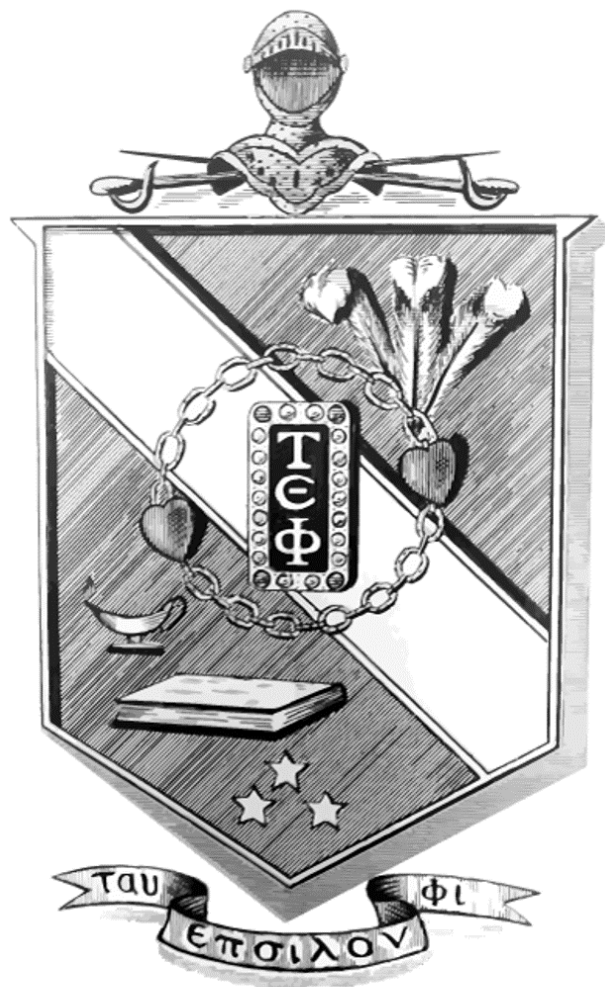

the PLUMÉ



*The Official Magazine of the
Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity*

*Winter 2017 Issue
Volume 75 Issue 1*

the Consul's Corner

Brothers,

I'd like to welcome you all to the first new edition of TEΦ's Plume in over 20 years. We hope this finds you all well. To our alumni members I hope that this brings back great memories of your time in Tau Epsilon Phi. To our lifeblood, our undergraduates, I hope you find our National publication filled with interesting articles. As always, we'd love to hear of your accomplishments, both individually and as a chapter.

I'd also like to extend to you the warm fraternal greetings of our Grand Council. It is certainly an honor and privilege to serve as the 47th Consul of TEΦ and lead this prestigious group of Brothers. I'd like to thank everyone who was able to attend our 2016 Grand Chapter in Orlando, Florida. We had such a diverse group of attendees and I'm glad that many of you are remaining involved whether serving on a committee, the Grand Council, or the TEΦ Foundation. I look forward to working with each of you and meeting many more of you as I continue to visit our chapters and attend alumni meet and greets around the country. I'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank my predecessor, Lane Koplon, for his many years of service to our great Fraternity, particularly as our Consul for the past five years. He helped lead our Fraternity out of bankruptcy and pave a path forward for the revitalization of TEΦ. Thank you again Lane for your service!

In the five months since the convention much has been accomplished. I've had the opportunity to visit with five of our chapters and begin the process of starting a new colony at the University of Buffalo. I was able to attend a meet & greet in our nation's capital with the ultimate hope of starting a new alumni club for that region. I've had the opportunity to attend the Fraternal Law conference as well as the Association of Fraternity Advisors conference. Both have proven to be invaluable in learning about changes to this industry and learning of the challenges we all face as a National Fraternity in the 21st century. The Grand Council has already met in person and plans are underway for our next meeting in February 2017. I'm excited to say that many new developments are underway and I look forward to sharing them with you in the future.

Thank you again to all of you for your membership and dedication to our great Fraternity. I look forward to the future as we continue with the next 106 years of our history!



Fraternally,

Mr. Timothy A. Smith, MBA
International Consul
Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity, Inc.

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,

My name is Brian Meyer and I currently serve as the Undergraduate Vice Consul which is the Undergraduate member on the Executive Board of the Grand Council. I am humbled to serve in my second term under this capacity representing our undergraduates from chapters and colonies across the country. To give you a little background on myself, I graduated from the University of Georgia (Nu) back in May 2015 while having served as the Chancellor and one of our Vice Chancellors. I have been working in corporate finance at Kimberly Clark since my graduation.

While in my role as Undergraduate Vice Consul, one of my biggest goals has been to continue to bridge the gap between our chapters, colonies and the Grand Council. This has been incredibly successful through our Chancellor Conference calls and open communication with each Chapter Chancellor. It is our hope to expand these to hold trainings and informational sessions for some of our other leadership positions as well. Additionally, these calls allow a forum for our undergraduates to make sure their voice is heard. Another aspiration is to foster the growth of future leaders in our organization by having more brothers getting involved. If you have any interest in being apart of rush/recruitment, philanthropy, new member education, expansion, governance or finance than please feel free to contact me so we can get you in touch with the right people.

Being apart of the Plume is an incredible experience. I am beyond grateful to the entire team that helped put this together. This organization has done a lot of incredible work to help our community, foster the growth and personal development of our brothers, and build the bridge for those who come after us. I look forward to working with each of our chapters, colonies, and future opportunities to leaving a positive mark on this organization.



Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, and interest in getting involved.

Fraternally,

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

The TEP Foundation, Inc.

Written by Mark Abramson

The TEP Foundation is alive and well. Under the leadership of Marc Tolman (Queens College), a group of alumni have come together to revitalize the Foundation with the purpose to raise funds so that scholarships can be given to deserving undergraduate members of the fraternity. An election was held in November and the new officers are:

President- Marc Tolman EΘ
Vice President- Mark Abramson EK
Vice President- Jeff Zadoff TΔ
Treasurer- Rick Bernstein N
Regulatory Affairs- Jim Durbin EK
Secretary- Ed Pisani ΩA

The following members are Trustees and comprise the rest of the board; Allan Goldsmith, Brian Neltner, Alan Ledewitz, Mark Thomches, Gene Benator, Ernesto Mandowsky, Gerry Denmark, and Al Versacci. At the Grand Chapter meeting in Orlando in July, Jeff Zadoff made the "105 Challenge"; Tau Epsilon Phi is 105 years old and he challenged TEPs to pledge \$105 to the TEP Foundation. We raised a few thousand dollars at the meeting and plan to continue the challenge by inviting brothers to be a part of this drive. If you wish to contribute, you may do so via PayPal, or by mailing a check to the address below.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we continue to revitalize this great organization. You may contact the Foundation at thetepfoundation@gmail.com TEPs are tops and always will be!

