



The BRUINS SIG NEWS

DELTA ETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

SPRING 2025

Sticking Together

SPRING BROTHERHOOD, SWEETHEART LEGACY, AND A SWINGING SUCCESS AT TOPGOLF

The Bruin Sig alumni brotherhood had much to celebrate this spring. Our May alumni event at Topgolf was one of the most fun and well-attended gatherings in recent memory. A special thank you to **Harmon Brown '76** for generously underwriting the evening.

Brothers from across the decades came together in El Segundo to reconnect, share stories, and enjoy friendly competition. The spirit of giving was alive as well. **Bob Tiedemann '76** threw down a \$25,000 match challenge toward rebuilding 459, which was answered enthusiastically by **Will Lopez '75**, **Steve Elmer '76**, **Rob Santos '03**, and **John Philips '78**. We are grateful for their leadership and generosity in strengthening our chapter's future.

We're also continuing our efforts to preserve and document the chapter's rich legacy through



Brothers gather at Topgolf, El Segundo. Alumni: Rob Santos '03, Conor Johnston '04, Bob Tiedemann '76, Hunter Tiedemann, Mu Theta '20, Martin Cohen '74, Will Lopez '75, Steve Elmer '76, and John Rozelle '97. Undergraduates: Thomas Green '26, Micah Thomas '25, Gabe Weisiger '25, Campbell Hess '26, Gary Voigt '26, Braeden Wetzell '26, Mike Barkasy '25, Kevin Forbath '26, and Eeman Motallebi '26.

the Delta Eta History Book Project. A key part of that legacy is our Sweetheart tradition, which began with the first UCLA Sweetheart Ball on May 21, 1949, at the Crystal Room of the Beverly Hills Hotel. We've compiled a partial list of Sweethearts through the years, but several gaps remain. If you know names, class years, or have photos of past Sweethearts, my email is below—we'd love your help in completing the record.

Every memory, photo, and contribution help us pass along our shared history to the next generation of brothers. If you'd like to get more involved, whether through mentorship, giving, or helping plan future events like our fall football gathering, we'd love to hear from you.



In Hoc,
Rob Santos '03
Executive Director & Secretary
Bruin Sig Foundation
rob@bruinsig.org | (310) 780-4445

Conor Johnston '04 swings for the fences!

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

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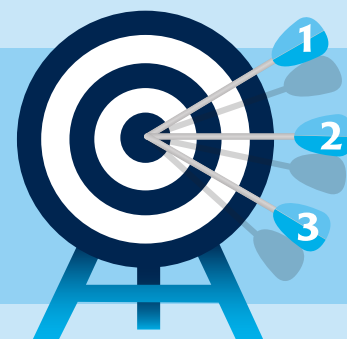
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CHAPTER GOALS



- 1 STRENGTHEN BROTHERHOOD.**
- 2 EXPAND OUR PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS AND CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT.**
- 3 FOSTER A CULTURE OF LEADERSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT.**

PUTTING IN THE WORK

Sportscaster John Ireland '85 on Sigma Chi and the Lakers

➤ WHAT MADE SIGMA CHI THE RIGHT FRATERNITY?

It almost seemed like I was destined to be there. I knew I wanted to be a sportscaster, and at my UCLA summer orientation, my counselor had a friend at Sigma Chi with the same career aspirations. She gave me his name, and I called the house phone and connected with a guy named **Rick Mielke '82**, who became one of my mentors. Rick introduced me to **Randy Arrillaga '83**, who played on the UCLA basketball team, and Randy took me under his wing also. One of my friends from high school, **Allen Lynch '84**, was already a brother, so Sigma Chi was really the only place I wanted to go.

➤ HOW DID BEING A MEMBER OF DELTA ETA HELP SHAPE YOU?

In every way imaginable. As an aspiring sportscaster, I needed to practice out loud, a LOT. My Delta Eta friends were my first critics. They were tough, but fair, and I don't think I'd have this career without them. If I was good, they told me. But more importantly, when I was BAD, they told me. Most people at that age don't have that. When I started my career, I had people tell me it seemed like I had been doing this for years. And I had, because I basically made everybody at the Sigma Chi house watch and give me feedback.

➤ WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR UCLA YEARS?

I served as pro consul early in my time there, and I helped put on a fundraiser that raised more for charity than the chapter had ever

made. Later, I was the Sports Director of the campus radio station, and I served on the Interfraternity Council for a year. I'm not sure I would have ever had the confidence to do any of those things without my experience at Sigma Chi. It taught me how to succeed, how to fail, and how to work with all kinds of different people. I can't recommend it enough for somebody starting college.

