



# THE TECH TEKE

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity | Georgia Institute of Technology | Winter 2008-09

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**Happy Holidays!**



## From the Board

by Mike Smith, Chairman and John Reagan, Past Chairman

Over the years, the undergraduate organization of TKE Beta Pi has been more or less self-contained. It asked little of its alumni and did little for them. There have been some notable exceptions.

From time to time, someone published alumni newsletters. The Board of Trustees always kept an eye on the chapter and made the mortgage payments. In 1994, many alumni stepped up to guarantee the loan that paid for the current social quarters.

For the past sixty years, we have done a good job being friends. Even decades after graduation, who among us does not count a few fraters among his closest friends? However, beyond our small circles, we have not done well at keeping up with all of our alumni, the "greater Beta Pi". We could have done much better at keeping in touch with the entity that brought us all together in the first place . . . the organization that provided the social environment that helped us form those lifelong

friendships . . . the greatest benefit of membership in TKE.

Until recently this was not an issue. The undergrads thought of TKE as the guys that lived with them in the House. They got along well enough on their own, with the occasional knocking of heads. For the alumni, Tekes were the guys we shared great memories with and saw at a few events each year. They never needed the help of the undergrads to organize ourselves.

Although it worked, it was a mistake to let this happen, to allow ourselves to drift apart when so much good would have come from staying close.

By not integrating the undergraduate and alumni organizations, the undergrads have missed the benefits of the experience, wisdom and resources of the alumni. The alumni missed opportunities to stay connected with each other and the satisfaction of helping guide young men in life.

But we are changing. A few years ago, some folks stepped forward to make Beta Pi a true

**See Beta Pi, continued on page 4**



Beta Pi members from the 2000's gather around the Wrablin' Wreck during Homecoming football game.

## Alpha Rho Frater Honored with Order of Beta Pi

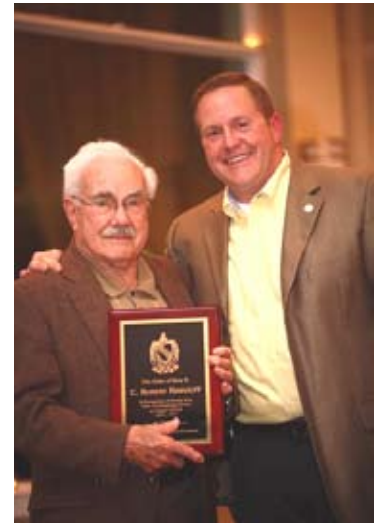
Frater C. Robert "Bob" Kirkhuff, Alpha Rho scroll #126, was awarded the 2008 Order of Beta Pi Award during the Beta Pi 60th Anniversary Celebration held during Homecoming weekend. Frater Kirkhuff is only the second recipient of this award since it was established in 2006. Our first recipient, Frater John Reagan, received the award for serving as BOT chairman for 30 years.

Frater Kirkhuff has an equally impressive level of service to Beta Pi. Originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania, Frater Kirkhuff arrived at Rhode Island College in the fall of 1941. He recalls, "They didn't have enough housing to accommodate all of the freshmen coming in that year, so they assigned me to live in the TKE house." After moving into the house, Bob says that they liked him and he liked them, so it was an easy choice and he joined the fraternity.

As a member of Alpha Rho, Frater Kirkhuff says that he was fortunate enough to meet his wife Luise, who happened to be the girlfriend of another fraternity brother. The two were set up on a blind date for the chapter's Red Carnation Ball. Luise protested about going with Bob at first because her boyfriend had made a commitment to take another girl to the ball. But after Frater Kirkhuff wrote her a long letter, she agreed to accompany him and, as they say, the rest is history. Frater Kirkhuff and Luise celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary this past November.

Shortly after meeting Luise, Frater Bob was drafted in the Army Air Corp, and served with distinction, working his way to the rank of Sergeant. Bob recalls being in London on the day that Germany surrendered.

After he returned from the war, he was offered a job in metallurgy with a company, which brought them to Atlanta in 1948. As a young couple in a big city, Frater Kirkhuff quickly found another Alpha Rho frater living in Atlanta who was working for Teke's **Grand Prytanis Dr. R.C. Williams** at the Georgia Medical Association. Together, Frater Kirkhuff's friend and Dr. Williams talked him into serving as



Frater Kirkhuff is presented the "Order of Beta Pi" award by Frater David Adcock, Chapter Advisor.

