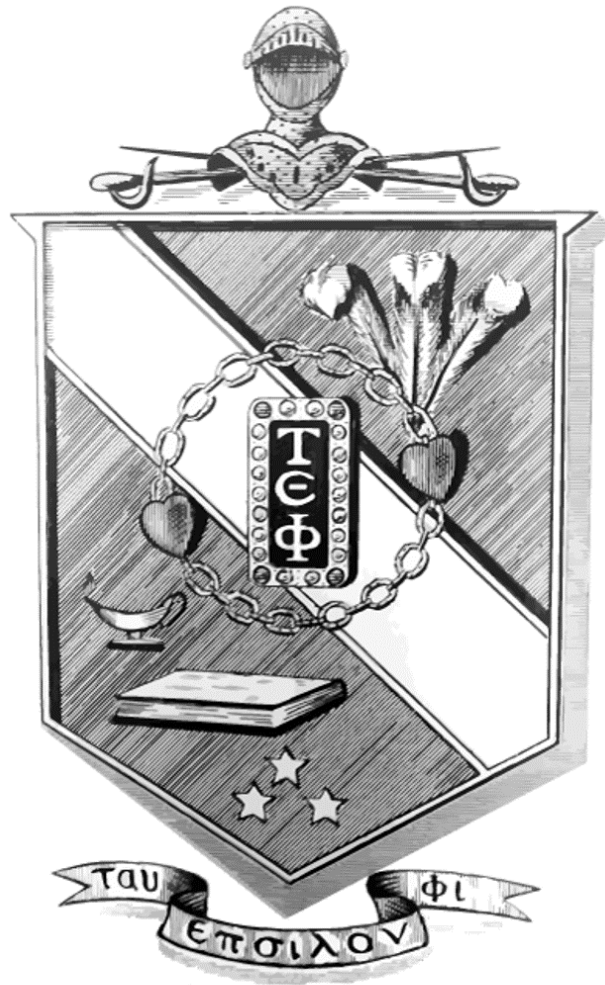

the PLUMÉ



*The Official Magazine of the
Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity*

*Summer 2017 Issue
Volume 75 Issue 2*

the Consul's Corner

Brothers,

Now that summer is amongst us, I hope you are able to spend some time with friends and family and enjoy the warm weather. TEΦ National continues to be busy and it continues to be an exciting time for our organization. Since my last update, I have had a chance to visit one of our new colonies, at Arizona State University. This colony is primarily composed of military veterans who have returned to college to take advantage of their military benefits. As such, they are unique from our other groups in that many of the members are over twenty-one years old. This certainly brings a unique perspective to the group and is very different from what you might consider the traditional greek experience on campus. I personally love that distinction because it adds to the already unique culture that makes TEΦ so special. It adds to the history of TEΦ National and the diversity that makes us such a great organization. While on the campus I had the chance to talk with their greek advisor and he had nothing but positive comments to say about the group and what they have accomplished in such a short period of time. The guys have also reached out to local alumni who live in the greater Phoenix area, and held an event in their honor. That gesture has developed great camaraderie amongst the various generations of our Brothers. I'd like to congratulate each of them for all they do and all of us look forward to what they can accomplish in the future!

The Grand Council has been very busy since my last update having met twice in person. We are currently putting a lot of time and effort into planning our annual leadership retreat for our undergraduate members. This event we will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from August 10-14. Representatives from all our chapters and colonies are expected to be in attendance. On Saturday night we will have an awards banquet to recognize Brothers and Chapters who will be honored by the Fraternity and the TEP Foundation. I'm pleased to announce that our past Consul, Alfred C. Versacci will be the key note speaker at this event. Al has served our fraternity in so many roles both as staff and as a volunteer. I am excited and impressed that he continues to be involved. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank our Undergraduate Vice-Consul, Brian Meyer for taking the lead on this project. He and his team are doing a great job and I am looking forward to this event!

I have had the honor and privilege to represent our Fraternity at several conferences and association meetings. These include the annual Fraternity Executive's Association meeting where I was welcomed into the class of 2017 for new fraternity executives. I also attended a regional Association of Fraternity Advisors meeting held at Union College in Schenectady, NY. Jason Berler our Director of Expansion & Chapter Development and I met with college greek advisors to learn about the concerns they have on their campuses affecting greek life. The partnerships we have developed with our university counterparts are so important to our longstanding mutual benefit. Finally, I attended a risk management college sponsored by our insurance company Holmes Murphy to educate myself on issues affecting the fraternal world. These included recent claims, open and ongoing liability issues, sexual misconduct, transgender membership and show cause hearings. Every time I am able to attend these events I learn new things which I am able to take back to the Grand Council so that we may continue to have the challenging discussions of planning for our future.

Lastly, my Brothers, it continues to be an honor and privilege to serve this great organization. I look forward to what we can all accomplish by coming together for the lasting benefit of our beloved fraternity!

Enjoy your summer!

Fraternally,

Mr. Timothy A. Smith, MBA
International Consul
Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity, Inc.
consul@tep.org



The PLUME

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FOR ONLINE NEWS:

www.tep.org
www.facebook.com/TauEpsilonPhiFraternity
www.linkedin.com/groups/41245

ABOUT THE EDITORS:

Dave Cass, Jr., EI #488, is a provisionally licensed mental health counselor in New York State. Dave was an Undergraduate Member-at-Large on the 2011-2013 Grand Council. During that time, Dave began setting the foundation to revitalize the Plume. Having been re-elected as a Member-at-Large for the 2016-2018 Grand Council, he plans to continue his work as senior editor of the Plume. Dave's writing and editing experience come from his time as a masters student at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

Ben Dafilou, AT #6, is a founding Brother of our newest chapter at Rowan University. He is a founder-to-founder legacy, following grandfather Arthur Gertzman EA #6, a founder of the original City College of New York chapter. He continues volunteering with Tau Epsilon Phi at both the local and national levels. Benjamin graduated in the Fall of 2016 with a degree in Biology and is now a Paramedic Student in the Virtua School of Paramedic Sciences at the Rowan College of Burlington County. Benjamin wishes to go to medical school after a short career as a paramedic.

