

the PLUME

THE TAU EPSILON PHI FRATERNITY

Volume 78 Issue 2

Summer 2020



The Consul's Corner

We are in uncharted and unprecedented times, both as a Fraternity and as a country, and there is a lot of uncertainty going into the Fall 2020 semester. In our 110 year history, our Fraternity has never had to face a challenge like this before, but we also have the tools and staff to make sure that we succeed. Even with this uncertainty, I have never been more confident in the future of our brotherhood. We are growing, have a strong expansion plan in place, and are constantly rolling out new services and features for our undergraduates and alumni.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a mish-mash of policies across our 21 different campuses, and we are monitoring the status of colleges and universities. We are adjusting appropriately, but we are also aware that this will mean less campus activity, less new member recruitment, and less philanthropic activity...or does it? All of our undergraduates will continue to attend classes, and we are doing everything in our power to support them. In times of crises such as these, really creative ideas start to present themselves, and I am confident that our undergraduate brothers are capable of many great ideas on how to stay connected, be a force on campus and in the community, and continue to build the bridge to the next generation of TEΦs on their campus.

The Fraternity has created two new programs for TEΦs across the country. First, we are moving forward with a new recruitment tool to help our undergraduates recruit, track, bid, and pledge new members. Admittedly, this is not the best time to move forward with such a tool given the uncertainty of campuses opening for Fall, but we are moving forward with a free trial version of the tool, which will help test drive the program. Also, we have partnered with two online scholarship aggregator tools to allow undergraduates, alumni, and others to be able to easily track down scholarship opportunities to help fund their education.

We are excited to welcome back Tau Alpha at the University of Florida as a colony, and intend to continue the effort to expand to Tau Zeta at the University of Maine this coming semester.



Finally, because we are not busy enough, it is Convention year and we are obligated to have Grand Chapter this coming October. The Grand Council has voted to move the Convention online and will be conducted entirely by Zoom. This is new for us too, but canceling Grand Chapter is not an option. Though I will miss seeing everyone in person and interacting with brothers that I haven't seen in a long time, Convention will still be conducted with the same passion that we always put forward, and a new Grand Council will be seated to continue the success of our brotherhood.

Fraternally,
Kirill Reznik, BD 53
International Consul
consul@tep.org

The PLUME

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 4 Convention 2020 Digital Update
- 5 Alumni Relations Note/Chapter Eternal
- 6 Remembering Jake Irwin/Phired Up
- 7 Blast From The Past
- 8 The Newest Grand Council Members
- 9 Summer Intern Profile—Jake Bernstein
- 10 TEP Foundation Report
- 11 Digital Composite Compilation
- 12 Undergraduate Reports
- 16 Colony Reports
- 18 Executive Director's Report
- 19 Staff Updates
- 21 Plume Advertising Program
- 22 National Directory

FOR ONLINE NEWS:

www.tep.org
www.facebook.com/TauEpsilonPhiFraternity
www.linkedin.com/groups/41245
www.instagram.com/tepfraternity
www.twitter.com/tepfraternity

ON THE COVER:

In the spring of 2020, before the shutdown, Brother Bob Dreyer, EI-28 returned to RPI for his 80th birthday to the refounded chapter house. He brought his entire family to enjoy a night of nostalgia and bridge building with the active brothers and local alumni. Not only did he enjoy his time at the house, he joined the TEP section at the hockey game and got to see a home team win in person for the first time in 50 years!

In speaking to EI Chancellor Brian Deyo, "Bob was an amazingly gracious guest. He showed up with dinner and his family for the brothers to get to hang out with and get to know. His son was also Greek, which was pretty cool. Sadly not a TEP," but Bob definitely kept building the bridge!

MERCHANDISE SITE:

<https://findgreek.com/tauepsilonphi>

VIRTUAL 2020

CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE: October 23rd, 2020

**Potential Follow-Up October 25th*

Brothers,

With the frequency of the word “unprecedented times” appearing in society today, we can all understand the difficulties of maintaining safety in parallel to salvaging normality. Many things have had to change of late for everyone in order to continue moving forward. In accordance with the shifts to a safer structure for group gatherings and travel, the Grand Council has acted to move the Fall 2020 Convention to a virtual format. We understand the importance as well as the comradery that our in person conventions carries, and we plan to maintain the standards to our utmost ability through our Virtual Convention platforms. Please stay tuned to our website and platforms for further information regarding the format of Convention.



With our Convention moving to a virtual format, we will be utilizing applications and platforms such as Zoom to hold our calls. Barring time and virtual capabilities, we would like to attempt to include workshops and group discussion sessions much like our in person Conventions.

Further details on attending the 2020 Grand Chapter or how to nominate yourself or another to serve on the Grand Council can be found at www.tep.org/grandchapter. We wish you all safety and good health in these challenging times.

