



Sigma Alpha Epsilon CAL BETA NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY | SPRING 2025

Duck Dinner 2024: Tradition, Celebration, and a Big Game Win



This year's Duck Dinner was one for the books, with the largest turnout of students and alumni in recent years. Held the night before the Big Game, the event was filled with laughter, good food, and a strong sense of Cal Beta brotherhood. Highlights included the induction of two incredible brothers, Gary Sherrer '76 and Jeremy Fiance '10, into the Cal Beta SAE Hall of Fame. Their achievements and dedication to the chapter continue to inspire us all. We were also honored to welcome Cal legend Burt Toler Jr. as our guest speaker. Burt shared stories of his time as a student-athlete, his family's remarkable legacy, and the values that have guided him throughout his life. His message of hard work and community left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance. The dinner set the perfect tone for the weekend, as the Bears followed it up with a victory over Stanford in the Big Game. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and we can't wait to see you again next year. Go Bears!

Jack Leathers Christmas Reunion

On Thursday, December 5th, the Cal Beta brothers hosted a special luncheon at the house with alumni from the Fabulous Fifties. Attendees enjoyed learning about the incredible legacy of John C. "Jack" Leathers. Alumni in attendance included Chuck Benjamin, Bob Farnam, Roy Gustafson, Jim Kidder, Al Kyte, Jim Riewerts, and Peter Van Houten, who shared stories of their time at Cal Beta and the lasting friendships built during the 1950s. The lunch was a meaningful way to honor Cal Beta's history and celebrate the enduring bonds of brotherhood.



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Michael Bohm

Deputy Eminent Archon
Toto Petrides

Eminent House Manager
Brennan Clark

Eminent Treasurer
Oscar Livingston

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Everest Schipper
Kieran Duffey

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Pierce Bergstein
Matt Amunategui

New Member Educator
George Bilonis

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Jack McCloskey '22

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and Mikey Williams '17

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Bill Rodgers '60

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Jeff Koblick '73



FROM THE OUTGOING Zak Robertson '22 PRESIDENT

Hello all,

My name is Zak Robertson and I am concluding my second and final term as Chapter President at Cal Beta. I am a junior from Newport Beach, CA studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley. There are countless people I would like to thank as my presidency comes to a close. Firstly, thank you to all the active members of the chapter, who (for the most part) made my job incredibly enjoyable and rewarding. Secondly, thank you to all the alumni and parents for your continued support of these fine young gentlemen that make up our chapter. And finally, a special thank you to Jeff Koblick and the rest of the Housing Corp. as well as Gary Sherrer, our chapter advisor, for helping me navigate any and all unforeseen circumstances during my time as president.

Since my last newsletter, the chapter has continued to thrive. We inducted 22 new members into the chapter, the largest class in recent memory, and all of these upstanding young gentlemen exemplify the qualities of a True Gentlemen to the fullest. I would like to thank our Rush Chair Grant Giuliano for the effort he put into recruiting such a great class. We are beyond excited to have them in the chapter and can't wait to see what they accomplish in the future.

We had quite a busy semester here at 2722 Bancroft. Firstly, we hosted our annual Parent's Weekend, where the families of active brothers came together for a formal dinner, a fundraising event for house improvements, and a tailgate before the Golden Bears took on the North Carolina State Wolfpack in the Homecoming Game. We would like to thank all of the parents who attended and donated for all you do to support the members of this house.

We also held our annual Duck Dinner the night before the Big Game, with the largest turnout of students and alums in recent memory. Brothers Gary Sherrer '76 and Jeremy Fiance '10 were both inducted to the Cal Beta SAE Hall of Fame, and we were honored to have UC Berkeley legend Burt Toler Jr. make an appearance as guest speaker. It is always a pleasure to uphold Cal Beta's longest-standing tradition, especially when we beat Stanford the next day! Thank you to all who attended, and we hope to see you all there next year.

Finally, to kick off the basketball season, we hosted Coach Mark Madsen, Chancellor Rich Lyons, and both the Men's and Women's basketball teams at 2722 Bancroft, where they spoke about their goals, expectations and how they planned to improve from last season. It was a great privilege to have them at the house, and we are excited to see what they can accomplish this year. A special thank you to Randy Scott '76 for organizing this event.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued support of the chapter. While I will no longer be in charge next semester, I have full confidence that the next Eminent Archon Michael Bohm '23 and the rest of the new leadership council will continue to uplift this organization and cement our place as the best fraternity on campus. Best wishes to everyone in the new year and Go Bears!

