



The Pioneer

Vol. 86, No. 1

Sigma Pi - Upsilon (UCLA)

Jan. 2008

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

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

Hoops schedule

Jan. 3 @ Stanford
 Jan. 5 @ California
 Jan. 10 **WASHINGTON**
 Jan. 12 **WASHINGTON ST**
 Jan. 24 @ Oregon
 Jan. 26 @ Oregon St.
 Jan. 31 **ARIZONA ST.**
 Feb. 2 **ARIZONA**
 Feb. 7 @ Washington St.
 Feb. 10 @ Washington
 Feb. 17 @ USC
Feb. 21 OREGON ST.
Feb. 23 OREGON
 Feb. 28 @ Arizona St.
 Mar. 2 @ Arizona
Mar. 6 STANFORD
Mar. 8 CALIFORNIA
 Mar. 12 Pac-10 Tourney
 Mar. 20 NCAA Rounds 1-2
 Mar. 27 NCAA Regionals
 Apr. 5 NCAA Semifinals
 Apr. 7. NCAA Final
 * San Antonio, Tx.-Southwest Airlines flies there.

Chapter update

This fall has been very productive with a strong pledge class of 22 to be initiated in January. We officially will become the largest fraternity on campus.

With such great numbers, comes great responsibility, and the chapter responds by working hard to provide blue books and energy drinks for test takers on campus, aimed at livening the dreaded finals week.

These philanthropic efforts flow throughout the year, culminating in the second annual Upsilon run of the L.A. Marathon. With goals exceeding \$7,000 raised in support of the Sam Spade foundation (which promotes alcohol con't (p. 2) -->

Founders Day '08

"Joseph F. Marsalek & James R. Ross Memorial Founders Day"
to be held at Sigma Pi Manor in Westwood on Feb. 23
Upsilon Alumni Assn. Annual Meeting to be on Feb. 23 in Los Angeles

WESTWOOD - The 85th "Founders Day" will be on Saturday night, Feb. 23, at Sigma Pi Manor.

The Upsilon Alumni Association's Annual Meeting also will be Feb. 23 at the house, at 612 Landfair Ave. in Los Angeles.

Grand Sage **Larry Rovira** sends his regards. He will be traveling the country to various chapters' silver and golden anniversaries. Province Archon **Brian Devot** will attend.

This will be the first Founders Day without Chapter Director Emeritus **Joe Marsalek** and **Jim Ross**, the former Orange County Superior Court Judge and all-around great brother and family man. We will honor their memories by reserving seats at the head table for them and other brothers who entered the Adytum during the past year.

Chef **Ruben Zuniga** will prepare the delicacies.

N.B.: **Doug Glantz** has already RSVPed from NorCal .

85th Founders Day

Sat. Feb. 23, 2008

Drinks - 6:00 pm

Dinner - 7:00 pm

Awards - 8:00 pm

Tickets: \$35 for alumni who graduated prior to 1958 and after 2003. \$40 for all others.

Mail checks to: Jay Ross:
 1721 S. Granville Ave., L.A.
 90025

Issue checks to: "Upsilon Alumni Assn."

Remembrances: Theron Demetre



Theron Demetre was a Bruin star in two sports during the 1930s. He was on both the 1935 Pacific Coast Conference champion water polo and boxing teams.

Demetre died on Dec. 19, 2004 at age 92, and his widow Edith lives in Laguna Niguel. She provided the photograph to the left, which now hangs in the dining room in the fraternity house.

Demetre was born in San Francisco and grew up in Arizona. As an amateur, he won the light heavyweight boxing championship in the state of Arizona four years in a row from 1932 to 1935.

During WWII, Demetre enlisted in the Navy, and he was assigned a major role in opening the Farragut Naval Station in Idaho. He later became a communication officer, and served in invasion of Okinawa.

Before and after the war, Demetre was an educator for 35 years in Mojave and in the San Fernando Valley. Edith remembers that many students at subsequent reunions recalled what a fine influence he was as a teacher and role model.



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Chapter update

(con't) --> awareness) and the Santa Monica Rape Treatment center, we hope to give a meaningful contribution back to the community.

Our athletic teams also continue to excel. We made a strong push in the playoffs of both IM soccer and football, assuring that any road to the championship must go through us. With the growth in numbers and the overall athleticism of the pledge class, our IM future looks very bright indeed.

As a physical house, we've made strong efforts, in tandem with alumni, to refurbish our living space. The addition of new floors and couches began to swing the state of Sigma Pi Manor back towards its well deserved grandeur.

The active chapter is especially excited about the physical potential our beloved house has yet to reach, and will continue to explore and execute options in the coming year.

