



# Cal Delta Spotlight

USC House Corporation of Phi Delta Theta | Summer 2008 | University of Southern California

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## Cal Delta Chapter House Renovation Has Begun!



by Bill Bedford '57

Yes, some six years since a few initial steps were taken to return Phi Delta Theta to the University of Southern California, the final step to complete this very successful and rewarding project has started.

**The Construction Project:** Extensive interior and exterior demolition began

the week of August 11, and the entire east (Portland St.) side of the house, which sustained extensive damage in the April 2005 fire, will be demolished the week of August 25. Extensive new foundation work will follow, coordinated with removal of most of the old foundations. Our contractor, Oltmans Construction, is one of the largest and most respected companies in Southern California. While the renovation of a 160-year old mansion is not a simple task, Oltmans' planning calls for completion in May of 2009.

Brother **Bob Alleborn '58** with help from Brother **Jeff Pierson '70**, successfully and patiently waded through the endless bureaucratic/local/architectural details to bring us to this watershed point in the rich history of California Delta.

*Construction, continued on page 3*

## Looking Back on Cal Delta's Early Days

In 1948 the California Delta chapter of Phi Delta Theta was colonized at the University of Southern California. Started by 27 young men, plus an initial pledge class of 48, the chapter has grown to over 1,600 members and alumni. Since its establishment 60 years ago, the chapter has gone through many changes, including a re-colonization in 2005.

Now, the successfully refounded chapter moves towards the future and with the complete renovation of our old chapter house, which was purchased in 1950. Brother **Don Knapp '52**, a member of the second Cal Delta pledge class, recently reflected on his time as an undergraduate and what it meant to be a part of the legacy that Cal Delta is restoring today.

Brother Knapp was brought to USC by his membership in the Navy ROTC. He decided that going to college was much better than being drafted (although

World War II had ended, young men were still being drafted)!

After being recruited by Kappa Sigma, where he was a legacy, Don decided that the new brotherhood of Cal Delta was what he was looking for. "I really liked the guys that were in the chapter and it seemed like a good fit," recalls Don.

While he was in the chapter many things changed, including the chapter's

*Knapp, continued on page 4*



*Don Knapp (left) caught up with brothers during the celebration of Cal Delta's 60th Anniversary.*

## Cal Delta Holds 60th Anniversary

*See page 4 for Story*



# Chapter News

## From the Cal Delta Chapter President



As you probably already know construction on the California Delta chapter house began in August and the progress looks great! The Greek community and the university are abuzz with news of the construction. Thank you to everyone who has made this project possible, in particular the House Corporation. We know that you have put in

thousands of hours of your time over the past five years and we are greatly appreciative.

Spring 2008 was an exciting time for California Delta. Despite our rise in numbers we maintained the 2nd highest GPA of any fraternity. We also continued our biannual 'Senior Prom' at the Belmont Village Retirement Community, accompanied by the ladies of Delta Gamma. Our 2nd annual spring formal was held in Ensenada, Mexico where 60 actives and their dates traveled for two nights of fun and relaxation. At the 2007-2008 USC Greek Awards Phi Delta Theta received three awards and multiple recognitions including an award for new member programming and an award for the best philanthropic achievements.

Sadly, last semester also brought about the loss of our largest graduating class since Cal Delta's refounding in 2005. In May we graduated 21 amazing Brother Phis, many of whom played integral roles in the rebuilding of the chapter. We wish them luck in their endeavors and hope they will stay connected to the chapter.

Fall 2008 and the USC football season bring many exciting events to look forward to. Our 3rd annual ALS Walk will be held in Pasadena on October 26 and we expect an even bigger turnout than last year. Also, look for the Phi Delt tent on campus during home football games – you are more than welcome to stop by and say hi.

If you are interested in getting reconnected with the active chapter there are many opportunities this school year to do so. We are always looking for new volunteers for our industrial mentorship program, an initiative which pairs alumni mentors with active members of the



Phi Delt's at Homecoming 2007. Pictured from left to right: PJ Levine, Steve Nomura, Alex Flores, Jake Saroyan, and Mark Eisen.

chapter.

We are also beginning a speaker series for both chapter meetings and Phikeia meetings in order to enrich each member's experience in Phi Delta Theta. We are looking for alumni who are willing to speak about their time in Phi Delt as an undergraduate as well as share some of the knowledge they have gained from the professional world.

And of course I invite you to join us for USC's homecoming celebrations on November 1. Our booth on McCarthy Quad gets bigger and more exciting every year and 2008 will be no exception.

I wish you luck in the upcoming months and hope to see you at one of our alumni events sometime soon. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or advice. Thanks for your support and Fight On!