*It takes a lot of energy to stay in touch with [the fraters you joined with], but it is an effort that is worth taking.*

**See Kirkhuff, continued on page 4**

# State of Beta Pi

by Paul Wach, Prytanis

This semester has been a busy one for TKE. During our summer planning session, we set out to make Beta Pi a better place and, along with creating stronger metrics for improved scholarship and new member programming, the chapter committed to a recruitment goal of 33 new initiates.

Responding to that challenge in grand Beta Pi fashion, we recruited a pledge class of 34! During the course of our new member training, we whittled the class down to 28 promising individuals that we deemed worthy of signing our chapter scroll.

Homecoming 2008 saw a good effort from our chapter, although we did not win. Our display was the largest and most creative we have had in five years. The Mock Rock team put on a great performance in "How to Rock a Halftime Show." The Fixed Body crew built an outstanding float to the theme of "Ferris Beuller's Day Off" and the song "Twist and Shout." We look forward to a redesign of the Teke contraption for next year's parade and working with our alumni to make it a reality.

And despite our Homecoming loss to the Cavs, the Beta Pi alumni came out by the hundreds to Celebrate 60 years of TKE success at Georgia Tech. If you missed the alumni event at Park Tavern on Friday, or the pre-game gathering at the TKE House on Saturday, you were one of the few!

I would like to thank all the alumni for your support. I would also like to give a special thanks to **David Adcock** our Chapter Advisor for the time and effort he has graciously committed to our chapter. I wish everyone the best and happy holidays.



**Spring 2009 Chapter Officers**

From back left to front right: Austin Berry - Hypophetes; Jeremy Ku - Grammateus; Gregory Gallagher - Prytanis; Keith Martiny - Histor; Ethan Lotz - Pylortes; JT Mason - Kitchen Steward; Zachary Zegar - Cryosophylos; Jeremy Martz - Epiprytanis; Bradley King - Asst. Kitchen Steward Steven Rufus - Asst. Cryosophylos; Brendan Patterson - Co-Rush Chair; Not pictured: Will Youngblood - Asst. Pylortes; Jake Hinton - Co-Rush Chair; Sy Hubert - Social Chair; Kevin Savage - Asst. Social Chair; Joe Gibson - Athletics Chair; Brian O'Connor - IT Chair

# Chapter News

## Homecoming 2008 Recap by Wes Schiel

2008 has been a big year for Beta Pi. We celebrated our 60th anniversary, paid off the house, had one of the best fall rushes in recent memory, and founded our first ever bona fide Alumni Association. So Homecoming this year became a great opportunity to celebrate these accomplishments and bring together the Beta Pi community.

Friday night we held our annual Homecoming alumni social event at the Piedmont Room at Park Tavern. The event provided a great opportunity for fraters to reconnect with each other, as always, but it was different from previous years in a couple of key respects.

First, this was the first ever event put on by the new Beta Pi Alumni Association, a by-alumni-for-alumni organization aimed at providing a more involved and cohesive alumni experience. Second, we had the largest turnout ever for the event, with over 250 alumni, actives, and guests attending. There were also more generations of Beta Pi represented this year than I personally have ever seen at an alumni event.

This year, there was more to the event than just handshakes and nostalgic conversation. In

a short but poignant presentation, **Richard Sapp** and **David Adcock** pointed out some of the noteworthy events that have transpired in 2008 and recognized one man in particular for his lifelong dedication to Beta Pi. Richard introduced the new Alumni Association, of which all Beta Pi Tekes are now a member. The AA now manages all alumni communications, and will be organizing various alumni events throughout the year.

Richard noted that contributions to the AA benefit alumni directly and encouraged

**See Homecoming, continued on page 3**



**Beta Pi Fall 2008 Pledge Class**

Top: Beta Pi undergraduate members gear up for game day. Bottom: Fall 2008 Pledge Class: From back left to front right: Luke Baker - Loganville, GA; Tim Kolesar - Alpharetta, GA; Kurt Brodie - Lilburn, GA; Justin Migliaccio - Johns Creek, GA; Michael Zerkus - Jonesboro, GA; Brett Zienowicz - Roswell, GA; David Boatwright - Valdosta, GA; Thomas Brumby - Alpharetta, GA; Clayton Burnett - Dunwoody, GA; Charley Zou - Johnson City, TN; Justin Purucker - Augusta, GA; Chase Hartline - Atlanta, GA; Charles Copeland - Alpharetta, GA; Eric Yi - Marietta, GA; Michael Costner - Dunwoody, GA; Eric Rodriguez - Roswell, GA; Mathew Biggers - Marietta, GA; Stephen Schmidt - Augusta, GA; Scott Surrell - Baltimore, MD; Not Pictured: Derek Westee - Marietta, GA; Akhil Thakur - Marietta, GA; John Ganter - Roswell, GA; Matt Kravchak - Buford, GA; Josh Taylor - Duluth, GA; Lea Williamson - Lilburn, GA

# Alumni News & Notes

## Chapter Eternal

We have learned of the passing of the following frater since our last mailing. We send out condolences to his friends and family.

