



THE BASEMENT

Apr. 2019
Vol. 3

Lambda-Psi Alumni Monthly Newsletter



The Whispers said it best in their famed 1980 top hit that reached #19 on Billboard's Hot 100, "And the Beat Goes On". Life is hectic, we all have various responsibilities, others that depend on us, and reasons to drift away from our Lambda-Psi brothers but let's fight that undertow for the bond we each share. It is special, and the fact you received this newsletter means YOU are special. Hold on to that, no matter what you face. We've lost too many brothers over the years. The Lambda Psi bond is one we all cultivated for each of us to revert to when we need a recharge, when we need to feel unique, and when we need to feel powerful. We each laid a proverbial brick on top of the 951 E. 10th Street foundation and should each well up with pride for ourselves for the worthy endeavor that many could take embark on. This month's newsletter will take you on ride through good news stories, great accomplishment, a look back into history, and a request to RSVP for the upcoming Alumni Weekend on September 20, 2019 weekend. Each month the Alumni Board writes this newsletter, we are routinely blown away by our brotherhood's achievements, unknown facts, and impact we all have on our various communities.

Inside This Issue

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Highlighted Bio Quote –

"Twenty of us were stuck on an island without a single man-made structure during a huge storm with no way off!"

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RAISING THE BAR

2019 Alumni Weekend
September 20-22



Annual Brotherhood Meeting



30 Hotel Rooms
Reserved



Friday Morning Golf Outing



Spirits



Wives & Girlfriends Event



Football Game
NO QUARTER!



Friday Night Cocktail Event



Let's Party!

For questions, please contact:

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WE NEED YOU



1968 1978 1988 1998 2008 2018 2028

The Lambda Psi of Tau Kappa Epsilon is comprised of 700+ Brothers spanning the past 5 decades. Unfortunately we've only got 50% of the brotherhood's active email addresses and even worse, we've got gaps in our scrolls and need your help identifying these missing brothers.

And that's where *you* can help.

We're looking for brothers to represent 5-year increments in which they were an active brother. This would greatly help the alumni association gather contact information and scroll numbers, distribute information, promote upcoming events, etc.

If you're interested, please contact any member of the alumni board!

1968 – 1973

1993 – 1998

1973 – 1978

1998 – 2003

1978 – 1983

2003 – 2008

1983 – 1988

2008 – 2013

1988 – 1993

2013 – 2018



BROTHER SPOTLIGHT

Mr. North Carolina Men's Physique 2019 Champion!!!

Lambda Psi Scroll #611, Tom Cox recently stepped in what he refers to as “The Arena” per President Theodore Roosevelt’s famed speech on April 23rd, 1910. In this speech he made it clear that the credit goes *not* to the critic or to those who point out how the strong man stumbles, but rather to the man willing to risk it all again and again in hopes of great achievement although often facing utter failure. On April 14th, 2019, our brother risked it all and became Mr. North Carolina Men's Physique 2019 Champion! One step closer to achieving his professional bodybuilder card. But this achievement did not happen overnight, like many of us, Tom has experienced tough times. On March 18th, 2004 his life as he knew it fell off its axis when he lost his beloved father, Clark Cox after a long battle where he personified true grit for his family's benefit. Within that battle, young Tom learned what it took to be strong and to always hold his head high despite misfortune. He learned from his dad to always be respectful, give a firm hand shake and to look people in the eye. Sounds like TKE ideals, right?! We can all learn from Clark.

Rather than let his father's passing break him, Tom bought into one more lesson from his father; to be relentless in the pursuit of his passion. Through the usual ups and downs of college, failed relationships, uncertainties, and embarking on the same soul searching we all faced in undergrad, Tom found an interest in bodybuilding. Since then he's put in massive amounts of hard work, consistency, and smart training. Since starting weightlifting Tom found his training has not only improved his physique but also his psyche as well. The will to focus to the finish, to persevere, to stay disciplined far surpasses what he's gained on his outward appearance. Tom is a true leader of men. He is cerebral and believes we all have untapped ability to do great things and positively impact others. From my perspective, one of Tom's greatest strengths is that he is not afraid of failure because as he describes it, “the act of not giving up is the most powerful attribute one can possess”. All his losses, failures, and shortcomings have driven him to where he is today. Perspective is everything. He believes seeing past today is difficult but to remember life can be preparing you for the future even though its doesn't always give you what you want, when you want it, but there's beauty in the spontaneous blessings we receive when we stay true to our commitments and goals. Over the years, Tom has battled injuries from a major car accident, torn muscles, and even bacteria infections. But every time Tom contemplated, “is this too much?” or “should I quit”, Clark's voice would reappear telling Tom, “finish what you start, no matter what”. Again, we can all learn from Clark.