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

Meet the Grand Council

Compiled by Ben Dafilou & David Cass, Jr.

Your current Grand Council is composed of eighteen men who have been working to revitalize our national fraternity. Each member was asked about their self, their motivation to serve on our Grand Council, and their plans for their term. Below are their responses.

Donald Jones Anspauch, Jr.

Senior Vice Consul

Donald was in the Fall Epsilon Phi pledge class of 1975 and was initiated December 5, 1975. He served as Rush Chairman, and Scribe for his Chapter. After graduation, Donald was President of the Epsilon Phi Alumni Club and was elected to the Grand Council Board as a Member-At-Large in 1979. In 1988, his move to California brought him to the campuses of USC and UCLA. He was Regional Governor for the West Coast and assisted those chapters. He continued his service to the Fraternity as Second Vice Consul thru 1998 and was elected as President of the Tau Epsilon Phi Foundation in 1998-2000. He was asked by Lane Koplon to come back to the Fraternity Board after the transition from the Hasenberg years. Donald was elected First Vice Consul undertook the reorganization and forensic accounting of records of the TEP Foundation. He contacted prior Foundation Presidents and Alumni and convened a new Board to lead the Foundation and fund raising efforts. He continues to serve on the Grand Council as Senior Vice Consul. He is a Tax Accountant in West Hollywood, California. His focus is on tax and retirement planning.



Charles Wolf

Second Vice Consul

Upon arriving at Rochester Institute of Technology in September 1974, Charles found himself living in a low-rise dorm where the Epsilon Nu Chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi resided. After pledging, his father said, "What happened to you? This is the best money I have ever spent on you." TEP helped him grow and grow up. According to Charles, without TEP, he would not be the man he is today. In July 2011, he attended a "meet-and-greet" in New York City to see if there was a way to get his now-closed chapter reopened. He was warmly greeted by interim consul Lane Koplon. Charles' professional skills in public speaking, sales, and marketing interested the interim Grand Council, and when they found he knew parliamentary procedure, they asked if he would run for a position on the Grand Council. He was elected a Vice Consul at the 2011 Grand Chapter. Charles' interest was to learn, from a governance and management standpoint, how TEP had gotten into the terrible situation it had found itself in. After some progress during the first and second post-lawsuit terms of the Grand Council, and in this third consecutive term, Charles believes it possible to make advancements in the management and governance of TEP so it operates legally and efficiently. Constitutional revisions and development of policies both for the staff and the chapters to follow are needed. The result will be a framework in which TEP can continue to help men grow and develop lifelong friendships.



MEET THE GRAND COUNCIL

Nathaniel Broughty

Third Vice Consul

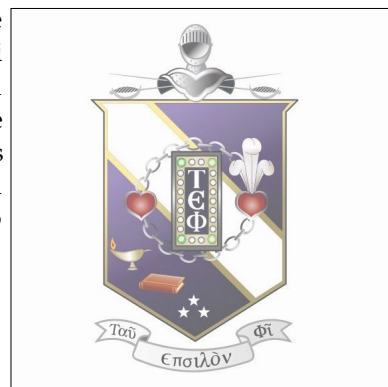
Nathaniel Broughty is a licensed attorney and an Assistant District Attorney in New York State. Nathaniel has over thirteen years of experience in the field of law enforcement, criminal investigations, and criminal prosecutions. Nathaniel has been a member of Tau Epsilon Phi for over ten years and was the lead plaintiff in *Broughty v Hasenberg*. Nathaniel spearheaded the change of leadership at the national level of Tau Epsilon Phi and was a signatory in the settlement with the former board of directors of TEP. Nathaniel has served on other not-for-profit boards and was Chancellor of the Phi Chi Chapter at the City College of New York. He has experience as a management professional with responsibility for budgeting, crime statistics, investigations, and security management. He has been recognized for revolutionizing administrative procedures, increasing efficiency, and delivering outstanding results. Nathaniel hopes to use his expertise and experiences to further the mission of Tau Epsilon Phi.



Ted Panczyszyn

Quaestor

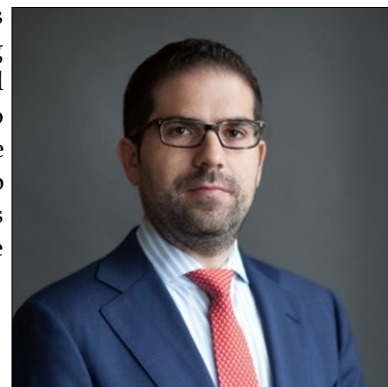
Ted Panczyszyn is an alumnus of Clarkson University currently residing in the Philadelphia area. He has been very active with the Lambda Phi Epsilon Alumni Association since graduating in 1991, and became interested in affairs of the national organization during the 2007-2008 academic year. Ted previously served on the interim Grand Council and the first post-lawsuit Grand Council in 2011-2012. As International Quaestor, Ted plans to keep things simple, work with the Grand Council and other volunteers to make the business workflow less cumbersome, and develop best-practices that ensure stable and consistent operations.



Jesse Cohen

Tribune

When Jesse was an undergrad at Pitt, hundreds of miles from home, TEP became his family. Jesse recalls him and his brothers eating together, studying together, living together, and completing community service together. They were his family and still are to this day. Jesse sought a position on the Grand Council because he wants to continue that tradition for our current undergrads. He wants them to feel the support, encouragement, and brotherhood of being in our fraternity. Jesse wants to help them challenge themselves and their brothers to serve as role models on campus and in their communities, and he want to make our fraternity the example to be followed by all others.