William D. Bradbury '54

## Homecoming

*continued from page 2*

everyone to donate. Next David recounted the many accomplishments and contributions that **Bob Kirkhuff** has made to Beta Pi over the years. Bob served as chapter advisor from 1950-1975. Bob was then presented with the Order of Beta Pi award for his years of service and dedication that helped to forge our fraternity into the organization we know today.

On Saturday morning, brothers, alumni, family, and friends of Teke all gathered at the house to get fired up for the impending game. The display looked great this year and the brothers deserve a round for all of their hard work during Homecoming week which resulted in several wins including Philanthropy (1st), Display (2nd), and Banner (3rd). While the outcome of the game was unfortunate, the pre-game was a great time for all in attendance. It was a beautiful day and everyone seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves.

A professional photographer was on hand to capture both Friday and Saturday's events, and the pictures really tell the story better than I can. You can see the photos at <http://tiny.cc/tke2008>.

As Alumni Association Co-Chair, along with Richard Sapp, I hope that everyone had a great time at this year's Homecoming events. Keep an eye out for invitations to our next event, and I hope to see you all again soon.

YITB,

Wes Schiel, 1060

**Daniel F. Laird '59** is a retired Marriage & Family therapist, addiction counselor and pastoral counselor.

**D. (Karl) K. Paul '69** retired after 30 years with HP. He also served 2 years on the GT Alumni Association.

**Stephen (Mac) M. Jordan '71** has a son, who pledged TKE at Auburn.

**Darrell Sumner '71** is currently serving as the financial advisor for the chapter.

**Stephen P. Powell '78** started an architecture firm in October 2007 - Powell Design Studio. His wife, Sharon and he celebrated their 30 year wedding anniversary in August 2007.

**Dale C. Stapler '80** has been in business with Jim Tinsley '79 for six years. They are a specialized firm, who does incentive tax work in GA, work that CPA's don't do. Dale has kids in grad school and one about to start college. He lives in Alpharetta.

**David A. Wofford '01** is serving as senior pastor at Big Springs United Methodist Church in Woodstock, GA. He married Sarah Gross in October 2008 in West Hartford, CT.

*Have news you want to share? Complete the information at the bottom of the letter and return it to us!*

## Young Alumnus Makes Impact on Beta Pi



Originally from Maryland, Frater **Chad Patterson '06** chose to come to Georgia Tech after he talked with a friend from home who was also a student there. Chad was drawn to Tech because of its status as one of the top ten engineering schools

in the nation. When he first started classes, Chad was interested in studying Chemical Engineering, but less than a year later, he changed to Electrical Engineering.

Since his graduation in 2006, Chad has been attending graduate school at Tech. He earned his Master's Degree in the spring of 2007 and is currently a Ph.D. student, with one class and his thesis left to write.

As an undergraduate, Chad joined Beta Pi chapter and was drawn to the chapter by its uniqueness. "It was a very diverse group of guys," Chad says, "We meshed well together and we weren't a cookie cutter group." One of the other things that Chad found in the house was that it was easy to get involved on campus and a lot of the brothers were also involved. Chad served as a TA and tutored during his time as an undergraduate. He also played on many of the Beta Pi intramural teams.

When asked how his membership in Beta Pi has affected him Chad states, "When you first come to school, most people are socially awkward, but joining the fraternity helps you become socially smart and outgoing. It also helped turn me into more of an adult."

Currently, Chad is involved with Beta Pi as Resident Advisor. He lives in the house and serves as the liaison between the undergraduate chapter and both the Board of Trustees and the

Board of Advisors.

If Chad could offer the current undergraduates any piece of advice, he would tell them, "Make sure that you have a good time in college, but learn how to manage your time between school and fun, after all you are in school to get your degree!"

As for Chad's future, he has not completely decided on a certain profession, but he has thought about becoming a professor or working in a research lab. One thing that Chad is sure about is that he would like to continue publishing papers, like the one that he presented this past October in Amsterdam at the European Microwaves Conference.

We are excited for what the future holds for Chad and look forward to his continued service as an alumnus of Beta Pi and TKE!