The change in scenery occurred not only physically, but in our executive branch as well. New officers were elected and taken under oath, comprised of the most motivated of our roster. The active chapter looks forward to a promising year with our new sage and executive council to succeed the fine work of **Dave Lusby**.

The new sage is **Drew Londerholm**.

-Blayne Kercher, 1st Couns.

Farewell to the King: Joseph F. Marsalek

Joe Marsalek, the Dalai Marsalek full of sagely advice and Mr. Upsilon who did everything for the fraternity for decades as Chapter Advisor, died on Nov. 21 at age 76. He was born in 1931 in San Luis Obispo, the same year that Sigma Pi Manor was built on Landfair Avenue in Westwood.

A group of alumni (**Mike Sporty, Kasper Teichman, Scott Scheffler, Pablo Rivas, Won Park, Mike Alvarez, Herman Quispe, Art Martinez and Jay Ross**) visited Marsalek on the last night of his life and shared memories with his daughter, Julie Wage, and her family. It was difficult to see such a strong man and imposing influence at his weakest point, and Joe had difficulty speaking to us. But we all felt that Joe appreciated our visit, and after all, that's what you do for brothers in need. Being together helped to dampen the sadness and provide some cheer among brothers and their families.

At the following Monday night meeting, I told the active chapter that they, too, could count on their brothers being there for them during their final days and carry them through difficult times.

Many brothers attended the funeral, including Grand Sage **Larry Rovira**, Province Archon **Brian Devot**, and long-time Long Beach St. Chapter Advisor and national officer **John Merino**. About 30 alumni, young and old, and 20 actives attended the mass at Holy Angeles in Arcadia.

The burial in Sierra Madre included a Navy veteran who played "Taps" and presented an American flag to his family, on behalf of the President and the citizens of the United States, for his service to our country. Many brothers offered tributes to our brother Joe:

Larry Rovira: Sigma Pi has another brother in heaven watching over us. A man of fortitude, character, honesty, class, and responsibility. We are all lucky to have Joseph Marsalek touch our lives. We are even luckier to call Joe our brother.

John Merino: Joe was a very special person and a brother I respected greatly. We had many conversations thru the years--both in person and by phone--and he truly loved Sigma Pi. I will miss him.



Chuck Osterlund: Joe was the John Wooden of fraternity advisors. No one will equal him, but he has set the bar for all to measure. Joe deserves all the recognition we can heap on him. I remember all the times that he had to put some actives into proper prospective. He emphasized that it was about brotherhood and not about

yourself. We have more winners from Sigma Pi because of him. His deeds are greater than all the ones who went on to be national grand sage because he made men out of boys. He is leaving some huge shoes to be filled. It has been a privilege and an honor to have spent time working with him and watching him build a house from a struggling group to a house of stature.

Fred Thornley: He was a very good man and a significant contributor to Upsilon. I knew him pretty well during my time there and he was always willing to help when needed. He will be sorrowfully missed, but certainly not forgotten. He's in good Hands.

Rich Wiederkehr: I almost can't think about Sigma Pi without thinking about Joe.

Matt Sambol: I doubt Joe will ever truly know the real impact he had on so many men's lives. I probably speak for the masses when I say that I am grateful for his leadership and mentorship in those most influential years in our lives.

Jim Seely: Joe was very special and Sigma Pi was very fortunate to have him. *continued (p. 3) -->*



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Adytum

▲ Please remember our brothers in the Adytum:

Dwight Gick - 1950 #320
(Newport Beach).

Malcolm Lincoln - 1947 #276
(Whittier).

Robert Hillen - 1943 #216
(3/16/03, Culver City)

Jan Humble - 1953 #519
(2/24/04, Ridgecrest)

Theron Demetre - 1938
#218 (2004, Laguna Niguel).

Scot Irwin - 1974 #722
(2005, Stockbridge, Ga.)

Arthur Williamson - 1952
#436 (2005, San Marino).

Col. William Bennett - 1941
#254 (2005, Reva, Va.)

A. Joseph Spielman - 1942
#265 (3/15/06, Kamuela, Haw)

Albert K. Gifford - 1935 #168
(12/6/05, Camarillo)

Julien D'Avanzo 2007
(4/27/06, Oceanside)

Robert Howe - 1952 #416
(9/10/06, Northridge)

Paul Hastings - 1970 #712
(12/7/06, Boulder, Colo.)

Wesley Terry - 1950 #311
(Ukiah)

Leonard Eilers - 1953 #421
(6/29/06, Fair Oaks-Sacto)

Alex West 1949 #386.

