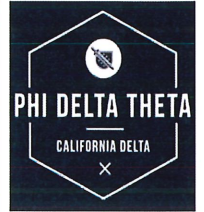




Cal Delta Connections



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USC PHI DELTA THETA PARENTS CLUB
FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES, ALUMNI & FRIENDS
OF THE CALIFORNIA DELTA CHAPTER

AUGUST, 2020

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The University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

parentsclub@uscphidelt.org

www.uscphidelt.org

“The Dawning of a New Day at USC Phi Delta Theta”



I. PARENTS CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

Significant Announcements and Information from the Parents Club and Chapter Leadership

“PARENT FIGURES”



Maria Cooper
Parents Club President

Hello USC Phi Delt Parents!

I hope this finds you and your families well. My name is Maria Cooper and I am the President of the USC Phi Delta Theta Parents Club. I would like to welcome all parents, both returning and new, to the Parents Club! For those of you new to USC Greek life, as I was four years ago, all parents are members of the Parents Club, and our purpose is to help coordinate activities and events throughout the year in order to provide excellent experiences for our sons!

My son, David, joined Phi Delt in the Fall of 2017 as a Freshman. His involvement began that same semester, when he was elected VP of his Pledge class. David has held various leadership roles throughout his time in Phi Delt, including Interim Executive Secretary, and last year he served as Fraternity President. This year, he is involved with IFC (Interfraternity Council). He has learned a lot and gained valuable experience from his leadership roles. He has really enjoyed being a part of the USC Phi Delt family, and his brothers will be his brothers for life!

I have been involved in the Parents Club since February 2018, after attending the Mother-Son Brunch, and I have truly enjoyed every minute of it. I was very excited to find out that Phi Delt had a Parents Club, where I could continue to be involved, as my husband Gary and I have always been involved with our children's schools, sports teams, and more. I am sure many of you have done the same, and I am happy to share that you can continue doing so here at Phi Delt! To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your son's Fraternity can do for you, but what you can do for your son's Fraternity." This has always been my motto, and I ask you all to join me in making our sons' experience in the USC Phi Delta Theta Fraternity a great one!

I encourage you all to visit the USC Phi Delta Theta website and the USC Phi Delta Theta Parents Club Facebook page, so you can learn more about this wonderful Fraternity, the Parents Club, our Alumni Association and Fraternity events. Please reach out if you would like to get involved with the Parents Club – we would love the extra help and would like to see more parents take an active role!

I would also like to note that due to COVID-19 we will not have any Fall semester events. We will keep you posted and are hopeful we will be able to resume our events in the Spring semester.

I look forward to meeting you, and to working with you!

Wishing you the very best, always!

Fight On!!

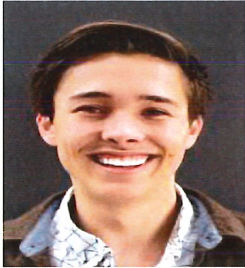
Maria Cooper

P.S. Please go to the Parents Club section on the Chapter website at www.uscphidelt.org/alumni-parents and click on the Facebook page line shown here:
<https://facebook.com/groups/161188857882326/?re>

To join the Parents Club Facebook page, please email me at parentsclub@uscphidelt.org, and we will add you as a member!



“CHAPTER AND VERSE”



John Shepherd
Chapter President

Hi Parents!

My name is John Shepherd and I am the Chapter President of Phi Delta Theta California Delta for the 2020 calendar year. I am a rising junior from Orange County, CA and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Phi Delt thus far. It has been an interesting semester for us all, to say the least. We have all had to make tremendous adjustments and have seen a drastic change in the way we normally do things. This upcoming Fall at USC will look extremely different from the usual USC environment. Many of our members will be spread out across the country, rather than at USC, and we hope to have everyone back soon. Some brothers will be back at home with you, and I truly hope that they are not driving you as crazy as I have driven my parents this summer! On behalf of the chapter, I would like to thank all the parents for the continued support of your son. We all appreciate you immensely and hope to see all of you in the near future for a Parent’s Club event at the chapter house. Thank you again for your support of our chapter!

Gratefully,

John

“ADVICE AND CONSENT”



Stephen Michael Youts
Chapter Advisory Chairman

Members of the Parents’ Club
California Delta Chapter
Phi Delta Theta
The University of Southern California

Hello, and please allow me to congratulate you. Your son has made a decision to become a part of the preeminent college leadership organization and social fraternity in the world today. Your son's chapter is one of the very best chapters in our fraternity – worldwide.