➤ WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF ANNOUNCING FOR THE LAKERS?

I always tell people I get paid to do something I would do for free. When I was a kid, I never wanted to sleep. I would take a transistor radio (look it up, kids) and place it under my pillow so I could hear it, and my parents didn't know. I literally fell asleep to Lakers Hall of Fame announcer Chick Hearn calling games. Now I have Chick's job. I know that rarely ever happens for people—to land their dream job—so I try never to take it for granted. I've also been lucky with timing. My first year there was when the Lakers signed Shaq and drafted Kobe. Now we have LeBron and Luka. My friends always tell me I have "Irish Luck," which I actually believe.

➤ WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR SPORTSCASTING CAREER?

Probably my longevity. I started in Monroe, Louisiana; then Beaumont, Texas; then San Diego; and eventually Los Angeles. Most of the other people I went to college with got tired of living in those small towns, working for little money. I honestly enjoyed those years and worked my way up quickly. I've also always done two jobs at once. For the majority of my career, I was a TV sports guy who hosted a sports radio show. When I got the Lakers play-by-play job, I switched to doing that along with a radio show, which is what I do now. I think, by doing multiple jobs, I've been able to stay away from budget cuts and layoffs, which are a huge part of sportscasting these days.

➤ HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE IN THE DELTA ETA HALL OF FAME?

A little surreal. I didn't expect it, and when they called to tell me about it, I think I said, "Are you sure you have the right guy?" In my years at Delta Eta, we all did everything as a group. It was never about one guy. So when I was inducted, I had a bunch of those guys there, and that was my favorite part: to share it with them.



They had as much fun as I did, which was the thing I'll remember the most.

➤ DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR YOUNG FRATERNITY BROTHERS CONSIDERING A CAREER IN SPORTS JOURNALISM OR IN ATHLETICS?

What you need most at that age is experience. Get in front of a camera or a microphone as much as you can, even if you just turn down the sound on the TV and announce the games yourself. I still can't believe my fraternity brothers let me do that, but they did. Imagine sitting around watching a game with a bunch of people and you mute the sound to have one guy announce it. That led to me working with the campus radio station and taking broadcasting classes—I was off and running.

By the way, **it doesn't matter if you aren't any good at first; nobody is.** Keep at it—you'll get better, and when you can convince somebody to pay you to do it, then the race is on.

➤ HOW HAVE YOU KEPT UP WITH BROTHERS OVER THE YEARS?

One of the perks of traveling the country with the Lakers is I get to see my best friends wherever they are. I'm doing this interview in a hotel in Memphis. My next road trip takes me to Oklahoma City, and two Delta Eta brothers (including **Randy Arrillaga '83**) are coming to meet me there to watch the Lakers and Thunder. We've all been in each other's weddings, we go on vacation together, and we talk all the time. I was at a recent fundraiser and ran into a USC Sigma Chi brother I met at the Grand Chapter in New Orleans in 1983. We just picked up where we left off, like it was yesterday.

➤ IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

Just that I'm thankful to be part of Sigma Chi. I can't imagine having more fun and meeting a better group of guys than I did in my time at UCLA. We all just start laughing whenever we're together, and I would imagine it's like that for most people who have been lucky enough to go through there.



John Ireland '85 interviews Kobe Bryant on the court. Photo credit: Andrew Bernstein/NBA.

RAISING FRATERNAL STANDARDS



DELTA ETA BUILDS YOUNG LEADERS

Junior brothers explore Porto, Portugal, while studying abroad. From left: Max Methot, Kevin Forbath, Gideon Myers, Zane Ching, Nick Graessle, and Toby Harris.

This past year has been one of tremendous growth, achievement, and momentum for our chapter. We are proud to be the largest fraternity on the row, with 130 members who embody the values of Sigma Chi and contribute to a strong, dynamic brotherhood. One of our proudest milestones was re-earning our official certification for national Sigma Chi initiation, an accomplishment that reflects the sustained dedication, excellence, and integrity of our chapter.

In fall 2024, we welcomed 40 outstanding members through a highly successful and values-driven recruitment process (led by Recruitment Chairmen **Noah Reisenauer '26**, **Alex Forbes-Roberts '26**, and **Charles Donlan '26**).

Under the guidance of Consul **Parker Kinsey '26** and Pro Consul **Drake Snyder '26**, we've made academic achievement, philanthropy, and leadership development key priorities. Our chapter currently holds a 3.6 GPA. Scholarship Chairman **Ashwin Iyer '27** has been instrumental in fostering academic support and accountability.

