



The WHITE STAR

Beta Psi Chapter of Sigma Nu

Summer 2023 | www.calsigmanu.com

HOUSE CORPORATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Teneo, my 'Brothers' of the White Rose ...

It is an honor and a privilege to be writing to you as your new Beta Psi of Sigma Nu House Corporation President. I am proud as ever to be a Sigma Nu and am looking forward to working with your Beta Psi House Corporation board members, our newly formed Alumni Advisory Board (AAB), the members of the Active Chapter and you, the members of the Alumni Chapter, to forge a reinvigorated path forward for our CAL brotherhood.

The Greek system at Berkeley (and elsewhere across the country) continues to undergo seismic changes – and our SNU chapter is not immune to these shifts. It has been challenging for 'the house' on virtually every level.

Greek life isn't moribund! But it has been forced to evolve and adapt from far greater oversight from the city of Berkeley, the University, and our National Fraternity. There's also been a cultural shift and understanding of what fraternal brotherhood means; quite simply today's Beta Psi is not the same as most of us remember. Coupled with the realities of an aging 'house' in need of immediate and significant repairs and upgrades, these are indeed challenging times.

The House Corp, AAB, and the Active Chapter ExCom all recognize and agree - we are at an inflection point that requires the collective energy, commitment, and support of all generations of brothers to ensure the success and sustainability of Beta Psi. To that end, I have established four overarching 'chapter' goals:

- Undertake major structural repairs to the house that have been deferred for far too long.
- Restore an appreciation for what it means to be a member – active or alum – of our fraternal brotherhood.
- Engage with and guide the actives in developing a sense of pride of affiliation with all the brothers that have come before and will come after their time in the house.
- Reconnect with you, our alumni network of brothers, after an admittedly very long period of 'silence.'

Stay tuned for future communications on the various current and future initiatives in support of these objectives.

Finally, on behalf of all brothers of Beta Psi of Sigma Nu, I wish to express my sincere gratitude, a hearty "THANK YOU," and huge 'SNU snaps' to my predecessor, brother Richard Petty. During Richard's 22-year stewardship, including the three years of pandemic 'damage control', several CAL fraternities and sororities have closed their doors, been decertified, and/or have become independent living groups. Fortunately, under Richard's guidance we managed to maintain our standing with the University and the National Sigma Nu Fraternity.

We, the brothers of Beta Psi of Sigma Nu united, have a lot of work ahead of us. After nearly five decades of affiliation with the chapter (forty as a member of the House Corp), I am confident that the Chapter's leadership teams, and YOUR support will enable us to get it all done! If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to me: masonbrutschy@sbcglobal.net.

Until next time – "Believe in a life of LOVE, Walk I the way of HONOR, and Serve in the light of TRUTH; this is the LIFE, the WAY and the LIGHT."

Faternally,

Mason Brutschy

President, Beta Psi of Sigma Nu House Corporation



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Luan Cruz

Lieutenant Commander

Krish Patel

Treasurer

Thomas Kucharczuk

Recorder

Gaston Tornquist

House Manager

Kyle Ito

Alumni Chair

Ian Seklawi

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masonbrutschy@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:

Harry Stern '84

Members:

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Dave Carlson '99
Roy Partch '06
Kevin Gibson '09
Stuart Wilson '11