Fraternally,

Tau Epsilon Phi Inc. Grand Council

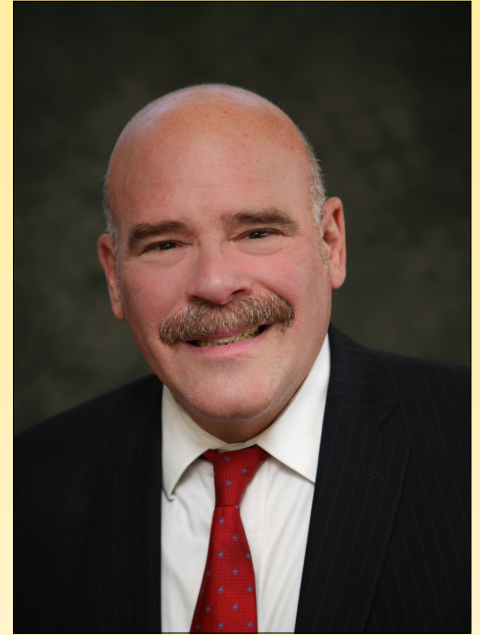
Remarks on Alumni Relations

Notes from Vice Consul Mark Abramson, Chair of the Alumni Relations Committee

The Grand Council has established a committee to look into alumni relations. Currently there is very little outreach or assistance for TEP alumni provided. With the adoption of Member Planet (Go to TEP.org), we have set up a method of communicating with our alumni.

Our bylaws define what an alumni is as well as what alumni clubs are. To build on these definitions a committee has been established to look into how the National organization can assist our graduates and the organizations that they establish. The inaugural committee consists of Mark Gardner and Paul Schwartzberg of CCNY, Darric Jones of Johnson & Wales, Alan Ledewitz of Florida International as well as the TEP Foundation, and Mark Abramson of Tulane University. Issues being discussed include alumni clubs, building an alumni presence on Member Planet, collecting alumni addresses, and how to better serve our alumni.

If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Vice Consul Mark Abramson at mabramson@tep.org.



Roll Call of The Chapter Eternals

Remembering Our Brothers Who Have Passed

Dr. Harvey W. Leavitt, TZ – University of Maine, Class of 1957

Richard “Lunchbox” Diaz, ΦX – City College of New York #167

Andrew Baran, TΨ – New Jersey Institute of Technology, Class of 1989

Morton Hankin, ZΛΦ – Temple University, Class of 1954

Eugene Freidman, TΔ – Ohio State University

Michael Murphy, EΘ – Queens College

Leon Cohen, N – University of Georgia

Jerome Mendel, N – University of Georgia

Jake Irwin, AΦ Rutgers New Brunswick, Class of 2021

Please see page 9 for a brief article on Jake

Remembering the Life of Brother Jake Irwin, AΦ

As brothers, we do our utmost to honor and remember the lives of those who came before us when they pass into Chapter Eternal. Sometimes, however, we must face the tragedy that even those walking the bridge behind us can be lost as well. In those moments, we must take an extra moment to honor the legacy those young men did leave and the impact they had on their brothers and fellow people.

As we say goodbye to Brother Irwin, rising senior at Rutgers New Brunswick, his chapter chancellor Zack and Big Brother Drew recall the “passion and joy he brought to the house in the short time he was with us. He was always upbeat and positive, and had so much drive to help the brotherhood out.” From his obituary, Jake always pursued leadership roles, from his finance positions in high school to his place in both the National Society of Leadership and Success as well as the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society.

The brothers of both the Alpha Phi chapter and the fraternity as a whole wish Jake peaceful rest, along with all of those we have lost in these unprecedented times.



Phired Up Digital Classroom

Tau Epsilon Phi is excited to announce our partnership with Phired Up and their digital recruitment classroom. Every chapter (and their members) of Tau Epsilon Phi currently has access to this resource to help not only the rush chair(s) but it also gives every member the knowledge to think of completely new ways to conduct rush in person and virtually for this already challenging fall semester. Phired Up has partnered with over 300 campuses and 75 national fraternal headquarters in the past 18 years and has numerous other tools and digital media to help our undergraduates succeed. This digital classroom is an exciting first step to change how each chapter can do recruitment and we cannot wait to see how our undergrads use this resource. This classroom is filled with short videos, activities and documents to help the planning, generation of names and execution of fall recruitment. For those interested, you can even become a Phired Up Certified Recruiter™.

Below is some of the information on the digital classroom and the web link to know more!

Phired Up Digital Classroom Weblink:

<https://www.phiredup.com/classroom>



Phired Up Digital Classrooms (FAQs)

Introducing digital classrooms to help you learn how to grow your chapter! Now you can become a **Certified Phired Up Recruiter™** from the comfort of your computer at your own pace.

Every member who is dedicated to helping your chapter attract, select, and secure the *right* members should become **Certified Phired Up Recruiter**. Your whole recruitment team should complete this course. Maybe your whole chapter. What if every member became a certified recruiter before this next semester?

Learn the art and science of organizational growth from the experts who literally wrote the books on it! Whether you're a current Panhellenic, Interfraternity Council, Culturally-Based Fraternal Organization member or an advisor wanting to learn ways you can support your chapter, we have a digital classroom to help you learn the fundamentals of growth we teach to chapters and councils across the country. After the successful completion of each course, you'll be qualified to become a Certified Phired Up Recruiter™!

