



Cal Delta Spotlight

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

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USC House Corporation

A Word From Our President



The time seems to go by faster and faster, as I cannot believe the New Year has snuck up on us yet again!

Thank you for all those who came out during Homecoming this past year! The outcome was less than desirable, but it was great to have time to spend amongst brothers. Part of being a Trojan football fan means that we are used to the USC roller coaster ride that the athletic program puts us through every fall. This year was no different! Undoubtedly, we have some young talent, but after this season I am looking forward to seeing the team mature and become a cohesive powerhouse over the next few years.

Next, I want to share a brief update regarding the three-year room renovation project we began during the summer of 2017. So far, we have successfully refurbished rooms 5 through 17, with rooms 5 through 10 being completed this summer and rooms 11 through 17 being completed during the summer of 2017. We will wrap up the project next summer by refurbishing rooms 1 through 4, and room 18, the resident advisor's room. After this is completed, we will be keeping high standards for all rooms during the year and utilizing security deposits in order to bring each room up to standard after moving out. This will include cleaning, painting, furniture replacement, blind repair, and A/C repair. So far, the tenants have been extremely happy with the amount of focus that has been put on room restoration!

Lastly, let me give a brief update

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Alumni Spotlight:

Guy V. Pacurar '81

Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter we're shining the Spotlight on brother Guy Pacurar '81, proprietor of the Brewery Gulch Inn and Fathers + Daughters Cellars. Guy's inn is known worldwide and has received multiple awards for best hotel and excellence.

From the hometown of Del Mar, CA, Guy graduated from USC with a degree in communications and international relations. His experience ranges from 20 years leading the student exchange program to managing a congressional race before opening his inn.

A man of many talents and leadership, Guy and his wife Sarah recently expanded their business and added an award-winning pinot noir, Ella's Reserve, named after their little girl. Guy is also proud of his daughter Taylor, who is also working in the wine industry at Russian River Valley.

As an active chapter member, Guy served the chapter as kitchen steward and pledge trainer. The Scroll recently recognized him for his work in the community, including the Mendocino Film Festival and Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association.



Guy Pacurar sits atop the overlook above his vineyard in Mendocino, California.

What are your fondest memories from being an active chapter member?

- Rooming with seven other guys in The Cabin my first semester after pledging,
- Late-night runs to Lucy's,
- Getting my shamrock at Tom Bergin's without ever drinking any alcohol there,
- Stealing the furniture from the Gamma Phi house and making them sing to get it back,
- A high-speed chase after some thieves who broke into our pantry during a party until we cornered them in a market somewhere in south L.A. where one of my brothers (a Golden Gloves boxer who will remain

unnamed) made them wish they had robbed the Betas instead,

- Missing a chapter meeting only to learn the next day that I had been elected kitchen steward; then,
- With little experience in budgeting, spending an entire month's food budget on one dinner.

How do you stay in the loop with Cal Delta today?

I read The Scroll and the periodic chapter newsletters, and I stay in touch with several guys from the house.

After graduation, how did you apply your degree?

I graduated with a degree in communications and in international relations. My first job was managing the campaign for a San Diego City Council seat. I later put my international relations education to use running an international student exchange program for 20 years.

Having worked in politics, what would you say brings out the best in a candidate?

A little leverage.

What did you enjoy about working with the international student exchange program?



The Great Room at the Brewery Gulch Inn.

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President's Message

Sina Mahbobi

Brothers,

As I come to the end of my term as president and look to the winter, it's a great time to look back at some of our successes over the past year. With sustained membership growth, philanthropy donations, a new 20-member Alpha Beta class, and Phi Delta Theta awards, we are very proud of everything we have achieved this semester.

A new university policy of deferred rush this fall, where first semester freshman can no longer join Greek life, made it tough to keep numbers in Greek life. Thanks to the hard work of our Rush Chairs **Jimmy Huber** and **Charlie Pangborn**, we were able to obtain the largest new member class on the entire row. This class of 20 has already been very involved in the house, and our continued and sustained growth even with these new restrictions on recruitment attests to all the effort we have been putting in to be the best versions of ourselves.

This semester has also been incredibly successful in terms of philanthropic and event hosting endeavors. We hosted our fall philanthropy, Phi Delt Beach Bash, at our chapter house, where other sororities compete in a knockout beach volleyball tournament. We raised over \$2,500 for the LiveLikeLou Foundation as a result of this event. We also engaged in joint seminars on wellness, sexual assault prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse, as we do every semester.

At the general convention I attended this summer, we were presented with a high number of awards. These include Excellence in Recruitment and Initiation, Excellence in Scholarship, The GHQ Award, and the Silver Star Award. We continued to have the second highest GPA of IFC fraternities, missing out on first place by a close margin yet again. I've been incredibly impressed by the academic drive of the brothers in the house, especially because California Delta has a large number of engineers in comparison to other fraternities.

I have really enjoyed my term as president and cannot wait to see the fantastic things



We are proud of the active chapter and their philanthropic efforts! Here they are representing the chapter at the ALS Walk.

coming in the spring and in the future. Looking at the continued growth in membership, innovative philanthropy, and sustained leadership in the Greek community, it is definitely an exciting time to be a Phi, and an exciting future to look forward to.

