



The Pioneer

Vol. 84, No. 1

Sigma Pi - Upsilon (UCLA)

June 2006

Remembering those brothers who served our country in the pursuit of peace and freedom and gave the ultimate sacrifice:

Richard "Ace" Caulkins (#193), Donald Hesse (#195), Liston Comer (#214), Lane Donovan (#234)

Football schedule

Sep. 2 UTAH
(tailgater- Upsilon Alumni Assn.)
Sep. 9 RICE
(tailgater- Upsilon Alumni Assn.)
Sep. 23 at WASHINGTON
Sep. 30 STANFORD
(tailgater- Upsilon Alumni Assn.)
Oct. 7 ARIZONA
(tailgater- Upsilon Alumni Assn.)
Oct. 14 at Oregon
Oct. 21 at Notre Dame
(road trip led by Jim Ballard)
Oct. 28 WASHINGTON ST.
(tailgater- Upsilon Alumni Assn.)
Nov. 4 at California
Nov. 11 OREGON ST.
(tailgater- Upsilon Alumni Assn.)
Nov. 18 at ARIZONA ST.
Dec. 2 USC
(tailgater- Upsilon Alumni Assn.
- no excuses for not attending,
put it on your calendar NOW!)

Register on the Upsilon website!

Please register and update
your profile on the Alumni
Association website at
www.SigmaPiBruins.com.

The login is your email
address. Be sure to include
your email address in your
profile when you register.

This enables us to contact
you via email and reduce
mailing costs, which
reserves more money for
house renovation,
scholarships, events, etc.

Printing and mailing 600
copies of "The Pioneer"
costs \$500. So, two editions
cost \$1,000 per year and
uses 30% of our budget! I
would rather use that money
for scholarships and house
renovations.

If you have problems
logging in, contact Herman
at Herman@Quispe.com.

Howe does he do it?

Brother Bob attends 50th Founders Day

WESTWOOD - **Bob Howe** (Northridge) has attended every Founders Day since 1955 except one, so that adds up to 50 Founders Days!

On Feb. 25, Howe showed up for the 83rd Founders Day, his 50th in 51 years!

Bob was one of several pledges from the late 1940s, who represented the wisest of the wise, which also included **Capt. Ray Lahr** (Malibu), **Dick Kater** (Simi Valley) and former sage and student body president **Fred Thornley** (Fullerton).

Many brothers called it the best in recent years. 79 attended (more than

the 55 who attended in 2005). Pinche chef **Ruben Zuniga** and his *mija* **Julia Zuniga** feted us with a great Hawaiian buffet of roasted pig (no, **Steve Hazarabedian** did not leave the head on the KΔ doorstep), ahi tuna, roast beef and aloha chicken.

Many brothers came from great distances: **Gene Roche** (New Jersey), **Ltc. Ron Rule** (Wyoming), **John Ivсан** (North Carolina), and **Ron Mathis** (Tulare), **Bill Kelly** (Sacramento), **Chris Cochran** (Sacramento), **Doug Frank** (Fair Oaks), **Michael "Pokey" Smith** (Castro Valley) and **Doug Glantz** (Walnut Creek) from northern California. Smith brought his old mug, noting the wrong graduation year (1987) and name ("Poky").

Glantz has made the trip from San Francisco and Dallas for three consecutive years. **Erik Johnson** (Fullerton), **Dan Furr** (San Diego) and **Lance Fuchs** (San Diego) returned after absences of 10+ years.

Thanks also to those who rallied at the last minute and made time for the brothers: **Bill Kealey** (Lomita), **Dan Romero** (O.C.), **Ed Rhee** (Redondo Beach), **Ltc. Ron Rule** (Wyoming) and **Dr. Kent Shoji** (Rolling Hills Estates), who shuffled over from his honorable job on campus saving lives in the UCLA Medical Center's emergency room. **Scott Scheffler** (Marina del Rey) also was able to attend, getting some hours off from his job on campus with the U.C. Police Dept. Jeff ("if you cross me, I will crush you") Bara was able to make it, scheduling around his NASCAR fantasy league draft and the NASCAR race the following day.