The Plume staff will be reintroducing articles and features as this publication continues to grow within the twenty-first century. At this time, the Plume staff invites brothers to renew sponsorship and promote their businesses within our brotherhood. Sponsorships will run for a full-year (two editions) and will cost \$50 for an eighth-page ad, \$100 for a quarter-page ad, and \$200 for a half-page ad. For additional information, please contact the Plume staff at: plume@tep.org.

Letter to the Undergrads

Brothers,

Hello everyone!

It is really fantastic to have the opportunity to address our undergraduates and alumni in our second edition of the Plume in 2017. We have had a great Spring Semester and I wanted to highlight a couple of my favorite parts. We had our first semester of a full time staff since 2011. We welcomed in the second class of brothers at our Phi Upsilon Colony (University at Buffalo), two new interest groups - Gamma Tau (Indiana University) and Epsilon Phi (Pennsylvania State University) - and hosted Chancellor Calls. We raised over \$100,000 for local philanthropies across our organization and committed almost 4,300 hours of community service.

We are in the process of planning our 2017 Leadership Retreat for all of our chapters, colonies, and new interest groups in Baltimore. We parented B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) and attended their 2017 International Convention in Dallas, TX. We have reconnected with the TEP Foundation to continue our partnership for building for the future of our organization.

I want to thank all of our current chancellors and executive boards for all of their hard work over the last year and look forward to working with our newly elected chancellors in August! Most importantly, I would like to thank all of our undergraduates across the country who make this organization as strong as it is today. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to reach out!



Fraternally,

Brian Meyer
Undergraduate Vice Consul
Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity, Inc
UVC@tep.org

The TEP Foundation, Inc.

Written by Mark Abramson

Greetings from the TEP Foundation! Since the last article a number of things have happened. In February a few Foundation members went to Atlanta to attend the Grand Council meeting. President Marc Tolman gave a report on the current status of the Foundation, as well as how we plan to work hand-in-hand with the Fraternity. It was during this report that he told the Grand Council of the passing of Stan Schecter, in whose honor we had started a new scholarship last year. Also, it was announced that we are starting a new scholarship in honor of past Counsel and Foundation member Al Versacci. The award of \$500 will be given in the years between Grand Chapter Meetings to an undergraduate member who exemplifies the same leadership qualities as those of Brother Versacci.

A few of us spent some time in the storage unit that houses the Fraternity's records and memorabilia. Grand Council members Tim Smith, Brian Meyer, and Alan Ledewitz worked with Foundation members Marc Tolman, Mark Abramson and Mark Thomaches to uncover some important pieces of our fraternity's history. Our greatest find was a file cabinet with copies of every issue of the Plume from 1917 through 1995. Working together we are ensuring that these documents are preserved. The TEP Foundation has always kept the history of the Fraternity and we are making plans to begin archiving the documents in the storage unit.

In March President Marc Tolman announced his intention to step down from the position. During the years that Brother Tolman led the Foundation he helped to start a rebuilding campaign that continues today. He brought in a number of new trustees who will carry on the important work that the Foundation does. The Fraternity and the Foundation are indebted to Marc for his tireless efforts and wish him the best of luck in the future. He will be staying on the Foundation as a trustee.

A special election was held in April for a new president, secretary and vice president. Mark Abramson of Tulane was elected president, Brian Neltner of MIT became secretary and Alan Ledewitz of Johnson and Wales was elected vice president. The new officers, along with the other trustees will continue to build the TEP Foundation.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION

By mailing a check to:
The Tau Epsilon Phi Foundation, Inc.
c/o RRB Business Services
4651 Roswell Road
Suite I-804
Atlanta, GA 30342

By making an online donation at:
www.paypal.com
sent to: thetepfoundation@gmail.com

Brother Packer and Birthright: Building Jewish Identity

Interview with Ben Packer, Ω '99

Ben Packer is an alumnus from the University of North Carolina. Following his graduation, he moved to Jerusalem, where he resides to this day, throughout the mid-2000's he staffed several Birthright trips, which are organized to promote a sense of Jewish identity and heritage. Ben was interviewed by Dave Cass about his experiences with Birthright.

Dave: My first question is about Birthright itself. While we have a large Jewish population in our brotherhood, many of the gentile brothers (myself included) don't know much about the program. Can you explain some of the history and basics of it?

Ben: Certainly. Birthright Israel is a partnership between the Israeli Government, Jewish communities around the world and, individual donors – an example of a personal donor is Sheldon Adelson of Las Vegas fame. It's a 10-day, free program in Israel for people with Jewish heritage between the ages of 18-26 who have never been to Israel before on an organized trip. The purpose is to build Jewish identity and create a connection with Israel

D: That sounds like an enriching experience for those who can make the trip. I assume you went on a Birthright trip. What was the experience like for you?

B: I did not. I was ineligible due to having gone on a trip to Israel before and the program's start following my college graduation and move to Israel. However, I have led seven trips as a staff member. Every trip has a tour guide, two staff members, a guard/medic, and forty co-ed participants. Some trips have a rabbi as a staff member, but most do not.

