

Alumni Newsletter



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"The choice to belong The Challenge to Become."

Founders Day 2007:

2007 Founders Day Message

Mark A. Fite, CFC, Grand Prytanis

In our early years of the Fraternity, it became a tradition that one of the five Founders would prepare a special message celebrating the anniversary of that night in 1899, when Tau Kappa Epsilon was born. After the passing of our Founders and National Founders, responsibility for preparing the January 10th message passed to the current Grand Prytanis. To honor the legacy of those extraordinary men, I share the following thoughts with you.

Today, like 100 years ago, TKE faces a variety of difficult challenges. Visiting chapters across the United States and Canada, I often hear TKE leaders express their concerns. Many chapters find it difficult to recruit new members and pay their bills. Chapter officers and alumni volunteers share that our undergraduates are not motivated and alumni members are uninvolved. Some express concern that it is tough to get our members focused on achieving success in academics, athletics, and community service. Many Teke leaders today see the path immediately ahead as challenging and steep.

To successfully meet these challenges, TKE must refocus itself. We must look to our roots; to those timeless values established by the men who created this magnificent organization. By recapturing that core focus, communicated in our ritual and Declaration of Principles, we can achieve new levels of excellence in Recruitment, Involvement and Achievement. As the sign that Frater Ronald Reagan kept on his desk during his years in the White House says, "It CAN be done!"

The year 2007 will mark the 100th anniversary of a very special event, the birth of TKE as a national Fraternity. As this generation of Tekes grapples with the challenges before us, we should take a moment to celebrate the evening of October 19, 1907, when the concept of TKE as a national fraternity was born.

You remember the story. At the annual TKE initiation banquet, held in a small dining room on the second floor of the Illinois Hotel in Bloomington, Illinois, Frater Wallace G. Macauley, a young attorney and Teke alumnus, gave what became know as the "Opportunity Out of Defeat" speech.

Macauley's remarks that night have become a Teke classic. But, at the time, they were highly controversial. Until 1907, TKE was still a small local fraternity working to be recognized as a chapter of Phi Delta Theta. What McCauley proposed that night was a radical change of course. In his speech, he suggested TKE abandon its efforts to become a chapter of Phi Delt and, instead, embark on the much bolder course of establishing Tau Kappa Epsilon as a new national fraternity.

The "defeat" Macauley referred to in his remarks was the rejection that the young local fraternity had experienced from Phi Delt. The "opportunity" was the chance to build a different national fraternity building on what Macauley referred to as the unique "Teke spirit."

Following Macauley's speech that night, the undergraduate and alumni members on hand engaged in a heated debate that lasted into early hours of the next morning. Some wanted to continue on with the efforts to join Phi Delt; others were caught up in McCauley's vision of a national TKE.

In the end, the group agreed to a compromise. They would send a simple postcard to Phi Delta Theta with one final request for recognition as a chapter. If Phi Delta Theta rejected their request, the group committed themselves to establishing a national, now International, Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Why is all this important? What is the point in remembering an old speech from 100 years ago? The answer can

be found in the words of Robert Penn Warren who wrote, "history cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a full understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so we can better face the future."

On this Founders Day, we need to remember that difficult October night, one hundred years ago. For those young TKE leaders, much like today, the future was filled with uncertainty. There was disharmony in the ranks. The road ahead seemed challenging and steep. And yet, as they refocused themselves around our unique TKE values, and our unique organizational spirit of brotherhood, an incredible success was born.

A small group of young collegiate members and alumni, with limited resources, created the world's largest and most successful college fraternity. As Wallace McCauley laid out in his vision that night -- all they had to do was believe in their dreams and recommit themselves to the unique values and spirit of brotherhood that they had developed together. That spirit would sustain them and bring success.

Frater Wallace said, "Interwoven about the sentiments of our name and our pin, and ingrained in the fiber of every member is the TKE spirit -- a spirit typical of our fraternity -- a spirit that does not shrink from sacrifice, that knows no defeat; a spirit indomitable."

McCauley knew then, what we should remember today. In TKE, we share a very special bond of friendship, born in the unique interpersonal experience that we call Tau Kappa Epsilon. As we celebrate this Founders Day, let us remember that bond. Let us also remember our four National Founders who were present that October night. Each helped McCauley create his vision and worked selflessly to bring it to life in the years that would follow; Wallace G. McCauley, Lester H. Martin, our first Grand Prytanis; William Wilson, who wrote our Declaration of Principles, and L. W. Tuesburg, who became the first editor of THE TEKE magazine.

Let the legacy of selfless service and deep fraternal love they exhibited throughout their lives inspire us. Let Charity, Esteem and Love, the values and principles they captured in our ritual, our Declaration of Principles, and our Constitution, inspire this generation of Tekes. As members of a Fraternity for Life that stretches all the way back to 1899, let us move forward, confident that the same indomitable Teke spirit will bring us even greater success as we go forward together.