A large contingent from the 1958 pledge class attended: **Chuck Bader** (Pomona), **Ron**



1958 Pledges: Chuck Bader, Ron "Wasco" Mathis, Gary Stafford, Jack Burghardt, Alex Riddel and Doug Frank. Dr. Rainer Beck and Tom Miller crash the photo on the far left.



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Planned Giving

Your gift to the Upsilon Alumni Association will make the difference in the lives of many of our fellow Bruin Sigma Pi brothers through scholarships, leadership training and values-based education.

As you create your personal estate plans, please remember the value of your membership and pass along the belief to others.

Sample text for a will:
"I give and bequeath to the Upsilon Alumni Association, the sum of \$_____ to be used in fulfillment of educational purposes as the Upsilon Alumni Association shall determine."

Did you know?

The oldest living Upsilon brother is believed to be **Ray DeCamp** (Initiation #157), a 1937 grad! He is 92 years young and lives in the San Fernando Valley, son **David DeCamp**, 1968 Upsilon grad, reports. Ray worked for Sony Pictures for many years, as does his son David.

Website

The UAA website is www.SigmaPiBruins.com & www.SigmaPiUpsilon.com. The former web domain, www.SigmaPiUCLA.com, was deactivated, as UCLA asserted its copyright and told us to cease use of the word, "UCLA."

Mathis (Tulare), **Gary Stafford** (Hacienda Heights), **Jack Burghardt** (Alhambra), **Alex Riddell** (West L.A.) and **Doug Frank**. Doug Frank returned to Los Angeles and the house for the first time in almost 30 years and combined the trip with visits to his former U.S. Marine Corps colleagues.

Rich Frank (Simi Valley) found a sitter for his 9-year-old daughter and rallied a group from the late 1960s/ early

1970s that included **Chris Cochran** (Sacramento), **Dave DeCamp** (San Fernando Valley), **Dr. Kent Shoji** and **Dr. Rainer Beck** (Marina del Rey). **Fred Faeth** (Irvine) joined the group earlier in the evening prior to the event. Dave reports that his father, another Upsilon alumnus **Ray DeCamp** (San Fernando Valley) from 1937 is a spry 92 years old and still drives around town!

Franko and his group prowled the halls, trying to see what the rooms look like these days, but few takers were found for a group of 50-year-olds wanting to hang out and chug with 18-year-old actives. (I explained that actives would rather be with ladies of sorority row than Franko's group, and this type of behavior is exactly what got the Catholic Church in trouble!)

Business notes: The Alumni Association has 42 donors thusfar in 2006. A "Career Night" was held on May 15 with John Goodlad (Corona del Mar) as the distinguished guest speaker. "Seniors Dinner" will be Mon., Jun. 5, in Westwood.

Annual meeting: **Art Martinez** (West L.A.), secretary of the 501-c-7 non-profit Upsilon Alumni Association chaired the Annual Meeting. **Herman Quispe** (Pasadena) remains the sole board member. **Jay Ross** (West L.A.) was re-appointed UAA President for 2006-07, and **Scott Scheffler** was appointed Treasurer. All actions taken during the past year by the board member were approved by the membership.

Upsilon Chapter Housing Assn.: **Tom Miller** (Santa Monica), president reported that the house interior was repainted during the Fall, and the next project is to renovate the back balcony doors and windows. If interested in joining the Board, contact Tom at (310) 394-649, LvzGolf@AOL.com.

Photos: Top - **Won Park** (Cerritos), **Scott Good** (Beverly Glen) and **Chris Good** (Los Angeles). Bottom - **John Ivsan** (North Carolina), **Matt Sumrow** (Orange) and **Taek Chang** (Long Beach).





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The loss of brothers

It is a sad fact of life, but alumni brothers die every year and enter the Adytum.

If you are a family member of a deceased brother who has received this copy of the Pioneer, please notify us of the death of the brother.

We would like to notify the rest of the circle of brotherhood and help you celebrate his life by printing an obituary or other information about his life.