D: What motivated you to serve as a staff member?

B: At the time, I was a campus Rabbi at UNC and Duke, so I would bring students from there with me.

D: Can you provide a time frame for this? Have the seven trips been recent or are these over the course of several years?

B: The seven trips were between 2006-2010. Now, I run an organization – Jerusalem Heritage House – that

hosts Birthright participants for free after their program is over, since they can choose to extend their stay. While recruiting guests, I often meet TEP brothers. We once hosted some brothers from the University of Florida as well about two years ago.

D: I'm happy to hear that you continue to make the connection with fellow TEPs during these trips. What's the most exciting experience you can recall from one of the trips you led, TEP-related or not?

B: I was able to give the Florida TEPs a personal tour of the Old City and show them places that very few people get to see – like the Small Western Wall.

D: What's the significance of this wall? My impression from a quick review of online sources is that it's important to the history of Jerusalem.

B: Yes. It's very close to where the Temple – both first and second – stood. It's a little tough to get to and is in a somewhat hostile area.



Brother Packer with a group of TEP brothers from the University of Florida and other chapters during the brothers' Birthright Trip in 2015.

continued from previous page

D: That's really interesting, considering that typical historical sites in the United States only date back to the 17th century. This Small Wall is a couple millennia in age. Regarding the logistics of Birthright, if TEPs who are reading this article are interested in enrolling in a trip, what would be your recommendations for them?

B: Many things here are that old. In fact, there is a wall next to my house that is 2,700 years old. For interested brothers, there are different trip organizers and different quality trips. They should ask me about them, and they should always try to extend their trips: I will host them for free! Also, I personally believe TEP could organize our own Birthright trip for brothers all over the country! I have helped Alpha Epsilon Pi with a nationally-organized trip and think it would be reasonable for us to do too.



Brother Packer at the excavation site of a 2,200 year-old mikveh (ritual bath) in Hebron of the West Bank.

D: Thank you for the suggestion and all of the information! Many brothers speak highly of your leadership skills on these trips and it benefits all of us to know more about this cultural event that so many of our active members have participated in.

Staff Update: Chapter Services Consultant Opening

TEΦ National is hiring for a newly created position - Chapter Services Consultant.

You will find a position description on our website at:
<http://www.tep.org/2017/chapter-services-consultant>.

If you are interested in working for our fraternity, please send your resume and a cover letter to hr@tep.org. Applications will be accepted until the close of business on August, 14, 2017. Interviews will start shortly thereafter and we hope to have this brother hired by early September. Good luck!

Staff Update: Director of Expansion and Chapter Development

Dear Brothers,

My name is Jason Berler, and I serve as the Director of Expansion and Chapter Development at our National Headquarters. It has been an honor and privilege serving our 106 year old organization. Founded in 1910 on Friendship, Chivalry, and Service — Our National Organization has made great progress since January 2017. We have excelled tremendously in the areas of expansion, chapter development, continuing education, risk management, dues collection, publication (*The Plume*), etc. Through the hard work of dedicated, local national volunteers and staff, we have been graciously welcomed back to two different TOP 10 Universities.

I am proud to announce our acceptance at Penn State University in State College, PA and Indiana University in Bloomfield, IN! These two Interest Groups will hopefully transition to our newest colonies this fall. If you are/or know of any undergraduate(s) attending either Penn State University or Indiana University this fall, we want them! This would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become a Founding Father. All inquiries into either expansion project can be forwarded to me directly via email at jberler@tep.org.

Although we have already made tremendous progress in many critical areas, the work does not stop. Our headquarters and staff remain committed toward the advancement of our national objective— The establishment, development, and growth of all Tau Epsilon Phi Chapters, Colonies, and Interest Groups. Having had the pleasure of working with various groups this past semester, I look forward to my continued travels next semester. I remain excited for my on-campus participation and facilitation awaiting me in Fall 2017.

Our International Consul Tim Smith has sent me to various industry-related conventions over the summer months. My travels have taken me to Atlanta, GA and Indianapolis, IN, where I had the privilege of being our first participant in TEP history at Novak Anti-Hazing Institute and Phired:Up Productions Growth Summit (below). My last conference for summer 2017 ends back in Indianapolis, IN attending the NIC (National Interfraternity Conference) Annual Convention.

I am very thankful for all these new found opportunities. These conferences have all served to better my personal, professional, and fraternal capabilities. I look forward to connecting with our leaders at our leadership retreat in Baltimore, MD.

Faternally,

Jason M. Berler
Director of Expansion & Chapter Development
Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity, Inc.
jberler@tep.org



Fifty Years with $\Lambda\Phi\epsilon$

Submitted by Ted Panczyszyn, $\Lambda\Phi\epsilon$ #405

During the weekend of July 13th to 16th, 2017, over 170 brothers (out of the possible 727) and many guests celebrated the Lambda Phi Epsilon (LPE) Chapter's fiftieth anniversary at Clarkson University. Brothers from all over the country traveled to Potsdam, New York, during the university's annual Reunion Weekend to catch up with old friends, remember good times, and celebrate the memory of those who've entered the Chapter Eternal. Despite the forecast for bad weather, many brothers arrived early to get a head start on socializing and play a round or two of golf and by Friday night LPE/TEP alumni had taken over the town.