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EC REPORT

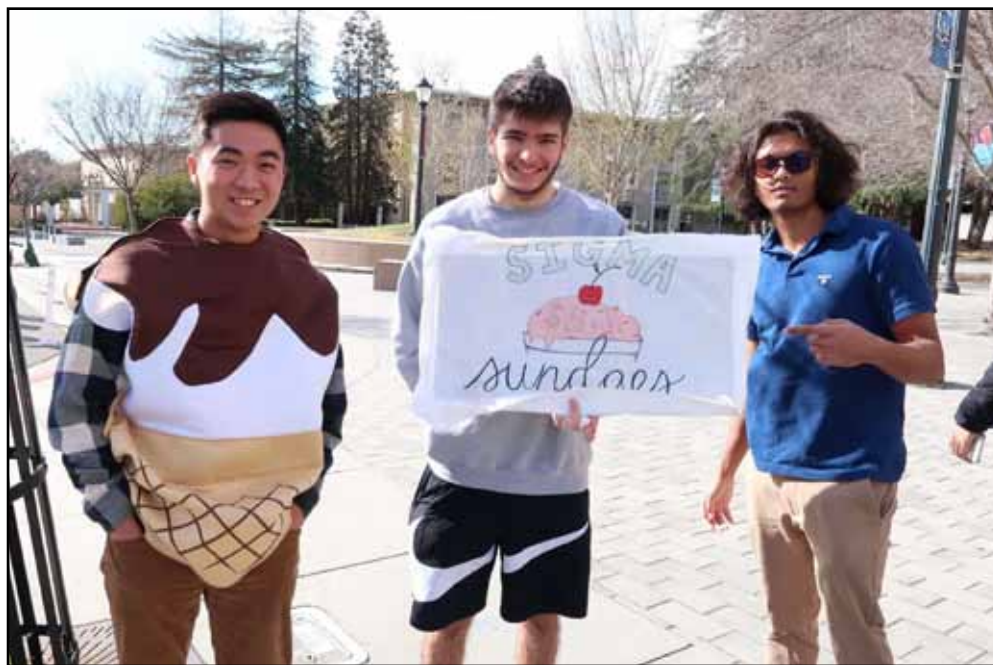
My name is Luan Cruz, I'm a sophomore from Brazil studying computer science and cognitive science, and I serve as Beta Psi's Eminent Commander for 2023. I'm proud to report that our chapter is growing and that we have bright plans for improving it and ensuring a successful future.

One of the aspects of our chapter that I pride myself the most on is our global diversity. Since I joined Sigma Nu in the fall semester of 2021, I have met people of at least 15 nationalities here. We have grown not only in numbers, having a net positive gain of members every semester, but also in culture and values. Led by our recruitment team, we are working to continue receiving people from all parts of the country and the world.

We have also been working hard to improve our external relations with the IFC, University, and other Greek chapters. We have connected through fraternities and sororities through diverse philanthropic and social events, and I am working with our Greek leaders to foster a safer, more inclusive, and more collaborative environment for all. This semester we are developing a roundtable with both IFC and PHC chapters to hold each other accountable for our behavior and grow together as we aid each other in our pursuit of excellence.

This spring semester we also made great improvements in our relationship with our beloved alumni. We have increased our social media activity to keep everyone updated on what we've been up to through our Instagram in addition to our website (CalSigmaNu.com) and alumni newsletter. Thanks to the alumni and House Corporation, we will have also formally established the Alumni Advisory Board, which will connect alumni and officers for mentorship and frequent communication. I hope we continue on this path as the alumni and active chapter grow closer to prosper together.

- Luan Cruz (BP 1712)



The brothers during their Sigma Sundaes philanthropy event held on campus in conjunction with Sigma Kappa this spring

The Spring Pledge Class of 2023 was 8 pledges strong, bigger than any other recent Spring Pledge Class. Size however was not their only strength, every new Brother excels academically, is professionally focused, and a leader in their own right. The brotherhood has been incredibly impressed with how they present themselves and we are excited to see the contributions that they offer to the chapter during their years in college and after graduation.

Brandon Dick - I am a first-year Chemical Engineering major from Woodsfield, Ohio. I believe that brotherhood creates an unbreakable bond with people I may have never known otherwise, and that connection lasts through school and college life. Sigma Nu Beta Psi's strong sense of community hence appealed to me, particularly after moving away from Ohio to California.

Lucas Camargo - I am a first-year data science and economics major from Sao Paulo, Brazil. I was intent on joining Sigma Nu because I found many individuals with common interests, as well as a greater sense of community. I am glad that I found my community and honored I will be able to call them my brothers.

Aslan Tokbas - I'm from Dubai, UAE. I'm a first-year majoring in Economics and minoring in Data Science. I really wanted to join Sigma Nu due to the great experience I had at rush events. Seeing the closeness of all of the brothers as well as the great conversations I had were some of the key reasons I decided to continue coming around. Overall, the tight-knit brotherhood which I am constantly exposed to this semester, showed me that I made the right choice to join.

