



# THE TECH TEKE

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

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## The Next Step at TKE-Beta Pi: Claiming our Niche

By Michael A. Smith, '85



In the last few years, the trustees of TKE Beta Pi have emphasized two areas of our operation in order to prepare for our next round of facilities renewal – alumni relations and better management of the facilities. All initiates can see the results in our regular, high quality alumni communications and receptions. The changes at the Chapter House are just as obvious—paint, furniture, landscaping, and a physical plant that works (even when it's been recently trashed.) We aren't finished with this work, but we have come a long way and continue to progress.

That was the easy stuff, however, compared to what we are up to now. Now we are setting out to claim a niche among campus organizations in which we can thrive in the coming decades.

We're not talking about being the best fraternity. That standard invites comparison to stereotypes that, while they were charming in the past, are not worthy of our time and money as alumni today. We're talking about comparing ourselves to the best student organizations at Georgia Tech. We're talking about using our salient feature, our facilities, to create a unique undergraduate experience—not unique

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## 2010-2011 Chapter Officers

Prytanis	Brendan Patterson
Epiprytanis	Ethan Lotz
Grammateus	Charles Copeland
Crysochylos	Matt Biggers
Histor	Jameson Humphrey
Hypophetes	Michael Costner
Pylortes	Stephen Schmidt
Kitchen Steward	Eric Yi
Social Chair	Josh Taylor

## Alumni Spotlight Justin McLoughlin '98

Justin McLoughlin, '98, chose Georgia Tech because the school offered the academic program he was looking for. It didn't hurt, he says, that Tech provided a break from the cold weather of his native Brooklyn, New York.

Justin pledged TKE because the fraternity offered the college experience he wanted. Several friends in his dorm had pledged TKE and he felt comfortable with other Tekes he had met.

He also didn't need to break the bank. He was paying for a large part of his education. TKE had a meal plan and a large fraternity house, which he preferred to his dorm or an apartment. Like most college students, Justin wanted to have fun and appreciated the camaraderie a



Justin with his wife Brooke and their children.

fraternity would provide. But the bright mechanical engineering student also valued the house's built-in study partners with whom he could discuss classes, projects and teachers.

But even Justin, who proudly admits he embodies the engineering stereotype of meticulous planner, did not foresee how much Tech and TKE would affect both his personal and professional life.

Justin landed that first job in 2000 working for a Tech alum-owned company specializing in Neurophysiology. After earning his ME degree, Justin completed a graduate program in ME with a concentration in biomedical engineering. At the time, Tech did not have a separate degree in the biomedical field.

While working for a second company, he secured certification as Diplomate of The American Board of Neurophysiologic Monitoring. There are less than 200 people in the world with the designation.

In 2004, Justin formed his own company, Syntact, which also specializes in Neurophysiology. Syntact provides equipment, staff and consulting to provide real-time information to doctors and surgeons during procedures involving the brain and spinal cord. The equipment uses electrical impulses to stimulate and monitor portions of the neurological system. If there is a change that is a cause for concern, surgeons are alerted immediately so they can make any necessary adjustments to insure a patient's health.

The business quickly found clients and, when he needed to expand, he hired Teke **Ted Jennings, '02**.

"Ted was a freshman my fifth year, and I helped recruit him to

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# CHAPTER NEWS

## From the Prytanis



All is well at the Beta Pi house this spring. We are headed in the right direction in terms of growth and member development. Although we have a relatively young chapter compared to years past, many of these aspiring leaders stepped up to take on important executive roles. Though that lack of experience may have held us back in some ways, a few semesters down the road these

same youngsters will be seasoned leaders, reaching their full potential and running a very successful chapter!

As a whole, our brothers are committed to seeing Beta Pi chapter succeed, as shown by what we already accomplished this spring semester. Not only have we had a fun and entertaining social calendar, we have shown that we are able to put forth comparable efforts in support of philanthropic and community service events. This spring alone, we raised more money for philanthropy (\$11,800) and provided more hours toward community service (300+) than the past three years combined.

We hope to continue a great spring semester by winning Greek Week. Winning this competition has been one of our biggest goals of the semester. Teke last won the event in 2006. That success would surely raise morale throughout the house and put an exclamation point on an already successful semester.