Fraters, I love the fraternity. Happy Founders Day!

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Tau-Eta Alumni Association: Treasurer's Report

By Alumni Association Treasurer: Frater Joseph DeLuca

Ok our Alumni Association has been around for a month online www.tkethalumni.com and so far we have raised **\$363.64** Each month I will continue to run the rankings of the highest donations to date. Consider this your very own top 25, so come on and donate today. Do you really want these people to get all the credit and glory. There will be a prize at the end of the year at RCB in which the Frater with the Highest Donation totals will receive a price from the Alumni Association in recognition of there outstanding loyalty and commitment. Remember we need you to donate so that we can hold events throughout the year for you and your family to attend.

Top Donations

1.Frater Pat Libero, TH # 2	\$200.00
2.Frater Wayne Adelkopf, TH # 15	\$100.00
3.Frater Joseph DeLuca, TH # 92	\$50.00
4.Frater Benjamin Sosnowitz, TH # 99	\$25.00

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REGIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE:

By Frater Joseph DeLuca

I had the unique opportunity to attend my first Regional Planning Conference as Grand Province Advisor the weekend of January 5th-7th. This was an incredible opportunity to speak with other Alumni Volunteers and TKE staff. One thing I learned is that Alumni Involvement is key for the undergraduates success as a fraternity. It is my goal that no matter where you live, you assist a local TKE chapter or Colony. It is as easy as visiting a Chapter or Colony near where you live 3 times a year and just being there if the undergrads have a question or need some advice. There were 25 people at this mini workshop and by the end of the weekend we all felt like we were our own Chapter. I highly encourage each and everyone of you to get more involved, give as much or as little time as you can but remember just give.

One of the major focuses is that each Chapter and Colony should have an Alumni serving as their Province Advisor working closely with me to make sure that each group continues to grow in strength and quality. As of the workshop the North East Region (#1) has achieved tremendous growth in initiation rates while the other three regions have seen declines. It is because I believe our alumni members that we are able to sustain our growth.

If you are interested in helping out please contact me scsutke@hotmail.com and I will explain the various positions that are open for alumni volunteers.

Upcoming Events of Interest for Alumni(s):

Just a reminder

for Alumni

- *Update your address info*
- *Check the calendar for event dates*
- *Submit all stories for inclusion in further newsletters*

- **Tau-Eta BOA Meeting: Sunday January 14th @ 6:30PM**
- **First Chapter Meeting: Wednesday January 24th, 8:00 PM**
- **Regional Leadership Conference: February 23-25**
- **4th Annual TKE Plunge: Sunday March 4th, 2007 @ 12:00PM**



If you have upcoming events you would like to post for Alumni and Collegiate members please email Frater Joseph DeLuca scsutke@hotmail.com

Alumni Donations are always needed, please make Checks payable to Tau-Eta Chapter

Tau Eta Calendar of Events

The Tau Eta is back from Summer break and if you wish to be involved with some of the events please check our current calendar. Please check the Tau Eta Website: <http://www.southernct.edu/clubs/tke/content.php?p=calendar> for more details. You can always contact the members of the Chapter, or your Alumni Board members.

Alumni Pictures Desperately Needed

Now that we have our own website we are looking for old pictures from 1992 – 1998. So clean out your closets and dig through your boxes to find the memories of days gone by, from a time when you thought you were good looking and could get any sorority girl you wanted. Scan them or simply contact the Tau Eta Colony Histor and he will scan them and then return the photos back to you. Tau Eta Histor is Adam "Silent Bob" Kunkes and his email address is kunkesa1@southernct.edu

01/02/2007 - Frater Nominated to Education Commission Board

DENVER, Colo. - The Education Commission of the States (ECS) National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) today announced the second slate of members of its 100 District Leaders for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning Network.

Taunton School Superintendent Dr. Art Stellar (Alpha-Beta) has been selected as one of the District Leaders for Civic Engagement and Service Learning Network. Dr. Stellar has promoted service learning locally with programs such as Taunton ninth graders tutoring fourth graders at Pole Elementary School. In addition, Dr. Stellar is chairman of the board of directors for the National Dropout Prevention Network/ Center which operates out of Clemson University. Service Learning is an effective strategy to reduce dropouts.

"Taunton has a tradition of service learning which is an excellent base upon which to build," stated Dr. Stellar. "Senator Marc Pacheco has been a strong advocate of service learning and has certainly helped support this goal in Taunton and around the state."

