



THE BASEMENT

Jun. 2019
Vol. 5

Lambda-Psi Alumni Monthly Newsletter



Lambda-Psi Alumni Association is unique, powerful, and building its muscles. If our collective hearts stop pumping tomorrow don't feel any sorrow; because life is hard, and everything is meant to be. Cherish this time together and let's capitalize on the opportunity at hand for us to continue our fellowship at the 2019 Alumni Weekend in September. This is the 5th volume of The Basement Newsletter and oh what a fun ride its already been. Putting pen to paper has been illuminating for the Alumni Association to better grasp how incredible we have become. From each of our origins pouring stale beer down basement steps at the *bottom of the hill*, to now running businesses, leading families, and pursuing dreams thought unattainable, the verdict is in; Lambda Psi is awakening to a new reality. In the same vein as Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto stated after attacking Pearl Harbor where he reportedly write in his diary, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve," all those bad apples that caused Lambda Psi to be removed from ECU campus did was wake us up. LET'S GO.

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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 only have **50%** of the brotherhood's active email addresses and even worse, we have gaps in our scroll numbers and need your help identifying these missing brothers.

And that's where *you* can help.

We are 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





WHICH BROTHERS ARE COMING TO ALUMNI WEEKEND?

TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA EPSILON TAU KAPPA
DA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA PSI LAMBDA

Brother RSVP's YES to 2019 Alumni Weekend

Ray Sharpe	Drew Griffin	Sean O'Connell	Ron Jones
Dylan Moore	Matt Kraus	Alex Miller	Brian Brantley
Corbin Wissel	James Moore	Jake Powell	Bill Van Horn
Marshall Warren	Josh Brittenham	Ryan Troutman	
Doc Lewis	Carl Martin	Cadyn Laffon	
Don Troutman	Thomas Riekell	TJ Hill	
Brandon Pittman	Jim Wagner	Michael Criscitiello	

TIME IS TICKING... RSVP TODAY!



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:

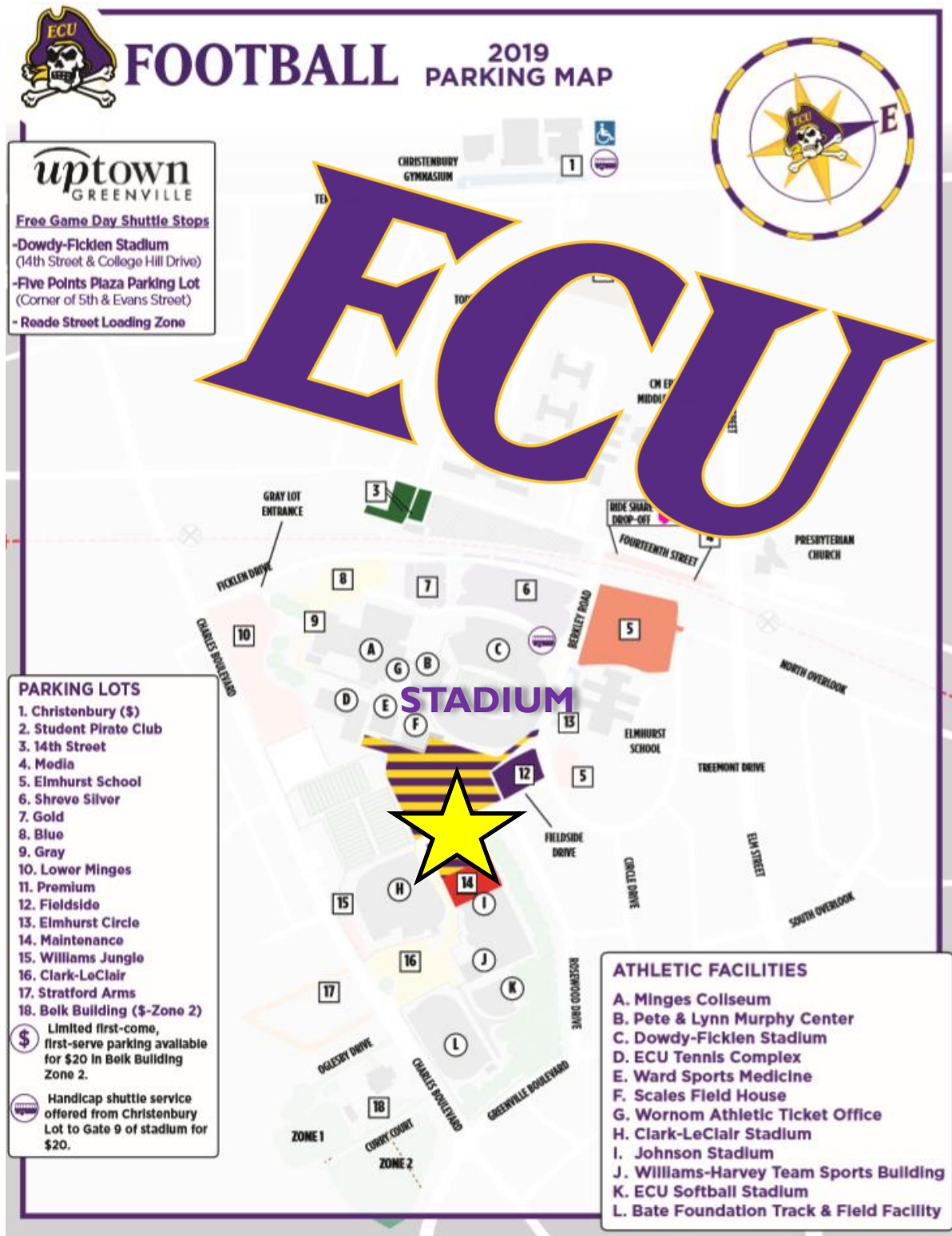
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TKE TAILGATE LOCATION SECURED

