



Cal Delta Spotlight

USC House Corporation of Phi Delta Theta | Spring 2018 | University of Southern California

Alumni Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | www.phideltatheta-caldelta.com

USC House Corporation

A Word From Our President



As I write this, the clocks have already sprung forward and before you know it, the grills will be firing up for July 4th! My how time flies.

In this edition of the Cal Delta

Spotlight, there are three main topics I'd like to make our alumni aware of:

1. Reinvesting in the Chapter House: Room Renovations
2. Refinancing our Loans
3. Ongoing Risk Management Assessment for Greek Life

One part of our five-year plan is to have a "renewed emphasis on proactive maintenance and capital investments for the house." You first heard of this five-year plan in last spring's edition of the Cal Delta Spotlight. To deliver on this goal, the House Corporation started a three-year remodel of all the chapter rooms at the Cal Delta house. We have heard nothing but praise from the tenants in the newly refurbished rooms, 11-17, which were completed last summer. This summer we aim to refurbish rooms 5-10, leaving rooms 1-4 and the resident advisor room to be completed during the summer of 2019. With refurbished rooms, proactive maintenance, and standard move-out deductions, we hope to combat the issue of wear and tear on the house and make the house a desirable place to live.

As some of you may know, our outstanding balance on the house is comprised of three loans: two from USC and one from City National Bank. With Steve Scully '81 at the helm, we hope to refinance our position this year and consolidate the loans. This will make it easier to apply additional principal payments

Alumni Spotlight:

Terry S. Adams '81



Travis. A two-time Ironman and Iron Phi, Terry likes to relax by running, snow skiing, and traveling.

Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter, we're shining the Spotlight on Terry Adams '81. From the hometown of Whittier, California, Terry graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from USC Viterbi, his MBA from Cal State Fullerton, and completed studies at the Harvard Business School. Terry was recently honored at the 40th Viterbi Awards ceremony with the Mark A. Stevens Distinguished Alumni Award. A director and executive vice president of SA Recycling, he also serves as cofounder and chairman of the Board for Retrieval Technologies, and on the Board of Councilors for USC Viterbi, and the advisory board for the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. Terry got his start in the recycling field during his freshman year in high school when his father bought a small one-man junk yard in Anaheim, California in 1974. Today that company has grown to become SA Recycling: one of the largest metal recycling companies in the country. Terry has also been a contributor within his community as vice chair of the Orange County Boy Scout Council, and as a former board member at CHOC, a children's hospital. At home, Terry and his wife of 31 years, Leslie (Pi Phi at USC), enjoy spending time with their two children, Sarah and

What did you enjoy most as an active chapter member?

The movie *Animal House* had come out the year before I got to USC, so number one on my list of things to do when I got there was to join a fraternity (followed by dating sorority girls, going to football games, and graduating on time). I graduated Whittier High class of 1977 with fellow Phi Deltas Geoff Grant '81 and George Engelage '81. Being a member of Phi Delta Theta created an instant brotherhood of friends, and I really enjoyed living in the house my senior year—including a semester living in the Airdrome with Jay Huyler '83 (we were probably the only ones to actually live down there, at least voluntarily).

How do you stay in touch with your Cal Delta brothers today?

I try and make it to Homecoming every year and go to the Phi Delt tailgate. I see George Engelage '81, Chris Mennes '81 and Steve Scully '81 regularly and try and get in at least one golf outing a year with them. I first learned to golf by tagging along with other Phi Deltas, playing at Griffith Park, usually on a Friday (which did not help my GPA, as I always had class on Fridays).

Where do you see the future of recycling going?



Terry with his family at his son Travis's USC graduation in 2016. His youngest, Travis, graduated from USC Price with a real estate development degree in 2016. Terry's daughter Sarah graduated from Princeton in 2013 with an engineering degree.

I am a big proponent of waste-to-energy for the residual materials that cannot be easily recycled, like paper and plastics. The key to the future of recycling is to get manufacturers to focus on the "end of life" of their products and design them for recycling. For example, if a cell phone manufacturer imbeds a battery that cannot be removed, it makes it really tough to recycle the phone. I am very involved in lithium battery recycling for electric vehicles, and all of the manufacturers are working very hard to use the cheapest materials

possible—which lowers the intrinsic value, which then leads to "forced" recycling where you have to pay someone to recycle the batteries. Everyone likes recycling, but no one really wants to pay for it.

Which achievements within your career are you most proud of?

When I graduated with my mechanical engineering degree, I immediately went to work in the family scrap metal business. If someone told me at the time I would still be there 37 years later I would have thought that my career would have been a complete failure. However, I have been able to

CHAPTER NEWS



President's Message

Sina Mahbobi

Brothers,

As I come to the end of my first semester as president and summer begins, it's a great time to look back at some of our successes over this past spring semester. With sustained membership growth, philanthropy donations, a new thirty-two-member Alpha Alpha class, and Greek awards, I am very proud of everything we have achieved this semester.

