



# Cal Delta Spotlight

USC House Corporation of Phi Delta Theta | Winter 2010 | University of Southern California

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## Chapter House Funding Update

By: Stephen Scully '81



Since my last update we have made substantial progress on the conclusion of the construction related requirements of the Chapter House, setting the stage to put the permanent financing in place. As I am sure all of you know, the banking environment today continues to be very

challenging and working through the ebbs and flows of the banks has been interesting to say the least.

As I write this today we have concluded all of the construction payments to Oltmans Construction and have been cleaning up the odd needs of the house to allow it run. Through the tremendous effort that **Bob Alleborn** and **Jeff Pierson** have contributed, we have navigated the challenging requirements of the City of Los Angeles and are very close to concluding everything we need for our permanent occupancy permit. For those of you that have dealt with the City of Los Angeles, I believe you can understand what I am saying here. It has been one issue after another but due to Bob and Jeff's tenacious effort, we are prevailing!

The next month or two will be spent firming up the permanent financing and documentation of our mortgage through our main partner – City National Bank. As I mentioned earlier it will require the true "Phi Delt" brand of communicating that our world is strong and that our Alumni will continue to support this effort through their existing and future pledges.

I would like to impress upon all of you that we need you to continue to meet the timing of your pledge obligations and for those of you that have not pledged or have additional capacity, your help is desperately needed. We must turn these pledges into cash and pay down our bank debt. In addition we must increase the overall amount of pledges to support City National in providing us this mortgage which will insure that our house is owned by the House Corporation for the next 100 years.

Additionally I would like to personally thank all of you that have contributed. With you this project would have never reached the point where we are at today.

## Chapter Eternal: Pierre Cossette



Pierre Cossette, the avuncular old-school talent agent, manager, music mogul and Broadway producer often called the father of the Grammy Awards telecast for persuading nervous TV executives to put "longhairs with high heels and makeup" on a live national broadcast in 1971, died Friday. He was 85.

Cossette, who had suffered in recent years with congestive heart failure, died at Barrie Memorial Hospital in Montreal, not far from his family's summer home in St. Anicet.

Pierre Maurice Joseph Cossette was born Dec. 15, 1923, in Valleyfield, Quebec, to Oswald and Annette Gendron Cossette, but he lived most of his life in Southern California after his family, including his older sister, Lise, moved to Altadena when he was 5. His father had hoped to find fame and fortune in the shade of Hollywood, but instead could only find work as a gas station attendant.

Pierre, however, showed a knack for procuring talent, securing comedian Red Skelton to perform at his high school.

During World War II, he joined the Army and served with an engineering battalion that built prisoner-of-war camps, often preceding Allied troops as they moved through Germany. His unit was charged with removing the bodies of German soldiers who had been killed.

"All of them were about our age," he told The Times in 2005. "We would have to pick the bodies up by the heels and throw them on the truck." That led to a phrase he

*Cossette, continued on page 4*

## Letter from Chapter President



It has been quite the semester at Phi Delta Theta at USC. We're all moved in and comfortable in our brand new chapter house, and it truly has been a blessing to have such a gorgeous place to call home. Having

the new house has been nothing but a positive for our chapter. It has increased the sense of brotherhood in the house, it has provided a central rally point for our members and it has overall taken our chapter to the next level.

The brothers of California Delta have had many other highlights throughout this fall semester outside of just admiring our new castle of a house. We had the opportunity to recognize and honor those alumni who generously gave donations to help with the construction



*Read what the chapter members think about the new house on page 2.*

of the house at a dinner event early in the semester. It was a fun night where old and new Phis were able to enjoy each other's company and share stories from both past and present.

Two weeks later we volunteered as a house at the annual Walk to Defeat ALS event in Pasadena. We helped set up and pass out food and drinks to the walkers, as well as going door to door in town to see if businesses would contribute

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# Chapter News

*President, continued from page 1*

to the cause. We continued our theme of philanthropy through the end of the week when we held our first annual Phi Delt FIFA soccer tournament to raise money for the ALS Association. We had the sororities play in a soccer tournament while our guys captained the teams. Needless to say, it was a great time and we were able to send a check off to the ALS Association for over \$1,000.

Another highlight of the semester had to be the new guys that rushed and pledged. We proudly initiated 14 new Phis this last semester and they all have been a great addition. One is an incredibly talented electric violinist who had the honor of playing with the Steve Miller Band, another one is in the process of making a feature length film as a freshman, and as a whole, this latest pledge class has already shown a ton of passion for making Phi Delt at USC bigger and better in every way.

Heading into this next semester we have nothing but high goals and

expectations for our chapter. We are working hard to get a great pledge class so that we can continue to grow and expand. Another thing we're really looking forward to is formal, in either Las Vegas or Mexico. Formal is always a great chance to get away from school for a weekend, kick back, have a good time with the guys, and of course enjoy the company of some cute girls. We plan on taking the experience we've gained from living in the house for a semester now and using that to find better ways to connect as a chapter and strengthen our brotherhood. It's safe to say we all have a vision for where we want to take our chapter in the next few semesters, and that vision seems to be stirring up a lot of excitement amongst the active members.

