



Cal Delta Spotlight

USC House Corporation of Phi Delta Theta | Winter 2012-13 | University of Southern California

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

Alumni Spotlight: Hon. Lance Jensen '82

*From the Editor: For this edition of the Cal Delta Spotlight, we decided to get a little closer to the law. Meet **Lance Jensen '82**, Orange County Superior Court Judge. Lance, a native of North Tustin, CA, has a great sense of humor, stays in touch with a variety of brothers, and counts Phi Deltas among his very closest friends. He is currently assigned to a Felony Trial Calendar where he conducts trials involving serious and violent felonies. As such, Judge (and Brother) Jensen sees a world that the average Phi Delt alum never does. Read on to find out more about Lance and how his path led him to the courtroom.*

During my freshman year at USC I lived at home and commuted to the campus daily. I knew nothing about the fraternity system so I decided to just spend my first year checking out the school, the campus and what fraternity life was all about. I started the rushing process the summer of my sophomore year going to parties sponsored by just about every major fraternity on the row.

I accepted the first bid I received from a smaller fraternity just off the row but immediately had second thoughts or “buyer’s remorse”. The next day I was walking down the row checking out other rush parties when I came upon the Phi Delta Theta House. I remember meeting an active at the front of the house, and he started telling me about

the brothers and the house. The conversation was very casual and did not feel like a sales job. I knew then and there that this was the house I wanted to join! The next 3 years were the most memorable times of my life.

A day does not go by that I don’t look back upon my experiences at USC, the Phi Delt house, and how they shaped me into the person I am today. It is said that if you can graduate college and count the number of friends you have on one hand you are a lucky person. I don’t have enough hands to count

the number of lifelong friends I made as a member of Phi Delta Theta.

I graduated USC as a Business major with an emphasis in Marketing and started working for PepsiCo as an account executive. Two years later I moved on to Rockwell Aerospace

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USC House Corporation

By Stephen Scully '81

President – USC Phi Delt House Corporation

Iwould like to wish all of our Phi Delt Alumni an outstanding 2013 New Year. As I write this spring newsletter, I am shocked that this next fall will be the start of the fifth year since we have completed the construction of the House and have active members living in. I am sure that you feel the same as I do - how unbelievably fast this time has gone by.

I again write our alumni with an optimistic view of our House Corporation and Chapter. Our House Corporation continues to pay down construction debt thanks to the core group of alumni who participated in our original fundraising effort, in addition to the rents that we collect each semester. For the third year in a row we have paid down debt faster than the amortization of our loans and consistent with our ultimate long term goal of owning our chapter house debt free. It is also important to mention that through financial contributions from the Chapter, we have invested in multiple improvements within the House

in addition to repairing high traffic areas that needed attention.

As we head into 2013 we will be winding down our original fundraising campaign. As the collections from this effort are close to depletion, we have engaged the Laurus Group to begin the next phase of our required funding. I hope that everyone sees the tremendous progress we have made since our last campaign, which paved the way to reconstruct our House. Now we must continue this effort to insure continued debt reduction and to have sufficient funds to meet all ownership obligations of our house. As this new campaign gets started, I ask that you join me in continuing your support of USC Phi Delta Theta and guarantee the legacy of one of the few member-owned fraternity houses on campus.

In conclusion, I would like to thank every member of our Board for their help and support over the last five years. They have been instrumental in building our house, keeping it full each semester, maintained and our fundraising on track. Over the course of the next couple of months I will be transitioning out as President of the House Corporation but will remain on our Board. I have very much enjoyed being part of the team that has brought the USC Phi Delta Theta house back. **Fight On and Proud to be a Phi.**



President's Message

With the close of 2012, the active chapter of California Delta made the best of it. We're proud to announce the initiation of the 20 new brothers of the Xi Phikeia Class. Aside from our recruitment efforts, Cal Delta held our annual fall philanthropy, Phi Delt FIFA, in the month of October. We raised over \$4000, and every sorority participated in the event. In addition, we were very pleased to see so many alumni attend our annual homecoming tailgate on McCarthy Quad.

The chapter had a full calendar this fall. We hosted social events with every sorority at USC, including our exchange with the women of Alpha Delta Pi. Our brotherhood events ranged from BBQ nights at the house to a weekend long trip up to San Francisco for the annual USC Weekender game (the game versus Stanford was forgettable).