Incoming EA Report

Michael Bohm

Hello all,

My name is Michael Bohm, and I am honored to announce that I will be taking over as the Eminent Archon of the California Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. I am a sophomore from Orinda, California, studying Economics and Data Science. I have previously served as a Health and Safety Officer and a Risk Manager.

I want to extend a thank you to Zak Robertson, the former EA, who has been tremendous in helping me step into this new role. I would also like to thank all active brothers, alumni, and parents, for their continued support in the success and excellence of this house. And finally, thank you to Jeff Koblick and the members of the Housing Corp. for keeping 2722 Bancroft a special place to live.

At the end of the Fall, we said goodbye to two great brothers: Caleb Pine '21 and Lenny Melamed '23. Thank you for being amazing friends, mentors, and

True Gentleman to the entire house. We look forward to seeing all your future accomplishments. Congratulations and Phi Alpha.

Looking ahead to the spring semester, there are many things to be excited about.

We begin with spring rush, where we will induct new members into the Brotherhood of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. We will also have our annual South Seas volleyball tournament and party. With the tournament, we are continuing our support in the fight against ALS.

Again, thank you all for your support of Cal Beta. The leadership council and I are extremely excited to continue the success of the house. Finally, Happy New Years and Go Bears!



House Manager Update - Aiden Brutman F'22

This semester, we've seen some significant improvements around the house thanks to the generosity of a few key donors. Randy Scott '76 helped us repaint and touch up various areas, making the house look cleaner and more welcoming. His goal of making the house look more presentable was a success, especially with repainting our big C on the front walkway. Art Wardwell '81 was another key donor. His donation allowed us to buy new furniture for the front sundeck, giving us a nicely refurbished space to socialize and unwind between our studies. We also got support from many other generous donors who contributed to the purchase of our new cable machine at the end of the Spring 24 semester, which quickly became the core of exercise routines at the house. Equipment like this is very valuable to us as it motivates more brothers to work out at the house, allowing for an additional space and time for us to engage with one another. Just as the water bottle filler did a few semesters ago, every new feature we add to the house brings along with it a new social point. These upgrades have significantly impacted us, and we're thankful to everyone who contributed. Thanks to their support, the house is in better shape and has more to offer.

That being said, I will no longer be the House Manager after serving the past three semesters, and I am excited to hand off the reins to Brennan Clark '23. I look forward to seeing the many improvements during his time in office when I return from Spain in the Fall.

PA,
Aiden Brutman F'22



GLIMPSE OF PAST AND PRESENT





MEET OUR

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



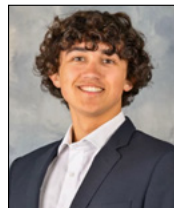
Eminent Archon

Michael Bohm is a sophomore from Orinda, California. He is studying Economics and Data science and hopes to pursue a career in product management. He has previously served as a Health and Safety Officer and a Risk Manager.



Risk Managers

Everest Schipper is a freshman from Santa Barbara, California. He is studying Economics and hopes to pursue a career in finance.



Kieran Duffey is a sophomore from Redwood City, California. He is studying Economics and Data Science. He hopes to pursue a career in wealth management.



Deputy Eminent Archon

Christopher "Toto" Petridedes is a senior from Honolulu, Hawaii. He is studying Political Economy and is an aspiring pilot.



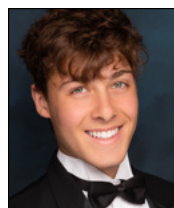
Social Chairmen

Pierce Bergstein is a freshman from Pacific Palisades, California. He is studying Economics and Data Science. He is interested in careers involving consulting, statistics, or econometrics.



Eminent House Manager

Brennan Clark is a sophomore from Pacific Palisades, California. He is studying Economics and philosophy. He hopes to pursue a career in real estate development. He has previously served as Eminent Chronicler.



Matthew Amunategui is a freshman from Miami, Florida. He is studying Molecular and Cell Biology and Economics. He hopes to pursue a career in biotechnology, specifically involving stem cells and regenerative medicine.