Contact: Jay Ross at (310) 979-9255 or

JayVo@SigmaPiBruins.com.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the following brothers who have entered the Adytum in recent years:

Andrew Lee Diehl - 1948 #272 (11/16/05, Oakhurst).
 Scot Irwin - 1974 #722 (2005, Stockbridge, Ga).
 Herbert Martin - 1950 #407.
 David Beeman - 1939 #159.
 Norm Visineau - 1950 #417.
 Arthur Williamson - 1952 #436 (2005, San Marino).
 Malcolm Lincoln - 1947 #276 (Whittier).
 Milt Freeman - 1945 #290 (Santa Ana).
 Dwight Gick - 1950 #320 (Newport Beach).
 Col. William Bennett - 1941 #254 (2005, Reva, Va.).
 Robert Hillen - 1943 #216 (3/16/03, Culver City).
 Julien D'Avanzo (4/27/06, Oceanside).

Adytum: Remembrances of our brothers



Robert Hillen (1943 - #216) died on Mar. 16, 2003. He was 86. Hillen founded the crew program at USC in 1947 and coached its team for 43 years. In failing health for several months as he battled Parkinson's disease, he died in a Los Angeles hospital. Born in Goldfield, Nev., he was raised in Sacramento and attended Sacramento

Junior College, where he was first introduced to the sport of crew. He transferred to UCLA in 1936, where he lettered as a coxswain. After graduating from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in education, Hillen coached local high school and junior college teams in Sacramento. He returned to UCLA as an assistant coach in 1940, before becoming co-head coach in 1946.

A year later later, Julian Wolf, a former UCLA oarsman who was attending USC graduate school, appealed to Hillen for help in setting up a crew program for the Trojans. Hillen went to USC on a part-time basis a year later as the school's coach. Hillen, who earned his master's degree in education at USC and made his living as a physical education coach in the Santa Monica School District, coached the Trojans without pay from 1948 to 1965.

He helped the school build its boathouse in the Los Angeles harbor in 1961, and began coaching the women's team in the mid-1970s. While at USC, he coached Conn Findlay, who went on to compete in three Olympics, winning the gold in Melbourne in 1956 and bronze medals in Rome in 1960 and Tokyo in 1964. Well-respected in the sport, Hillen was a member of the U.S. Olympic Rowing Committee and the Board of Directors of the National Association of American Oarsmen. He helped coach the U.S. team at the 1971 Pan-American Games. At the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, he was on the site selection committee.

Hillen is survived by his son, Peter (who lives in Mountain View); and two grandchildren. A memorial service was held at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Culver City. The family suggested that donations be made to the USC Andrus Gerontology Center.

Hillen's wife Charleene died in 2005. His son, Peter, can be reached at (650) 740-1701.



Andrew Lee Diehl (1948 - #272) died on Nov. 16, 2005. He was 81.

Lee was born Mar. 1, 1924, in Los Angeles. His family moved back to their former hometown in Crawford, Nebr., where he attended grade school. The family later returned to Los Angeles where he completed his public school education.

Lee's college years at UCLA were interrupted when he joined the Navy in 1943. He was engaged in many battles in the South Pacific before returning to the officers' training program at Notre Dame. Upon his discharge, Lee re-entered UCLA and graduated in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in geology. Lee was employed by Shell Oil Company for 35 years. He retired in 1984.

Through his career as a petroleum engineer/geologist, he lived and traveled around the world. After retirement from Shell, he enjoyed independent work as a petroleum consultant. His career as a geologist and petroleum engineer was, as he said, the most for which anyone could hope. In 1987, he finally decided to call it a day and relax with his favorite sailboat, "Beau Regard."

Lee is remembered for his brilliant mind and wonderful sense of humor, both of which remained fully sharp his entire life. He is also remembered for being a loyal, devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. Lee is survived by his wife Marilyn; son, John; daughters, Janet and Kimberly and his grandchildren: Stefan, Nikolas, Aiyana and Dylan. A memorial service was held at the Oakhurst Lutheran Church on Dec. 2. The family requests that remembrances be made to the Oakhurst Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. Address at time of death: P.O. Box 730, Oakhurst 93644



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Alumni updates...Art Martinez in L.A. Times!

Note: **Arturo Martinez** (1991), a Deputy City Attorney for Los Angeles, helped to revise state law last year to make prosecution of counterfeit identification producers easier by criminalizing the possession of printing materials and equipment with intent to produce counterfeit documents. He was interviewed for this article:

(Nov. 29, 2005) - <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-fakeid29nov29,1,5600464.story>

Fake ID Trade Makes a Name for Itself

Long a low priority for police, forgers may face a crackdown when new law takes effect Jan. 1

Social Security cards run about \$20, green cards about \$70 and a California driver's license between \$60 and \$250.