I'm very pleased to announce that the brothers of California Delta had an outstanding academic year in addition to our vibrant social calendar. Our chapter achieved a 3.29 GPA, the highest of any fraternity with over 100 members. This mark was 0.2 higher than the USC All-Men's average and 0.1 higher than the IFC average.

The fall of 2012 has been a memorable time for all the brothers of



Dan Moline (left) with incoming Chapter President Pablo Ortiz (right)

California Delta. Being President of our chapter has been an incredibly rewarding experience for me, and I feel honored to have been given the privilege over the past year. Our next president, **Pablo Ortiz**, will do an excellent job and ensure the growth and longevity of our chapter.

Proud to be a Phi,
Daniel Chai Moline, 1548

Chapter Spotlight: Brenton Caldwell

Hometown: Grafton, Massachusetts

Major: Biomedical Engineer (Business emphasis)

Graduation: May 2014

Current Positions: Executive Vice President of Administrative Affairs (EVP Admin) for the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Vice President of Finance for Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, Viterbi Student Ambassador, Viterbi Freshman Academy Coach, Viterbi Admission and Student Affairs Intern

Recent/Past Positions: Vice President of California Delta (2012), Scholarship Chair of California Delta (2011)

Honors and Awards: Seely Mudd Scholarship; Phi Delta Theta Scholarship; Moody's Mega Math Challenge Scholarship; Eliza C. Keith Scholarship; Dean's List; Order of Omega; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Gamma Sigma Alpha Honor Society; Sigma Alpha Lambda

Extracurriculars: Undergraduate Student Government Campus Affairs Committee; Member of the Associated Students of Biomedical Engineering; Viterbi Explore Host for Admitted Students



What first brought you to the Cal Delta house?

In all honestly I wasn't thinking about rushing when I came to USC. I didn't know too much about the Greek system since I am from a small town in central Massachusetts. One of my friends from orientation actually introduced me to the rush chair of California Delta at the time, **J.P. Alanis '12**. From the time I walked up to the house at house tours and met some of the brothers, I knew that Greek Life was something I wanted to do.

The gentlemen of California Delta had a drive and a passion unlike any other house, maybe due to its recent refounding. The brothers were well diversified among majors, had unrivaled leadership experience on campus, had landed many jobs at Fortune 500 companies, and had an extraordinary sense of camaraderie. This is when I knew that I wanted to be a Phi Delt.

As the past Vice President, what were you able to accomplish?

In the past Vice Presidential term there were a lot of things that I wished to accomplish. One main goal was to instill the use of "Officer Binders" among the chapter officers to keep them organized and help in transitioning. Each binder was tailored to the officer position and has helped to increase efficiency and reduce repeat error by subsequent officers. In addition it was my job to ensure that every officer had the resources to succeed in their jobs. While Vice President, I worked with the officers to break down long-term goals into quantifiable objectives. This helped the officers see their big picture idea in a series of small steps. Working with these officers, I oversaw a successful recruitment, a submission of a Gold Star winning awards packet to Phi Delta Theta National Office, and an overhauled scholarship program which placed the chapter's grade point average, 3.29, as the number one among chapters with over 100 members and beating the All Men's Average of a 3.09.

How did you become involved with the IFC?

Near the completion of my Vice Presidential term at Cal Delta, I was

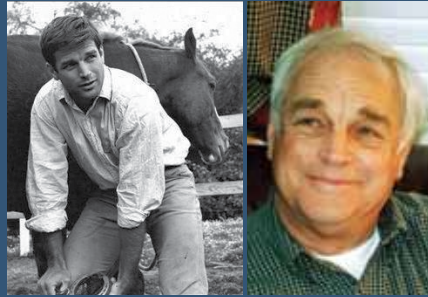


Andy, Skylar and Brenton at Phi Delt Yacht Night

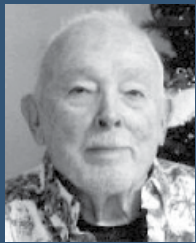


In Tribute

Ronald Lee Brown '56 of Sequim, Wash., formerly of Wichita, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Feb. 17, 2009. Ron was born January 14, 1934 in Wichita, Kan. He played football in the USC - Ohio St. Rose Bowl game in January 1955 and graduated from the University of Southern California in 1956. He served in the US Air Force from 1956-60 as an officer and air traffic controller. Ron worked for Walt Disney Studio making movies. He was the leading man in "Charlie, The Lonesome Cougar" in 1967. He enjoyed spending time with his wife Carlene, their 7 children, and 12 grandchildren.