Eminent Treasurer

Oscar Livingston is a freshman from Redwood City, California. He is studying Data Science and History and hopes to pursue a career in finance.



New Member Educator

George Billionis is a sophomore from San Jose, California. He is studying Astrophysics and Applied Math with hopes to pursue a career in research and academia. He has previously served as Eminent Warden.



Our Alumni Updates



Joe Falkinham

Joe, a Class of 1964 graduate with a degree in Bacteriology, has forged an impressive career in the fields of science and academia. Currently serving as a Professor of Microbiology at Virginia Tech, his professional journey reflects a deep commitment to advancing scientific understanding and shaping future generations of scholars. His early career included service as a captain in the United States Air Force Biomedical Science Corps, where he contributed to the medical and scientific efforts of the military. Following this, he pursued a postdoctoral fellowship in microbiology at the University of Alabama Birmingham, further solidifying his expertise and passion for the field.

Outside of his academic and professional achievements, he places great importance on family and personal enrichment. He enjoys traveling and spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, cherishing the connections and memories created across generations. These activities underscore his belief in balancing a successful career with meaningful personal relationships.

Reflecting on his time at Cal, Joe fondly recalls the formative relationships he built with intelligent and savvy men at the SAE house. These friendships, formed during his college years, have stood the test of time and continue to enrich his life. The sense of camaraderie and intellectual stimulation he experienced during those years remains a cherished memory.

For today's undergraduates, he offers simple yet powerful advice: "Work, work, work, and find something you love to do." This mantra highlights the importance of dedication and passion in pursuing a fulfilling career and life. His journey is a testament to the rewards of perseverance, intellectual curiosity, and the enduring value of strong relationships.



Geoff Blake

A proud Class of 1983 graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice, Geoff dedicated his life to serving his country as a distinguished Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army. Over a remarkable career, he held pivotal leadership roles, including assignments in the 82nd Airborne Division during the Grenada operation and the 75th Ranger Regiment during the Panama mission. His final role as Deputy Director of Operations for Northern Europe at AFNORTH in the Netherlands highlighted his strategic acumen and commitment to excellence.

Beyond his career achievements, he finds joy in life's simple pleasures. He is passionate about watching college and professional sports, staying active through exercise, enjoying time by the water, attending live music events, and experimenting with cooking. These activities reflect a well-rounded approach to living a fulfilling life after an illustrious military career.

Reflecting on his time at Cal, Geoff cherishes the personal growth and lasting connections he made. He fondly recalls discovering his life's direction, living his purpose, and sharing meaningful experiences with his pledge brothers, little sisters, and friends through traditions like pledge sneak, projects, and Duck Dinners. These moments were instrumental in shaping the leader he became.

To today's undergraduates, he offers the wisdom he has gained from years of experience: "Find your purpose and live it without hesitation. Mistakes are part of the journey—learn from them, focus on growth, and always think ahead with a 5-10 year plan." This advice encapsulates his belief in forward thinking and the importance of living intentionally.

2722 Bancroft Scholarship Winner - Sebastian Harris



"I am incredibly grateful for the continued support the foundation has provided me through multiple scholarships during my time at UC Berkeley. The assistance has been invaluable in easing the financial burden of attending a top-tier university and has allowed me to focus on my academic and professional development without the stress of additional monetary concerns. These scholarships have not only helped me pursue my degree in Economics but have also enabled me to seize professional opportunities,

including internships in investment banking and corporate development. By reducing the need for part-time work, I've been able to dedicate more time to gaining hands-on experience, developing essential skills, and pursuing leadership roles. Your support has made it possible for me to fully engage in my education and professional growth, positioning me to successfully transition into a career in banking upon graduation.

Your continued belief in my potential has motivated me to give back to my community and to work towards making a meaningful impact in my field. I am deeply thankful for your investment in my future, and I look forward to the opportunity to carry forward the values and support you have shown me throughout my academic career."

Lost Alumni

We do not have a mailing address for the alumni below. Please email fmgoscarperez@gmail.com with any address, email, or cell phone information you have. For a full list of lost alumni see our website page here: <https://www.saecalbeta.org/lost-alumni>.