## Save the Dates

### Georgia Tech Football

12/31 Chick-fil-A Bowl

### Georgia Tech Basketball

12/28 Virginia  
12/30 Tennessee State  
1/6 Georgia (THWG)  
1/14 Duke  
1/20 Boston College  
1/31 Wake Forest  
2/8 Maryland  
2/14 NC State  
2/22 Clemson  
3/4 Miami

### Conclave

August 6-9 New Orleans, LA

## Kirkhuff, *continued from page 1*

Chapter Advisor to one of the newest TKE chapters, Beta Pi.

Frater Kirkhuff began his role as Chapter Advisor in 1950, taking over for Colonel Edgerly, who was ready to retire. In the beginning of his service, Bob recalled that the chapter only had 19 members, and some of the returning GI's were often at odds with the chapter and the ideals of TKE. However, after he put his foot down and offered the GI's the opportunity to "get on board" with Teke or "hit the road," he was able to win some of them over.

In the late 50s the chapter grew rapidly. And in 1957, the chapter recruited their first 30 man pledge class, which was followed by a second class of 20 the following fall. Frater Kirkhuff served as Chapter Advisor during this entire time and saw the chapter go through every phase of development and membership improvements . . . from the

infancy of the chapter through the building of the Teke Apartment Building in the 1970s.

Frater Bob retired as Beta Pi chapter advisor in 1975 and is a true example of steadfast service to Teke and Beta Pi. We can all learn from his continued service to not only the chapter, but the fraternity as a whole.

In response to receiving the Order of Beta Pi Award, Frater Kirkhuff had this to say, "I would like to express my grateful appreciation for being chosen to receive the Order of Beta Pi. The occasion brought forth many memories of an important part of my life's experiences. I had no idea what serving as Chapter Advisor was all about when I was blind-sided by the offer from my fellow Alpha Rho alumnus and Dr. Williams."

He continues by saying, "I am proud to have been a part of the Beta Pi history. The growth



*Frater Kirkhoff, center, gives his wife of 63 years, Luise, a kiss as Fraters Michael Smith (left), John Reagan (back) and David Adcock (right) look on. In addition to being presented with the Order of Beta Pi, Frater Kirkhoff was also given a jeweled badge in recognition of his dedication.*

of the chapter from its humble beginning to its present stature as a great component of the national fraternity scene has been gratifying and rewarding."

Thank you again to Frater Kirkhuff and Luise for 25 great years of service!



Fraternity for Life

## Beta Pi, *continued from page 1*

Fraternity for Life. That's why you have been receiving these great fraternity newsletters every few months. That's why we just had the largest alumni reception we've ever had. That's why many of us had a great time at Homecoming 2008 despite the Cavaliers!

So what's next? Where are we going?

We are working. We are working on plans for a major transformation of the Chapter House. We are working to transform the undergraduate organization for success in the new century. To support these efforts, we are working on the first capital campaign in the history of our chapter.

The campaign will provide two ways to support these important efforts:

1. Contribute to scholarship funds to help deserving undergrads with the enormous cost of today's college education and with collateral educational opportunities; and
2. Contribute to the ongoing improvement and renovation of our Chapter House that gives a home to our undergrads and a focus to our alumni.

We're early in this process but many good men are helping. **Wick Moorman, CE '75** and current CEO of Norfolk Southern, and **John Reagan Arch '71** have agreed to serve

as honorary co-chairmen of the campaign. Some of you have been contacted already and we appreciate your giving the time to share your thoughts.

We have not yet settled on the fundraising goal or a final design or renovation schedule. We know that the current economic turmoil will challenge us. Nevertheless, we will form committees soon and move on to the next phase of the work.

So, we invite you to consider the opportunity to become more engaged with TKE. Consider recommitting yourself to the principles of Love, Charity, and Esteem. When you get the call, consider the gift of your time, talent, and treasure. We sincerely believe that this gift will be one of the most important things you can do for our society and for the lives of a lot of deserving young men.

We each have stories of what TKE has meant to us and how it has affected our lives. And we all share a debt to those who came before us and created the fraternity that we inherited. Whether we go back to 1948, to those vets who



*Alumni and undergraduates gather on campus during Homecoming.*

came home from The War and who wanted a different kind of fraternity, or to Bob Kirkhuff and many others who never gave up, or to those fraters and friends who guaranteed the loans - We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before.

Seldom has our society needed the kind of men that TKE Beta Pi produces more than today. Those of us involved in the campaign believe that it's our responsibility to support and encourage our fraternity as it builds men who, in turn, will build a better world.

**Thanks for your support.**