The weather cleared on Saturday, and brothers held their alumni meeting in the morning where the state of the local and national fraternity were discussed and new Board of Trustees members were elected to serve 3-year terms. Alumni were able to hear from our new faculty advisor about the positive contributions the undergraduates provide on campus and share some thoughts on taking the chapter to the next level. In the afternoon, most hung out at the house and enjoyed a catered cookout where a memorial bench was unveiled to celebrate our dearly departed brothers. Among the attendees was Jack Stearns, LPE #1 and first Chancellor in 1967-68, who shared stories of his time at the house and listened in amazement to many stories that would not have been possible without his efforts in 1967. Throughout the day and into the evening groups of brothers from all generations mingled for lawn games, card games, house tours, looking at old photo albums and composites, sharing stories of how joining LPE/TEP has impacted their lives. It was truly an unforgettable weekend!



Brothers congregating around the TEP chapter house in Potsdam, NY.



Brother Jack Stearns, LPE 1, discussing TEP experiences with fellow brothers during the weekend events.

Undergraduate Reports

Nu – University of Georgia **Chancellor- Adam Segal**

The Nu chapter's year proved to be a memorable and exciting one. As seniors were sent off, underclassmen were inspired by the intense friendship and brotherhood offered by TEP. During the annual Shipwreck social event, the Nu chapter hosted hip-hop artist Soulja Boy, making for an electrifying event with a great on-campus reputation. This group also continued its longstanding streak of being a top-five fraternity in GPA, demonstrating a balance of academics and social experiences. The brothers at Georgia also maintain a strong philanthropic presence in Athens as well. The spring Battle of the Bands event raised \$1500 to help fight youth poverty and education inequality in Athens. Additionally, a Nu chapter brother began his own charity coffee company, Karma Coffee, dedicated to improving the local community by exchanging coffee for acts of kindness. Beyond this, chapter brothers participated in over 900 hours of community service with various organizations. Overall, the Nu chapter has created an atmosphere of overcoming obstacles and striving for excellence, which all brothers plan to consider during the upcoming school year.

Rho – University of Pennsylvania **Chancellor- Owen Burns**

The Rho chapter is proud of a strong spring semester. A new class of seventeen brothers was initiated, bringing an even brighter future to the chapter. In conjunction with the American Cancer Society, the chapter saw strong participation in the annual Relay For Life, helping to fund cancer research and celebrating the lives of those who have battled cancer. The Rho chapter continued to upgrade common spaces and living areas in the chapter house, which will create a more welcoming atmosphere for the brothers and for the alumni. The brothers continued to engage with the community, hosting a number of music and performance based events in the chapter house. In addition, the chapter had the highest GPA on campus, and continues to embody friendship, chivalry, and service on Penn's campus.

Tau Alpha – University of Florida **Chancellor- Jake Gottsegen**

The Tau Alpha chapter at the University of Florida is proud and humbled by their status as the largest chapter of TEP. The brothers are excited to be growing while bring their brotherhood closer, especially with the first spring pledge class since 2013. Additionally, the Tau Alpha chapter has been working diligently to expand the alumni network, gaining valuable networks through this venture. In fact, more than ten active brothers have summer internships that we established, in part, from TEP alumni. The group is preparing for the fall semester, recruitment period, and annual fall recruitment event: TEP Touchdown. TEP Touchdown is a seven versus seven flag-football tournament with over one-hundred and fifty participants each year. The group has already set the stage for success in all three areas. With the summer underway, the Tau Alpha chapter is very excited for what the future holds.

Epsilon Theta – Queens College **Chancellor- Michael John**

During the spring semester, the Epsilon Theta chapter focused on the ideal of brotherhood, with much bonding between the chapter and five new members from the fall of 2016. Several brothers moved toward graduation, and the chapter focused on usual and annual events in support of their academic growth. The group held the semesterly highway clean up and held a karaoke mixer with the Queens College chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon. A highlight of the semester was the chapters road-trip visit to our Omega Alpha chapter at Johnson and Wales University. This spring break trip was an incredible experience for all chapter brothers, especially for the newly initiated brothers who got their first glimpse at our national brotherhood.

Epsilon Iota – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute **Chancellor– Matt Johnson**

Spring was another great semester for the Epsilon Iota chapter in the grand scheme of Greek Life at RPI. The chapter crossed two freshman brothers in their Epsilon Deuteron pledge class. All members look forward to supporting Augusto “Brain Blast” Chavez-Enriquez and David “Wisebrass” Baumgardt in their upcoming semesters. The chapter also continued its annual Favorite Fraternity philanthropy event on campus, which has evolved with the campus’ fraternity and sorority systems. The Epsilon Iota group also excelled socially, hosting a beautiful formal event at a renowned campus venue. The brothers were proud to send off seven graduating brothers this semester as well, although their presences and support will be missed. The Epsilon Iota chapter brothers look forward to a busy and exciting fall semester as they continue to grow TEP at RPI.

Sigma Epsilon – Rutgers University, Camden **Chancellor– Jake Collette-Nippins**

The brothers of the Sigma Epsilon chapter had a busy year in New Jersey and are proud to share their accomplishments with our national brotherhood. The chapter members express excitement over the initiation of eight new members. These mark the 99th and 100th pledge classes in the chapters 50 year history. Every year, the chapter hosts a formal dinner and raffle called RU 4 the Troops, honoring active and former members of the armed forces and raising money for the Joshua Piccoli Scholarship. It is the largest service event hosted by the chapter and continues to grow each year. The chapter would like to offer thanks to the Rutgers University community, fellow fraternal organizations, and local businesses. Under the leadership of philanthropy chair Robert Finkelstein, the chapter was able to raise \$15,300. The chapter plans to ride on the success of this record-setting event as they continue to bring honor and recognition to Tau Epsilon Phi.