My name is Stephen Michael Youts. I originally met the men of the California Delta Chapter in 2012 when I began serving as the Province President (the “regional guy from National”) for our chapters in Southern California. After eight years as Province President, I moved to my current role – serving as Chairman of the Chapter Advisory Board for your son's chapter. We have an excellent group of volunteers serving on the California Delta CAB – business leaders with broad experience, three men from other chapters of Phi Delta Theta outside of California, and four men who all served as President of the chapter during their undergraduate years.

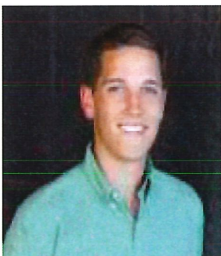
My experience in addition to my volunteer experience? I graduated from the University of Texas – Arlington with a BS in Mechanical Engineering and went on to pursue a MS in Structural Engineering. As an undergraduate, I was a founder of my local chapter – Texas Kappa – a “Founding Father” in the jargon of Phi Delta Theta. Interestingly, my son is also a Founding Father of his local chapter of Phi Delta Theta. While an undergraduate, I served in several executive board positions in the chapter. I served as President of the Interfraternity Council (while simultaneously serving as Vice President of my chapter), as President of the National Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, and as an elected member of Student Government. In my business career, I transitioned from being a design engineer to a career on Wall Street as an investment banker (primarily in the M&A space), and, following that, to becoming a founder, an owner, and a CEO of a number of companies - with total employee headcount approaching 800 people.

Again, please allow me to congratulate you on your son's decision.

Sincerely,

Stephen Michael Youts

“HOUSE CALLS”



Brenton Caldwell
House Corporation President

Dear Parent Club Members,

Welcome to the Parents Club, I'm excited to meet you over the upcoming years! My name is Brenton Caldwell and I am the current President of the USC Phi Delta Theta House Corporation. I attended USC and received degrees in Biomedical Engineering (B.S.) and Engineering Management (M.S.). I can't even begin to tell you how much California Delta transformed my life during my collegiate years, and even now many years after graduating. Coming from a small town near Boston and not being able to fly home and see my family much during my tenure at USC, Phi Delta Theta was truly my home away from home. That is why I joined the House Corporation and continue to lead the organization today.

The House Corporation is a group of dedicated Alumni who oversee the physical property at 1005 West 28th Street, including coordinating property leases, determining (and executing) our capital investment strategy, conducting maintenance work through the facility, and so much more. Our House Corporation was fundamental in rebuilding the Chapter house in 2009. Since then, we have been working hard to maintain the property and foster alumni engagement. Most contractual communications will be sent to your son; so, please have him forward information to you if you are interested in any details we send out.

We are excited to have you as part of the Phi Delta Theta California Delta family!

Fraternally yours,

Brenton Caldwell

“NATIONAL NEWS”



Bob Wolfley
Phi Delta Theta National
Province President, Omicron East

Parents, your son has embarked on an incredible journey at USC and there is no better organization for them to take what they learn in the classroom and begin practicing it in the real world than with Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. My Name is Bob Wolfley and I am the Province President for Omicron East Province which includes the greater-Los Angeles area. Within Los Angeles, we have Phi Delt chapters at UCLA, Loyola Marymount University (LMU), Cal State Northridge and USC. My primary goal as a Phi Delt volunteer is to support our chapters, their leadership, and advisors to uphold the principles of Phi Delta Theta and help our members become the greatest version of themselves. I work as a partner and liaison to Phi Delta Theta General Headquarters (GHQ) with the chapters and advisors in my province. I've been actively involved with Phi Delta Theta at the national level for 10 years serving in several different capacities. Based on my experience, the USC Chapter of Phi Delta Theta is on the brink of greatness and potentially being recognized last one of the best Phi Delt chapters in the country. I continue to be impressed by the quality of their members and the action of their leadership each year.

I hope you have enjoyed seeing your son grow and develop more since joining Phi Delt, because this is only the beginning. Their involvement with Phi Delt for 4-5 years at USC is a small fraction of the benefits and value they'll receive. Being a member of Phi Delta Theta is for life, not just college. No matter what year your son graduates, I encourage you to engage with them about their Phi Delt experience, ask questions, nudge them to be involved and take on leadership positions in the chapter, because the more they put into this organization, the more they will get out of it. Even after they graduate.

Bob Wolfley

II. PARENTS CLUB CALENDAR

Significant Dates on the California Delta Chapter Calendar
See Calendar Attached

III. PHI DELT IN FOCUS

Items of Importance Affecting the USC Phi Delta Theta Chapter



Debbie Shepherd
Vice President-President Elect

Hi!

