

the PLUME

THE TAU EPSILON PHI FRATERNITY

Volume 78 Issue 1

Winter 2020



The Consul's Corner

Spring is always a time for renewal, and as we enter the Spring semester of 2020, we want to both look back at all we have accomplished and look ahead to what is still in store for our fraternity. For those undergraduate brothers who are graduating this semester, we hope that your college years as part of Tau Epsilon Phi have been memorable, and that you take with you not just lifelong friendships, but a sense of purpose for your future, instilled in you by your brotherhood. For those returning brothers, I hope that you face the remainder of your college career with dedication, academic vigor, and a commitment to making you chapter better than how you found it. For alumni, now is as good a time as ever to reflect on how you can give back to your fraternity by donating your time, your talent, or your treasures to help grow and advance our brotherhood.

The Spring 2020 semester brings us to our 21st campus at the University of Maine at Orono. Originally founded in 1929, the Tau Zeta chapter at the University of Maine was brought back through the hard work and advocacy of two dedicated alumni, Douglas Thornton and Leonard Minsky. Once the re-founding class is initiated it will be our northern most campus.

In addition to the University of Maine we've successfully secured several other campus returns. We are finalizing details to return to the University of Florida (Tau Alpha) this coming Fall 2020, and have commitments to return to the University of Delaware (Phi Psi) in Fall 2021, and Towson University (Tau Sigma Upsilon) in Fall of 2023. Some of these dates seem far away, but having these commitments helps us to establish a pipeline for guaranteed growth in the future.

We are also excited about our future expansion. We are actively talking to multiple campuses in New York, New Jersey, and Florida, and beginning to look at campuses in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and other states. The number one question I get from alumni when we announce a new expansion is "What about my campus?" We would love to get back to your campus if possible, but we need your help to do that. Is your son, grandson, nephew, brother, friend, or neighbor heading to college this Fall? Encourage them to pledge Tau Epsilon Phi, and if there isn't already a chapter or colony on campus, encourage them to start one.



If you haven't seen our new website, please visit it at www.tep.org. It is better organized and has a number of new features, including Chapter and Alumni resources, a new and improved TEF Store, and a lot of other great information. Over the next few months we will be developing individual landing pages for each chapter and colony, and will begin to actively advertise the TEF Job Board to help graduating undergrads and alumni find professional opportunities.

Finally, I wanted to remind everyone that Grand Chapter 2020 is planned for October at Great Wolf Lodge in Charlotte, North Carolina. Please look for more information in this issue of The Plume, as well as on our website and social media pages for additional information.

I am grateful for our brotherhood, and look forward to 2020 being the best year yet for friendship, chivalry, and service of our fraternity.

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

The PLUME

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FOR ONLINE NEWS:

www.tep.org
www.facebook.com/TauEpsilonPhiFraternity
www.linkedin.com/groups/41245
www.twitter.com/tau_epsilon_phi
www.instagram.com/tepfraternity/?hl=en

ON THE COVER:

Submitted by Brother Stuart Blumberg (Consul, 89-91), the brothers of the Tau Alpha pledge class of 1954 gathered recently for their 65th pledge class reunion dinner. Initially consisting of 98 candidates and crossing 34 brothers into the Tau Epsilon Phi portals, these are the 12 remaining members of TA'54. All of the pledge class members were able to attend, proving once more one of our dearest of sentiments; that FRIENDSHIP IS ETERNAL.

MERCHANDISE SITE:

<https://findgreek.com/tauepsilonphi>

TEP JOB BOARD:

www.tep.org/job-board/

The TEP Foundation

“WE ARE NOT MAKERS OF HISTORY. WE ARE MADE BY HISTORY.”
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

For 110 years, every brother has cherished their memories, these recollections combine to illustrate the core of what Tau Epsilon Phi encompasses. So, in honor of that 110th year, the TEP Foundation has created a Virtual Museum on its website, the foundation is asking members to contribute their experiences to build this new addition. If you have a story, old photos, or images of unique mementos please share them on the TEP foundations site.

“We want to collect those written memories, anecdotes, and photos from the perspective of the brothers and give a voice to both our individual and collective history. The TEP Foundation wants to memorialize and share the testimonies of Tau Epsilon Phi in a way that only members can,” said Alan Ledewitz

TEP Foundation President and a past recipient of the Doc Schwartz Memorial award.

