



Cal Delta Connections



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

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The University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

parentsclub@uscphidelt.org

www.uscphidelt.org

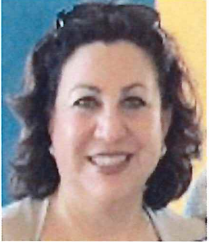
“The Dawning of a New Day at USC Phi Delta Theta”



I. PARENTS CLUB COMMUNICATIONS

Significant Announcements and Information from the Parents Club and Chapter Leadership

“PARENT FIGURES”



Maria Cooper
Parents Club President

Greetings USC Phi Delt Parents!

I hope this finds you and your families safe and well in these crazy COVID-19 times. My name is Maria Cooper and I am the President of the USC Phi Delta Theta Parents Club.

I would like to welcome our new Spring 2021 Phikeias parents to the Parents Club & welcome back our returning parents! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

For those of you new to Greek Life and to Phi Delt, when your son joins the Fraternity, you become a member of the Parents Club. Our purpose is to help coordinate activities and events throughout the year, so we can provide excellent and memorable experiences for our sons and for their parents!

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we have not hosted any events this school year but are hopeful that we will be able to have some type of Senior Recognition event in May. We will keep you all posted.

As this school year comes to an end, so does my time as President of the Parents Club. I would like to say thank you to all of you who have been involved in the Parents Club, to the current President of the California Delta House Corporation Brenton Caldwell, who has been a tremendous help during my time here, to the Alumni Association who supports our young men in so many ways, and last but not least to all of the young men in the Fraternity!

My involvement started when my son David, who is now a Senior, joined Phi Delt in the Fall of 2017, and I have truly enjoyed being a part of the Phi Delta Theta family...I will miss you all! I encourage all of you 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 great Fraternity, the Parents Club, our Alumni Association and Fraternity events.

I would also like to say...**CONGRATULATIONS to the USC Phi Delta Theta Class of 2021 and their parents!!** I know we are all very proud of these young men and wish them continued success in whatever they pursue after graduation.

If you are interested in getting involved, please call me, or email me, we do have some vacancies on the board and would love to have you join us!

Wishing you the very best, always!

Maria Cooper

Fight On!!

P.S. Please go to the Parents Club section on the Chapter website at www.uscphidelt.org/alumni-parents to learn more!

To join the Parents Club Facebook page, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/161188857882326/> and request to join the Group!



Debbie Shepherd
VP President Elect

Hi! My name is Debbie Shepherd and I am the VP President Elect of the Phi Delt Parents Club. My son, John, is a Junior and served as President of Phi Delt this past year navigating through the challenges that the pandemic brought. I have been nothing but impressed with Phi Delt and its members and you should be proud of your son for being part of such an amazing organization. I am hopeful that things will be a little more normal once the Fall Semester starts and we can host some fun events for parents as well as do some special things for our boys. Special thanks to Maria Cooper, Richard Nolan, and Helen Mobley who have done such a fabulous job, including putting together a Parents Club directory, updating the website, and doing things to help connect us as Phi Delt Parents. With an eye toward the future and with hope that things might be more normal once I start serving as President in June, I invite you all to email me with ideas or volunteer to help make our Parents Club even better. My email address is DebbieShep7@gmail.com. I really hope to hear from you!

Debbie

“CHAPTER AND VERSE”



Josh Rana
Chapter President

President’s Message

Dear Parents,

My name is **Josh Rana** and I am the new California Delta president. As a member of last spring’s Phikeia class, the majority of my time in this house has been during the pandemic, however the new executive board and I are not going to let that stop us from keeping the chapter active (safely of course) and ensuring a bright future for this organization.

This Spring, our main goal is brother participation. While in-person events are sadly still unsafe, our newly elected brotherhood chair **Joe Antonello** has found great ways to get the chapter to spend time together, in online events like poker, gaming and sports viewing.

Our two rush chairs, **Presley Silahian** and **Gray Toomey**, also stirred enthusiasm for the chapter during Spring rush. Despite the online format, they did an amazing job. Our organization and planning allowed everyone in rush to have many 1 on 1 conversations with brothers, meaning we got to know our new members even better than we would in a normal rush setting. We even had multiple rushees complement us on our process, saying that we were

the most organized house during rush. Their hard work has secured us a new Phikeia class of 24 young men, whom I am sure will lead our house in a great direction as the row evolves and recovers from this pandemic.