Jeff Sondhelm

Praetor

Jeff is an alumnus of the University of Delaware in Newark. While on campus he served in numerous capacities within the chapter and as the Vice President of Expansion for the Interfraternity Council. After serving as a Member-at-Large on the previous Grand Council, he was elected to serve as Praetor during the 2016 convention. Jeff Sondhelm is a principal and one of the two founders of Greenway Advisors, which was founded to ensure that the client interests would always be primary. In addition to supporting his clients, he is also responsible for firm operations. He is a graduate of the Alfred Lerner School of Business at the University of Delaware. He is a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor® and holds Series 7, 63, 65 Licenses. In addition Jeff is a qualified Life, Accident, and Health Insurance Licensee and has been qualified under the Indiana Long Term Care Partnership Program. As a former development director for a local charity, Jeff is highly invested in several local and national charities.



Oscar Amigon

Member-at-Large

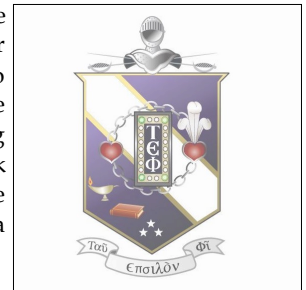
Oscar "Nacho Libre" Amigon is an alumnus from the City College of New York. Oscar relishes in the privilege of visiting many of our chapters on various occasions and the opportunity to visit more. This is Oscar's third consecutive term serving this board. He continues to serve because he believes he can help bring our undergraduates an experience full of fraternalism and collaboration, resulting in memories to last a lifetime and friendships across the nation. He wants to leave a legacy of friendship and unity with the understanding that the work each puts in Tau Epsilon Phi will not be in vain. Instead, it will be an experience that will allow brothers to become better people. Oscar believes that under the guidance of the Grand Council, undergraduates can have a more fulfilling experience. It is his hope that the Grand Council can provide brothers with the TEP experience that will want all to give back in the years to come as an undergraduate representative, a Grand Council member, or a TEP Foundation trustee.



Gene Benator

Member-at-Large

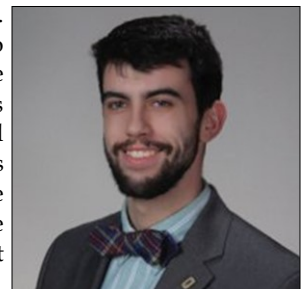
As a former Scribe, Chancellor, and longtime advisor to Nu Chapter at the University of Georgia - where he was initiated in 1968 - Gene has enjoyed mentoring and advising young men throughout their undergraduate years. Giving back to Tau Epsilon Phi as an advisor has allowed Gene the opportunity to instill upon each brother the extraordinary meaning of our Creed by helping them and others "live in the light of friendship, walk in the path of chivalry, and serve for the love of service". With Greek life facing numerous challenges and changes with regard to its way of life, Gene - as a Member-at-Large - look forward to doing whatever is necessary to rebuild and expand Tau Epsilon Phi nationally, based on the ideals set forth by its founding members. Throughout his lifetime, Gene expresses pleasure in being a TEP, and he looks forward to many more years of the same.



Dave Cass, Jr.

Member-at-Large

Dave is an alumnus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute currently residing in the Troy area, New York. He currently works as a mental health therapist for children who have been subject to abuse and plans to continue his education at the doctoral level in Boston, Philadelphia, or Seattle. Within his chapter, Dave is currently serving in his third consecutive term as the social committee chairman, where he organizes the annual Alumni Weekend with increasing success. Dave's mission on the Grand Council is to thoughtfully bring our fraternity's communication capacities to the modern era. Dave is currently the senior editor of the Plume and plans to take on the work needed to automate communication between chapters, alumni clubs, and the Grand Council; he is a firm believer of the adage "work smart, not hard". Dave also hopes to provide professional and personal development workshops to our chapters. In his spare time, Dave enjoys playing hockey, practicing yoga, and cooking.



THE GRAND COUNCIL

Kenneth "Gerk" Hurtado

Member-at-Large

A born New Yorker, comic book collector, and fan of science fiction. For the past twenty years have worked in the adult and continuing education field, working with mostly women on public assistance. Attended the City College of New York where he received a bachelors in Psychology. Also while at City College, pledged and was initiated into the Epsilon Lambda chapter, and a founding father of the Phi Chi Chapter. As an undergraduate, held various executive board positions and committee chairs, including Chancellor and Warden. As an alumnus, took the duty and responsibility of alumni chapter adviser, and was a founding member of the Phi Chi Chapter alumni club. Have been elected to the Grand Council as Praetor for the previous two administrations, and currently serving as an Alumnus Member-at-Large.



Alan Ledewitz

Member-at-Large

Alan is a founding father of the Omega Alpha chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi, a past Chancellor of our Beta Delta chapter, and a recipient of the I. "Doc" Schwartz Memorial Undergraduate-of-the-Year Award. He believes it is an honor to have been elected as a member at Large at the Grand Chapter in July 2016, and would like to thank Lane Koplon, Jeff Zadoff, and Marc Tolman for bringing him back and motivating him to help strengthen and grow our amazing brotherhood that has given him so much. Alan has a few objectives he would like to accomplish during his term as Member-at-Large. First, he plans to work along with Brian Meyer and the Undergraduate Members-at-Large to ensure the undergraduate voices are heard and the chapters have the tools needed to remain strong. Second, Alan plans to make sure we have a successful leadership event in 2017 and that the 2018 Convention and Grand Chapter Meeting in will top all the other events we have had so far. Orlando, in 2016, was great and Alan plans to build on the foundation that Lane and Jeff created for us.



Patrick Megaro

Member-at-Large

Patrick was initiated as a Brother in the Sigma Alpha Sigma Chapter at Hofstra University in April, 1997. After graduating from Hofstra University in 1999, he attended Hofstra Law School and stayed active in alumni affairs, forming an alumni association for the Sigma Alpha Sigma brothers, which he still heads. Patrick is a practicing attorney and resides in Orlando, Florida with his wife and three sons. As a Member-at-Large, Patrick hopes to inspire more alumni to get involved with the fraternity; re-establish alumni relations with those who have lost touch with the fraternity; assist the undergraduates in fundraising, philanthropy, and recruitment; and assist in forming new chapters at local colleges in Central Florida.



