Alumni, Brothers, and friends of Nu chapter,

I am happy to report that the momentum from the last two years is strong, and if anything, still growing. Much attention has been given to the aesthetic appearance of our fraternity, including its brand spanking new deck, sturdy North stairs, and possible new future front door. I must remind you though that the true renovation of the brotherhood has erupted from within, by its undergraduate members. I came here when there were five active Nu brothers and although they impressed upon me many great traditions and a feeling up belonging, I now feel that a true brotherhood is at hand. While the numbers game will always be part of being a member of a Fraternity, we have been fortunate enough to begin to shift some of our energies to further developing brotherhood. We continue to focus on revising our actions in accordance with Alpha Sigs five core values.

Philanthropy and academics have been a main focus. But everyone knows all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Let me reassure you there are no dull boys here at Nu chapter. This semester brothers participated in a number of well planned social events that continue to grow our notoriety on campus. One social event even brought back the waterfall from the infamous “Jungle” party right into Nu chapter’s dining room. It can be said that while Nu chapter steps in new directions and with large strides it is trying hard to remember where it came from and reunite with much of its rich history. My personal favorite event was the Alumni picnic where, from my perspective, unprecedented amounts of undergraduates and esteemed Alumnus got together and sincerely talked about everything from house history to present day politics. In my mind this was a true affirmation of the teachings of the mystic circle and what all of our brothers strive for through the sands of time. I am truly honored to lead the house at this time and look forward to enjoying my last two years as a college student.

In Phi,
Brian Thomas- President
Alpha Psi Class
Nu Chapter, UC-Berkeley

From the President

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Notissima

Nu Brothers

With a growing chapter in hand, we started the spring semester with the objective of finding a good amount of gentlemen that could become part of our brotherhood. Here at Nu Chapter, we feel that we were able to accomplish this goal. During Rush we met many guys, but at the end it is with great pleasure that we can call the following six individuals, brothers. The Beta Gamma class has proven to be one of the most united classes. Not only have they created a name for themselves, they have also shown that Nu Chapter is going to flourish with the best Cal has to offer.

The first of our new freshman brothers is Matthew Robert Strangeway. Matt is from Los Angeles, California and graduated from Palisades Charter High School. Matt is proud to be a Quapa. He is ¼ Irish, ¼ Czech, ¼ English, and ¼ Japanese. He holds true to his culture and represents the best he can of all four. He is currently a first year Mechani-
cal Engineer major. This gentleman brings many new qualities to this growing chapter. Besides entertaining the brotherhood with many unforgettable impressions, Matt is a great soccer player. This means a lot to the brotherhood since we plan on starting a team. He enjoys exhibiting his tricks with a soccer ball whenever he has the chance.

Our second freshman is Kevin Richard Sitek. Kevin is from Moorpark, California. He is a current graduate of Moorpark High School. Kevin is double majoring in Linguistics and Legal Studies. He knows Chinese, Spanish, and English. He represents a true scholar by being a participating in decathlons during his High School career. Now, he is part of the Peer Review Board, which means the dorm system depends on him to determine whether students should be punished (or not) for their behavior and illicit actions. Kevin shows commitment to the brotherhood, and cannot wait to live in the house.

Our third freshman is Hung Vinh Le. He is also from Moorpark, California. Along with Kevin, Hung graduated from Moorpark High School. Hung is a first year Public Health major. This enthusiastic brother expresses his care for his community by participating in many philanthropy events. Even though he is employed by the Jumpstart program and works at a Pre-school, he still has time to do what he enjoys. His great networking has helped brothers to think about ways to help the community. Hung’s charisma brings out the best in everyone. His energy is constantly flowing and he always has a beat in his head, to which he will occasionally dance.

In addition, we have Andrew Ikhyun Chang. Andrew is from San Ramon, California and the only initiated member (from the Beta Gamma class) that’s from the East Bay. He is a second year Architecture major. Although he has many responsibilities within his major and has to finish his projects in the architecture studio, Andrew is extremely committed to the chapter. Having Andrew with us means a lot to the chapter because we can always count on him to offer a helping hand. Andrew is true to his word and does not back down from his responsibilities.

One of our junior transfer students is Adam Tibor Balogh. Adam is from Hungary. He lived in Murrieta, California after moving from Ohio. He transferred from Riverside Community College in Riverside, California. Adam is a Comparative Literature major. Adam speaks Hungarian fluently and is taking advanced classes in German and Russian. With this knowledge, he aspires to become a professor teaching Eastern European and Germanic literature. Adam is a strong believer of obtaining an education. This gentleman is open-minded about everything and is able to carry mind blowing conversations. Adam likes to live on the fast lane and is now teaching another brother how to ride a motorcycle.