William Sewell - 1950 #399
(1/2/07, Danville-S.F. Bay)

James Ross - 1949 #342
(3/5/07, Fullerton)

George Barlow - 1951 #390
(7/14/07, Monterey)

Doug Bergen - 1950 #354
(6/2/07, La Jolla)

Oscar Heselius - 1955 #476
(9/5/07)

Claude Blakemore - 1932
#125 (11/24/06, San Diego).

Joseph Marsalek - 1954
#428 (11/21/07, Arcadia).

Richard Benner - 1940 #245
(11/07, Palos Verdes)

Ray Carlisle - 1939 #199
(11/25/07, Rancho Mirage).

Marsalek (con't) --> **Paul Dinh:** He was truly a solid rock and the beacon of our chapter. He has laid the foundation and navigation for the present and future.

Bill Altman: I joined the Fraternity in 1953 after Joe returned from the Army. He impressed freshman like me as a gruff but caring person. Maybe his size had something to do with it. He was four years older than me, but always went out of his way to be friendly, something I appreciated.

▲ **Marsalek** retired in June after serving as Upsilon's Chapter Advisor since 1983, and prior to that, he served on the Upsilon Chapter Housing Association, which managed the fraternity house, and as the president of the chapter's alumni association.

Marsalek was a 6-foot-5 prep football standout end at the renowned Polytechnical High School in Long Beach, and he was recruited to play for UCLA in the Fall of 1949.

Marsalek played offensive and defensive end for the freshman team. UCLA's famous athletic trainer **Elvin "Ducky" Drake** (an Upsilon alumnus) recruited him to live at Sigma Pi mansion, along with **Rudy Feldman**, the Bruins' future captain and Rose Bowl warrior.

John Goodlad and **Fred Thornley**, the 1951 UCLA student body president, helped Marsalek with his studies and make grades, and Marsalek was initiated in the spring of 1950. Goodlad, a pledge brother, remembers that Marsalek's thighs were "as big as my waist." One lesson was from his big brother, **Doug Bergen**, who castigated Marsalek when he stayed in the car and did not walk his date to the door upon return to sorority row.

"The fraternity did so much to help me, a kid from the wrong side of the tracks who didn't know much about anything," Marsalek said. "It taught me some manners and how to act around people. It gave me so much more than I could give it."

Marsalek enlisted in the Korean War and served in Japan in a hospital. After the war, he married his girlfriend, Barbara, a Delta Zeta sorority girl. (She died in 1999.) He worked in pharmaceutical sales and management and also was on the board of a land company in Santa Maria.

Marsalek helped brothers like **Joe Henriksen**, **Bill Altman** and **Bob Baker** re-establish a strong fraternity on campus after it had been shut down in the mid-1970s. Joe was a member of the Upsilon Chapter Housing Association, which managed the building. After **Milt Freeman**, the Chapter Advisor, died in the early 1980s and a worthy successor could not be found, Marsalek was persuaded to become Chapter Advisor in 1983. Like many a Sigma Pi, he picked up a torch that needed to be carried. "I didn't like the way things were being run. There was so much more that could be done."

That began a three-decade term during which more than 500 actives came under the Marsalek's tutelage. Brothers remember him fondly during his three decades as Chapter Advisor, and 30 alumni returned to the fraternity house last June for his retirement banquet, including **Bob Jones**, **Ralph Scott**, **Dick Peters**, **Dean Cameron**, **Paul Hutton** and **Bob Baker** from the 1950s. Some of Marsalek's advice was ask sorority ladies on dates on Sunday nights, when their house kitchens are usually closed, and around the fraternity house, his wise words of safety – stay off the roof and don't mess with the fire extinguishers, and know the four grades of beef – kept the actives in line. The national fraternity honored him with "Lyle H. Smith Award" as Outstanding Chapter Advisor during the 1996-87 biennium.

The torch burned brightly under an unexpected leader. Nowadays, the house has nearly 90 active members; its GPA is among the top-5 on the row and higher than the UCLA men's average; the intramural teams regularly win inter-fraternity championships; and the social calendar features events with every sorority on campus. Much credit goes to Marsalek, who was a guiding light through the re-colonization and re-establishment as one of the top chapters on campus and on the West Coast.

"I was never an officer in the fraternity and never a leader in the house," Marsalek said. "But we all can help out in different ways. I just did what needed to be done."

▲ This past fall in Pasadena, Marsalek was honored with the fraternity's very first award for a lifetime of service to Sigma Pi.

Grand Sage **Larry Rovira** presented the "Joseph F. Marsalek Award" for service to the fraternity on Sept. 8 at the alumni tailgater reunion before UCLA-Brigham Young football game at the Rose Bowl.

