



# THE TECH TEKE

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity | Georgia Institute of Technology | Fall 2010

Alumni Relations Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | www.betapitke.org

## From the Board

By Michael A. Smith '85



As the changing of the leaves marks the progress of the year, so does the occurrence of small controlled explosions mark our progress toward realizing a modern living space for our undergraduate members. John, Gary and Darrell have been busy with financial modeling, finalizing floor plans and getting the engineering work done (including explosions) in preparation for phase one, the razing and raising of our dormitory space, in 2011. Inside

and outside, the latest design reflects feedback from alumni and undergraduates. We will have a house that fits in the city--that looks residential but that does not pretend to be the mansion of some antebellum planter.

The first phase will be financed primarily with rent revenue. The second phase, renovation and expansion of the current social quarters, will be realized when we have completed our capital campaign. When that's done, we will be able again to house our entire membership.

We set several challenges in front of the undergraduate chapter in the areas of membership, finances, scholarship and involvement. With the help of chapter adviser **David Adcock '85** and retired HP executive and BOT member, **Karl Paul '69**, they continue to improve in all areas, starting with more methodical recruitment in the fall. We'll call a rush successful when we count how many return paying

*FROM THE BOARD, continued on page 6*

## 2011 Spring Chapter Officers

<b>Prytanis</b>	<b>James Humphrey</b>
<b>Epiptytanis</b>	<b>Kyle Orr</b>
<b>Grammateus</b>	<b>Doug Lydecker</b>
<b>Crysophylos</b>	<b>Gil Estupinan</b>
<b>Histor</b>	<b>Brandon Hoffman</b>
<b>Hypophetes</b>	<b>James Barazesh</b>
<b>Pylortes</b>	<b>John Ganter</b>
<b>Hegemon</b>	<b>Jason Bennett</b>
<b>Kitchen Steward</b>	<b>Darren Domaracki</b>
<b>Social Chair</b>	<b>Brad King</b>

## Alumni Spotlight: Joe Evans '71



Teke alum **Joe Evans '71** jokes that he never really had a choice regarding where to go to college.

"My dad brainwashed me that a Georgia Tech degree was the best education money could buy," said Evans, Chairman and CEO of State Bank and State Financial Corporation. "He had a cousin, Fitzhugh Penn, who had gone to Tech and he told me many times that Fitzhugh could always find a job, good times and bad."

There was a "fleeting moment," Evans said, when he told his dad he was thinking about attending the University of Georgia since his high school girlfriend went there. "Dad, who was a farmer, said, 'Joe, every fertilizer salesman I know went to the University of Georgia. I had always hoped you would do better than that.' End of discussion."

Evans, who would later graduate first in his class at Tech with a degree in industrial management, pledged Teke his freshman year - but it was a week after pledge Sunday. "It took John Reagan a little extra time to conclude that I was not an incorrigible hick," he said recently, laughing at the memory.

Evans grew up on his family's large farm in Smarr, Georgia, and attended a small-town high school. Moving to the city took a little getting used to. "The size and sophistication of Tech and of Atlanta blew completely through my comfort zone," he said. "The fraternity gave me a small, secure community, a sense of belonging, and a family of mentors to show me the ropes."

The relationships he built within the fraternity opened a lot of doors, he said. "**Eric Ragir '68** introduced me to the Dean of the Management College, where I succeeded Eric as the office assistant. Getting to know **Dean Dallas '68** and some of the other faculty members through the part-time job was a tremendous experience," Evans said.

Another frater, he said, passed along his job as the Texaco credit card representative on campus. "That was my first taste of financial services," said Evans, who today is one of the most respected bankers in the country.

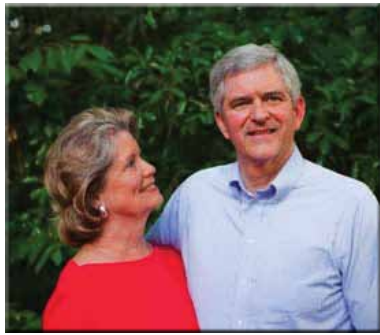
But it wasn't all work and hitting the books while at Tech. Evans has many fond memories of the fun he had there. Among the memories are:

- Living on the ground floor of the "White House" with **Mac Jordan '71**.
- Getting ready for homecoming.
- Getting ready for Rush.
- Getting ready for Rush Girl recruitment.
- Putting firecrackers under Steve St. Marie's door.
- Hanging out in **Wes Haun's '72** and Paul Chamberlain's room as a pledge.

