



# Cal Delta Spotlight

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

Alumni Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | [www.phideltatheta-caldelta.com](http://www.phideltatheta-caldelta.com)

## Moving Forward

By: Stephen Scully '81



It is with optimism, even considering these challenging times, that I write to the alumni and current actives of the USC Phi Delta Theta House. Our house remains the talk of the entire Greek system, and University, as the best fraternity location and striking facility that has maintained the architecture of this historic landmark. To this point, the House continues to enjoy 100% occupancy with a list of current actives that would jump

at the chance to live in.

We are rounding the final corner of the collections from our original fundraising effort that **Bill Mitchell '76** and **Bill Bedford '57** spearheaded. To date we have collected the majority of your pledges, which were utilized 100% for the construction costs of the house and for debt reduction on our First Trust Deed to City National Bank. I bring this to your attention as we have recently conducted a feasibility study and made the decision to move forward with an additional fundraising campaign to solidify the future of our house by significantly paying down our mortgage debt.

As I have written in past letters, this debt is large and must be addressed long term. Even with 100% occupancy, we still today are unable to meet all of the financial obligations of the house and, without our alumni support, we lose money.

My commitment as President of the USC Phi Delta Theta House Corporation has been to get our house rebuilt, build strong lasting banking relationships that are committed to us, work with the chapter to grow its membership, ensure 100% occupancy and guarantee the legacy of our house for future generations to come. As with anything, this has taken the hard work of our board and the long term financial support of our alumni.

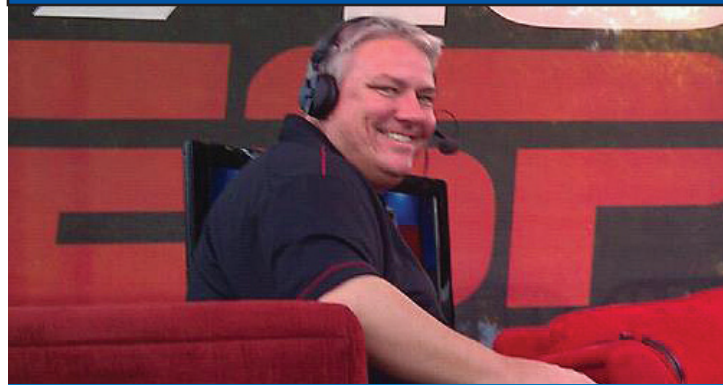
It is through this commitment that we must embark on the next round of fund raising. As I write to you today our bank debt is \$2.3MM. Without question we carry the highest debt load of any fraternity at USC and need to change this in the near future.

I reiterate to you that the USC Phi Delta Theta fraternity is strong and speaking on behalf of our board, we are focused and committed to the long term future. My optimism about our future is due to the success that we have had over the last couple of years in rebuilding our house and the level of commitment from our alumni. In the coming months you will be contacted by one of your brothers to ask for your support.

I personally ask that you make our fraternity and the experience that you had at USC a personal priority.

*Proud to be a Phi and Fight On!*

## Alumni Spotlight: Garry Paskwietz '88



Garry Paskwietz on the ESPN Radio stage.

I got very lucky in fraternity rush. Phi Delt was the first house I stopped at and things felt comfortable right away. I went through rush with a guy later became one of my pledge brothers, and both of us liked Phi Delt immediately. We checked out a couple other houses, but as soon as we got our Phi Delt bids, we accepted.

Cal Delta was just a good group of guys to be around. A bunch of guys who liked to have a good time but who also knew how to take care of business. That's one of the first things I remember learning in the house. During rush week I stayed a little late at one of the parties and ended up crashing on the couch in a room in the house. Early that next morning the alarm clock rang, my head was pounding and I couldn't move but those other guys in the room were up and out the door heading to classes. It was a good early lesson to learn for a freshman.