As we embark on this collection of histories, we also ask for you to take a moment to donate to the foundation. These donations provide important scholarships and leadership training we couldn't undertake without them. Please send your stories and pictures to alan.ledewitz@thefoundation.org to have them posted on the new website. For donations please go to www.thetepfoundation.org and click on the donation button. Thank you to all those who donated to the Foundation during the National Day of Giving and Consuls challenge. Though we fell short of the Challenge to collect \$26,400.00 which is 10% of the 2400 members of our Facebook group we are off to a good start for 2020 and our 110th year. The Foundations goal is to be able to increase the number of scholarships awarded and the amounts along with raising money for leadership programming to help our Chapters and Colonies build strong leaders for the future of the brotherhood and in their professional lives after college.

Foundation Trustees can be found on the National Directory page

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

Al Versacci TEP Leadership Award

Congratulations to Jonah Anderson for being the recipient of the Al Versacci TEP Leadership Award. Jonah is the Chancellor of the Epsilon Deuteron Colony at Florida State University studying Psychology and Nursing with the plans to become a Nurse Practitioner in Emergency Medicine. Jonah's dedication to Tau Epsilon Phi, Education and career goals exemplified what we were looking for.



We received a lot of excellent nominations and we appreciate all the brothers and Alumni who submitted their nominations.

Please keep a look out for the 2020 award applications to be awarded at the 2020 Grand Chapter. The applications will be available by February 15, 2020 and due back by June 1, 2020.

TEPs are Tops

The TEP Foundation

CHARLOTTE 2020 CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE:

OCTOBER 15TH-18TH, 2020

GREAT WOLF LODGE

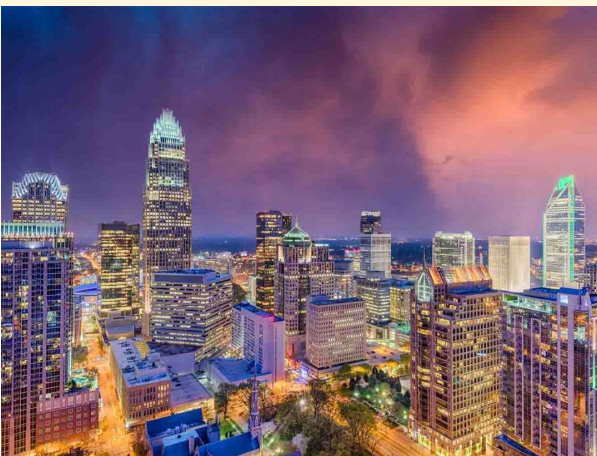
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



The Great Wolf Lodge, Charlotte, North Carolina will be the site of our next Grand Chapter Convention.

AS WE LOOK BACK ON ANOTHER DECADE IN OUR HISTORY, we also look for-

ward, striving to achieve the goals of the past and set new ones for the future. As a society, we constantly seek change to bring about new ideas, better systems, and to shatter the norms of the past. As a fraternity, Tau Epsilon Phi has never been any different.



Bird's-eye-view of the gorgeous downtown Charlotte, North Carolina.

As is our tradition, we shall convene once again for our Grand Chapter Convention next fall in Charlotte, North Carolina. Home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame, Cedar Fair's Carowinds, and the Carolina Raptor Center, TEP will paint the "Queen's City" lavender and white as we gather once again to honor our three ideals of **FRIENDSHIP, CHIVALRY, & SERVICE**.

**REGISTRATION & FURTHER DETAILS WILL OPEN
AND BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
STARTING MARCH 20TH**

DIGITAL OVERHAUL

Taking a deeper look at the new and improved tep.org.

