

# HK ΣN



# ALUMNI CHAPTER SDSU

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- The Editor

## *The Eta Kappa Alumni Chapter Newsletter*

*A new year is under way! Our Eta Kappa Colony has a semester under its belt and is in the process of preparing the extensive paperwork to petition for its charter. The Fall Rush will certainly satisfy the chapter manpower requirement. We are looking at having our Eta Kappa Chapter rechartered by end-of-year.*

*Additionally, the Sigma Nu Alumni Club, San Diego is being started back up by Jack Stevenson. You can read about it below. It is open to any Sigma Nu who lives in San Diego County and is designed as a social club but can be involved in other activities of interest to Club members. Jeff Giarde (HK1) has written an article with an historical look at the Alumni Club.*

*The 54th Brothers' Breakfast was held on February 26th and a record number of attendees showed up to enjoy the Brotherhood and good food. A large number of our Colony were there for a meet and greet with our Alumni. Everyone had a great time.*

*That and more in this issue of the Newsletter!*



Nick Volchok HK37  
*Editor, Eta Kappa Alumni Chapter Newsletter*



## ***54th Brothers' Breakfast***



On February 23rd, more than a combined 100 Brothers from the Eta Kappa Alumni Chapter and members of our Eta Kappa Colony came together to commemorate the 54th anniversary of our Chapter with the annual breakfast at Tom Ham's Lighthouse on Harbor Island.

Brother David Nastri (HK372) called the breakfast to order and introduced a few brothers who were in attendance, one of whom was Vice Regent Jordan Wu (KΓ237-Cal Poly Pomona).

Nick Volchok (HK37) spoke about the Alumni Chapter and those who were celebrating 50 years as a Sigma Nu this year (later article). Jim Stark (HK203) spoke about the Scholarship Fund and announced the Eta Kappa Man of the Year recipient (separate article). Eminent Commander of the Colony, Brett Pettis, shared about the Colony and how great it was to be at the Breakfast experiencing the brotherhood evident there.

The main hitter of the morning was a presentation by Jim Stark, Gordon Glazer (HK243), Ted Ulovec (HK38) and Robert Knight (HK318). This was regarding the financing of the reconstruction of our fraternity house. The total reconstruction is going to run around \$300,000. This was a dig-in-your-pockets moment. Jim explained the ins-and-outs of how this needs to happen and answered a number of questions. By the time the checks, money and pledges were tabulated, the total raised from those in the room and corporate pledges reached \$35,000. That's a good start but more needs to come in.



I'm sure that very soon there will be some type of campaign to reach the rest of our Eta Kappa brothers. Those of you who are in good financial position may be able to help more than others but anything helps. A tax deductible contribution is available.

Company and individual donations are all on the table. Let's make this happen!

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the photos taken at the Breakfast. Everyone had a great time!





***ETA KAPPA  
Man of the Year***



***Preston Sam***

It was announced at the Brothers' Breakfast by Worthy Commander Jim Stark that the recipient of this year's Eta Kappa "*Man of the Year*" Award was being presented to Preston Sam (AY309-Cal State Fullerton). Preston is the Expansion and Recruitment Consultant who drove the recruitment and training of our Eta Kappa Fall 2016 Candidate Colony.

Preston lived near campus for a semester and oversaw all Colony operations, all the while maintaining a kind, positive attitude. He interviewed all perspective members, coordinated all activities during Rush, planned and participated in all activities, and kept the Alumni Chapter fully integrated in the process. Preston trained the new Colony in Chapter operations, parliamentary procedures and proper conduct. Trying to quantify all that Preston did over the semester he was here would fall short of his accomplishments.

Congratulations, Preston, on being selected Eta Kappa "Man of the Year"!





*Jeremy Caplan (HK984)*

*Written by:*  
*Ryan Schuler (HK932)*

*(This is a reprint of a January 5, 2017 article carried in the SDSU NewsCenter)*

**Headline:** Ask An Aztec: Jeremy Caplan  
**Author/Byline:** Ryan Schuler  
**Summary (Teaser):** This Aztec for Life works in Boeing's Huntsville Design Center in Alabama.

Jeremy Caplan graduated from San Diego State University in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, he spent the first 15 months of his career in Phoenix working on the Apache Attack Helicopter.