Jake Gottsegen

Undergraduate Member-at-Large

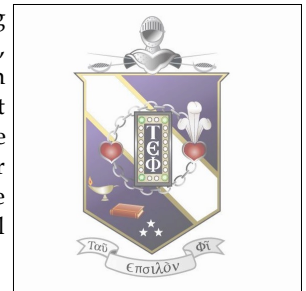
Jacob is a sophomore at the University of Florida and the current Chancellor of the Tau Alpha Chapter. Jacob was motivated to serve on the Grand Council while in attendance at the Convention and Grand Chapter meeting of 2016. He was compelled by the enthusiasm of his fellow brothers to serve for the love of service. Jacob is honored to be a member of this Board and looks forward to working with all of those who hope to continuously make TEP a better place for all. In his term as an Undergraduate Member-at-Large, Jacob hopes to help create a stronger connection between all undergraduate chapters. He has already begun undertaking this endeavor by connecting a few chapters in their philanthropic efforts. Finally, Jacob hopes to embody the values and wishes of those undergraduates who want to have their thoughts heard.



Steven Hale

Undergraduate Member-at-Large

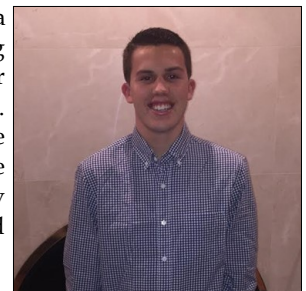
Steven is a senior at Rutgers University - Camden. He is twenty-two and will be graduating in the spring with a Bachelor's degree in nursing. Steven is also an Eagle Scout and remains active in his troop, serving as a merit badge councilor for cooking, first aid, emergency preparedness, music, American culture, and wilderness survival (a personal favorite of his). In his spare time, he enjoys camping without a tent and playing video games. Steven became an Undergraduate Member-at-Large in order to serve the brotherhood as a whole and bring a fresh mindset to the board. He is most interested in chapter development and undergraduate services. Steven believes we can expand this fraternity by raising the bar on what it means to be a brother. Steven believes that if our chapters are strong, our brotherhood will be strong, and college communities will want Tau Epsilon Phi on their campus.



Brandon Hanley

Undergraduate Member-at-Large

Brandon is a sophomore at the University of Florida and the current Vice-Chancellor of the Tau Alpha Chapter. Originally from Marlboro, New Jersey, Brandon arrived at the University of Florida knowing close to no one. He found TEP during his freshman year and TEP became a home away from home for him. Brandon has met his best friends since joining, and the men at TEP have truly become his brothers. Brandon ran for the Grand Council in order to support this experience at other universities across the country and to help draw in new members to our brotherhood. He expects to see TEP expand under the administration of this Grand Council and for TEP to regain the presence that we have lost at so many universities. Brandon also wish to be a voice for the undergrads to bring their desires, complaints, and accomplishments to the attention of the Grand Council and the entire brotherhood at large.



Building Better Leaders: What Does It Look Like?

Submitted by Steven Hale

When we talk about leadership in seminars, meetings, and even on our college campuses, we often discuss such topics as time management, goal setting, and conflict resolution. It can feel like we forget to talk about what truly makes a leader great. In this article, we will discuss five habits a good leader should have. The examples used will mostly come from Greek life because it is something all of us can relate to.

The first habit is to exceed expectations and lead by example. As leaders, we should live our values. As brothers, we all live by friendship, chivalry, and service. These ideals should guide us throughout our daily lives. Live in the light of friendship. Walk in the path of chivalry. Serve for the love of service. Use these ideals to raise the bar on what is expected of you. If you are the undergraduate fundraising chair, and no one before you have raised more than a hundred dollars selling cookies on campus then you should plan something big to set the bar higher for the person who comes after you. Plan a service auction where some brothers auction off five hours of their time on a Saturday to do yard work or house work to the highest bidder on campus. This event could make much more than the hundred dollars the chapter anticipated. Next year, the fundraising chair might look to your event, make improvements, and raise even more money than you did. Not only does an event like this raise the bar for the next generation, but the event also incorporates one of our ideals, service.

The second habit a good leader should incorporate in their everyday life falls in line with living the ideals of Tau Epsilon Phi. A good leader cultivates friendships. It is important for leaders to build bridges with other leaders and people who can help your organization thrive. As leaders, we should be gaining

support through being a friend. This also helps you know the people you are helping to lead; after all, you can't lead people you do not know. As chancellor of a chapter, it is easier for the chapter to excel if you build strong bridges with prominent figures at the school such as the Greek Advisor, Dean of Student Affairs, and others. The bridges built by one Chancellor should be easily maintained by the next Chancellor to keep the chapter exceeding expectations.

A great leader is aware of themselves. A great leader knows their own strengths and weaknesses. If you excel at creating structure to events, but do not have the speaking skills to talk for an hour then you should work within your strengths. This does not mean that you should not work on your weaknesses, but you should work with what you know best. In addition, a great leader promotes strengths and minimizes weaknesses they see in others so they make their own progress.

Fourth, a great leader thinks strategically. A leader thinks rationally, (continued on page 12)



Brothers gather outside of the Rutgers University Campus Center following training sessions at the 2016 Leadership Summit. February 20, 2016. Camden, NJ.

and plans ahead. A leader tolerates human error and works problems out objectively and thoughtfully. Perhaps the most important thing a leader can do to think strategically is to question tradition. Is the way we run meetings the most effective use of our time as a brotherhood? Why do we fine brothers for not paying dues? Why do we always hold the same events to recruit new members? These are three examples of questions that should be explored. If the answer comes out that the tradition is supported and effective, then you are practicing what works best. If you find that the chapter fines brothers for not paying dues on time, and then those same brothers never pay the fines, then an alternative practice should be brainstormed.