Marsalek was joined by daughter, **Julie Wage**, who was visiting from Seattle, *continued (p. 4)* -->



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Adytum

▲ **Leonard Eilers** (d. 6/29/06): Eilers, a Bruin track and field star under coach and Upsilon alumnus **Elvin "Ducky" Drake**, died on June 29, 2006, in Fair Oaks (Sacramento).

Eilers held the UCLA pole vault record at 13 feet, 10 inches, using a bamboo pole in the days before fiberglass poles increased vaulting heights. In the 1951 NCAA championships, he tied for 6th place. In 1952, he tied for 6th. In 1953, he tied for 4th.

Eilers, a quiet and unassuming star, grew up in San Fernando and graduated in 1953. He was part of a very athletic house that included other Bruin track and field stars like distance runners **Bob Seaman** and **John Seaman** and pole vaulter **Jon Mitchell**.

"He was a really good guy," said **Bob Seaman**.

▲ **Jan Humble #519** (d. 2/29/04): Humble, a former Chapter Advisor from the 1970s, died on Feb. 29, 2004, in Ridgecrest.

Humble, a short-statured and industrious fireplug, ran a tight ship as the House Manager. He graduated with a BA in English in 1959.

In the 1970s, he lived near campus in Santa Monica Canyon and served as Chapter Advisor.

"He was a devoted brother and would give you the shirt off his back," **Bill Altman** said.

Humble worked for Hughes Aircraft in El Segundo and Goodyear Aerospace in Litchfield Park, Ariz. He retired from ITT in San Jose in 1998 moving to high desert.

Marsalek (con't) --> long-time Housing Board president **Tom Miller**, and Golden Cross-era brothers **Ralph Rea** and **Joe Henriksen**.

The award is named for Marsalek, and Rivera considered him the ideal honoree, regardless of the name of the award. The idea for the award, which honors an alumnus who has devoted 30 years of service to the fraternity and attended five convocations, did not come from Rivera, but from the Grand Council of the national fraternity. Rivera does admit he is one of Marsalek's biggest fans, who provided plenty of sagely advice to Rivera over the years as a Grand Council officer.

"I don't run the fraternity on the west coast," Rivera said. "When I need to know something, or something needs to get done, I call up **John Merino** at Long Beach State or Joe. Brothers like that who have been doing it for years and making Sigma Pi such a great fraternity."



OMC rides again at Holiday Party

SANTA ANA – The "Old Men's Club" held its annual Holiday Party on Dec. 2, hosted by **John Goodlad** at the Santa Ana Country Club. Good cheer abounded amongst the pioneer alumni, which was formed after World War by Upsilon veterans who were older than the recent high school grads.

Fred Thornley kindly hosted new

Chapter Advisor and UAA President **Jay Ross**, Class of 1992.

Attendees included: **Bill Jones**, a retired judge from San Diego; **Dario Sanchez**; **Ralph Rea**, a ski instructor in Mammoth; **Tom Tapscott**; **Tom Straeter** from Palm Desert; **Dick Welsh**, **Bob Jones**, **Gene Mitchell**, **Rudy Feldman**, **Joe Henriksen**, **Dick Peters**, and **Ralph Scott**.

Robert Doumakes attended his first party in several years. **Paul Hutton**, who insisted as a Class of 1960 graduate that he wasn't old enough for the OMC, has ski trips planned to Telluride and Whistler.

▲ **Photos:** Above - **Bill Jones**, **Robert Doumakes**, **Tom Straeter**, **Fred Thornley**.

Below - **John Goodlad**, **Dick Peters**, **Joe Henriksen**, **Rudy Feldman**.

▲ **Tom Tapscott** (Laguna Beach) makes jewelry and enjoys his retirement. He moved back to California in 2001 after 25 years in Idaho where he lived the small-town life. Tapscott returned to Orange County, where he grew up and attended Santa Ana H.S.

Tapscott was in Navy ROTC on campus, beginning in 1946, and served two years in the Korea War. He was a 3rd Class Petty Officer in a small ship. He returned to campus and graduated in 1953.

Tapscott had studied transportation and worked for a trucking company. In 1961, he started his own



trucking company that worked in Los Angeles and San Diego. He remained friends with **Doug Bergen**, **Joe Henriksen**, **Dick Welsh**, **Dick Kruger** and **Jim Ross**. "Sigma Pi was a great organization and had some great guys in it, guys like **Joe Marsalek**, he was the type of guys we can turn out."