We recently heard from our Virginia Beach brothers to confirm they will graciously host the 2019 Lambda Psi Alumni Weekend Football Tailgate at their spot just steps away from Dowdy Ficklen! Refer to map below.



BROTHER SPOTLIGHT

On behalf of the Alumni Association Executive Board, Lambda-Psi brother Brandon Pittman, Scroll 614 Fall '10 shared his insight on the late Jonathon Bennett, a brother whom not only the chapter still misses but also so many others as well. The below spotlight was Brandon's response when asked by the Executive Board to describe who Jonathon was and his impact on Lambda-Psi and the community at-large:

"I have the privilege to talk about one of my closest friends who was the exact definition and true representation of a Teke man through and through. I'm talking about Jonathon Bennett, Scroll 619 Fall 2011. I met Jon on move in day as a freshman at ECU. His charisma, friendly nature, and laugh was so genuinely infectious that it still brings a smile to my face when I think back to that moment. I remember being so nervous and anxious about meeting new people in a new setting, but once I met Jon all of that went away. He just had that special effect on everyone he interacted with. One story that has always stuck in my head about the type of person Jon was is a couple of weeks go by after move in weekend, and we started to look for organizations to become involved with on campus. Over that time, I had been talking up TKE like crazy. My brother Bruce Pittman (602 Fall '09) and my best friend Patrick (582 Fall '08) were brothers, and the few interactions I had with some of the other brothers were all great and extremely welcoming. I knew he would love it too, and I wanted him to be there with me. So on that first day of fall rush we were walking down the hill getting ready to go to TKE, and we see the ECU Ambassadors tent at the bottom of the hill.

Jon sees Bruce and says "Oh look it's your brother. Let's stop and say hi!" We stop by, say hello, and introduce ourselves to the other Ambassadors. Once Jon started talking with everyone there, he made that instant connection with the Ambassadors about helping set up the tables under the tent. A trivial thing like table placement, and that was all the Ambassadors needed to witness to know that he would be a perfect fit for their organization. A little while later, we go to stop by TKE.



