



# BETA-SIGMA TKE

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity | University of Southern California | Spring 2019  
Alumni Relations Office | 531 Main Street #902, El Segundo, CA 90245 | www.tkeusc.org



## HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT TRUE

by David Bohline, Beta-Sigma Board of Trustees

The new “deferred rush” system was implemented at USC this year. First semester freshmen are no longer allowed to rush or join a fraternity or sorority. So rush has flipped semesters. Fall rush is the new spring rush, with a sparse amount of sophomores and transfer students. And spring rush is the new fall rush, full

of second semester freshmen. Of course, this change was not good enough for the USC administrators. They also insisted on changes to the way fraternity rush is structured. Rush is now a 10 day affair with a couple of days off sprinkled in the schedule so that the students don’t get “exhausted.” Every rushee is required to visit every fraternity for a formalized house tour over two days. Rushees are divided up into small groups and assigned a rush counselor who guides them through the process and provides emotional support. As you all begin to roll your eyes, don’t worry, there’s no singing and dancing... yet.

There was one other addition to rush that turned out to be very interesting. A “preference” system was established. After the first half of rush and house tours are finished, the guys are asked to rank their fraternity preference in order of No. 1 choice, No. 2 choice, No. 3 choice, etc. These numbers are tabulated and the results are distributed to fraternities and rushees. I have been told the purpose of this is to provide realistic guidance. For example, a fraternity might realize that just a handful of rushees ranked

them a No. 1 choice, encouraging them to expand their target list and invites to upcoming events. Or, a rushee might realize his top choice is very popular and expand his fraternity options. Enough background. Are you ready for the tabulated results? Out of 629 men rushing this spring, 552 of them picked TKE No. 1. That’s 88 percent, and it’s not a mistake. Ninety-three percent of all rushees picked TKE as a top three choice, only 44 did not. TKE got seven times more No. 1 picks than all other fraternities combined. And these numbers were achieved after a full semester on social probation in which no parties were held at the TKE houses. It’s truly shocking.

For years, we have been given the impression by the undergrads that TKE is one of the most popular fraternities to join. This year, the stats tell us the mathematical truth. TKE isn’t one of the best fraternities at USC. TKE is the best fraternity. And it’s NOT EVEN CLOSE. Hard to believe, but true.

### In This Issue:

Hard to Believe, but True.....	1
Philanthropy.....	3
From the Prytanis.....	2
Spring Pledge Class.....	4
Athletics.....	3
Social & Events.....	5
Executive Officers.....	2
Leadership.....	2
Heard from the Bond.....	6
Save the Date.....	6
2019 Football.....	3



# From the PRYTANIS



Investment Group has also continued to expand as membership exceeds 50 brothers.

Such a cornerstone of our foundation are the contributions made from the outgoing seniors. The success of Michael Cesar's executive board was hugely impressionable and a critical building block for the growth of our house. Several seniors will be entering the workforce into established companies like JP Morgan, Evercore, KPMG, and many others. Regardless of where they go, the brotherhood cultivated during their four years here will follow them.

A solid foundation is the cornerstone of every success story. Following a rocky year for many fraternities across USC's row, the sound structure of TKE Beta-Sigma allowed us to sustain and grow through an adverse time. As the new Prytanis, I am blessed to have inherited such stability from the previous regime led by Mark Reid.

of our entire house—its diversity and the ambition of the new members are representative of our strongest qualities. Our membership now has surpassed 200 brothers, becoming the first house on the row to reach this number.

One major change to Greek life at USC was the institution of deferred rush. This meant freshmen were no longer allowed to rush during their first semester at the university, having to wait until the spring instead. In addition, IFC formalized rush so rushees now have to attend every fraternity during house tours. While the changes challenged fraternities in new ways, it ultimately allowed us to flourish through unprecedented participation from actives and highlighting the strengths of our house. This resulted in TKE being the No. 1 preferred fraternity after house tours. The spring '19 pledge class is emblematic

A main focus for my term as Prytanis is an emphasis on philanthropy. We look to continue the success of last year's fundraising efforts by supporting both St. Jude's and the Bel13ve in Miracles foundation. This semester we are bringing back the "TKE Ace" volleyball tournament as our philanthropy at the house.