Robert H. Lenker '50, a Manhattan Beach, CA resident for over 50 years, passed away peacefully February 23, 2012. He was a beloved husband, father, brother and friend who loved to garden, fish and camp, but mostly he loved just having a good time with all. Bob was a warm, kind, friendly, adventurous, giving man who loved his family and friends and was doubly loved by those who knew him. He was born February 20, 1928 in San Bernardino, CA and spent many summers in Santa Cruz, CA. He graduated from USC after his service in the US Air Force. He worked as a package designer for Western Kraft for 28 years and enjoyed traveling the world and having fun with family and friends throughout his retirement. Bob is survived by his lovely wife of 57 years, Anne, their 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.



The Complete Guide to Meeting College and Retirement Costs

By Bruce Buettell '82

My wife and I try not to push our kids too hard. All we ask is that they excel enough to be hated by the world's losers. But that standard doesn't set the bar very high, as you know if you've gotten a load of an Occupy Wall Street camp. Now we realize that our offspring had it too easy and all the merit scholarships are going to students who mastered Plato while our kids mastered Play-Doh.

Everyone knows that a degree costs enough to keep Lindsay Lohan in drugs. So how are we ever supposed to retire if we have to pay retail for college? Fortunately there's an answer that makes college and retirement work together. The first and most important step is to quit working. Universities love to pretend that they care about the downtrodden, so oblige them and make yourself as pitiful as possible. Staying in the rat race is the last thing that's going to pump up your financial need.

Retiring early and watching the need-based scholarships roll in will require careful planning. For example, make sure to factor in the high cost of bathrobes. They wear out fast when you wear them all day. My research shows that a nylon blend lasts 17% longer than all-cotton terry cloth while remaining comfortable during 16 hour stints on the couch. A good bathrobe inventory also helps keep the kids in line as they finish up high school since you can threaten to show up at school wearing one if their grades slip and you need to meet with their teachers.

To avoid boredom during retirement, you'll also need a few activities besides TV, although not many. Here's one of my favorites: turn off all the lights in the house, then go out to the electric meter and enjoy watching how slowly the little wheel goes around. You'll find that you can spend hours joyfully watching your electric-bill savings pile up. Under no circumstances should you let your power company switch your meter to the new digital type, since these eliminate the rotating wheel.

It's a shame that the financial-planning industry has us worrying about IRA's, 401-K's, life insurance and asset allocation when the above tips cover everything you need. All I can say is you're welcome.



Alumni News

Fredrick G. Hoeptner '55 - My latest piano composition "Portrait in Ragtime #2" played by Andrew Barrett is available on YouTube. Check it out!

Guy Pacurar '81 - with his wife (below), Sarah, and little Ella Mac at Sarah's family's vineyard in the Anderson Valley. Ella Mac was born on July 23, 2012 at 8 lbs, 4 oz!



Richard A. Gould '82 - My older daughter, Amanda, just graduated from UGA. My younger daughter, Maddy, just graduated from high school and will be attending Sewanee in the fall.

Timeless Ideals for Future Generations

Not all estate gifts are complicated or require the help of an attorney.* Here are three easy ways to make an estate gift later by filling out a simple form now.

1. Make the U.S.C. Phi Delt House Corporation the beneficiary of your qualified retirement plan, such as an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or SEP. Just fill out a Change of Beneficiary Form from your plan provider.
2. Make the U.S.C. Phi Delt House Corporation the beneficiary of a checking or savings account upon your death. Ask your local bank for a Payment on Death Form.
3. Make the U.S.C. Phi Delt House Corporation the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Fill out a Change of Beneficiary Form. If you don't need your policy anymore, you can also transfer ownership of the policy to the U.S.C. Phi Delt House Corporation now.

Not sure what to do next? We can help. Contact Steve Scully at stephenscully.mail@gmail.com or call Bruce Buettell at 714-686-7186. If you have already included the U.S.C. Phi Delt House Corporation in your plans in some way, please let us know. We would like to thank you.

*It is always a good idea to seek appropriate professional advice.

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where I worked as a Contract Analyst. After a couple more years, I decided to go back to school and get a graduate degree in either Law or an MBA. I decided on law school with no intention of ever becoming a lawyer but going back into the business world.