Let's cheer Tom on as he now prepares to walk back in “The Arena” at the [2019 NPC Junior USA Bodybuilding Championship](#) and compete for his pro card on May 17-18, 2019 in Charleston, SC.

Seeking help and accountability? Reach out to Tom at team@unchainedphysiques.com



BROTHERHOOD BIOS

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: Michael Criscitiello (left)
Scroll Number: 226 (Spring '84)
City/State: Virginia Beach, VA

Why is TKE important to me?

The lasting friendships and everlasting bonds of Brotherhood. My best man at my wedding was my little brother and one of my best friends Ron Jones. Mark Schechter was another member of the wedding party and one of my roommate when I lived in the TKE house as the Hegemon and as Vice President.

Memorable TKE Experience:

During my 3 years as boxing tournament chairman, the TKE chapter was recognized by St Jude's for our contribution of \$10,000. We also made enough money to pour the concrete for the driveway one year. Close second was being part of the all campus soccer champs for two years and the softball all campus champions.

Unique facts:

I own and operate my own business. Also, my daughter Ava is currently a student at ECU – second generation Pirate!

Skills:

Owner of Atlantic Merchant Services. We work with customer of community banks in the southeast for their credit card processing and business form needs. My greatest skill is listening and being able to assist individuals to reach their goals and help them run their businesses smoother.



Name: Curtis Robinson(right)
Scroll Number: 515 (Spring – YOU KNOW! – '03)
City/State: Wake Forest, NC

Why is TKE important to me?

College is a critical point in a young man's life and many of the choices we make then determine who we become after. TKE for me was the foundation I built my adult life around. TKE gave me many life long friendships and taught me valuable lessons that empowered me to become the man I am today. I will always be proud of my time spent in Lambda Psi and I am grateful for that chapter of my life.

Unique facts:

My Great Grandfather was C.Roy Atkinson.

Skills:

Senior Infrastructure Systems Engineer at Oracle



Name: Christopher "Chris" Simpson (left)
Scroll Number: 269 (Fall '85)
City/State: Raleigh, NC

Why is TKE important to me?

TKE is important to me because of the lifelong friendships I've made. Every year I went back to ECU for football, I knew I had an anchor (TKE house) where I was always welcome.

Unique facts:

Awarded "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine" February 26, 2015. Among the most prestigious awards conferred by the Governor of North Carolina is The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. It is awarded to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and which has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina.

Skills:

Will retire from the Army (Regular Army, NC National Guard and Army Reserves) on 1 Sep 19 after 35 1/2 years. Last assignment was with the Army's largest Command Headquarters (US Army Forces Command), as the Deputy Director Cybersecurity Branch.





Name: Aaron Gentzler (left)
Scroll Number: 576 (Spring '08)
City/State: Greenville, NC

Why is TKE important to me:

TKE introduced me to the values of Love, Charity, and Esteem. These three words resonated with me the first time I heard them and are an integral part of how I want to treat others today. Further, my best memories from college all seem to have the men of Lambda Psi as the common denominator. They were there for me through thick and thin, and still are to this day. For that, I am thankful.

Unique Facts:

My uncle was the founding Prytanis of the Rho Rho chapter at Sam Houston State University, earning him Scroll #001. His lasting relationship with his fraternity brothers is a driving factor to why i chose to Pledge TKE.

Skills:

I'm a Project Manager for a commercial GC currently managing the new construction of a homeless shelter in Falls Church, VA. Talents include patching the TKE house walls using couch cushions and catching footballs with my face (only needed a few sutures above my eye).

