For many, the UCLA experience is defined by the incredible legacy of social change and advocacy that has and is occurring on this campus. Much of that legacy is carried forward by community leaders like our very own John Delloro. Today the Undergraduate Student Association Council seeks to honor the life of this great father, husband, organizer, lecturer, and mentor.

After his untimely passing earlier this week, students and organizers across the nation mourned the loss of such a giant within the API community. Delloro touched UCLA students, lecturing at his alma-mater in the Asian American Studies Department. Additionally he served as the National President of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and the Executive Director of the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute, working to represent union workers across the country. His work truly embodied the vision of this university – bringing together the campus and the community to ensure that our goal for public service is achieved.

While I personally never had the opportunity to meet John Delloro, all week I’ve been moved as I spoke with his students. For one student Delloro played a vital role in their understanding of the world; for another his work helped their understanding of their own identity. Its remarkable that in an era where professor’s are expected to be purely academic or inaccessible, one man has played such a major role in shaping the ideology and identity of his students at just 39 years of age.

USAC is honored to pay tribute to someone who has had such a major impact on our campus. While not all UCLA students know his name, we will continue to see the legacy of his work. As the next generation of leaders in the API community continue the fight for diversity, equal representation, immigration reform and workers rights, John Delloro will be remembered as an educator and influence to this ongoing fight. We send thoughts and prayers to the Delloro family and thank them for sharing the light of this great leader with us.

For those interested in learning more about John Delloro, his work and his impact, there is a public service being held at East Los Angeles College on Saturday, June 19th. The service will be held in the Auditorium, beginning at 10 AM. This memorial is hosted by the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Los Angeles Trade Technical College Labor Center, UCLA Asian American Studies Department and Center, UCLA Labor Center, Pilipino Workers Center, Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, American Federation of Teachers #1521, and the Service Employees International Union.