Thirty individuals - 15 district superintendents and 15 school board members - were selected from a national pool of applicants based on their leadership and commitment to integrate and sustain quality citizenship education and service-learning in K-12 schools. They join 44 previously selected Network members in a national cadre of district-level administrators and policymakers advancing the civic mission of American education through policy, practice and infrastructure. The final 26 Network members will be selected and announced in fall 2007.

Network members will meet February 28 at the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Conference on Education in New Orleans. The meeting will focus on research and the implications research has for quality practice leading to student achievement. AASA and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) join NCLC in sustaining this national network.

Network members will deepen support for citizenship education and service-learning in their districts, and broaden awareness of the importance of these issues by writing articles, conducting workshops at state and national conferences and hosting policy forums.

"We are pleased to welcome this new cohort of District Leaders Network members to our distinguished cadre of policymakers and leaders. Our constituents have acknowledged the critical link between state education policy and district implementation leading to student achievement," said Roderick Chu, ECS Interim President. "I applaud these leaders' commitment to the civic mission of education and to student engagement. Their collective voice will make an invaluable contribution to accountability and achievement in American education."

NCLC was formed in 1997 at ECS to assist state and district policymakers and education leaders identify, develop and implement policies to support student academic and civic achievement. It is led by a board of chief state school officers, district superintendents, state legislators and national education leaders. NCLC is supported by funds from The Bay and Paul Foundations, Inc., the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the State Farm Companies Foundation.

Frater Art has been a regular donor to the TKE Educational Foundation and was Alumnus of the Year in 1993. The Offices of the Grand Chapter send a heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Art Stellar on his nomination to this elite group of superintendents.

01/03/2007 - Frater and Home Depot CEO Announces Partnership with USO



The Home Depot® Holiday Promotion Benefits USO Centers

Up to \$1 million will support a "home away from home" for U.S. troops

ARLINGTON, Va. - The United Service Organizations and The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, are proud to announce a holiday gift card campaign to benefit USO centers worldwide. Between Jan. 1 - 28, 2007, the USO will receive 5 percent of all The Home Depot redeemed gift card sales, up to \$1 million. Proceeds from this promotion will support the construction of new USO centers, and the ongoing maintenance and capital upkeep of existing facilities.

"We thank The Home Depot for its continued support of the USO and our mission," stated Edward A. Powell, USO president and CEO. "This donation will help the USO continue to offer a 'home away from home' to our men and women in uniform and their families around the world."

"During the past three years, our company has had as many as 1,800 associates called to active duty, and we are proud to support the USO's efforts to help them and other troops as they serve our country," said Frater Bob Nardelli (Zeta-Theta), chairman, president & CEO of The Home Depot.

In September 2004, The Home Depot joined forces with the U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs to launch Operation Career FrontSM, an unprecedented program designed to provide career opportunities for America's military personnel interested in transferring their unique skills, knowledge and abilities into a successful second career. That year the Company was honored with the No. 1 ranking in G.I. Jobs magazine's Top 10 Employers for Military Personnel, and in 2005 and 2006 received the No. 4 and No. 2 rankings, respectively. From 2003 to 2005 The Home Depot has hired 43,000 former military personnel.

In 2005, The Home Depot awarded the USO a \$250,000 grant. This donation funded renovation projects for eight USO centers, and supported USO programs and services. USO centers receiving the grant funds included USO El Paso, Inc.; USO of Metropolitan New York, Inc.; USO of Illinois, Inc.; USO of North Carolina, Inc.; James S. McDonnell USO, Inc.; USO of South Texas, Inc.; USO of Pennsylvania & Southern New Jersey, Inc.; and USO of Greater Houston, Inc.

The USO currently operates 133 centers around the world, providing morale-boosting programs and services. USO centers offer free Internet and e-mail access, libraries, entertainment and lounge areas, refreshments, travel assistance and other touches of home during 5.6 million visits each year by service members and their families. Special programs include Operation USO Care PackageSM, USO Operation Phone Home™, United Through Reading™ and the USO Mobile Fleet.

As a nonprofit organization, the work of the USO and its centers is largely made possible by the support of the American public. Corporate in-kind donations and sponsorships, along with volunteers and monetary donations, help make the USO a success.

The Offices of the Grand Chapter applaud Frater Nardelli and his company Home Depot for their philanthropic efforts. Frater Nardelli is a Life Loyal Teke and regular donor to the TKE Educational Foundation.

01/04/2007 - Frater Takes Leave from WWE



New York - The Big Show, known as Frater Paul Wight of Beta-Chi (Southern Illinois University) to family and friends, has left the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) scene, leaving the sport without its biggest athlete in history.

Not since the legendary Andre the Giant has there been a man of Big Show's stature who has made such an impact on the sports entertainment scene.

"I'm a raw-boned man that breaks things and moves the immovable objects. When I'm injured, I can't do those things," the Big Show told the official WWE website. "I'm much more valuable healthy both mentally and physically, and this hiatus will help me to get there."

