



The Pioneer

Vol. 97, No. 2

Sigma Pi - Upsilon (UCLA)

Jul. 2020

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), Ralph Neis (#348)



SIGMA PI - Y
612 LANDFAIR AV
FEB. 24, 1923
BALL&CHAIN 1919

The Pioneer

About four years ago, a small and unassuming volume made its appearance within the halls of Upsilon. It aroused interest within the Chapter. It awakened and bound even more tightly the bonds between active members and alumni. It quickened the life blood of the fraternity, and brought still closer the men of Sigma Pi. It began a dream of a greater fraternity at Westwood, and today, when its footprints are nearly lost in the sands of time, its effect is still felt... it was a Pioneer.

Since that time, other volumes have made their bow, each one finer and more pretentious than the last, and each one a Pioneer, bringing with it its measurement of accomplishment. If this volume can, with pride, take its place by the side of its predecessors, then we may consider that it has achieved its goal.

To one who has served his fraternity faithfully and well, to one who exemplifies the spirit of fraternalism which is the heritage of Sigma Pi, this book is respectfully dedicated.

-- Forward and dedication,
Upsilon Pioneer, June 1928



Chef Ruben Zuniga Chef, Amigo, Papa, Mama y Gran Hermano

Our beloved long-time chef and friend, Ruben Zuniga, died on Jul. 15 of heart failure at his family home in Los Angeles at age 67.

Ruben was born the second of nine siblings on Nov. 1, 1953, in the southern Mexican state of Jalisco. His family moved to Los Angeles in Ruben's youth, and his father worked in various stores.

Ruben met his future wife, Luz Maria, at age 21 through friends, and they married within a year. They were together for almost 50 years.

Ruben's daughter, Julia, said he was the "big hermano" of the family. When a relative needed advice or money, they came to Ruben, who served as an alcalde or godfather to the Zuniga clan. He also "had" two wives, including a sister whom he watched over.

Ruben instilled the important of hard work in his family, as he climbed the ladder of success and found his part of the American dream. When Ruben applied for a chef's job at the Velvet Turtle in Westwood, he told his son Ruben Jr. to dress well and come along, so he could get a job there, too.

Aside from his cooking and catering, Ruben invested in apartments buildings, and he began to explore the world, taking cruises with his wife and family.

Ruben also owned a second home in Ensenada and enjoyed visiting there frequently.

Upsilon's relationship with Ruben began in 1990 when Rob Ward and Mike Liskey worked at the Breadstix market in Westwood. Old chef Jerry Hughen had left, and the house quickly needed a replacement. After only one scrumptious Monday night dinner, the chapter voted by acclamation to hire him full time!

"So sad to hear this," Matt Malone said. "He was such a great, funny, caring man. He filled our bellies with the best food and our hearts with laughter. RIP Ruben." **Continued on P.2 →**



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Save the Date: **Founders Day** **Feb. 20, 2021**

Founders Day will be on Sat., Feb. 20, 2021 (as always, it's the Saturday night AFTER Presidents Day), pending Covid precautions, etc.

Clear your calendar now, and don't get married or have kids' birthdays on this date, otherwise your wife will make you miss Founders Day every year.

See the upcoming Winter Pioneer for more information, or call Jay at (310) 979-9255 or Ross_Jay@Hotmail.com.

Upsilon Alumni **Assn.: 2020**

Annual Meeting

Executive Director Pablo Rivas chaired the UAA annual meeting on Feb. 20, 2021, at 5:00 pm at 612 Landfair Ave. in Los Angeles.

All actions of the past year were ratification by the quorum of members, and the following officers on the ballot were elected: Executive Director and Secretary Pablo Rivas, President Jay Ross, Treasurer and Asst. Secretary Scott Scheffler, Jake Loughridge, and Brad Sharp.

Chef Ruben continued: Over the next 20 years, Ruben feted brothers with great huevos rancheros at breakfast, with extra "bonga bonga," as Andrew Mercado remembers (which more easily persuaded Little Sisters to stay over after Thursday night parties), truly authentic burrito bars, and chicken cordon bleu for dinner.

Ruben also cooked for alumni tailgaters during the 1990s and 2000s and for a reunion of the 1906s alumni, which allowed alumni to stay in touch with their cook and friend. He catered numerous Founders Days, piling up huge plates of meat and fish, which introduced him to older alumni. In 2010, Herman Quispe and Jason Won prepared dinner instead, so Ruben could be feted and eat for once with the brothers.