Another exciting aspect of the chapter is our 2 new positions— Career Chair and DEI Chair. **Alex St. Jean**, our career chair, is working on connecting alumni and brothers more easily in order to utilize the vast connections and networking opportunities that our alumni possess. If you are on LinkedIn and have not yet been invited to our new networking group, please add Alex so that we can include you in this exciting development! Our DEI chair, **Alex Oliva**, will be working with IFC and FSLD to help our house progress along with IFC's mission to make the row more diverse, equitable and inclusive.

Parents, I thank you for your continued support during these times and for your participation in the house through the parents club. Without you, none of us would be here!

Finally, while we are all still separated at this time, we are putting things in motion so that the brothers of California Delta will be able to hopefully return in the fall with even more fervor and enthusiasm than when they left last spring.

Yours in the Bond,

Josh Rana #1982
Chapter President

“HOUSE CALLS”



Brenton Caldwell
House Corporation President

Dear Parent Club Members,

It continues to be a wild ride during "Coronavirus times" but there is light at the end of the tunnel with the University committing to on-campus education in Fall 2021. I know that your sons, the House Corporation, and probably you, are looking forward to this "return to campus". The major issue this past year has revolved around creating a sense of community and deep Brotherhood in a virtual world. With a return to campus, this sense of Fraternity can be cultivated more effectively and I know your sons are looking forward to that! One of the best parts of a University of Southern California education is the network one develops and the interpersonal skills one matures; the Phi Delta Theta community and physical property become the bedrock to facilitate and enrich these networks and interpersonal relationships and as such, we can't wait to be back open in full capacity! We don't expect any reduced tenant capacity for next Academic Year and we are hopeful that all temporary COVID-19 protocols we had to put in place this past year will be lifted. I'm hopeful that a full House and on-campus instruction will make 1005 West 28th Street a central hub, and "home away from home", for your son. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at housecorp@uscphidelt.org.

Best,

Brenton Caldwell

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

WELCOME TO THE SPRING, 2021 USC PHI DELT PHIKEIA CLASS!

Please welcome the following members of the Spring, 2021 Phikeia Class, who pledged Phi Delta Theta after a virtual recruitment period in January, 2021!

Spring, 2021 Phikeias

Sean Battey Prairie Village, Kansas	Class of 2024
Josiah Clark Seattle, Washington	Class of 2024
Christopher Cooper Irvine, California	Class of 2023
Nicolas Gelvez Fort Worth, Texas	Class of 2023
Riley Hernandez Atlanta, Georgia	Class of 2024
Jack Hughes Newtown Square, Pennsylvania	Class of 2023
Lukas Makikalli Highlands Ranch, Colorado	Class of 2024
Johnny McKay Palos Verdes Estates, California	Class of 2023
Henry McGonnigal Tampa, Florida	Class of 2024
Kameran Mody Irvine, California	Class of 2024
Adrian Reynoso Los Angeles, California	Class of 2024

Jacob Rodier Beverly Hills, California	Class of 2023
Braden Russell San Juan Capistrano, California	Class of 2023
Greg Sarandi Scottsdale, Arizona	Class of 2023
Jordan Thomas Cerritos, California	Class of 2024
Sam Tvrdik Rochester, New York	Class of 2024
Hayes Waycaster Ridgeland, Mississippi	Class of 2024
Michael Ziegler Rolling Hills, California	Class of 2023

**WELCOME TO THE NEW INITIATES OF USC PHI DELT, FROM THE
FALL, 2020 PHIKEIA CLASS!**

Congratulations to the newest members of California Delta Phi Delta Theta – the Fall 2020 Phikeia Class,
all of whom were initiated in the fall!

