

Sigma Phi Epsilon

California Rho

Alumni Newsletter

2013-2014

Fall/Winter Issue

SigEp | Building
Balanced
Men

Chapter Accomplishments

- Cal Rho becomes a 50+ man chapter
- Chapter receives above 3.0 Grade Point Average
- Wins Sigma Kappa's Best Dance Crew
- Wins Theta's Haunted Casa
- Receives Excelsior Cup for Recruitment
- \$1,500 given in Balanced Man Scholarships

Excelsior Cup for Recruitment at CLA

By Oscar Bolanos



The Executive Board members along with a few committee members of Sigma Phi Epsilon CA Rho attended the Carlson Leadership Academy (CLA) in Newport, California this past February. Throughout their stay, they learned much about leadership, accountability, and collaboration. They received tips and tactics on how to utilize their position and committee to the maximum. California Rho is rising quickly in our Greek community and we have hit many milestones; one of which is doubling our chapter size in just one year. For this accomplishment we received the Excelsior Cup for Recruitment at CLA.

Sigma Kappa's Best Dance Crew

By Juan Rodriguez



**"The Winner is
Sigma Phi Epsilon"**

The annual "Sigma Kappa's Best Dance Crew" is one of the most popular philanthropy events that all, if not most, of the Greeks here at UCSD participate in. Last year we came very close to winning, but unfortunately we were side blinded by one of the others fraternities pulling off an impressive moon walk in mid-air. This year, however, we knew we had to step up our game and top anything the other fraternities came up with. It was essential to have different WOW factors this time around and our choreographer, Dante Finch, knew exactly what to incorporate. We started practicing a month before the date of the event, and as time came closer we put more effort and held longer practices so ensure the dance was ultimately a success. During the last two weeks of practice we extended practice times until two in the morning. It was very unnerving when we got to the event, but once it started so did the cheering from the audience. There was some tough competition, but as soon as we step onto that stage the crowd went wild throughout the entire dance. With the help of our choreographer, we were able to create different WOW factors like: rolling someone from the floor to our shoulders, a standing human worm, and the very distinguishable twerk wall. Once the sororities had finished performing, it was time to announce the winners of the night; anxiousness grew within everyone. The emcee's first word was Sigma and time froze. Eventually the words to follow were Phi Epsilon and thus our hard work had paid off. We helped raised over a thousand dollars Sigma Kappa's philanthropy and bled purple and red on the stage. With this victory we continue our journey in becoming an exemplary chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Winter Recruitment Class

By Daniel Schiff

With the conclusion of the Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet, the three Balanced Man Scholarship recipients, Dylan Ha, Jaime Lovera, and Amir Hajimirsadeghi were ready to begin Winter 2014 Recruitment. The three recipients attended all the recruitment events attempting to further make bonds with the brothers. These three new brothers joined the California Rho winter class with five other new brothers. The class of Beta Xi joined the long traditions of Sigma Phi Epsilon. The new class consists of the following brothers: Albert Chu, Andrew Diaz, Dylan Ha, Amir Hajimirsadeghi, Jaime Lovera, Paulo Moreira, Thomas Newman, and Cody Sibulo. The new class has been required by the Balanced Man Program to participate in many UCSD Greek life events together. This not only showcased the new class, but created bonds within class, as well as with the older members, to start creating the feel of brotherly love. The new members participated in IFC Sports and Sorority Philanthropies. The majority of the new members participated in Sigma Kappa's Best Dance Crew in which SigEp took home the gold with fierce faces and powerful dance moves. New member Thomas Newman, a freshman majoring in Chemical Engineering from Bakersfield joined Sigma Phi Epsilon his second quarter attending UCSD. Newman states that, "I joined Sigma Phi Epsilon because of the morals each brother lives by; virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. After meeting a few of the brothers during recruitment, it was clear to me that this fraternity was truly different from the others; each member was driven to be more improved, balanced men that could eventually benefit a greater purpose."