"I'm really bummed to hear this," Scott Mosier said. "He was a key part of so many good memories from the house. I'll miss those hangover chocolate chip pancakes and watching him feed Chicken Cordon Bleu to people that didn't eat pork"

Ruben and his daughter Julia returned to Upsilon Manor for February's 97th Founders Day, which turned out to be his last visit to the house.

"What a sad piece of news," Brad Reichard said. "People Don't realize how much these men contribute to the Upsilon brotherhood - I never met him, but he played a role in shaping the experiences of so many men, undoubtedly."

At the family's memorial service in August, Past Sage Stu Johnson, Abel Somilleda and Jason Kelley, Esq. attended.

"Here's to you, Ruben... Thank you for the many years of service, the memories, and the laughter," Princeton Kim said. "Rest in peace, my friend."

John Brott was in the house in the 1960s prior to Ruben. He said, "I was sorry to learn of Chef Ruben's passing. It put me to mind of my days as a hasher (free room and board!) in the kitchen of the indomitable Pearl Winter -- I still think of her many great lines of well-meant criticism and direction to get us to do our jobs! She was one in a million!"

"This is so sad," Ed Kwak said. "Ruben was the greatest guy and always made you laugh."

"Sad news! He was a great guy," Joe Cruz said. "Beyond the cooking, I remember him helping us rent Winnebagos for our spring break trips to Mexico and Cal games. He definitely facilitated the debauchery! RIP Ruben!"





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Upsilon website

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

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

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

Problems? Herman at Herman.Quispe@Gmail.com

Executive Council

Congratulations to Sage Shea Dennis and the new Executive Council for 2019-2020, who succeed Past Sage Charles Bickel.

New officers:
Ciaran O'Neill, 1st Counselor
Julian Sazo, 2nd Counselor.
John Goh, 3rd Counselor.
Omer Khan, 4th Counselor.
Derek Hight, Herald.



Sage Shea Dennis

Welcome Grand Sage Joe ! 97th Founders Day and UAA Annual Meeting

WESTWOOD – Grand Sage Joseph Palazzolo joined Upsilon for the 97th Founders Day on Feb. 22, one of several important VIPs to grace Upsilon Manor.

Ruben Zuniga also attended with his daughter Julia in what turned out to be his final visit with the chapter. The house chef for 20 years, Ruben died this past summer, still beloved by generations of well-fed Upsilon brothers.

1950s alumnus Doug Keppler journeyed from Northern California for his 12th visit in 13 years, one of our most loyal brothers! Other roadtrippers included Alfred Hernandez from Houston and Tim Howell from Denver.

Sage Shea Dennis led the Opening Ritual, and 1st

Counselor Luca Abatemarco and Herald Derek Hight led the Memorial Ritual for brothers who have passed to the Adytum on High: Frank Davis, Alonzo

Minjares, Fred Jones and past California Assemblyman Charles Bader.

Upsilon Alumni honored the chapter with a record 13 scholarships, include the new Princeton Kim, Esq. Service Scholarships, which was presented to Tiam Shamloo.

Other winners: Upsilon Perpetual: 1st place - Herald Daniel Dobrin. 2nd place - Adam Griffin. 3rd place - 1st Counselor Luca Abatemarco.

Adrian Edwards Award: 2nd Counselor Julian Sazo.

Gary Gross Campus/Community Service Award: Herald Derek Hight.

Robert Webster and Tim Howell Academics Award: Herald Daniel Dobrin.

Charles Osterlund Athletics Award: Daniel Kohanzad.

William Meyer (Most Outstanding Brother) Award: Sage Charles Bickel (2nd year in a row).

Julian D'Avanzo (Spirit of Sigma Pi) Award: Sage Shea Dennis.

Garni Arakelian Award: Noah Crousore.

Pledge Scholarships: Sahil Kotecha, Ivan Tadeja, Cheney Sung, Thomas Wilson, Ivan Parcero, Ciaran O'Neill.





