



Cal Delta Spotlight

USC House Corporation of Phi Delta Theta | Summer 2019 | University of Southern California

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USC House Corporation

A Word From Our President



Brothers:

From road trips to water sports to hiking and everything in between, I hope that everyone is taking time this summer to have some fun surrounded by the company of family and friends!

First, I want to say thank you to all who came out to the Alumni BBQ on April 28! It was a great event that helped to deepen the strength of the bonds between the active chapter and our alumni network, while also providing a forum for alumni to see some of the recent investments in the property. A big thank you to **Kareem Danan**, **Kevin Fohrer '15**, **Austin Vogel '14**, **Pablo Ortiz '14**, and **Bill Mitchell '76**, who spearheaded the effort. Stay tuned for additional information on our next alumni event in the coming months. If you would like to get involved with these alumni event-planning efforts, please let me know! (phidelhousecorp@gmail.com)



The chapter took home two awards at the 2019 Trojan Greek Awards.

In even more awesome news, the house corporation, with the help of our amazing alumni network, has hit a milestone. As of this newsletter, there is only \$998K outstanding on our loan for the California Delta Chapter House—we are **officially under the \$1M mark!** This is no small feat and we are so thankful to all of our alumni supporters. We will continue to pay our loan down aggressively to reduce interest expenses and pay off principal

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The Cal Delta Man: Gabriel Galanti



Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter, we're shining the spotlight on a member of the rising senior class and chapter leader, Gabriel Galanti, from Dallas, Texas. Gabriel is on track to graduate with degrees in both history and accounting. Having served the chapter as scholarship chair, housing manager, and pledge class president, he is known to be an inspiring and all-around great guy. He is also vice president of the Transfer Student Community, and a member of the Leventhal Honor Council. Gabriel has worked with Eagle's Canyon Raceway as a construction and management assistant, and as a student caller for both USC and Georgetown University. His hobbies of investing and following the stock market are being put to good use this summer during an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers Core Assurance.

What have you enjoyed most as an active chapter member?

As cliché as it sounds, it's the people. There are very few organizations on campus that can boast the talent, breadth, and balance that Cal Delt has. They're the type of people who will pick you up when you're down, help you reach heights you never thought were possible, and encourage you to take a moment to stop and smell the roses. My best friends are my brothers, and they have been there to help me in every facet of my life, whether it is personal, academic, career-based, etc. The people make and break every organization, and I'm proud to have such a strong membership.

Which achievements are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of being elected as the vice president of the Transfer Student Community on campus. We are an organization that represents thousands of individuals on USC's campus, and the actions of our executive board can shape people's lives. To be trusted with that responsibility is a huge honor, and I love being able to advocate and fight for individuals who have gone through the same struggles that I had to go through. It's ignited a new flame in me as I go into my senior year, and I can't wait to see how our 2019-2020 Executive Board is able to change lives.

How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

I'm currently working on two degrees: a bachelor of science in accounting and a bachelor of arts in history. As crazy as it sounds, the two actually go hand in hand. The in-depth analytical and research skills I've learned from my history

degree have paid dividends when it comes to my accounting degree. In the future I hope to work in public accounting at a Big 4 Firm for a couple of years and then use the knowledge I gain there to transition to a product-driven company, like Apple or Tesla. Throughout this process, I know that all of the lessons in writing and research with the history degree will come in handy!

What have you done to prepare?

To put myself in the best possible position to achieve my goal, I do the best that I can do with whatever role I'm in. Whether it's as

Galanti (Continued on page 4)

Gabriel participating in a wheelchair basketball tournament with his Phi Delt little brother, Rohan Parepally.





President's Message

David Cooper

After finishing up my fourth semester as part of Phi Delta Theta—and my first semester as president—I am proud to say the California Delta Chapter has continued to succeed and thrive at the University of Southern California. This semester, we have seen great achievements in chapter membership, philanthropic efforts, and recognition of excellence from the university.

With the new deferred recruitment policy requiring freshmen to wait until spring semester to join Greek life, Phi Delta Theta was able to initiate 38 young men, giving us one of the largest new member classes on the row. Our rush chairman, **Phillip Bliss**, and his committee selected a class of well-rounded individuals who were eager to become the greatest versions of themselves. When the Phikeia of Alpha Gamma class was initiated to the brotherhood this March, California Delta Alumnus **Mike Janett '84** was able to watch his son Jack join the same bond that he is part of.