Last, but definitely not least, we have Esteban Miguel Gil. Esteban is from Pasadenca, California. As a second year Political Science major, Esteban shows a strong dedication to the many political issues in our society. Esteban had established a strong friendship with a few of the brothers prior to becoming part of the brotherhood. By joining the fraternity Esteban is helping brothers understand that struggle that people suffer all over the world. Esteban’s dedication in everything he does is truly inspiring to the brothers.

Alfonso Silva– Social Chair
Beta Beta Class

Spring Rush

Most actives were surprised to see such a full number of new brothers initiated this semester: six pledges. As one of them, Rush Week was a major factor in what drew me to accept my bid. Lead by Brother Jay Bessette’s uncanny sixth sense for organization, this semester’s Rush Week was a flurry of exciting events ranging from BBQ’s to bowling. Rush opened on Thursday the 24th of January with a BBQ. Brothers, potential pledges, and anyone else who wanted to come hang out spent time getting to know each other over hamburgers and hot dogs. After that, it was back inside the Old Gal for some Rockband on the Playstation 3.

On Friday, Rush was kicked up a notch by Brother Thomas’ tongue-explodingly good Carne Asada. On Saturday, it was off to Willard Park to chuck a frisbee around in a spirited game of Ultimate. Then it was time for the big Cancun party at Alpha Sig – a beach-themed dance party that turned out to be one of the biggest and most
well received that the house has ever seen. Sunday marked the beginning of the brothers’ selection from the pool of potential pledges. Seven students, who received personal invitations the previous day, accompanied the brothers to a Warriors game in Oakland, preceded by another scrumptious BBQ. Of course, the Warriors won . . . and so did the potential pledges, as bids were handed out after arriving back at the house. The fun rolled on into Monday with more Rockband and a bowling trip, during which potential pledges got to meet some of the esteemed Alumni of Alpha Sigma Phi and watch some of the less graceful brothers make fools of themselves. On Tuesday, brothers and potential pledges could drown their tears in mountains of pizza after losing their hard-earned money to Brother Lee at the Pizza and Poker Night. Finally, on Wednesday, the culmination of the Rush process — Invite Dinner — was upon us, as potential pledges racked their nerves over whether or not they would accept their bids. A well-organized and impassioned presentation by Brother Thomas must have solidified some otherwise confused minds, because, at the end of the night, the Old Gal had six new pledges ready and willing to enter her hollowed walls. Of course, the truckloads of sushi at the dinner probably helped a little. Spring ’08 Rush Week was a definite success and a testament to the hard work and passion that makes Alpha Sig worthy of the symbol of the undying phoenix.

Adam Balogh
Beta Gamma Class

Giving Back

Nu chapter has had another great semester in philanthropy this spring. Our first event was Read-Aloud Day on March 4th. On this day, several brothers went to a local elementary school in Oakland and read books to the kids in honor of Dr Seuss’s birthday, which was two days prior. Brothers read aloud several children’s books, including Huevos Verdes con Jamón (Green Eggs and Ham in Spanish), to a predominantly-Hispanic classroom of children. The brothers found this to be a great experience and we as a fraternity look forward to possibly working with these children in the future.

Nu chapter also attended the yearly Greek Clean-Up on April 11th, an annual event held by the Interfraternity Council to clean up the Greek community in preparation for Cal Day, to make frat row look more attractive. A large group of Alpha Sigs could be found that day picking up trash and beautifying Berkeley.

Our main philanthropy event this year will take place on May 3rd and 4th. All brothers are planning on attending the American Cancer Society event “Relay for Life” this weekend. Relay for Life is a 24 hour relay for cancer awareness that will take place on Edwards track on the UC campus. Brothers have been fundraising for the past month to bring donations to this event. We are getting very close to reaching our goal of $1000. On the weekend of the event, Alpha Sigs will stay at the track for a 24 hour period and make sure to have at least two brothers walking the track at all times. It should be a good bonding experience for brothers as well as a great philanthropic event for a worthwhile cause.

Carl Swanson— Treasurer and Philanthropy Chair
Beta Beta Class

Alumni, Brothers, and Pledges on the way to Oracle Arena in Oakland to watch the Warriors Game, during Rush.