With a new university policy of deferred rush in the fall—meaning first-semester freshman can no longer join Greek life—a large spring class was essential to offset the smaller classes in the fall and a large graduating senior class. This incredible class has already begun to take on leadership positions. Many of them ran for positions in our executive council elections, and a few of them will have responsibilities in the fall.

We have also been working closely with the Housing Corporation to continue adding improvements to the house, making it

an incredible place to reside. This semester we have made improvements to our back deck, along with renovating the basketball court. Throughout the summer, the house will continue receiving renovations within the bedrooms as well.

This semester has also been incredibly successful in terms of philanthropic and event-hosting endeavors. We hosted our spring philanthropy event, "Phi Delt Puppies," where students can come and hang out with Golden Retriever puppies, at our chapter house. We raised over \$2,500 for the Live Like

Lou foundation as a result of this event. We also engaged in a beach cleanup with the Inter-Fraternity Council, and led joint seminars on wellness, sexual assault prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse. Our chapter house also had the great honor of hosting the Founder's Day Dinner, where **Jeff Davis**, the president of the general council, spoke to our chapter.

At the USC Greek Awards, we were presented with the Leadership Engagement Award, and the Recruitment/Intake and Retention Innovation Award. We now have the second-highest GPA of IFC fraternities, missing out on first place by 0.02, a huge



Brothers outside the house for our Christmas 2017 photo.

achievement considering that California Delta has a larger proportion of engineers compared to a majority of the fraternities.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first semester as president and cannot wait to see the fantastic things coming in the fall and in the future. Looking at the continued growth in membership, innovative philanthropy, and sustained leadership in the Greek community, we are on an exciting path.

Sina Mahbobi
Chapter President



Chapter Spotlight: Joseph Hetzer



*Representing the chapter as Spotlight is **Joseph Hetzer**. Joseph is an expert dancer who has starred in commercials and traveled the world throughout his time at USC. Currently in his junior year, Joseph is pursuing his BFA in dance. He has served the chapter as social chair, alumni chair, and awards chair. On campus, he is the USC Kaufman lead student ambassador and a student worker at the USC Glorja Kaufman School of Dance.*

Joseph has already achieved important experience through impressive internships with the Los Angeles Music Center Dance Programming (2016); the Jacobs Pillow Ballet Summer School (2017); the Joffrey Ballet Chicago Summer Program (2017); and the Royal Danish Ballet (Summer 2018). In his free time, Joseph enjoys being active and listening to country music.



Philanthropy Update



Our spring philanthropy, Phi Delt Puppies.

This semester our chapter participated in several external philanthropy efforts including Alpha Phi's "Phi Ball," Alpha Delta Pi's "Row Cup," and Kappa Kappa Gamma's "Kappa Kickball." With strong member attendance at each event, we donated over \$1,000 to other organizations' charities.

Furthermore, our internal philanthropy

Philanthropy (Continued on Page 4)

Connect with Us on Facebook!

Stay up-to-date on the goings on at Cal Delta—find us on Facebook! Search for USC Phi Delta Theta.

Below: Special congratulations to Terry Adams '81 (center), our spring alumni spotlight, who was honored at the 40th Viterbi Awards ceremony with the Mark A. Stevens Distinguished Alumni Award. Pictured is Terry with two of his pledge brothers: Chris Mennes '81 (left) and George Engelage '81 (right).



Above: On March 29, the Orange County Phi Delta Theta Alumni Club's Founders Day Dinner was hosted in Newport Beach. Pictured here in attendance (left to right) Bruce Buettell '82, David Davidson '78, John Waldron '77, and Chris Wagoner '85.



CHAPTER GRAND

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

John Thomas Taylor '53



John Thomas "Tom" Taylor '53 passed away April 1 after a battle with pneumonia. He is survived by his 3 children: Mark Taylor, Jane Sears, and Trisha Condon, his 10 grandchildren who affectionately called him Papa, and many dear friends. While at USC, Tom served as

a group commander of the Air Force ROTC unit, and president of his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. Upon graduation, Tom served in the Strategic Air Command from 1954-1956. He was supply officer for the 487th Bomb Squadron and base supply officer at Whiteman AFB in Missouri. After leaving the Air Force, he joined Merrill Lynch in 1958 and began his 40-year career in the securities and financial services business. Tom had a long and successful career working as a broker, rising to become Sr. Vice President before he retired in 1996. Tom married his soul mate Peggy on Kentucky Derby day in 1979. Tom authored two books: "Kids and Cash" and later "Get Rich on the Obvious." He loved his tennis, golf, and USC Trojans. Tom was a proud American, republican, volunteer, and deacon at his church. After losing his beloved Peggy in 2015, Tom returned to his first love, the Thoroughbred, and began "picking" again. He invested in a racing partnership run by his cousins in Kentucky that produced several graded stakes winners at Del Mar and Santa Anita. In his last hours before his passing, he was picking stocks and horses, and giving advice to his grandkids and children. Tom was loved by many.

