! As the California Delta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta surges on

through the fall 2015 semester, I would like to update you on all of the great things being done here in Southern California. From the individual accomplishments of our talented members to the collective impact we are making around campus in and out of the Greek community, it is most definitely a great time to be a Phi at USC.

After our record numbers in recruitment during the 2014-2015 school year, it was time this September to see if we could continue on with our domination of rush, and we proved yet again that we are recruiting and pledging

some of the best men here at USC. We extended over 55 invitations to our Blue Chip dinner, offered 35 bids, and are currently pledging a 31-man pledge class. Our continual growth in size shows how far we have come as a chapter since our refounding, and even better is that we are not sacrificing quality for the increase in quantity of new members — our Upsilon Phikeia class is one of the chapter's best in recent history in terms of GPA and campus involvement.

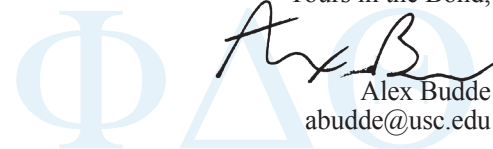
The chapter continues to thrive on the Row with a strong social presence that is supplemented by our academic and philanthropic success. This past weekend we raised over \$2,500 for the ALS Association with our Phi Delt FIFA soccer event, and we are excited to also participate in the Los Angeles Walk to Defeat ALS in a couple of weeks. With a house-wide GPA that continues to rise and stay well above the

All-IFC and university-wide average, our members are consistently improving their academic accomplishments while also making a difference on campus in several of the extracurricular organizations they are a part of outside of the fraternity.

With football season in full swing we continue to welcome all alumni to attend our on-campus tailgates whether it is Homecoming, Family Weekend, or any game in between. We had a great alumni turnout for our memorial and plaque dedication ceremony for California Delta Brother **Thomas Potter** on October 25th. If you have questions about the chapter or would like to come by the house, we would be more than happy to host you. Here's to another successful year!

Yours in the Bond,

Alex Budde
abudde@usc.edu



Chapter Spotlight:

Aaron Bajor



*Editor's Note: Representing the chapter as Spotlight is our current Alumni Chairman and Steward, **Aaron Bajor**. From the hometown of Palo Alto, California, Aaron is in the process of earning his degree in business administration. Aaron has served the chapter as Alumni Chair for two years, and in the past he has served as Parent's Club Chair and Tailgate Chair. On campus, he is the founder of USC Auto Club, and served as its president for three years. Aaron is consistently on the Dean's List, and has been awarded the Business School Scholarship, the Clarice Trombly Scholarship, and he is part of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society.*

aspirations. With the help of my brothers since then to now, I've built the courage and initiative to start ventures of my own from varying levels of detail and success. With a fraternity of intellectuals in all studies, Cal Delt lends itself to a certain entrepreneurial comradery where we can truly come together and create incredible things.

Why do you think Cal Delta is different from the other fraternities on campus?

Unlike other fraternities at USC, Cal Delt still remembers and upholds the values and principals upon which it was founded. Both in the strategic and diverse way we recruit

and the way we interact with one another as brothers and friends; it is clear the brothers of Cal Delt really are trying to not only better themselves but better the house as a whole. While we fortunately still know how to have a good time, I've never before been able to surround myself with a group of people so capable and driven across all aspects of life. It really is inspiring.

Why did you create the USC Auto Club?

As an avid auto enthusiast since Audi announced its R8 supercar around 2005, I was shocked USC

was missing such a seemingly-obvious enthusiast group given LA is the car capital of the West Coast! So naturally I founded the club as a freshman with three other kids in my dorm. Since its inception I wanted to build a lasting organization open to students

What led you to join Cal Delta?