Robert Henninger '43
Hampton Terry '47
Cliff Cole '51
David Symon '56
Herbert Giovacchini '57
Richard Critchlow '58
William Livingston '58
David Albert '60
Michael Jauregui '60
John Salisbury '61
Warren White '63
John Cullen '64
Colby Anderson '70
John D'Elia '72
John Kay '72
Robert Manolakas '72
Steven Collins '73
Steven Hahn '73
John Buckley '74
Jack Schwartz '74
Daniel Green '75
James Ballard '77
Peter Howes '77
Kevin Burke '79
Timothy Young '79
Timothy Dietrich '80
John Forsman '80

Bradford Hubler '80
Matt Macy '80
Brett Trauthen '80
Michael Valli '80
Jeffery Hyde '81
Jeffrey Kimball '81
Michael Merrick '81
Robert Owen '82
John Hermes '84
David Barnett '85
Peter Nagle '85
Gregory Brown '86
Joseph Ferguson '86
John Indart '86
Mike Miller '87
Steven Hartry '88
Malcolm Duerod '89
Craig Mitchell '90
Frank Gonzales '91
Jeffrey Moloughuey '93
Brett Mickael '94
Matt Currie '95
Bende Toth '96
Todd Ball '99
Mitchell Anderson '00
Michael Melby '00
Brian Schultz '00

Samuel Woodhams-Roberts '00
Jake Zwierzycki '00
Shawn Aslani '03
Gary Soiseth '05
Nate Floyd '06
Carl Nash '06
Patrick Mais '07
Christofer Bustamante '08
Clair Martin '08
Johnson Wang '08
Mihir Kshirsagar '09
Stephen Kaiser '11
Blake Kelly '11
Samy Labbouz '11
R. Scott McRoskey '11
Garrett Miller '11
Eric Wieser '11
Geoff Gibson '12
Cody Gomborg '13
Luis Angulo '17
Ben Orem '18
Romain Priour '18
Zachary Rosenberg '19
Marcus Shankland '19
Callum Janis '20

WAYS TO GIVE



SUPPORT CAL BETA THROUGH GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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Please consider leaving a legacy with Cal Beta that helps us fund housing upgrades, career and leadership programs, and scholarships in areas you would like to impact.



Learn more about Cal Beta's Leave-a-Legacy Program at <https://www.saecalbeta.org/leave-a-legacy>.

DONATE NOW

<https://www.saecalbeta.org/donate>

LEGACY GIVING

Please contact Matt Noble at matt.noble@fmgtucson.com or 520-990-3250 if you are willing to speak on a career panel this spring (February-April) or to hold small group or one on one career conversations with an undergraduate.

SEND US YOUR RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

If you have a recruitment recommendation for us us peals complete this form: <https://saecalbeta.org/rush-recommendation>.

CAL BETA SAE IN THE 1950'S



Back Row: Bill Russ, Bob Stevens, Bill Dougall, Orv Hatcher, Dick Turrell, Dick Harris, Jack McQuary, George Adair, Walt Otto, Bob Bond, "Duke" Watson, Wayne Carroll, Bill Brownlee, Jim Armstrong, Hank Baum, Leslie "Rivet" Meyer, Fred Fulston

Front Row: Charles Huff, Bud Parker, George Jennings, Jim Todesco, Kent Collings, Donald Bowers, Boyd McGinn, Wayne Boggs, Bob Ziegler, Ed Prati, Bill Judson, Don Lamons, Al Schmidt, Bob Ferguson, George Casey, Harold Jones, Dave Ormiston, Worlin Gray, George West

Entering CAL at age 17, from the farming town of San Jose, was the best experience of my young life. Fortunately, there were three high school friends a year ahead of me and they all joined CAL Beta in 1949. I was initiated in February 1951.

My parents who had graduated from Oakland Tech were slightly concerned I might exit CAL a communist as the faculty of the greatest University in the World would not sign the Loyalty Oath. (Look it up.) I exited quite conservative from the then Business School. (Now Hass.)

The atmosphere was enthusiastically positive at all levels. (Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, re the atom, was the faculty advisor to athletics). Enthusiasm for football was especially high. We had played in three successive Rose Bowls. All first-year students were required to take Geography, held in Dwinelle

Hall. On Fridays', the prof would lead us in CAL yells and songs. The Campanille played CAL songs as well. On game day the attire was white T shirts and Levi's and the rooting section was 10,000 strong, comprised of males only.