Yours in the Bond,

*Nick Stubberfield*

Nick Stubberfield  
1526

## USC Trojans 2010 Football Schedule

Sept. 2	@ Hawaii
Sept. 11	Virginia
Sept. 18	@ Minnesota
Sept. 25	@ Washington State
Oct. 2	Washington
Oct. 9	@ Stanford
Oct. 16	California
<b>Oct. 30</b>	<b>Oregon</b>
<b>Homecoming Weekend</b>	
Nov. 6	Arizona State
Nov. 13	@ Arizona
Nov. 20	@ Oregon State
Nov. 27	Notre Dame
Dec. 4	@ UCLA

## Active Chapter Member Quotes:

"The house has allowed us to gather in one central location which has allowed us to all become closer with each other. It has ultimately strengthened our brotherhood within the chapter. All members seem to exhibit much more pride in being a Phi Delt on campus. It has been a long waited event and we are so happy to be part of it."

- **Harrison Kreiss**, Junior

"The house has definitely brought the guys closer together. We're spending a lot of time with each other, getting more comfortable with each other, and overall just becoming more connected as a chapter."

- **Evan Chen**, Junior

"This place really is a physical representation of who we are as a chapter. It says that we're big, bold and we're here to stay."

- **Jason Kerns**, Sophomore

"Being in a place that is just for us has added a certain aspect of secrecy and exclusiveness that has built up a community with the guys in the chapter. We couldn't do that in the last few years because we were spread out all over the place in apartments and small houses."

- **Mike Elowson**, Sophomore

"The house has also been a huge help when it comes to studying. There are far fewer late night treks to the library now that we have a comfortable place to get our work done. The individual rooms provide for a great study environment and during midterms and finals last semester our designated study room was always packed."

- **Nick Stubberfield**, Sophomore

## Congratulations to new officers and new members!

<b>President:</b>	Nick Stubberfield
<b>VP:</b>	David Burris
<b>Social Chair:</b>	Jake Saroyan
<b>Phikea Educator:</b>	Chuck Peot
<b>Alumni:</b>	Matthew Segal
<b>ALS coordinator:</b>	Michael Elowson
<b>Public Relations:</b>	Josh Friedman
<b>House Manager:</b>	Zak Salehipour
<b>Brotherhood:</b>	Matt Dodson
<b>Risk Manager:</b>	Daniel Moline
<b>Philanthropy:</b>	Andrew Garvin
<b>Scholarship:</b>	Michael Barnett
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jason Kerns
<b>Judicial:</b>	Rob Hoy
<b>Secretary:</b>	Austin Taylor

## New Members

David Dar	Jack Tsu
Sean Gallagher	Andy Winningham
Jonah Feingold	Wiley Strahan
Dustin Byer	Andrew Christopher
Tommi Koho	Peter Johnson
Bryan Medlock	Eli Linnetz
Luigi Ramirez	Luke Loftin

# Cal Delta Returns

On October 10, 2009, the House Corporation held an open house at the Phi Delt house to unveil the large donor plaque and the individual donor room plaques. Many of the donors were there to see the installed plaques and all were extremely pleased. The Chapter members under the guidance of their Alumni Chair and **Ali Shoroghi** organized the event.

It should be noted the House Corporation used Phi Scott Christie's firm Promotional Signs to design, produce and install the plaques. Scott and his company did an outstanding job.

The special part of the evening was the presentation by Phi Delta Theta National Fraternity of special recognition certificates to the large donors to the Capital Campaign: **Richard and Robert Kirtland, Bradley Radichel, Thomas Schriber, John Hagestad, Robert Haggstrom, John Curci, Kirk Calhoun, Don Oliphant, Jeffrey Smulyan, W. Thomas Maudlin, Tom Linden, Gale Bensussen, Jeffrey Stone, Terry Adams, Gary Holcomb, Stephan Scully, Ronald Grey, and Patrick Niemann.** Presenting the certificates was Province President **Stan Gilson** and **Chris Lapple.** Also attending from the National Fraternity was **Rusty Richardson.** Cal Delta is extremely grateful for the strong support of the National Fraternity during the recharter and the rebuilding process.



*Above: Our beautifully rebuilt Cal-Delta home. The Restoring our Legacy campaign is still accepting campaign pledges! To make your own financial commitment, please email [caldelta@tlgcampaigns.net](mailto:caldelta@tlgcampaigns.net) to find out more on how to make your own pledge!*



*All in attendance for the open house unveiling Donor Plaques.*

## But We're Not Done Yet

*by Bill Mitchell*

Since the Dedication of the new Chapter House in June, many of you have stopped by to take a look at the finished project. Every Phi that has seen the new house tells me how great it looks and what a great job "we" did. However, "we" aren't done yet. Yes, we have a beautiful new house with a great group of young men living there. But, we still need to raise money to satisfy existing loan obligations.