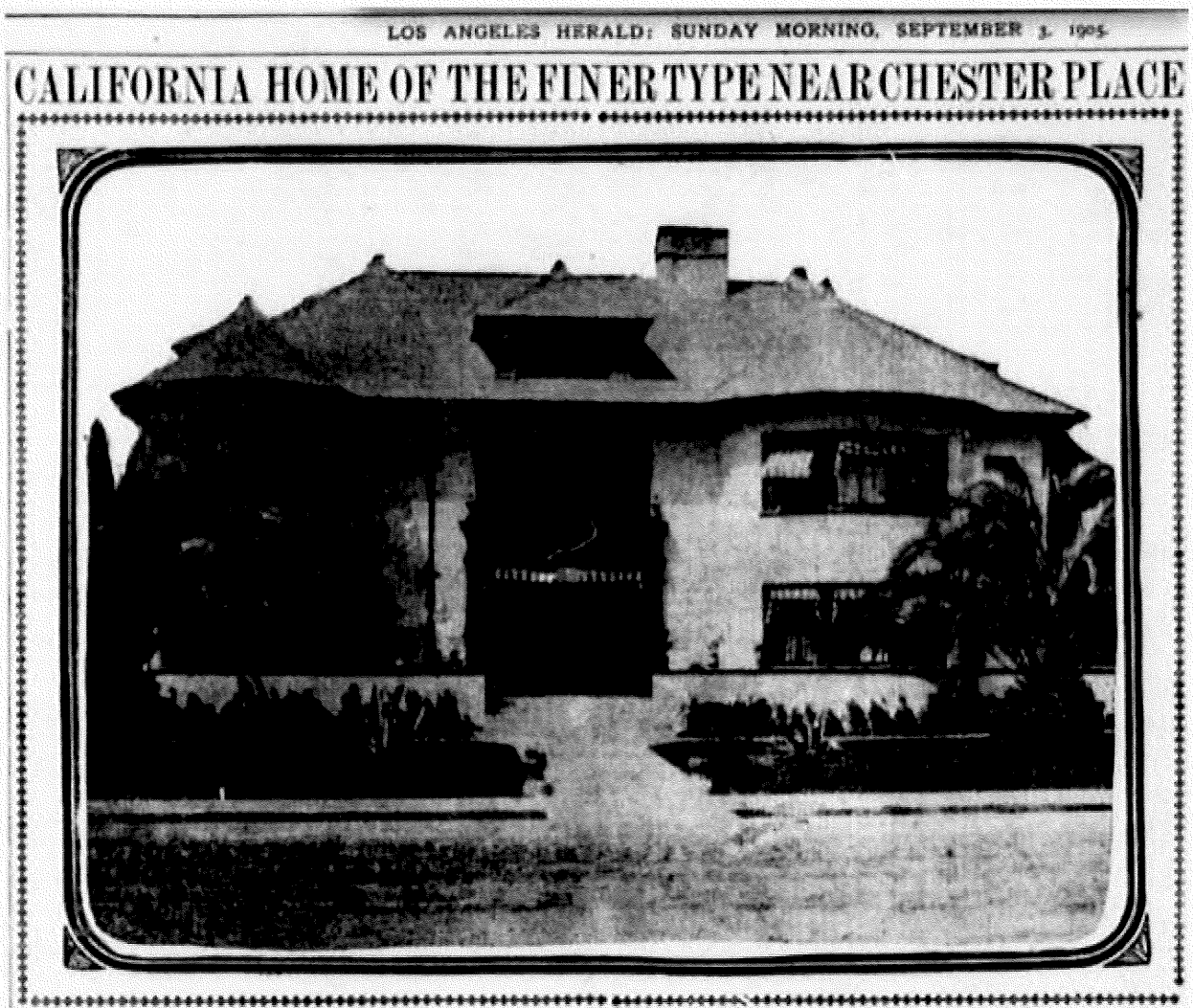
<u>Name/Hometown</u>	<u>Grad Year</u>
Joseph Antonello Boca Raton, Florida	2023
Jack Goldman Pacific Palisades, California	2023
Matthew Huntington Calabasas, California	2022
Adnan Khan Dallas, Texas	2023
Tommy Kimmel La Jolla, California	2022
Matt Levy San Diego, California	2024
Bayan Sedighian Temecula, California	2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 SENIOR CLASS

USC Phi Delta Theta - Class of 2021

#	First	Last	Grad Year
1	William	Alpert	2021
2	Emad	Askar	2021
3	Cordon	Baesel	2021
4	Jarrold	Baltikauskas	2021
5	Philip	Bliss	2021
6	Austin	Bohnett	2021
7	Nick	Boveri	2021
8	Sam	Cartwright	2021
9	David	Cooper	2021
10	Quinn	Cunniff	2021
11	Kareem	Danan	2021
12	Dawson	Dayhoff	2021
13	Robert	DiLeo	2021
14	Dane	Dominguez	2021
15	Ryan	Fawwaz	2021
16	Dylan	Field	2021
17	Clayton	Forsee	2021
18	Henry	Funderburk	2021
19	Kasen	Furtado	2021
20	Nick	Gima	2021
21	Matt	Higgins	2021
22	Jack	Janett	2021
23	Tyler	Jensen	2021
24	Gabe	Katz	2021
25	Stewart	Kirkconnel	2021
26	Sahil	Kothari	2021
27	Samuel	Lee	2021
28	Tobias	Leitao	2021
29	Jack	Lulich	2021
30	Jeffrey	Martin	2021
31	Lucas	Martinez	2021
32	Samuel	McNamee	2021
33	Matteo	Mendoza	2021
34	John	Miggins	2021
35	Dave	Molz	2021
36	Will	Nedelman	2021

37	Mark	Nishida	2021
38	Ryan	Nishida	2021
39	Adam	Owens	2021
40	Spencer	Paulsen	2021
41	Jack	Salva	2021
42	Brendan	Semien	2021
43	Grant	Thomas	2021



Los Angeles Herald 1905

2021: 125 YEARS!!!