My fellow officers and I are incredibly proud of the direction Beta-Sigma is going. Hitting historic membership numbers while maintaining our core values and traditions have our brothers extremely excited for the future. Nonetheless, I cannot omit my appreciation and thankfulness for all those who came before me and have allowed me to hold such a prestigious position among my brothers. It is an absolute honor to lead.

I am proud of our academic accomplishments, as the house posted a 3.21 GPA, beating the row-wide average once again. VP of Academics Evan Haas has revitalized the position by having a hands-on approach with our new members, making sure each is on track with classes and are prioritizing schoolwork correctly. Beta-Sigma

Yours in the Bond,

Max Jablonski #1707



## Executive Officer Board 2019

Congratulations to our Executive Board officers!

- Prytanis (President)*            **Max Jablonski**
- Epiprytanis (VP)*             **Rahsheed Clarke**
- Grammateus (Secretary)*   **Harrison Bach**
- Crysophylos (Treasurer)*   **Jack Zelezny**
- Histor (Historian)*           **Patrick O'Reilly**
- Hypophetes (Chaplain)*     **Ryan Goldsher**
- Pylortes (Sergeant-at-arms)* **Oscar Bashaw**
- Hegemon (Educator)*        **David Gasser**
- Rush Chairmen*                **Graham Cummings**  
**Brian Pipes**  
**Paul Schumacher**
- Brotherhood Chairmen*      **Joey Giralamo**  
**Daniel Simonds**
- Social Chairmen*              **Tanner Aiello**  
**Ben Dankner**  
**Scotty Polson**



# Athletics

by Zach Weiss #1,696

TKE has always prided itself on its athletic prowess, and this year has proven no different. The brothers of Beta-Sigma have remained highly competitive in their athletic pursuits, whether it be philanthropies, intramurals, or even our own backyard sports.

Weekday evenings are dominated by intramural soccer stars such as Blake Shaevitz and Karl Liapunov, or basketball phenoms Harrison Bach and Khalid Smith. Both teams have had successful seasons and are looking to run through their respective playoffs to a title! On Friday mornings, TKE continues its dominance in sorority philanthropies such as Kappa Kickball, where we remained undefeated for the third straight year thanks to ace hitters Evan Haas and Dan Simonds.

On weekends, backyard volleyball games run all day, with our friends from neighboring Delta Gamma often joining in on the fun. Right alongside the volleyball players, fierce games of 3

on 3 hoops run morning to night, leaving onlookers wondering if the players truly even like each other (we do). The future continues to look bright for TKE athletics, as new and talented athletes are recruited in each new pledge class, consistently raising the bar for the entire house. Beta-Sigma has nothing but fun (and championships) in its sights going forward, as we look to bring home titles in upcoming intramural and philanthropy events.



# Philanthropy

by Harrison Bach #1,761

This spring, Beta-Sigma hopes to continue and expand its past successes with philanthropy efforts. After raising over \$130,000 for the Jack Jablonski Believe in Miracles Foundation last year, the chapter is striving to exceed that amount this spring through a philanthropic volleyball tournament, as well as assistance from friends, family, and other benefactors. Jack is now a senior in Beta-Sigma and his foundation supports paralysis research and technology development. We hope to contribute well to the foundation's aims to help paraplegics regain use of their legs. In addition to Jack's cause, Beta-Sigma will also be contributing to TKE's national philanthropy, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

In other news, Beta-Sigma has shown great representation in other philanthropic efforts on the row. Having just recently competed in Kappa Kickball, we look forward to participating in KAT at Bat, Phi Ball, and more later this spring. TKE will also be paired with a sorority to prepare meals for Los Angeles skid row later in March, a new row-wide initiative at USC. We are also excited to partake in community service initiatives around the Los Angeles area. Last fall, Beta-Sigma helped out the Heal the Bay Foundation, which strives to keep LA's waterways and beaches clean, and we have another event planned with this organization later in the semester. In addition, we hope to

work with the Hollywood Food Coalition, which supports impoverished citizens with hot meals and a supportive community. We are eager to make an impact on the LA community and continue raising funds for our foundations this year!



Beta-Sigas helping out at a Heal the Bay cleanup at Santa Monica beach.