**Final Score:
30-28**



Chi-Olympics Domination

By Daniel Schiff

Jello-O pit, inflatable obstacle course, tug-o-war, and pie eating all sound like Animal House, but it is not. Instead, all of these components make up the games of Chi-Olympics. The beautiful ladies of Chi Omega presented the Winter Games of Chi-Olympics 2014 in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in San Diego. The ladies of Chi Omega sell wish stars and t-shirts in order to raise money for a foundation that grants wishes to those in need. The brothers of California Rho purchased over 1000 wish stars calculating to over \$300 donated to this philanthropy. The brothers created two teams that participated in the Winter Games. The events included tug-o-war, an obstacle course, soccer penalty kicks, and pie eating. T-shirt sales, placement in each event, wish star sales, and walking at the event around a track all calculated into the winner of the games. While the ten brothers on the two teams were participating in the actual games, more than 20 brothers were at the philanthropy event to participate in the Walk for Wishes. People not participating in the event would walk around a track in order to gain points in support of their chapter and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Overall, Chi Omega's philanthropy was a major success. Over \$6,000 was raised in total in order to grant wishes. The brothers of California Rho Sigma Phi Epsilon were very pleased with attendance, participation, and donations. It was a very thrilling philanthropy that created new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

Alumni Bowl

By Gilberto Lira

The annual Alumni Bowl was held on a beautiful Saturday morning the 1st of February. With the sun out, active members went toe-to-toe with Alumni, playing an IFC regulation game of flag football; as could be expect, current Chaplain Keegan Cervantes, acted as the game's official by keeping time and deciding rulings. The game went back and forth, each team making critical stops and players on both sides pulling off some phenomenal plays. In the end, the Alumni proved that age is only a number, clutching a last minute victory over the active members, with a final score of 30-28. While the game was tough, and each player played to win, the brotherly love was not lost. During the halftime break, and following the end of the game, alumni and active brothers enjoyed each others' company. The pictures from that day speak for themselves; this years Alumni Bowl was just another example of the lifelong brotherhood Sigma Phi Epsilon creates.

SigEp Performs Successful Lavalier

By Jonathan Cervantes



Being in a fraternity can place great pressure on romantic relations, or at least that's what Colton thought. Since joining the Cal Rho chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Colton was more involved with an organization than ever before. However, in being so involved he sensed that there was less time to be spent with his girlfriend of a year and a half, Kaila Uniacke. Colton was searching for something to bring together these too seemingly opposite parts of his life. After being told about the concept of a lavalier by a friend, he became very excited because it was the bridge that he had been looking for. The lavalier ritual was very important to him for three reasons: the recognition, the camaraderie, and the expression of

love. The idea of having his relationship acknowledged and supported by SigEp Cal Rho was awesome; to know that his fraternity supported their love was something really special for Kaila and him. The actual ritual was phenomenal not only because of what it meant for Kaila and him, but how it showed him that his brothers were there for him. Nearly every one of his brothers was there for the ritual, and he can honestly say he had never felt more proud to be a SigEp than he did at that moment. The ritual and concept of the lavalier was an opportunity to let Kaila know how he felt about her, and now he is sure she knows he loves her deeply.

"Colton definitely outdid himself by surprising me with this beautiful ceremony! I am so honored to wear SigEp's lavalier and be a part of this fraternity." –Kaila Uniacke

Brotherhood Bonding

By Thomas Newman

On February 7th, the brothers of California Rho headed off to Camp Pendleton to participate in the first brotherhood retreat in over two years. The event, organized by VP Member Development Adam Kapasi and Chapter Counselor Troy Hanson, was a success as brothers bonded over different activities. On the first night of the retreat, the older members shared their fondest memories while in SigEp, as well as their view of a Sigma Phi Epsilon mindset. One response, given by Juan Rodriguez, was that a SigEp mindset deals with, "putting your family, your community, and your fellow brothers ahead of yourself in order to achieve a greater good." The next day, the brothers partook in a four and a half mile hike from the campgrounds to the beach. After the hike back and lunch, the brothers started a "S.W.O.T." analysis; naming a few strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the chapter. This helped the chapter focus on what to work on how to improve, and gave everyone the aspiration to earn chapter of the year at UCSD. Once they finished filling out this chart, the executive board shared their goals for the chapter. Most of the goals presented had either already been achieved, or are on track to be completed by the end of the school year. Overall, the retreat was an awesome experience as the older members shared their views on how the chapter has improved since they joined, and the younger members expressed their determination to improve as one.