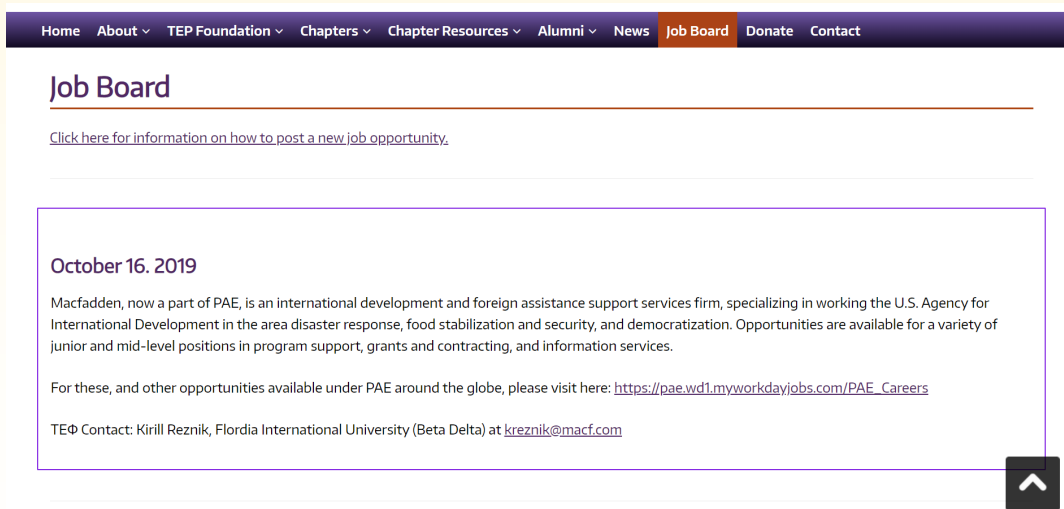
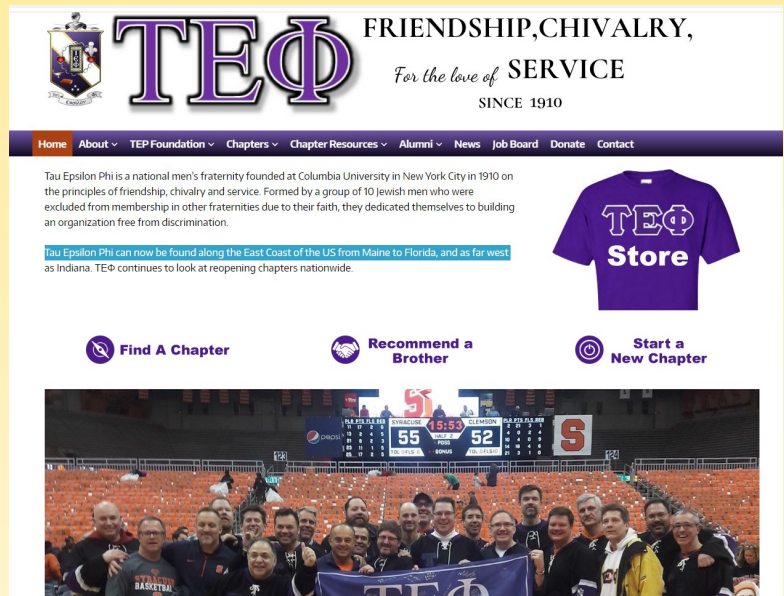
Over the past few months, the National Office has been working toward an updated website for the brothers to keep up with the organization on. As you can see from the clean look of the homepage (*right*), aesthetically, the new look is not only cleaner and boasts the key points of the fraternity, it also allows for a far more intuitive approach to the organization's site. Rather than just mention the new site's capabilities, let's jump online and walk through!

SITE FLOW

The homepage consists of a slideshow of recent TEP happenings and news, as well as quick links for information about the fraternity and it's members. The new site has hyperlinks across all pages to link out to other TEP media sites, including the new store website. Each major facet of the fraternity is now found in dropdown menus that are very easy to traverse. A new feature being included in the website is the Job Board.

JOB BOARD

In lieu of including job listings in the Plume with today's digital connectivity, brothers can now add job listings to the website! This gives older, more established brothers the chance to not only pass down their knowledge, but also build bridges of opportunity for our other members. As seen in the image below, jobs, as added, will accumulate on the page for members seeking employment to use and reach out to you for references. Who knows? You might possibly create new bonds with a brother you were never likely to meet. As is the driving force with many things today, that communication is still key to building any bridge.



CONTACT

Last but not least, the new site includes multiple ways to reach out to the different facets of the fraternity. We are always seeking new voices and ideas to push the fraternity forward. If you would like to volunteer, donate, research, or just say hello, feel free to check out the new www.tep.org

BLAST FROM THE PAST

1991 was a very polarized year for Tau Epsilon Phi, from losing possibly the greatest brother to ever don the lavender and white, Sydney "The Bald Eagle" Suntag. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the organization made substantial charitable donations on both national and local levels, added multiple new groups, and showed strong academics on the national level. As Greek Undergrads, one can only strive each day to achieve his highest marks in the classroom. Academia is not something that one can just understand. Intelligence can be born and bred, but the perseverance to strive for a higher step, that is not only taught, but earned. The Order of Omega is the highest academic achievement Greek Undergraduates can accomplish. In 1991, Tau Epsilon Phi was proud to include an article highlighting the academic successes of 18, yes 18 TEPs initiated into the Order of Omega. Near 30 years later, there is no doubt these once young undergraduates have grown into incredible TEP men, building not only the bridge, but the silhouette of what a strong TEP undergrad once was before the days of social media and laptops in the classroom.