Once again, he just had that connection with everyone not about tables, but about something deeper. What a brotherhood really means, and what a fraternity experience does for its members... for life. Jon wanted that, and he wanted to be apart of that brotherhood, and the brothers knew he would fit in perfectly at TKE. On the last day of rush, Jon and I start talking about whether we were going to do one, the other, or both at the same time. I told him that I wanted to try to do both the Ambassadors, and rush TKE because I liked both organizations, and I wanted to be apart of them both. Jon, on the other hand, took his time and said "I really like both of them, but if I'm going to do both, I want to do them right, and with my best effort. I don't want to short-change either organization. They mean that much to me." Time would tell that he was right.

BROTHER SPOTLIGHT

For me, I couldn't handle both at the same time, and I ended up missing my last crucial interview with the Ambassadors. For Jon, he knew exactly what he was doing, and was patient enough to see it through. He would wait a year, and pledge TKE the only way he knew how. With his whole heart and full effort. I can tell you all with 100 percent certainty that his Fall '11 pledge brothers were absolutely glad he waited a year. They loved him very much, and he absolutely loved them. I don't know whether that was God, fate, or grand design. But he absolutely belonged in the Fall '11 pledge class. When Jon did decide to pledge I knew he would strive, and eventually accomplish incredible things for our organization. Needless to say, he did nothing short of accomplishing greatness that will always be remembered. Jon sat on various committees, was on the executive council, was in charge of the chapter March Madness bracket challenge (even though he always lost because he ALWAYS picked Duke to win,) and was always willing to help any of the brothers out with anything.



All the while, Jon was all about getting everyone in TKE involved in other organizations across campus, and within the Greenville community. ECU's motto, *Servire*, is something Jon took to heart. The best way to serve your community is with your time, hard work, and personal experiences. He brought all of those things, and countless more to our chapter, the ECU Ambassadors, ECU Campus Recreation, Winslow's, Fike high school, and the Geography Department at ECU. What better way to showcase to the university, the other students, and to the rest of the community that TKE and its members are awesome, hardworking, and incredible men. By showing them first hand what their members were capable of in any situation.

Jon always strived and persevered for greatness, passion, leadership, accountability, bravery, scholarship, love, charity, and esteem. All of these qualities are extremely rare to find within a normal person, but as you all know Jon wasn't just a normal person. Everything he did for our organization, and all the other organizations he was so enthralled in, completely embodied all of those characteristics. I can say without a doubt that Jon absolutely loved TKE, loved our chapter, and loved the time he spent with us. Although he isn't physically here with us right now, he is always with us in our hearts, our memories, and especially when the band plays *Wagon Wheel*.

When each of us represent TKE Lambda-Psi we represent our chapter with immense pride. With the qualities of love, charity, and esteem running through our veins, we are TKE men: not for wealth, rank, or honor, but for personal worth and character. Just the way Jon did every day."



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: TJ Hill (left)

Scroll Number: 581 (Fall '08)

City/State: Winston-Salem, NC

Why is TKE important to me?

While obviously some of the experiences we had in school were a blast and will always be fun to look back on, I think the relationships formed were the most important part. Many of my best friends came through TKE. It is special to have so many friends all part of that common bond.

Memorable TKE Experience:

There were so many good times, but I cannot help but think of the first time we went to the Carolina Cup horse race in SC. It was a wildly awesome weekend and I think we all had a blast, especially those brothers who do not even remember seeing a horse.

Unique Facts:

My uncle Bill VanHorn also happens to be my fraternity brother. From a very young age, my mother always said, "my son will not go to ECU, and he will certainly not be a TKE at ECU"..... It turns out she was wrong about both, but it didn't take too long for her to come around and see that neither one were all that bad!

Skills/Occupation:

I work in Analytics and Product Development for a large personal lines insurance company.



Name: Alley Ejlali (right)
Scroll Number: 464 (Fall '97)
City/State: Oxford, MS

Why is TKE important to me?

TKE is important to me because my experiences while in Greenville helped me build the leadership and teamwork skills that are so useful today.

Memorable TKE Experience:

My most memorable experience was connecting with each and every brother.

Unique Facts:

I love to cook and collect records.

Skills/Occupation:

Owner/Agent ALFA Insurance – Alley Ejlali Agency



Name: Bryan Lowe (left)
Scroll Number: 330 (Fall '86)
City/State: Nags Head, NC (OBX)

Why is TKE important to me?