Coming from a family without any Greek blood, the only preconceptions of Greek life I had coming to USC were fairly negative and unappealing to me. Throughout fall I became close with genuine guys who happened to be rushing Phi Delt themselves. Through these friendships I understood the bigger picture and benefits of Greek life. Against my (I thought) better judgment, I rushed hard in the spring, meeting perhaps everyone in the house. Bruce's Blue Chip speech on brotherhood really got me going, but ultimately I was inspired by a certain drive and ambition that I had been looking for at USC.

How did entrepreneurship within the chapter help connect you as a brother?



Hosted in the heart of campus, Aaron organized the second annual USC Auto Show, which had over \$10 million in cars attend to raise money for the late Paul Walker's Reach Out Worldwide Foundation.

Born and raised in Silicon Valley, I've always had an entrepreneurial ambition and while I've often been inspired, I haven't always been able to act on it. Starting immediately during Rush Week, I connected with brothers over start-up ideas and grand

ALUMNI NEWS



Congratulations to recent graduating senior, **Taylor Vaughn '15!** Tay graduated at the top of his class with a 3.9 GPA and served as valedictorian at the commencement ceremony for the USC Price School of Public Policy. He also secured a full-time job working for Walt Disney Imagineering in Glendale. He will be part of the project management team that oversees the design and implementation of attractions, accommodations, and entertainment at Disney properties in Florida.

of all interests that also offered learning and professional opportunities. Over the next three years as president, I grew the club to 500-plus members, organized club drives and photo shoots, engaged with guest speakers and industry professionals, and even hosted multi-million-dollar car shows here on Trowsdale.

Any plans for after graduation?

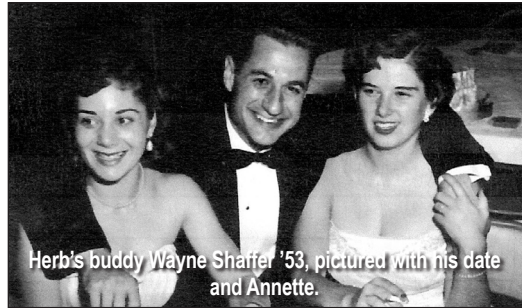
I wish I could tell you what my plans are, or that I'm raising millions of dollars for my start-up. Unfortunately I'm not quite there yet. I have worked financial capacities in venture debt and investment management. Currently I'm looking into consulting as



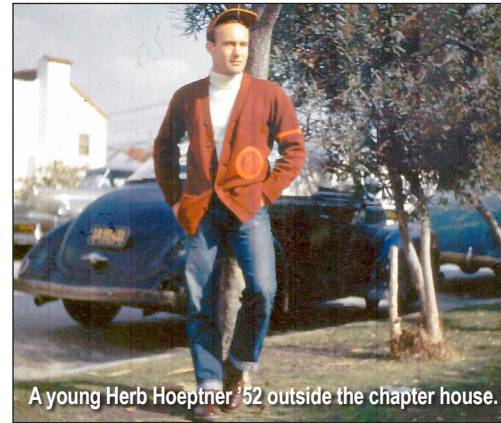
Thanks to his position and influence with the Auto Club, Chevrolet lent Aaron a top-of-the-line Corvette to test drive for a week and photograph.

well as more creative, passion-centric occupations to feed my entrepreneurial appetite. I love the business development process and I enjoy numbers and the stories they tell. I'm also an amateur chef, so my dream is to one day open my own restaurant. If you have or know anyone with any career or job recommendations for me, I am all ears!

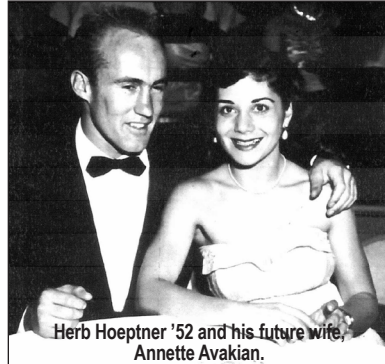
Herb Hoeptner '52 – I joined the fraternity in 1951 at **Glenn Berry '52's** request. It was a short time after that when I married my wife, Annette. Here are a few photos from that time.