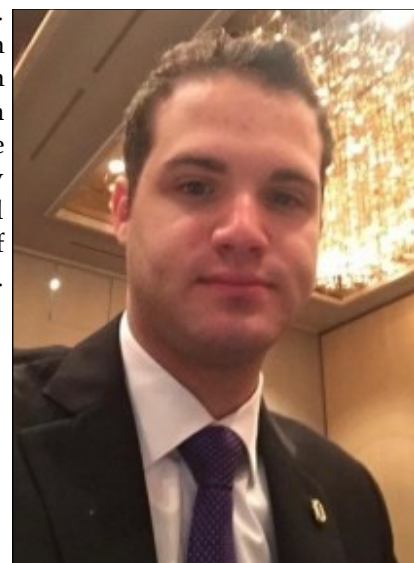
Finally, and arguably most importantly, a leader is a mentor. There must come a time when all men must retire. The leaders of today will eventually step aside for the leaders of tomorrow. As a leader, it is our responsibility to ensure our successors are prepared for the job. Share the strengths and weaknesses you see in others, and tell them past mistakes that you found so they do not make the same ones. It is also important to give the future leaders real trust and opportunities to lead before they have a title. For example, if you are philanthropy chair, and Brother Smith wants to run for philanthropy chair next year, then you should let him help you plan events and one day let him plan his own so he can be comfortable in the role before he arrives in it.

In the next article, I plan on discussing methods to help teach and pass the torch to the next generation of leaders. If you have any ideas for an article on leadership send it to arrowmanhale37@yahoo.com. I will try and incorporate ideas into future articles.

Staff Update: Director of Expansion and Chapter Development

Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity, Inc. is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Jason M. Berler to the newly created position of Director of Expansion and Chapter Development. In this role, Jason will be responsible for executing the expansion plans for TEΦ as well as assisting our existing colonies in obtaining chapter status.

Jason brings several years of experience to this position. He was instrumental in founding the Alpha Tau Chapter of TEΦ at Rowan University while still an undergraduate in the Spring of 2013. Jason was elected to serve on the TEΦ Grand Council in October 2013 as an undergraduate member-at-large. In this capacity, he was instrumental in spearheading expansion opportunities. He had direct involvement with establishing interest groups at Rutgers New-Brunswick, and Arizona State University. Both those groups have since successfully transitioned to colony status. Jason looks forward to continuing his work with these groups and helping see all the colonies achieve chapter status. Jason earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Rowan University with honors in December, 2013. He presently resides in Tenaflly, NJ with his dog Stevie.



Jason will report to Tim Smith, International Consul of Tau Epsilon Phi.

Jason can be reached at jberler@tep.org.

For more information on Jason, please go to www.tep.org/jberler.

Meet-and-Greet Update: Washington, DC

Submitted by Kirill Reznik

The recent re-colonization of the Tau Beta Colony at the University of Maryland-College Park was the start of TEP's return to our nation's capital. On the heels of that re-established presence, a group of TEP's living and working in the greater Washington, DC area got together to reminisce about the good old days and plan for the future. Brothers living in DC were joined by others who trekked in from the suburbs of Maryland and Virginia (known locally as the DMV) to the District Chophouse, a local landmark known as much for the high powered deals that are made here as it is for great steaks and beer brewed on premises.

Washington, DC is known for bringing together the best and the brightest from all over the country, and TEP alumni living here are no different. Some went to school in the area and pledged at University of Maryland, George Washington University, or at one of the other nine chapters that once occupied the DMV. Others pledged from as far away as Florida International University, Illinois Institute of Technology, or Queens College, and now call greater Washington, DC home. We were also lucky enough to be joined by our National Consul Tim Smith, Second Vice Consul

Charles Wolf, and Quaester Ted Panczyszyn who updated the brothers present on the status of our fraternity and our future.

Brothers of Tau Epsilon Phi in the Washington, DC area have helped to write some of our nation's history, from honorary inductees like President Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Omar Bradley to former Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel (Tau Beta), former Washington, DC Mayor Vincent Gray (Tau Theta), NASA Astronaut Commander Neil Woodward (Xi), or Hall of Fame NBA Coach Arnold "Red" Auerbach (Tau Theta). It should go without saying that TEP must have a strong presence in Washington. But that takes work and dedication from alumni.

This brings us to the point of getting together at the District Chophouse. The goal of the Meet-and-Greet was more than just to get together, toast to our brother, and swap stories. If TEP is ever to return to our previous strength in the DC area, then we need a group of dedicated alumni to help make it a reality.

A Meet-and-Greet is only the start. The next steps over the coming year are to organize the alumni who came into an official Alumni Club, reach out to other alumni and get them involved, and then begin the process of colonization at local universities in the area that are looking to expand so that we can grow the next generation of TEP Brothers and our nation's leaders.

If you want to be a part of TEP's resurgence in Washington, DC please contact me, Kirill Reznik, at: kirill.reznik@gmail.com.



Brothers gather as Kirill Reznik (right) discusses the current and potential growth of Tau Epsilon Phi in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. September 20, 2016.

Convention 2016: Orlando, FL

Submitted by Kirill Reznik

Our fraternity held its bi-annual Grand Chapter Convention at the Rosen Center in Orlando, Florida from July 21st through 24th of 2016. It was a moment of both transition and growth for our brotherhood. It was the 3rd official Convention to take place since the lawsuit (4th if you count the one the Judge imposed) and signaled both stability and change. After Conventions in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., the warm Orlando sun was a welcomed change of pace. Lead by Immediate Past Consul Lane Koplon and Member-at-Large Alan Ledewitz, a packed and fun weekend was planned at one of Orlando's premier resorts.

Present were brothers from every chapter and one of the three existing colonies. Over eighty brothers came together to celebrate our brotherhood, our history, and our traditions, while moving forward with the business at hand: electing a new Grand Council, adopting changes to our Constitution, and planning for the future of our organization.

The weekend kicked off on Thursday night with an opening ceremony reception and the election of the Grand Chapter Officers. Brother Leo Gordon, a former International Consul and sitting Judge on the United States Court of International Trade was elected Grand Chancellor to preside over the weekend.

Friday was a day to learn and have fun with a series of seminars on topics such as risk management, recruitment, and committee organization. These sessions provided both undergraduates and alumni into the insights of managing and running our fraternity both at the local chapter and national levels. Afterwards, we boarded the bus to Universal's CityWalk for dinner at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, followed by an evening at CityWalk with brothers that we've just met and those we haven't seen in years. A lot of catching up took place over a beer or two, as well as a ton of discussion about the future of our organization – how we service the existing chapters and colonies, how we better engage our alumni, and how we grow ourselves back to campuses where we once were or never have been.