Lambda Phi Epsilon – Clarkson University **Chancellor– Jacob Cary**

This spring, the Lambda Phi Epsilon chapter was revelled in the ideal of friendship. The brothers began their success with their recruitment period, including the ever popular dodgeball event. Potential brothers and friends were able to meet the brothers and see what the chapter has to offer. The Lambda Phi Epsilon chapter also served for the love of service, hosting their regular waffle night to benefit the Potsdam Fire Department and raising \$2,590 for the campus Relay for Life event. On the social front, the brothers hosted their third annual Lambda-Phi-Looza music event. The brothers are now preparing for Lambda Phi Epsilon’s 50th year anniversary celebration, including house improvements and other necessary tasks. Overall, the chapter is proud of its success and looks forward to the prosperity to come!

Sigma Alpha Sigma – Hofstra University **Chancellor– Armando Gonzalez**

The Sigma Alpha Sigma chapter reports a busy semester revolving around change, improvement, and success in various areas. The chapter participated in the Polar Plunge, raising \$900; the campus Relay for Life, raising \$250; and other philanthropic events to raise money for the community. The chapter held a successful alumni reunion on April 8th, in which many returned to visit Hofstra University. This gave the brothers the opportunity to learn more about the history and foundation of the chapter. In addition, the Sigma Alpha Sigma chapter held weekly street cleans, teaming up with other Greek organizations to clean garbage on Hempstead’s streets. Finally, the group held a successful event called “Cultural Appropriation and Why it Matters” with Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. The chapter has created an ambitious fall recruitment plan, which will allow them to grow and expand exponentially as a chapter.

Phi Pi – Binghamton University, SUNY
Chancellor- Thomas Aufiero

The Phi Pi chapter continues to report improvements in all domains. To begin, the chapter initiated a spring pledge class of eleven members, many of whom have actively taken the responsibility of important roles within our chapter. Additionally, the chapter participated in numerous philanthropic events, such as their annual car smash and bone marrow donor drive with Gift of Life. However, the biggest philanthropy event consisted of fundraising for a scholarship in the name of one of our loved alumni, Matt Lee, who recently passed away at just twenty-four years old. Through a creative works poetry forum in his honor and a GoFundMe page, the brothers were able to raise enough money to provide a scholarship granted towards one graduating senior of Baldwin Senior High School per year for the next twenty years.

Phi Chi – City College of New York
Chancellor- David Medina

The Phi Chi chapter reports a semester full of personal and chapter success. The undergraduate brothers forged strong bonds with alumni, hosting many informal hangouts and the annual retreat where all created unforgettable memories. For the first time ever, the chapter hosted a three-way formal event with the co-sponsorship of our chapters at Rowan University and Rutgers University, New Brunswick; over 150 brothers attended. Beyond its great success, this event helped cultivate the Phi Chi chapter's relationship with these other groups. The chapter expresses excitement over the awareness of how deep support for fellow TEPs can run. The Phi Chi chapter ended the semester with the celebration of five brothers graduating and the three brothers crossing into our brotherhood. The brothers look forward to their upcoming semester as they plan to grow a stronger image on campus and continue to grow with quality, not necessarily quantity.

Omega Alpha – Johnson & Wales University
Chancellor- Vincente Donastorg

The Omega Alpha chapter reports many accomplishments during the 2016-2017 academic year. Beginning with eleven brothers, the group completed a grand total of 924 hours of community service and organized successful, annual fundraising events: the Car Smash, the Annual President's Roast, and the JWU Sorority Quarter Drop. The group also organized a bracelet sale to benefit the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research while participating in the Relay for Life and St. Baldrick's Foundation philanthropy efforts. In total, the group raised over \$3,820 to assist various organizations. The Omega Alpha chapter also saw tremendous growth with recruitment. Over the course of the school trimesters, twenty-four brothers crossed the portals into Tau Epsilon Phi, bringing a boost of fresh life and morale to the group. The total efforts were acknowledged by the university with the receipt of the IFC's Excellence in Community Engagement Award, Highest IFC GPA, and Fraternity of the Year. The brothers applaud each other on valiant efforts, but would additionally like to thank founding father Darric "DJ" Jones, who has faithfully served for the love for service over the course of many years. As the Omega Alpha chapter says in the local creed: "Alone I am strong. With my brothers, I am stronger."

Alpha Tau – Rowan University
Chancellor- Nick Dondiego

The Alpha Tau chapter reports great news and strong plans for the upcoming term. This semester, the group earned their charter, which was presented to the brothers on January 21st. This marks the first chapter expansion since the 1990's! To conclude their semester, the chapter held its election process, bringing in the next executive board to add to the successes of the previous group. This summer, the brothers plan to prepare for the next academic year, including fundraising and philanthropy events to support rush and service. As time goes on and the new executive board will meet to provide additional information about events to come.

Tau Beta Colony – University of Maryland Chancellor-

The Tau Beta colony places the utmost importance on planning events to maintain a positive reputation within the Greek and greater social communities. In November, the brothers partnered with the Tau Alpha chapter to continue their annual “No Shave TEPvember”. During the month, the brothers collected donations and sponsorships, raising over \$8,000. Individually, each brother participated in at least five hours of philanthropic work for over ten different community service organizations, many of whom focused on A Wider Circle and Yachad programs for poverty-stricken communities in Maryland. The colony also reports great success with recruitment, adding thirty-one new brothers during their rush and pledging processes. Finally, the colony hosted an annual Alumni Weekend event, welcoming all TEP alumni to join in several exciting events. As the colony grows, brothers plan to continue these successes for years to come.