Brother of the Quarter



My name is Aneesh Natarajan. I am a 2nd year BioEngineering: Bioinformatics major at the University of California, San Diego. I joined the California Rho Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon during my Freshman Year in the Fall of 2012. From the day I joined SigEp, I was given opportunities to involve myself in chapter operations and improve myself as a brother, a student, and as a citizen of my community. As a smaller chapter on campus in 2012, I have seen myself grow along with the Cal Rho Chapter. I was soon elected into the position of VP Recruitment, which allowed me to play a more pivotal role in the chapter's growth. This experience provided me the chance to break out of my shell and hone my leadership skills. In the summer of 2013, I was given the once in the lifetime opportunity to represent the Cal Rho Chapter at the RUCK Leadership Institute. This experience allowed me to truly understand

SigEp's strength as a national fraternity, as I was able to interact with the leaders of some of the most successful SigEp Chapters in the nation. I was determined to return to UCSD and do everything within my capabilities to see Cal Rho grow to its full potential. With the constant guidance of our chapter advisors Matt Hillerud and Troy Hanson, I was able to help guide the chapter to two successful recruitment periods, and see our membership grow to above 50 brothers.

The past two quarters in SigEp have been extremely humbling and gratifying for me. Serving as a facilitator at the Fall 2013 Southern California EDGE, I was able to see the growth of Cal Rho's newest members, as they were the only chapter to arrive with 100% punctual attendance. From here onwards, our chapter has greatly improved our performance in IFC Sports, won sorority philanthropies including Sigma Kappa's Best Dance Crew, improved our GPA to above a 3.0, exceeding the all campus male average GPA, improved our philanthropy hours, and received recognition from nationals at the Carlson Leadership Academy for our recruitment efforts in 2013. I am immensely proud to say that SigEp is once again an extremely influential presence on the UCSD Campus. I am extremely honored and humbled to receive the Brother of the Quarter Award. I would like to thank all my brothers in the chapter for their diligent effort in striving for excellence. I would also like to give a special thanks to alumni Brother Jesus Gonzalez and Brother Andre Lee for teaching me how to successfully run the position of VP Recruitment, and to our Chapter Advisors Brother Matt Hillerud and Brother Troy Hanson for consistently believing in the Cal Rho Chapter, and for all the sacrifices and time they have devoted to help facilitate the chapter's growth.

2014 Executive Board Members

President—Jonathan Day

Vice President of Programming—Kristopher Arellano

Vice President of Finance—Roy Gonda

V.P. Member Development—Adam Kapasi

Vice President of Recruitment—Aneesh Natarajan

Vice President of Communications—Oscar Bolanos

Chaplain—Keegan Cervantes



Fall Recruitment Class

By Rodrigo Crisostomo

In the fall quarter Cal Rho successfully recruited sixteen new members. They were truly diverse, possessing a variety of skills and abilities, as well as leadership and success in athletics and academia. Before being admitted into the chapter, most held prominent positions on campus, ranging from: ASB president; chief programmer for the UCSD robotics team; and council positions for Sixth College, ERC, and Warren. Even as new brothers in the Sigma challenge, Beta Nu members quickly found themselves taking on important roles in chapter operations and truly succeed in what they do.

The sixteen new members were led by their Sigma Coordinator, Kris Arellano and had developed close ties by the time they attend the Southern California EDGE program. After Beta Nu entered the Phi Challenge on the 11th of January, all were able to focus their talents and leadership skills into internal chapter



operations. Oscar Bolanos is now a part of the executive board as Vice President of Communication. Gilberto Lira, is the academic chair and alumni liaison for the chapter. Harikrishnan "Hari" Kuppusamykrishnan, is the budget chairman for the finance cabinet, or the right hand man of VP Finance. Rodrigo Crisostomo, is currently one of the historians, web designers, and collections manager for the finance department. Adam Johnson is the Sound Body Coordinator for the chapter. Patrick Flinn, is part of finance as the Standards Banner, collecting fees and dues for Standards. Danny Schiff, Horacio Ortiz, and David Robertson are essential to the VP Programming cabinet, working respectively on Events and Philanthropies.

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Upcoming Events

Party With a Heart On

Wednesday April 2nd,
10pm at Porter's Pub

Sun Cup 2014

Our annual philanthropy
is on Sunday May 4th

BMS Golf Tournament

Sunday May 18th, 8am at
Carmel Highlands Golf
Course. Registration
deadline is April 30th. All
proceeds go towards the
Balanced Man
Scholarship!

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