Saturday kicked off the hard work of the

Convention. We spent the next day and a half electing national officers and amending our governing documents. Though a number of changes were proposed to our Constitution, two significant ones are worth noting.

First, we enacted a change to the size of our Grand Council. Before this Convention, ΤΕΦ maintained 23 Grand Council members. Not only did such a large board prove difficult to coordinate, it was actually one of the largest governing boards of any Greek organization in the U.S. Though a number of proposals were entertained, the Grand Chapter voted to decrease the board from 23 to 18, removing the positions of four Members-at-Large and one Undergraduate Member-at-Large. Though it would seem that this would have less brothers involved, the Grand Chapter, newly elected Grand Council, and our Consul all agreed to provide for more opportunities for brothers to volunteer in other capacities, including on ad hoc Committees and through a reinstated Regional Governors program.

Second, the Grand Chapter voted to change the qualifications of the Undergraduate Vice Consul. The new qualifications allow an alumnus who has graduated in the same year as the Grand Chapter is taking place to run for and hold the position of Undergraduate Vice Consul. This change would allow for better transition and experience in the role while maintaining three undergraduate members-at-large to continue to serve on the Grand Council and represent their fellow undergrads.

Before, during, and after the consideration of legislation to our governing documents, the Grand Chapter also engaged in the election of our new Grand Council to manage the fraternity for the next two years. Though at times contentious, one thing was agreed to by all – everyone presented wanted to ensure the health, success, and growth of our brotherhood and that the new Grand Council was committed to that goal. The election saw some old faces return and some new faces emerge with a renewed enthusiasm for the future. *(continued on next page)*

CONVENTION 2016

After the politics of the weekend was concluded, there was enough time to give out alumni, undergraduate, and chapter awards to the outstanding brothers that really stood out over the previous two years. Award winners included: Adir Mohaban (N), Cody Trimmell (BT), Daniel Travis (BT), Edwin Casimir (ΦX), Alex Vendola (AT), Connor Donahue ($\Lambda \Phi E$), Chris Melbourne ($E \Theta$), Peter Fayne (TB), Stanley Schechter (A), Leo Gordon (Ω), Rick Bernstein (N), Jeff Zadoff ($T \Delta$), Lane Koplon (N), and Marc Tolman ($E \Theta$).

Sunday morning, the newly elected Grand Council gathered to make initial plans for the next two years, including developing a robust communications plan, establishing committees, and planning for the next Grand Council meeting as well as the next Grand Chapter Convention in two years.

Overall, the future for Tau Epsilon Phi looks bright, and the new Grand Council looks forward to working with all of our undergrads and alumni to keep this momentum rolling.



Convention attendees gather outside the entrance of the Universal Studios resort in Orlando, FL.

Undergraduate Reports

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

The Nu Chapter reports a successful fall semester, particularly in the area of philanthropy. The chapter hosted their annual Battle of the Bands competition, raising over \$1550 for Whatever It Takes, a UGA student-led organization working to combat education inequity for children in Athens-Clarke County, GA. Additionally a chapter brother recently started and runs his own non-traditional coffee service, Karma Coffee, where coffee is paid for with an act of kindness; no money required. He aims to break down social barriers that divide us and to improve the lives of others. The chapter additionally inducted a successful fall class, which includes Adam. Adam reports pride in having been a part of this class, the chapter, and the amazing fraternity of Tau Epsilon Phi. The chapter does not recruit in the spring, but kicked off the new semester with their Formal, held in New Orleans and plans to use the momentum of the fall to carry them through spring.

Rho – University of Pennsylvania **Chancellor- Christopher Hofstadter**

The Rho chapter reports a strong fall semester across several areas. In conjunction with the university, the chapter has upgraded common areas, including new furnishings. This has made the house more comfortable for brothers, alumni, and rushees. The state of the chapter's finances are strong, which included the restructuring and repayment of the previous year's debts; this all occurred with minimal impact on chapter operations. The chapter has also continued their partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, participating in a Philadelphia-area walk, raising over \$500 for the foundation, and hosting seminars on suicide prevention in the Penn community. The chapter has also supported campus musical groups by hosting live events within the chapter premises. Due to university restrictions, the rho chapter did not recruit a fall pledge class, but is prepared for a spring class later this month. Finally, the chapter plans on relaunching their website, which serves the primary purpose of alumni engagement; the launch is scheduled for May.

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

The Tau Alpha chapter reports growth in the areas of membership, philanthropy, and scholarship. The chapter's fall pledge class brought in forty-one new members, which is a larger class than the chapter's average. Additionally, the chapter hosted their most successful philanthropy event in the past ten years: TEP Touchdown. This flag football tournament raised thousands of dollars to help support Charity Water, a non-profit aimed at supplying water to developing countries. Additionally, the chapter boasts the highest GPA on campus for the second consecutive fall semester, and are ambitious toward earning their third. Finally, the chapter is excited for the growth of our national fraternity and are proud to be a part of the success.

Epsilon Theta – Queens College **Chancellor- Jefry Adytia**

The Epsilon Theta chapter reports a more laid-back semester in recent history. To begin, the chapter scheduled one of their regular highway cleanups, which adds to the overall quality of the Queens neighborhoods. On the social scene, the brothers hosted a successful volleyball mixer with the Queens College chapter of Sigma Delta Tau, which included some alumni from the organizations. The end of the semester brought five newly initiated brothers, who expect to contribute much to the efforts of the chapter in the coming semesters. Finally, the Epsilon Theta chapter concluding their term with a relaxing brother retreat, held at a chapter alumnus's vacation home.

Epsilon Iota – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Chancellor– Matt Johnson

The Epsilon Iota chapter boasts large improvements across numerous domains. To begin, the chapter's academic performance hit a three-year high. At a 3.18, the chapter received the fifth highest GPA of thirty fraternities, which also bests the all-Greek and all-men average within RPI's rigorous curricula. The chapter has also continued to improve in the areas of house improvement and alumni relations, with active brothers supporting and recruiting the alumni association for various events and work projects. Much of this success is owed in part to the underclassmen, who have taken executive board roles with great success. The chapter has also found success in philanthropic endeavors both within and outside of the RPI community. The chapter sponsored their annual Thanksgiving dinner at a Troy-area shelter, participated in a community trick-or-treat event, and won awards at philanthropy events sponsored by the campus chapters of Pi Beta Phi and Lambda Chi Alpha. Finally, the chapter is excited to support the efforts of Consul Tim Smith, who is the first brother elected to the position in the history of the chapter.