The price jumps up for higher-quality documents, such as IDs with magnetic strips containing real information — often from victims of identity theft.

As the demand for counterfeit IDs skyrockets, the criminal organizations that produce them are increasingly relying on sophisticated technology to expand their operations and thwart authorities.

"You name it, they can make it," said Los Angeles Deputy City Atty. Arturo Martinez, who specializes in fraudulent document cases.

Even though Los Angeles is considered the epicenter of the fake ID trade, for years the problem didn't register as a high priority for an already burdened police force. The lack of consistent enforcement allowed the underground industry to build up until it was "out of control," said LAPD Officer Fernando Flores.

That changed in 2003, when the Los Angeles Police Department assigned two Rampart Division officers to crack down on counterfeiters. Both the city attorney and the L.A. County district attorney said they had focused more resources in the last two years on the phony ID industry. And now, equipped with a new law that will make it a crime to possess equipment used to create fake IDs, prosecutors hope to put even more counterfeiters behind bars.



Viva la gente! Arturo Martinez with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilman Jack Weiss (three UCLA graduates!) and residents who lobbied for -- and got -- safer streets in their Overland Avenue neighborhood.

Art has also been active in his community, the quaint West L.A. residential neighborhood on "Little" Overland Avenue. Last year, a neighbor was killed by a speeding car, and Art was a member of a core of homeowners who lobbied the Dept. of Transportation, Councilman Jack Weiss and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to reduce speeds and improve safety for pedestrians in the area.

Dealing with stodgy city bureaucrats who don't understand or care about neighborhood concerns is difficult, even when you are right. So, Art's group documented traffic accidents and recruited many community groups to support their cause.

David Cruz, Channel 4 news reporter, even featured the neighborhood activists in depth on a newscast on June 10, 2005.

In the end, the good guys won, and community safety was secured. Art's group persuaded City Council to downgrade the roadway designation, install stop signs, and add striping to make the two-lane residential street safer for both drivers and pedestrians.

Visit the website to learn more about Art's work in organizing the community and taking on City Hall: www.OverlandAvenue.org.

▲ Art's wife, Julie, gave birth to their second child, Arturo IV, on Mar. 30.



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Alumni updates...

▲ **Scott Feiwell** (1996) was interviewed for an L.A. Times article, "L.A. Can Party Big, Too", about a new nightclub in Hollywood on Aug. 4 in the Calendar Weekend section.

According to reporter Steve Baltin, Scott works for Velvet Crossing, the group responsible for putting together the 'dream team' of promoters that fill the spot on Saturday nights. The 'Vanguard' nightclub is at 6021 Hollywood Blvd. on Saturday and Sunday nights. It has a 21,000 s.f. area with a dance floor and VIP balcony, which makes it the largest club in L.A. and similar to the style of large clubs found in Las Vegas, New York and Miami.

'People's jaws drop when they walk in the room,' Feiwell said. 'This feels like a club in New York, Vegas or Ibiza, and in reality, it's bigger than most clubs in those cities. A venue like this doesn't exist in the pretty people world of L.A.'

Feiwell is right in one sense - few venues can claim to offer the vibe of a hot dance club and a swanky lounge, at least on this scale. In fact, Vanguard's cabana-focused outdoor setting conspires with its indoor dance floor to pose as two clubs in one. The club (formerly Qtopia) underwent a \$2 million makeover and has an Asian-inspired patio with fountains and a Buddha statue. The large indoor dance space is subdivided by staircases and design flourishes. Pasquale Rotella has the credibility to attract A-list DJs, and the Funktion One sound system is the only one on the West Coast outside Las Vegas. Future additions may include a full-service restaurant for one-stop party shopping. Look for **Mike "Balkie" Alvarez** and **Paul Lee** to show up on the next club-hopping night!