Yours in the Bond,

Michael Spilsbury  
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## Cal Delta Member Spotlight:

### Alex Montalvo

Alex Montalvo is currently a senior at USC. Alex is serving the chapter as Vice President, but has also served as Secretary, Recruitment Chairman and Phikeia class Vice President. Originally from the Bay Area, Alex joined Phi Delta Theta during his freshman year. Double majoring in Broadcast Journalism and Philosophy, Alex says that his favorite classes at USC have been The World of the New Testament and Philosophy of Religion.

Although he was not a part of the initial re-colonization, Alex had many friends from the dorms who were part of the process. He had joined another fraternity the fall of his freshman year, but quit three weeks later. He says, "Having had a negative experience with that first fraternity, I was pretty skeptical of the entire Greek system; however, my friends talked about Phi Delt so positively. The opportunity to be a part of something new and have enough influence to make sure the negative experiences I had with that other fraternity didn't happen at Phi Delta was enough to convince me to join. I wanted to bring about change to the Greek system, and Phi Delt offered that opportunity."

His membership in Cal Delta has benefited him in many ways he says: "I have learned a ton being in Phi Delt. My leadership skills were



Phi Delt's at Homecoming 2007. Pictured from left to right: PJ Levine, Steve Nomura, Alex Flores, Jake Saroyan, and Mark Eisen.

advanced through Phi Delt. I learned how to adjust my personality with the personalities of others in order to unite around a common goal. I have developed management skills through Phi Delt. My overall growth as a human being was stimulated not by what I have learned in a classroom

but rather the successes and challenges of being in this organization. And as expected, I have developed some close friendships with people I never would have bonded with had Phi Delt not existed.”

After he graduates, Alex plans to stay in contact with his brothers and he says that no matter where they all end up, he will always have them to fall back on. “I know I enter the world with a base of people that I can always turn to for advice and support. The “real world” is scary, but being able to fall back on my brothers, even in a small capacity should we travel to different places, is a huge relief.”

For Alex, he isn’t sure where his career path will take him. He has always wanted to be a reporter, but after spending the summer interning in Japan, he is thinking that sports management might be an area of interest to him.

“This past summer, I earned a spot in a USC fellowship program in Asia. The school set me up with an internship for two months in Asia and paid for every expense (I didn’t spend a dime of my own money for any part of the trip). I spent June and July working in Tokyo for the Chiba Lotte Marines, a professional Japanese baseball team. For the alumni reading this that are sports fans, one of my bosses was Bobby Valentine, former MLB manager and USC alum. He is actually a huge celebrity in Japan, so working for him was a tremendous honor.

My job was to produce media content in English about the team; I made two mini-documentaries about the team as well as written content. I also teamed up with another intern in Tokyo (who happens to be my girlfriend. We applied to the same program and were fortunate to end up in the same city) to produce language lessons in podcast form about Japanese baseball. The entire experience was tremendous; Tokyo is far different than any other place that I have been, but it is home to some of the nicest people in the world.”

One thing is certain though, no matter where Alex ends up, he will certainly be a very dedicated and successful alumnus of USC and Cal Delta! Thank you Alex for all you do!



# Construction Underway!

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**Construction Financing:** Simply put, we have four sources that will finance the project to completion: City National Bank will provide a construction loan and a trailing take-out loan; the University, implementing a new housing-related program created by President Sample, is making us a five year loan on very attractive terms; early donations to the Capital Campaign by Cal Delta Brothers towards meeting their 5-year pledges; and House Corporation assets comprised primarily of fire insurance proceeds that have helped fund substantial pre-construction expenses. Brother **Steve Scully ‘80** has done an amazing job in making all of this come together right in the middle of a very difficult banking/mortgage market.

**Capital Campaign:** If it were not for the great early success of our Capital Campaign during the quiet, one-on-one solicitations over the past year, construction would not be under way at this time. Brother **Bill Mitchell ‘77**, with excellent professional help from The Laurus Group, our fund-raising consultants, leads the campaign, which is just now beginning the “public phase”. We have received over \$1.6 million in five year, tax deductible pledges to date from 68 Cal Delta Phis (and one Miami of Ohio Delta who’s now an honorary Cal Delta Phi!).

As you can see, we are well on our way to achieving our \$3.0 million goal. All alumni have now received the campaign brochure that contains the pledge form. If you have not yet pledged, and would like to do so please complete the pledge form or contact the Laurus Group at (770) 903-3987. The special importance of the \$3.0 million goal is that it would retire all debt and leave a mortgage-free chapter house for future Phis, just as all of us enjoyed. By the way, the three year old Cal Delta chapter continues to excel as leaders in GPA, community service and student activities. All this without a place to call home, but not for long!