*SPOTLIGHT, continued on page 6*

# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

## Beta-Pi Alum Elected to U.S. Congress



**D**aniel Webster '71, a family man and small-business owner, has dedicated himself to serve the citizens of Central Florida with honor and integrity. During his tenure in office, he has proven himself to be a true statesman, standing by his principles and steadily advancing conservative values.

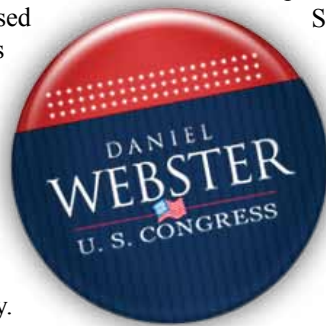
As the state House Republican Leader in the 1990s, Webster engineered the successful Republican takeover of 1996, ending 122 years of Democrat control and becoming the first GOP Speaker of the House in over a century.

From his first day in leadership, Webster worked to reform the way the Legislature did business, and his sweeping conservative reforms earned him widespread praise from the people of Florida. As Speaker of the House, Webster required each proposed law to meet specific criteria that would determine its effectiveness in advancing conservative principles.

Daniel Webster was elected to the Florida Senate in 1998 and served as Majority Leader his final three years. Being known as a man of his word, Webster continued to gain respect and acclaim on both sides of the aisle for his solid principles and trusted leadership.

Through experienced eyes, Webster sees many unacceptable practices going on in Washington today. He knows first hand how to fix broken government, restore forgotten values and create effective practices and policy. There will be no waiting period at the taxpayers' expense--Daniel Webster is ready today.

Daniel Webster has been celebrated and endorsed by nearly every respected conservative leader with whom he has worked to inspire change. He has been heralded as a responsible advocate with the ability to deliver on his promise. Webster proudly acknowledges his faith, his family, and his principles as his greatest assets. These are the same values he will rely on to guide him as our U.S. Congressman.



Webster was born on April 27, 1949 in Charleston, West Virginia. He is a distant relative of the antebellum politician and orator Daniel Webster. His family moved

to Orlando, Florida when he was seven, after a doctor recommended a change of climate as a cure for Webster's sinus problems. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he was student government chaplain from 1970 to 1971 and was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. Upon graduation, Webster's Vietnam war era student deferment expired and he became eligible for conscription into the U.S. military. He was not drafted, however, because he failed the physical exam due to lifelong foot problems which prevent him from standing for long periods of time.

Since college, Webster has worked in the family air conditioning and heating business; he presently owns and operates it. Webster lives in Winter Park, Florida. He attends First Baptist Church of Central Florida, and is on the University of Central Florida board of trustees. He has six children and five grandchildren.

Webster served 28 years in the state legislature in Tallahassee becoming the longest serving legislator in Florida history. During that time, he rose to become Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate majority leader, and left the legislature only after reaching the legal term limits. He ran unopposed in all of his elections for the state legislature except for the first three; 1980, 1982, and 1984.



**Byron Y. Hill '59** - Attended the 55th reunion, in Atlanta, of his high school class of 1955. While here, Bryon also visited his sister and her husband. The traffic on I-85 in route was so horrible, he was stuck in a 3 hour traffic jam, so he doubts he'll ever return. He has six children, currently living in CT, GA, MN, and SC. His second wife, Deanna, is in a nursing home in MN.

**Charlie C. Freel '66** - Retired from JP Morgan Chase after 34 years. He continues to live in the New Orleans suburb of Kenner

**Terry Moore '66** - Retired from IBM in 12/05 after 37 years

**Albert W. Culbreth '68** - My son, **Paul (GA Southern '05)** works with me at Retirement Planning Services in Snellville and Savannah. My son, **Bert (GT '01)** works in New York City with Target. Bert is married to Lanna and Paul is married to Kara on 6/12/2010. Paula and I celebrated 40 years on 6/20/2010.