▲ **Dwain Jefferson** (1998), the pride of Mt. Diablo H.S., was engaged in November to his childhood sweetheart, Kim. Dwain announced the big day to brothers at the Arizona State football game tailgater -- two big wins in one day! Dwain and Kim were childhood friends in the East Bay. Dwain played youth sports with Leon Callen (the future De La Salle and Arizona running back) and Saleem Muhammad (the future De La Salle and Cal running back). Baseball was Dwain's sport because he admits he was skinny in those days, and he also admits the "only" thing he ever wanted was to play baseball at USC -- yikes!

Dwain matriculated at Mt. Diablo H.S., leading the Red Devils to glory, and he later schooled at Diablo Valley College. When he was deciding which college to attend, he immediately headed to USC. But, the campus visit to USC persuaded Dwain to give UCLA a last-minute visit, and Dwain's destiny turned a mighty course toward Bruinland and Upsilon.

Dwain works for Countrywide in Glendale, and the two live in Redondo Beach. Kim is a junior high teacher in Hawthorne, molding the minds of young Dwains-to-be!

Donations

* Donations to all of these funds can be made via PayPal at Alumni@SigmaPiBruins.com.

* **UAA can accommodate "Memorial Donations."** *If you wish to donate to the fraternity in memory of a specific brother, please contact me, and I will include the designation in the next Pioneer -- Fraternally, Jay*

1. **National Education Fund:** National's education endowment, tax-deductible donations can be designated for our chapter for scholarships for active brothers. Issue checks to "Sigma Pi Educational Foundation."

Mail to: Joe Marsalek, 240 Vaquero Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007 - (626) 447-0238 - JoeAndBarbM@MSN.com

2. **Upsilon Alumni Association:** The general fund that collects annual dues, donations for the Hixon and Vestey scholarships for active brothers, communications (website hosting, mailings, Founders Day invitations), and events (charcoal, food, banners for football tailgaters).

Annual dues: \$35-100. Issue checks to "Upsilon Alumni Association" or <http://SigmaPiBruins.com/subscription.htm>

Mail to: Scott Scheffler, Treasurer, 16 Fleet St., Apt. #9, Marina del Rey, CA 90292 - Chef@UCLA.edu



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Thank you to the following brothers who contributed donations to Upsilon during 2005 & 2006.

2006 (dues paid through)

Orchid Level (\$100+)

David Finkel
Barry Maiten
Art Ramos
Abel Somilleda

Emerald Level (\$100)

Rudy Feldman
Robert Hillerman
Paul Hutton
Robert Lashbrook
Joe Marsalek
Ron Mathis
Carl Moroney
Charles Osterlund

David Randel

Jim Seely

Dr. Kent Shoji

Gold Level (\$50)

Jim Cochran
Louis Ravetti
Everett Rea
Eugene Roche
Karl Schuttenhelm
Glenn Smith
Tom Straeter
Fred Thornley
Richard Welsh

Lavender Level (\$35)

Charles Bader
Rainer Beck
Michael Bonino (2009)
Adam Brockman
Michael Calligan
Larry Coval (2007)
Bob Jones
Erik Johnson (2015)
Stu Johnson
Steven G. Kaplan
Skip Keyzers (2007)
Greg Khougaz (2007)
Princeton Kim (2015)
Brian Letourneau (2008)
Arturo Martinez (2011)

Jim McBroom
Jaime Parady (2008)
Ed Rhee
Dan Romero (2009)
Jay Ross (2011)
Allen Rowin
Russell Schaadt
Steve Schecter (2007)
Scott Scheffler (2010)
Evan Snider
Gary Stafford
Adam Treiger
Robert Webster (2010)
Nick Zorotovich (2007)

2005

Orchid Level (\$100+)

Jim Ballard

Emerald Level (\$100)

Doug Glantz
Robert Lashbrook
Joe Marsalek
Tom Miller
Donald Peairs
Lou Ravetti
Everett Rea
Ltc. Ronald Rule
Raymond Schreck
Sean Topp

Gold Level (\$50)

Clement Jacomini
Ray Lahr
Bruce Macdonald
Al Minjares
Pablo Rivas
Karl Schuttenhelm
Keith Shoji
Glenn Smith (2006)
Fred Thornley
Lavender Level (\$35)
Mike Alvarez
Charles Bader (2006)
Steve Baker
Matt Bradley
Adam Brockman (2006)

