

THE SUN



A Quarterly Update

Q1—2015



(Above) Group Photo (Right) Brothers Santiago Ruiz and Pablo Quintanilla connect
Image by Araiza Mélange Photography

Lookin' Good

BY MARIO MEJIA

UCSD NAK Alumni Association's innovative approach brings in new tools and opportunities for attendees

Thank you all for helping make the 2015 Alumni Workshops a success!

This March 7th we engaged and learned from business owners, hiring managers, and experienced professionals on various topics to help you excel in a post-college world. This type information and knowledge is invaluable - we hope you were able to take away enough to get you started on your own goals!

The presenters shared their knowledge and experience on the variety of topics that spanned old and new subject matter. We continued to build on last year's momentum and incorporated new features into the workshops: networking time, new topics that included continuing education and creating a business plan, and opportunity prizes that provided lucky attendees tools to apply their recently-learned knowledge.

Also new this year, was the Alumni Association's partnership with Macias Law and Araiza Mélange Photography that kept costs down, despite improved programs, and provided all attendees free professional headshots, to use with their LinkedIn and other social network profiles.

We look forward to working with the SoCal region brothers for how to make the next one even bigger, better, and more productive. See you then!

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The new brothers pose with their crossing sweaters (Left)
Beginner's luck! Sigma brothers scored opportunity prizes at the Alumni Workshops

Image by UCSD NAK
Image by Araiza Mélangé Photography

by Roger Bustillos and Mario Mejia

"These guys are truly the future of NAK at UCSD!"

Sigma Six arrive at UCSD NAK

The Proud Sigma Class crossed at 3:48am on January 30th, 2015. These new brothers have wasted no time getting involved, picking up the banner. Three brothers are already serving in the Chapter Executive Board: Alvin as Sergeant at Arms, Alan as Vice President Internal, and Angel as Secretary.

With four of the six being first-years, and two being second-years, these bros are truly the future of NAK at UCSD. When you can be sure to welcome our six newest brothers!

The Lambda Sigma Class

Lambda Sigma #148-Carlos Rivera

Lambda Sigma #149-Alexandro Valdivia

Lambda Sigma #150-Alvin Salazar

Lambda Sigma #151-Michael Vajello

Lambda Sigma #152-Angel Garcia

Lambda Sigma #153-Alan Marroquin



Lambda Chapter @2015 Workshops Image by Araiza Mélangé Photography

UCSD NAK Alumni Association Calendar—Q2, 2015

- April 20 "UCSD NAK in Denver" package ship-out to Trevista at Horace Mann, NW Denver, CO
- May 2 2015 UCSD NAK Alumni Games
- May 2 2015 UCSD NAK Alumni Association Annual Scholarship Program KickOff
- May 17 2015 UCSD NAK Alumni Association Scholarship Application Deadline
- May 25 Scholarship Award Announcement



Treasurer Adrian Solis manages the financial health of the organization

Image by Araiza Mélange Photography

UCSD NAK Alumni Association Financial Update

by Adrian Solis

UCSD Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity Alumni Association, Inc. gets the green light from the IRS for FY 2015

Officially Official: An Announcement

Brothers,

The AA Executive Board has some great news to share! We have been approved for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit status by the IRS effective January 9, 2015! Now all your contributions beginning 1/9/2015 are tax deductible.

Thank you to all of those that have worked on and supported this task throughout the years!

NOTE: We are still waiting for the State of California to approve our nonprofit status but we have received confirmation that the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) has received the application and is (as of 4/15/15) processing it. This does not impact the 501(c)(3) status - your 2015 contributions (since 1/9) qualify as tax deductible as donations to our 501(c)(3). We anticipate no issues with the State.

Please note those of you that contribute this year will automatically receive electronics statements in early 2016.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Executive Board at ucsdnak-aa-eb@googlegroups.com.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR Q1 '15

INFLOWS

Sustaining / Membership Donations \$885

Sponsorships and Donations: \$270

OUTFLOWS

501(c)(3) approval-related costs, IRS/FTB: \$425

Lambda Chapter President's retreat, sponsored by Alumni Association: \$150

2015 UCSD NAK Alumni Workshops: \$1051

2015 Winter Alumni Rush event: \$51

Member Donors Status, as of end of Q1 '15

13 Bronze (8 through recurring memberships)

10 White (8 through recurring memberships)

11 Red (4 through recurring memberships)

Incoming!!!

