



# THE BASEMENT

Lambda-Psi Alumni Monthly Newsletter

Mar. 2019  
Vol. 2



Can you feel that?! If you read last month's first Basement Newsletter then we know you can. Like shifting momentum experienced at one of the Pirate's numerous thrilling victories over the years, it is a ground swell pushing Lambda Psi Alumni Association into a well-oiled machine. We are not there yet but we know where we are going and are well on our way towards re-establishing ourselves as the premier fraternity in ECU Greek Life.

To re-engage, re-energize, and re-organize the Lambda-Psi chapter, we must continue executing short steps with a long vision mindset.

This month's newsletter is focused on expanding on topics from last month and introducing new features based on brotherhood events. To be our best, let's treat the Alumni Association like a baby. For it to grow, we have to feed it. The baby will not feed itself and if we do *not* pay enough attention to its needs, it will die.

Our bond forged at 951 E. 10th St is sacred. Never forget...

## Inside This Issue

**PG. 2** – Actions & Accomplishments

**PG. 4** – Lambda Psi Brother Bios:

**Highlighted Bio Quote** – “I was also one of the top pledges to ever come out of Lambda Psi.”

*\* Editor's Note: He was an awful pledge. \**

**PG. 7** – Doc's Corner

**PG. 10** – A Look Back into History

**PG. 11** – Alumni Board Contact Info



# ACTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**1. Venue is PAID for!!** The \$260 cost to reserve The Rickhouse Cocktail event scheduled on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as part of this year's Alumni Weekend is paid in full. The Lambda Psi Alumni Association is striving to make the weekend's events as cost-effective and meaningful as possible. We hope each of you can join us to re-connect and continue feeding our alumni association baby. Ticket prices to attend the event will be solidified soon but we know it will include dinner, cocktails, music, speeches, and a picture slideshow. On-going updates will be in each month's newsletter – see below for this month's current status. RSVP NOW to assist the Executive Board with planning...



## 2. Lambda-Psi Brother #482 Featured on WITN Greenville Local News!!

Matt and Erin Scully were featured by WITN Greenville news on February 27, 2019 as proud owners of The Scullery, Greenville's top-rated spot for breakfast and brunch on both Yelp and Trip Advisor. Before The Scullery, both graduated from ECU's music program and moved to New Orleans for Matt to pursue being an opera singer and Erin to teach music. Within a year, Hurricane Katrina struck and took away everything. They returned to Greenville with very little to restart. Through the help of friends, church families, their college part-time jobs and even a Lambda Psi keg party deemed, "SAVE OUR SCULLY", they were able to restart their lives. Lambda Psi is proud to have them as family. Be sure to visit next time in Greenville!



## 2019 Alumni Weekend

RSVP NOW!

[tke.lambdapsi.alum@gmail.com](mailto:tke.lambdapsi.alum@gmail.com)

### Hotel Accommodations

- **30** hotel rooms reserved:  
Holiday Inn Express  
909 Moye Blvd, Gville, NC 27834  
Call 252-754-8300

### Friday Events

- Best Ball Golf Outing & Luncheon  
- Brook Valley Country Club  
- \$50/brother for first 24 participants  
- Tee times between 11am-12:30pm
- Wives/Girlfriends Luncheon  
Location TBD
- Alumni Cocktail & Dinner Event  
The Rickhouse Reserve  
710 Red Banks Rd, Greenville, NC

### Saturday Events

- Morning Alumni Meeting at Holiday Inn Express Conference Room
- Football Tailgate
- Late Night Pizza & Beer Party at Holiday Inn Express

# ACTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 3. TKE in the Boston Marathon!!!

Drew Griffin is a true overachiever in every sense of the word. Really.

### **Overachiever** (noun)

over 'achiev-er | \ ,ō-vər-ə-'chē-vər \

### **Definition of overachiever**

One who performs better or achieves more success than expected.

From TKE Presidency to SGA Presidency to one of ECU's inaugural "40 under 40" leadership award recipients, Drew's resume certainly doesn't need anymore bolstering. Never one to be limited by only 24 hours in a day, Drew recently accepted the nomination to become the TKE Lambda Psi Alumni Association President and has made it his mission to improve the Association and lead us back on ECU's campus.

