

Theta Zeta

a publication of
the Theta Zeta Chapter
of Delta Kappa Epsilon

at The University of California, Berkeley



Spring 2006

Graduate Report

Brothers,

Our hope is to keep you all actively involved and informed. We hope these newsletters will keep you abreast of the activities, active members, and happenings at the chapter. We are also further developing our web page (www.caldke.org) to include graduate events and contact information. Please visit these sites and update your information. We are hoping to develop e-mail contacts and mailings and have the web page serve as the central source for information regarding the chapter.

Our challenge now is to sustain the effort. Operationally, we have installed systems that will allow the house to be maintained in good order. We are on solid footing toward our goals of operating the house debt free with a solid capital base to fund future maintenance and structural issues. That is the easy part; the challenge is in providing the consistent leadership in a few key areas of the chapter.

The key now is to get more of us involved in key areas that make a tremendous difference in the chapter's future. One of our goals is to have two formal dinners a semester where we have a few graduates come and talk about their DKE experiences as well as their careers. The actives really look forward to getting to know more of the alumni.

We have a great Fall pledge class and hopefully you will have a chance to meet some of these fine men. Of course, our Fall banquet during football season is a good event and hopefully will be well attended. None of these activities are huge time commitments, but they all make a big difference in keeping the chapter one of the top houses on campus. So help us build a great foundation to ensure that we have a great chapter for years to come.

Fraternally,
Alumni President Jon Lotter, '91
jlotter@appiancapital.com
415-464-9469

Undergrad Report

Greetings from 2302 Piedmont. This last year has been a trying one for the Greek system at Cal. Three houses have been kicked off campus, including ATO, and two more are likely to follow. Despite the moratorium on alcohol and the newer, more restrictive social code, ΔKE has managed to stay in the university's good graces. We are now one of the few houses not on social probation of some kind.

Our current standing on campus gives us a great opportunity to increase our presence in the community. With this in mind, we are very excited for the return of the annual Parking Lot Party on April 14th. In years past it has been the undisputed event of the year; this year will be no exception.

Naturally, our efforts to expand into the larger community go beyond partying. In addition to the usual haunted house for underprivileged children, last semester we participated in the wildly successful Tsunami relief effort and were lauded by the university

for our efforts in the All-Greek campus clean-up. This semester several brothers are planning a spring-break trip to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity rebuilding the storm damaged areas.

This spring brings two important changes to the house Executive Committee. We've added the position of Alumni Chairman. We look forward to greatly expanding relations with our alumni chapter and re-connecting with alumni outside the immediate area. Secondly, we've also expanded the responsibilities of the Rush Chairmen to include scouting out potential rushees during the semester and keeping up with those who have expressed interest.

This year's rush efforts have been very successful. We're pleased to be pledging five jolly, good fellows this spring: Mike McCoy is a junior transfer from Marin, majoring in Political Science and History. Courtland Alevs is a junior transfer from Turlock, majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Kevin Turner is a junior transfer from Mountain View, majoring in Integrat-

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The Theta Zeta is a publication of the Theta Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Please direct all inquires to:

Fraternity Management
Group
2660 N. First Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Chapter Officers:

President -

Gordon Wilson '06

Vice President -

Geoff Masterson '07

Treasurer -

Brian McLucas '08

Secretary -

Rob Kim '07

Alumni Chair -

Wayne Sackett '06

Recruitment Chair -

Ryan LeDoux '08

Theta Zeta House Corporation:

President -

Jon Lotter '91

jlotter@appiancapital.com

415-464-9469

Treasurer -

Terrence Jones '90

tjones@btcommercial.com

415-505-6850

Alumni Chair -

Bob Tuller '56

btuller@btcommercial.com

415-677-0444

Director -

Gordon Bellis '87

gbellis1@earthlink.net

415-835-3834

Undergrad

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ed Biology. Deep Bhat is a sophomore from Canoga Park, majoring in Economics. Ben Wu is a sophomore from Dunsmuir, majoring in Business. They will join the fall actives, two returning live-outs, and the 21 live-in brothers not graduating to create quite a packed house of 30 for the upcoming Fall.

Our present accomplishments and large, enthusiastic membership put us in a great position to carry Theta Zeta forward in strength.

Friends From The Heart Forever,
Gordon Wilson '06
gwilson@berkeley.edu
510-393-9057

Hundreds attend Cal vs. USC Luncheon

While the actual game may have left much to be desired, the Cal vs. USC luncheon this semester was a resounding success. With hundreds in attendance, the Deke lawn was once again graced by the Spirit of '29 Dixieland Jazz Band, who continue to please young and old alike with their musical stylings. A wonderful brunch of lasagna, salad, and sandwiches (and of course an open bar) was served before the 12:30 kickoff time. Alumni of all ages turned out for the event, many with wives and young future Deke's (we hope) in tow.

The tips the pledges received for bartending are much appreciated, and will go towards this semesters pledge project, wooden benches mounted in the outside barbeque area. Special thanks to all the alumni, whether in attendance or not, who's generous monetary contribution made the memorable day possible.

2006 Dues Notice

Theta Zeta continues to excel in academics, campus involvement and service, but we know there is room for improvement. That is why we are asking for your financial support.

Remember your days at the University of California, Berkeley, when you joined Theta Zeta Chapter - the leadership, organizational and social skills you developed, and lifetime friendships you made.

Our goal is to help the undergraduate chapter achieve and maintain a level of excellence. To do this, we need to raise at least \$10,000 annually to meet the expenses associated with invitations, newsletters, our website, and events. We also need to substantially decrease our Housing Corporation debt to manageable levels, while increasing funds to support educational and scholarship programs.