Tau Kappa Epsilon is, and was, a great organization. I made many friends that I cherish through the years, a miraculous bunch of fellows.

Memorable TKE Experience:

The fraternity blossomed under our tenure, going from about 75 members to over 130. We rocked the house. In fact, one of our pledge classes began with 45 pledges.

Unique Facts:

I have two brothers who were also in the fraternity. I also held the position of Crysophylos (Treasurer).

Skills/Occupation:

I have opened up six head shops in Virginia and North Carolina. And to be truthful, it was exactly what we were used to at the fraternity!





Name: Brandon Simmons (left)
Scroll Number: 594 (Spring '09)
City/State: Boone, NC

Why is TKE important to me?

I met some of my best lifelong friends through the organization. Through some of the roughest times to the best, I have always had my brothers to talk to and depend on if needed. I never thought that friends/brothers that I had met over a decade ago would still be some of my best friends today. No matter where life takes us, or how far away we are away from each other; the bond stays strong and can never be broken.

Memorable TKE Experience:

That's a tough one. My most memorable TKE experience wasn't just one event per se, but the entire time I was at ECU with my brothers. They truly are some of the best times of your life, times I'll never forget.

Unique Facts:

I travel around the country and abroad blowing glass full time.

Skills/Occupation:

Self-employed glass blower

Name: Cameron Foster (right)
Scroll Number: 636 (Fall '12)
City/State: Jacksonville, NC

Why is TKE important to me?

TKE is important to me because the bonds you create last a lifetime. Even if you haven't spoken to them in some time, everyone will drop everything to be by your side. Strangers become family.

Memorable TKE Experience:

My most memorable moment has to be my first Champagne Breakfast. When I came back to the house it looked like a war zone; people passed out on the stairs, mud all over the house, biscuits all over the floor. Even one of my pledge brothers, who was on crutches at the time, was covered in mud and passed out on the stairs.

Unique facts:

I was raised on the same street and next door to one of my pledge brothers.

Skills/Occupation:

I am currently the sales manager for a car dealership in Jacksonville. I also proudly serve in the NC National Guard.



DOC'S CORNER

It started out like any Saturday afternoon during summer school session in 1976. Tradition held that we rise in time to be at the house by 1:00 pm with our personal case of beer and a cooler. We would watch major league baseball games from 1:00-7:00. More important than the games were the discussions and insights gained from the outcome of that Friday's Super Happy Hour at the Elbow Room and the resulting aftereffects of the Friday night party at the House. Usually there was plenty to discuss, dissect, second-guess and even to admire. It was fun and occasionally we were also treated with one of those "Walk of Shame" through the TV Room. There were a couple of brothers who specialized in chasing the lower digits.



Part of that tradition was that you loaded the cooler with your beer and stacked your empties back in the case it came in. It was considered impolite to end the game with any full ones. We were all well exercised in the protocol.

One Saturday during a commercial break it was announced that Governor Ronald Reagan, who was running for President, would be making a campaign stop at the Kinston "International" Airport. Governor Reagan was then running for President in the Republic Primary. That was great news for us since Ronald Reagan was a **real** TKE Fraternity Brother - not just some "honorary" brother status usually given to an actor or musician. Frater Reagan was the real deal. He went to Eureka College in Illinois and pledged there.

Ronald Reagan was also a long-time supporter of Teke and even recorded a 35 mm movie for Teke. We used it for recruiting and to convince parents that any Teke pledge could aspire to public office or even Hollywood. *Of course, this was long before social media, camera phones and even before the internet, video tapes and VCRs.* BUT, imagine taking a movie home with you to show your parents! There was Governor Ronald Reagan talking about TKE brotherhood and how fraternity life had helped shape him. Many of you may recall him as the best President of the 20th Century, but Ronald Reagan was also a well-respected actor. **We were very proud to call Ronald Reagan a true Teke Brother.**

I am not sure who said it but someone said we should go to his Kinston Airport campaign stop. And then someone said it would be cool to meet him. Unfortunately, Eddie Jackson who was working on the back half of his case of beer suggested - "I know who can arrange that". Then about 40 eyeballs looked at that idiot and these words bubbled out of that idiot's Miller High Life scented mouth - "Okay, consider it done".