ORDER OF OMEGA INITIATES TEPs

The National Order of Omega recently initiated outstanding students from across the country into their organization. We are pleased to announce that the following TEP undergraduates were so honored:

TAU ALPHA (UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA)
David Stern
PHI BETA (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA)
Stan Feldman
NU (UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA)
GREGORY JAY
TAU THETA (GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY)
Michael Martel
SIGMA ALPHA SIGMA (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY)
Christopher Belomy
Michael Nocella
Pasquale Romano
PSI (UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS)
David Zwick
TAU BETA (UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)
Monty Amdursky
David Harrison
Daryn Rush
KAPPA ZETA PHI (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY)
Paul Cowan
RHO (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA)
Jeffrey Berson
EPSILON NU (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)
Christopher Marks
RUTGERS STATE UNIVERSITY - NEW JERSEY
Richard Dorsett
Steven Leonard
Joseph Rotondo
Salvatore Rotondo

Vets of TEΦ

Honoring the most chivalrous among us.



Since the dawn of civilization, humanity has found its different ways to create conflict and come together. Our fraternity is a shining example of the latter. However, in times of conflict and chaos, there have always been the bravest, most chivalrous among us. From soldiers on the battlefield, sailors on the ocean, pilots in the skies, and first responders and defense agents on the homefront, these warriors have and do sacrifice all the time. Among the ranks of warriors that have fought for our nation, both overseas and here at

home, our brothers have never run from the call. Not all of us have answered it, but I want to take the time each winter to not only thank our troops, but focus on our brothers among them. To all who have joined both the brotherhood's of Tau Epsilon Phi and of our Armed Forces, *we thank you for your service and sacrifice.* If you would like to be featured or have a brother in mind who you think would be a good feature for this veteran spotlight segment next winter, please reach out to me at plume@tep.org.

BROTHER CHRISTOPHER "KONY" MELBOURNE, EO #594

For the first edition of our veteran spotlight, I wanted to start close to the Grand Council with the current Vice Consul for Undergraduate Affairs, Brother Chris Melbourne. Chris served in the Navy as a Fire Controlman from 1998-2004, prior to his time as a brother. In speaking with Chris, he said his life was "all over the place" before he joined the Navy, but the lessons he learned through his time with the branch "taught [him] about who [he] was as a person. It really shaped who [he is] today."

Chris has taken all the lessons and skills from the Navy to his role in the fraternity, both in the past as a chapter leader as an undergrad, and now as a member of national in direct communication with our undergraduates. When asked what he would say to the brothers who follow him if he was only given one sentence, Chris remarked: "No matter what you do, life gives you nothing, nothing is free, and you need to go fight for it. Nothing good comes with ease, so go out and get it."



UNDERGRADUATE REPORTS

As alumni, the passion developed and memories made as an undergraduate member of Tau Epsilon Phi are what keep us coming back. Much like riding a bicycle, the ideals of our fraternity never leave us so far as the nearest spider, urban legend claiming nary more than three feet. In returning to what made us TEP men, we once again check in with those currently in the shoes we once walked, on the bridge we are now building, to see the growth, progress, and success of our now twenty groups across the country. With the chartering of Gamma Tau at Indiana University and Phi Upsilon at SUNY Buffalo, our chapter count is now at fifteen. With both the Recolonization of Epsilon Deuteron at Florida State University and Alpha Sigma at SUNY Albany, our colony count is now at five. *Some groups were unable to submit reports, and will be covered in the next edition of the Summer Plume (Vol. 78, Is. 2).*

Tau Beta Chapter, University of Maryland at College Park, College Park, MD

This past fall semester has been yet another success for the chapter. We are proud to induct a new pledge class, the Beta Gammas, consisting of 3 exemplary men. In addition, we organized multiple philanthropy fundraisers and raised over \$6,000 for both cancer research and Rhett's disease. The chapter also gave back to the community by participating in the Clean City Project in which the TB boys picked up trash around campus. In an effort to build a stronger brotherhood, we also fostered 2 puppies, Bents and CiCi, for a couple of weeks. This was an amazing opportunity and an experience our brothers will never forget. Overall, the semester proved to be another success and we are extremely excited to continue our growth in the upcoming spring semester!



Phi Chi Chapter, City College of New York, New York City, New York

Here at the City College of New York, our Fall semester was quiet but not without event. With the Autumn and Winter seasons falling under the Fall semester, we celebrated both our Undergraduate Thanksgiving Dinner and our Alumni Christmas Dinner - the latter of which was done in partnership with the CCNY Latino Alumni Group. In addition, the Epsilon Iota pledge class was small, but our newest brother Quetzal worked and fought long and hard to make a name for himself, as one of the few brothers to cross in a one-man pledge class.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Alpha Tau Chapter, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ



Greetings from the Alpha Tau chapter at Rowan University! The concluding semester of the decade has been nothing short of a blast. We participated in varying amounts of events, ranging from multiple visits to Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, to raising over \$1,000 for suicide prevention in a pageant hosted by Rowan's Sigma Delta Tau chapter, which was one of many fundraising pageants that we participated in. We were able to secure another undergraduate property, further expanding our reach around campus, and presence in the community. From planning hikes together at a nearby quarry, visiting two different chapters (Sigma Epsilon & Epsilon Iota), to even forming our own undergraduate band *Scooby and the One-Shots*, the Alpha Tau chapter has been hard at work while keeping busy and mixing in some fun.