Earlier this year, he received the opportunity to relocate to Alabama to work for Boeing's Huntsville Design Center, where he is currently a structural design engineer. In his first two months in Huntsville, he provided support to Boeing's CST-100 Starliner, a crewed capsule designed to taxi astronauts to and from the International Space Station.

Currently, he is supporting the Exploration Upper Stage of the Space Launch System (SLS), which is NASA's next-generation heavy lift rocket. According to Caplan, SLS will take heavy payloads and humans to beyond earth destinations such as Mars.

### **1. Tell us the highlights of your professional career. What are your proudest achievements?**

My proudest achievements include interning with NASA at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, creating my own opportunities to network with Boeing leaders at the company's international headquarters in Chicago, and contributing to the development of the Space Launch System. I remember watching a test-fire of the solid rocket booster for SLS when I lived in Phoenix, and thinking about how cool it would be to work on it. I had no idea that just months later I would get the chance.

### **2. If you were to give current SDSU students some professional advice, what would you say?**

Get comfortable being uncomfortable. The best opportunities push you slightly to moderately beyond your comfort level, and that's a good thing because it forces you to grow. Always challenge yourself and develop a mindset of continual growth and progression, and you'll be amazed at what is possible.

### **3. How do you stay connected to SDSU?**

I mentor engineering students through the Aztec Mentor Program. The guidance and support I received through AMP as a student was incredibly helpful in navigating my transition from school to the workplace, and I am extremely happy to be able to pay it forward.

#### **4. Why did you choose SDSU?**

At the time I applied, I knew nothing about SDSU or San Diego in general. I originally intended to stay in Nevada for college, but while applying to a different CSU, I saw SDSU on the list of schools on the online application portal. I just knew San Diego was a big city and that excited me, so I decided to apply. When I toured SDSU's campus after being accepted, I fell in love with the campus and San Diego just felt right to me.

#### **5. What's your favorite college memory?**

My favorite college memory is graduation. I loved being able to share that moment with the most important people in my life. Also, getting to know all of the amazing people I met throughout my time at SDSU is another favorite memory of mine. I feel incredibly lucky to have such an exceptional group of friends from SDSU, and miss all of the good times we shared together. Within my group of closest friends, everyone brings something unique to the table, and I have always appreciated the balance of their perspectives and personalities.

#### **6. Who was your favorite professor and/or what was your favorite class?**

Richard Ayala's course in heat transfer was very interesting, and I really enjoyed Professor Ayala's personality and sense of humor. Morteza Mehrabadi, the dean of the College of Engineering, was always super supportive, and he is doing great things with the engineering department.

#### **7. What experiences at SDSU helped you grow professionally?**

The Aztec Mentor Program provided me with the opportunity to network with an engineering manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. My mentor, Jordan Evans, recommended me to his colleagues for a summer internship, and during the summer of 2014, I spent 10 weeks interning for JPL. That internship experience has really been the foundation of my career, and paved the way for everything that has followed since then. There aren't many days that go by that I don't think about the impact that my AMP mentor has had on my life, and how grateful I am for his help. Participating in AMP and choosing him as a mentor continues to be one of the best decisions I've ever made.

#### **8. Who was your "SDSU family?" What clubs, organizations or teams were you a part of?**

Greek life was a large part of my college experience. I attribute a lot of my growth in college to being a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, and feel I would definitely not be the same



person without the experiences it provided me. I also grew to be very close friends with the ladies of Kappa Delta Sorority during my time at SDSU, so I consider them a vital part of my SDSU family as well.



Graduation photo

## *50 Years a Sigma Nu*

Congratulations to Mu Pledge Class of Fall 1966! They celebrated their 50th year as a Sigma Nu on February 19th, 2017. One other Brother will be celebrating his 50th year as a Sigma Nu on October 8th of this year. He was the only member of the Nu Pledge Class in the Spring of 1967. The members of these Pledge Classes are:

HK72 Steven Smith	HK77 Bill Callaham	HK82 James Huffman
HK73 Theodore Whiteneck	HK78 Ken Best	HK83 Fred Rushton
HK74 James Stuemke	HK79 Ron Weiss	HK84 Brian Kruse
HK75 Jeff Phillips	HK80 Rick Astin	HK85 Roy Lehton (Nu PC)
HK76 Byron Upham	HK81 Laurence Van Vliet	

***Sigma Nu Alumni Club  
San Diego  
by***

**Nick Volchok (HK37)**  
**Jack Stevenson (ΔΣ402)**



The original Sigma Nu Alumni Club of San Diego was founded in the early 1920s. As Jeff Giarde wrote in his *Early History Eta Kappa Chapter Sigma Nu Fraternity & Sigma Delta Phi*, "...[the Alumni Club] is an integral part of the story of Sigma Delta Phi and Eta Kappa Chapter. The Alumni Club played a key role in the road from Sigma Delta Phi to Eta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity."