All the best,

Sina Mahbobi
Chapter President



Chapter Spotlight: Jamison Baken



Headshot taken the night of Bannack's album release party (January 26, 2018).

*Editor's Note: Representing the chapter is senior classman **Jamison Baken**. From the hometown of Billings, MT, Jamison is on track to graduate this spring with a degree in music production. His love of music reaches outside of school as he and fellow pledge brother **Benny Friedman** are in the folk band **Bannack**. Jamison's work experience includes freelance music production (mixing/mastering). Outside of school, he enjoys travel, hiking, and dancing.*

What have you enjoyed most as member of Cal Delta?

As a member of Cal Delta, I found some of my best friends and I can clearly trace these relationships to the people I surround myself with today. I also enjoy being able

to go nearly anywhere in the country, and often the world, and know that there is a friend close by. The network is fantastic.

Outside of school, what do you do for fun?

In my free time I am mostly found creating music or performing. I try to fill



Playing tunes in the car on our west coast tour last May.



Bannack Press photo supporting the release of our album, Compendium.

Cal Delta Wins Awards at Phi Delta Theta National Convention

At this summer's Phi Delta Theta National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, Cal Delta won awards for Excellence in Recruitment & Initiation, the GHQ Award, Excellence in Scholarship, and was honored with the Silver Star Award. Congratulations, men!



Alex Trannon and Sina Mahbobi representing the chapter at spring convention.

Best Spot on the Row

New University Village Showcases Phi Delt House



For decades, the Phi Delt House was said to be located “at the end of The Row.” With the completion of the new USC University Village, it is now accurate to say that our house is at the beginning of The Row.

Replacing the old shopping center that housed the 32nd Street Market, the University Village’s seven buildings opened in August 2017 at a cost of \$700 million. They provide new housing for 2,500 students, along with a host of retail businesses including Target and Trader Joe’s. The new development is a stone’s throw from the Phi Deltas and moves the center of gravity on campus decidedly in our direction. Our chapter house is the first stop on The Row for foot traffic coming from the Village. During the latest rush period in August, the number of visiting rushees was phenomenal and—along with the great work of the chapter and its rush chairmen—resulted in a pledge class of top-quality guys that is one-third larger than any other fraternity at USC.

my time with as much music as possible, but additionally enjoy hiking and eating good food in interesting places.

How long have you and Benny played together?

Benny and I have been playing music since the first weeks that we met in our pledge class for Phi Delta Theta. In the over three years since then, we have released a 13-track album and played shows in L.A., San Francisco, Seattle, San Diego, Chicago, New York, and more. This journey has been incredible and one of the most important parts of my life.



Hiking in Yucca Valley east of Los Angeles.

How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

I am hoping to apply my degree in music production by working with bands and artists to produce records after graduation. I am looking to work at a recording studio in Los Angeles and begin a career as a songwriter/producer.

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!*

Facilitating relationships between families and students from other countries that last a lifetime and erasing cultural misconceptions one student and one family at a time.

With such a busy career, did the idea of



Guy's daughters Taylor and Ella, the daughters of Fathers + Daughters Cellars.

running an inn seem more relaxing?

I wasn't under the misconception that this would be an easier or more relaxing job. But the direct contact with guests and trying to provide the kind of experience I always sought when traveling is pretty energizing. I am fortunate to have had two different careers, both of which I have really enjoyed.

As a multi-award-winning business owner, which aspect drives you most?

Fear. It is really exciting to be recognized for delivering a product that resonates with your guests. Then it becomes stressful realizing that you need to hit that same mark every year.

How has adding a competitive wine to your achievements enhanced your development?

I'm not sure it has enhanced my development, but now at least I have a good product to take the edge off the fear of missing the mark with the inn.

What makes a good pinot noir in your opinion?

It all starts with great fruit and then, in my opinion, it requires a winemaker with a light touch that allows the fruit to express its terroir and the impact evolving farming



Guy's shamrock at Tom Bergins in L.A.

practices, climate change, and a crop's specific growth habitat has on the finished wine from year to year.

In closing, what words of wisdom do you find the most beneficial?

Life is in the details and in second chapters.

USC House

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on our refinancing efforts. We have taken our three previous loans (one with City National Bank and two with USC) and refinanced them with City National Bank. This refinancing process closed on November 9, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to **Steve Scully '81** and **Bill Mitchell '76**, two House Corporation board members who have worked tirelessly on this effort all year. This refinance will put the amount owed on the house at just over \$1 million (down from ~\$1.5 million owed in 2015). We have made successful strides at continuing to pay off the house thanks to the generous donations of our alumni. Therefore, I wanted to take a moment in this newsletter to say thank you to all of our alumni who have donated their time, their skills, their wisdom, or their money.

The holidays during fall and winter provide us with a time to be thankful, a time to reconnect with family and friends, and a time to show our gratitude to others. I hope that all of our brothers had a wonderful holiday season surrounded by those you love.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us at



We are proud of the active chapter and their philanthropic efforts! Here they are representing the chapter at the ALS Walk.

phidelthousecorp@gmail.com. We appreciate hearing from our alumni!

Brenton J Caldwell

Brenton Caldwell '14

President – USC Phi Delt House Corporation