Alpha Phi Colony – Rutgers U, New Brunswick Chancellor- Anthony LoBocchiaro

Over the past year, the Alpha Phi colony has grown a lot, in respect to both size and community involvement. The colony initiated seven brothers in the spring, with a sizeable fall class as well. The brothers express bittersweet pride as they congratulate six brothers on graduating. In terms of service, the Alpha Phi colony worked to promote awareness of the difficulties of homelessness and continued to contribute to a battered woman’s shelter in New Brunswick. Aside from chapter size and service events, the chapter has also reached out to many other organizations over the last year. They have held and attended events with the sororities Omega Phi Beta, Sigma Lambda Upsilon, and Delta Gamma and the fraternities Sigma Phi Delta and Kappa Delta Rho. The Alpha Phi colony has been working hard to foster Greek relations and create a presence on campus. Overall, they hope to see the same, if not more, progress over the next academic year.

Phi Upsilon Colony – University at Buffalo, SUNY Chancellor- Alex Dennison

The Phi Upsilon colony reports great success and high expectations for themselves as they move tactically toward receiving their charter. The colony is proud of their initial recruitment period, crossing a pledge class that doubled the size of their group. The brothers are confident that they can continue this rate of growth and be one of the largest groups on Buffalo’s campus in a short period of time. Considering the athletically-focused interests of many brothers, recruitment will contain many sporting events, but will also include cookouts with the community. The Phi Upsilon brothers also promote academic growth from the recruitment period through brotherhood with mentorships and study sessions that start at the beginning of each semester. Alex plans on steering the colony’s philanthropy efforts toward environmental preservation and protection, while participating in nationally-organized events. The spring semester included a formal event, hosted in Toronto, and the brothers continue to forge the strength of their brotherhood in the semesters to come.

Beta Tau Colony – Arizona State University Chancellor- Mike Englebrecht

The Beta Tau colony strives toward becoming a chapter, and reports both successes and trials along the way. The brothers held their first annual Bridge Builder event, celebrating alumni members of TEP. Specifically, this event recognized the wisdom and participation of both local and regional alumni that has been a major part of the colony’s successes. Additionally, the brothers continue to serve the Tempe community, Arizona Veteran’s Home, and United Food Bank through various philanthropic efforts. In fact, Beta Tau brothers helped the planning and execution of ASU’s largest service event, involving over two-thousand students and over fifty local non-profit organizations. The brothers of the Beta Tau colony hope to improve in the areas of recruitment and retention, but are driven to see sure success in the fall chapter. Overall, the colony is motivated to continue forward and develop stronger bonds within the University and our Fraternity.

Alumni Club Reports

Epsilon Iota – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

The Epsilon Iota Alumni Association (EIAA) installed a new Executive Board in December 2016 for a two-year term. This new group is looking forward to growing the EIAA and working with the active EI chapter to improve Tau Epsilon Phi's presence at RPI. The EIAA is hosting the annual Alumni weekend on the RPI campus from October 12-15, 2017. The theme of the event will be Friendship, and the event is open to TEP brothers from all chapters. The weekend will offer family friendly activities and is a great time to rekindle old friendships and make new ones as well. Please contact Dave Cass for more information. The EIAA is beginning a Capital Improvement Fund to finance improvements to the RPI chapter's 15th Street house. The active chapter has seen a decrease in numbers over the last couple of years. One of the ways the alumni can assist the actives in attracting new brothers is to provide an inviting and appealing space for them to live and meet. The Property Master is preparing plans for a multi-year approach to projects geared towards improving the curb appeal of the property. The Capital Improvement Funding Committee will be led by Nick Honahan to raise the funds necessary to begin work on these projects.

Epsilon Phi – Penn State University

Thanks to Jason Berler, the Epsilon Phi brothers have taken important steps toward recolonization. Jason has assembled a group of undergrads that received Penn State's official "interest group" status at the end of the Spring semester. Once Fall semester starts, the Epsilon Phi alumni club anticipates that this group of undergrads will continue the process of becoming a TEP colony. Although this is a very difficult time from fraternity life at Penn State, this group of undergrads appear ready to build a fraternity for the 21st century.

Phi Beta – University of South Florida

The Phi Beta alumni association will be holding a 50th Anniversary celebration to commemorate the founding in Tampa, October 13-15, 2017. For further information, please visit Phibeta50threunion.com. The alumni club hopes to have ALL Phi Beta's in attendance.

Sigma Epsilon – Rutgers University, Camden

Recently, the Sigma Epsilon Chapter welcomed their 100th pledge class. On April 29th, the group held a luncheon to welcome our newest members to Tau Epsilon Phi. The event brought nearly 70 brothers, plus a handful of wives and girlfriends. Besides the annual formal, it was the largest gathering of brothers in decades. It was well planned by a committee, including Paul Loane, to coincide with Rutgers-Camden's annual alumni reunion, which was a big draw. Chancellor Anton Triner reports having met a brother who lives in Annapolis, Maryland and when he saw the event was the same weekend as reunion he decided it was worth the trip to South Jersey to attend both. The most senior brother in attendance was brother Richard Aregood who pledged in 1963 and is well-known for his Pulitzer Prize in 1985. The Sigma Epsilon alumni club wishes to extend their deepest thanks to all our brothers who traveled to reconnect and to the committee who worked tirelessly to make sure the event was a success. TEPs are TOPs. If you want contact the Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association, please contact Anton at the club's email address: seaa.tep@gmail.com