According to Big Show, he has been plagued by a multitude of injuries from herniated discs to torn muscles, but has still competed through the pain.

"I've reached a point in my career right now where I am a little run down and hurt pretty bad physically. I've been wrestling the past three months pretty much in pain every night. I can't compete at the level I want to compete at, and that's the most heartbreaking thing," added the 500 pound giant.

With a career that's spanned more than a decade, Big Show has held every major World Championship in sports entertainment and is the only man to hold the WWE Championship, ECW World Title and World Heavyweight Championship titles and has battled some of the biggest icons in the sports including Hulk Hogan, Triple H, Ric Flair, 'Stone Cold' Steve Austin, The Rock and Undertaker.

01/08/2007 - For the Holidays, Fraters Make a Difference for a New Jersey Family

LAWRENCE, NJ --The Epsilon-Zeta chapter, located on the Rider University campus, did its part to make one family's holiday a bit more comfortable.



The men of TKE took part in the Holiday Projects, Adopt-A-Family Program through the Mercer County Board of Social Services.

"This activity is not part of the official agency scope of services but is an 'extracurricular activity' that staff volunteer to do here at the agency," said Management Assistant Christine Wilson.

The project itself is split into two components. The first is the collection and distribution of toys to families, and the second is the more involved Adopt-A-Family option. In this case, clothing and household items also are part of the donation to the agency.

Wilson and social worker Jason Weber worked with Frater Jose Jalandoni, community service chairman, to set up the brothers with a local family, for whom TKE bought and wrapped several presents -- toys, clothes, and home appliances -- to be delivered by Weber at a later date.

"It's a good organization to get involved with and definitely something we would like to continue," said newly elected Prytanis Joseph Haubrich. "The biggest thing about this is that we raised awareness and gave to a family in need, and that they can have a better holiday because of it."

The Offices of the Grand Chapter applaud the efforts of this and all of the other projects performed during the holiday season by Fraters across North America



Alumni Jason Coppola

Not many of you may not know but Frater Jason Coppola is back from Iraq while he recuperates from injuries he sustained while serving his country. I would like to welcome every single Frater to continue to keep Frater Jason in your thoughts and prayers for a healthy and speedy recovery. If you would like to offer assistance to him please contact the Alumni Association.



TKE JANUARY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

Scroll	Class	Name	Birthday
99	RF	<u>Benjamin "Sasquatch" Sosnowitz</u>	January 14th
116	P	<u>Adam "Silent Bob" Kunkes</u>	January 17th



Mr. & Mrs. Chad McDaniel: January 8th

If you would like to see your name announced for birthday and Anniversaries please email me scsutke@hotmail.com and I will update your info.

UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI INFO WITH NATIONALS

Please make a point to visit the International website to update your alumni information. The link is http://www.tke.org/forms/personal_update.html so that we will have good information on you to send you current news and event invitations.



ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plan to think about some events we can do over the next few months, please contact the Tau Eta Alumni Association or simply contact an Alumni Member. No matter what we do, we would like to have all Tau-Eta Alumni present and participating. Remember this only works if you want it too. So please forward any and all announcements.

Special Update: Frater Jason Coppola, TH # 68 contacted me and he is going to be OK and back to normal in a few months. If you still wish to email him while he is recovering his email address is Jason.coppola@us.army.mil I would really like to make plans for his welcoming home party, anyone interested in helping with that Committee please contact me you all know my email address by now.

TKE OF THE MONTH

WE WILL HAVE JANUARY'S NOMINEE LATER THIS MONTH

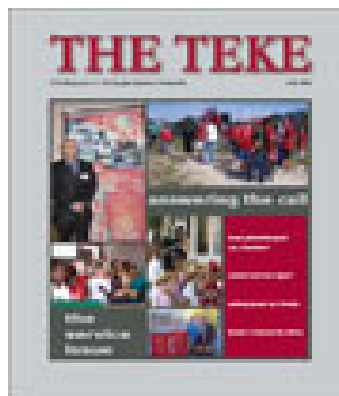
For a member to become Teke of the Month, he must show outstanding dedication to the organization, and be willing to go the extra step to aid the chapter. The Teke of the Month is voted on during a regularly scheduled meeting by all eligible members of Tau Eta.

THE TEKE MAGAZINE

One of the measures advocated by National Founder Wallace G. McCauley was the publication of a quarterly magazine called *THE TEKE*. His proposal met with immediate approval and the first issue was published in January 1908, with Clyde M. Leach as the editor.

Although *THE TEKE* has been packaged differently throughout the years, its purpose has remained the same...to keep the members of our great Fraternity informed about TKE.

FALL 2006 EDITION: ONLINE NOW



http://www.tke.org/the_teke/2006-fall.pdf



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