Q. What if I already bought personal access to a classroom and now my HQ is providing it for free?

A. E-mail info@phiredup.com and ask for a full refund. It is that easy.

Q. Can I put on my resume that I'm a Phired Up Certified Recruiter™?

A. Yes! (If you complete the digital classroom). This content will help you way beyond fraternity/sorority membership. These skills will be impressive to future employers.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. Normally, it costs \$45 for each person. But your HQ has purchased access which means you get it for \$0.00 (if you use the link on the first page).

Q. Is this a boring online class?

A. Nope. None of the videos in the undergraduate-focused classrooms are longer than 5 minutes. It's all quick-hit, relevant, and real-life information that you can use to help your chapter grow RIGHT NOW. This isn't boring lectures or long PowerPoint presentations. This is quick, fun, a little playful, and super helpful.

Q. Will this help my chapter grow (even during COVID-19)?

A. Yes! (If you put into practice the lessons taught in the digital classroom). This is a perfect way to prepare to grow your chapter even during this strange time.

Treasure Hunt for TEP History

An interesting notice landed in the mailbox of our staff recently in regards to a piece of physical Tau Epsilon Phi history. We all seek pleasure in various different hobbies, from sports, to activities, to collecting memorabilia. The latter of such has brought a hobbyist to us seeking help. When I had a chance to read the letter, I couldn't help but include Mr. Harris Aaronson's request to seek this limited piece of art combining Tau Epsilon Phi and the best of the modern technology of the 1930s. Read his letter below, and if by chance you have a copy and a passion similar to Harris', feel free to contact the Grand Council to make an arrangement!

"Hello,

I'm sure this is an unusual request, but by way of introduction I am a camera collector located in Pittsfield, MA. I was not a TEP brother when I was at Dartmouth College 60 years ago.

Around the mid 1930s the Universal Camera Company made a commemorative camera for the TEP fraternity that bears the TEP name and logo[...]

My inquiry: Is there a TEP newsletter or list where I could advertise to purchase an example of this camera, perhaps from a TEP alumnus? If so, I would gladly make a contribution to the fraternity for the advertisement and, if I purchase a copy, I would make a more significant contribution.

Thank you taking the time to read this.
Harris Aaronson"



Above is a blank version of the camera. As Harris mentions, "It is uncommon, and although I have seen references to it, I have not found one for sale. It is a small camera, shaped like a deck of cards."

Newest Grand Council Members

Getting to Know the Newest Additions

Though the time for the current Grand Council is rapidly approaching its end, since our last issue of *The Plume*, we have had some shifting of positions and new members join to help weather the current climate storm. The Grand Council is happy to welcome Director's JR Benning and Kenneth "Gerk" Hurtado to the council. We also commend now Tribune Joel Kanter for stepping into the vacant role upon a new need to fill it.



JR joined Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity in the Fall of 1989 when he was initiated into the Sigma Chapter at Syracuse University. JR graduated from SU in December of 1992 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Engineering. He later went on to receive a Masters in Business Administration from Villanova University in 2003.

During his nearly 3 decades in the software industry, JR has founded 2 profitable businesses — one of which he successfully lead to acquisition in 2015.

As an undergraduate, JR held the executive position of chapter Treasurer. In 2014, JR was elected to the Grand Council as 2nd Vice Consul. During his tenure, JR designed the modern version of the fraternity crest, used to this day.

JR lives outside of Philadelphia with his wife Jean and 3 daughters Tara, Emma, and Paige (whose initials coincidentally spell out T.E.P.)

Kenneth Hurtado, more widely known as "Gerk," had previously served on the Board as International Praetor on the Interim Grand Council in 2011, then was elected to serve in the same position at the 2011 and 2013 Grand Chapter Conventions. In 2016, he was elected to serve as a Member-at-Large, and after a brief hiatus, he returns to the Grand Council to fill a vacant seat as a Director.

Kenneth joined Tau Epsilon Phi in the Fall of 1987 when he was initiated into the Epsilon Lambda Chapter at The City College of New York in Harlem, NY where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. After the Epsilon Lambda Chapter closed its doors, he remained as an active member in the newly formed Phi Chi Chapter until graduation, through to the founding of the Phi Chi Alumni Club. For many years, he has served as the Phi Chi Chapter's adviser, and for a time, served as chapter adviser to the Epsilon Theta Chapter at Queens College.