My best memories of the house are how there was always something going on. You could just go into someone's room and hang out, head down to the 9-0, maybe a Palm Springs or Vegas run. You just never

knew. There were the northern California road trips in the motor home for the weekender. The Party Challenge. During my pledge semester we had a party with Otis Day and the Knights from Animal House. That was awesome, I had been a USC student for less than a month and I was in a toga at a party with Otis.

I was a sports information major at USC. I had always wanted to attend USC and had always wanted to get into sports so when I found out USC had that major it was pretty much a done deal for me. My roommate in the house, **Jeff Odekirk '89**, was also a sports information major and we caught a lot of good-natured grief from our fellow brothers who questioned the academic integrity of our major. They asked if our homework was reading the LA Times sports page. We didn't care, we loved it, proud to be a spin major.

I worked a lot when I was at USC. The sports industry is all about getting your foot in the door so I worked three different internships when I was in school. I will always thank my parents for letting me take that route, I probably could have been a little

*Paskwietz, continued on page 4*



# Chapter News

## President's Message



With the close of 2011, the active chapter of California Delta made the best of it. This past fall, we recruited a record number of Phikeia with 26 initiated brothers at the culmination of the semester, our largest pledge class since our refounding.

Aside from our recruitment efforts, Cal Delta held their annual fall philanthropy, Phi Delt FIFA, in the month of September. We raised over \$3000 and every sorority participated in the event. In

addition, our annual homecoming tailgate was a huge success, hosting many Alumni on McCarthy quad to help celebrate the defeat of the Huskies.

Our house is undergoing some major improvement projects over the course of 2012, and we are looking to improve both aesthetic and functional aspects of the chapter house. In the coming weeks, we will begin breaking ground and construction on a new sand volleyball court, thanks to generous donations from the parents of the active chapter and our wonderful alums. Our other impending exterior improvements include a new electronic gate for our parking lot, an outdoor barbecue and grill, as well as a flagpole for our front yard.

All of these improvements were once again made possible by our parents and alumni; a special thank you to the fall '89 pledge class for helping with the flagpole. In

addition to this, we've begun to frame and hang up all of the remaining old composites as a tribute to the brothers who helped give this chapter its storied history. Finally, we've begun a new tradition of ordering pledge class paddles for every pledge class since our refounding to commemorate the Phikeia educators for all of their hard work.

In closing, the fall semester has been chock full of great memories. It's been an honor to serve as the president of California Delta for the past year; it's a time I will never forget. Our next president, **Daniel Moline**, will do an excellent job and ensure the growth and longevity of our chapter.

Proud to be a Phi,  
**Naader Banki**  
#1564

Three active members from the California Delta Chapter at the University of Southern California have been elected to the 2012 IFC Executive Board, continuing a six-year tradition of having at least one member on the IFC Executive Board. California Delta now has more representatives than any other chapter on the board, holding 3 of the 12 positions.



Brothers **Tom Bellis** (Fall '10) and **Jonah Feingold** (Fall '09) at a Date-Dash.



L to R: **Ali Sheikhpour**, **James Schecet**, and **Wiley Strahan**



The Cal Delt Flag greets Tailgaters on Trousdale at all of our home games.



A December Graduate and former member of the Trojans Football Team, Brother **William Rojas** (Spring '10) enjoys his last Homecoming as an Undergraduate.



# Alumni News

## Lessons Not Found in a Textbook



By Darryl Webb #789

You can imagine my dread when my father summoned me to the kitchen table for yet another one of his agonizing and endless lectures on the eve of my quest to receive my business degree at USC. Ever the dutiful son, I obeyed my father, sat down and pretended to listen intently.

Was it a lecture about how much this was going to cost him? Luckily, not this time. A lecture about the many evils of alcohol and drug abuse on a young student's mind? No, another bullet dodged. "Son", he began, "I want you to consider your college experience at SC as 60% social and 40% academic." My head began to spin. I had hit the jackpot! This, I figured, I could handle.