Annual dues remain at \$75.00, but fortunately the great majority give more. We thank you for your loyal and continued support.



Senior Theta-Zeta Biographies

Fall 2005 Graduates:

Daniel Dardon

ddardon@berkeley.edu

Daniel Dardon began his career at Cal as an undeclared student in the College of Letters and Science. Always interested in mathematics and science, transferred to the College of Engineering where he is graduating with a Bachelor's in Science in Mechanical Engineering. As a freshman, Dardon participated in the California Marching Band where he played with the first trumpet section for the 2001-2002 Football season. Though music had always been a part of his life, this was the first marching band he'd participated in since the sixth grade. Daniel decided to leave the marching band and participate in the University Wind Ensemble his sophomore year. He also was convinced by fellow brothers of DKE to join the California Men's Lacrosse team. Though he had never played before, he was part of the starting line up at the end of his third and final season.

Dardon leaves the University of California with bittersweet emotions, as he will miss the everyday experiences of the DKE house that helped shape him; though is eager to use his education to become a productive part of society. Immediately following graduation, Dardon is giving back to the community through coaching. He was recently hired as a new coach for the Terra Linda High School wrestling team, his alma mater. Additionally, he will be working in a field of his interest by helping manage a Napa Auto Parts store, owned and operated by his father and mother. This will allow some time to research the automotive and aerospace engineering fields in hopes of starting a career designing automobiles or aircraft.

Adrian Hernandez

Adrianh@berkeley.edu

Adrian will be graduating in December 2005 with honors in mechanical engineering. His accomplishments include being a member of PTS honor society, co-founding Vertex-engineering entrepreneurship club, research in robotic surgery and biomedical devices, and being awarded scholarships from NASA, Boeing and JPL.

Despite extensive accomplishments in engineering, Adrian is currently pursuing a career in real estate and finance. He hopes to work in a firm for a few years where he can grow professionally. He then plans to pursue an MBA degree with an emphasis in

real estate and entrepreneurship. Adrian's ultimate goal is to one day start a company with all of the great friends that he made at Deke and grow it into a fortune 500 company. After this, he wants to buy the Piedmont Gardens apartment building and knock it down to make a parking structure for the Deke house.

Spring Graduates:

John Riley

jariley@berkeley.edu

John is an alumnus of Huron High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is graduating with a Bachelors of Arts in Architecture with a Minor in City and Regional Planning. Formerly Vice President, House Manager and Brewmeister at Theta Zeta, he spent two years as a member of the Cal Ice Hockey Team, culminating in a division championship. He has volunteered at Willard Middle School and participated in the Sports for Kids program at Rosa Parks Elementary. In his free time, John focuses on sports, music, photography and art. After graduation, John hopes to work in architecture, urban planning, construction or design.

Tim Kline

timkline@berkeley.edu

Tim Kline is from the San Diego area, where he graduated from Grossmont High in 2002 and earned his Eagle Scout Award from Troop 950. At Berkeley, he is graduating this summer with a degree in Architecture, and will finish up a minor in Spanish the following fall. During the course of his time in DKE, he has been the Spring '04 Vice President, writing a lion trophy application that won Theta Zeta chapter the 1st place award for most improved academics and 3rd place award for alumni relations. The following fall he served as house President during the transition to S&T Management. Tim has also served on IFC Judiciary Committee for the 2004 academic year

After graduation, he plans on earning his real estate broker's and contractor's licenses. With these credentials he will be able to work in the in real estate business where he can use his architectural education toward a design-build concept. After studying abroad in South America last spring, the continent's economic and cultural development has sparked his interest, and he hopes to return one day to work with these foreign markets and finish his goal of becoming fluent in Spanish.

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Delta Kappa Epsilon
Theta Zeta Chapter
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2660 N. First Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719

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"Senior Theta-Zeta Biographies" continued

Wayne Sackett

wsackett@berkeley.edu

Wayne pledged Deke his first semester at Cal, which was one of the best decisions he made coming to college. In his time at DKE, he has served as Social Chair, Rush Chair, Kitchen Manager, and the current Alumni Chair (so check your E-mail boxes for more info coming up). He also served two long years on the Interfraternity Council as the Philanthropy Chair and Treasurer. Wayne feels that he has met some of the greatest guys in this house and the experiences he's had will stick with him for a long time to come. Wayne will graduate in May with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and a Minor in Business. He will begin work after a few months of travel as an Associate Process Engineer at the Valero refinery in Benicia, CA. However, his girlfriend is in Manhattan right now, so he would like to pursue any opportunities that may open in the NY Metro area.

Greg Backstrom

geb@berkeley.edu.

Gregory Backstrom will be graduating in May with a

Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has focused his coursework on mechatronics systems, from programming to machine design. He has completed research projects in the areas of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), surveillance path planning and ballistics testing. He has also completed several class projects utilizing PID feedback control and planar machinery design. Gregory is currently seeking a position in the areas of mechatronics, automation, or robotics in the Bay Area or southern California.

Jeffrey Nakao

jnakao@berkeley.edu

Jeff will be graduating with a degree in economics in the spring of 2006. He has enjoyed his time here at DKE and will miss it immensely. He has made many friends with whom he shares a common bond. Jeff will miss playing intramural softball with the guys because he sensed the greatest camaraderie during those times. He is currently applying to law schools (Loyola Marymount, Pepperdine, USC, University of San Diego) in hopes of enrolling in the Fall of 2006. The experience of being a DKE will be with Jeff forever wherever he goes.