

LIVES OF EXCELLENCE

The Official Newsletter of Delta Tau Delta - Delta Psi Chapter
University of California, Santa Barbara



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

2018 was both a year of obstacles and of new beginnings for Delta Psi. Under the key leadership of President Jay Jay Vilhauer, Director of Member Development Aaron Dicioco, and Secretary/New Member Educator Nicolas Toscano came a revamped New Member education program. Aiming to inspire maturity and to create a tradition for years to come, this program challenges new members to learn and live by a life of excellence. This new program has made our chapter a model for all fraternities at UCSB and has so far brought in more than 25 active members in the last year. Closing off Fall 2018, we have just welcomed and initiated Alpha Alpha class into our brotherhood.

Delta Psi has also been very active on campus and in the community. The active members of Delta Psi have been taking steps in their professional development, showing out with force at Greek Interconnect this past November. The chapter has been recognized by the UCSB Greek Alumni program as a model fraternity on campus. Winning the Alpha Delta Pi Diamond Series and the Kappa Alpha Theta

Kickball tournament, while participating in countless philanthropies throughout the year, our chapter has raised generous amounts of money to support many charitable organizations..

On the social side, the house enjoyed many social events, including a few trips downtown with the sisters of Alpha Phi. One of the chapter's most memorable weekends was All Gaucho Reunion in April. Alumni were welcomed back "home" and participated in fun events, such as the golf tournament at the Santa Barbara Golf Club and Delta Psi's annual alumni bbq hosted at the chapter house.

Indeed, 2018 has been memorable for Delta Psi. But with a newly elected exec board and an admin board eager for new opportunities, 2019 looks like an even better year for the chapter. The young men have just returned from a brotherhood Big Bear trip on the first weekend of Winter quarter and are invigorated to make the rest of the year a very exciting one. Let's see what excitement and achievements our new leaders will bring into the new year!.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

CURTIS CHA '18

Curtis Cha is currently a Peace Corps Volunteer working in the Philippines to support the Coastal Resource Management program (CRM). As a CRM volunteer, he works at the local government level to assist in various projects ranging from: solid waste management, alternative livelihood for fisherman, sustainable fishing practices, establishment and management of marine protected areas, and organization of fisherfolk groups. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, he is participating in a cultural exchange to promote both world peace and the idea of one united, global community

Graduating with a degree in Biology, Cha served as Delt's Rush Chair, Vice President and Director of New Member Development. The fraternity taught him patience and the brotherhood taught him understanding. Now, as a Peace Corps volunteer, he is using both of those skills.

The reason why Cha joined Peace Corps is that he wanted to commit to something meaningful and challenging before attempting a masters. And the reason he stayed is the commitment to make a difference in people's lives.



ASHTON MEGINNIS '15

While at UCSB, Ashton studied math and physics within the College of Creative Studies and took an active role within the Santa Barbara Delt Chapter. He served on the judicial committee and sat as Academic Chair on the executive board during his junior year of school. Passionate about teaching and helping others achieve their potential, Ashton held study hours and tutored peers in a variety of STEM fields.

After graduating, Ashton moved to Stanford to pursue higher education in Aerospace Engineering to follow his dream of building satellite to explore new worlds in space. While at Stanford, Ashton took a leading position in the Space Systems Development Lab where he managed a team of students to build small satellites the size of a loaf of bread. This is where Ashton discovered the power of these tiny satellites, called CubeSats, to do meaningful science and offer commercial value. Now Ashton is working two jobs in the space industry, one as a Program Manager for Pumpkin Space Systems where he acts as the customer facing side of the company. At Pumpkin, his day to day involves managing a team of engineers, writing proposals for government and commercial contracts, and maintaining business relationships throughout the industry.

His second job is for a newly funded company looking to diversify their products into a space application. At this role, Ashton acts as Chief Mission Architect designing every aspect of the mission from the ground systems, to orbit design, to payload requirements.

Ashton attributes his success to luck, hard work and determination, and the support he received from friends and family throughout his life. His years at UCSB and in Delt were some of the most formative times and maintains many of his friendships developed through the fraternity. Ashton is always looking for new opportunities, please reach out and connect!

WILLIS WONG '15

Willis Wong of Epsilon class is a first year medical student at the Duke University School of Medicine. During his time at UCSB, he studied Microbiology while also serving as Philanthropy Chair and Risk Manager for the fraternity. Outside of academics and the fraternity, he spent a lot of time working as a student athletic trainer and strength and conditioning intern with UCSB club sports, doing research, as well as serving in leadership on the Japanese Student Association. When asked about his experience at UCSB, Willis always says that it was a four-year vacation. A brilliant balance of hard work and hard play, Delta Psi blessed him with both days he won't forget, and nights he will never remember.

After graduating from UCSB in the spring of 2015 and with the vaguest idea of where he wanted his life to take him, Willis took a year and did some soul searching. He continued his work in biological research working with a wonderful team of scientists at UCSB while teaching introductory science classes to amazingly talented students with CLAS. He also worked as a volunteer at the Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara as a patient advocate where he was blessed with hearing incredible patient stories and interacting with inspiring providers. Through all this he realized 3 things: He loved science, he loved to teach, and he wanted to make meaningful differences in other people's lives.

Willis softly decided that these three components of his fulfillment met within the field of medicine, so he spent the next year in a Master's program of Biomedical Sciences at Duke University to reinforce his thinking. Working on different projects in the Durham community, he began to understand the importance of upstream socioeconomic factors outside of clinical care that are hugely important for patient health outcomes. Upon graduating, he firmly decided that medicine was where he wanted to be, and applied to medical school while working as a research assistant in psychiatry at Duke University.

In the end, Willis decided on staying at Duke to continue his medical education. Willis writes, "Duke's reputation for medicine aside, I chose Duke for the people. The students, the faculty, but most importantly, the community I worked with that I cherish so much. As part of the Duke Primary Care Leadership Track, I am privileged to be learning medicine at Duke with a cohort that emphasizes systems-based thinking and community outreach. Thus far, with several incredible teams of medical students, faculty, and community members, we've been able to work on several interdisciplinary community projects including starting a student-run clinic based food distribution program, expanding a benefits enrollment program



for Durham seniors, and a medical-legal partnership to assist families with disabilities appeals."

Willis is eternally grateful to be where he is, and he's excited for where medicine will take him next. "If I could leave you with anything that I have learned from my journey," he writes, "it is these few things: First, surround yourself with people that you love and admire; second, life goes by fast, so don't forget to take time to slow down and reflect every now and then; third, give as much of yourself to the world around you as you possibly can; and lastly, remember and be grateful for the people, the experiences, and the circumstances that make you who you are today!"

SAVE THE DATE

April 25-28
GreekFest @ UCSB All
Gaucho Reunion

Reach out to
ucsbdeltarc@gmail.com
for more info or to get
involved!

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