Alumni Hope to Make Angels Game Annual Event



Above: Cal Delta outing to the Angels baseball game on August 5th, 2017.
Below: Alumni attend the Yankees game on April 28, 2018.

Five years ago, Andy Fong had the great idea to bring the 80's pledge classes together during a baseball game. Now, Phi Delta Theta California Delta's Housing Corporation seeks to bring that successful event to even more Cal Deltas. For those of you unfamiliar with the Housing Corporation, it's the organization charged with maintaining and operating the California Delta Chapter House. The House Corporation is looking to initiate both a fall and a spring alumni event—with this baseball game serving as our annual fall event.

We're looking to rally as many of you as possible to see the Angels! The game plan is to meet up at The Catch restaurant, across from the stadium, to celebrate before walking over to the stadium to catch the first pitch.

Please be an advocate for your pledge class and rally your pledge brothers as we aim to make this event an ongoing tradition!

If you have any questions regarding the event, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kevin Fohrer '15 (kevin.fohrer@gmail.com) and/or Mike Gundell '84 (mgundell@sbc-global.net), two House Corporation members who are spearheading this event.



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@elevateims.com, or simply fill out the back of the enclosed gift form and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of the Cal Delta Spotlight!



Terry (center) with his two brothers at Adams Steel in 2004.

work on some incredible engineering projects building businesses and facilities that handle some extremely hazardous, reactive, and even radioactive materials. One project in particular stands out for me and that was a \$10M project for the US Air Force, recycling 5,000 of the most powerful lithium batteries ever made that had been used in the Minuteman Missile silos.

Plus, the small family scrap metal business that I helped grow now has over 2,000 employees spread across 70 facilities and a dozen states, estimated to handle over a billion dollars of scrap metal this year.

Philanthropy

(Continued from Page 2)

event we hosted this semester was a tremendous success. “Phi Delt Puppies” had a huge turnout thanks in part to campus-wide advertisements and a group of golden retriever puppies. Through ticket sales we raised \$2,500 for the Pittsburgh Foundation’s “Live Like Lou” project. Both Greek and non-Greek individuals attended the event with many people posting about it on their social media channels, promoting not only our chapter, but the charity as well. Our shirts showcased ALS research and we included signs throughout the house about the Pittsburgh Foundation. Overall, our chapter’s involvement in philanthropic events was very successful this semester, and we are excited for more success in future semesters.



What type of leadership-style do you utilize?

With my engineering background, I am very methodical in how I get things done. I want to know the facts, the issues, understand the potential downsides, explore the best alternatives, and then make the best decision possible.

How did you become involved with the OC Boy Scout Council?

I grew up in scouting—I am an Eagle Scout, along with my two brothers, my son Travis, along with several nephews who are also Eagle Scouts. I have been involved at the

local council level for the last eight years overseeing development and fundraising. I think



Terry giving his thanks at the 2018 Alumni Awards dinner.

the Boy Scouts provide the best youth leadership training programs in the country.

Outside of work, what do you do for fun?

I do a lot of travel around the world with my family; I have completed two full Ironmans, and a bunch of Half-Ironmans.

I enjoy snow skiing, and occasionally still ride motorcycles.



Terry completing his first Ironman in Brazil in May of 2010.

What advice can you give the alumni and active members about the importance of proper waste management?

Everything is recyclable, but that does not mean that everything should be recycled: it is a matter of the cost-to-benefit ratio and basic economics. For example, recycling glass typically consumes more energy and resources than the end product is worth, and we are not running out of silica, but it makes people feel good. Be smart about what you throw in the trash, especially if there is a better, more responsible way to manage it, even if it is less convenient.

USC House

(Continued from Page 1)

and pay our liability down quickly. The goal has always been to pay off the house as soon as possible so that funds can be redirected to increased maintenance costs and enhancements. This continues to be the House Corporation’s north star.

Lastly, I wanted to make everyone aware that there have been many changes to Greek Life at USC over the previous few years. More than six fraternities have been shuttered from the Row in the past four years and USC has recently engaged the Margolis Healy firm to conduct a thorough Risk Management Assessment focusing specifically on Greek Life at USC. We do not yet know the outcomes of this assessment, but we aim to keep you informed of any situation that could hinder the future of Greek Life, and therefore Phi Delta

Theta, at USC.

As always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us at phidelt-housecorp@gmail.com. We appreciate hearing from our alumni and hope to find innovative ways to stay connected over the coming years. Please let us know if you have any ideas you would like the House Corporation to explore or spearhead.

Fight On!

Brenton Caldwell '14

Brenton J Caldwell

President
USC Phi Delt House Corporation

P.S. Mark your calendars! September 1st is USC’s first football game against UNLV.

JOIN US AT HOMECOMING 2018 ON NOVEMBER 10TH
When the Trojans take on the California Golden Bears

