



NATIONAL Newsletter

20th Year: Number 1

September 1956

ΔΚΑ

NATIONAL HONORARY
CINEMA FRATERNITY



ALPHA CHAPTER -
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



BETA CHAPTER -
BOSTON
UNIVERSITY



GAMMA CHAPTER -
NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY



DELTA CHAPTER -
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES

September 11, 1956

To All Members of DKA:

The publication of this Newsletter sets in motion a new era in the annals of the fraternity. DKA has grown from its original ten members in 1936 to its current membership of over a thousand. It is the duty of the National organization to hold this group together.

This Newsletter is the first step in that direction. Your Executive Council, in its many meetings since last May, has developed a multi-faceted plan of action starting with this Newsletter. The next step is a completed National Directory. The Council is working on a program for National awards for individuals and films and is undertaking a plan to amass job availability information.

It is my personal hope that the four Active Chapters and new ones to come will be banded together stronger than ever, and that we can all set our sights high, moving forward together as a unified body.

Best personal regards,

DELTA KAPPA ALPHA FRATERNITY

Herbert L. Strock,
National President

From Your Editor

This Newsletter begins a new series being issued from the office of the DKA National Executive Council. We plan to start with two issues each semester, our hope being that this publication will keep all members of DKA in closer touch with one another by serving as a meeting place for reports of your activities and accomplishments.

We believe that the Newsletter will help encourage greater participation in the activities of both the Active Chapters and the National organization. Your editor will be grateful if you will encourage this belief by keeping him posted on a regular basis concerning your programs, the whereabouts of your alumni, etc. You need not wait till the end of a semester to pass on information about yourselves. The more information you make available, the finer we can make this Newsletter.

A word or two concerning our special features. In the 'Call Sheet' we have given you some idea of the opportunities constantly arising in the field of cinema. If you are aware of such openings in your locality, you will do yourself and your fellow members of the fraternity a service by letting the National Chapter (and the Newsletter) serve as a clearing house for positions. Our aim is to serve YOU, to fill YOUR needs. Perhaps we can help you round out your organization, or assist you in finding a needed position.

Mailing lists have a habit of becoming dated. If you know the whereabouts of any DKA member listed in our box 'Where Are They?', please let us know NOW. Your help will be appreciated, as it will enable us to obtain wider dissemination of the Newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

RUSSELL BEMIS, Editor

Send all communications to:

Delta Kappa Alpha Executive Secretary
c/o Department of Cinema
University of Southern California
University Park
Los Angeles 7, California

NATIONAL NEWS

Reorganization of the National Chapter was begun last February in cooperation with Alpha Chapter. SC Chapter President Herbert A. Thurman and V.P. Martin Shelton and Russel W. Bemis, Treasurer, Delta Chapter, were particularly interested in getting the National on an operating basis. They spent much time working with Herbert L. Strock in accomplishing that goal. The present membership of the National Executive Council is as follows:

President:	Herbert Strock
Executive Secretary:	Herbert E. Farmer
Treasurer:	David Johnson
Members:	Melvin Sloan, USC
	Marlys Anding, UCLA
	Russell Bemis, UCLA
	Richard Duffield, UCLA
	Douglas Gallez, USC
	Richard Harber, USC
	Ron Jacobs, UCLA
	Ken Miura, USC
	Joel Swanson, UCLA

Herb Strock, a graduate of the SC Department of Cinema in the early forties and a DKA active while an undergraduate, is one of the most valuable men the fraternity has ever had. He helped DKA survive during World War II by sending out newsletters, stimulating increased activity in Alpha Chapter, and lending his support to fraternity programs

whenever possible. Presently a director for Ziv Productions, he recently completed the television series *Highway Patrol*, starring Broderick Crawford, which many of you may have seen on your local stations. He directed a number of the *I Led Three Lives* TV films, and the feature films *Gog* and *Battle Taxi*. Alpha alumni Herb Farmer, Mel Sloan, Ken Miura, and Dave Johnson are on the staff of the USC Department of Cinema. Russell Bemis and Marlys Anding are President and past President respectively of Delta Chapter at UCLA.