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Alumni updates

▲ **Bill Altman** retired as a Certified Public Accountant in 1995, but keeps busy in West Covina, where he has lived for the last 40 years.

Altman also worked for a religious non-profit until last year and does arbitration work for the National Association of

Securities Dealers and a local water district.

Altman remembers fond times studying all night for accounting tests with a nervous brother, **Dick Ravetti**.

▲ **Dan "Pudge" Romero** visited **Dr. Dave De Fazio** in Chicago over the summer. "Carpaci" led Romero on a whirlwind tour of the Windy City, which included a Cubs game in Wrigley Field and a Bears game in Soldier Field.

De Fazio is completing his residency in anesthesiology.



▲ **Tim Howell** and **Doug Neuman** traveled to Bulgaria and Serbia during summer. They met up with **Erik Stern**, who is opening a call center for a mortgage company.



Financial report: 2006-2007

Income Statement

Income

	2007	2006
Donations	\$ 3,366	\$ 3,315
Dues	210	1,189
Founders Day	3,075	2,850
Scholarship donations	500	250
Other	0	100
Total	\$ 7,151	\$ 7,704

Expenses

Bank charges	\$ 0	\$ 52
Convocation support	0	400
Founders Day	1,833	1,175
Legal	0	20
Miscellaneous	1,000	63
P.O. Box	0	0
PayPal fees	21	60
Newsletter publication/mailling	430	945
Scholarships	900	400
Seniors Night	30	207
Tailgaters	0	120
Trailer storage	0	78
Website	0	620
Total	\$ 4,219	\$ 4,141

Income (loss) **\$ 2,932** **\$ 3,564**

Balance Sheet (8/19/07)

Assets

Current (cash)	\$ 9,351
Accounts receivable	(860)
Undeposited funds	100
Total Assets	\$ 8,591

Liabilities

Current (Housing Board loan)	\$ 3,000
Total	3,000

Equity

Retained earnings	2,658
Net income (2007)	2,932
Total	5,591

Total Liabilities + Equity **\$ 8,591**

Thank you, alumni!

We have 80 donors in 2007, and have accumulated \$5,000 in cash. We can spend \$1,000-1,500 on scholarships this year and direct some of the remainder to the Housing Board for house renovations.

You made this happen – the brotherhood thanks you!

Mike Martin wedding

Mike Martin married the former Miss **Brenda Cortez** in August at the Waterfront Hilton in Huntington Beach.

Sean Topp was the best man, and **Steve Yu** and **Ed Rhee** were in the wedding party. **Abel Somillea**, **Princeton Kim**, **Scott Good**, **Won Park**, **Robin Matuk**, **Art Ramos** and **Shane Tseng** attended.

Mike is a graduate of Mater Dei H.S. in Orange County and works as a financial analyst for mutual funds at The Capital Group in its downtown Los Angeles office.

The new family lives in West Los Angeles, in pouring distance of the Wine House.



On the campaign trail...Pete Vander Poel

▲ **Pete Vander Poel** (Tulare) moved back to his home town in the Central Valley after graduation in the Spring. He works for Wells Fargo. His big plans are to run for the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, and he has gathered some prominent endorsements already. If you live in the Central Valley and want to help Vander Poel with his campaign, contact him at petergunvptu@hotmail.com.



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Adytum

▲ **Doug Bergen (5/31/28 - 6/2/07):** Bergen entered the Adytum at age 79 in La Jolla. His German ancestors settled Orange County, and he grew up in Fullerton and attended Fullerton H.S. He lived in retirement in Rancho Mirage.

Bergen, who pledged in 1946, served in ROTC on campus with **Tom Tapscott** and in the Korean War. He was shy but Tapscott and others helped bring him out of his shell.

"He was a wonderful person, he was very thoughtful and considerate," Bergen's wife Lois said. The two married in 1957.

Bergen's family worked in agriculture, and after graduation from UCLA, he worked in commercial landscaping, specializing in large specimen trees. His company provided greenery for golf courses, parks, freeways and many large projects.

Bergen managed a nursery in Brea for many years. He sold the nursery in 1985 and then began to grow palm trees on land in Moreno Valley while living in Fullerton and Lake Arrowhead.

Bergen and his wife Lois organized a world tour on three days notice once, visiting his relatives in Scotland and the Orient. They also visited Tapscott in Idaho for many summers for fishing and golf.

Bergen enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the Thunderbird Country Club in the Coachella Valley.

Bergen's wife Lois can be reached at (760) 321-2505.

Adytum: Remembrances of our brothers



William R. Sewell (d. 1/2/07): Sewell entered the Adytum on Jan. 2, 2007. He had retired to Danville, in the San Francisco Bay Area, with his second wife, Mary Elizabeth.