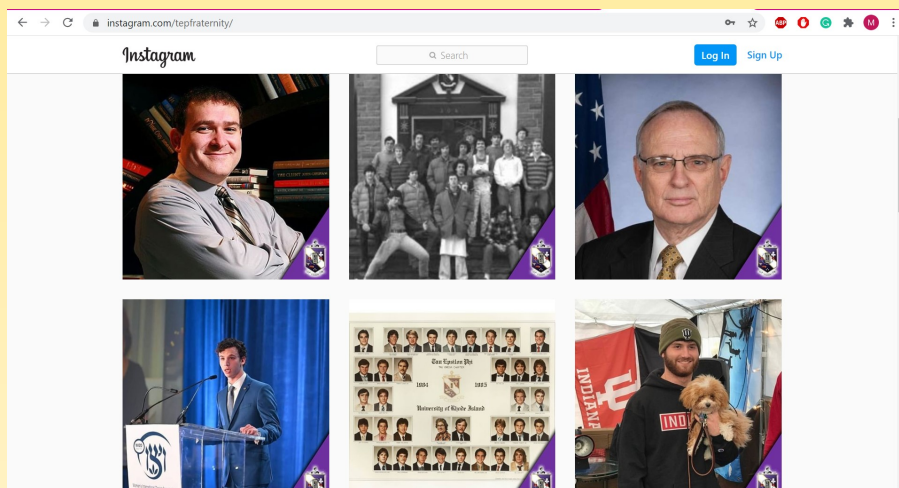
A proud moment for Kenneth was when he saw his son, Daniel Hurtado, follow in his footsteps being initiated into the Phi Chi Chapter at The City College of New York in Fall of 2018.

For the last 20+ years, Kenneth has been working within Adult Education and Back-to-Work training programs teaching computer application skills, job search techniques and soft skills.



Summer Intern 2020—Jake Bernstein

For the summer of 2020, the Grand Council deemed the expansion of our social media presence vital in the current times we are dealing with. As such, Jake Bernstein was appointed as our Digital Marketing Intern for Tau Epsilon Phi on June 16th, 2020. For any of those already active on our platforms, one can see the activity and improvements of Jake's work! His weekly posts highlight brothers of importance, undergrads making a name for our fraternity, and other amazing stories in reference to the work we have done and are doing as a group. Jake's work with the help of the staff has really shaped the social media presence of TEP to be more modern, more engaging, and far more active in a world where positive social media outreach is becoming more and more important by the day.



Example of the Instagram page as of 8/9/2020. As you can see, there has been far more focus on it's activity lately. Great work Jake and staff!

Words from Jake:

Hello! My name is Jake Bernstein, I am a junior at the University of Maryland majoring in information science and minoring in general business. I also have the honor to serve as the Chancellor of the Tau Beta chapter at the University of Maryland. I am honored to be appointed as the Digital Marketing Intern for Tau Epsilon Phi and will work hard to establish valuable connections and help expand the fraternity network across the country!

Nick Dondiego, Chapter Services Consultant writes, "We are very excited to have Jake on the team and cannot wait to see what he does with us! He has done an excellent job with his chapter to excel even farther and I hope he will gain skills and knowledge to bring back to the chapter."



The TEP Foundation

Updates from TEP's Charitable Arm

Hello Brothers,

On behalf of the Foundation, I hope that everyone is safe and healthy during these unique times. Now that Kirill and the Grand Council have announced that we will be having a virtual Grand Chapter, The Foundation will be making applications available for awards. Like everyone else, I am disappointed that we won't have the opportunity to be together in person. I am still looking forward to seeing everyone virtually, though.

The 110 year campaign is still going on and donations can be made online at www.thetepfoundation.org or THE TEP Foundation 3305 Primrose Willow Dr. St. Cloud FL. 34773. Your donations are tax deductible. We are also still building our virtual museum so please keep sending your pictures and stories to Alan.ledewitz@thetepfoundation.org

I want to take a moment to thank all the Trustees I have the pleasure of working with. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. It is not an easy during normal times and 2020 has created all new challenges and thank you for not giving up.

Foundation Trustees

Alan M. Ledewitz
President

Jeff Zadoff
Vice President

Jim Durbin
Treasurer

Brian Neltner
Secretary

Marc Tolman
Member at Large

Al Versacci

Gerry Denmark

Gene Benator

Jason Berler

Patrick Megaro

HOW TO DONATE TO THE FOUNDATION

By mailing a check to:

The Tau Epsilon Phi Foundation, Inc.
c/o Alan Ledewitz
3305 Primrose Willow Drive
Harmony, FL 34773

By making an online donation at:

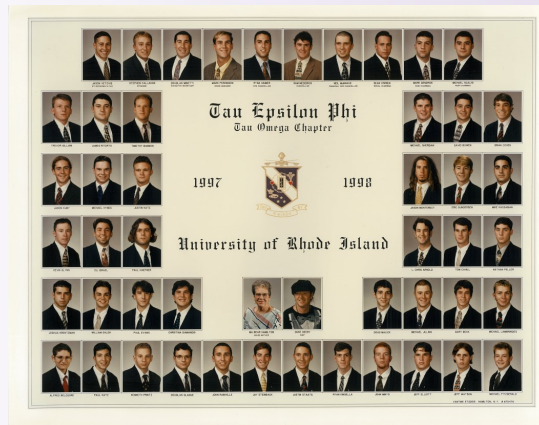
www.paypal.com
sent to: thetepfoundation@gmail.com

Historical Composites

Developing Systems to Catalog our Composites Digitally

Our composites are a critical part of our history and without them numerous members may not have been recorded nor may they have had an opportunity to connect with us at National. They are a flashback to great memories and even greater accomplishments. Tau Epsilon Phi is announcing our historical composite initiative to make our history more accessible to all our members and to keep digital records of these treasures for our next 100 years and more! We are looking for anyone with composites that can be digitized to share those with our staff members so we can have these treasures on hand. It is our intent to digitize these and share them on our website for you to enjoy and download allowing you to keep a digital copy forever. Please email our Chapter Services Consultant, Nicholas Dondiego (nick@tep.org) a digital copy of any composites you may have or with any information on how to locate lost composites. It will take us some time to get every chapter and every year (if that is even possible.) Sadly, some may never be found, but these actions will help preserve our history to the best of our ability. We need your help! Expect new composites to be posted digitally from our records on a regular basis. Our staff members will be sure to keep up with converting the ones we have on hand and grabbing more from our undergraduates and alumni over time. Expect a social media post as new composites or campuses are made available. We hope you all look back on your time in Tau Epsilon Phi fondly.