Lastly, we have two brothers who have now moved on in their lives to what has been awaiting them after graduation. We wish you nothing but the best in life moving forward, representing our fraternity in the professional world. To Alpha Tau's Christopher "Bender" Costa and Andrew "Bumble" Weatherby, make sure to come back and visit soon and keep what the portals taught you in both your hearts and minds.

Fraternally,

Dylan Reynolds
Scooby-Rose AT 107

Epsilon Iota Chapter, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

The Epsilon Iota chapter boasts an astounding spring recruitment period, after much achievement in the fall semester. The brothers maintained a strong presence on campus by raising money for children of veteran families. The chapter welcomed a new member in their Epsilon Kappa pledge class and the eight-member group took on large amounts of responsibility. This semester, the brothers are focusing their efforts on maintaining the tight-knit relationship within the house and continuing to recruit new members while building a stronger reputation for Tau Epsilon Phi in Troy, New York.

COLONY REPORTS

Alpha Sigma Colony, University at Albany, Albany, NY

The Fall 2019 semester was our colony's first semester on campus and our first opportunity to take a pledge class. We were able to grow our chapter by taking 9 new members in our Alpha Class. We participated in community service events such as the Pine Hills Clean Up. In this event we joined other Greek Life organizations and cleaned up garbage around the neighborhood where students primarily live. We also hosted programs with other Greek Life organizations on campus to help get our name out and get involved with other organizations. We feel we are making a name for ourselves on our campus and our hoping to continue our growth during the Spring 2020 semester.



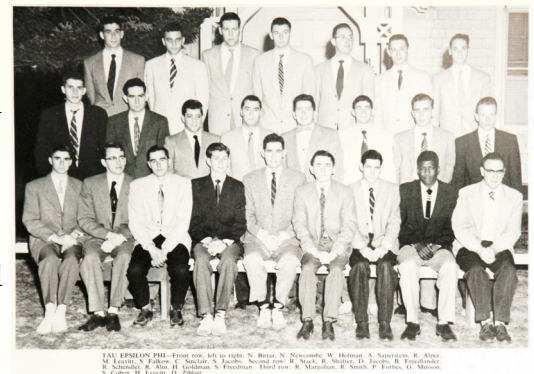
Tau Omega Colony, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island



Going into the fall semester of 2019 for the Tau Omega colony of Tau Epsilon Phi, at the University of Rhode Island, we were anticipating a huge rush. After growing quickly and winning Greek Week the spring of 2019, we wanted to take a large class to grow even more. Our Fall semester we accomplished that goal and took a great and well balanced class that will help us grow a lot. Some of our members also had won an intramural soccer championship during the fall. We worked hard setting up philanthropy and community service events to help out the community. With a new e-board going into the next year, we are excited to bring new things to this chapter and improve in all aspects.

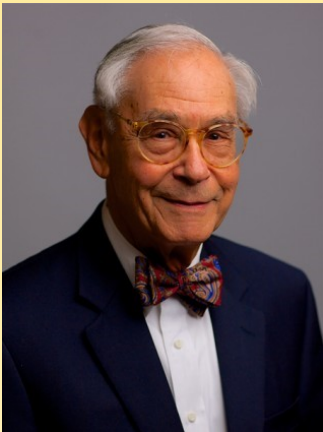
Tau Zeta, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Expansion consultant Jacob Corter's current project is bringing back our Tau Zeta chapter at The University of Maine. Founded in 1929, Tau Zeta prospered until about the mid-1990s. Neither our brothers nor the school seem to know why the chapter closed its doors, but regardless both parties are very excited for its return. Jacob would like to extend a special thank you to this issue's Featured Brother Leonard Minsky whose connections at the school are the reason TEΦ was given priority to expand this year. Tau Epsilon Phi has had a rich history on the UMaine campus. With this information and the desire by the student body to welcome a new fraternity with new and inclusive ideals, TEΦ looks to improve the community as a whole in Orono.



TAU EPSILON PHI—Front row, left to right: N. Butler, N. Sawczuk, W. Hamann, A. Suprenant, E. Altes; 2nd row: S. Feltner, J. Schmitt, S. Jacobs; Second row: B. Smith, B. Smith, D. Jacobs, B. Friedlander; 3rd row: B. Smith, B. Smith, S. Friedman; Third row: B. Marston, B. Smith, F. Forbes, G. Minsky; 4th row: B. Smith, D. Jacobs.