It was without a doubt the greatest rooting section in the country. We caused a change in how referees counted off 15-yard penalties. (In those days, the refs would step off each penalty yard by yard.) When we felt the penalty was unfair or wrong against CAL, we counted off one step at a time, ending with a resounding "YOU BASTARD". That ended walking off penalties. When the team would take the field just before the kickoff we would sing "Hail to California, alma mater dear, sing your joyful chorus, sound it far and near....." It was very special.

My pledge class of eleven was exceptional, (as we

all think), as we had three student body presidents, a tennis champion from Canada, a golf champion, sailing champion in I 14's, and three singers from the CAL Quintet.

During the fall and spring semesters we acquired the current bell from the Acacia fraternity at UOP and the Lions from the San Jose State DU's. Acacia collected bells (over 100) in various ways. The DU's stole the lions from some hotel near Palo Alto during a big dance. They attempted to sell them to the SJSU Zeta SAE chapter (who refused to pay the \$50 asking price) and then offered them to CAL Beta, who also refused. Since four brothers were from San Jose and knew the territory, we decided to free the lions from their captors. The lions currently in front are replacements for the originals that were dynamited in 1957. No injuries but many broken windows from the dynamite.

During the years I was at CAL, SAE was one of the best fraternities on campus. In 1950 there were 52 fraternities and sororities. We won, I think, 17 intermural championships, and the Spring Sing twice. The hallway walls from the entry to the back rooms was adorned with our championship plaques. And in the Chapter room there was a large "C" where all Big C members carved their names. A couple were Olympic champions. (Where they have gone, only Minerva knows.) We ranked well academically, with several Phi Beta Kappas. In addition, we had campus leaders, and Big C members from swimming, track, rugby, football, basketball, and baseball. Wining the NCCA baseball championship with Cal Beta brother Doug Weiss pitching.

Our social life was outstanding, and our serenades were wonderful. (In fact, when I announced pinning my one and only, Mona, (now in our 70th year) three carloads of brothers drove down to Stanford to serenade my sweetheart at her residence hall. And then we all went to Rosatties for beer and pizza. Our South Seas Party was terrific. Best, without a doubt, (a large water fall and a lake). One year a

neighbor from Sigma Nu went swimming in our lake early in the morning and decided to break down the sides. The water flowed out the back, turned right and flooded the basement food storage area of the SN's. How sweet that was.

During my junior year I was introduced to life insurance and became a campus representative for the Provident Mutual life Insurance company of Philadelphia. Life companies would not hire anyone unless age 35, married, two kids and a mortgage. Anyone younger couldn't possibly sell life insurance. Provident was the first company to establish campus units to teach upper classmen business majors the business of life insurance, advice and selling. There were five campus units, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and CAL. Talk about the luck of the draw, I led the nation in campus sales because of my CAL Beta brothers. Many brothers were being commissioned into the services and worried about going to Korea. Introducing them to a \$10.00 a month \$10,000 policy with their parents as beneficiaries was not a difficult sale. As a result, after graduation, marrying Mona, and serving two years in the US Army, I returned to the now emerging metropolis of San Jose(1958) to sell life insurance. I spent 64 years in the life insurance business, estate, and financial planning. A pledge brother, Michael Friedenbach, still has policies in force. Plus, he is a grand contributor to CAL Beta, (helped save the house in the 1970's), and to CAL Athletics. Check the names on the wall as you enter Hass Pavilion and the Friedenbach meeting room in Memorial Stadium. Mike and I are the last two left of our pledge class. (We will do our best to make the 2025 Duck Dinner.)

As I think back, the years at CAL, and being a member of CAL Beta were some of the best years anyone could have experienced. GO BEARS!

Paul Manolis recounts the early 50's in his History of CAL Beta, pages 251 to 258. All should read his history as it is a work of love.

PHI ALPHA
Sheldon Onstead



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LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4224953/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/saecal/>

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Your gift helps us support our career program, send members to Leadership Conferences, fund tutoring, and provide scholarships to our undergraduates.

Please consider providing a monthly recurring gift of \$10-\$100 per month. Even small gifts when combined with others has a significant impact. See the QR code below.

For those of you who prefer a one-time gift, see the QR code below or cut out the return form below and mail to us.

No matter what avenue you choose, know your support – your continuing engagement – is always deeply appreciated and is put to good use.



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