Naturally, I began to actually listen to this particular lecture. He went on, "I want you to learn enough about business law to know when to call your lawyer and enough about accounting to know when to call your accountant. I want you to develop the ability to find solutions to all the questions that will arise in your career but, most importantly, I want you to develop lifelong friendships through a healthy social life. You'll soon forget all the stuff they want you to memorize."

Oh my, dear old Dad had lost his marbles I remember thinking. It won't be long and he'll be drooling on himself for sure. But who was I to question his directive? After all, I was taught to do as I was told and honor thy father. I soon set off on my college career determined to do my best to fulfill his wishes and make him proud.

I soon pledged Phi Delta Theta, where, it turned out, most of my future brothers must have received the same lecture from their fathers. There was some relentless and serious social development

going on there. Sure, there was plenty of irritating studying to be done, but I believed, and still do, that moderation was the key to a healthy life. Apparently most of my new friends felt the same way. After all, I had never seen a grade point average printed on anyone's college diploma.

I soon decided I needed to persevere with gusto this whole social development thing and, as it turns out, it paid me countless dividends. Sitting in those business finance lectures while the room spun and I fought the urge to vomit taught me to fight through life's roadblocks and distractions to reach my goals. Pacifying maniacal actives that ordered me to bring them Tommy's burgers as I was studying for midterms taught me how to deal with both unreasonable customers and bosses. Waking up in the morning not knowing how I got home and where I left my car helped teach me to think quickly on my feet and stay calm in the face of disaster.

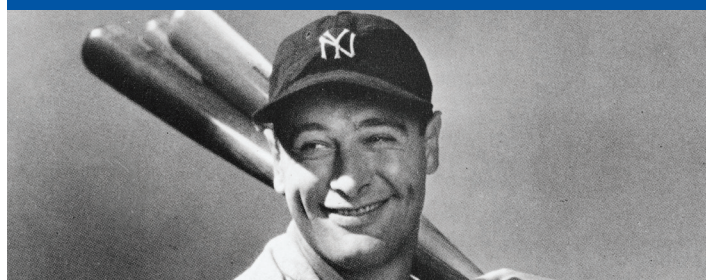
There were many other wonderful lessons learned but some should remain out of print and others have been sworn to secrecy. Surely no burned out Communications professor could possibly teach me these pearls of wisdom.

Looking back, some 30 years later, I realize that Dad had not lost his marbles after all and luckily he's still not drooling on himself. Yes, I'm afraid I did forget much of what my professors spewed at me and some of it, as it turned out, was utter nonsense. All the minute details they found so important and I forced myself to remember left me many moons ago.

As a Phi Delt, the incredible and diverse group of brothers I was blessed to meet and develop lifelong friendships with remain. I am honored to say that these friends of mine have taught me more valuable lessons, practical knowledge and given me more insights to success than all my professors combined. And I hope in some small way, I may have returned them the favor.

Should our kids study hard? Absolutely! But, in my humble opinion, not at the expense of shortchanging themselves the chance to develop the kind of priceless friendships I was lucky enough to make. Hopefully we'll remind them to close the books long enough to have some fun.

## Philanthropy 2012



Our chapter was awarded Phi Delta Theta's Brown Trophy for excellence in community service in 2010. The Stan Brown Trophy is presented to the chapter judged to have the most outstanding one-day or individual community service project. This award was presented to the Fraternity in 1986 by Stanley D. Brown, who established Phi Delta Theta's community service program in 1956. We hope to see that trophy in the hands of Cal Delta once again.

In honor of **Lou Gehrig**, one of our famous alumni, our chapter helps to raise over \$300,000 through participation in the "Walk to Defeat ALS" to help find a cure for Lou Gehrig's disease. This event is typically held in October, and we would like to invite our Alumni to participate in 2012!

## Catching Up with You!



**Donald B. Knapp '52** - It is rewarding for an OLD ALUM (Bond #55) to read the success of our Cal Delta active chapter, knowing that the tradition of excellence we helped establish at USC continues on today.