But this isn't about Drew's many, *many*, *many* accolades. (*WE GET IT MAN, YOU'RE GOOD AT STUFF*) Instead, this is about Drew's desire to give back and work towards something bigger than all of us, promoting awareness for stroke and heart disease.

Since 2012, Drew has helped raise almost \$38,000 to spread awareness and fund research for stroke and heart disease, as well as giving survivors a means for a comeback. His inspiration came from his late father and honorary TKE Lambda-Psi brother, Jeffery L. Griffin, who survived both a heart attack and stroke earlier in life.



Currently, Drew is training for the upcoming Boston Marathon, his first. With an astonishing 3:02:50 qualifying time, he technically made the cut, but due to missing the Boston Athletic Association's cut-off time, failed to gain entry. Never one to accept defeat, Drew began a social media onslaught to be selected by Super Bowl champion and former New England Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi to join his Boston Marathon team, Tedy's Team. After pandering for months, Drew was picked to be one of the elite few to run alongside Tedy during the marathon.



With this year's Boston Marathon less than 3 weeks away, I hope each of you can send thoughts and encouragement Drew's way as he sets his targets on an agonizing, *at least in my opinion*, 26.2 mile run.

*Rumor has it that he'll be wearing his pledge pin while running.*

For more information on Drew's journey or to make a contribution to his cause, the link is listed below.

[Drew's Journey to Boston](#)

# BROTHERHOOD BIOS

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Since 1968, TKE Lambda Psi Chapter has built proven leaders. Our sacred bond, held faithful by so many, was committed to for each of us to become the best version of ourselves. We cannot let this bond, cultivated during undergrad, die as alumni. As we start this chapter's new reality, the journey back to ECU campus, the brotherhood bio section highlights our storied fraternity men coming from all walks of life with dynamic skillsets. Our chapter is full of talented leaders able to do so much for each other.

The brotherhood bio section serves as that bridge over water to introduce brothers from all eras and hopefully accelerate our ability to help one another. If you see someone you would like to connect to [**growing your personal & professional network!**] then reach out, you already established common ground just by being fraternity brothers. Our hope as an alumni executive team is to add value so we can maintain a robust, mobilized alumni association. Each bio will feature the brother's name, scroll number, current location, why TKE is important, unique facts, and finally what skillset that brother feels they are experts in. The featured bio will continue in each volume of The Basement and our goal is to strengthen the bond and build deeper connections across our alumni base.

Each month five (5) new brothers will be selected and featured in The Basement and by the time our Annual Fall Alumni Weekend is here, the brotherhood bios should accelerate your ability to get to know brothers spanning from 1968 to 2017.



**Name:** Matt Kraus (left)

**Scroll Number:** 527

**City/State:** Garner, NC

### **Why is TKE important to me?**

TKE had a positive impact on me as a student that I still experience the benefits of today. Interpersonal skills, leadership skills, problem solving skills. These were all things that being a part of TKE developed in me as a person. In addition to these things, some of the best times of my life and some of my best college memories involve TKE and the brothers I gained being a part of TKE.

### **Unique facts:**

After Drew Griffin and I pledged in the Spring, 2005 there was an influx of brothers from Fuquay-Varina that joined the fraternity over the next 4-5 years. Some say I was also one of the top pledges to ever come out of Lambda Psi.

### **Skills:**

I'm a licensed North Carolina attorney with the North Carolina Department of Justice.



**Name:** Thom Riekkel (right)

**Scroll Number:** 148

**City/State:** Midlothian, VA (orig. Sparta, NJ)

**Why is TKE important to me?**

I don't believe any of us really know what to expect when we join a fraternity. I simply thought I would be affiliating with a bunch of like-minded guys and partying with lots of beautiful ladies. Well...that part was absolutely true! But TKE is so much more. I have a bond with my brothers that I never could have imagined when I first pledged. The strength of that bond will never change. TKE brought us all together and our lives are profoundly better because of it.