The above temporary appointments on the National Executive Council were made to facilitate reorganization of the National Chapter. We look forward to the National election in January, 1957, when the Executive Council will be elected by all Chapters, so as to contain a representative from each chapter. Meetings of the present Executive Council have been held the past few months, and groundwork is being laid for closer chapter ties.

A National Convention is contemplated in the spring of 1957, to be held in Los Angeles. It has been proposed that the fraternity establish National DKA Annual Awards for the best university-produced film and for the best professional film utilizing DKA alumni on its crew. Further news

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Chapter Activities

Alpha - U.S.C.

Officers, Fall 1956:

President:: Douglas W. Gallez
Vice President: Christopher Seiter
Treasurer: Charles Finance
Recording Secretary: Erik Daarstad
Corresponding Secretary: Ramon Ponce
Sergeant at Arms: James Hatch
Faculty Advisor: William S. Mehring

Alpha Chapter's major project this past year has been its work in helping to reorganize the National Chapter. Alpha has also been active in other areas and is proud to report that 1955-56 was one of its best years.

Film Classics Society, an organization that shows twelve film programs per term to SC students and all other interested persons, has enjoyed DKA sponsorship with Alpha Chapter carrying the major burden of running it. The spring series was particularly successful and enjoyed large audiences thanks to hard work on the part of the Chapter Publicity Committee and some good publicity breaks with local radio stations. The Society was honored to have among its guests for the showing of *The General*, the great comedian Buster Keaton, and his younger counterpart, Donald O'Connor, both of whom are presently working on a film biography of Keaton for Paramount. Both were seated in the auditorium after the picture had started, and the audience was unaware that the two comedians were present until the film had been shown. Keaton received a tremendous ovation when he was introduced to the audience, and both guests spoke to the audience. The guests were quite impressed by the short film that was shown, a satire entitled *The Red Menace*, made in the Senior Production Workshop of the Department of Cinema. Other films exhibited during the spring term were *Intolerance*, *The Snake Pit*, *Son of the Sheik*, *The Jazz Singer*, *Them*, *The Lost Weekend*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Genevieve*, *Moussorgsky*, *Leaves from Satan's Book*, and a program of experimental films. The films are given two showings every Tuesday night in two large lecture halls in Founders Hall, one of the newest University buildings. Ramon Ponce served as Film Classics Chairman during 1955-56; he is being succeeded by John Apostolou this fall.

Most of you have probably heard of *The Face of Lincoln*, prize-winning two-reel short subject made by the staff of the SC Department of Cinema. This documentary has won an Oscar, a Golden Reel, and

many other awards. We are particularly proud of this film because it was made by Alpha Chapter alumni and associates. Wilbur Blume, producer, Dave Johnson, production manager, Dick Harber, cameraman and editor, and Danny Wiegand, sound director, are all alumni members, while Edward Freed, director, is an associate. The film is receiving widespread theatrical bookings and is being distributed to schools and other groups on 16 mm. Nearly 200 copies were sold in 16 mm. in the first six months.

Our new pledge program, inaugurated during the spring term by VP Martin Shelton, has been particularly successful, bringing to the chapter a new group of pledges who have demonstrated their interest and have closely allied themselves with chapter activities. Pledge projects, papers, and examinations were used to test the sincerity and competence of the pledges, and those who survived the rigorous program are expected to be definite future assets to the chapter and the fraternity.

One of our regular features is the bi-monthly Friday night programs held in the Department with people from the film industry participating. These people discuss their specialties and often bring along films on which they have worked. These meetings have recently featured James Wong Howe, Oscar-winning cinematographer; David Brown, Vice-President in charge of the Story Department at Twentieth Century-Fox; Art Leazenby, publicity director for the Todd-AO organization, and a group of production designers, who conducted an excellent symposium for the chapter. We are indebted to Barry Kirk, who served as Publicity Chairman during the spring term, for his help in arranging these programs.

Our newest honorary, initiated at the semi-annual banquet on May 18, 1956, is Charles Palmer of Parthenon Films, a non-theatrical company in Los Angeles. Fred Gately, ASC, a Hollywood cameraman who taught documentary film lighting in the Department last spring, was initiated to associate membership. Last fall, our honorary was Elmo Williams, well-known editor responsible for *High Noon*, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, and other fine films.

All told, Alpha's activities during 1955-56 were highly rewarding, thanks to the able leadership of Presidents Daulat Masuda and Herb Thurman, and we anticipate even greater things for the coming year.