Name: Kevin Robinson (right)
Scroll Number: 624 (Fall '11)
City/State: Raleigh, NC

Why is TKE important to me?
 TKE taught me how to work hard and lead in a way that makes others want to follow. I learned how to clean, organize events, cook a whole hog, separate business and friendship, and build mental strength. All that's great, but the number one reason is it's where I met my best friends. When times get tough, my brothers have my back.

Memorable TKE Experience:
 Our first brotherhood retreat to Shackleford Banks led by Bruce Pittman. Day 1 was picture perfect. Day 2, not so much.. Twenty of us were stuck on an island without a single man-made structure during a huge storm with no way off! We were all cold and soaked to the bone, but somehow I look back on it with a smile. The circumstances didn't matter, it was about surviving and getting through it together. That's what TKE is all about, and it's important to remember that now more than ever. We may not have the house, be we still have each other.

Unique facts:
 I love to learn about and practice woodworking. Anyone looking for an apprentice!?

Skills:
 Inside Sales - Consolidated Electrical Distributors



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 or 727-224-1439 with your input.

How often have you heard one of our own Teke Alumni complain about how bad the House looks?? You know, usually it is something like, "Man, the House looks terrible. Beer cans under the couch in the TV Room, liquor bottles in the Chapter Room, something died in the Kitchen, no toilet paper and the furniture looks like it was found at the dump. When we lived there, we kept it clean and well maintained. " Oh sure you did... After graduating and being re-programmed into a modern hygienic society it is easy to forget our, "What we use to live in." The fun we had more compensated for the dirt. When I lived in the House, Dennis "Dink" Newman postulated "The Space/Time Theory of Trash." (Stephan Hawkins should have taken Dink's work and progressed it in his writing about Quantum Mechanics.) Dennis, after lengthy observation & trial developed his Theory of SPACE:



"There is always enough SPACE in the TV Room's trash can for one more piece of trash." I personally witnessed him testing his theory on many occasions. In a later paper, he further observed that, "Taking the trash out can always wait another day" TIME Theory. Again, Dink put much observation into that. [I would like to formally apologize to Dink for not being more supportive of his important research. I allowed my duties as House Manger to diminish the full scope of his research.]



Hygiene and modern interior design were never particularly fostered skills at 951 East 10th Street. Many of us are convinced that after living in the House for 2 years our immune systems were conditioned to survive things such as the Black Plague, Typhoid Mary and the food from Mel Rose's Diner. These conditions were so acute that rodents and other varmints avoided the House. Well, except for squirrels who frequently visited our kitchen in the early mornings to sample the remains of late-night visits to such places as Darwin Waters fine restaurant across the river [Greenville only restaurant to steadfastly stay at a Sanitation Grade D].

It is interesting to note how the human species can adapt especially in a fraternity house environment. I remember living in the House during a particularly cold Winter Quarter. Kevin "Nature Boy" Culler and I were the only ones dumb enough to live in the House and have a 5 Hour 8:00 AM winter class. What evolved was an early morning riser contest. The one who got up the earliest was rewarded with almost 5 whole minutes of warm water for the morning shower. Everyone else got cold water unless they ventured up to the dorms to use theirs. Bill Van Horn, our Treasurer, was still perfecting his "Screw Sam Pollard (our plumber), Pay the TV, Wait for the second notice on the E-Lec-Tric-i-ty" accounting system [available now online at Amazon].

DOC'S CORNER

2004: The REHAB on 951 East Tenth Street:

The sheer damage inflicted on the House in the past 50 years by over 650 Teke Brothers & Pledges, along with countless Little Sisters & girlfriends, added to by the hosting of thousands of parties and socials, further exacerbated by the scarcity of maintenance and assorted pestilences. These damages over the half-century have been largely ignored. In the Fall of 2003, the House had reached a point of reckoning even by our low "standards." Back then, Frat Brothers from the late 1970's, Don Troutman & Bill Van Horn stopped by the house one football weekend. What they noticed immediately was a Large Hole in the Floor of the Foyer of the House. It was so BIG they could see down into the basement. The current batch of Brothers thought it was "normal". Looking around Don & Bill notice other disturbing "Hints" of the House's sorry state. "Living Conditions" were not quite at the Black Hole of Calcutta levels but you probably could see them also from the foyer.