Quinn Elliot - I am a first-year student from Seattle studying Chemical Biology. I instantly connected with the sports culture in the house, it reminded me of my lacrosse team in high school and I missed that sense of brotherhood. I am excited to discover the professional network the house has to offer and hope to develop alongside my future brothers.

Habib Djaroueh - I am a freshman majoring in Energy Engineering at UC Berkeley, and I hail from the ancient city of Aleppo, Syria. I am thrilled to join Sigma Nu fraternity because of the diverse interests of the brotherhood, I was quickly able to connect with like-minded individuals who share my goals and interest.

Daniel Liao - I am a freshman studying economics and also applying to Haas. I am from São Paulo, Brazil and the main reason driving me to join Sigma Nu is the opportunity to find people that I can trust and who will help me grow as a person as a whole. My interests include playing soccer, chess and listening to electronic music.

Daniel Chou - I am currently an undeclared freshman from Southern California, specifically Chino Hills. I joined Sigma Nu to find a warm community of like-minded individuals. Witnessing the current brothers' relationships, I am encouraged to connect and learn from them. I am certain I will build meaningful relationships that persist beyond my four years at Cal. Along with my new candidates, I have extensively learned about the history of this house and how the alumni brothers shaped it into what I am able to experience today. I look forward to growing over the next four years with my fellow new candidates and making a long-lasting difference within the chapter.

Muhammad Alhejin - Hi all, I am an international second-year student from Saudi Arabia pursuing a Molecular and Cell Biology major with a minor in Bio-Engineering. During my freshman year, I got to know some of the active brothers before I decided to join, which is what initially drew me in. The brotherhood at Sigma Nu grows closer by the day, which was immediately apparent. Choosing to join Sigma Nu is one of the most memorable decisions in my college career.

*Top Row, l to r:
Aslan, Mo*

*Middle Row:
Daniel Liao,
Daniel Chou,
Quinn*

*Bottom row:
Habib, Lucas,
Brandon*



BETA PSI ANNUAL FUND

Dear Brothers of Beta Psi of Sigma Nu,

For 102 years we, the members of Beta Psi, have at some point in time called 2710 Bancroft Way our 'home.' And while it may have only been our temporary residence, it will forever be our "House" - filled with a deep sense of pride, affiliation and countless memories.

But no matter the care and attention paid to the 'house' over the years, 100 years is 100 years, and those years have taken their toll on the physical plant. Several major structural issues need immediate attention:

- Repairing and remediating the significant water damage done to the bedrooms on the south wing caused by roof leaks.
- Permanently removing the sundeck on the south wing to implement major roof repairs.
- Replacing several windows that had failed from decades of weather exposure and/or possibly replacing all the windows.
- Making major repairs to the house foundation.

Regrettably, the impact of lost revenue during the pandemic years, the forecasted cost of these immediate repairs, as well as costs associated with future projected ongoing maintenance and repairs are putting a strain on financial resources of the Active Chapter and the House Corporation.

Your contribution of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, to the Beta Psi Annual Fund will be of tremendous support at this critical time for the chapter and help us ensure that 2710 Bancroft remains a vibrant 'home' for generations of brothers to come and a gathering place for generations of brothers who have come before.

The easiest way to contribute is online through our website (calsigmanu.com/donate). The QR code shown below will take you there as well.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Fraternally,

Beta Psi of Sigma Nu House Corporation



*Scan Here to Donate to
Beta Psi Online!*

SPRING ALUMNI DINNER

Celebrating Generational Brotherhood: Our Memorable Spring 2023 Alumni Dinner

Because of the great turnout from our 2022 event, and high demand from our actives, we again hosted a dinner for our alumni, with plans to now hold one annually in the Spring. This year's Alumni Dinner on April 29, 2023, brought together our members from candidate classes as far back as the 60s and our Spring 2023 class, our most recently initiated brothers. Brothers from various times in the house were able to reconnect, reminisce, and strengthen the bonds that define Beta Psi over a delicious steak dinner.