Beta - Boston U.

President: Louis Goldstein
 Secretary: Raymond Marinelli
 Treasurer: David F. Dowling
 Sergeant at Arms: Roy Brubaker

According to their December, 1955 Newsletter, Beta Chapter reports its most successful season. They were busy attracting new members, organizing a film society, arranging permanent wide-screen and color exhibits with the aid of Hollywood studios, and working with the British Information Service to arrange free showings of documentary films.

The *DKA Film Club*, organized in the fall of 1955, showed a program of Chaplin films, *Dream of a Rarebit Fiend*, excerpts from *The Last Laugh*, *Triumph of the Will*, selected Nazi newsreels, *The Battle of San Pietro*, *Un Chien Andalou*, and *Along Came Jones*, during its first series. During the spring semester, the Club showed *Ten Days that Shook the World*, *Battleship Potemkin*, *Storm Over Asia*, *To Be or Not to Be*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Abraham Lincoln*. Beta Chapter members are admitted free to all showings; others may obtain membership in the club for one dollar.

The Chapter reports that many of its recent alumni are working in the industry, and they urge all other alumni to write the Chapter concerning their activities.

Gamma - N.Y.U.

ED. NOTE: As this issue of the Newsletter goes to press, we have no word from N.Y.U. regarding Gamma Chapter's activities. We hope by the next issue to be able to report fully their plans for the year.

Delta - U.C.L.A.

Officers, Fall 1956:

President: Richard L. Duffield
 Vice President: Abe S. Fawal
 Treasurer: Paul Bird
 Secretary: Joel Swanson
 Activities Chairman: Paul Gaer

A semester of furious activity was climaxed on June 2, 1956, when Delta Chapter held its annual banquet at the Bit of Sweden Restaurant in Hollywood. Approximately 120 people came that night to pay tribute to retiring faculty members



First Year Winners of the DKA, Delta Chapter sponsored departmental awards for top student achievement in Motion Picture Production, Spring, 1955. Left to Right standing: Don Weisburd, best documentary; Curt Courant, faculty member receiving award for best photography; Pierre Vacho, best actor; Wes Bilson, best documentary; Colin Young, best script. Seated left to right: Neila Tillotson, best film and color photography; Maria Romily, best

Kenneth MacGowan and Curtis Courant and to the chapter's new honorary, George Seaton. In a series of down-to-earth, factual speeches, the achievements and endowments of both the founder of UCLA's motion picture department and its leading professor of cinematography were recorded. Though he was not able to attend the banquet, Mr. Seaton was succinctly cited for his invaluable professional aid to the motion picture students at UCLA.

The evening's dramatic highlight came with the opening of sealed envelopes that contained hitherto secret names of winners in the annual DKA balloting to determine the year's best student films. Ralph Hummel's 'War Story' garnered a high percentage of the 'Golden Reels' in the sound categories, and awards went to students in various silent categories as well. Films to be entered in

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Call Sheet

the eleven categories had first been shown to a five-man nominations committee, with the nominated films later being shown to the entire DKA membership for final voting.

Probably the most ambitious venture of Delta chapter during the Spring semester was its showing of five classic films on successive Friday nights. Despite our problems in booking, publicity, and conflicting campus activities, approximately 180 cinema-minded souls bought series tickets priced at \$1 apiece; they saw 'Snake Pit', 'Letter To Three Wives', 'You Can't Take It With You', and 'How Green Was My Valley'. For the final event of the series, Mr. Jerry Wald kindly lent us a print of Renoir's 'Human Beast', which enabled us to pay a very special farewell tribute to Mr. Curtis Courant, the departing cinematography professor on our faculty who had himself photographed the film in France in 1935. As a prelude to the film, 'Curt' spoke about the peculiar problems involved in shooting this picture from the various cars of a fast-moving train. The film proved stimulating for its practical illustration of so many theoretical points we had heard expounded in his classroom lectures.

As a bonus feature on several programs we included reels of advertising cartoons created for television commercials in the unique 'Storyboard' style. To these audience reaction was immediately and overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

The semester's activities sponsored by DKA began with an afternoon's showing of films from the UCLA motion picture department's vaults. 'Uirapuru', 'Crucifixion', 'Bird Hunt' and other highly honored films produced here proved as exciting and revealing to this new audience as they had to other earlier ones.