DOC'S CORNER

So, come Monday morning we began calling the North Carolina State Republican party with our request for a direct meeting with Governor/Brother Reagan while he was in Kinston. A very nice receptionist cautioned us to have a VERY,VERY GOOD REASON for requesting such a meeting and suggested I think about it and call back. As in many cases, when adversity and obstruction stopped us, we took the problem and walked it in the TV room. There you could consult the mind trust sitting on those wooden benches waiting for the next episodes of *The Young & Restless* or *Gunsmoke*. And, we developed a meeting reason concept... The concept was an Annual Award: The Lambda-Psi Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon's Annual FRATER of the YEAR AWARD. It was enshrined as an award given to a member of the Teke International Fraternity who exemplified the essence of the Teke Brotherhood.

And, the envelope please... "This year the Lambda Psi Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon duly voted and selected Brother Ronald Reagan for its annual reward. (I might add this was the first and only such award ever given by the Lambda Psi chapter, so it was VERY SPECIAL.) The following words were to be inscribed on plaque, "For all the Good Works Brother Ronald Reagan has done and all we looked forward to seeing him do". (*Okay, maybe we should have worked on that wording some.*) One hundred and fourteen seconds later - it doesn't take long with that kind of creative mind power in the TV Room - I was back on the phone calling to arrange a meeting with the State Republican Party. Quite frankly, it sounded very impressive to them. Maybe it wasn't quite at a Nobel Prize level but over the phone it "sounded" quite impressive. **By Friday we had our invite.**

So, the following Saturday we had to prepare ourselves to arrive an hour early to go through the rigid Secret Service security checks and be prepped on their protocols to meet or Fraternity Brother, California Governor Ronald Reagan. There had been, in the 1960's and '70's, numerous assassinations and attempts. We were warned not to have pocketknives, or any device considered dangerous and expect to be thoroughly checked at our arrival. We arrived proudly wearing our Teke Jerseys and reeking of beer. They passed us through to the VIP



section and pinned a button to our shirts allowing us full access.

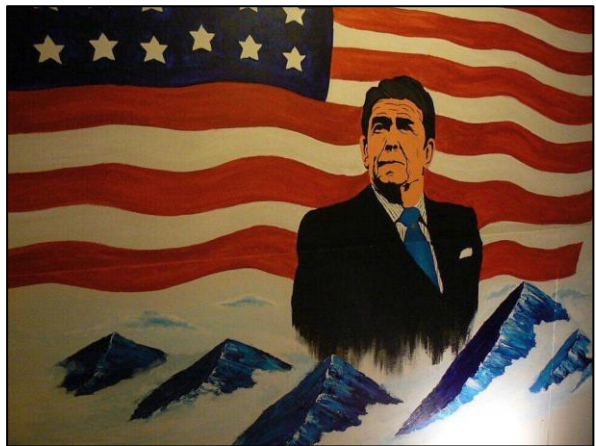
Some, heck many, of us crossed that security line with cans of beer in our pockets, socks and under our Teke jerseys. No one asked us to produce a driver's license or any other form of ID. Our frat letters and beer breath proved to the Secret Service that we were genuine, unarmed and anything but dangerous. Soon though we were alerted to some very unanticipated news.

DOC'S CORNER

Governor Reagan's arrival was projected to be 3 hours and 40 minutes late. The brothers with the smuggled in beer now looked pretty insightful. It was going to be a long hot afternoon on that tarmac at Kinston International.

An Aside: There was a **Hydration Theory** much discussed among us Tekes. It was commonly called among us the '*Drink It In and Sweat It Out Theory*'. The theory suggested that it is impossible to drink too much beer on a hot summer day. Further, the theory asserted that one could not become inebriated because the human body will sweat out (perspire) the alcohol long before it could affect your mental (fraternity reduced) faculties. I think Rob Devaney, Jim Kevil and those other Sparta brothers brought that theory to us. That Hydration Theory was put to the test on that Hot, Eastern North Carolina July Saturday afternoon.