When the project started, we estimated that the capital campaign would need to raise \$2.5M. That has not changed. To date we have raised approximately \$1.8M. Hitting this target is even more important since, like many building projects, the final costs were slightly over budget.



*1: Don Oliphant, Bill Mitchell, 2: Barb Mitchell, Bill Mitchell, Phil Stathatos, Lisa Stathatos, 3: Bob Alleborn, Michael Spilsbury, Dick Kirtland, 4: Todd Macklin, Matt Sotelo, Lee Carter.*



# Alumni News: Chapter Eternal



## Father of the Modern Grammy Awards and Phi Delt Brother Passes

*Cossette, continued from page 1*

used throughout his life to remind himself that no matter what setback he might be experiencing, "At least I'm not on the truck."

Upon his discharge, he enrolled at USC as a journalism major -- he belatedly took great satisfaction in writing his 2003 memoir, "Another Day in Showbiz: One Producer's Journey," unaided -- and continued booking entertainment for campus events.

When Cossette approached officials at the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in 1970 about making a live broadcast out of what until then had been a private ceremony mostly for record executives held in local hotel banquet rooms, they were skeptical. They had packaged their own Grammy highlights shows in the '60s, "Best on Record," but they were low-rated affairs that ran months after awards had been handed out and all suspense was lost.

Cossette figured he could do with music what the film and TV academies had done since the '50s with the Oscar and Emmy telecasts, and paid \$150,000 for the right to broadcast the award ceremony. He used money he had received from selling his interest in Dunhill Records, the label that he and Lou Adler formed in the early '60s that signed the Mamas & the Papas, Barry McGuire, Steppenwolf and Three Dog Night.

Still, it took considerable prodding before ABC bit. (After two years, the show moved to CBS, where it has remained.) Even after Cossette's diligent campaigning, a network would only consent to broadcast his live Grammy Awards show after Andy Williams signed on as host.

Outside of the Grammy Awards show -- which yielded Cossette a trustee's award in 1995 for contributions by a non-musician -- and the Latin Grammy telecast that he also oversaw, he produced syndicated

series for Williams, Sammy Davis Jr., Glen Campbell and rock oldies group Sha Na Na, among more than 100 TV specials, awards shows, movies of the week and miniseries.

Cossette also produced several Broadway shows, including the six-time Tony Award-winning "The Will Rogers Follies." He had recently been developing a new musical based on the life of Woody Guthrie.

In an interview before the 2009 Grammy Awards, Cossette said the acknowledgment served as validation of his life's work.

In addition to his son John, Cossette is survived by another son, Andrew, from his marriage to Dorothy Foy, who died in 1982; as well as his second wife, Mary; five stepchildren, Jennifer Bontempo, Anne Casey, Christopher Ufland, John Ufland and Joslin Weiner; and eight grandchildren.



*Pierre holding his Canada Walk of Fame induction certificate. He was inducted into the Canada Walk of Fame in 2005.*

*A special thanks to Randy Lewis of the LA Times for allowing us to use excerpts from his September 12, 2009 article regarding the passing of Pierre Cossette.*

### Don Kott 12-21-2009

**D**on Kott, the man who put the town of Carson, Calif., on the map with his chain of car dealerships, died Monday, December 21, 2009, at his Long Beach home after a five-year battle with throat cancer, according to the Long Beach Press Telegram.

Kott was the state's ninth largest car dealer when he sold his business to Sonic Automotive in 2002. The dealerships closed in 2008 when Ford Motor Co. consolidated its franchises.

Kott was born on March 21, 1931 in Los Angeles to Karl and Dora Kott. Don attended USC before going to work for his father's Ford dealership in 1953. The dealership had been located in Wilmington, Calif., since his father opened it in 1929.

After taking over the business when his father retired in 1971, Kott then moved the business to Carson, Calif., in 1974 in an effort to expand the business. The sprawling lot in Carson was dominated by a giant electronic sign that displayed inspirational messages as well as sales pitches aimed at drivers on the 405.

In addition to his wife Margaret, Kott is survived by two sons, Jeffrey and Christopher Childers, a daughter, Kelley Hall; and four grandchildren. Through the years, Kott volunteered with local charities, including the Wilmington YMCA and Boys Club and the Boys & Girls Club of Carson.

### Ed Neil 10-15-2009

**E**dmond Robbert Neil, born in Muscatine, Iowa on December 12, 1927 and died on October 15, 2009 after a long battle with cancer, with his loving family by his side. Survived by his devoted wife of fourteen years Lill, children, Eddie, Jessica, William, Son-in-law Darren J. Hume, Daughter-in-law Elizabeth Perry Neil and along with his grandchildren, Jessica Dorothy Hume, Hope Josefina Hume, Shannon Louise Hume, Alexandra Elizabeth Neil and Robert William Neil. Ed was a well-respected leader in the escrow business as well as in the Catholic Church and community. His family and friends will remember him as a loving, kind man and how much he enriched their lives. We know he has gone to a better place and is watching down upon us occasionally sharing a laugh. He is already missed by all.

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