Phi Chi – City College of New York

-After hosting both the TEP Christmas Dinner & Holiday Extravaganza and the Alumni Holiday Cocktail Party, the club entered 2017 with a very positive attitude. Four graduating members will be joining the alumni club following graduation: Ervin "Dr. Two" Vasquez, Emilio "Flash" Gonzalez, Ariel "Pineapple" Hernandez, and Edwin "Cheshire" Casimir. After several years of hard work, one of the members received his Doctorate in English literature. Please congratulate DR. Jonathan T. Wolf. The alumni club is also in the process of changing the name in a rebranding effort. The name will soon be "The TEP-Phi Chi Alumni Association, Inc." This rebranding includes a new website for the group, TEPPhiChiAlumni.org, which should be up and running soon. The site will include a calendar of events, articles from various members covering an array of topics, old photo albums, and other content from our members such as podcasts, videos & music. The Phi Chi alumni club members participated in their 23rd AIDS Walk NY event, raising \$3820.00. This August, the group is hosting The TEP-Phi Chi Alumni Association Summer Brunch and Cocktail Party for all Tri-State area and visiting alumni. In the Fall, they plan to continue with their scholarship program to encourage excellence in academics, service, and being a good TEP man. Currently, they offer four scholarships and one grant, with a goal to expand to a fifth scholarship soon.

TEP Does: Tony Torres and Inkredibly

Interview with Tony Torres, $\Lambda\Phi E$ 651

This edition of TEP Does focuses on one of our more recent alumni. Tony Torres is a 2011 graduate of Clarkson University and a member of the Lambda Phi Epsilon chapter. During his tenure, he met Adam Popham and became good friends. Together, the two conceived, created, and developed the editorial magazine site Inkredibly. A website “for the feral hearted”, Inkredibly publishes review articles based on current events and affairs. Tony and Adam were interviewed about their journey from the beginning stages of this journey to now.

Dave: Let’s begin with you giving us a brief overview about what Inkredibly is.

Tony: We started Inkredibly because we noticed that a lot of media geared toward younger people was fluffy, non-substantial stuff like “Twelve Reasons You Should Date a Capricorn” and celebrity gossip. We would have conversations with our friends about politics, current events, or related subjects. It wasn’t uncommon to find people that had the attitude that these matters are things that happen “over there” while we’re “over here”, apparently unaffected and without a need to participate. We wanted to create a platform for younger people to have a voice and participate in healthy debate of substance, in turn shaping the world around them.

D: Right. So instead of getting the superficial content that you can digest quickly, you’re encouraging people to both produce and digest content that actively engages their minds.

Adam: Yeah, exactly. Conversely, if you want more of the news and politic stuff, it would be primarily found within the websites of major media conglomerates like MSNBC, FOX, and CNN or on some political blog that has a known leaning. On average, this boils down to some old, crusty, white dude telling you what he thinks and why you should think like him, despite his fiduciary bias. This created a space without honest pages that talk to the millennial generation, rather than down to it. Instead, we want to present as platform for people to give their informed opinions. We’re certainly not going to break news, but we want to hear

what they think of it and how it matters to them.

D: What I’m hearing is that you wanted to develop a site that provides news and information, but also supports educated and well-reasoned discussion. You don’t want to spoon-feed people the information, but say, “Hey. You have ideas. Let’s hear about them.”

A: Yes, and we really want to encourage healthy debate that furthers the discussion farther than it might go otherwise.

T: We don’t push a particular political agenda. We give our writers the freedom to talk about what they see, and how they make sense of what goes on around them.

D: That makes plenty of sense. My next question is about Inkredibly’s development. In the beginning stages, what were some of the major milestones and tasks you set for yourselves?

T: Phew, so many things -

A: All of it.

T: I have a degree in psychology, so I had no experience with anything like this. There’s really been a lot of trial and error with building the website, driving traffic, search engine optimization, recruiting and managing writers.

A: One thing we adopted early on was this idea that we want to be different and that we want to try a lot of things. One of the good things about being small at this point is that, if we fail, it’s no big deal. No one knows who the f*** we are. *(continued on next page)*

Adam's Son: Bad word! Bad word!

T: [laughs] He's right. That's a bad word. Let's keep that on the record for good measure.

A: So as we grow, we still take chances, but most of the mistakes were made when the stakes were lower. Now that they're somewhat high, we're getting to the point where we fine tune things. To echo Tony's point, the hiring process for writers was one of the toughest. I was in charge of this at the beginning and it was tough to pinpoint what we were looking for, so we brought on people that ended up not fitting with our voice.

T: Finding our voice and direction has been one of the major milestones in the process of Inkredibly's growth.

D: Thank you. Now that the website is in an adolescent stage - the area past the initial growing pains, but with more challenges to come - what are some of the difficulties you're facing now?

T: One of our bigger hurdles right now is getting a consistent, reliable posting schedule, particularly because all of our writers write for free and all of our costs are out of pocket. So our question is: how can you really be strict about deadlines when these people are working in their spare time?

A: Money and time have also been difficulties throughout this process. Everything costs one or the other and we've taken a lot of this burden on as we try to get the website up and running: licensing and hosting fees, promotional events and items, software updates, and more. We plan on launching a store soon for merchandise, but the start-up cost on that is also somewhat high. We both also work full-time, so staying engaged can sometimes be a task.

D: It seems like this is an issue for any volunteer organization. For people who are doing something in their spare time, how can they be held responsible for their work?