Prior to UCLA, Sewell graduated from Visalia College (now College of the Sequoias) in 1948. Sewell was rush chairman in the Fall of 1949 and acquired great talent for the chapter. He loved to play bridge and worked hard for social gatherings.

After graduation, Sewell moved to San Francisco and worked for the Matson Navigation Co. and enjoyed a marvelous 10-year career as staff officer and chief purser of the SS Lurline and other passenger ships. Sewell married "Miss Matsonia" Verna Mae Shaw and moved to Hawaii, where they raised their three children. He worked in real estate and construction and developed several thriving partnerships and businesses. He was also the state's first home inspector.

Sewell was twice elected to neighborhood boards, twice elected to the boards of realtors, and served as president of the Home Builders Association (now the Building Industry Association). He also was a member of the Ala Moana Rotary Club and the Mercury Business Association.

Sewell was born in a small town near Pecos, Tex., and raised in the San Joaquin valley in Visalia.

Sewell is survived by children, William Shaw Sewell (Nova Scotia), Michele Elaine Harris (Hawaii), Scott Reeves Sewell (California); sister Mary Frances Alexander (Arizona); and three grand-daughters.



Claude Blakemore (4/26/09 - 11/24/07): Blakemore entered the Adytum on Nov. 24, 2006. He lived in San Diego after retiring from a long and successful career in banking, and he was the oldest Upsilon alumni at age 97.

"He loved UCLA and he loved his fraternity so much, he always talked about them," His daughter Susan Robinson of San Diego said.

Blakemore was born in Los Angeles and studied economics at UCLA. He transferred to Univ. of Iowa, hoping to earn a football scholarship. He returned within a year, due to financial hardship during the Depression, joining his family in Santa Ana.



In 1937, Blakemore married Violet Alt, who worked as a legal secretary. They moved to San Diego in 1945, and Blakemore began his career with First National Bank as a trust officer.

By 1951, Blakemore was vice president and trust officer of First National. As the bank grew, he was promoted to president and CEO. He expanded the bank into Los Angeles and Orange County before retiring in 1972.

"The term I have used to describe Nibs is 'straight arrow,'" said Bill Turnquist, a friend and colleague. "He was almost a throwback to days when your banker was your friend and absolutely trustworthy."

In 1974, he joined colleagues to found one of San Diego's first independent financial management firms, Rice, Hall, James & Associates, and served as a director until 1987. "A more delightful gentleman you couldn't find," said Gray Rice, a partner with the firm.

Blakemore was active in the community. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts, receiving the Silver Beaver award for distinguished service. He served on boards of the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Hall of Science. He was a former president of the California Bankers Association and on the executive council of the American Bankers Association.

Blakemore is survived by twin children, Bruce Blakemore of Monticello, Ark., and Susan Robinson of San Diego; brother Robert Blakemore of Palm Desert, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. His wife, Violet, died in 1995.



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Alumni updates

▲ Clement "Jake"

Jacomini (Signal Hill) and still works as a probate attorney at age 88. Along with **Ray DeCamp** (age 93), he is one of the oldest and wisest Upsilon alumni.

Jacomini was friends with **Ray Carlisle**, who lived in Palm Desert until his recent death in December.

In 1939, he was the head football manager for the Bruins, who tied for the Pacific Coast Conference title. Two of the star players were **Kenny Washington** and **Jackie Robinson**, who later recognized Jacomini on the streets of downtown Los Angeles after World War II and bought him a drink.

During WWII, Jacomini fought as a paratrooper in the Pacific campaign.

Jacomini, who was born in 1919, matriculated at UCLA from Marshall H.S. in Griffith Park. His father developed scientific instruments and installed the telescopes at the Mt. Wilson Observatory in Santa Monica Mountains.

▲ Bob Seaman

(Wilmington), one of the first Americans to run the 4:00 mile visited **Rudy Feldman** in San Diego for the Chargers-Titans in 2006.

Feldman, a former General Manager for the Chargers and 1953 Rose Bowl star, hosted Bob in the press box, and watched the game from the best seats in the house.

Seaman has season tickets for Bruin football and attends all the games.

Adytum: Remembrances of our brothers



George W. Barlow (1929 - 7/14/07): Barlow entered the Adytum on July 14, 2007. He died of a stroke at age 78 at a hospital on the Monterey Peninsula in northern California.

From his earliest days, George Barlow was a creature of the sea. As a boy growing up in Long Beach, he collected hermit crabs and sea anemones. Unlike others his age, who found sport in torturing sea urchins, he nurtured the forms of life in homespun fish pools – jam jars.