To the Village Theater in Westwood producer-writer Karl Kreuger brought a print of his latest film, 'Comanche', and invited all Theater Arts students to attend a showing of it under the sponsorship of DKA. Present at the showing were Mr. Kreuger, his editor and musical composer, and Miss Linda Cristal. During the discussion that followed the film, many interesting facts were revealed concerning the labor, processing, and special effects problems this low-budget film encountered while shooting on location in Mexico.

The Village Theater paid us a final kindness in June by inviting all DKA members to make complimentary visits to see John Ford's 'The Searchers'. Its manager and assistant manager also provided

Requests for personnel are coming to the Department of Cinema in greater quantities than we can fill from current graduates and local contacts. They are from all over the country, for varied specialties and at many different levels (salaries and abilities). Here are some examples:

1. Writer-Director - military installation, California area (GS9 \$5440).
2. Director-Cameraman - commercial producer, New York area (\$4500).
3. Laboratory technician - commercial producer, Boston area (\$4800).
4. Editor - University Producer - midwest (\$4000).
5. Editor-cameraman, University Producer - south (\$4500).
6. Editor-cameraman, industrial producer, southern California area (\$4800).
7. Sound engineer - military installation, California area (GS9 \$5440).
8. Writer-editor - military installation, California area (GS9 \$5440).

If you are interested in a change, let us know and we shall put you in touch with the possibilities. The more round pegs in round holes, the better for everyone.

HERB FARMER
Executive Secretary

for a tour through the theater's projection room, so that fraternity members studying Mr. Ford's finished work on the screen might also inspect the technical apparatus which put it there.

Two representatives from television came to tell us of some very special problems they met in preparing and presenting filmed half-hour shows. Bringing for our viewing a print of the Caesarian operation drama withheld from television showings, 'Medic' producer Frank LaTourette involved himself in a stormy discussion about the problems arising from pressure groups in television. From Mr. Murphy, who wrote a script of Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Markheim', we learned about the complexities of adapting a literary classic for dramatic presentation.

Through the efforts of DKA member Melvin Patridge, the Delta chapter rendered a unique service to the UCLA motion picture department. In weekly classes Pat gave lectures on and practice in the operation of sixteen and thirty-five millimeter motion picture equipment.

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Here and There with Members

ALPHA CHAPTER

BILL FORTIN, '50, and BILL MORRISON, '48, have recently formed their own production company in Hollywood--F.M Productions. Congratulations to Bill Fortin for his Oscar winning photography on 'Men Against The Arctic.'

DICK POLISTER, '52, Head of the Motion Picture Unit at Purdue University has just been re-elected Secretary of the University Film Producers Association.

BETH PATRICK, '56, is currently employed as a secretary at Disney's and is doing part time work for 'Global' Zobel.

RALPH RODINE, '56, is at Clokey Films, Hollywood, and S MARTIN (TEX) SHELTON, '56, is with the Texas Industrial Film Company, Houston.

SAM GANDRUD, '52, is the proprietor of the Trojan Camera Shop near the SC campus.

Lt. Col. NORM GRAY, '50, has recently been called to the Pentagon to head the Signal Corps Television Program.

TURGIT (TED) DEMIRAG, '40, is the president of AND FILM, Istanbul, Turkey.

BRIGETTE REINER, '50, is now with the German TV Network in Munich.

ERWIN DUMBRILLE, '52, formerly with ZIV, is currently pining away at Astoria as an editor in the Signal Corps.

CRAIG CURTIS, '50, is in charge of the operations of the kine recording department at NBC Hollywood.

NANCY FARRELL, '53, is with H. W. Wilson as an editor (Educational Film Guide).

FLICK FLEISCHER, '56, is now with the University of Nebraska Production Unit as Director of Photography.

DELTA CHAPTER

JUSTIN PURCHIN, '54, is working in the film department of North American Aviation.

KARL KLING, '54, is at present working for the War



Initiation Banquet at Stevens Nikabob, December 7, 1941 (we think?). Left to right, front row: Lewis Physis, Rusty Wiles, Herb Farmer, Dan Wiegand, Paul O'Keefe; Second row: Rudy Rowland, Bob Lee, Turgit Demirag, Bill Ingall, Luke Wolfram.