A: Exactly, and we try not to be tough on our writers, since they all do great work for us. It seems like, in our



Tony (R) and Adam (L) at an Inkredibly promotional party.
September, 2016

case, it behooves them to write more, since they can add these samples to their writing portfolios and gain personal exposure. We just can't give them a hard deadline for publishing, or else we'll lose writers. Most of them have full-time jobs too, similarly to us. They have their hands in a lot of different projects, which is part of the reason why we bring them on, but it also limits what we can expect from them.

D: That all makes sense. Now, on the flipside of this: what major successes have you found, or what major hurdles have you overcome?

T: We threw a couple of promotional parties.

D: I attended those. They were good times.

T: Yeah, and that was our primary goal. We also got a larger following on social media, a few people interested in writing for us, and more general interest as well. While we're global and online, we also want to get a local foothold to support ourselves on.

A: What excites me is that, now that we're beginning to grow, we can see when content begins to take off. One of our articles recently got over 15,000 Facebook shares, which was really exciting. Another article was retweeted by Ariel Winter, an actress from Modern Family. Seeing the reach and the interest from others of perceived importance is *(continued on next page)*

is really cool at this stage.

T: One of our writers, Dominic, wrote an article on the heroin epidemic and how it relates to the African-American community. The article discusses how it's been an epidemic, but now we're calling it an epidemic because it moved into the suburbs. It went mini-viral, and we were really proud of the discussion that came about from that.

A: Dominic is one of the reasons why we're in the process of attempting fundraisers. He also works, and it will be nice when we can pay our writers a stipend for their work. We expect that things will go relatively well or they'll completely fail. We think it's worth the risk.

D: It seems like a lot of things involved in this project have been calculated risks.

T: I think it's more trial and error, to be honest, and we've shot from the hip on several occasions. Then we step back, reorient ourselves, and decide what the next best step is.

D: Inkredibly has been actively producing for over a year at this point. What goals have you two set for the upcoming year?

T: More traffic than the year before, getting a consistent publishing schedule, and launching our online store. Those are all major goals.

A: Getting a better foothold in social media is another goal that will lead to greater traffic. We plan on hiring media ambassadors to promote our mission and vision on various pages in a skilled manner. Lots of people use places like Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and other mediums.

T: It's a shame when one of our writers composes a thoughtful or informative or entertaining piece and only get a couple hundred views. It's definitely our priority to their our names out there.

D: Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems like these writers will get their dues with increased viewership.

As more people come to the site and see that your message is good, they'll read up on previously written articles too.

T: Yeah, that's the plan.

D: As you know, this interview is for our brothers, so I'd like to get a message from you to our younger generation of brothers - a message to more tenured brothers can work too - about taking advantage of the skills and interests they have before them.

T: First and foremost, give it a try. If you have something you're interested in pursuing, don't be afraid of failing. When this first started, I wasn't confident, but I knew I wanted to do it. There have been plenty of mistakes and things turning out worse than anticipated, but it's important to keep going.

A: I would say that it's important to be prepared before starting any venture, but if you spend too much time setting up for the exact "right time", it'll just pass you by. You might miss a key opportunity or time to break into a specific market if you spend too much time worrying about getting everything right the first time.

D: It's as if there's no "perfect moment", but plenty of "good enough" moments.

T: Exactly, and there were plenty of things we weren't sure about or prepared for, but we knew it was an opportunity and decided to jump on it. A lot of times, this ended up working to our benefit. When it didn't, we just picked ourselves up to keep going.

A: It's amazing how much you can speed up the learning curve when you just say "f*** it" and take chances.

D: It seems like a running theme of Inkredibly is taking ordinary people and situations and creating an extraordinary production. You two have full-time jobs and have built this up from nothing, while incorporating skilled writers with similar restraints. At this time, what other pieces of information are important for our audience to know? This could *(continued on next page)*

be about the website, your journeys to this point, or anything you deem relevant.

A: Thank you. One piece I have is that, regardless of what you're attempting, be persistent and support the people that you associate with.

T: I agree. There are some days where one of us just doesn't feel the magic. There have been days where I may feel down or that things aren't playing out the way we wanted them too, but then Adam will back me up and remind me about what we're doing and reinforce the motivation both of us have.

D: It reminds me of the old adage about a bundle of sticks where one may break easily, but more and more begin to increase its overall strength.

A: But to continue that, we enjoy having fewer people on our staff, because it allows us to be strong and flexible. I think having too many people would make us more rigid. Right now, we can change things quickly and get everyone on board, which could become necessary at various points.

D: Before we conclude, I know some of our TEP brothers may be inspired by your words and wish to contribute to Inkredibly in some way or another. What message would you like to give them?

T: If they're interested in writing, there's a link on our main webpage for them to reach out to us. We could always use the help for marketing, social media, and promotions too. If someone is interested, let's talk about it.

For more information, please visit www.inkredibly.com

**the CHAPTER ETERNAL
COMMEMORATING OUR BROTHERS
WHO HAVE PASSED BEYOND THIS LIFE**

Richmond Agbesi, EΘ

Morris L. Benetar, Ω

Darren Carrara, ΛΦE

Matthew L. Dolskey, ΦΠ

William F. Gerace, ΣE

Arthur A. Gertzman, EA

Leonard A. Meyer, Ω

John R. Muller III, ΣE

Stanley Schachter, A

Steven G. Schiff, TA

Joseph A. Wapner, TT

Marty L. Warren, K

The Plume team recognizes the fact that many wonderful brothers have passed since the last publication of the Chapter Eternal was last published in the 1990's. If you're aware of any brother whom we have missed, please contact the Plume staff or Consul at your convenience. Thank you.



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