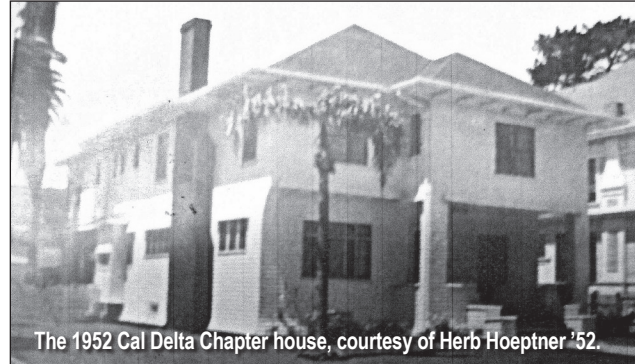
Herb's buddy Wayne Sharfel '53, pictured with his date and Annette.



A young Herb Hoeptner '52 outside the chapter house.



Herb Hoeptner '52 and his future wife, Annette Avakian.



The 1952 Cal Delta Chapter house, courtesy of Herb Hoeptner '52.

Have Alumni News?

We want to hear from you! Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our Account Manager Kasey Breedlove at kbreedlove@thelaurusgroup.net, or simply fill out the tear-away form at the bottom of your cover letter and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of the *Cal Delta Spotlight!*

CAL DELTA GATHERS TO HONOR FALLEN BROTHER



Tom Potter '52 is the only known member of Cal Delta to die while fighting in America's Armed Forces. An Air Force pilot, he was killed in action over North Korea 10 days before the cease-fire that ended the Korean War.

On October 25th Cal Delta alumni, parents, and actives gathered for a lunch at the house in honor of Brother Potter. Potter's fall 1950 pledge brother, **Stuart Neffeler '54**, designed and procured a plaque in Potter's honor that was unveiled at the event and is permanently mounted in the Egyptian Room of the house.



Bernard Leckie '57 viewing the plaque.

Tom Potter, and it was also moving to see our chapter's earliest alumni from 65 years ago reuniting at the house they started.

Many thanks also to our alumni who have donated a total of \$5,000 to the *Tom Potter Memorial Fund*, which will be used to pay down the mortgage on our chapter house. Those still wishing to contribute should contact **Bruce Buettell '82** at brucebuettell@yahoo.com.

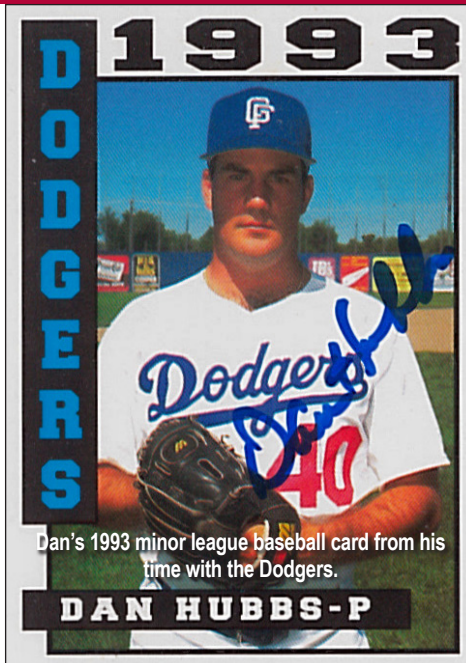


Tom Potter's class of 1950 pledge brothers along with Tom's sister Edwina. L-R: Sam Shirley '54, Tom Taylor '53, Edwina Potter, and Stuart Neffeler '54.

Brother Neffeler spoke at the event, as did Edwina Potter, Tom Potter's sister, who flew from northern California to be there. Both added greatly to our admiring memory of



Tom Potter Alumni Luncheon.



Dan's 1993 minor league baseball card from his time with the Dodgers.

while finishing my rehab, and I loved working with the college guys.

Do you think young pitchers are blowing out their elbows too soon?