IN 2021, HAPPY QUASQUICENTENNIAL TO THE CALIFORNIA DELTA CHAPTER HOUSE!

In 2021, the USC Phi Delta Theta Chapter house located at 1005 West 28th Street, which was built in 1896, will celebrate the 125th year of its construction.

In 2021, HAPPY 125th California Delta Chapter House!

FIGHT ON!



2024: 75 YEARS!!!

IN 2024, HAPPY SEMISESQUICENTENNIAL TO THE CALIFORNIA DELTA CHAPTER!

In 2024, the USC Phi Delta Theta Chapter, which was officially chartered on January 30, 1949, will celebrate the 75th year of its founding!

In 2024, HAPPY 75th to the California Delta Chapter. A celebration is planned in the years leading up to 2024!

Details will follow. **FIGHT ON!**

IV. NATIONAL NARRATIVES

A BIT OF OPTIMISM IN A MAD WORLD

By Mark Pleiss

To say that this year has been a wild ride compared to previous years is like comparing the differences between riding a wooden roller coaster to launching into space. This year has been shaky, jarring, uncertain, tense, and at times overwhelming. Sometimes it just feels like the world has gone mad. Since February, the twists and turns, such as changing campus and community policies, recommendations for masks, quarantines, and daily life has been turned upside down. Let us not forget the Great Toilet Paper Shortage of 2020.

I doubt many people will look back and call these very happy times as this year has highlighted the separations between ourselves and our fellow humans instead of our commonalities. The marquee events of our semester that bring us together have largely been placed on hold or fundamentally changed, such as homecoming, graduations, philanthropy events, mixers, Founders Day, province retreats, and our leadership conferences. I never thought I would attend a friend's graduation wedding via Zoom, but it was a great excuse to wear a tie and bathrobe to a wedding.

For me personally, the events that generally recharge my passion for Phi Delt as a volunteer, create space for self-care, reconnect me with brothers that have become some of my closest friends, and my opportunity to interact with our remarkable undergrads at conferences and retreats, have unfortunately been substituted by Zoom meeting, emails, and the occasional phone call. For many of us, this has been a tough time and an adjustment for which none of us were prepared. It has not been fun for me, and I imagine many of you are experiencing similar feelings towards the current state of things. However, as I learned from my time as a wrestler and offensive lineman, sometimes we just have to embrace the suck and find the opportunities that these challenges present us.

Despite many of us feeling down, cheated, or just less enthusiastic, there are ways to learn, grow, and connect with the foundation of our fraternal experience; connecting with others. I am fortunate enough to have several close friends in the Province President Corps that I speak to often. We often discuss our chapters, our concerns for when “normal” will come back, and how current events impact our undergrads’ experience within our provinces. We share successes, challenges, and the occasional venting session as good old alumni will do. I cannot emphasize enough that those of us who volunteer for this brotherhood feel immense pride in what you do in your chapters, on your campuses, and in your communities. I know this is a little tangential, but I don’t think we share that fact enough with all of you.

There are brothers who I see at our educational conferences, and that routine has been largely disrupted. It feels like decades since I last saw them, was able to sit, catch up on our lives, and discuss the current state of the Fraternity, and our hopes for the future. Quite honestly, I have taken many of these relationships and opportunities to see these brothers for granted over the last nine years as a volunteer.

So what does COVID-19 present as an opportunity?

Right now, how we fundamentally build and maintain relationships and our connections to others has been blasted into pieces. Some of the ways that we are most comfortable interacting, such as social gatherings, face-to-face contacts, and events are largely limited or unavailable. But, we do not need to let the distance between us define how we live our life in *The Bond*. The opportunity now is to experiment with the ways that we connect with others, including our brothers, alumni, Phikeias, and potential new members. Our connection with others at this time serves several purposes, the most important of which is that it is okay to connect with one another, even if it isn’t perfect, and it’s an opportunity to reconnect and re-engage brothers we may have not spoken to in years. If we did fraternity right, the time between these contacts don’t matter as much because the strength of the connections are so powerful, resilient, and ever impactful to our own mental health and the health of others.