Larry Coval (2007)
Sam Ghattas
John Goodlad
Ryan Henneberg
Paul Hutton
Kenneth Ingman
Kaveh Kamfar
Steven G. Kaplan (2006)
Skip Keyzers (2007)
Greg Khougaz (2007)
Princeton Kim (2020)
Brian Letourneau (2008)
Barry Maiten
Arturo Martinez (2011)
Jim McBroom (2006)

Nate Murphy
Alan Nichols
Jaime Parady (2008)
David Randel
Dave Riley
Dan Romero (2009)
Allen Rowin
Jay Ross (2011)
Russell Schaadt (2006)
Scott Scheffler
David Schwartz
Bob Seaman
Evan Snider (2006)
Abel Somilleda
Kham Srilasak
Matt Sumrow
Adam Treiger
Rob Ward
Robert Webster (2010)
David Zeichick
Nick Zorotovich (2007)

Education Foundation / UAA

Paul Dinh
John Goodlad
Stu Johnson
Kaveh Kamfar
Joe Marsalek
Wally Reed
David Randel



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Alumni updates...

▲ The "John Parker (Coronado) World Tour" continues (Vietnam - 2004, Japan - 2005 - India 2006). A dispatch from India from the Class of 1951 World Traveler, who has also explored Indochina and Japan on past trips:

1/26/06: Arrived in Delhi on a holiday - "Republic Day" - lots of big parades. Saw them on the way from the airport. The people seem wonderful! Flight was long (13 hours) but great. Bobbi the Stew rounded up some 18-year Glenlivet for me. Hotel is beautiful, and I will head out for a tour of the city this afternoon with my driver/guide.

1/30/06: This is a fun and very busy trip! Weather has been perfect, and I feel great.



Delhi - great guide... saw everything! Rode in pedal bikes around town. Saw the largest mosque in the world, which holds 25,000 people. Actually, some of the ruins look Greek or Italian. Did buy some silk goodies.

As luck would have it, my guide and I walked right in to a big celebration at Gandhi's cremation spot. He was murdered there on Jan. 30 in 1946. Lots of soldiers, VIPs, etc. around.

Flew off to Varanasi - the "eternal city", which they say it is the oldest city in the world with huge Buddhist ruins, very well-kept. Buddha apparently lived here for four years.

Had a nice lady guide named Vina who was very sharp. Took a boat ride on the Ganges and watched the "aarti" - a prayer to the mother river Ganges held daily there by five priests.

Next morning I watched Hindu worshipping at the "ghats" - huge crowds - walked around the oldest town in world, again, according to them.

In the afternoon I flew back to Delhi and drove to Agra. The hotel is fantastic, right next to the Taj Mahal. Will do a tour of the city and visit the Taj Mahal, etc. Also, the sunrises and sunsets here are supposed to be awesome. People, food and guides have been great. Next we drive off to Jaipur - about five hours away. We'll pass through several villages and the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri - a real red sandstone city.

▲ **Nicolas Sidjakov** (Rohnert Park-Marin Co.), Class of 1979, returned to Sigma Pi Manor for the first time in 26 years this past fall while visiting UCLA with his son. Yes, there is a Nick V "the fifth," who follows in the footsteps of the legendary Nick IV "the fourth." Nicolas' son is considering pre-med at UCLA and wanted to tour the campus, and he was impressed by the new Medical Center under construction.

Nicolas moved back to northern California with his girlfriend shortly after graduating in 1979. They are now married and living in Rohnert Park, and son Nick V is 20. He has worked as an agent and manager for Prudential Financial for 24 years. He grew up in Sausalito and was destined to return to NorCal, to fight the lowly Trees and Bears of Stanford and Cal. My how time flies!

Nicolas came back to the circle of brotherhood after reading about his old pal, Brent Kunimoto, in the Winter 2005 Pioneer, and that brought back memories of Moonshiners and helping with the pig roasts in the back yard. Nicolas' greatest and longest lasting claim to Upsilon fame is that he, as Social Chairman, threw the first "Moonshiner" celebration, which has lived on as one of the best parties on campus (except for the actives' "1980s Prom" version last year....).