*Left: Interior and exterior demolition began on the chapter house the week of August 11. The house, which is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2009, will undergo a complete renovation over the next year.*

*Above: The east side of the house, which was damaged in the 2005 fire, was demolished the week of August 25. Oltmans Construction has been selected as the general contractor for the project.*

# Brother Knapp Epitomizes Fraternity for Life

*Knapp, continued from page 1*

purchase of the Johnson House in 1950. Prior to the purchase, the chapter rented a house on Portland Street, which they referred to as the "Cigar Box." After some persuading by the mother's club, including Don's mother, the house at 28th and Hoover was purchased for the chapter at a price of \$50,000.

Before the purchase of the Johnson house and the renting of the "Cigar Box," the chapter held meetings and other events in the Delta Gamma House, Phi Delta Theta's sister sorority. The chapter knew that having their own house would help bring about the camaraderie that comes with brotherhood. "It was important for us to learn to live together. It builds camaraderie. You build relationships with the people you live with, which helps build a strong chapter," says Don.

Now, the Cal Delta chapter is facing that same issue. The newly re-chartered chapter is strong and working toward rebuilding the legacy of their alumni. Just before the re-colonization of the chapter in August 2005, a major fire struck the house, leaving the "new" chapter without a house to create some of the memories that Don and his fellow alumni had enjoyed; however, that is about to change.

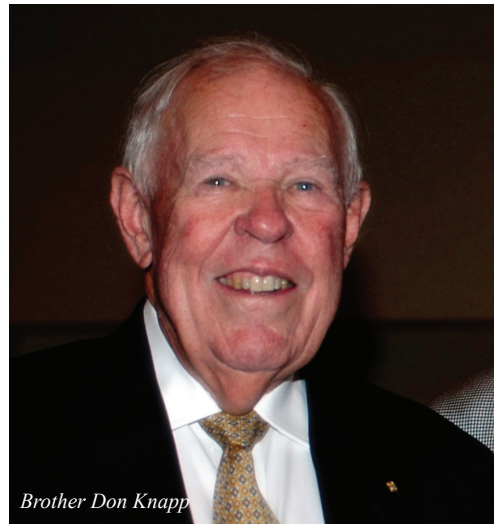
The chapter house is now in the beginning

of a major renovation. For Don and many other alumni, the renovation of the house is also a restoration of the legacy that he and his fellow alumni helped to build 60 years ago.

Don never lived in the house (he lived in at his parents' home for his college career); however, he spent a significant amount of time there and felt that having a chapter house was important to the well-being of the chapter and still feels that way today. "[The 'new' house] is the major missing ingredient in the rebuilding of our 'legacy'."

Even though he did not live in the house, Don did make lots of memories there with his pledge class. He recalls the "Fire Cracker Rebellion" and the scavenger hunt where the pledges were to get trout for the actives' breakfast, but instead caught carpe out of the goldfish pond and passed it off as trout.

Don still thinks about his time in the chapter and the exciting friendships that he made. He tries to stay in touch with the Brothers from his days in the chapter as much as possible and is proud of the strong alumni base that Cal Delta holds. He has kept track of what his friends from his class and those above him have done, and tries to make it back to USC as often as possible.



*Brother Don Knapp*

Today, Don is retired from State Farm, where he worked most of his career after receiving his degree in Business Administration and Finance. He and his wife have been married for 55 years and have two daughters, one son and five grandchildren.

He would like for the undergraduates to remember that they will get out of the fraternity what they put into it. He enjoyed reminiscing about his time at Cal Delta and he is very supportive of the current chapter and the Campaign in support of the restoration. As he said, "Times are different now, we live in a different world, but Phi Delta Theta is forever."

*"Times are different now, we live in a different world, but Phi Delta Theta is forever."*

## Save the Date: Cal Delta Homecoming

Saturday, November 1 the Trojans will battle the Washington Huskies for Homecoming. This year, in addition to the booth on McCarthy Quad, we will host an alumni event prior to the game. Be on the lookout for more information about this to come.

If you have any questions about Cal Delta Homecoming events, please contact Jeff Foster '00 at [jefffost@aol.com](mailto:jefffost@aol.com) or Ali Shorooghi '07 at [ali.shorooghi@accenture.com](mailto:ali.shorooghi@accenture.com).

## 60th Anniversary Celebration A Success

On June 14 generations of Cal Delta brothers and guests gathered to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the chapter. The event, which took place at the Irvine Marriott, also marked the kick-off our Capital Campaign.

Everyone who attended had a great time. At the dinner, we acknowledged all the brothers who had made early commitments to our Capital Campaign. Before and after dinner, old friends caught up, new friends were made and many pictures were taken!

If you were not able to attend, I hope you will be able to make it to another Cal Delta event soon!



*(l to r) Michael Spilsbury, Bill Bedford '57 and Joe Edward (NM '81) after Joe received an award for his tremendous work in helping the rechartering of the new colony by Phi Delta Theta in April 2006.*