We will recruit throughout the summer, using the Triangle Achievement Scholarship program and personal contact, to improve our rush results for the fall. If you have friends or neighbors whose sons will attend GT next fall, please let me know. We're always looking for quality referrals!

Thanks to all of you for your support of the Alumni Association and our alumni boards. With your ongoing involvement, we'll continue to improve the "look and feel" of our Beta Pi home and redefine our chapter as the best at GA Tech!

Yours in the bond,  
Brendan Patterson



## Charles Harris Run for Leukemia

On February 27, 38 Beta Pi brothers volunteered for the Charles Harris Run for Leukemia. The annual 10k run was started by Chuck Harris, the eldest son of Dr. Charles Harris, who died of leukemia at age 49. Chuck wanted an event to get people involved to help fight leukemia and raise money for research. Since the first running of the race nearly 30 years ago, the Charles Harris Run for Leukemia has raised more than \$1 million for leukemia research at Emory University. Two Beta Pi Tekes ran in the race and the brothers collectively worked 228 volunteer hours.

## Member Spotlight: Kyle Orr



Kyle Orr has been a big part of TKE and has given countless hours of time and effort to make TKE better. He is majoring in Civil Engineering and from Snellville, GA. In just his third year at Beta Pi, Kyle has held several officer positions, including: assistant steward, kitchen steward, assistant Pylortes, Pylortes, and currently Hegemon. Kyle organized the chapter for all Homecoming events during his

second year. He has had two little brothers initiated into the fraternity, and he was recently inducted as a member of the Knights of the Classic Lore. Kyle will continue to be an active Beta Pi throughout his undergraduate career at GA Tech.

## Spring Rush Results

Sam Elia Augusta, GA Electrical Engineering	Matthew S. Pike Littleton, CO Electrical Engineering
Sean So Columbus, GA Management	Charlie Reifenberger Norcross, GA Mechanical Engineering
	Paul Hsieh Duluth, GA Industrial and Systems Engineering

## Happenings at Beta Pi

- April 10-17**.....Greek Week
- April 30**.....Triangle Scholarships Due
- May 8**.....Georgia Tech Spring Graduation
- May 22**.....Triangle Scholarship Interviews at GT
- May 21-22**.....Georgia Teke Alumni Spring Weekend. Friday night social and Saturday East Atlanta Beer Festival
- October 8**.....TKE Reunion Party (tentative)
- October 9**.....Georgia Tech Football Homecoming game vs. Virginia

## 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.

# St. Baldrick's Event a Success



On March 10, the chapter participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation's head shaving event in Atlanta. The purpose of the annual event is for volunteers to shave their heads in solidarity with children who have cancer and typically lost their hair during treatment. People pledge money for the volunteers who shave their heads, or donate money directly to the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Of the 171 Atlanta-area volunteers who participated this year, 115 are members of the Georgia Tech Greek community representing

10 fraternities. The Atlanta event raised \$75,874, of which \$36,699 was contributed by Greeks.

The Beta Pi Chapter of TKE had 20 members shave their heads (including their chapter advisor), and, with contributions of \$11,618, raised the most money out of all groups at the event. That's nearly one-third of the Greek total. The Tekes were very passionate about the event and helped their volunteers raise money by contacting everyone they knew through phone calls and emails to encourage them to donate.

The event was fun and lively with an announcer on stage riling up the crowd to continue donating money. The people in charge of shaving would stop after shaving only portion, leaving them looking ridiculous. The announcer would tell them that, if they didn't want to go to class like that the next day, they would have to go out into the crowd and get people to donate 50 more dollars to finish their haircut. Every Teke who was asked to go into the crowd raised more money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation and the fight against childhood cancer.



# Polar Beach

The Beta Pi chapter of TKE threw their annual Polar Beach party January 28-30. Entertainment included a DJ the first night, an 80's cover band the second night and a Red Hot Chili Peppers cover band the final night. Going with the Polar Beach theme, the brothers decorated the house by covering the floor a foot deep with sand from the volleyball court, and constructed several artificial 20-foot palm trees, a two-story polar beach mural, a waterfall, and various other lighting and beach decorations.



## TKE takes 3rd in Greek Week



Beta Pi finished Greek Week 2010 in 3rd place and regained their position of Tug Champions! The week was marked by a high degree of chapter participation including the annual hosting of the Arm Wrestling event. Beta Pi also received 20 points for participation in Philanthropy events.