Historical composites can be located on our website at – www.tep.org/composites



Above is an example of the composites we have in our archives. This one in particular is of the brothers of the University of Rhode Island Tau Omega Chapter, Brothers of 1997-98.

UNDERGRADUATE REPORTS

Nu, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

In 2019, the Nu chapter continued to thrive in many areas: socially, academically, and fraternally. This past year's social calendar continued to prove exciting! From our traditional winter formal in New Orleans, to our renowned island themed spring party Shipwreck, featuring Sheck Wes and Y2, our year was filled with great experiences. Of course, we can't forget about all the socials, band parties, and brotherhood events that make up the full Greek experience.

All this being said, academics remain our highest priority here at Georgia. This year we continued to maintain one of the top GPAs in all of Greek life, and added another year to our streak of ranking in the top 5! Let it be known that we are fully committed to continued academic excellence this next year. In our brotherhood, we have multiple Dean's List recipients, as well as multiple Presidential Scholars. This is a testament to both our emphasis as a fraternity on academics, as well as the individual drive of each brother.

In the fall, we initiated twenty-three fine young men into our brotherhood, confident that they will uphold the values that have kept our Nu chapter in existence for 100 years. It was a great year for TEP and 2020 will be even better!

This Spring has challenged us all in ways we could not have imagined. As a chapter our bonds only strengthened: from online poker nights, to socially distant golfing, and even Xbox tournaments - our brothers stayed engaged and in touch. This upcoming semester will be very different; however, the Nu Chapter has many plans in place in order to keep our brothers safe, as well as ensure the future of the chapter.



Rho, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA



The Rho chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi at the University of Pennsylvania had a fun, though shortened, year. We welcomed a new class of 13 members, who helped plan our first annual pasta-themed event, Spaghettithon. We had several brothers work as liaisons with Hillel as part of the Jewish Renaissance Project to coordinate events. We also helped raise funds for the Black Lives Matter movement. We were saddened that the spring semester was cut short and are unsure how the upcoming year will look, but we are hopeful that we can make the most out of these unfortunate times.

CHAPTER REPORTS



Tau Beta, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

The Tau Beta chapter represented the fraternity well at UMD this past semester by participating in many community service events off campus and showed their on-campus support through various events such as TepThon and AEPHI Cupcake Wars. We are very proud of our guys for their hard work and can't wait to see how they impact our fraternity and the community in the future.

Epsilon Iota, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

The Epsilon Iota chapter boasted a very successful spring semester, bringing in a much larger pledge class than the previous semester. We became the first fraternity on our campus to construct a plan on how to be as safe as possible while living on campus amidst the Coronavirus in the upcoming year. The brothers are extremely proud of our recently graduated alumni, Henry "Crossboot" Thomas III and Gus "Brainblast" Chavez-Enriquez, for graduating with high honors. As with the many other hurdles in the world today, the Epsilon Iota chapter is ready to face them head on, and we are looking forward to another great year.



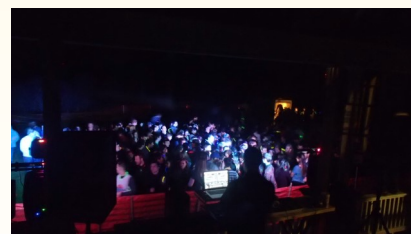
Omega Alpha, Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI



The Omega Alpha chapter's spring trimester was cut short due to COVID-19 but we still made the most of our time on campus. This year we had great success with our President's Roast event. We raised over \$1,000 for our philanthropy Gloria Gemma and brought together our entire Greek community. Our chapter along with all other organizations in the IFC worked together for a Red Solo Cleanup community service event where we collected litter from the streets of Providence. On the social side, a good number of our brothers went on a JWU skiing trip to Canada! Although our year was cut short we made great strides and made plenty of memories and all are looking forward to the 2021 school year.

Lambda Phi Epsilon, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY

Surely we are not the only chapter to say that this has been a very unusual semester which called for an unprecedented series of actions throughout the school year. We were able to welcome seven new brothers before COVID forced us to quarantine. Many of our brothers were unable to return to our house. We were disappointed to have to cancel LambdaPhiLooza (an EDM concert we typically host every spring). We have also had to do a tremendous amount of coordinating with the school in preparation for the upcoming fall semester. This allowed us to determine the safest practices for attending classes and living at the house while maintaining a sense of brotherhood and high morale.