The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as long-lost friends and brothers had these meaningful conversations. Through the shared singing of "Fraternity Man" in the chapter hall, the Beta Psi Chapter demonstrated the enduring spirit of its brotherhood and the profound impact it has on the lives of all who have joined this fraternity. The power of the song, and

the nostalgia and camaraderie those participating felt, was a true testament to the enduring bond that unites us across generations.

I was also pleased that more than speaking about house developments and our favorite memories as brothers, there were countless conversations about the diverse career paths our alumni have undertaken and our actives are interested in. I was able to learn from experts in the fields of engineering, finance, technology, accounting, and many other disciplines.

This dinner, alongside the one held a year prior, demonstrates a positive step for alumni relations, which were nearly nonexistent a few short years ago. We, the active chapter, are intent on showing our appreciation and thus want our alumni to always feel welcome at the chapter house. Hence, we aim to increase the frequency and turnout of events such as this dinner.

- Ian Seklawi (BP 1710)

MR. BETA PSI: DAVID C. RUEGG

On December 2, 2022, the brothers of Beta Psi of Sigma Nu gathered in San Francisco to pay tribute to brother Dave Ruegg (BP 823) for his tireless commitment and contributions to both our Cal chapter and the national fraternity.

More than 60 brothers from near and far attended, including six of Dave's own 'brothers' from his college years (1952-1959), who offered colorful anecdotes about their time in the "House" with Dave. We also heard from several speakers, including Sigma Nu National Executive Director Brad Beecham, who extolled Dave's stewardship as Regent of Sigma Nu, brother Bob Lalanne (BP 1030), the driving force behind the event, and the always entertaining brother Bob Tuck (BP 952), who served as emcee of the 'roasts and toasts' to Dave.

The event also served as the springboard for launching the "David C. Ruegg Leadership and Educational Scholarship Fund," establishing leadership and scholarship awards for collegiate members of the Beta Psi chapter. If you were unable to attend the event but would like to help fund this scholarship, you are welcome to help support your Beta Psi brothers by donating through the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation's website:

<https://www.sigmanu.org/educational-foundation/priorities/chapter-scholarship-accounts/david-c-ruegg-leadership-and-educational-fund>

It was a magical evening, offering both nostalgic and forward-thinking vibes as to the past, present, and future of our beloved "House".



Above Left: Brother Bob Lalanne served as our host and emcee for the evening's events.

Above Right: Attending brothers of Beta Psi gathered in front of the holiday tree as the evening ended.

Top Right: Our guest of honor – Mr. Sigma Nu – David C. Ruegg

Middle Right: Brother Brad Beecham, Sigma Nu National Executive Director, offered a toast and warm greetings from Lexington.

BETA PSI ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Captain Bob Iaconetti's Remarkable Triumph Defeating Covid-19

"We drifted Oer the harbor-bar, and I with sobs did pray-o let me be awake my God! Or let me sleep away" - The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1798

The World Health Organization reports that more than 1.2 million Americans have perished from Covid-19 since January 2020. Bob Iaconetti, (BP 1069), class of 1978 was hospitalized for Covid in the Fall of 2021 with a prognosis that he too would become another statistic in the mounting death toll. From his home in Leyden, WA Bob describes his plight: "I was the worst case of Covid the doctors at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Bellingham, WA had ever seen." Deliberating on his condition Bob shared, "Covid seeks out your body's weaknesses and unbeknownst to me the doctors found that I had undetected diabetes; I was unconscious and my stunned wife Barbie exclaimed, 'what diabetes?' realizing in that moment I had such undetected condition.

Barbie was the first member of the Iaconetti Family to contract Covid followed by daughter Kira in September 2021. "After a few days I too weakened and experienced fatigue. I recall it being a sunny Fall day and my oxygen level was very low. I was running a fever and was admitted to the hospital getting into a wheel chair." The doctor scolded me for being unaware that I was diabetic and soon thereafter I began to drift in-and-out of consciousness. Bob was intubated and in order to address the undetected diabetes he was administered dialysis. "I was told that I would have to relearn to talk, breathe, and was placed on a ventilator."