### Greek Week Results

- 1st – Tug, Human Pyramid, Climb Mt. Olympus and Super Splash
- 2nd – Slam Dunk and Egg Toss
- 3rd – Banner
- 4th – Greek Sing and Greek God

## Tug Champs Again!

by Chris Tan

At the beginning of the season, the chapter seemed to have its doubts. We had not been allowed to participate in two of the last three tug competitions. It was obvious to many that we were returning few veterans. I am proud that, despite these difficulties and a shortened practice season due to many activities early in the semester, a lot of brothers stepped up to fill the shoes of past tuggers. We went into the pit with only two veterans who had been on the line before. For the other 12, this was a new experience. Except for a hiccup in our initial snap, every pull was won quickly and decisively. Our total time in the pit was around 7:30 over four matches. We defeated Beta in the final in 2:30. How sweet it is ... to be back on top!



# – ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES –

**William P. McKibben '61** — retired in 2002. He was Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Oxford College of Emory University.

**Christian K. K. Freundt '66** — has retired from Technische, Fachschule, Heinze, where he was employed for more than 20 years teaching CAD and various subjects of architecture and building construction. He is active in the Hamburg Architecture Chamber and in the Rowing-Club, of which he has been a member for 40 years. Christian has a daughter and a 4-year old granddaughter.

**Terry S. Moore '66** — retired from IBM in December 2005 after 37 years.

**Robert R. Barrett '69** — Says, “Beta Pi / BOT Great Update. Keep up the excellent

work with improvements to the house and maintaining the history of the Chapter”.

**Chas M. Campbell '69** — recently sold his half of Control Elements, Inc., a manufacturer's representative firm in Charlotte, NC that provides instrumentation and controls to heavy industry. He is practicing real estate in the Litchfield Beach area south of Myrtle Beach. After several years of traveling, Chas is glad to stay at home and enjoy the resort environment of Litchfield-By-The-Sea and The Reserve Golf Club. He invites his fraters living or visiting there to get in touch!

**James M. Keba '77** — is retired from Motorola, Inc. and teaching high school math. He and his wife, Christine, have two children, Mark and Michelle.

**James (Jim) H. Williams '83** — is now the Director of Systems Engineering and Safety at FAA Air Traffic Organization. Congratulations!

**Russell Bergevine '87** — is attending Suffolk Law School in Boston, MA

**Jeff M. Cason '92** — is in the process of searching for a new career. His wife, Cherie, and kids-- Jeffrey (6) and Gabriella (3 1/2), live in Johns Creek. Jeffrey's first football game at GA Tech was vs. FSU last year. He even threw out the first pitch at the March 16th game, the day after his birthday.

**Steven G. Schwartzman '93** — married Melody Owens on June 21, 2009. Congratulations to the happy couple!

## *SPOTLIGHT, continued from page 1*

the fraternity,” said Justin. “I had met him on campus and we were both from New York so that started a conversation.”

“When I expanded my business, I needed someone I could absolutely trust. I felt like someone from the fraternity would not try to steal business or do anything to harm the company. I talked with Ted at a bachelor's party in New Orleans and he was interested.”

Ted started at Syntact in 2008. Justin calls the relationship “fantastic.”

“I am not an easy person to work with,” Justin said, laughing. “I am very particular. I guess that's the engineer and medical side in me. But he's been wonderful to put up with me and adapt.” Justin said his wife has done much the same.

“She's just amazing,” he says of his wife, Brooke, a psychologist in Norcross, Ga. She was a Georgia State student when they began dating. The couple live in the Atlanta suburbs with their two sons, ages 5 and 3, and their adopted daughter, age 2.

Soon they will add two more children. At the time of this interview, Justin and Brooke were preparing to travel to Ethiopia to bring home their adopted daughters, ages 8 and 9 months.

Justin explained that he and Brooke, both of whom come from large families, had planned to adopt before they had their sons. They began the adoption process from China before their second son was born. They are still on China's waitlist for adoption.

During the summer of 2008, the couple began to learn about the number of orphans in Africa due to AIDS and poverty. They found there are so many Ethiopian families wanting loving homes for their children, and they began an adoption from there.