Sigma Epsilon – Rutgers University, Camden

Chancellor– Jake Collette-Nippins

The Sigma Epsilon chapter reports a busy semester in the areas of membership, campus involvement, and philanthropy. The fall pledge class brought five new members into the brotherhood. These individuals have already taken on major roles within the chapter, including the positions of historian and alumni relations chair. Additionally, brothers have expanded further into the Greek community at Rutgers-Camden in their election to the Interfraternity Council and Rutgers Greek Council. Under the leadership of brother Robert Finkelstein, the chapter boasts a successful semester in philanthropy, both with hosting fundraising events and continuing their "RU 4 the Troops" event, planned in conjunction with the Rutgers-Camden student veterans. The chapter ended the semester preparing for spring recruitment and plans to continue their success in the upcoming semester.

Lambda Phi Epsilon – Clarkson University

Chancellor– Bryan Cary

The Lambda Phi Epsilon chapter reports a semester filled with fraternalism and success with philanthropy. The chapter began the semester with recruitment, which includes historically successful dodgeball games, bonfires by the river, on-campus barbecues, and a giant slip n' slide. The chapter has continued serving the Clarkson and Potsdam area well. Specifically, brothers participated in their annual Adopt-a-Highway cleanup and Potsdam Historic Society haunted house. Additionally, brothers assisted the Salvation Army, participated in the campus move-in day for freshman, and hosted a waffle night to raise funds for the Potsdam Fire Department. The chapter house has also seen improvements with a new boiler, a renovated bathroom, and several replaced doors. Finally, the success of the chapter has been highlighted in an article for Wingman Magazine. The chapter is excited for the upcoming year.

Sigma Alpha Sigma – Hofstra University

Chancellor– Will Tarashuk

The Sigma Alpha Sigma chapter boasts an extraordinary semester, specifically in the area of philanthropy. The brothers began the semester by raising over \$700 for a local breast cancer walk. The chapter also hosted a flag football tournament between various campus organizations, raising over \$350 for various charities. The chapter plans to continue their success into the spring semester. The brothers have already begun organizing efforts for the Hofstra University Relay for Life and will also be participating in a Polar Plunge.

Phi Pi – Binghamton University, SUNY

Chancellor– Max Kestern

The Phi Pi chapter reports success across all domains. To begin, the chapter participated in various philanthropic events, including the local Chabad's Mega Challah Bake and a fundraiser for the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation. A chapter founding brother passed before finding a suitable match, and the chapter assisted with his son's bar mitzvah project by donating to the charity. The chapter's finances have also improved, which allows for the brothers to allocate more funds toward brotherhood and philanthropy events. Finally, the chapter is pleased to report a fall pledge class of four men, with high expectations for their spring recruitment period.

Phi Chi – City College of New York

Chancellor– Edwin Casimir

The Phi Chi chapter reports a semester full of personal successes and chapter success within the CCNY community. The brothers celebrated the weddings of three alumni and the engagements of two more. The brothers have also spent semester time visiting other chapters, including those at the Rowan and Clarkson universities. The Phi Chi chapter ended their semester with their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and look to continue living in the light of friendship during their spring term. These brothers also continue to maintain a leadership role on campus, including games, informational workshops, collaborations with the interfraternity council, and philanthropy events to benefit the greater Harlem community. The brother of the Phi Chi chapter plan to continue their presence as leaders both in and around their campus during the spring term.

Omega Alpha – Johnson & Wales University

Chancellor– Joshua Delgado

The Omega Alpha chapter reports overwhelming success in terms of recruitment, philanthropy, and chapter organization. The chapter began the semester with various events to introduce potential members to the brotherhood. These events include a potluck dinner, a trivia night, on-campus sports, and more. The chapter also participated in community service for organizations like the Norman Bird Sanctuary, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Ocean State, Crossroads, and the YMCA. On campus, the brothers continue their philanthropic efforts with four major events: a car smash, a coat and can drive, a president's roast of Greek organizations, and a sorority quarter drop. Each event has come with great success. Finally the chapter has improved it's day-to-day functioning by introducing subcommittees and seminars to improve efficiency and preparing to update the chapter by-laws for general improvements to organization.

Alpha Tau – Rowan University

Chancellor– Alex Vendola

The Alpha Tau chapter reports success in their efforts to become a more active member in their community beyond the campus environment. The brothers continue to work with their partner service organization, Friends of Fairview Give Back, which provides food and clothing to individuals in need within the Camden area. Along with this, the brothers raised over \$200 with the Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority chapter at Rowan in order to give toys to the patients in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Finally, the chapter raised \$150 to support Project Linus, which provides warm blankets to local residents who need them during the winter months. The chapter reports general success for their brotherhood, and expects this to continue into the spring semester.

Tau Beta Colony – University of Maryland

Chancellor– David Horowitz

The Tau Beta colony reports success with membership development and community outreach. The brothers participated in their second consecutive semester of the Ten Man Plan, designed to inform individuals about the dangers and signs of sexual assault on college campuses. The brothers also attended a Backpacks to Briefcases workshop, which taught the men how to use Greek values in the professional workplace. The colony has hosted a "Birth Right Experience" program and participates in Shabbat dinners and BLT (bagels, lox, and tefillin) breakfasts to support the Maryland Hillel. The colony additionally hosted a parents weekend, designed to show parents – many of whom live out of state – the benefits of brotherhood in Tau Epsilon Phi at the University of Maryland. Finally, the colony has begun developing a newsletter to showcase their accomplishments to alumni and rekindle alumni involvement.