The qualification for membership was simply to be an alumnus of any Sigma Nu chapter. It was intended to be a social organization for Sigma Nu alumni and that was its primary function. Skipping through a lot of history, the Alumni Club became interested in Sigma Delta Phi in 1961 and the wheel had been set in motion toward February 23, 1963 when we became Eta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

This also became the beginning of the end of the Alumni Club. The Eta Kappa Alumni Chapter was formed mostly by the Alumni Club brothers. Once the Eta Kappa Alumni Chapter was chartered, the Alumni Club and the Alumni Chapter blurred into a single organization run by Alumni Club members. But as more and more Eta Kappa alumni

became members of the Alumni Chapter and began running the chapter with emphasis on the Active chapter, the older Alumni Club members drained away, and unfortunately, so did the San Diego Alumni Club.

That brings us to 2017 and Jack Stevenson, our first Alumni Advisor and a member of the original Sigma Nu Alumni Club of San Diego. Jack wanted to start the Alumni Club back up and sent out an email asking for a show of interest to a number of Sigma Nu brothers living in San Diego County. I believe he got 34 so far who want to be part of the organization.

*The Sigma Nu Alumni Club, San Diego* is now registered with National. They have had their first social function at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley. Following is the write-up of the evening by Jack Stevenson:

Gentlemen, we reinitiated the San Diego Club on Wednesday, March 15th, at 5:30 pm at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley by gathering 18 Sigma Nu's from 10 different Chapters and our guest, Spencer Montgomery, Senior Vice President, Sigma Nu Educational Foundation, Inc.

The spirit of Sigma Nu filled the room instantly. Spencer offered a wealth of information about the fraternities activities and programs, particularly the Mentor Program. Several expressed interest in providing this service and I followed up on that with Tim Braddick, Director of Fraternal Operations. Tim advised that Justin Wenger, Director of Member Engagement was the conduit to that program - and immediately Justin emailed several links for those interested in becoming a Mentor to follow. Don Colapinto, Zeta Upsilon, Arizona State, rang in early, and I hope will be the focus for coordinating this opportunity with Justin and all the San Diego Alumni Club members.

Ideas flourished about having two Alumni Club events each year, which most of us present seemed to support. 'Beer & Brats' and a Padre baseball game were suggested. Jim Stark, Eta Kappa, San Diego State, offered to contact the Diamondback's owner to see if a September date with that team would be appropriate for our 2nd gathering this year. Keep Wednesday, September 20, 2017 open for this one should it all work out. The top floor of the Western Metal Supply building is usually provided for such events. You will be notified as soon as the ink dries.

We heard from Spencer, as an update to statistics, that there are currently - 150 Active Chapters, 17 in California. There are 26 Division Commanders and , if memory serves me correctly, 13 Alumni Clubs.

A self introduction - currently engaged activity - meet and greet - session continued until about 8:00 pm. Thank you all for getting this venture airborne.



***A Piece of the Past  
and an  
Eye to the Future***  
*by Jeffrey L. Giarde (HK 1)*



The above photo was taken at a dinner meeting of the San Diego Sigma Nu Alumni Club. To the left is Jack Stevenson ( $\Delta\Sigma$  402, Carnegie Mellon Univ.), in the center is Fred Graf ( $\Delta O$  45, Univ. of Idaho) and to the right holding a plaque is Arthur C. Wells ( $B\Psi$  176, UC Berkeley). Jack Stevenson was very active in the Alumni Club and is a very successful San Diego architect and retired Navy officer. Today Jack is still helping out Eta Kappa. Fred Graf retired from the oil business and Art Wells was a high ranking San Diego banker. Both are deceased. On the back in pencil is the date 1966 in my handwriting. I would have guessed the photo was earlier and it could have been. Neither Jack nor I know what the plaque was for but probably an award to Art Wells who was a significant figure in the Alumni Club in many ways.