**Unique facts:**

I will again harken back to my fraternity days. Team handball was something we TKEs excelled at during my time (campus champions) and I had the chance to play on the ECU club team along with other brothers. We traveled to some fun places like West Point and Hofstra to play the best in the world. I was a goalie and was recognized for my abilities by being invited to the US Olympic trials.

**Skills:**

I have been in sales for over 36 years primarily in safety equipment distribution with experience in the pulp and paper industry, public works, public utilities, and first responder hazmat protection and detection. It has been a terrific career and for any brother coming out of school now there are opportunities available.



**Name:** Ryan Singh (left)

**Scroll Number:** 657

**City/State:** Greenville, NC

**Why is TKE important to me?**

Tau Kappa Epsilon allowed me to reach my full potential in life. The greatest part about being a TKE is the support system and friendships. My big brother (Grant Patterson) in the fraternity has played an important role in my life by supporting, encouraging and motivating me to pursue higher education and make a name for myself. Joining TKE opened a lot of doors and opportunities that got me involved in multiple organizations like IFC, SGA, etc. It helped develop me into a well rounded individual and taught me how to deal with adversity and handle stressful situations. I am really thankful for TKE and have nothing but gratitude for the experiences it has exposed me to.

**Unique facts:**

My dad is Indian and mom is White-American. My dad's sister lives on an island called Aruba, where I spent every summer from the age of 7. I started working for the family jewelry store when I was 12, helping advertise by handing out flyers for them and later on selling jewelry. The store specialized in blue, yellow, champagne and green diamonds. I gained superior sales experience that I hope will pay off once I graduate. My dad has a local motel here in Greenville that I help manage.

**Skills:**

Being able to lead a team and the ability to make rationale decisions would be my specialty. My masters degree in Quantitative Economics and Econometrics deals with analytics of big data and statistical software. I am always thinking on how to make the most optimal choice in not just business, but in every decision I make.

**[Ryan's Graduating Soon!](#)**

**[Click LinkedIn Profile to Evaluate for Hire](#)**





**Name:** Ryan "Butch" Butcher (left)

**Scroll Number:** 446

**City/State:** Greenville, NC

**Why is TKE important to me:**

TKE forges and fortifies brotherhood that lasts a lifetime. It creates a support system during college years that quickly bleeds over into the real world once that trip is complete. The friendships, alliance and brotherhood remains for the rest of your journey whatever and wherever that may be.

**Unique Facts:**

In 2013 founded eAudit.com, a B2B logistics optimization platform in downtown Greenville NC with a 10x20 storage unit with a conference table as the original headquarters. Sold eAudit in Jan 2019 as one of the top 100 fastest growing companies in the US, processing in excess of \$1B in shipping spend annually on behalf of ~1k corporate customers.

**Skills:**

Tech startups, VC and angel investing, shipping and logistics technologies, high scale B2B SaaS design, software product development, team building, founder commiseration ;)

**Name:** Jonathan "JR" Rochester (right)  
**Scroll Number:** 592  
**City/State:** Winston-Salem, NC

**Why is TKE important to me?**  
TKE is important to me because it exemplifies a place for people to belong, to make mistakes, fail forward, grow, be mentored, forge life long friendships, help each other overcome personal issues, life issues, professional issues. It is a place that can teach professionalism, embraces each other with our differences. It is an organization and I am thrilled to be a part of, honored to grow in and with, and proud to say I belong.

**Unique facts:**  
I spent 12 years in the Army & Army Reserve, highlight during my third deployment, I physically went to Saddam Hussein's trial in Baghdad, Iraq in 2007. I played junior Olympic soccer and played soccer up to collegiate level. (never played collegiate)

**Skills:**  
I mentor and teach young men how to improve their professionalism. I am a gifted content creator. I have extensive experience as a writer, editor, and social media and marketing data analyst. I have extensive knowledge on branding, reputation management, and UX design for websites. I have an intermediate level of Spanish knowledge. Not sure what else to put here.