This semester, California Delta has also made great progress thanks to the officers who work hard to plan events and the brothers who support them. Our philanthropy

chairman, **Dawson Daydoff**, led the chapter to raise almost \$6,000 for the LiveLikeLou Foundation through our “Spring Puppies” event and a new online campaign. Our alumni chairman, **Kareem Danan**, led efforts to host our first ever Spring Alumni BBQ this April, and made plans for the event to recur every year. At the Trojan Greek Award Ceremony for the 2018-2019 academic year, California Delta won the Chapter of the Year and the Academic Excellence Awards. Brother **Matteo Mendoza**, who is the current IFC President, won the Member Civic Engagement and Impact Award, and former Phi Delta Theta President—and current IFC VP of Philanthropy—**Sina Mahbobi** won the 2019 Trojan Greek Member of the Year Award.

I have had a great time in my first semester as president and look forward to watching the California Delta brotherhood grow and succeed even more in the near future.

All the best,

David Cooper, 1857
Chapter President



Cal Delta welcomes the new pledge class! Pictured above is the Alpha Gamma Class after their Initiation Ceremony.

PHI DELT FACELIFT



Housing Manager **Gabriel Galanti** renovated and re-stained the back deck and has worked hard to keep Phi Delta Theta the nicest and cleanest house on the row.

Cal Delta Social Scene

By **John Miggins**, Social Chair

The social scene for spring 2019 was a great success! From the two formal invites, to



the high-school-stereotypes-themed exchange with Tri Delt, movie nights at the house and mixers at favorites such as La Barca and Free Play, to the Greek Wedding with ADPi and countless senior pinnings, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta never saw a dull moment. Most importantly, with the help of two ponies and some fantastic choreography to the timeless classics “Careless Whisper,” “My Girl,” and “Old Town Road,” our gentlemen secured the ladies of Delta Delta Delta for Homecoming this upcoming fall.

Brothers and their mothers at the Spring Mothers Brunch put on by the Parents Club.

Alumni Send Their News

Fredrick G. Hoeptner '55 writes in, saying, "I can't believe that I've been retired from my working life as an engineer in public works (sewage) for more than 20 years now. Despite a few aches and pains, fate has treated me kindly. Mountaineering and music, primarily ragtime and trad jazz, have long been major parts of my avocational life. Earlier, I led a hiking and mountain climbing expedition for

the local Sierra Club chapter. Currently, my composition "Portrait in Rag #2" is on YouTube. To find it, just enter my name in the search bar. You can also find me on Facebook.

In November 2018, the brothers of California Delta who graduated in the 1960s had two reunion events in Newport Beach, California (*pictured, left*). Brother **Bill Matteucci '66** spent a year organizing the reunion. The events were attended by 118 brothers and wives (many of whom were also Trojans) and all had an unforgettable two days. Many who attended want to make it into an annual event, to which Brother Matteucci said, "Kiss my ass." (Submitted by **Paul Reynolds '66**)



"I'm a technical computer guy," says **Michael G. McGehee '81**. "American computer guys have been eliminated in America by the H-1b Visa. I was unemployed for three years until Brother **Rich Gould '82** got me a job at Wells Fargo. I owe him my life. My daughter left America to find a job after being a high performance beautician in California. She now does beautician work in Australia. I proudly became a grandfather in 2018."

Right: Brother **Mike Janett '84** stands outside the chapter house with his son—newly initiated Cal Delt Brother,—**Jack Janett**.



Chapter Grand

We are saddened to have learned of the passing of the following Cal Delta Brothers since the last issue of the Cal Delta Spotlight. We extend our sympathies to their friends, families, and loved ones.



William C. ("Bill") Putney '51, one of the original founders of our chapter in 1948, has passed away. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Bill and Bob Tamkin owned Personality Travel & Tours in West Hollywood, which they operated for over 30 years. Their clients included the "Who's Who" of Hollywood's celebrities. They enjoyed traveling the world and meeting interesting people along the way. After retiring, they made their home in Monarch Beach (Dana Point). One of Bill's most rewarding experiences in retirement was volunteering for Laguna Shanti in Laguna Beach.