“Rush Week was a definite success and a testament of the hard work and passion that makes Alpha Sig worthy of the symbol of the undying phoenix”
Building Brotherhood

One of the decisions that came with the enlargement of the house this year was reinstating a brotherhood chair and refocusing effort on specific brotherhood events. Throughout the semester brothers, new and old, and pledges mixed and bonded during lunches, dinners, and weekly movie and poker nights. At the end of the semester, right before finals crunch time, the brotherhood went off on a relaxing road trip to camp overnight on a Santa Cruz beach.

Weekly events this semester included Thursday night poker games, giving the brothers a chance to engage in some friendly competition and to vie for some laundry money- a scarce resource for college men. Wednesday night’s consisted of brothers gathering around our big screen TV in the main room to screen either classic movies or a marathon of HBO’s hit show Entourage. Brother Thomas Lee, currently the most senior member as well as resident cineophile introduced the guys to films such as Serpico, Gattaca, Michael Clayton, Heat, and 88 minutes. On the Wednesdays without movies, the guys bonded over the enviable lifestyle of the Entourage crew, following the exploits of four best friends navigating the Hollywood scene.

One of the most anticipated events of the semester was the overnight camping trip to Manresa State Beach in Santa Cruz. The 2-hour road trip provided ample time for conversation and bonding, but paled in comparison to the unforgettable time once the guys reached the beach. Setting up camp a mere 5 minutes away from the beach, the night consisted of BBQ up some good food, conversation by the campfire, and falling asleep under the stars to the soothing sound of crashing waves. It was a welcome respite from the hectic life back at campus, and probably the last time most of us had to truly relax before finals. In the morning we hit the beach for a half day of swimming and sports, running around and working off as much stress as possible far away from the Berkeley campus and the work we all eventually had to return to.

Sohaib Raihan– Brotherhood Chair
Beta Beta Class

Alumni Events

Alumni Picnic is an annual event that Nu chapter hosts every year. It is meant to be an afternoon of brotherhood, families, and fun oh lets not forget the food. This year the Brothers at Nu chapter hosted the Alumni Picnic at the Old Gal on the day of Cal’s Spring Scrimmage game. The Brothers of Nu chapter felt that with the bright, clear weather, and a chance to see a glimpse of Cal’s fall game, a brotherhood picnic was just what was needed. The Picnic began at noon with the grilling of succulent carne asada meat and diced monterey jack cheese placed on warm grilled corn tortillas, filled with salsa. To go along with these scrumptious tacos were hot grilled sausages in warm toasted buns and last but not least an assortment of fine beverages for our legal alumni. Once everyone got their fill of the food, the atmosphere turned into one of conversation and socializing. Conversations pertaining to memorable moments, current events, and good times, were all around you and one couldn’t help but admire the sight of brotherhood.

After a few brothers digested their food, they decided to start up a game of soccer in the new Underhill lot, which turned out to be a great game. For hours these activities went on and as the alumni and brothers began to leave in the early evening they looked back on the day and noted how they couldn’t wait for the next year’s Alumni Picnic.

Black and White is a formal dinner held every year in chapters of Alpha Sigma Phi all over the county. It is especially meaningful for the brothers of Nu chapter who had the privilege of hosting the first Black & White. It was with this legacy of tradition in mind that Black and White was organized this year. Hosted by Scott’s Seafood in Jack London Square, it was held in a room right on the bay. Brothers and their dates all dressed formally, came to the event that promised to be an amusing and fun filled night. One by one they arrived in cars and walked over to the banquet room all the while taking pictures of how amazing they each looked against the drop of the open bay. The brothers and alumni had hours to socialize over appetizers. Following dinner, the annual slide show was presented allowing brothers to reminisce the humorous and great times of the previous year. The graduating brotherhood roast occurred next with brothers from past and present semesters speaking about their greatest moments with the graduating brothers. To honor the dates, that looked so beautiful in their dresses, the Brothers of Nu chapter stayed true to their roots and cumulated the night with the singing of the sweetheart song in perfect harmony.

Donovan Blaine – Alumni Chair

Alpha Chi

New Brothers, Kevin and Hung, at Black and White with their dates.

“Conversations pertaining to memorable moments, current events, and good times, were all around you and one couldn’t help but admire the sight of brotherhood”
Closing

Esteemed Alumnus,
Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read our newsletter. With a house that has quadrupled in size in less than two years, we have had many growing pains, which could not have been overcome by the help and support of our Alumni. Thank you for your contributions and your time.

In Phi,
Rishi Gupta– Secretary and Editor
Beta Beta Class