Nicolas was friends with brothers **Bruce** and **Phillip Thompson**, **Joe Garcia**, **Dave DeLuce**, **Bob Boog**, **Chuck Kirk**, sage **Mark Helmick** and sage **Charlie Berry**. The house was not a palace when Nicolas lived there, and the brothers had their "Animal House" tendencies. Bruce Thompson was still there seven years after Nicolas had graduated when his brother Gregory attended UCLA. Bruce also was driving the Mardi Gras float that stopped too quickly and caused numerous Delta Gammas to fly off the back of a flatbed truck. The episode was reported in the *Daily Bruin* - a bitter end to a long pursuit of doing Mardi Gras with DG.

The brothers worked hard on their social scene with Gamma Phi Beta and Alpha Phi, which was parlayed into the first Moonshiner celebration. As he recalls, the core group of brothers were partiers but "real fun and not stuck up."

Nicolas' knees are weaker than years past, so that means no more tennis. But he has another hobby that keeps him busy -- playing the drums in his church band, which plays upbeat, uptempo music. It's not quite rock 'n roll, but he likes it! He hopes to attend Founders Day 2007, so the late 1970s graduates should rally to meet him at the house!



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Alumni updates...

Mike Liskey (Orange), Class of 1992, is an assistant coach for Biola University basketball and teaches at Santiago H.S. (Corona). His wife Robyn and he traveled to Australia in Summer 2005 and live with their dogs, Yoda and Obi, and cats, Luke and Lea. Mike made his second trip to Benin (Africa) for church ministry and basketball clinics this past summer, and Robyn just gave birth to their first child, Elizabeth Ann, on April 27.

▲ On this 2005 trip, our team tried to be good stewards of our monies and reduce travel time by flying along some of the newer and less expensive West African flight paths. Our calculations on paper did not factor in the unpredictable nature of West African flights and the timely process of traveling through customs at each airport. These are factors that are very important when trying to make connecting flights.



One such example was having my flight cancelled and being stranded alone for ten hours in French speaking Dakar Airport (Senegal). Another situation was arriving in Cotonou, Benin, and having nobody at the airport to meet me because of the delay.

We put on our basketball camps for both the elite players and the youth. We noticed several things this year. We encountered fewer children during our youth camps because more children were working because of the tough economic situation in Benin.

Our team tried to make the experience exceptional for the children that were showing up. We brought sports T-shirts and hats and distributed them to the campers. We found out the level of appreciation and value that these children had for our gifts as the week

progressed. Most of the children wore their shirts and hats everyday and made a point of coming up to us and showing our team that they were wearing them again. They also thanked us individually, which probably was the best reward of the whole trip and made the pain of the long travel sting less.

At our basketball camps, we worked out with the best basketball players in Benin. The people are slowly starting to turn basketball into a more important sport within the country. Several club teams have sprung up in each city, and large crowds have begun to form for their league games. Youth coaches and youth camps still don't commonly exist, like in the United States, but I figure that those areas will eventually develop as the popularity of the sport grows.

Again, the coaches had the opportunity to play the Benin National Team, and we miraculously won, 93-73. I somehow scored 6 points, including a shot over a 7-footer, but my main job was to be the scrappy and defensive stopper. Some things never change.

In addition, we also established the site of the National Sports Complex in the northern part of the country. This site will be the training complex for basketball and all other sports that Benin hopes to compete in at the international level. The land is being bought with private funds, but President Mathieu Kerekou is giving his personal and presidential guarantee for the land deal.

I saw several different things while on this trip to Benin. I immediately saw the deteriorating economic and environmental conditions of the country. Benin is like a giant swap meet with every person or family running a family business and trying to stay alive. These individual businesses line the streets and occupy all areas that have traffic. One of the most popular businesses is the sale of black market gasoline smuggled over from Nigeria. The gas isn't transported in large tankers like in the United States. Instead it is carried over in small jugs and bottles. The quality of gas isn't the purest, so it doesn't burn cleanly. The people are focused on surviving, and paying less is always better. Nobody thinks about the future of the environment or air quality.

Economically, the Beninese people live in the cities or in the rural villages. The city people make a living through their personal businesses along the roads. The villages survive on their crops and the money brought in by surplus crops. However, villagers are finding it more difficult to sell their products at a profit, so some have left their villages to find work in the city. As the economic times continue to deteriorate, more people flock to the cities, which causes more congestion and unemployment. Cotonou and other Beninese cities continue to grow without proper infrastructure, and this growth has added to the poverty and declining environmental conditions.