# DOC'S CORNER

The new Alumni Association has asked that I contribute "Sage Advice" (such as, Never bet on another man's trick... It's his trick, DUH), Teke Stories, interviews and editorial comments. Why me? I think it was because my Scroll Number #60 was the lowest of those attending the 2018 Alumni Weekend. I will consider it an honor to share your stories, advice, and thoughts about "Life, the Universe and Teke" (sans, Douglas Adams). Please contact me at [dlepay@gmail.com](mailto:dlepay@gmail.com) or 727-224-1439 with your input.

*"I was asked to write a brief history of TKE's First Boxing Tournament. Let me tell you, it was a blast! Now almost exactly 42 years later it still seems unreal. Here's what happened:"*

## **Promote a Boxing Tournament at ECU? We can't do that...**

Brother Bryan Brantley thought we could. He told us about the Tekes at Appalachian State. They had done a couple boxing tournaments already. *Yeah, but that's up in the mountains. We could never convince Chancellor Jenkins to go for it. How could we pay for the insurance? That would cost thousands of dollars alone. Where would we hold it? On campus? Okay, let's see, we are going to have to: 1. Convince college administrators to allow a bunch of fraternity boys to host a **boxing tournament on ECU's Campus. Low probability there...** 2. **Where would we get a ring?** 3. **Referees?** 4. **How much would it cost? And, of course, none of us knew anything about promoting a Boxing Tournament...***

Heck, back then we couldn't even pay all of our current bills on time at the Teke House. Bill Van Horn, our Treasurer, had a simple formula for paying our bills, "Screw Sam Pollard (our plumber), pay the TV (cable), wait for the second notice on the E-lec-tric-i-ty." A "wise" person would have told us, "You can't afford to take the chance." If we lost money on a boxing tournament it could sink the fraternity! BUT, how COOL it would be if we could. And, obviously, the word "wise" was **not** in our frat brother vocabulary.

## **And, we did it in the Spring of 1977... Let me tell you how.**

**Background:** For a few brief moments in 1977 the center of US Amateur Boxing was in Jacksonville, NC about 75 miles SE from Greenville. That was because the Marine Corp Boxing Team was based there. The Team had distinguished itself in the 1976 Olympics. Leon and Michael Spinks were members of that team. Both won Gold Medals plus other team members had medaled. {Leon & Michael would later become World Heavy Weight Boxing Champions. Leon beat Muhammad Ali in 1978 for the World Heavy Weight Title}

**First,** how were we going to get permission to hold a tournament on Campus? We needed to find a champion within ECU's administration to help us navigate the college bureaucrats. One of our brothers, Stan Garrett, knew the Asst. Chancellor, Col. Dick Blake. Stan introduced us and Col. Blake bought in. He committed to getting boxing on ECU Campus approved --**IF**-- we could get insurance.

**BUT, how the heck do you get an insurance company to under-write a bunch of frat boys hosting a boxing tournament?** Easy, as it turned out.

Col. Blake knew someone at the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and they provided boxing insurance for sanctioned AAU Boxing Tournaments. To get sanctioned you need AAU sanctioned Referees. Okay, are there any AAU sanctioned Referees in Eastern NC and would they be interested in *qualifying a fraternity* for the insurance? How do you find those guys?



# DOC'S CORNER

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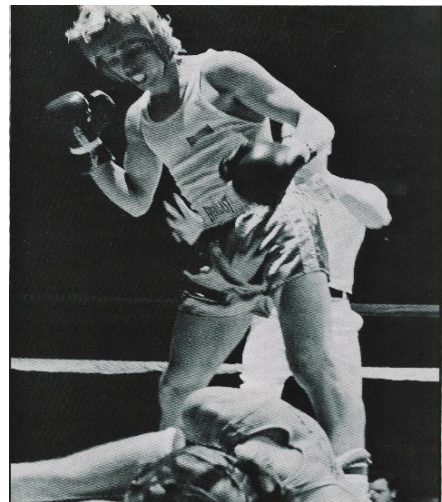
We called the Head Coach of the Marine Corp Boxing Team. AMAZINGLY, he took our call and invited us down to Jacksonville to meet with him and his Olympic Championship Team. Coach loved the idea of promoting boxing on ECU's campus and offered to help. He got us the Referees. The Team's boxing matches are all AAU Sanctioned. Coach had the phone numbers of all the local AAU sanctioned Referees, and they owed him favors. The Tournament was suddenly & officially sanctioned!! That bunch of Teke Frat Boys got their insurance and Col Blake delivered as promised (*Col. Blake soon became our Chapter Advisor and became a Teke legend for saving our unsavory buttocks on many occasions*).