Edited by Brian Favela and Mario Mejia

Four brothers are wrapping up their studies this Winter quarter

This Winter quarter, UCSD NAK is proud to celebrate the graduation of four brothers: **Roger Bustillos, Alexander Werner Godinez, Johny Pascual, and John Torres**; this graduation and accomplishment is the result of many years of hard work and focus. Yet as we will see, for these brothers, a degree from UCSD is not the end goal, but a stepping stone to the next big milestone. Roger and John share a few thoughts with us about their ongoing transition, near-term plans, and a moment that defined the UCSD experience for them.

By Roger Bustillos

For now I'm looking for work in a biology related field, my preference is research, partly because I want to see if I do indeed want to return for my masters in a year or two. Other biology related jobs would be good as well, and since the Alumni Workshops I've been thinking about exploring the biotechnology field as well. If I can find a good position in San Diego before the summer I'd love to stay, otherwise I'll be moving back to Monrovia in the LA area.

A single defining moment is hard to come up with, but I think I'll go with the small high school conference that Luis Marinez put together during our 4th year. We were able to host a class of students, tour the campus with them, and talk to them about how to get to college and how to pay for college. The experience really showed how much we can do with some time and effort from just a handful of bros.

For the continuing undergraduates, I want you guys to think about what it is you are all passionate about and agree on. Once you do, use that to plan your events, and structure the chapter. This way everyone should have an incentive to contribute, and as I've told some of you already, effort trumps experience if you work hard enough.

Finally, I look forward to contributing on the Alumni side of things as part of the AA.

By John Torres

Age: 22

Lambda Xi #129, Crossed Fall 2010

Graduated: Winter 2015

Major: Management Science

Minors: History and Accounting

I am living in Los Angeles, California. I hold a position as a apartment manager in West Hollywood; working with LB Property Management. I also hold a position as a Bookeeper at Platinum Financial Management, Inc. in West Hollywood.

My defining moment at UCSD was being able to motivate and inspire younger students and my peers in the university.

Work hard. Dream big. Fail forward. Smile always. Laugh forever. Inspire and motivate. Be the change you would like to see.



Image by Araiza Mélange Photography



Image courtesy of John Torres

Incoming!!!

by Brian Favela

We all know NAK encourages giving back to our community but not all of us have an opportunity to do so outside of NAK. We have a brother who gave up a tenured position in a high-achieving, affluent area in LA County to be able to reach out to a community in need. Ruben Escobar (λβ#21) has just recently made that decision to help and empower the Latino community in the San Marcos area. We caught up with him on the Escobar family move back to San Diego

Brian: Welcome back to San Diego Mr. Bean! You know we all like to debate which is the best city in California, but tell us how long you were in LA for and how much you liked living there.

Ruben: My wife and I moved to LA immediately after grad school (SDSU) because a rare School Counselor job opportunity presented itself for me. Many of my classmates had to leave to other states for similar jobs yet I was lucky enough to stay in California. Since I have lots of family in LA, I figured it could be a good thing. It was not great for us, the LA lifestyle was not our thing, and we hated it. We were stuck there for 3 and a half years (due to lack of job opportunities) but ended up having our wonderful son born there. He made it all worth while.

[B]: Did you always want to be school counselor?