The ways we have communicated and kept in touch have changed, but that doesn’t mean that it is any less in quality, even if it feels a little different. I have been on several Zoom hangouts with brothers since April, and it has been refreshing to reconnect with some that I haven’t seen or spoken to in years. We have hosted hangouts to just check in with one another, planned for a bachelor party and wedding, and even held our own homecoming of sorts. Where normally would text once in a while, we now call each other to chat more often. The connections we have been reinvigorating has been helpful to all of us keeping our spirits bright during these tough times. I am lucky enough to have one chapter brother that calls me nearly every Sunday, and we chat about what meat he is grilling or smoking that day, how everyone else is doing, and try to coordinate when we will see one another next. I cannot emphasize enough that the time invested during undergrad with our brothers pays dividends for the rest of our lives. During some of the worst parts of stay-at-home orders, quarantines, increasing spikes in Covid-19 cases, having the outlet to connect with my brothers has kept me in a better place.

Our connections to others is a major part of what it is to be human, and is a core component of our Fraternity. So our opportunity now is to leverage technology and continue to invest in our fraternal experiences. Use this time to try new ways of connecting with brothers, alumni, Phikeias, and potential new members. Some of your advisors and province presidents may have ideas on how to keep connected with your members, but others may not know how to advise you on how to stay connected due to lack of familiarity, and both are okay as we can’t

be masters of everything. As a chapter, hold meetings that include those that are off campus this semester. Continue to find ways to bring even small groups together, such as around a fire pit, a weekly dinner, or even just meeting between classes on campus. Create traditions that the chapter may adopt for years to come that add to our value proposition. Breakaway from practices that are antiquated, don't move the chapter forward, or leave us behind because we are resistant to challenge the process during these uncertain times. Engage new groups of potential new members, recruit through friend groups, and take multiple new member classes in a semester that are smaller, but fully engaged in not only the Phikeia process, but then remain invested in being active and engaged brothers. Recruit quality members that want to be the change in your chapter because holding onto "how things have always been done."

If your chapter has struggled to put out an alumni newsletter, try it now with fresh eyes and new ideas. I believe I speak for most alumni when I say that we care much less about you winning intramural championships, but more on how you and the chapter is doing, what you are learning throughout this difficult and uncertain time, and how we can help as alumni. Use the resources available to engage alumni that you haven't for a long time. Have a meeting with the Phikeias and have an alumni join via video and speak with the new class. Tell the alumni of some of the struggles and how you have tried to address them during Covid-19, as maybe some of us have ways to support or ideas of how to address what is going on in the chapter. Use the fund-raising tools provided by GHQ to help pay for new member dues or help brothers that were unable to pay their dues because of not having a summer job. We want you to become the greatest version of yourself, support you through the process, and assist where we can.

During these trying times, investing and engaging in our brotherhood could not be more important for our own growth and the betterment of our chapters. By trying new ways of connecting with one another, we can provide support for one another, create new ways of engaging undergrad and alumni members, and pave the way for how our chapters operate in the future. As we try new ways of connecting, please know that it will never be perfect from the start, your ideas may need to be retooled or redone, and it is the process that is more important than the final product. Engage in behaviors and activities that create the positive change that makes the human experience so awesome, fulfilling, and ever changing. We are all human, and brothers, and we each are perfectly imperfect, but it is what we do despite the challenges of this year and next that will truly define our character, our growth, and our connections with others. If nothing else during the trying times, reach out and connect with others, because you never know how just a simple phone call, text, email, snapchat, or any other form of communication could make someone's day.

CONNECTIONS AND CONTACTS

USC Phi Delta Theta

Parents Club

Maria Cooper, President

San Diego, California

Email: parentsclub@uscphidelt.org

Cell: 619-870-5760

USC Phi Delta Theta

Chapter

Josh Rana, President

Las Vegas, Nevada

Email: president@uscphidelt.org

Cell: 702-338-6869

USC Phi Delta Theta

Chapter Advisory Board

Stephen Michael Youts, Chairman

Los Angeles, California

Email: smy@avondalepartners.com

Tel: 713-840-9400

USC Phi Delta Theta

House Corporation

Brenton Caldwell, President

Email: housecorp@uscphidelt.org

Cell: 508-320-6651

Phi Delta Theta

National Fraternity

Bob Wolfley, Province President

Email: bob.wolfley@gmail.com

Cell: 317-730-3369

Phi Delta Theta

California Delta Chapter and Alumni

1005 West 28th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90007

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March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Wellness Day (No Classes)	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Wellness Day (No Classes)	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3

April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 4	5	6	7 Wellness Day (No Classes)	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Wellness Day (No Classes)	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Classes End Wellness Day	

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Apr 25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1 Study Days	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Study Days		Exams					4:00pm Angels
9	10	11	12	13	14 Commencement	15	
Exams							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	