**James Williams '83** - Is the Director, Systems Engineering and Safety at FAA Air Traffic Organization.

**Sean Cumbie '84** - Is living in Herndon, VA and working as the Senior Director of Global Sourcing for Med Immune.

**Russell Bergevine '87** - Is attending Suffolk Law School in Boston, MA.

**Joseph Miller '87** - Is the Director of IT Department at Belhaven University in Jackson, MS. This May, he and Joanna celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, Mary Katherine (13) and Grace (9).

**Ryan Riggs '99** - Is currently attending the Kellogg School of Management in Chicago, IL.

**Brian Lehman '01** - Is the Account Manager / Surgery Consultant for St. Jude Medical Hospital in Los Angeles. He was awarded the President's Club Honor in 2009 for Performance. His daughter, Blaine, celebrated her second birthday in May. Their second daughter, Rowan, was born in August. They are residing in West Los Angeles and enjoying all that sunny Cali has to offer.

# — HOMECOMING 2010 —



# NEWS & EVENTS

## St. Jude Volleyball Tournament

The annual TKE volleyball tournament for St. Jude Children's Hospital was held at the Beta-Pi TKE house on September 19th along with the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta. The event was a great success. Over 200 people participated in the tournament while many more cheered from the sidelines. Brother **Jimmy Ruppert** acted as announcer for the event and provided entertainment throughout the day. The Social Quarters of the house was packed with folks watching the Georgia Tech vs. UNC football game while great music was played outside. A wide assortment of grilled foods was also available. Thanks to the sponsorship from Muscle Milk, cold bottles of Muscle Milk were provided for all those in attendance and numerous free prizes were distributed. The event raised \$1,910 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



## Hot Chocolate Stand for St. Jude

When Brothers **Michael Costner** and **Brandon Hoffman** first mentioned the idea of making money selling hot chocolate outside of TKE, many thought it was a joke. But what began as random musings actually turned a noticeable profit. A small stand was set up in front of TKE on Saturday, November 7, and hot chocolate was sold for 50 cents a cup. With the help of some cold weather, a group of brothers and pledges managed to turn a \$15 startup into a \$130 profit. Proceeds were donated to St. Jude, and Beta-Pi chapter earned another 60 hours of philanthropy.

## 2009-10 Scholarship

Scholarship continues to be a primary focus of the Beta-Pi Chapter. As of the end of spring semester 2010, the chapter boasts the following:

**Chapter GPA - 2.83**

**Pledge Class GPA - 3.0**

**Faculty Honors (4.0 GPA) - 4 members**

**Dean's List - 17 members**



## Midtown Festival of the Arts



The second annual Midtown Festival of the Arts was held on September 26th and 27th and Beta-Pi represented itself extremely well in volunteering at the event. The Midtown Festival of the Arts attempts to provide its attendees a taste of the fine

art that Midtown Atlanta offers. The event offers local painters and photographers a chance to display their work. Local bands and solo artists perform their unique brand of music while visitors feast on distinct meals and drinks offered by Midtown restaurants.

More than 20 brothers from the chapter volunteered their time to make the event a success. Some pitched in to help set up food and beverage stands while others volunteered to serve drinks. The chapter earned 107 hours of philanthropy service for their effort.



## Polar Beach

The Beta-Pi chapter of TKE threw their annual Polar Beach weekend November 11th through 13th. A 90's cover band performed the second night, and a Red Hot Chili Peppers cover band played the final night. Adhering to the Polar Beach theme, brothers covered the floor a foot deep in sand from the volleyball court, built artificial 20 foot palm trees, and turned the lounging area into a giant igloo. A two-story mural, a volcano, and various other lighting effects rounded out the decorations.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## New Members: Fall 2010



The Beta-Pi initiated 26 new members into the chapter on November 14th. The chapter had an excellent Rush, thanks in part to three great rush seminars put on by fraters **Karl Paul '69**, **David Adcock '85**, and **John Reagan '71**. The seminars covered topics such as how to qualify a potential candidate, how to effectively rush a potential candidate, and how to "close the deal." The new members experienced a few seminars themselves. Frater **Miller Templeton '61**, a highly decorated TKE Alumnus, was kind enough to visit the chapter and give two seminars: one entitled "How to Do Well at Tech" and another on how to build lifelong friendships. Frater Templeton has presented these seminars to President's scholars and several other fraternities at Georgia Tech and at other colleges. The seminars covered effective strategies for time management and growing relationships both inside and outside of the fraternity. Special thanks go out to these fraters for their help in developing of the chapter this semester.