Featured Brother: Leonard Minsky



Spotlighting our connection back to UMaine in preparation of our return to campus.

With the eminent return of our Tau Zeta group at the University of Maine this spring, the Grand Council wanted to shine a spotlight on the connection that spring-boarded such progress:

Brother Leonard Minsky, TZ Class of 1950. I was lucky enough to speak with “Len” about his time with the fraternity, his professional career, and extensive connections to UMaine, Jewish community in the Maine area, and his extensive work around the state of Maine.

COLLEGIATE YEARS

Len attended UMaine from 1946-1950, graduating with a B.S. in Business Administration. He joined the fraternity in his time as an undergrad, serving as social chair and fundraising chair, both assisting the chapter to buying a house after Len’s graduation. Len’s involvement would only continue as an advisor to the chapter, and he would even later serve on a committee with 3 other TZ members to raise funds for and organize an expansion to the living wing of the house. In our conversation, Len loved his time as an undergrad, but “those years as an advisor, passing down knowledge and watching young boys grow into fine men under my wing, those were the best.” Len even traveled to the Tau Iota chapter at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia as a representative for national. Not only a true leader to his chapter, Len would go on to lead all through his professional career.

PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

After college and some time with the fraternity as an advisor, Len met and married his beloved wife Renee, pictured together top right. He then founded Superior Paper Products Inc, a paper packaging and merchandising company that he was the President of for the majority of his career. On top of his own organization, Len served on various different Boards for both local decision making and corporate avenues, such as the Board Chairman



for the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Chair & Founder of the Bangor Foreign Policy Forum, Chair of the Jewish Community Council, and so many more. Len’s reach truly knew no bounds, as he was

able to touch many parts of the Bangor community with his work. And when he and Renee decided it was time to hang up the briefcases, the work didn’t stop there.

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS AND OTHERS

Len and Renee have always held the arts close to their hearts. After their success in the community, they decided to give back. Not only did they establish multiple fundraisers and endowments for the University of Maine, its arts departments (particularly spearheading the visual arts department), and the Maine arts community as a whole, the Minsky’s have also served as Chairs to the Maine Patrons of the Arts for the last 35 years. From sponsoring local art installations and shows to gifted naming rights of the Minsky Recital Hall on UMaine’s campus, the Minsky name has changed Maine’s arts forever. The University sure agrees, too, having awarded Len and Renee with various awards, including both the Stillwater Award (UMaine’s highest ranking award) and the Hartgen Award for impact to the Arts department. Len even holds an honorary degree from the University of Maine.

I read an article prior to speaking with Len I felt really drove home how amazing a man he is, even down to the little things, and especially in regards to our ideals. His foreign policy forum and Jewish outreach group helped bring 14 Chinese families to Bangor to help them start a new life. Len gave one of the gentlemen, who didn’t know English, his very first job. 40 years later, that man’s kids threw Len and his forum members a party to thank them for the chances their efforts allowed them (pictured below). I couldn’t help but think that was karma screaming at us that chivalry and service are not forgotten. For those lessons and all of your work, thank you Len.



TEP & BBYO:

A Match Made In Fraternal Heaven

This coming February 13th through 17th the B'nai Brith Youth Organization will be hosting its 2020 International Convention in Dallas, Texas. As the largest gathering of Jewish teens worldwide each year, IC will host over 5,000 teen leaders, educators, professionals and philanthropists from around the world. We are proud to attend as a multi-year Gold Level Partner this year.

BBYO International Convention is an excellent time for TEP to connect with Jewish teens and give them an opportunity to learn about our fraternity. In the past we have been able to connect with hundreds of Jewish teens to tell them about TEP. Our goal is to bring TEP to the forefront of consideration when these young men reach college campuses. We will be working to connect future prospective members to our chapters and colonies when it comes time for them to rush.



A highlight of our time at IC will be the Greek College Panel hosted by Tau Epsilon Phi. We will be hosting an event where I will facilitate a discussion surrounding the Greek Jewish college experience. The panel will also include members of Sigma Delta Tau, Alpha Epsilon Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi and Zeta Beta Tau. I am very excited to share more about the TEP experience with Jewish teens that we may someday call brothers.

If you know of anyone that will be attending BBYO International Convention this February, please reach out to them to stop by our booth and connect with the TEP brothers while they are in Dallas. If you have any questions or suggestions relating to our BBYO efforts, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at josh.frieser@gmail.com.