CHAPTER REPORTS

Phi Upsilon, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Despite not being able to finish off our 2019-2020 school year, we at TEP Buffalo continued to grow under the ideals of our fraternity. We had the pleasure of officially receiving our charter from Tau Epsilon Phi and have continued to expand with the help of our brothers, alumni and national. We are thankful for all those who have paved the way for us to reach this momentous stage in our chapter. Although not ideal, we will continue to make the best of our situation and attempt to further improve our fraternity. Above all things, we aim to welcome the idea of brotherhood to our new members, as well as adapting and improving the brotherhood that our current members all share.



Sigma Alpha Sigma, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY



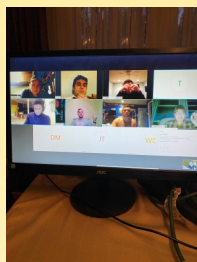
The Spring semester for TEP at Hofstra University was crazy but successful. We took in a class of two new brothers, despite the semester being cut short. We're preparing for the fall currently, which will entail zero in person events. While this seems hard because it is unprecedented, TEP SAS is ready to adapt and take on recruitment with new approaches. We're excited to see what this next semester brings!

Sigma Epsilon, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ

The Sigma Epsilon chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi was very successful in the spring semester despite the adverse challenges we all faced. We spearheaded our mission of success last semester with three deliverables; a successful rush week, service events, and increased visibility and professionalism. We held tabling-drives for The Peanut-Butter Project; a charity that supports children that are dying of malnutrition. These fundraisers led to hundreds of dollars and social awareness for the cause. In the upcoming fall semester, we plan to host rush virtually and adapt to a more modern process due to the added burden of COVID. With the brothers that still live in the house, we are still trying to do monthly service events. Most recently, we went to a cliff diving spot in Philadelphia and cleaned up dozens of trash bags. During August, we plan on hosting a blood drive.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Alpha Phi, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ



This is the Alpha-Phi chapter from Rutgers, New Brunswick. In the picture, this was a emergency COVID-19 meeting to plan for a successful next semester. They are striving for excellence while their fall semester remains online. Their 18 -member strong chapter is working to grow and continue to diversify. They have been participating in a large-scale fundraiser to assist the loss of one their own, Jake Irwin. Jake was a vibrant, new member studying engineering excited to be a part of their chapter. The fundraiser is for a donation in his name to the engineering department.

Alpha Tau, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

Despite the conflicts and complications of the pandemic of COVID-19, Rowan TEP has managed to stay afloat, and continue a positive progression. The 2019-2020 academic year was our best in many different facets, with the strongest philanthropic and academic work that our chapter has ever seen. Rowan's IFC now has more TEP brothers than any other social fraternity on campus. But our progress is not just improving what we have done before; our alumni foundation is now supportive and structured, giving Rowan TEP the ability to receive help when we need it.

Not many things are set in stone for the future of any of us at this moment in time, but I am so proud of the way my chapter can adapt to, and overcome new challenges. To stay true to our pledge of service, Alpha Tau will be hosting a virtual 5K on September 12th, where runners will raise money towards the Yemen humanitarian crisis. Although a virtual 5K was not the intended event, its vitality is making it possible to be done across the nation; more and more chapters are pledging participation on their campus for this event.

Things will be different for the foreseeable future, and it is worrying to all of us. But right now, Rowan TEP is ok, and with masks and hand sanitizer, we're looking towards the future with the intent to carry on Tau Epsilon Phi to the best of our ability.



Gamma Tau, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN



The Gamma Tau Chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi at Indiana University had an extremely successful year. Starting in September, it nearly doubled its chapter size with a twenty-one person Delta pledge class, and the brothers and Deltas beat Pi Lambda Phi in the first annual Nose Bowl at IU, a traditional football game between the two houses. In the spring, we added another eight members with our Epsilon pledge class, and before the coronavirus pandemic hit, the brothers went paintballing for a Saturday brotherhood event. Our president has organized plans to move the chapter into an apartment complex with a courtyard in the 2021-2022 year, and the chapter is

very excited to see what this year brings.

COLONY REPORTS

Tau Alpha Colony, University of Florida, Tallahassee, FL

These are very exciting times for our chapter. We are extremely thrilled to be back on campus at the best fraternity house at the University of Florida. We are also ecstatic to have been granted colony status from Tau Epsilon Phi National. While these are very exciting times for our chapter, they are also concerning times given the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with our amazing brothers and leadership leading the way, as well as our alumni helping us in any way possible, we are confident we will sign a phenomenal pledge class and have one of the best years Tau Alpha has had in a long time. We are back!



Tau Omega Colony, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI



The Tau Omega Colony of Tau Epsilon Phi at the University of Rhode Island, like every other chapter has experienced the troubles thrown at us with the coronavirus pandemic. Although our spring semester was cut short we were able to accomplish a lot as a chapter, especially growth. Coming into the fall semester we are prepared for the new restrictions and are ready to grow even more this upcoming semester. Some big plans we had we are not allowed to do such as an annual car smash philanthropy event during rush however we are working around what we can and cannot do.