## Upcoming Events

**December 3rd to 5th**

Semiformal in the Blue Ridge Mountains

**December 17th**

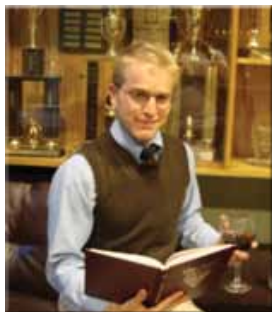
TKE Christmas Party

**Spring 2011**

Alumni weekend / golf tournament-- TBD



## Member Spotlight: Michael Costner



**Michael Costner** is a 3rd year from Dunwoody, Georgia, majoring in Industrial Systems Engineering. During his time at Georgia Tech, Michael has dutifully served Beta-Pi as Assistant Kitchen Steward, Kitchen Steward, and Hypophetes. Additionally, he has served as a coach for the TKE team during the annual Mini 500 for which Georgia Tech is well known. When he's not training for a half-marathon (like the one held annually

on Thanksgiving Day in Atlanta) or jamming out on the guitar, Michael religiously watches Atlanta Braves baseball. Michael has successfully raised two little brothers in addition to his other work for TKE. Along with fellow Beta-Pi, **Brandon Hoffman**, he helped create the Hot Chocolate Stand for St. Jude. There will be a noticeable void in the TKE house next semester when Michael leaves to study abroad in Australia and New Zealand.

## From the Prytanis



I am happy to report that the chapter's health is thriving and in good spirits. As the semester winds down, we have had a very active schedule. By the time you receive this newsletter, the chapter will have hosted its annual Polar Beach party that spans the entire weekend. After Polar Beach, all twenty-five candidates will be initiated after a semester's training and learning TKE and Beta-Pi traditions. They will finally be able to sign our scroll, and

begin their journey into full brotherhood where they can make their permanent mark on the chapter.

This past chapter meeting, we held a lengthy officer election. Because of the numerous qualified candidates, much thought was put into who was going to take the reins for the upcoming semesters. I'm happy to announce that our new president is **James Humphrey**. Along with James, many other brothers have stepped up into leadership positions creating a new, diverse executive group that looks to continue what our current leadership has begun.

This academic year, Beta-Pi chapter has a goal to win the top TKE chapter award. This award is based on recruitment, scholastic achievement, philanthropy, campus leadership and community service. So, we are striving to be the best in those areas amongst our peers. Already this semester, we have accumulated hundreds of service hours for volunteer work done around Atlanta, and have raised over \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Next semester, we will continue our involvement with St. Baldrick's Foundation, so be on the lookout for announcements about how you can help support us again!

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for your participation at Homecoming. We were able to host a formal alumni event, along with a large pregame tailgate because of all of your support. Before the Homecoming football game, we had several hundred young and old Tekes at the house to celebrate Beta-Pi's success, and the 125th anniversary of Georgia Tech. I hope next year we'll be able to count on more involvement from each of you, and hopefully at Homecoming 2011, we begin building a new house so that we can continue with this tradition for many, many years to come!

Yours in the bond,

Brendan Patterson



Can you name the brothers pictured in this photo from the 1986 Yacht Party? Send your guesses to **Mike Smith** at [mikes0783@yahoo.com](mailto:mikes0783@yahoo.com)

bills next fall and, so far, it looks good. We've instituted better financial controls with the undergrads, which is essential to ensuring the cash flow for the project. We are still working on two-a-week but I think everyone agrees that the facilities are much better kept these days than they were just a few years ago. The quality of our food service continues to improve as John teaches the guys how to use fresh ingredients to cook food fit for humans. The next big nut to crack will be instituting a true four year development program for members that will put TKE at the forefront of organizations at Tech.