Art Wells received countless kudos over the many years for his dedication to Sigma Nu and the Alumni Club. He was one of the founders of the San Diego Sigma Nu Alumni Club in the early 1920s. Art was a senior bank executive for San Diego Trust & Savings Bank. He served the Alumni Club as the perennial treasurer. Beginning in the later 1940s Art was overtly the sole alumnus in San Diego consistently seeking a Sigma Nu chapter at San Diego State. After WWII many local fraternities and sororities were formed at San Diego State. Some of them grew into large chapters with many alumni. In the latter 1940s Art tried on multiple occasions to convince the High Council to use one of the local fraternities to form a Sigma Nu chapter. Art interacted with some of the local fraternities, some of which had many active and alumni members and were good potential Sigma Nu candidates. He recommended those locals he felt were worthy. All were rejected by the High Council! By 1953 there were no locals left as they had all become chapters of national fraternities and it was the same for the sororities. The idea of a Sigma Nu chapter at SDS died. In 1960 when Sigma Nu Executive Secretary Richard R. Fletcher visited with alumni members in San Diego the only school they saw as available for possible future colonization was U.C. San Diego which was in its very early stages. It would not be until 1985 that Sigma Nu would come to U.C. San Diego which, apparently, bans fraternity houses.

In late 1960 Art learned of the Sigma Delta Phi local fraternity at San Diego State. He got excited again. He proved to be one of the strongest supporters of Sigma Delta Phi becoming a chapter of Sigma Nu. Fortunately it happened before Art died. In the photo above we do not know what the award was for that Art is holding. If anyone knows its whereabouts or it is found somewhere, please let me or Jim Stark know. It likely went to his family and that would take a lot of detective work just to find it and we don't even know what is on it! My guess is the plaque had something to do with Art's part in helping Sigma Delta Phi become Eta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity but it also could have been a tribute to his many decades of dedication to Sigma Nu and the Alumni Club.

The man in the center of the threesome is Fred Graf. He had a nice home on Euclid Avenue with a swimming pool and a pool house. Many times over the years the members of the San Diego Sigma Nu Alumni Club had parties at Fred's house. The active chapter also had some parties there. Fred was one of the early members of his chapter in Idaho where he was also the E.C. He, like Art, clearly loved Sigma Nu. Both Art and Fred were strong and helpful regarding Sigma Delta Phi and Eta Kappa Chapter.

Jack Stevenson, to the left, was our first Alumni Advisor. When we were discovered by the San Diego Sigma Nu Alumni Club Jack was just going out of office as the President. He was followed by Dr. Edward H. Hashinger who was a Past Regent of Sigma Nu. Dr. Hashinger played a key role behind the scenes with national which was of immense value to us in becoming a Sigma Nu chapter. It also helped when we bought the Montezuma Road property and needed a loan from national.



Jack Stevenson was a piece of gold for the young men of Sigma Delta Phi and Eta Kappa. Jack began attending Sigma Delta Phi meetings occasionally starting in the spring of 1961. Our relationship with Jack became a trustworthy friendship. During that first semester with Sigma Nu now on our radar we actually rejected several lucrative offers to take over two failing fraternities at SDS. It was tempting but we were about brotherhood a lot more than material things. Put another way, our principles trumped our greed!

Jack became our first Chapter Advisor and I was his first Eta Kappa subordinate chapter advisor. When Jack left the position in 1968 to work on the 200th Anniversary of San Diego I became the Chapter Advisor until I moved from San Diego in 1971 to take a position with the California Court of Appeal. One of the bad things in those days was poor communications so that if you moved away you generally lost most of your contact with those in San Diego. Long distance telephone calls were considered expensive in those days and there were no internet and cell phones. Those who moved away often lost their connection with Sigma Nu in San Diego and I was one of them. One of the important aspects of our Alumni Chapter today is that you can be a part of it whether you live in San Diego, Miami, France or China.

We should all know our roots. We should all think positively about our fraternity and its future. We should all continue to support our fraternity as best we can whether it is with time, effort or money. We have collegians now to consider. This is our second, and possibly last, chance for our Eta Kappa active chapter to thrive and survive again. The same is true for our Eta Kappa Alumni Chapter and our house corporation, Montezuma Mesa Properties. For those who can, support and help are valuable necessities. Not everyone can pitch in with a lot of time or tons of money but we still should all support our fraternity as best we can with whatever talents, time and resources we can afford to give. That decision is up to you, not me.