Department in Washington, D.C.

RON JACOBS, '55, is associate producer on the Danny Thomas TV show.

SHAWN SAYLES, '56, is presently the assistant manager of the Village Theatre in Westwood, Los Angeles.

LEE STROSNIDER, '54, is free lancing in writing and directing.

RON MUNNS, '55, is a camera man on a pilot film on a new TV series on crime investigation.

MARLYS ANDING, '54, is with Douglas Aircraft in the library and research.

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Where Are They?

The following people are among those who seem to have dropped out of sight. Can you help us with their correct addresses?

Whitney Alexander, '37
Terry Bissinger, '36
Steve Coakley, '55
Speight Cooper, '48
Allen K. Dallas, '36
Don Duke, '40
Stan Johnson, '49
Sheldon Kaplan, '49

Don McIntosh, '52
Henry Miller, '47
Ralph Papin, '49
Richard Shore, '52
Frank Smouse, '40
Louis Tarlton, '36
Charles Van Dusen, '37
Isabel Vick, '47

If you know of any others with whom we may have lost contact, would you take the time to send a card or note?

about these matters will follow in future Newsletters.

Alpha and Delta Chapters have agreed that the permanent National office be established at the SC Department of Cinema, inasmuch as the greatest concentration of actives and alumni are located in the Los Angeles area, and since past files are already located there, along with secretarial facilities. We would appreciate learning the views of other chapters on this matter at an early date.

Financial support for the National will be achieved by having each Chapter send in one dollar for each of its members, payable at the beginning of each fall semester, and for new members upon their initiation into the fraternity. Alumni dues of three dollars per year will be paid directly to the National office. The treasury will be used to pay for the Newsletter, mailing and duplicating fees, and the proposed National awards.

In order to standardize and facilitate ordering of pins, keys, and membership certificates for new actives, honoraries, and associates, all materials will be ordered from the National Headquarters. This will enable such items to be ordered on a bulk basis, eventually resulting in savings for each chapter. If each chapter sends the National office a list of names of those being initiated into active and associate membership, the National will see that necessary items are delivered in time for presentation ceremonies.

We have set for ourselves an ambitious program in reorganizing the National office, but it is an undertaking that can be of great benefit to all of us. A National Fraternity that serves a true professional function in the motion picture industry is the only organization worthwhile. It can help bring members into closer contact with the industry, providing vocational help for those starting out, and helping to unify the industry professionally. The cooperation of all Chapters with the National office will help the fraternity to realize these goals.

Please let us have your questions, suggestions, and complaints, and by all means--news of you or your chapter.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? A card or a note to the Executive Secretary will provide the information for the next Newsletter. Your friends are interested.

Especially pleasing to old-time members of the Delta chapter was its pledge program, which during the Spring semester gained for us fourteen new members. The pledge list was compiled from names of interested applicants who had signed our announcement about the opening of pledging, and who could meet our standards of having completed one upper division motion picture course, of currently taking one such course, and of maintaining a 1.5 grade point average in the major. The pledges proved their mettle by selling tickets to our film series, by doing research for and helping to produce our mimeographed programs, by assisting in the house management at our various affairs, and by attendance at meetings.

Yes, we even had a semester party. Those not too wearied by the hectic round of more serious events and not too frightened by the prospect of forthcoming finals attended the soiree held in the semester's last week and had a merry time.

HERE AND THERE WITH MEMBERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

CHUCK SACKS, '53, and MITCH ROSE, '53, are making a series of motion pictures for the Air Force.

STU ROE, '54, is with Disney Studios.

JOEL SWANSON, '55, is working for CBS TV in Los Angeles.

FRED ROOS, '55, is traveling in Europe and represented DKA at the Venice, Edinburgh, and Cannes film festivals.

RUSS BEMIS, '54, is with architect and engineer's office at UCLA.



Newsletter

NATIONAL

NATIONAL HONORARY
CINEMA FRATERNITY

ΔΚΑ



DELTA KAPPA ALPHA

National Honorary Cinema Fraternity

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CINEMA

UNIVERSITY PARK LOS ANGELES 7, CALIFORNIA