Philanthropy continues to be a cornerstone of our mission. Led by Philanthropy Chairman

Chase Nearn '26, we raised over \$10,000 for Palisades fire relief, while also maintaining a consistent presence in campus service and community outreach.

This year also marked the launch of our career development workshop series, an initiative aimed at equipping brothers with professional skills, networking opportunities, and guidance for life beyond college. The series has helped many brothers get involved in campus organizations such as business, consulting, and pre-law clubs, and has served as a launching pad for career paths in finance, medicine, law, sales, and creative industries, including music and media.

Events coordinated by Brotherhood Chairmen **Ryan Flanagan '27**, **Dyl Friedland '27**, and **Alexander Manning '26** have brought our members closer together through consistent programming, including our quarterly brotherhood basketball tournaments. We were also proudly crowned UCLA intramural soccer champions.

Our alumni network has seen renewed energy thanks to the efforts of **Micah Thomas '25** and **Gordon Standing '27**, helping to strengthen lifelong connections and honor the legacy of our chapter.

The fall 2022 member class spending spring break in Sayulita, Mexico.



A moment from our annual philanthropy concert, Live @ 459, featuring one of our talented house bands.



The fall 2024 pledge class gathers on Janss Steps following their initiation in October.

Brothers playing volleyball in Laguna Beach, during a weekend trip. From left: Beck Shadbourne '27, Charlie Lansky '26, Colson Kwasizur '26, Charlie Donlan '26, Campbell Hess '26, Drake Snyder '26, and Hershal Sabnis '26.



As a proud Bell Chapter, our executive board is confident that with our growth, leadership, and commitment to Sigma Chi's values, we are on track to earn another Blue Peterson Award this year. The 2024-25 executive team is incredibly proud of the progress we've made and the culture we've helped build, and we are equally excited to see a new generation of emerging leaders step up and take the reins at the end of the quarter.



In Hoc,
Parker Kinsey '26
Consul



**WE'RE PUTTING OUT
THE WELCOME SIGN!**

Know Someone Who Should Be Here?

We're always looking for promising young men to bring into Delta Eta and would appreciate recommendations of men you know who would be a good fit.

Send their info to **Parker Kinsey '26** at parkerkinsey@g.ucla.edu.

Why They Joined

HEAR FROM OUR NEWEST BROTHERS

"Sigma Chi quickly provided deep conversations and connections that I couldn't find elsewhere."

—**Jack Honsberger '28**

"I saw close friendships among the brothers as well as a strong desire to succeed in all aspects of life."

—**Ben Miller '28**

"I wanted a community of like-minded friends who I knew would hold me accountable to living up to my potential."

—**Lorenzo Miller '28**



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SIGMA CHI UCLA
P.O. BOX 442100
LAWRENCE, KS 66044-2100

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ALUMNI NEWS

Don J. Staples '62 spent three years cruising the Caribbean, the east coast of the U.S., and Thailand. He also spent two years touring the U.S. and Canada in an RV and has taken various other sailing, boating, and RV trips. Don lives in Cocoa, Fla.

Email: mardon@cfl.rr.com

Jim C. Pietsch '76 is hoping to slow down professionally this year and work solely as a consultant. He lives in Glendale, Calif.

Email: jim@interstatemgmt.com

Dave Stauffer '80 lives in Huntington Beach, Calif., and still gets together with his pledge class. He took a trip to Ireland last summer with four Delta Eta brothers and their wives.

Email: wdavidstauffer@gmail.com

John T. Sandmeyer '88 is retired from city of San Diego Fire Dept./Harbor Patrol, and he took on a position leading Homeland Security at the Port of San Diego. He still loves to surf and play beach volleyball in San Diego and Del Mar. Email: jtsandmeyer@cox.net

Bo Magnussen '90 moved to New York nine years ago, when his daughter was invited to join ballet school in NYC. After a few years living there, Bo sold his body shops and car dealership and made a few short documentaries for nonprofits; he is currently working on a new travel pillow for sleeping on airplanes. Bo hopes to move back to California (at least part time) in 2025 or 2026. "Not sure if northern or southern—might bounce between both."

Email: bomagnuss@gmail.com

Matthew P. Heil '02 has been married for 18 years with four children. He lives in the Napa Valley, working as a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch. Matthew also manages a little league baseball team and loves playing tennis and snowboarding when not at his kids' games. Email: heil004@gmail.com

Steven Tohmasi '15 is completing his surgical residency at Washington University in St. Louis. Steven and his wife, Ariana (an Alpha Phi at UC Berkeley), live in St. Louis, Mo., and are expecting their first child in September. Email: steventohmasi@gmail.com