**The news hit the campus... Tau Kappa Epsilon was going to be invited to host its First Annual ECU Boxing Tournament on Campus at Wright Auditorium.** And, it was *rent free*... Not bad for a bunch of *unwise*, inexperienced frat boys!!

**Then reality and the hard part began:** How the heck are we going to do this? We need money, lots of labor, planning, coordination, management, posters, tickets, ring girls (priorities Gentlemen) and did I mention money?? Oh yeah, where do you get a boxing ring?? Not deterred (defined as too stupid to know better) by these minor issues we decided to "promote" 2 nights of fights. The First Fight Night would have 2 preliminary rounds per Weight Class. Those winners would fight 2 nights later for the honor of becoming ECU's Boxing Champions.

During a memorable Monday Night Brotherhood Meeting, 32 TEKE Fraternity Brothers made a commitment of time, talent, money and work. When you have a united group of guys, committed to a goal, things start happening. Talent is recognized and new skills are born out of necessity. Bryan, Kirk Bass and some other Spring Hope brothers along with Kevin "Nature Boy" Culler convinced the Tekes at Appalachian to loan us their Boxing Ring. They saddled up and got the ring.

We created committees to manage each detail. Chuck DeCourt crafted a Work Duty Sheet that listed jobs, times, locations and personnel. That color-coded work of art kept us on track and we kept ALL of our commitments to ECU concerning moving the ring, moving/returning wrestling mats, cleanups, etc. Then a team was set up to presell tickets. Marshall Warren kicked-off selling our Boxing Program ad sales. Another team registered prospective boxers. Only active ECU students were allowed to register. And, signup they did. We had a couple of guys with AAU boxing experience, most didn't. We even had wrestlers and a BIG ECU football player signed up for the Heavy Weight Division. Frat Brother, Jim Kevil, signed up (turns out he was better at selling cars than boxing). And, we filled the different boxing weight classes up.





# DOC'S CORNER

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**The Boxing Ring: *Now that was a surprise.*** None of us had ever seen the Appalachian Tekes' Boxing Ring or thought it might be "home-made." Their Boxing "Ring" didn't have a floor. It had 4 posts with 4 rows of rope running between the posts but NO floor. SURPRISE! That was just a bump in the road. We borrowed mats from ECU's wrestling team. For safety sake we positioned brothers outside the Ring to catch any boxer that might be knocked out of the ring (did I mention the word "*sanctioned*"). Amazingly, we presold enough tickets and ads to cover our costs before the tournament. A local radio station asked if we would allow them to "live" broadcast the fights. "The Teke Boxing Network" was born and we got free radio advertising as a lead up to the first night. Yeah, un-r-e-a-l...

**The FIRST Fight Night, Tuesday:** We set up the ring and chairs in Wright Auditorium about noon. What a shot of adrenalin we all felt when we returned at 5:00 to get ready to open the doors. It was really happening. Man, what were the odds... Then we opened the doors for the FIRST ANNUAL TKE Boxing Tournament and a BIG CROWD walked in that night. There was a surprising number of other fraternities there to buy tickets and cheer. That odd looking Boxing Ring did its business. Each official AAU sanctioned bout had 3 rounds. Each round lasted 2 minutes with a minute rest time. We required the boxers to wear our official Teke Boxing T-shirts. Those AAU *Sanctioned* Referees, dressed in white pants & shirts, did their jobs. The bouts ran like clockwork. People clapped, yelled, cheered for their favorites and booed their opponents. The Judges scored the rounds and winners were selected. It was AMAZING!!! It looked professional, well run and those ECU fight fans wanted to see more. Tekes were PROUD that night!