While attending law school I saw a letter from the Orange County District Attorney's Office outside the career development center offering an internship as a certified law clerk. I was lucky to get the position. In my interview I was asked if I wanted to be a DA after law school. Like an idiot I said "no" but somehow still got the clerkship. I was given the opportunity to do just about everything a prosecutor did including a jury trial. I knew the minute I stepped into a courtroom that this was where I wanted to be for the rest of my career. It also helped that after two prior jobs my dad said he wasn't going to pay for any more schooling after law school.

I found out that I passed the bar exam on a Friday and started working as a Deputy District Attorney the following Monday. Every day was different and just when I thought I had seen it all, something different and challenging would come into the courtroom. I prosecuted over 100 misdemeanor and felony cases and was assigned to the hard core gang unit before I left the office.

After 12 years as a DA the next logical step and challenge for me was to become a judge. As a Republican I knew that I was never going to be appointed by Democrat Governor Davis, so I decided to run for office. The election process was nine grueling months on the campaign trail speaking at any and every event known to mankind. The experience was like rushing a fraternity but you only

had a three minute speech to convince the audience why they should vote for you. The most difficult part of the process was raising over \$75,000 to cover my campaign costs. While it was a necessary evil, I never felt comfortable asking strangers, family and friends for money.

I have been assigned to a Felony Trial Court for the last 3 years. Many of the trials I hear often involve people who do some of the most despicable things anyone can imagine. Like a baseball umpire, I call the balls and strikes which determine what evidence comes in and what stays out while the jury decides guilt or innocence. My primary job is to make sure that both sides get a fair and just trial in a professional manner. The process is much harder on the jurors and especially the victims. It is incredibly satisfying to know that you are part of a process that is so important to our society and community. After a tough day or long trial I like nothing better than to come home and spend time with my two kids and incredible wife. My wife has a hard time listening to me talk about the cases so I often suggest that we just open a nice bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon and enjoy!

When I graduated USC, I had this "company man" mentality. I truly thought that the first company I worked for would be the company I retired from. It was very scary to change jobs after only two years out of school and then two years later leave another job and decide to go to law school not knowing what



Lance and his family enjoying a USC football game!

you were going to do next. I would tell young actives to not be afraid to change careers. As a DA, my salary was about half of what other attorneys were making in the legal field; however, I loved going to work every day. While others were making more money, they were married to their job, often hated what they were doing and had little time to spend with their families. You can't put a price on happiness and family. As my father would often say, "there is nothing worse than going to a job every day that you hate." Follow what challenges you because that is what will make you happy and content.

My experience at Phi Delta Theta and the relationships I have developed with my fellow brothers have shaped and defined me as the person who I am today. I have been able to continue that experience by continuing to support the chapter. I never miss an opportunity to attend alumni events where you can connect with brothers who graduated a few years ago or a few decades. YITB

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faced with a decision on whether or not to run for President of Cal Delta or run for an IFC position. The IFC Executive Board is the governing body of all fraternities in the Interfraternity Council, and it is composed of 9 leaders in the Greek Community. They serve the presidents of the fraternities in the Interfraternity Council and act as a liaison between USC's Administration and the Greek community. After much thought and deliberation, I thought it best if I ran for a position on the Interfraternity Council. I believed that my experiences serving at Cal Delta could be very useful to the board. In addition, I had a longing to enact large scale change in the Greek Community and preserve the longevity of the Greek system at USC since it has impacted my life in such a great way thus far.

What are your goals for after graduation?

Upon graduation I wish to pursue a job in consulting, either technical or management, hopefully in the healthcare industry. I also just applied for a Progressive Degree Program which is a four year bachelor's degree plus one year master's degree program. I wish to pursue a master's degree in Engineering Management and hope to obtain this through the completion of online course work in the Progressive Degree Program while working full time after I receive my bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering.

What type of work are you doing on campus and what do you do for fun?

On campus I work as a Viterbi Student Ambassador, a program which highlights my everyday life in order to give incoming students and potential applicants a look into a



Brenton (right) and Wiley at a USC Football Tailgate

current engineer's life; a Freshman Academy Coach, a class taught by one professor and two coaches which helps to transition engineers into college life through mentorship; and a Viterbi Admission and Student Affairs Intern. For fun I like to discover new bands, code websites and programs, go to the beach, explore Los Angeles (I still have a lot more to discover), and go to the gym.