I am Debbie Shepherd and I am the new VP-President Elect of the USC Phi Delt Parents Club. My son, John, is a Junior and the current President of Phi Delt. I am a Southern California native and live in Newport Beach. I work as a trademark attorney and assist companies in protecting their brands domestically and internationally. My husband and I also have a daughter, Lauren, who is a Senior at Mater Dei High School. We have been going to USC football games for over a decade and hope that tailgates and football games will be back again soon. My favorite Phi Delt memory is the Parents Weekend party at the Phi Delt house. I am very excited to be part of the Phi Delt Parents Club!

All the best,

Debbie

IV. NATIONAL NARRATIVES

Important Articles from Phi Delta Theta National Fraternity

THREE CARDINAL PRINCIPLES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

By Devin Thornton & Cody Flynn

We are living in unprecedented times. For many, this is the first time they have experienced any sort of global phenomenon, let alone a global pandemic. However, Phi Delta Theta as an organization has lived through wars, influenza outbreaks, and depressions, and it still stands strong as ever today. In this chaotic time where it seems that the only certain thing is uncertainty (and social distancing), it can be a good thing to reflect back on the values our Founders constructed back in 1848 and how we can utilize them in the face of this uncertain time.

Practicing friendship may seem more difficult than ever when considering the current importance of self-quarantines and social distancing. Deviating from our normal routines of hanging out with friends or large gatherings on campus may have left us with a sense of isolation. But based on what we know about what friendship means to members of Phi Delta Theta, we understand that the relationships we cherish do not simply fade away when we are separated by distance. Our challenge to our members is to think outside the box, how can you connect with your brothers and friends remotely, whether that be a group video call, playing video games online together, or even getting old school and writing a letter to a friend. In times of isolation, people need friendship more than ever, and no group is as prepared to share that as members of Phi Delta Theta.

With many of us having moved back home and with online classes and other obligations being cancelled, we now have a lot more time on our hands. While it's tempting to binge watch *The Office* a few times through, we can also use this opportunity to practice sound learning outside the classroom. What is something you have always wanted to do? Maybe it's reading that book that's been collecting dust on your shelf, or picking up the guitar or another instrument, or maybe even learning a new talent or skill to prepare you for your dream career.

There are so many ways you can push yourself to pursue something new with your newfound free time. Members of Phi Delta Theta are aware of the benefits of learning inside and outside of the classroom, and we hope you'll make the most of this time to continue your pursuit of knowledge.

With COVID-19 posing such a threat to the health and function of our society, it can be easy to see rectitude as an afterthought, something that you'll "put on hold" until everything calms down. But now is as important of a time as ever for us to utilize our sense of right and wrong as members of this organization. We can practice rectitude in this situation by fact checking the information that we share on social media and in person, encouraging the spread of truth instead of panic. We should be following CDC recommendations and doing our best to prevent the spread of this virus, but also finding ways to help those that are most vulnerable; this could look like getting groceries or other necessities for those at higher risk, donating to the local food bank to help those that are likely to be economically impacted by this disease, or finding creative ways to support small businesses at this time as well. In addition, garner support from your brothers and other connections and encourage them to do the same.

Phi Delts are known for their commitment to our founding values, and we strongly believe that practicing those values is exactly what the world needs from us right now. We are lucky to have an organization that has survived through hardship in the past as our foundation of living in the present. In the midst of chaos, a group of men that are committed to intentionally building their friendships stronger in isolation, that look to use the circumstances to continue to better themselves, and who are committed to helping others even when everything points to fending for yourself, is more powerful now than it has ever been.

Brothers, we encourage you to go and show the world, wherever you are at, what it means to be a Phi in this moment of time. The world needs us.

CONNECTIONS AND CONTACTS

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Phi Delta Theta National Fraternity

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California Delta Chapter and Alumni
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August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Phi Delta Theta Move In Day	15
16	17 Fall Classes Begin	18	19	20 Fall Recruitment Begins	21-22 Fall Recruitment	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Fall Recruitment						

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September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30 Fall Recruitment Ends	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day - No Classes	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3

2

October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Trojan Family Weekend	Trojan Family Weekend	
11 Trojan Family Weekend	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 USC Phi Delt Alumni	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Fall Classes End	14
15	16	17 Final Exams Begin	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Final Exams End	25 Winter Recess Begins -	26	27	28
29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5

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