Epsilon Deuteron Colony, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

The Epsilon Deuteron Colony at Florida State University had an exceptional year. After months of planning, we successfully held our first Fall Rush and gained 5 new brothers as a result. All of the brothers here at Florida State have all been working collectively to make the future of this promising Colony even brighter by coming together to organize events, from our many themed parties held throughout the semesters to volunteering our time to assist the Alzheimer's Project with tasks in which they need assistance. We plan on continuing to build up from here going into this upcoming semester by planning philanthropic events along with expanding our chapter and increasing the amount of quality men that demonstrate the ideals and principles of Tau Epsilon Phi.

COLONY REPORTS

Zeta Tau Colony, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC



Zeta Tau is moving forward despite the hardship in front of us. This past year has presented obstacles in almost every aspect of our lives. School is opening, but all fraternal events are effectively prohibited. Orientation is happening, but it is online and not conducive to meeting freshman. Nonetheless, we believe that when the going gets tough the tough gets going.

We have launched our campaign to make this the best rush yet despite the challenges we face. Our Instagram team is messaging every single freshman individually to invite them to zoom calls. Our advisor has placed a "TEP Welcome Sign" on the billboard across from the school. Phired Up, presented to us by Nick

Dondiego, is actively becoming a part of our new rush style.

We can't pretend that COVID doesn't exist, and we can't say this semester won't be tough, but, Zeta Tau is ready to give it our all and swing for the fences.

**Bader
Stillman, PL**
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS
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Executive Directors Report



We have all heard it before, but to say that these are unprecedented times is an understatement. As the coronavirus took over the country, campus by campus sent all our members home, most closing either just before or after spring break. I think it's safe to say, no one could have predicted this and no one was prepared for the eventual shutdown of the country. We made the difficult decision to end candidate programs early and instruct our chapters to initiate their candidates as soon as possible if at all practical. The remaining chapters hope to conduct those ceremonies this coming fall or whenever it is safe to do so. This coming fall semester is still a work in progress as many campuses adjust or delay the release of their start plans. We are seeing some campuses going fully remote while others optimistically hope to return to some sense of normalcy. With rare occasion, most campuses will either be ending the semester just before the Thanksgiving holiday or finishing out classes and/or finals remotely. It is our hope that at least those returning to campus will be able to stay in their "community bubbles" and not have rampant outbreaks forcing students to return home early. I have been working with our North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC)

partners as well as the Fraternity Executives Association (FEA) to try and prepare various scenarios of what life will look like. I am beyond thankful to have access to these resources and partners to share ideas and strategies to weather the storm. This support network has been invaluable. We all look forward to the day this pandemic is behind us and we are able to return to some sense of routine. In addition to the challenges faced by COVID-19, we are also seeing an ongoing Anti Greek Life movement across the country. Several of the campuses where we have chapters are battling efforts to shut down the fraternity system due to alleged discrimination and sexual assault claims that have surfaced via anonymous emails, social media accounts, and websites. We strongly condemn any acts of racism or assault and pledge to work with those communities to address any concerns they may have. Thankfully, at this time TEΦ hasn't been signaled out, but we have informed all our chapter leaders to immediately contact us if they or any member have concerns or are being targeted. TEΦ has had a long history of anti-discrimination and we stand united to continue that tradition.

On a positive note, one of the last trips I was able to make before the nationwide shutdown was to our newest chapter, the Phi Upsilon Chapter at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. We couldn't be prouder of this group who has continued to grow steadily over time and now ranks as one of the fraternal leaders on their campus. On March 7, Nick Dondiego our chapter services consultant and I presented the chapter their charter. SUNY Buffalo had actually been TEΦ's first expansion campus after I was elected Consul in 2016, so it was an even greater honor to have come full circle with them by personally presenting their charter. We look forward to their continued success.

Lastly, as you have read, the Grand Council made the difficult but prudent decision to modify our 2020 Grand Chapter and Convention plans. We all were looking forward to a different type of event, one that encouraged family participation by having the event at the Great Wolf Lodge in Charlotte, North Carolina. Now this event will be virtual for the health and safety of all. We hope not only our undergraduates but many alumni will join us for this unique event. Details of the new format are still being put together, but once they are finalized, we will share those via email, social media and our website on how to participate.

Please stay safe!

Fraternally,
Tim Smith, EI 358
Executive Director
tsmith@tep.org

Staff Updates



Brothers,

I sure wish we were in better times; this pandemic has caused many trials and tribulations as well as anger, sorrow and pain. We hear the words it is a trying time, a time of unprecedented problems over and over again. It will not be easy for the unforeseeable future and we will all be sure to feel more of this. All we can do now is to keep moving forward in every way we can and take each day as an opportunity to do more to better ourselves. Your staff and Grand Council have not stopped during this time and are constantly striving for excellence and taking on new projects that we are glad to work on.