At age 10, Barlow started the first of many aquariums. For pocket change, he dived for errant golf balls in a lagoon and sold them to a nearby golf course. As a teen, he was a lifeguard, a first-string water polo player at UCLA and avid surfer. He tailored one of the first wetsuits that our surf state had ever seen.

After graduating from UCLA with a degree in biology in 1951, he joined the Coast Guard and was stationed in Honolulu during the Korean War.

He later became an internationally recognized expert on fish. As a professor at UC Berkeley, he taught integrative biology and was known for his distinguished work in animal behavior and evolutionary biology.

"He was the pre-eminent figure in fish biology, certainly in North America and probably the rest of the world," said David Noakes, a professor of fisheries and wildlife at Oregon State Univ. "He was the one person who tied together research in North America and the rest of the world, especially in Europe."

"He was an extraordinary talented individual and extremely generous with his students. He went to great lengths to support and advance his students."

Barlow was a professor in UC Berkeley's zoology department from 1966 until he retired in 1993, led the animal behavior undergraduate and graduate programs, and served as curator of ichthyology at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Many of his students went on to notable careers.

Barlow wrote three books and 160 scientific articles. "It was always interesting being around George," said Noakes, who was Barlow's first doctoral candidate at UC Berkeley.

Barlow was a talented athlete and spoke four languages. He was fascinated by many things: gardening (he cultivated orchids), birds (he bred pigeons and studied bird calls), music (he loved everything from classical music to jazz).

After graduation, he married Gerta Offczarczyk in 1955. She was very active in his field research and helped edit the dissertation for his doctoral degree that he received from UCLA in 1958.

On his extensive travels, Barlow was accompanied by his wife and three daughters. One summer they lived on the beach in Hawaii while he studied porpoises. They snorkeled and dived to depths of 30 feet.

"He always took us to amazing places," said daughter Bicka Barlow, an attorney with the San Francisco public defender office. "He was an amazing diver. He had incredible breath control. He'd dive and hold onto a rock and wait for us. It was incredible seeing fish and other creatures down there. In Hawaii, he broke a rib. He was so passionate about his work, he tried to scuba dive with a broken rib."

The Barlow home on Wildcat Canyon Road in Berkeley was a cacophony of academic and animal mayhem. Hamsters and gerbils ran free, and parakeets and a cocktiel swooped about. At one point, the family fish tank was so large that it warped the family room floor.

"We always had lots of creatures sharing our home," his daughter said. "It was interesting for guests. Most people aren't used to having a bird land on their head. I inherited his last tank a few years ago. We just had fish babies. I don't know what kind they are. My father would know."



Barlow is survived by his wife, Gerta; daughters Linda Barlow of Denver, Bicka Barlow of San Francisco, and Nora Barlow of Anchorage; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was on Sept. 8 at the Alumni House at UC Berkeley. His daughter, Bicka Barlow, can be reached at BickaBarlow@SBCGlobal.net.

▲ **Photo**: Claude Blakemore.



The Pioneer

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Sigma Pi - Upsilon (UCLA)

Jan. 2008

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

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 it will be included the designation in the next Pioneer.

1. **National Education Fund:** The national fraternity's education endowment -- tax-deductible donations can be designated for our chapter to scholarships for active brothers. Issue checks to "Sigma Pi Educational Foundation." Your company's matching donations can be directed to this entity, which is a non-profit.

Mail to: Jay Ross, 1721 S. Granville Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025 - (310) 979-9255 - Ross_Jay@Hotmail.com.

2. **Upsilon Alumni Association:** The general fund that collects annual dues, donations for the Bill Meyer and Julien D'Avanzo scholarships for active brothers, communications (website, mailings, Founders Day invitations), and events. Not tax-deductible. 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.

3. **Joseph Marsalek Upsilon Chapter Educational Foundation:** The chapter's own, separate tax-deductible foundation, established in 2007. It is managed by the national fraternity's foundation, but the funds are separate and under our discretion to be used for scholarships and loans for house renovations.

Issue checks to "Sigma Pi Educational Foundation - Joseph Marsalek Upsilon Chapter Educational Foundation."

Mail to: David Finkel, Treasurer, 1627 S. Camden Ave., Apt. #206, Los Angeles, CA 90025 - DavidFinkel@Juno.com.

Thank you to the following brothers who contributed to Upsilon during 2007.

Joseph F. Marsalek
Upsilon Chapter
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Grand Orchid Level (\$250+)

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Alumni updates

▲ **Robert Vasquez** (Los Angeles) works in the Film and Television Dept. at the music recording company EMI, and his office in the famed Capitol Records Building in Hollywood.