Then, a friend of Brooke's sister was about to give birth and place her child for adoption. Justin and Brooke met the birth mom and it felt right, “like God brought her to our doorstep.”

“I never was very religious, but I have become a lot more spiritual because of the way these children have come into our lives,” said Justin. “Having all of our children in the family”, he says, “is just meant to be.”

Justin's on-going association with TKE also seems ‘meant to be’. He was recently asked to recall a fond memory from fraternity days. He immediately thought of the TKE Olympics, which he founded to

bring brothers together when the 1996 Olympic Games came to Atlanta — and the Georgia Tech campus - forcing students to locate elsewhere.

“When the Olympics were coming, and with the house undergoing significant renovations, the fraternity was [developing] into different factions. I wanted to get everyone together — on the same team — so I started the TKE Olympics,” Justin said.

He remembered many things about the successful event, but could not remember if the games were in the spring before or after the Olympics. As he pondered, he posted the question on the Internet social site Facebook. Within seconds, Teke brothers responded with the answer — spring '96.

“Wow. See that,” Justin said, even he a little surprised at the speed in which they came forward. “They are always there.”

## Can you name these Teke Brothers?



## Tekes host Phi Mu dinner at the Beta Pi House



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as in “me and my unique group of friends instead of them and their unique group of friends,” but an experience that will set us apart and be difficult, if not impossible, for other organizations to duplicate.

We are going to be clear about what our niche is and recruit members who are interested in that experience.

- ***We are a residential experience.*** We are bucking the trend in fraternity housing by reaffirming that we expect our members to move in as soon as they can and remain until they graduate. Sophomores and 5th years living side by side is part of what it means to be a Teke at Georgia Tech. We are looking for people who want to learn to live with others.
- ***We take care of where we live.*** Our nascent “Two-a-Week” program, in which every member devotes two hours each week to the work of the chapter, is involving the undergraduates more consistently in the regular cleaning and maintenance of the facilities. This will keep cost down and provide a safer and healthier living environment. We are looking for people who will pick up after themselves and fix what they break. We want people who are interested in taking care of where they live.
- ***We prepare and take meals together.*** We are a large chapter and taking meals together regularly is absolutely essential to establishing a sense of ourselves as an organization. To support this, the next round of facilities work will include larger, upgraded kitchen facilities, including a night kitchen. Dinners are especially important since other evening activities are arranged around them. Dinners are when we meet and catch up with each other. We are looking for people who will commit to arranging their lives around taking meals together. As part of Two-a-Week, some undergraduates may elect to work with the cook to learn their way around a kitchen. We are looking for people who understand the importance of a good meal plan for the health and morale of our members and who will, therefore, learn to help prepare those meals.
- ***We are moderately priced.*** We will not program ourselves into being a fraternity that adds substantially to the cost of an undergraduate education. There are other organizations on campus that fill that niche and they are welcome to it. We are looking for people who consider themselves and others only from the standpoint of those qualities and advantages they have attained by personal effort.

Most of our alumni will recognize in these things the Chapter they knew as an undergraduate. Even today, although students arrive with fewer practical skills than in the past, these points don’t represent an unreasonable set of qualities.

What will change is that we will acknowledge and advertise that these qualities are not just a by-the-way thing. They are an essential part of what we are. To become a Teke at Tech is to get with the program. We are not for everyone, not even for everyone we may like. A person who is unwilling or unable to commit to living and dining with the Tekes, to taking care of where he lives and to helping in the kitchen should find a fraternity experience elsewhere. With 30-plus organizations at Tech, there will be place for him—just not at TKE.

We continue to work with the undergrads to iron out the wrinkles in our “Two-a-Week” program, for both maintenance and cooking. This program is absolutely essential to our plans going forward and we will stick with it until it’s working smoothly. There are other developmental programs on the drawing board, including getting our guys out in the community as mentors and mentees, educational programming aimed directly at life-skills development and, eventually, sponsoring some kind of “life changing” experience during a member’s undergrad years.

Looking forward to a chapter that will fully use and take care of the renewed facilities, we are making major modifications to the new house design and will probably launch another feasibility study soon. In the meantime, please keep sending in updates for the alumni newsletter and keep supporting our communications program. If your firm has an opening, let me know so that the information can be sent to the undergrads.

I look forward to seeing you all in May at our TKE Alumni event and at Homecoming in the Fall.