On the other hand, we visited several villages that have thrived, even during these terrible economic times. One of these villages was the one that touched my heart so much during my first trip. They continue to be blessed with resources that help them build schools and hospitals and improve the general living conditions of the entire village. Several of the surrounding villages send their children to the schools in the village. Our group continued to support these villages by donating funds to the churches and villages. Some financial support was used to buy new ropes for their water well. We also supported their new hospital, a village orphanage, and local church ministries. This trip to Benin, Africa has forever changed my life and I hope to continue to work with the National Team and the people of Benin to solidify positive change.



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Remembering those brothers who served our country in the pursuit of peace and freedom and gave the ultimate sacrifice:
Richard "Ace" Caulkins (#193), Donald Hesse (#195), Liston Comer (#214), Lane Donovan (#234)

Active chapter update: Matt Ayling, First Counselor

Upsilon has never been better as we finish the 2005-06 school year. The last three quarters have been marked by positive changes in the chapter's social life, recruitment, reputation, and philanthropy that have set Sigma Pi apart from all the other fraternities on the row.

Sigma Pi's social standing has been steadily improving as we establish ties with new sororities while strengthening our existing interfraternal relations. Increased membership has allowed for a robust social calendar that includes a *minimum* of one event per sorority, numerous private date parties, our luxurious Orchid Ball, exclusive house parties, and UCLA football Active/Alumni tailgates. Additionally, we have successfully experimented with non-traditional events such as bowling and karaoke nights with sororities.

Philanthropy has increased in both quality and quantity as we pursue multiple events per quarter with numerous organizations. Three times this year we have brought the Boys' and Girls' Club of Los Angeles to our house where we gave them a campus tour, motivated them to attend college, and played basketball with them. Following the recommendations of Sigma Pi National, we created our Altruistic Campus Experience (ACE) Project by volunteering our services to wash UC Police Department cars (including that of alumnus police officer **Scott Scheffler**) and hosting a BBQ for the officers. Our strong efforts at philanthropy earned us a high evaluation from National with very little room for improvement.

This school year has been a record for recruitment with more than 50 new members joining in fall and spring rushes. Our retention rate is the highest on campus, with 31 of 35 pledges sticking through fall quarter and none dropping after the first week. Our recruitment was a Sigma Pi record for the West Coast, and we are currently battling with only one or two top houses for UCLA's most quality young men.

In light of all these positive changes, everyone at 612 Landfair is prouder than ever to be a Sigma Pi. The 30 graduating seniors look at their improved chapter with pride while our 50 new members look to the future with enthusiasm. This year, we send you 30 new Alumni as they go across the country to Medical, Engineering, and Law schools from the Ivy Leagues to the top universities in the West. We know that the growing UCLA Alumni body will remain active participants in Alumni activities and continue to make Sigma Pi great.

▲ Upsilon lost one of our beloved brothers, **Julien D'Avanzo**, in a tragic accident on April 27 at the Saxon Suites on-campus residence. Julien was only 20 years old, but he lived life to the fullest, living more than most people do in their entire lives. He valued friendship over everything else, and he reached out to every person, both in the house and around school. The active chapter plans to create a memorial to his life here at the house. His death will be mourned by all, and Sigma Pi will miss him.

Chapter advisor **Joe Marsalek** and many active brothers spoke at a memorial service held in Julien's hometown of Oceanside on May 7. More than 300 friends and family attended, filling the hall. Joe reminisced about Julien's happy, carefree attitude, and the warm friendship he bestowed upon friends and brothers.

Bruins roar in Indy for Final Four!



INDIANAPOLIS – Upsilon alumni traveled to support the streaking Bruin hoops team at the Final Four in early April, watching the semifinal win over Louisiana State and title game loss to Florida. **Tim Howell** and **Dave Canty** flew to the game directly after a vacation in Mexico - true road warriors! - and met up with **Sean Topp**, **Phil Farias** and **Bruce Macdonald**. Topp met 1995 MVP and Bruin legend Ed O'Bannon (top left photo). **Ryan Wirtz** also road-tripped from Dallas, met up with **Scott Braunstein**, and ran into the bro's.