Vasquez's department represents all of EMI's labels (Capitol, Virgin, Astralwerks) and pitches their music library to studios, advertising agencies and music supervisors, and negotiates deals to use it movies, television and commercials.

▲ **Scott Schaffer** (Scottsdale, Ariz.) is married with a "wonderful" 13-year-old daughter.

After a brief stint in College Administration at Williams College and Arizona State Univ., Schaffer spent the last 20 years in a dream job coaching swimming.

Last year, Schaffer began a new career in ministry and is working on his Masters of Divinity degree through Fuller Theological Seminary's extension campus in Phoenix. "This should come as quite a surprise to those who knew me back in the day," he said.

▲ **Clark Wingert** (Sitka, Ak.) moved in Alaska, after living in Washington state. **Rudy Feldman** (San Diego), the Rose Bowl warrior of 1953, visited him this past summer.

▲ **John Brott** (South Pasadena) works at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, a non-profit that helps low-income households obtain financing for new homes and renovate existing homes. Brott is the Chief Administrative Officer of the 30-person organization.

Alumni Guest Speaker: Ed Kwak

WESTWOOD - **Ed Kwak** (Westwood) told the active chapter how he made Rocky Balboa bleed, a tough accomplishment for anyone other than Apollo Creed or Clubber Lang. Kwak was interrupted during a bathroom break by Sylvester Stallone, who had a microphone attached to him during filming of "The Contender" television show. After accidentally pricking Rocky on his chiseled chest with the pin for the microphone and drawing blood, Kwak successfully attached it for the ensuing taping.



Taylor Patterson, Ed Kwak, Doug Neuman

Kwak was the Alumni Guest Speaker on Oct. 22, following a grand tradition that includes **Fred Thornley**, **John Goodlad**, **Jared Frandle**, **Andrei Iancu** and **Skip Keyzers**. **Doug Neuman** (Brentwood) joined him at the house.

Kwak is a brother via Eastern Kentucky and Univ. of Kentucky and met several Upsilon brothers like **Dave Canty** and **Brian Letourneau** at convocations. They convinced him to come to UCLA for graduate school.

"UCLA is the Wake Forest of the West. Everyone talks about the houses in the south, but we have

the best brotherhood. Other fraternities have told me that," Kwak said.

Kwak works as a producer for various "reality" and game shows, including "Survivor," "The Amazing Race," "The Real World" and "Super Sweet 16". He must work with slackers and jerks, both the on-screen participants/actors and the behind-the-screen staff and especially the ΣAEs (Same A\$\$#!&\$ Everywhere).

"All the tools and buttheads you see on TV, I've probably sat down and worked with them," he said.

But Kwak's fraternity experience taught how to build a repore, find compatriots you can trust, and work together for the team to build something bigger than the individuals. That lesson is not learned during regular classwork.

"I'm fortunate to do what I love, I attribute that to what I did at Sigma Pi," Kwak said. "When I went to college, I wanted to go drink beer, meet chicks and have someone doing my homework. I learned so many things. When I was finally initiated, it felt like I had climbed Mt. Everest. Once you conquer pledging, you can do anything in work."

The Natural Lite in the can at the house brought back fond memories for Kwak, who began college after graduating "37th of 37" in his high school class, despite being the only Asian in Kentucky. At EKU, he was rush chair for two years, and led a charge to revive the chapter after receiving notice that their charter was at risk for owing debt to National. Kwak cleared out the deadwood and built the chapter from 21 to 60 brothers, winning a "Most Improved Chapter" award at Convocation.

"Sigma Pi will be with you the rest of your life – the girlfriend you meet in school, your first job may be from alumni, maybe a brother can get you tickets to the Final Four," Kwak said. "Those connections stay with you the rest of your life."

Alumni updates: Sigma Pi World Series

FULLERTON - Thank you for the brothers who defender the honor of Upsilon in May at the Sigma Pi World Series softball tournament: **Nick North**, **Phil Farias**, **Mike Mermelejo**, **Mark Goldsmith**, **Drew Mercado**, **Dan "Pudge" Romero**, **Dave Canty**, **Josh Brooks**, **Kevin Rodriguez**, **Omar Vallejo** and **Andrew Fisher**.

▲ **Richard Frank** is the assistant coach his daughter Eryn's youth soccer team, the "Bruisers," in Ventura County. She is an all-star defender. "Coach Franko" recently broke his wrist trying to kick a ball in practice (*don't ask me how!*). Rich is also the acclaimed author of the Bruin Report, a recap of UCLA football and AYSO soccer during the Fall.