Fraternally,

Joshua Frieser

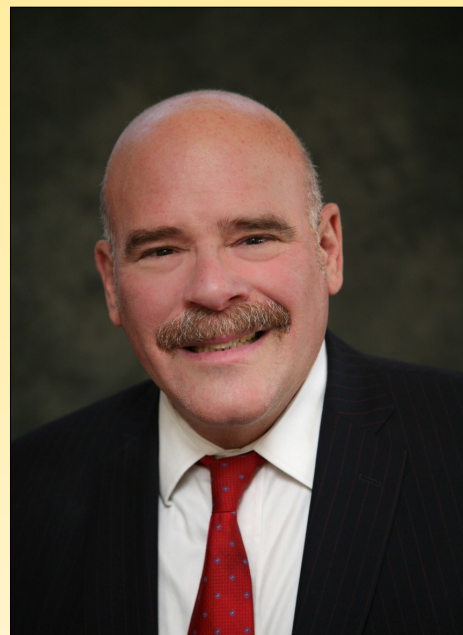
ΓΤ 1

Remarks on Alumni Relations

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

The Alumni Outreach Committee is continuing to work on developing a more organized approach to reaching our alumni. Topics we are working on are better ways to use Member Planet for our alumni clubs as well as individual alumni, a workable dues structure for membership and alumni clubs, and better methods of communication. Our goal is to have some proposals ready for the Grand Chapter meeting in October.

The committee members are Mark Gardner (CCNY), DJ Jones (Johnson & Wales), Seth Meyer (Binghamton), John McCardle (SUNY New Paltz) and Alan Ledewitz (FIU) representing the TEP Foundation. We are still looking for brothers for this committee. If you are interested, email me at mabramson@tep.org.



Roll Call of The Chapter Eternals

"-to hold eternally before us the memory of those whom we have loved and lost-"

Brother Bernard "Bernie" David Gartner
Psi Chapter #366, University of Illinois

Brother Donald MacKie
Epsilon Phi Chapter, Marietta College

Brother Adam Doner
Tau Alpha Chapter, University of Florida

Executive Director Update



This past summer and fall semester were a busy time for Tau Epsilon Phi. In addition to the hiring of two new staff members we attended many industry conventions / conferences. Those included the annual meeting of the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) where I was again honored and humbled by our inter-fraternal colleagues to be elected to serve a second term on the NIC governing council. I was also able to attend training put on by the Fraternity Executives Association (FEA) regarding mental health. Additionally, I attended risk management training that was put on by the HART Institute for social planning and sponsored by our insurance provider, Holmes Murphy. As a member of the NIC governing council, I was invited to attend for the first time the annual Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) Annual meeting. This conference (different in style from most) gave us an opportunity to work with senior administrators in education to help address issues facing many campus and Greek life organizations utilizing a round table discussion format. Each table was chosen so that no one at a table was working with anyone they had previously known. This created a blank slate allowing everyone to have open and honest conversations about whatever topic was being discussed. As the day went on, the groups would come back together as a whole and report out their findings. While we are certainly early on in these discussions, I remain cautiously optimistic about coming together to find solutions that would benefit both sides of the isle. Lastly to wrap up the year, I attended the annual Fraternal Law Conference with Second Vice Consul Wolf, and then represented the fraternity at the annual meeting of the Association for Fraternity Advisors (AFA).

In addition to the various conferences and conventions we attended, I personally traveled to several chapters that were having issues with internal operations, finances, or even challenges with their University. Many of those issues have since been resolved, and for those still ongoing, I continue to provide support and guidance with the hope of a speedy resolution.

It has been brought to my attention that there is a rumor going around that TEP no longer supports BBYO's International Convention (IC.) For those not in the know, TEP National has participated in this annual event since we reorganized the fraternity back in 2012. I want to assure everyone that is NOT the case. Not only have we as an organization affirmed our commitment to BBYO IC, we have committed to being a multi-year gold sponsor for this event. Alumnus Brother Josh Frieser from our Gamma Tau Chapter at Indiana University has agreed to chair this event and we have come up with some unique ideas to help drive focus not only to our booth, but to engage the members of BBYO in the benefits of joining a collegiate fraternity. We are excited for the publicity and potential opportunities this may have with recruitment especially at our historically Jewish chapters.

Lastly, I want to thank all those Brothers who have reached out and shared their comments and support on the efforts we have made to grow and promote TEP. We have come so far since taking our organization back in 2011 and we have some great plans to continue to expand our organization at campuses for the coming years. I hope you share with me the hope for the future as it truly is bright. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance.

I wish you all, nothing but the best!

Fraternally,

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

Staff Reports

Remarks from Brothers Recently Employed



Expansion Consultant: Brother Jacob C. Corter (AT)

Last semester started my journey as Expansion Consultant for Tau Epsilon Phi. Although it was a pretty significant adjustment, I am enjoying the work I am doing for our organization and work towards improving the services I provide. In the short time that I have been on staff there has been much to take in.