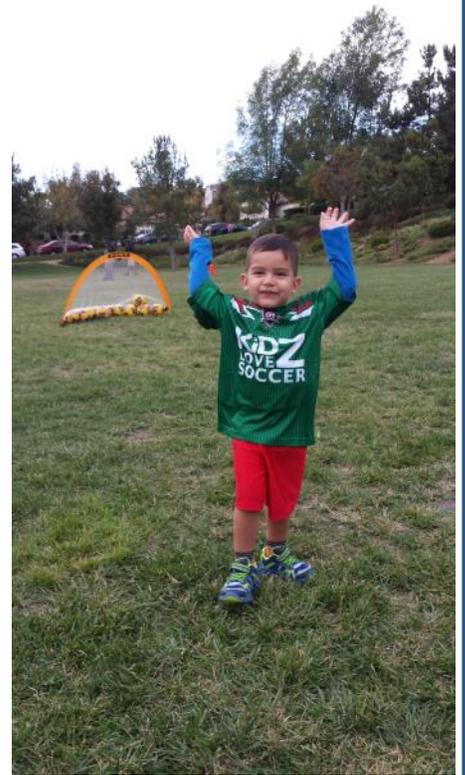
[R]: No, I did not always want to be a School Counselor. I initially entered UCSD wanting to become a Chemical Engineer. As a young, impressionable Freshman I made many bad choices which led to the demise of my academics. I focused little attention on academics, and made the most of the party and travel opportunities that NAK provided me while I was a young 17 and 18 year old. Growing up in poor conditions, this new lifestyle and opportunity to see the world (California, Colorado, Mexico) on a regular basis was all that I cared about. Once I reached my low point academically, on the verge of being kicked out for lack of academic progress, I knew things had to change.

[B]: Where did that drive for the career come from?

[R]: My drive to become a School Counselor came when I decided to refocus on school, roughly my third and fourth year at UCSD. I was a nerd in high school so I simply needed to find that fire and reignite the passion. That came when I decided to apply for a job at the place that had a strong impact on me and introduced me to many lifelong friends, the OASIS Summer Bridge Program. I worked as a Resource Counselor and Academic Transition Counselor at Summer Bridge for 2 years, obtained a job at the Preuss School (thanks to a bro hookup via Frankie Delgado's younger sister Ana), and also worked as a lab research intern with the UCSD Psychology Department - assisting with groups and surveys at high schools related to drug and alcohol use/abuse. I piled on the activities in the field of education once I knew what I wanted to do. Upon graduating from UCSD, I worked in academic advising at both Revelle College and the Chemistry Department. There I really found my passion for working with students, decided to leave my secure job to pursue grad school at SDSU full-time, and do not regret my decision. I want to help youth, specifically Latinos, graduate from high school and have the opportunity for higher education.

[B]: Was leaving your tenured position a difficult decision?

[R]: Absolutely! A tenured position can be difficult to come by in this day and age in the field of Education. Once you make it to your 3rd year at the same school and district, you can pretty much be set. I was comfortable in my old job but it was not the right fit for me nor was it the community I wanted to be locked in to (high socioeconomic status with little diversity). I had many internal battles in my head as to what would be the best opportunity for my family: a stable guaranteed job where staff morale was low or packing up my bags, going somewhere I can truly make a difference, and to top it off the city that my wife, and I, love.



Happy to be back!
Image courtesy of Ruben Escobar

[B]: How important is it to you to help guide and empower the Latino community of San Diego?

[R]: As a Latino male who grew up in harsh conditions, I feel that it is my duty to give back and look out for the Latino community because it is so easy for our youth to get sidetracked and fall through the cracks. I grew up in poverty, on welfare, lived in a single-parent household due to divorced parents, had brothers and sisters involved in drugs and gangs, and to this day have an older brother serving a life sentence for poor choices, and the list goes on. I keep a lot of that info locked away but it is my fuel to help others. If I can lift the spirits of an individual youth, and motivate them to succeed, then I feel I am doing the right thing. At SMHS, some of the Latino students and families I have worked with so far have no clue about "a-g" requirements, have only Spanish-speaking parents who are not comfortable speaking to school officials because they don't know the rules and regulations, or are working so much that they can't come in during business hours. By being available to Latinos and informing them of opportunities, holding their hand through the process if needed, and continuously looking out for them then I know a few more Latinos will be successful. I succeed when my students succeed.

[B]: How's the family liking San Diego so far?

[R]: WE LOVE SAN DIEGO. We are hitting up all of the spots that we came to grow and love. Our son Benjamin is loving every trip we take him on: the beach, the SD Safari Park, Sea World, Legoland, museums, parks, fishing at lakes and ponds, and all of the other amazing things that SD has to offer. He's spoiled but he is our only child so we can do that. We are extremely happy to be back. I can't wait to rejoin everyone at the annual events (Turkey Bowl, Alumni Games, Family Day).