**Jeffrey W. Foster '00** - Married last year to my beautiful wife Lynne. We have no children.

**Paul D. Rea '63** - Working as an alcohol and drug counselor in a 28 - day rehab facility



Garry Paskwietz '88 (pictured far right) with ESPN crew including David Pollack (2nd from left) and Erin Andrews (2nd from right).

better student but I focused a lot on the internships because I thought it would help in my career.

One of the most amazing things to me about Phi Delt is how often it has connected in my career and professional life. I got my first job out of USC because of a Phi Delt. Blain Skinner was a few years ahead of me but I knew he was a sports information major and a Phi Delt who worked for the Lakers so I got in contact with him and ended up getting hired by the team.

I worked there for a year and then got a job with Miller beer doing sports marketing. That was a good job to have for a guy in his young 20's living in the south bay with a bunch of fraternity brothers around. I had access to beer and sporting event tickets and a lot of Phi Delt's shared in that good fortune.

After a while I decided I wanted to see about getting back into sportswriting. One of my internships had been with a sports magazine so I got back in touch with them and started doing some high school football writing.

At one point we were involved with a high school all-star game and I got in touch with Jerry McGee '92, a Phi Delt who was a few years behind me in school and who was also involved in the sports industry. Jerry put us in touch with some of his contacts at Fox Sports to televise the game and that led to my being involved as a producer with the high school football game of the week. It was a job I held for 13 years and I enjoyed the heck out of it. We also won five Emmy Awards for doing the show so it was a great experience.

Shortly after the Fox deal started, I got a call from McGee and he wanted to know if I was interested in writing a USC football newsletter. A friend of his had an

idea to do a fax newsletter talking about the team. I started doing that for a few years and then I got approached to do a USC website for a new on-line college sports network called Rivals.

The internet was real new at the time and nobody really knew where it was going. We named the site WeAreSC and it kind of took off right away as the internet started to explode. A few years later USC went on one of the greatest runs in college football history so it was great to be a part of covering all that.

Most of my time with the site is spent writing about the team. I go to practices and games, I'm involved with the pre-game radio show, we cover recruiting, we do videos, blogs, message boards and podcasts. Basically, we cover the team in depth in as many ways as we can. The site has continued to grow as the internet has evolved and a few years ago we moved the site to ESPN.com as part of their college football network.

I've been fortunate with the site to have another former fraternity brother, Eoin Kreditor '87, who has been involved from the start. Eoin is a lawyer and he offered to help advise me when the first contracts were drawn up and he eventually became a business partner as we expanded. It's just another example of how the fraternity continues to be woven into the career to this day.

It's really enjoyable these days to run into Phi's and to meet everyone's families and get caught up. It's interesting to see the various paths that have been taken, of guys that you knew at an early stage in life and now you see many of them who have achieved some pretty unique things. It brings back some great memories.



## Save the Date!

USC vs. Arizona

Dedeaux Field at the USC campus.

Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

The event will start with alumni meeting at the Phi Delt House, which will be open at noon. Then we'll move to the 2-9 Cafe across the street from the House for pregame followed by the baseball game at 2:00 p.m.

Alumni will be notified with all the details, but anyone who wants more information now can contact Bruce Buettell '82 at [brucebuettell@yahoo.com](mailto:brucebuettell@yahoo.com) or via my direct line (714) 686-7186.

## Chapter Grand

- Robert Porter '50
- William Abts '51
- James Dwight '55
- Jeffrey Carlton '84

## LEAVE A LEGACY!

Consider a lasting gift that will support Phi Delta Theta long after you are gone. By including the USC Phi Delt House Corporation in your estate plans, you ensure the long-term health and success of our fraternity.

For more information on how you can make a contribution to USC Phi Delt House Corp., contact Stephen Scully '81 at [stephenscully.mail@gmail.com](mailto:stephenscully.mail@gmail.com). Or, if you have already included the House in your estate plans, please let us know by contacting Steve.

\*\*\*This information is not presented as legal or tax advice. Always consult your advisors for questions you may have.\*\*\*

*Proud to be a Phi.*