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Adam Treiger
ZBT Man of the Year

Dr. Shoji (continued):

Emergency Department at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance for 21 years, President of the Emergency Department Physicians at Little Company of Mary Hospital and the previous managing partner of the Emergency Department Physicians at Marina Del Rey Hospital and Memorial Hospital of Gardena. He has been active on several hospital committees including the Medical Executive Committees of Marina Del Rey Hospital and Little Company of Mary Hospital and many community organizations. Dr. Shoji is also an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine and Nursing at the Geffen UCLA School of Medicine and an educator of medical and nursing students.

97th Founders Day



The 6 Amigos: Mike Smith, Dave Finkel, Paul Raber, Kaveh Kamfar, Paul Dinh, Doug Glantz
Garni Arakelian Award winner Noah Crousore with Arman Matevosyan, Evan Hou & Garni's sister Astineh

Alumni Update: Dr. Kent Shoji Wins Best of Los Angeles Award - Best Urgent Care

Dr. Kent Shoji, CEO of Playa Vista Medical Center, was honored with Best of Los Angeles Award for "Best Urgent Care - 2020."

With 40 years of emergency medicine clinical experience, Dr. Shoji brings several of his medical colleagues to service the Playa Vista Medical Center and its surrounding community to offer an expedient alternative access to quality medical care.

Born in Southern California and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Dr. Shoji attended UCLA for undergraduate and the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed his internship and residency at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, Chief Residency and Fellowship in Rheumatology at St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach and Harbor/UCLA Medical Center and was full time faculty in Internal Medicine, Rheumatology and Emergency Medicine at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center.

Dr. Shoji established one of the first Emergency Residency Programs in the U.S. in 1976 and was its first Residency Director. He became the Associate Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine before leaving for private practice as an Emergency Physician at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance and St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach in 1979. Dr. Shoji is board certified in Internal Medicine, Rheumatology and Emergency Medicine, and serves as a Senior Oral Board Examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine and has been active in many local, state and national medical organizations. Dr. Shoji was the Chairman of Emergency Medicine and Medical Director of the





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Thank you to our donors

In our first year of the "Y100" campaign, alumni and friends have donated \$43,000 and pledged \$20,000 more toward our goal of \$100,000 by 2023.

\$5,000

Anonymous
Princeton Kim, Esq.
PS Brian Letourneau
Dr. Kent Shoji

\$2,000

Dan Romero, CFP
Steven Schechter, CPA
Ralph Rea

\$1,500

Matthew Sumrow, Esq.

\$1,000+

Past Sage Larry Coval
Larry Crawshaw
Past Sage David Finkel
Ms. Lani Gross
** in honor of*
Gary Gross, Esq.
James Murphy
Liron Nelik
Capt. Louis Ravetti
Ralph Rea
Steven Jay Riggs
Josh Trifunovic

\$500

James Lipow
Lt. Fred Krebs, USN
David DeLuce
Adam Treiger, Esq.
Rob Ward, Esq.

Upsilon 100 Centennial Campaign (1923-2023)

Alumni have donated \$43,000 as part of our "Upsilon 100 Campaign, with the goal of raising \$100,000 for our Educational Scholarship Fund by 2023.

Those donations will celebrate 100 years of brotherhood just four years from now.

Our Joseph Marsalek Upsilon Chapter Educational Foundation has \$311,000, and generous alumni awarded 11 scholarships at last year's Founders Day. We have invested your donations prudently to increase the endowment by \$200,000 – those are big returns!



As our beloved friend Joe Marsalek once said, Donate now and stay off the roof!

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 from you the alumni. We hope that 100 alumni will each donate \$1,000 by 2023, so this notice gives you three years to save that money.

Alumni generosity has been amazing in recent years. Our endowment had only \$60,000 just 13 years ago, and that amount was increased greatly by Ray Carlisle's bequest of \$50,000. Since then, the endowment has increased another \$130,000

because of generous alumni.

Donations to the Upsilon-Marsalek Fund are tax-deductible, and donors are recognized in the Pioneer and The Emerald. All donations to the Upsilon-Marsalek Fund are held in a segregated account for the exclusive benefit of our chapter.

Our National fraternity honors donors at the following levels of lifetime giving: Tau Phi Delta Society (\$50,000), Old Vincennes Society (\$25,000), Shadowwood Society (\$10,000) and Emerald Society (\$5,000).

Ray Carlisle, a 1930s alumnus, is our first Tau Phi Delta Society brother.