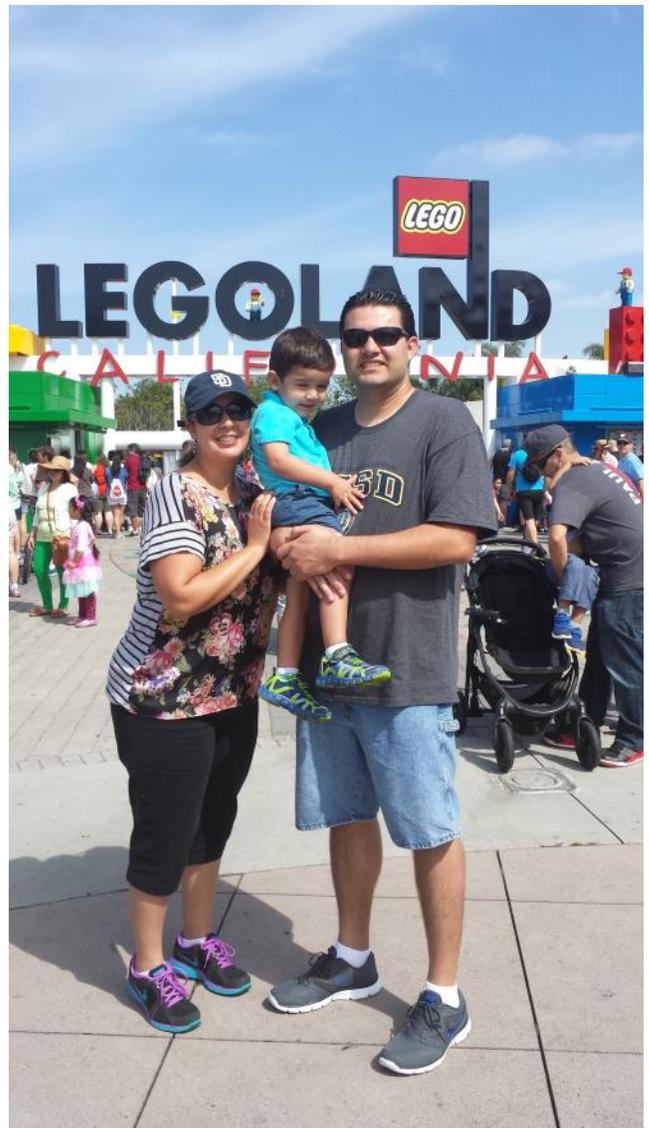
Are you glad that you'll be able to watch the Niners games with Niner Fans we have in NAK? There seem to be quite a few of you!

Niners are in a downhill spiral, actually in meltdown mode. It hurts me to answer this question. Haha. *Delete*

[B]: Have you made any connections with NAK bros at your current workplace?

[R]: In my short time at SMHS, I have already been making connections with NAKs in Education. While presenting to an ELD class in Spanish, I met a CSUSM NAK bro, Alex Arellano, who is working at my school as a tutor. Our school recently partnered with College Apps Academy, a branch of Reality Changers, and so I may be working with UCSD bro Gerardo "G" Jaimes soon. You may have heard that "it takes a village" to help youth thrive, I hope to utilize my NAK contacts to help my students succeed and reach their full potential.

We're glad to have you back in the area, Bean!



Enjoying one of the many sunny days in San Diego
Image courtesy of Ruben Escobar

GRACE KANG MEJÍA AND MARIO MEJÍA

Became the happy parents, on the morning of Feb 24, of Sona Min Mejía Kang



CARLOS RAMIREZ

Happy to announce they are expecting a new frijol for the Ramirez family!

Due date: July 27th

JOSE D RAMIREZ

Happy to announce a new addition to the family: Joseph Gavin Ramirez

Born on March 30th, 2015



SANTIAGO RUIZ

I completed my Master of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Financial Management from the University of Redlands on Feb 21, 2015.

Last fall I was inducted into the Whitehead Leadership Society for the University of Redlands School of Business. It's an honor society that promotes leadership development throughout the business community.

I was nominated by the company I work for (Gafcon, Inc.) For the Building, Design, and Construction Networks top 40 under 40 award and recognition. Nominees are selected by the BD+C editors based on career achievement, service to their professions and communities, and active participation in charitable work



THE SUN

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