Astonishingly Bob remained unconscious for 2.5 months during his hospitalization and as time passed, survival, let alone returning to a normal life became tenuous. After 2.5 months without sedation Bob's doctors noted in his chart, "there is nothing we can do to wake him up, he has to do this on his own". Some time after this prognosis Bob's chart was updated with soul-crushing words, "patient is critically ill; death is imminent!" Son Kai inquired whether Bob had brain activity, and the feeling within his immediate family was uncertainty that perhaps we should "let him go".

"My family was frightened and they prayed for healing and closeness". Along with his family and friends a cohort of Bob's Beta Psi fraternity brothers remained vigilant praying and providing emotional support to Bob and his family. Among Bob's support group were lifetime friends Bob Lalanne and Dick Lee. After spending 2.5 months unconscious at St. Josephs Bob was transferred to Kindred Hospital an

acute hospital for 4 months and then a rehab hospital Rainier Hospital for 2 additional months. "In all I was hospitalized for eight months"!

"I received an incredible amount of prayers not just from my family but my collegiate, high school friends and work colleagues were there for me." "Even self-proclaimed atheists were praying for me". Speaking with Bob now one can readily sense his friendly, and genuinely affable nature. Bob grew up in West Maui near Napili Bay. His parents both graduated from Berkeley High and his father, also a Cal grad and former MASH doctor in Korea established a medical practice in Hawaii. Growing up in Hawaii Bob developed a lifelong passion for boating. He came to Cal as an architecture student junior year having transferred from San Diego State. He became acquainted with Bob Lalanne also an architecture major who invited the 20 year old Iaconetti to have dinner at the "House". Soon thereafter Bob pledged Sigma Nu.

"I joined Sigma Nu because the guys had similar interests and backgrounds to my own." My intention after graduation was to return to Hawaii and become an architect. The op-



Above: Out of the ICU and back to the open ocean.

BETA PSI ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

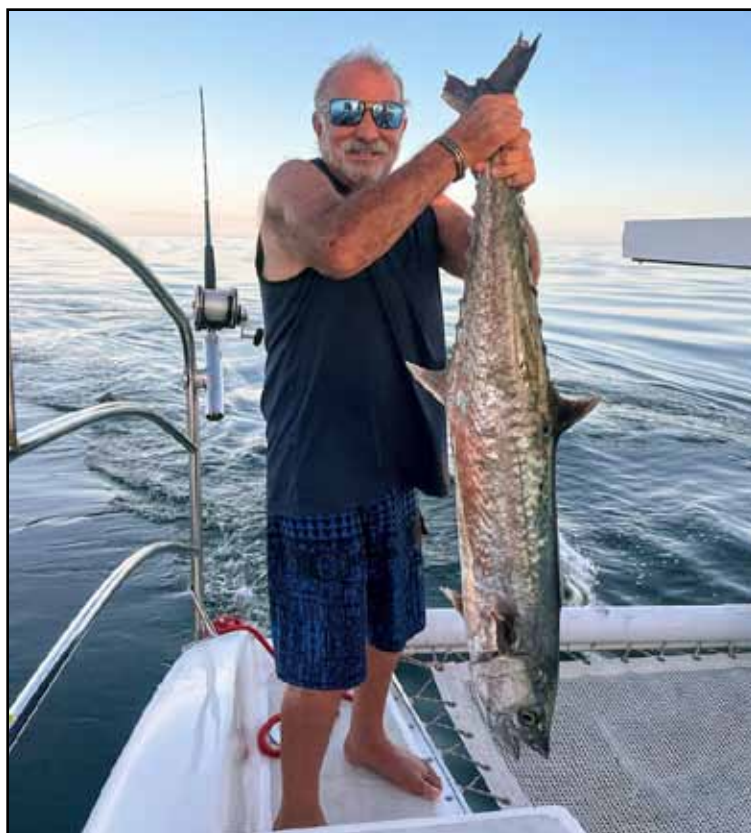
portunity was there in front of me but I redirected my vocational direction getting into boating. Initially I worked as a deckhand on a commercial boat with the prospect of becoming a boat captain. "I worked smart and worked hard". His employer recognized these traits and he was paid to obtain a captains license. Little did Bob dream that he would spend twenty-five years as a boat captain. He worked for Hyatt Hotels managing and skippering the boating program for the Maui Hyatt Regency for 21 years. Bob met the love of his life Barbie also a Hyatt employee; the couple wed and raised four children. Barbie partnered with Bob at the helm of the catamaran in which the two would escort hotel guests on tours off the Maui coast. Barbie, an expert diver, would guide swimmers on these coastal water excursions.