Carl Moroney, Past Sage David Finkel and Housing Board President Matt Sumrow advance to the Shaddowwood Society, joining William Meyer (Adytum on High).

Dr. Kent Shoji joined the Emerald Society members, which include Mark Helmick, Steven Schechter, Past Sage Brian Letourneau, Rob Webster, Tim Howell, Claude "Skip" Keyzers, Lt. Everett Rea (Adytum on High), Richard "Craig" Owens, Lt. Robert Rule, Joseph Marsalek (Adytum on High), Princeton Kim, Esq., and an anonymous donor.





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Thank you to our donors

\$400

Willard Altman, CPA

\$350

PS Bruce Peterson

\$300

Judge Franz Miller

Jay Ross

\$250

Doug Glantz

Mack McGonagill

Paul Raber

Judge John Rhode

Scott Smith

\$200

Fred Feldman

Chris Hoag

Kaveh Kamfar

\$100

Chase Hay

Andrew Houck

Sam Kokin

Alexander Sinai

Matt Vrabie

\$50

Sebastian Perkinson

Fred Campbell-Craven



1st Counselor Report

The brothers at Sigma Pi Upsilon have taken the covid-19 pandemic in stride as they are set up for another great year. We are on track to pledge another strong class for the fall, have many brothers moving back into the house in the Winter, and are reconnecting with brothers from all over the world virtually. We are all looking forward to the covid-19 situation going back to normal so that we can continue to schedule great social events, but in the meantime, the brothers are taking advantage of the opportunity to excel professionally.

Just to name a few of the successes in the past few months:

Ciaran O'Neill started an internship at an investment bank, Park Lane.

Adam Griffin received a full-time return offer at Amazon

Charlie Bickel started an internship at Shanghai Yuanxin Investment Management Company

Cheney Sung started an internship at an investment banking startup, MadeMarket

Tom Wilson started a Private Wealth Management internship at UBS

- Ciaran O'Neill, 1st Counselor





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Veterans (continued):

"They chose to protect and service in the military, in the profession of arms in the service that is most challenging.

The man who stands with weapons at the ready prepared to lead men and ready to die to defend others, I say, is very special person.

These men lead by example which is the ultimate purpose of our Sigma pi fraternity and our Sigma Pi men.

"Our nation needs great man people like this, and Sigma Pi is like a factory, at the forefront of supplying these great Americans.

It has been said that the greatest weapon is an educated mind.

I would add that the best education is life itself.

And Sigma Pi provides that us that access to that life.

"As part of Sigma Pi brotherhood, we learn respect, dignity, honor, duty, service, and patriotism.

We learn leadership and personal responsibility.

These attributes, if adhered to, will guarantee success.

The future will ensure that more great men will emerge from the Sigma Pi enclave."

Sigma Pi Veterans Memorial



The new Veterans Memorial was unveiled at the old Sigma Pi headquarters at the Historic Mitchell House in Lebanon, Tenn. In 2015.

The Memorial was made possible by the donations of alumni who are acknowledged as "THE 50." Four cadets were the founding brothers of Tau Phi Delta at Vincennes in the late 1890s. William Raper Kennedy retired as a U.S. Army colonel after service in the Spanish-American War.

Major General James Livingston, an Auburn Univ. (ΑΔ) fraternity brother, received the Medal of Honor in 1970 for gallantry in service during the Vietnam War. His remarks centered on patriotism, leadership and professional responsibility, and how our fraternity teaches teaches all of them.

"Always be proper, lead by example and be above reproach in your professionalism and private lives, as all will be examined. The image we project must be one of proper character, honesty, hard work, ethics and a solid moral compass," Livingston said.

"I look at the fraternity in a similar way as I do to the U.S. Marine Corps. It is a brotherhood of like-minded men who see the necessity of being leaders. Leadership has many parts, not the least of part is a proper example -- as this fraternity does -- to others and in inspiring others."

Sigma Pi brothers served in all wars, up to and including the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. One of the early deaths in the Iraq War was Marine Capt. Rand Beauprey, a helicopter pilot from Illinois Wesleyan Univ. who was killed in 2003.

"These are just a few examples of Sigma Pi men who live by the creed of God, country and service," Livingston said. "Some of these men choose the military as their career, and others are drafted or enlisted. But they all willingly chose to serve their nation, and chose to serve their people. They desired to fight for freedom that all Americans enjoy, and they did so with the highest of honors.