Douglas Drewry '98 passed away recently as well. At USC, he was a member of the basketball and volleyball teams. Doug was well-traveled, and built a successful career as a strategic account executive at several Fortune 500 companies including Oracle,



Garry Paskwietz '88 passed away in January 2019. Garry was our alumni spotlight member for the winter 2012 newsletter. A 1988 graduate of USC with a degree in sports information, Garry worked in sports marketing for the Los Angeles Lakers and Miller Brewing Company. He began covering the Trojans in 1996 with the Trojan Football Fax. Garry founded WeAreSC in November 1998, with stints at Scout and ESPN. He also won an Emmy for covering high school football at Fox Sports West. Garry was a true internet pioneer in his coverage of USC football. A household name—not only in the world of USC football, but in all things Trojans-sports related—he was a regular contributor on USC's popular pregame football radio show, and a highly-respected authority of Trojan football for both the local and national media. *Always remembered, never forgotten.*

SAP, EDS, Vertica, Microsoft, and most recently, SAS. Doug was a devoted father, fanatical foodie, and avid skier, often making weekend trips with his family from San Diego to Mammoth Lakes. He loved pick-up basketball, live music, mornings at the gym, and was always in search of the perfect cup of coffee. A larger-than-life personality known for his wit and dry sense of humor, Doug was always deeply involved in family and community activities. Doug built a life that was all about people.

We are also saddened to learn about the passing of **Tim Conway**, a Phi Delt from

Bowling Green University and famous comedian. Among Conway's notable skills was the ability to get his "Carol Burnett" co-stars to break character, unable to resist laughing at his funny accents and unwavering straight face.

Conway also played Ensign Charles Parker on "McHale's Navy," and portrayed the character Dorf in a series of short films.



Have Alumni News?

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!*

We want to hear from you!



Philanthropy Pup-date

By John Miggins, Social Chair

This semester the California Delta Chapter raised \$5,819 for The LiveLikeLou Foundation. This money will help fund ALS research initiatives

and provide care to those living with ALS. Our Phi Delt Puppies event was our most successful to date, raising over \$4,400 in one day. For the first time, we participated in online fundraising throughout the semester; this additional philanthropy effort raised over \$1,400, making California Delta the ninth-highest online fundraiser out of all chapters across the country. In addition, our chapter participated in many other philanthropy events across campus throughout the semester, and hosted the Interfraternity Council's Blood Drive.

Founders Day 2019 Showcases 10-Year Plan

The Orange County Founders Day Dinner was held on March 14 in Newport Beach. The special guest speaker was Sean Wagner, who will succeed long-time leader Bob Biggs as the fraternity's CEO next year. Brother Wagner discussed Phi Delt 2030, which is the fraternity's national strategic plan for the coming decade.

Pictured at right (L-R) are attendees Bruce Buettell '82; Blayke Tatman, current chapter Vice President; Bill Mitchell '76; David Cooper, current chapter president; David Davidson '78; and Jim Matzdorff '78.



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Scholarship and Housing Chair for Phi Delt, School Ambassador Liaison for the Transfer Student Community, or my position on the Leventhal Honor Council, I make sure that I'm 100% invested and engaged. This attitude helped me secure an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers for the summer of 2019 in New York City. I'm working in their core assurance group with health industry companies. I'm going to give it everything I've got, and hopefully come out of the other end with a full-time job offer.

Outside of school what do you do for fun?

I love skiing! Most spring semester weekends you'll find me up at Big Bear or Mammoth with Brighton (pictured, right) and Mark. Nothing

beats going up to the mountains and spending the day (or week) flying around! Outside of skiing, I'm an Italian soccer fanatic. My favorite team is AC Milan, and you'll find me every Sunday watching them, or cheering on the New England Patriots during football season. Learning more about history is also a hobby that I pursue in my free time—I'm particularly passionate about Ottoman and Middle Eastern History, and try to use my down time to learn more about these complex and fascinating periods.



USC House

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rapidly.

This summer we will complete the third (and final) phase of our room renovation project. The renovation of rooms 1-4 and the Resident Advisor room will conclude the refurbishment of all rooms in the house which has been occurring over the past three years. We have also increased security throughout the property by converting all key room locks to keyless entry (auto-lock) hardware, helping us reduce locksmith-related expenses. Lastly, we painted all common areas during the beginning part of this year. The house looks better than ever!

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us at phidelhousecorp@gmail.com. We always appreciate hearing from our alumni!

Fight On!

Brenton J Caldwell

Brenton Caldwell '14

President

USC Phi Delt House Corporation

SAVE THE DATE!

HOMECOMING 2019

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

USC Trojans vs. Arizona Wildcats

Join us at the chapter house,
along with the ladies of Tri Delta!

Time and additional details TBA.