During these Hyatt years Bob and Barbie successfully boosted business three-fold. "Hyatt gave me a free reign and we eventually became the preeminent charter company in Hawaii". After twenty years on Maui the Iaconetti family moved to Lynden, WA (outskirts of Bellingham) where Bob captained a ferry close to the Canadian border for the next 17 years. The ferry system in Bellingham is notable for ferrying passengers to the San Juan Islands.

After 2.5 months laying unconscious in his hospital bed Bob's daughter's dog began to bark at his bedside and similar to Robin Williams in the movie 'Awakening,' Bob stirred, slowly opened his eyes and regained consciousness. Remarkably after 2.5 months unconscious Bob awoke for good! Barbie who wasn't able to visit Bob for much of his confinement due to Covid remarked, "it was a super natural act of God"!

Sometime after he was discharged from St. Joseph's hospital Bob returned to the floor where he spent all these months. Typically former patients are not permitted to visit but Bob's hospitalization made him a special case. Nurses and doctors were overjoyed that he came back to thank each of them. A teary-eyed nurse, Aaron shared, "I am Aaron and I took care of you for two and a half months". Yes indeed. Bob returned to thank those who for so long never gave up hope.

Do miracles really happen? Just ask a smiling Captain Bob!



*Top Right: Dominick, Barbie, Kira, Bob, Kai, and Brianne Iaconetti
Above Right: Catch of the day!*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SIGMA NUS

Over time, members of the House Corporation and Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) have been approached by Beta Psi brothers living in Southern California about holding alumni and, possibly, rush events in the 'southland'.

We are committing significant resources to expanding and 'cleaning up' our alumni contact database and developing

programs and activities that re-engage our alumni no matter where they live. SoCal alumni events are at the top of the list.

If you have any specific ideas for an event you would like to see happen and/or are willing to help organize one, please contact Dave Shaver (BP 1095), davewshaver@yahoo.com.



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SNU'S NEWS

What's new with you? Your brothers want to know! We encourage you to send us a brief update on what's going on in 'your world' so that we can include that in the next White Star. Moved; new job/new role; retired; marriage; kids; grand kids; travel...?? We want to hear about it.

Send your updates to: CalSigmaNu@CalSigmaNu.com

SNU NEWS

Robert C. Lalanne (BP 1030; EC, 1976) currently serves as Chairman-Elect of the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation.

Recent Omega Chapter "Passages"

- James P. Mahar (BP 1048) – 2023
- Bliss H. Green (BP 657; EC, Fall, 1953) – 2022
- Jon C. Hayman (BP 971; EC, 1971) – 2022
- Richard E. Lewis (BP 609) – 2022
- Stephen A. Lundin (BP 979; EC, 1973) – 2022
- Richard L. Niello (BP 494) – 2022
- William S. Ditto (BP 1023) – 2021
- Robert B. Roche (BP 689; EC, Spring 1954) – 2021
- Raymond M Kellner (BP 711) – 2021
- Richard L. Copeland (BP 1014; EC, 1974) – 2017

We ask if you can please help us by sending updates of other known Brothers who have entered the Omega Chapter.

SNU ZOOMS

Ever since the pandemic hit in March 2020, I've been hosting a weekly, one hour ZOOM gathering of brothers from across the decades – a few 50's, a few more 60's, a bunch of 70's and a few 80's. We talk SNU, we talk CAL, we talk LIFE, we talk SPORTS, we DON'T talk politics, and we always end with trivia.

This isn't by invitation! ALL brothers are welcome. Every Tuesday, 4:00 pm (PT). If you are interested in joining this merry band of pranksters, shoot me an email: timbo1000@gmail.com.

~ Tim Johnston (BP 994)