### *Alumni Chapter New Members*

The last newsletter was published on December 21st. Our Alumni Chapter membership is now at 238.

The newest members are:

HK680 Ryan Beardsley

HK984 Jeremy Caplan

HK904 Ryan Lebowitz

Thank you all for your support!

## Commander's Column

*Let me welcome the Spring 2017 Candidate Class - Epsilon Omicron of Eta Kappa Colony!*

*How awesome is this. We have our chance. So, we need to act; deeds not words. We just finished our first round of Leadership consultant visits and took it downtown. Knocked it out of the park. I have a little baseball theme going here, so pay attention. Our Consultant, Robert Arostigue (AY345-Cal State Fullerton), was extremely impressed with all our officers.*

*You all need to break out of your comfort zone, step up and live the life. I would love to see many of you get involved with our Alumni Chapter. We have a lot of tasks to be completed while we build Rock chapters both Active and Alumni. We're creating a lot of fun and priceless memories along the way.*



*We will be holding another Candidate (Pledge for you old guys) Ceremony this Sunday, 4/2/2017 at 6:00pm in the Student Union Park Blvd Room. Come by and enjoy the brotherhood, get reacquainted with Sigma Nu.*

*This past week I was a guest at the Arizona Diamondbacks Spring Training Home. My spouse decided at the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation Auction in July last year (during Grand Chapter), that it would be fun to bid on this package, along with many other items, since she is from the Phoenix Area. Well, my wife outbid everyone else. This is a lesson learned, be careful and keep your hands on the bid paddle when attending an auction with your Lovely Spouse.*

*However, the proceeds go to the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation, so it's well worth it. We stayed at the Talking Stick Resort just down the road from the spring training home of the Dbacks. We shared the four-person package with my sister-in-law and brother-in-law. We had the time of our lives. For a baseball fan (even a casual one), this was a dream package. We saw two games at field level, Dbacks vs the 2016 World Series Champion Cubs and the Rockies vs the Giants. That was the closest I could get to the Padres. The Giants are more fun to watch anyway, unfortunately. I could reach out and touch Bruce Bochy*

*through the screen and I had to watch what I say, he could hear everything. He proved that a couple times.*



*Diamondbacks President Derrick Hall  
ZY900 Arizona State University*

*Jim Stark HK203*

*Diamondbacks Owner Ken Kendrick  
III848 West Virginia University*

*But, the best part was the tour. Fellow Sigma Nu, member of the Hall of Fame and Owner of the Arizona Diamondbacks, Ken Kendrick gave us a personal tour of the entire facility, including the locker rooms with my spouse and sister-in-law. Well, it was rather embarrassing for me and my brother-in-law! They were like two little girls in a toy store filled with dolls. What are you going to do? We had the privilege to personally meet the President of the Diamondbacks, also a fellow Sigma Nu from Arizona State, Derrick Hall.*

*This was an incredible weekend I will always remember. Ken Kendrick is a true Sigma Nu. You can't meet a friendlier, more down to earth, most gracious person anywhere. This is SIGMA NU, all because I felt a need to give back and get involved in our Alumni Chapter.*

*The renewal of our Chapter House is well underway, yet in need of funding. Keep your eyes and ears open as we push our Fund-Raising Campaign to a new level. You all know, nothing happens without cash. This is a simple, easy way to help us out and give back to Eta Kappa-Sigma Nu. We have \$48,000 committed for construction so far but have a long way to go. We need to raise approximately \$300,00 and we'll have a Chapter House of which we can all be proud.*

*Many more activities are planned for the rest of this year, so please read all the news and emails from Sigma Nu. I know some of you hit delete before even looking. You are missing out.*

*The Sigma Nu Alumni Club, San Diego (different from the Alumni Chapter) is*



*planning a visit to the Western Metal Building at Petco Park on April 20, 2017. The Padres are playing the Diamondbacks. We are looking to meet some special guests. Another fun way to Live Sigma Nu. Watch for details. Tickets will be limited.*

*Fraternally,*

*Jim Stark HK203*

*Commander*

*Eta Kappa Alumni Chapter*

*ΣN Fraternity*

*Excelling with Honor*

[commander@etakappaalumni.org](mailto:commander@etakappaalumni.org)

**619-417-4683**