Phi Upsilon Colony – University of Buffalo, SUNY

Chancellor- Spencer Feurer

The Phi Upsilon colony reports success before and throughout their process of becoming a colony. During the previous spring semester, Spencer and a small group of men began organizing their efforts under Immediate Past Consul Lane Koplon. At the beginning of their fall semester, this group organized a recruitment period with success for the founding and spring pledge classes. During the pledging period the to-be colony raised over \$1,000 for Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's. During this period, the group also participated in a Salvation Army Christmas Party, at which they wrapped community presents, services food, cleaned, and otherwise assisted the organization. In the spring semester, the colony looks to continue their successes with recruitment, philanthropy, and brotherhood development.

Alpha Phi Colony – Rutgers U., New Brunswick

Chancellor- Bruce Zweben

The Alpha Phi colony reports deep involvement in philanthropy and success with academics. The group participated in services projects and assisted various organizations including the Rutgers Dance Marathon, Free the Children, the Jewish War Veterans, and Woman Aware. The chapter has raised thousands of dollars for these groups. The brothers in this colony also excel in the class room. This past semester, over sixty percent of the colony earned the dean's list honor, causing them to become the number one interfraternity council group, in terms of GPA. Finally, the colony encourages service outside of TEP, with many brothers committed to service within the Army ROTC program on Campus.

Beta Tau Colony – Arizona State University

Chancellor- Cody Trimmell

The Beta Tau colony reports a strong semester in the areas of philanthropy and colony conduct. The group has supported various charities that fight Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, and other ailments. The brothers have also participated in Greek-sponsored events, including Pi Beta Phi's Arrowspoke, Delta Zeta's Dukeout, Sigma Kappa's Striekout, and an Alpha Gamma Delta competition that the colony won first place in. The colony remains committed to following the rules and regulations set forth by the campus and national fraternity. At this time, the Beta Tau colony is one of the few Greek organizations that is not on any form of academic or social probation. They have additionally ranked in the top ten of fraternities in both academics and overall house conduct. The colony plans on continuing their work into the spring semester, at which point they plan to begin their application process for their charter within Tau Epsilon Phi.

TEP Does: Rob Spiegel and the Appalachian Trail

Submitted by Anton Triner, ΣΕ 75

The Sigma Epsilon chapter at Rutgers University recently coined the “TEP Does” slogan as a recruitment tool, but the phrase has motivating implications that all can benefit from. The TEP Does section in each Plume will feature a write-up on one brother, undergraduate or alumnus, who has gone beyond the reaches of ordinary life to succeed. Our first pick is Rob Spiegel, of ΣΕ class 76, who recently completed hiking the Appalachian Trail, spanning over two-thousand miles between Georgia and Maine, during the spring and summer of 2012.



Brother Spiegel relaxing towards the beginning of his trek through the Appalachian Trail.

At a distance of over two thousand miles, the Appalachian Trail is the second longest mountain range in the United States and among the ten longest in the world. Of roughly two thousand hikers, only one quarter complete the through trail,

spanning between Georgia and Maine. One of our own, a Sigma Epsilon brother named Rob Spiegel, has joined the few who have successfully completed this endeavor.

According to a fellow chapter brother, Tony Triner, “Rob has always been outdoorsy, big-thinking, and slightly contrarian. This is a perfect combination of characteristics for a through-hiker.” Rob’s interests in through hiking and the Appalachian Trail were first sparked by a National Geographic program about the trail, which struck his interest immediately. Later on, this kindling interest grew during an overnight hike that both Rob and Tony took, near Duncannon, Pennsylvania. On the trip, the two met fellow hikers, named Mehap and Stonewall. It is common rite of passage to select or be given a new name. The two talked to Rob and Tony throughout the night about the intricacies of the trek that all through hikers need to actively think about if they’re to be successful; the conversations were engaging, lively, and full of memories from past hiking endeavors.

Following this trip, Rob was on an emotional high.

He described “such a free feeling” that was instilled in him by Mehap and Stonewall calling to mind the answer given by Everest pioneer, George Leigh Mallory, when asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest: “because it’s there.” The following months would involve intensely dedicated planning. Tony illustrates some of the lengths and sacrifices Rob has to make before departing, although all were met with complete support from his family and friends. In order for to prepare himself, Rob moved out of his house, sold his car, put his job on hold, and left his dog with his family to ensure its safety throughout the entire trek.

Rob began his excursion on March 19th, 2012 at Spring Mountain in Georgia and completed it on September 1st at Mount Katahdin in Maine; in total, his trip required five months and ten days. As mentioned, finding a trail name is (continued on page 21)



Rob sitting atop a cliff overlooking the Appalachians during his trip. He cites this photo as a favorite throughout his entire trip.

common practice for through-hikers and Rob adopted the name “Luscious” or “Lush” for short, adopted from his ability to hold his booze in nights in town with fellow hikers. He comments on how difficult many parts were, despite his ability to enjoy some modern comforts. For instance, on August 10th, Rob summited Mt. Washington, the highest peak in the Northeast, on a day with seventy mile per hour winds.

When asked about the most memorable part of his trek, Rob refers to finishing the trail after his ascent of Mount Katahdin. To begin, Rob considers Katahdin to be one of the most difficult peaks on the entire Trail, requiring a lot of rock climbing for successful completion. In addition to this, Rob took the peak with his father and girlfriend, two people who offered him a wealth of support not only in Maine, but throughout his entire journey. After first seeing the summit marker, Rob mentioned feeling immensely accomplished and stunned at the same time; there was a picnicking area at the summit that people were using to enjoy the day. When he emerged from the Trail, a woman asked if he was a through hiker. Upon giving her an affirmation, Rob was met with warm smiles and applause from those who understood just how momentous of an accomplishment completing the trail is.

Rob has taken away a seemingly simple message to comprehend, but it is one that many people go throughout their entire life without paying a second thought to. He iterates that one *really* does not need personal possessions or material goods to be happy. Throughout the trek, Rob carried around a thirty-five pound bag of items that were absolutely necessary; he found that happiness can be found from little to nothing at all. He mentioned that many of us work very hard to acquire such goods, but “a lot of the best things are right there all along”. The catalyst for this idea can come from any number of situations that any of us may find ourselves in; for Rob, it was found in a two-thousand mile journey that he is sure to never forget.



Rob at the summit of Mt. Katahdin. Baxter State Park, Piscataquis County, ME.

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We are currently looking to build a team of brothers with editorial, writing, publishing skills to help contribute to future editions of the Plume. If you are interested, contact David Cass, Jr. at:

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