I definitely think that young pitchers are blowing out too soon. I think a big part of it is the advent of travel ball and year-round baseball. I don't think young players or their parents are factoring rest and recovery into their sons' development. Everyone seems to be chasing the scholarship or a high draft status and not giving their son time to just work on their body and let their arm recover from the wear-and-tear of pitching.

What is the typical process for recruitment?

A lot has changed in my 16 years of coaching college baseball. It used to be that everything started after junior year in high school. College coaches would identify players they were interested in, figure out if they were an academic fit, and then try to convince them that their college was the best place for the student athlete to play. Now, we recruit players any time from their freshman year in high school through graduation. Most of our commitments

come before their junior year even starts. However, these players are also risks to sign professional after high school. Therefore, we are constantly recruiting all classes in order to find the best players possible who are actually going to show up to school. We have a dynamic in our sport that no other sport has. We try and win the recruiting battle with the other college to get a kid to commit to USC. Then we have to compete with major league baseball to get them on campus and realize there are other ways of getting to the major leagues than signing professional out of high school.

How did the opportunity to coach at USC come into the picture?

I coached at Cal for 12 years. My last year, 2010-11, was a tough one. The baseball program was one of five that was cut at Cal in September of 2010. That team was a good team and actually made it to the College World Series. Through a huge fundraising effort, the program was brought back in April of 2011 but a lot of damage had been done. The head coach at USC in 2011 was Frank Cruz, who happened to be an assistant at USC when I was a senior here. After the College World Series, Frank called and asked if I would be interested in an open position on his staff. I was offered the job and accepted. The athletic department wants its baseball program to be strong and is not afraid to put resources into it. I love this place and felt it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

Outside of work what do you do for fun?

Honestly, I don't have a lot of free time. I like to golf but only get out a couple times a year. I like hanging out with my family and watching my kids with their activities. I love all types of good food. This is a seven day a week job and recruiting is around the year so I try to spend any free time I have with my family. I couldn't do this without my wife being as supportive as she is.

Did you encourage your sons to play baseball?

My wife and I wanted to expose our kids to a little bit of everything and see what they like. I want them to have a good time in

CHAPTER GRAND

We are saddened to learn of the passing of our Cal Delta brothers:

Carl Howell '51

Richard R. Chalk '60

Vince Desmond '63

John L. Sherrill '72

Joseph M. Mouren-Laurens '78

whatever they do and support them as well as possible. I was never pushed by my parents to play a particular sport. Burnout in youth sports is a huge factor in kids leaving a sport. Parents push their kids and it doesn't become fun anymore. There is plenty of time later for a sport to become a job but not at a young age. Kids will gravitate to what they are good at. My suggestion is to expose them to as many things as possible and find the right fit for your kid. Kids and parents these days are too focused on the scholarship and less on whether they really love to play.

What advice can you give the alumni and young actives about adjusting to change?

My best advice is to embrace it. Change doesn't have to be bad. Embracing new ways of doing things and constantly evolving may help you take whatever you do to the next level.

Save-the-Date!

2016 Blue Chip Dinner

Friday, January 22nd



Details TBA Soon!

USC House

(Continued from Page 1)

quality is the calls I get from Silicon Valley apartment complexes each year asking for references on the Cal Delta graduates who head north for the jobs they have landed with tech companies.

Being a Phi Delt alum keeps getting better as I get older. Another reason is the example I've seen from some of the alumni who came

before my era. A year ago Brother **Stuart Neffler '54** conceived the idea of honoring his pledge brother **Thomas Potter**, who was killed in action during the Korean War and is the only known member of Cal Delta to have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Stuart had a beautiful plaque made in honor of Tom Potter that is now mounted in the Egyptian Room and spearheaded a moving event at the House on October 25th, where the plaque was unveiled and memories of Brother Potter were shared.

I'm always fired up to talk Phi Delt. Please contact me with any questions or comments at brucebuettell@yahoo.com or 714-686-7186.

Yours in the Bond,

Bruce Buettell '82
President
USC Phi Delt House Corporation