What were we going to do? We had prepared ourselves to meet Governor Reagan with a pre-meeting at the Teke House with some stern words from fraternity leadership about behaving ourselves and then we slugged a couple of beers each to manage our excitement... "Get our heads right" (coined by Tom Norman). Now we were going to have to wait 3+ hours in hot Eastern North Carolina sunshine on a tarmac at the Kinston International Airport. So, we did only what frat guys would do on a hot Saturday afternoon standing in the sun – we began to drink heavily. Fortunately, we had come prepared with a few coolers of beer for just such an emergency. A very kind Secret Service Agent when pressed allowed us to bring our reserves of beer into the VIP Section.



Lambda-Psi Brother Brandon Simmons painted a mural of Brother Ronald Reagan in the TKE house.

In less than an hour our meager reserves of cold ones were almost depleted. After consulting with our newfound friendly Secret Service Agent we received permission to send a select group of brothers into the hinterlands to restock our reserves (Kinston International Airport was stuck in the middle of nowhere). A van was dispatched with a cadre of Frat Brother who knew their way around purchasing beer and other essential such as fried pig skins, Cheetos and more ice. They stumbled upon a little country store with beer signs in their windows.

DOC'S CORNER

Seven of our brothers rushed into the store on this mission of mercy. The lady behind the cash register was somewhat startled to find such activity. She called out in a very menacing voice. "If any of you steal anything, I'll shoot your balls off." Even under these hostile conditions our brothers accomplished their mission and returned with the needed supplies plus a yellow hat forgotten to be paid for under the duress... We were very lucky that day.

Three hours and 28 minutes late Governor Reagan arrived. Our fraternity representative was asked to make the presentation of the "*Frater of the Year Award Plaque*" before the assembled crowd of admirers and the national press. [We made the national news that night.]

Governor Reagan accepted the plaque and then gave a much-shortened campaign speech to make up for the time delay. In about 45 minutes the campaign stop ended. His "handlers" were rushing him off the stage to get him as quickly as possible to his next campaign stop.

The Secret Service had lined us up behind the stage in a receiving line. Governor Reagan was supposed to walk the line, shake a couple of hands and boogie quickly to his waiting plane. Because of the long delay which now was approaching 4 hours there were some hints that they were going to take him straight from the stage to his plane and bypass us. That would have been appropriate under the circumstances. After all, Governor Reagan was running for President of the United States.



DOC'S CORNER

There were about 25 of us attending that day. I had made the dedication speech to him and was standing at the head of the receiving line. Being in that spot I was the first to greet Frater Reagan. He looked me in the eyes, smiled and I knew he knew this was **just a prank**. He laughed, shook my hand, shook his head in that manner you've seen many times and moved down the receiving line of the Lambda Psi Chapter's beer-saturated line of sweaty Tekes. It was easy to tell he enjoyed every minute he shared with us – his younger frat brothers. He asked questions, told a couple of jokes, looked us all in the eye individually and made us all in that moment feel special. His 'handlers' were pulling at his sleeves trying to get him away from us and boarded on that waiting plane. Now the Reagan Campaign was running almost 5 hours late. Frater Ron didn't care. He was with his brothers and no one or anything was going to rush those moments. I think under different circumstances he would have shared a few beers with us. We shared time with our frat brother and future President of the United States. Again, his handlers were pointing at their watches trying to get him to leave us. But Ronnie made each of feel important and worthy of his time. Sure, it started as a prank but ended much differently for all of us that attended that campaign stop on a tarmac at the Kinston "International" Airport.

It would be another 4 years, 1980, before Brother Ron would become President. Lastly, I am sure somewhere in that magnificent Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is a plaque from a Teke Chapter engraved with "Frater of the Year - For all the Good Works Brother Ronald Reagan has done and all we looked forward to seeing him do". I would also like to think that whenever he saw that plaque it brought a smile to his face... The memory of that day, 40+ years ago, still brings a smile to mine.

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
Dylan Moore	661	Event Planning	252-414-0712	dsmoore2895@gmail.com
TJ Hill JR Rochester	581 592	IT	336-508-7897 901-853-7071	thomas1hill@gmail.com trulyjr@gmail.com
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