I hope you attended the homecoming reception that Wes put together for us at the Georgian Terrace. The venue was great and the variety of decades represented was the best we have had yet. We even saw a few of my generation from the early 80s there! This just keeps getting better every year. Next year we'll get something going in the spring too. (We almost pulled it off this year.)

Also starting in the spring, we are going to formalize the annual fund drive that partially supports our alumni communications program by asking just once each year for a contribution to help us cover the costs of these colorful six page masterpieces that Richard reminds us all to contribute to. Of course, we'll never turn down a dime but it would help with planning if we knew going into each new fiscal year how much income we'll have. So I encourage you to participate when that call goes out with the spring newsletter.

Finally, keep an open mind when you hear about how things are changing at the Teke House. It's not the chapter it was when you were an undergrad and that's probably a good thing. No matter how great our business model, society does not owe us success with it forever. Social media, smart phones, texting, the liability storm, and the sometimes incomprehensible and comic behaviors and attitudes of millennial students (and the helicopter and lawnmower parents who are sending them to us, including some of you) have come together to challenge almost everything about how we run ourselves. All of us who volunteer with Greek organizations and all of you who help us are feeling our way through this New World, sometimes cautiously, sometimes boldly, but always in the firm belief that our organizations have an important role to play in the lives of our members. I speak for the Board when I thank you for your support in this Great Endeavor.

## Stay Connected with Beta Pi Online

Find us on facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). Our group name is "Georgia Tech Tekes," and find us on LinkedIn under "TKE Beta-Pi Alumni Association" ([www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)). Share chapter news, alumni events, and connect with your fellow Beta-Pi brothers. Be sure to check out [www.betapitke.org](http://www.betapitke.org) and the Georgia Tech Tekes page on facebook for event details.

- The beach trip when we gave my great-aunt Frances a ride to Jacksonville.
- Driving **Pat Hickok '70** crazy.
- Going to Mama Mia's Pizza with **Jerry Phillips '68**.
- The initiation of **Jim McKnight '73**.
- Getting road-tripped to Athens.

He keeps in touch with brothers and has continued to support the fraternity. Evans, or perhaps more appropriately his wife, had a big hand in TKE's improved digs.

"One homecoming I came by the house with my wife, Raena, and our youngest daughter," said Evans. "My wife went into the ladies room and when she emerged she walked up to me and a group of fraters and said, 'If you don't do something about this dump, I'm not coming back.' That was the genesis of the new building."

He's been active at Tech in other ways, too. Evans said that when he and Raena bought a house in Atlanta in 2000, fraters **John Carter '69** and **Karl Paul '69** opened doors for him to become more involved as a volunteer at Tech.

Evans doesn't take getting involved lightly. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association, and is on the Board of Trustees of both the Georgia Tech Foundation and the Alexander-Tharpe Fund. He is also on the Advisory Board of the College of Management,



where he has been inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni. Back in Smarr [which he says is forever home], he is Finance Chairman at the Methodist Church, which has about 120 members.

When asked what advice he would offer undergraduate Tekes, he said he would suggest that they enjoy their college days – and that they also use the time to develop admirable character traits. "Enjoy the journey, but remember that your college years are an important proving ground for the values and work habits that will determine your professional success," he said.

Evans knows something about what it takes to succeed. His banks have thrived while so many others have not survived. Yet he is humble when asked to discuss his good fortune.

When prompted to name one of the business achievements he is most proud of, he said it would have to be getting the State Bank project cleared by regulators, raising \$300 million of equity, and executing nine failed bank acquisitions in 14 months. And, he said, "keeping a talented group of bankers together for more than 20 years through three companies."

When Evans is not working, he and Raena spend a lot of time on the Evans' six-generation family farm in Smarr. They are often joined by their two daughters, Liz Corbett and Bonnie Martin, and seven grandchildren: Effie, Peyton, McKenney, Michael, Bud, Maggie, and Grace Ann. Evans' mother, Rosemary Evans, who is 85, also joins in the fun.

"There are four generations of us and rarely a dull moment," he said.