**Wednesday Morning** came early. We had cleanup to do at Wright; chairs to move, return the wrestling mats back to Minges, print programs, drink beer and count money. Thanks again to Chuck, those duties were all on paper and we got it done.

**Finals, Thursday Night!** "The Teke Boxing Network" was cooking on the radio. We had a BIG, BIG Crowd that night. People had been talking about how GREAT the Tuesday Night Fights had been. They wanted MORE!! And, those Championship fights Thursday night had more cheers, yelling, screaming and it was FUN! Those fights were great. Then it was the last fight, the BIG Heavyweight Match, featuring ECU Linebacker Harold Randolph (future Dallas Cowboys). It didn't disappoint.

Suddenly, it was over. People were leaving and thanking us! They were telling us how much they looked forward to next year's Tournament. We cleaned up Wright Auditorium and then headed over to the House together. None of us wanted to lose that feeling... We, us, Teke Brothers... had done it. I remember sitting in the Chapter Room that night and watching as everyone circled back to the House.

**It all came together. We were PROUD, tired and a little in awe of what we had just done.**

Those were long odds betting that a bunch of frat boys could pull off that First Boxing Tournament on ECU Campus. Yeah, those were long odds and not a *wise* bet... but that **Ole Teke for Life** thing was there. Maybe for the first time we all realized we were brothers born of 951 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

**YITB, Doc**



# A LOOK BACK

There were no better times than spending a warm day hanging on the porch at 951 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St. as classes let out, and a cold brew was waiting on us to toast the day. The below pictures will serve as a look back into times like that to remind us who we are from 1968 onward...Enjoy!



# ALUMNI BOARD CONTACT INFO

The Lambda Psi Alumni Association Board is here to serve. We ask you to join us in re-building our chapter's foundation. It is easy to walk away, it is easy not risk failure, and it is easy to not be vulnerable. The new Lambda Psi experiment is underway and when thinking about what type of men we need for this journey, the following excerpt from a 1910 speech delivered in Paris, France by President Theodore Roosevelt comes to mind:

*"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."*

Reach out to anyone below to get involved. We need *more* strong hands to commit small actions so we can reach our large goal of building Lambda Psi into *the* premier ECU fraternity.

## Lambda Psi Alumni Association Board

Name	Scroll	Position	Phone #	Email
Drew Griffin	526	President	919-796-1170	<a href="mailto:colonelgriffin14@gmail.com">colonelgriffin14@gmail.com</a>
Marshall Warren	138	Vice President	480-773-3617	<a href="mailto:mwarren03@gmail.com">mwarren03@gmail.com</a>
Joe Moss	IY-564	Treasurer	252-864-5568	<a href="mailto:onebadtke@gmail.com">onebadtke@gmail.com</a>
Ryan Troutman	515	Secretary	336-908-0098	<a href="mailto:rmt0512@gmail.com">rmt0512@gmail.com</a>
Jim Kevil	140	Housing	973-903-7818	<a href="mailto:j.kevil@yahoo.com">j.kevil@yahoo.com</a>
Doc Lewis	60	Fundraising	727-771-7040	<a href="mailto:dlepay@gmail.com">dlepay@gmail.com</a>
Dylan Moore	661	Event Planning	252-414-0712	<a href="mailto:dsmoore2895@gmail.com">dsmoore2895@gmail.com</a>
TJ Hill JR Rochester	581 592	IT	336-508-7897 901-853-7071	<a href="mailto:thomas1hill@gmail.com">thomas1hill@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:trulyjr@gmail.com">trulyjr@gmail.com</a>
Don Troutman	145	Charity	336-707-3330	<a href="mailto:dontroutman57@gmail.com">dontroutman57@gmail.com</a>
Britt Starling	536	Finance	910-596-1187	<a href="mailto:cbs020990@yahoo.com">cbs020990@yahoo.com</a>
Scott Mosher Cameron Bush	199 193	Rush	802-448-4394 910-762-7606	<a href="mailto:smosher@nuharborsecurity.com">smosher@nuharborsecurity.com</a> <a href="mailto:piratebush@yahoo.com">piratebush@yahoo.com</a>

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