(← continued in left column)



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Remembrances:

Charles Bader, Fred Jones and the 1950s

From William Heeres:

Chuck Bader was a year behind me in school.

Fred Jones was a very nice brother to have around and very friendly.

As a Freshman in 1957, I was extremely young and not comfortable at the fraternity and very homesick. Ken Riding was my big brother.

I remember Chuck McCreary was really the prototypical Joe College, and he hotboxed me and convinced me to pledge.

As I began my Sophomore year, I was flabbergasted when this senior, Larry Ballard invited me to be his roommate. I never knew why, but I think he saw a kid who needed some help and decided to take me under his wing.

Funny how life works out, Larry ended up as you know as an attorney in Orange County and was my brother's attorney for many years.

So when Larry graduated mid-term in 1958, that became my room, and I invited Tom Miller to room with me for what turned out to be my

Adytum on High: Ben Rogers



Ben Rogers #552 (5/7/1935-9/26/2019): Brother Rogers, the Bruins center on Coach John Wooden's basketball teams in the late 1950s and long-time educator in Orange County, passed to the Adytum on High on Sept. 26, 2019, in Anaheim Hills.

Rogers was born in Ft. Worth, Tex., and at Downey H.S. was the senior president and an all-CIF center. While visiting UCLA for a high school basketball camp, Bruins trainer Elvin "Ducky" Drake started slyly recruiting him and helped to rehabilitate a knee injury.

Rogers met his future wife, the former Miss Marylou Hawkey, and the two married during his sophomore year in 1956. Drake encouraged the marriage, which would then allow Rogers to fully concentrate on basketball.

After graduation in 1958, Rogers promoted the scholarship of our Creed, and earned Masters Degrees in education for Geography and Social Studies.

He taught at Troy H.S. in Fullerton and developed a social studies curriculum that is still in use. He also supervised and mentored student teachers for 50 years.

Some of his students nicknamed him the Jolly Green Giant, because of his jovial demeanor, constant smiles and interesting puns.

Rogers also served as a union representative, and honored educators for their decades of service by organizing the retired teachers' annual brunch for 10 years.

The two lived a renaissance life that included a love of all kinds of genres of music, ballroom dancing, chess, antiques and old clocks, theatre and wine parties. They also were docents at the Victorian Society's Heritage House and Fullerton Arboretum.

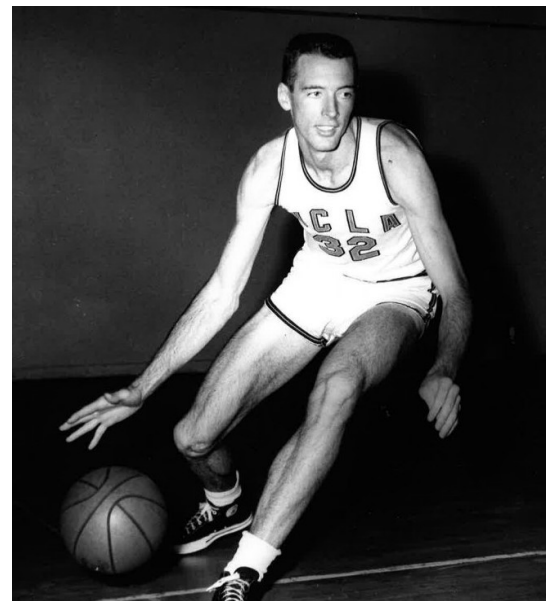
They loved to travel, which included a Fulbright Teachers exchange, and teaching in Sweden and on a Native American reservation. Their travels recently took them to Italy after previous trips to eastern, central and western Europe. Their wine-tasting led to vineyard discoveries in places as diverse as France, Illinois, and Kentucky, along with nearby Temecula.

The Rogers were lifelong Bruins and trekked to Pauley Pavillion for games. They remained close to Coach Wooden and his wife, Nell, and often celebrated birthdays together.

Before there were Kareem and Walton, there was Upsilon's Rogers, the center for the Bruins' basketball team in the late 1950s. At Downey H.S., he dreamed of playing in the same type of fast-paced high-post offense and tough defense.