The Plan:

Don and Bill called fellow Brother Nate Gminder to discuss. Most of you know that Nate lives in Greenville. He has been *tortured for past life atrocities* by being elected the local Chapter Advisor for 25 years. Their conclusion was that the situation at the House was only going to get worse. The House needed a major rehab. **A PLAN was needed.** There were issues that had been ignored for years about fire safety, local building codes and the attic's living conditions. Don began calling other alumni. Bill & Nate started getting estimates.

As the Plan developed other alumni joined in to help. We started having weekly Sunday Night Planning calls. The calls went on for months. Yes, we enjoyed the calls. It was a great time to tell the old stories again (have I mentioned before that the stories get better as we retell them) reconnect and move forward with the Plan.

The "Plan" started taking shape but where were we going to get the money to pay for the work? Also, we had active brothers who had already paid to live in the House during the construction period. We couldn't just throw them out of the House. Eventually, the Plan encompassed adding a sprinkler system (first fraternity house at ECU to have this), raise the roof and transform the House from 2 stories with an attic to 3 stories. You could almost hear the cash register ring each time a new need was discovered.

Unfortunately, reality started showing signs of needing cash...and a new mortgage. Brothers were going to be needed to guarantee the mortgage. NO sane banker/mortgage company was interested in loaning \$250,000 to a fraternity in the Teke Universe. And, MORE money was going to be needed than available from a lender to cover all the rehabs and improvement... maybe as much as \$40,000. Jim Lindley, Eddie Jackson, Bill Burnette, Nathan Gminder and Dennis Newman "volunteered" to guarantee the mortgage [*Threats of releasing photo negatives of these individuals to their friends and relatives were only hinted at.*]. Don Troutman began the process of raising the money. Amazingly, in a few short months 78 Alumni donated \$40,000+ US Dollars to the Plan.

DOC'S CORNER

We decided to move the brothers living in the House to the East Carolina Inn at no cost to them. I am proud to inform you that despite the living conditions at the Inn being better, cleaner, and its hot water plentiful not a single brother complained about the move.



The House was ready for occupancy by start of school in September 2004. We had a huge party to celebrate the completion of work at Homecoming. In just one short year that Hole in the Foyer Gang's conversation started by Don & Bill began a committed drive by almost 100 alumni to give back and renew their commitment to the continuation of Teke on ECU's Campus.

At Homecoming a plaque was dedicated to the many Brothers contributing to the rehab and more importantly to Col. Dick Blake for his services to us as Chapter Advisor. Col. Blake was our champion, friend, advisor and by his efforts TKE Boxing on ECU's Campus became a reality. That plaque is proudly attached to the House adjacent to the Front Door.

Why We Did It

Think about this...

"Why" did so many of us give so much in time, loan guarantees and hard cash to this project?? Remember that most of us graduated/left 20-30 years ago. Most of us were married (or between marriages in a few cases), had/were raising children, building careers, and had plenty of other places to put their time and money. **But we were committed to the completion of the Plan.** (Just think about how many of us had to ask our wives for permission). When we heard the need to rebuild our Ole Teke Frat House, we stepped up to the plate to help. Again, Why?



Looking back, it seems that every 15-20 years some crisis happens that pulls us back together. It is a call that reminds us how special those years were and the relationships we share from those years. We had the "The Fire of 1982", this "The Hole-in-the-Foyer Gang" in 2003 and our recent "Charter Lost" event of 2019 to rally, motivate and unify us again. Why would otherwise (relatively) sane people be pulled back in to give of their time and resources for the future of some kids no one knows. Brotherhood...it's that brotherhood thing that still is with us years later built on the appreciation of those times, our memories and relationships. I personally have grown to look forward to these disasters...

That "Ole Teke For Life" thing is not just a slogan but a living, lifelong fact. Brother! Anybody up for another Boxing Tournament?

YITB, Doc



A LOOK BACK

There were no better times than spending a warm day hanging on the porch at 951 E. 10th 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	colonelgriffin14@gmail.com
Marshall Warren	138	Vice President	480-773-3617	mwarren03@gmail.com
Joe Moss	IY-564	Treasurer	252-864-5568	onebadtke@gmail.com
Ryan Troutman	518	Secretary	336-908-0098	rmt0512@gmail.com
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Doc Lewis	60	Fundraising	727-771-7040	dlepay@gmail.com
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