My first trip involved traveling to Tallahassee our newest colony at Florida State University. It was impressive to see their progress and knowledgeability and fraternal operations being as they were initiated so recently. As of now, these men are having difficulty being recognized by the FSU IFC for unjust reasons, as we continue to work through these challenges they not only deserve but have full support from National.

In December, I spent time visiting our Tau Omega colony at The University of Rhode Island. Seeing our group at URI recruit a 20 man pledge class was tremendous to see. The brotherhood exemplified with this group is strong and I'm excited to hear about their spring rush and future events. Over the break we were in search of an alumni advisor for TΩ as Joseph Amen, a JWU alumni stepped up. I believe the relationship will be extremely beneficial to them as well as the school and National. Joe is a respected brother at ΩA and was crucial to their success as he served as an officer for most of his undergraduate career.

In January, I was off to Wilmington, NC to meet our Zeta Tau colony. I learned much about the guys and their endeavors in being recognized on campus and operating on a campus that is not familiar with TEΦ. I also learned of their annual philanthropy event "TEΦ in the Dark" which has been a huge success so far in raising money for Our Military Kids. It was a pleasure to visit this group and check up on their progress as they welcomed me at their events and asked for advice to improve themselves in every aspect. The former colony of the year is looking to reclaim their title come October.

I look forward to continuing the growth of TEΦ that so many dedicated brothers have worked vigorously toward the last 10 years. Tau Epsilon Phi has two prominent expansions to look forward to in the next two years, recolonization at The University of Florida and SUNY Binghamton. Bringing back these two chapters will push our brotherhood in further in the positive direction and will lead to opportunities of expansions elsewhere. The following years will be busy for Tau Epsilon Phi, but that correlates to the positive growth of brotherhood that we have strived to bring back; To share with new undergraduates the phenomenal experience of what being a TEΦ entails. Of course, this involves supporting our undergraduates and assisting their endeavors with growth as well. A well operated and responsible fraternity has the potential to bring light to a campus for many years to come. As we look toward the Spring, I can't wait to meet and reconnect with my brothers from across the nation and continue the work towards improvement and growth.

Staff Reports (Continued)

Remarks from Brothers Recently Employed



Chapter Services Consultant: Brother Nicholas Dondiego (AT)

Nick was hired as our Chapter Services Consultant this past August following his graduation from Rowan University with a bachelors of science in business marketing. During Nicks time as an undergraduate from our Alpha Tau chapter he held multiple positions such as Chancellor, Assistant Warden, Rush Chair, and more; giving him the experience and knowledge that propels his efforts as our consultant further.

Nick's goals are to increasingly add programs that bring more value to our undergraduate chapters to strengthen the bridge between our national organization and the undergraduate chapters. These efforts can be seen with our new policy on donating to undergraduate chapters philanthropic efforts that Nick proposed at this past Grand Council meeting. This will further show the steps our organization is taking to help our undergraduates as this is a small step in the right direction, so is our current rush shirt competition to build a resource of rush shirts to order from any chapter. Allowing chapters to share their creativity and brand awareness on their campus. Nick's hope is to add more events such as this to benefit the undergraduates and connect them to one another.

Another effort currently going on is Nick's training to use Canva and social media to help recruitment, image on campus and relations to other greek organizations. This can also be seen with our current social media accounts that we implore you to follow and keep up on as they are the best way to get a look into chapters on a daily basis. Nick has visited chapters such as Rutgers-Camden, RPI, Rutgers-New Brunswick, CCNY, and Queens College. He is more than excited to continue his visits and update his brothers of the work he will be doing.

To highlight 3 chapters, our chapter at University of Maryland has made great strides to improve upon their practices and with a massive help from their alumni we were able to retake the original house and fill it. Rutgers Camden has improved immensely increasing their numbers into the 20s with much potential for this next spring class. Lastly, the brothers from Indiana University initiated over 20 new brothers becoming an over 40 man chapter now as they earned their Chartering this semester. Nick would also like to thank all of the chapters for welcoming him into their chapter, working well with him and being accepting of the changes/advice he's given.



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Your impact will be felt across the entire brotherhood!

- ◇ **Support to the undergraduate brotherhood in the form of programming and scholarships**
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- ◇ **Increased exposure for your business, reaching over 9000 brothers and affiliates**

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 Matt Johnson 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**
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 ΦX City College of New York
 ΩΑ Johnson and Wales University
 AT Rowan University
 ΦY University of Buffalo, SUNY
 ΓT Indiana University, Bloomington
 TΩ University of Rhode Island – COLONY
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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:

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