Rogers was the Bruins' top scorer, rebounder and free-throw shooter as a senior in 1958, and he played alongside stars Willie Naulls and Rafer Johnson. UCLA games were in Men's Gym on campus, which would be stuffed with 3,000 fans,

(continued on P. 7 →)





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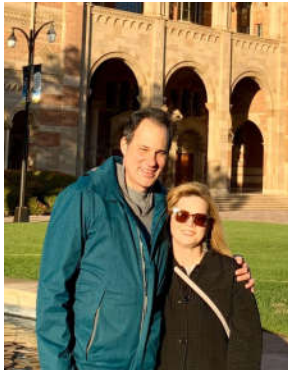
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final semester at UCLA as **Alumni Updates**



Hideki Komine with son at the racetrack



Josh Meisel on campus with his wife at Royce Hall



Nick North is a new papa with daughter Adalyn and

Ben Rogers (continued): or at the Pan Pacific Auditorium, where wooden boards were placed over an ice rink.

The Bruins were starting to emerge in the late 1950s, and in 1957, a good season was stopped in the NCAA playoffs by Univ. of San Francisco with Bill Russell and K.C. Jones and faced a tough rival in Cal under Pete Newell.

Rogers remembered the lessons that John Wooden, UCLA's forever coach, and his sidekick Elvin Drake (another Upsilon alumnus), taught about athletics and life. Wooden was the type of coach who would give constructive criticism whenever necessary, but let the player know that he cared about him and knew he could improve. Wooden's practices were quick and focused, organized at the same fast pace of an actual game.

Drake was the track and field coach and trainer for the basketball team and helped with the mental aspect of the game. His talks emphasized teamwork, such as "A few days of hard work and a lifetime to remember" and "Put your hand in a bucket of water and take it out, and see how much you'll be missed."

The legends of lessons on the proper way to put on socks and tie shoes are true, and Rogers' son even learned them years later at Wooden's youth camps.

When a player needed a timeout for lollygagging during practice, Wooden would send him off the court with orders to "Go in the corner and quicken yourself." Rogers and the players weren't sure what it meant, but he and his wife used the phrase fondly in later years when amends need to be made.

▲ Rogers' wife Marylou can be reached at (714) 637-6037, and he is also survived by his two children, Jeni and Vince, and two grandchildren.

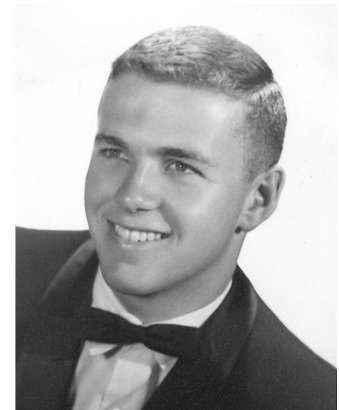


Remembrances: Bader, Jones 1950s

1950s continued: I transferred to USC and entered Pharmacy School.

Tom and I and our wives hung out a little bit around that time. Bob Schrader and I graduated from Riverside Poly together in the spring of 1957m and we came to UCLA together also along with his wife Sandy (who was Sandy Davis at that time).

My first year at USC I would drive back across town using Olympic Blvd. for Monday night dinner. There were a lot of nice guys in the house.



Upsilon Alumni Association
c/o Jay Ross
2307 S. Amherst Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90064-1103

Annual Dues are Due!

Please help the Alumni Association by paying Annual Dues for 2020. Donations fund scholarships for actives (Meyer and D'Avanzo scholarships) and renovate the house.

Payment is on an 'ability-to-contribute' basis. We do a lot – please support the brotherhood!

Purchases include new robes for the Executive Council, a Brooks Brothers tie for the outgoing Sage, framing photos of WWII veteran brothers, and framing photos of varsity athletes.

Emerald level: \$100.00.

Gold level: \$50.00-Graduates
before 2020.

Lavender level: \$35.00-Graduates
after 2020.

▲ Issue checks to "Upsilon Alumni
Association"

▲ Mail to Scott Scheffler, Treasurer:
P.O. Box 6201
Buena Park, CA 90622

* PayPal: Alumni@SigmaPiBruins.com

* Via website: www.SigmaPiBruins.com



Los Tres Cicladores: Scott Good, Todd TQ Jefferson and Past Sage Jeff Bara at Neptune's Net in Ventura, after a day riding their hogs up Pacific Coast Highway.