However, taking things to a positive look we can use this as our motivation to plan and take the necessary steps to make ourselves stronger rather than weaker or complacent. Numerous projects that I have been able to work on during this is to tackle our branding and digital media kit. This is still a work in progress but should provide much clarification and resources in how we operate our brand in today's digital media. This clarification will give us more brand awareness and equity in the fraternal world. There are also new efforts in video creation that will be coming out soon on our YouTube channel and will be advertised on all of our social media platforms. In having new resources for social media marketing, we can create our own path to a chapter level of digital advertising and digital recruitment, a tactic we now must adopt into our practices.

In another part of this plume there is a page solely dedicated to the digital classroom tool we are now providing to our members to help with fall recruitment. The intent with this is to help our chapters think of out of the box and operate a successful rush period during COVID. I highly suggest reading this to get further insight on our new partnership with the provider of this tool Phired Up. Also, our project in helping students find financial aid in scholarships and grants come from our new online resources Goingmerry and Cappex. These two scholarship services are free and personalize themselves around the user to pair them with the best scholarships geared towards their personality and major. You can find more about this at tep.org, the links there will guide you to their free account creation landing page.

In reflection on this past year with Tau Epsilon Phi it has been a life changer. To have the opportunity to visit every chapter and help in the aid of expansion and improvement for Tau Epsilon Phi has been a pure enjoyment. Work is fun yet challenging while testing and improving my skillset. I have met many impressive executive boards and motivated brothers who I see making a huge difference not only on their campus but in their personal ventures. Traveling was fun and full of learning; every chapter operates so differently than the last and the knowledge to understand these chapters is what is going to help National solidify a great bond with its undergraduates. I am happy to help each member in any way I can and was proud to be at the Buffalo and Indiana charter presentations. I had not been to one other than my own at Rowan. I strive to work in student activities and do my best to push our fraternity past limitations and put as much effort as I can to figure out how to improve the lives of our students and the operations of the National Fraternity. I am more motivated than ever and simply put I cannot wait to get back to visiting chapters and seeing the world. Thank you for this opportunity, I am very excited to share more of my work as time comes.

TEP DOES

Nicholas Dondiego

Tau Epsilon Phi Inc. Chapter Services Consultant

Staff Updates



Greetings Brothers,

First and foremost, I want to congratulate all of our graduates on your accomplishments this year. As fraternity men we understand the significance of this feat but also the meaning behind the life you must part with. I can only try to perceive how it must feel to have a semester abruptly end although I can relate in the sense that I had many more plans with all of you that we have missed out on. I wish you all the best as you start your careers and can't wait to hear of how you chased and accomplished your goals.

Furthermore, I hope you are all doing well and are healthy. As many of us are staying home spending time with our families our Brotherhood stands strong in support. Although we may not have access to the interactions with our Brothers as we wish we are realizing we had those long-distance connections all along. Even though COVID-19 is forcing us to meet our new classmates over Zoom and hold spacious bonfires in replacement of campus concerts we continue efforts to grow our Brotherhood. Although the pandemic has put a detour in our plans at the University of Maine, we look forward to returning to establish our Tau Zeta chapter and add another chapter to the New England region.

Jacob C. Corter
Tau Epsilon Phi Expansion Consultant



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The Plume team is excited to reintroduce the advertisement program for all brothers of Tau Epsilon Phi. In the past editions, entrepreneurs, recruiters, and business owners could find their products promoted to successful TEP men and affiliates from prestigious universities and institutions. The full brotherhood benefitted from this program and it is time for its return. For a competitive fee, your ad will be featured in two editions of the Plume, complete with everything *you* need for success. We also welcome advertised shout-outs for those wanting to show their love for pledge class, chapter, and other TEP brothers.

To participate, please contact Dave Cass at plume@tep.org with your name and that of your business. All ads may be published in color and come in the following sizes:

- ◇ **Business Card - \$40.00**
- ◇ **Quarter-Page - \$60.00**
- ◇ **Half-Page - \$80.00**
- ◇ **Full-Page - \$100.00**

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 Lane B. Koplon, N - 2011-2016
 Timothy A. Smith, EI - 2007-08, 2016-18
 Kirill Reznik, BA - 2018-Present

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 P University of Pennsylvania
 TB University of Maryland
 EΘ Queens College
 EI Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 ΣΕ Rutgers University, Camden
 ΛΦΕ Clarkson University
 ΣΑΣ Hofstra University
 ΑΦ Rutgers University, New Brunswick
 ΦX City College of New York
 ΩΑ Johnson and Wales University
 AT Rowan University
 ΦY University at Buffalo, SUNY
 ΓT Indiana University, Bloomington
 TΩ University of Rhode Island – COLONY
 EΦ Pennsylvania State University – COLONY
 ZT Uni. of North Carolina, Wilmington – COLONY
 ΑΣ University at Albany, SUNY – COLONY
 Eβ Florida State University, Tallahassee – COLONY
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 EΘ Queens College
 EI Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 EΦ Penn State Alumni Association
 TAK Lehigh University
 ΛΦΕ Clarkson University
 ΦX City College of New York

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Matt Johnson, EI – *Senior Editor, Senior Writer*
 Tim Smith, EI – *Editor*
 Nick Dondiego – *Editor*
 Dave Cass Jr., EI – *Organizer*

PUBLICATIONS NOTICE

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

plume@tep.org

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