## 2019 USC FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUG 31<sup>ST</sup>



SEPT 7<sup>TH</sup>



SEPT 14<sup>TH</sup>



FRIDAY  
SEPT 20<sup>TH</sup>



SEPT 28<sup>TH</sup>



OCT 12<sup>TH</sup>



OCT 19<sup>TH</sup>



FRIDAY  
OCT 25<sup>TH</sup>



NOV 2<sup>ND</sup>



NOV 9<sup>TH</sup>



NOV 16<sup>TH</sup>



NOV 23<sup>RD</sup>





# Brotherhood

by Joey Giralamo #1,711

This semester, the newly elected brotherhood chairs are myself and Dan Simonds. We hope to expand the position as well as maintain the norms established by previous brotherhood chairs. One of the first steps we took to more efficiently run the position is working closely with the new member brotherhood chairs. This connection has allowed us to foster a more thorough relationship between the already active members of the house with these new members. This has worked very smoothly so far as their pledge class is now more

involved in events that we have been and therefore more likely to participate.

Some of the major events that are thrown to integrate different pledge classes are sports tournaments in the backyard, where you are encouraged to be on the same team as your big brother. These tournaments include basketball, volleyball, wiffleball, and spike ball. These tournaments provide friendly competition that allows for newly active brothers and older brothers to meet in a fun, easygoing environment.

TKE is unparalleled on the row for having close brotherhood. We take great honor and responsibility in being the men in charge to maintain this level of comradery. Therefore, it is very important to us to

keep the traditions that previously have made this brotherhood bond so strong. We also encourage new ideas on any ways to better the current position. Both Dan and I have large expectations for this semester and are excited for the opportunity to set the highest example of Beta-Sigma brotherhood.



Seniors at their final Blue Chip with Sweetheart Savannah Sinfield.

## THE SPRING 2019 PLEDGE CLASS

**Aidan Banfield**  
*San Francisco, CA*

**Kennedy Bohanna**  
*Cincinnati, OH*

**Marcos Carbi**  
*Miami, FL*

**Philip Chang**  
*Manhasset, NY*

**Buddy Coppersmith**  
*Pasadena, CA*

**James Coyle**  
*St. Louis, MO*

**William Fox**  
*London, UK*

**Anthony Francalancia**  
*Northborough, MA*

**Nick Francalancia**  
*Northborough, MA*

**Sam Frazer**  
*Highland Park, IL*

**JT Garcia**  
*San Antonio, TX*

**Grady Harrison**  
*Seattle, WA*

**Lucas Harvey**  
*Singapore*

**Owen Higgs**  
*New York, NY*

**Tyler Jacobs**  
*Nashville, TN*

**Camden Jones**  
*Knoxville, TN*

**Tyler Kornguth**  
*Pacific Palisades, CA*

**Parker Lansberg**  
*Bradenton, FL*

**Spencer Marell**  
*New Jersey*

**Trevor Marvin**  
*Annapolis, MD*

**Quinn McCarthy**  
*Chicago, IL*

**Colin McDonnell**  
*Chicago, IL*

**Jordan McMillan**  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**Ibrahim Mokhtar**  
*Chicago, IL*

**Aaron Moore**  
*Tampa, FL*

**Mateo Pastrana**  
*Bogota, Colombia*

**Charlie Pink**  
*New York, NY*

**Nevin Sanitsky**  
*Los Angeles, CA*

**Jack Saperstone**  
*Boston, MA*

**Nick Sardella**  
*St. Louis, MO*

**Emile Shawa**  
*Palos Verdes, CA*

**Nick Silver**  
*Malibu, CA*

**Dylan Strode**  
*Newport Beach, CA*

**Niall Tighe**  
*Santa Monica, CA*

**Golden Landis Von Jones**  
*San Francisco, CA*



# Social & Events

by Ben Dankner #1,704

Coming off our recent social suspension, everyone in the TKE Beta-Sigma chapter was excited for a fun semester and to reestablish ourselves as a prominent house on the row. We did exactly that by starting off our semester with a bang, hosting our largest event of the semester, TKE Takeoff, in early February. The party was outer space themed and truly out of this world! We had such strong attendance we had to shut the doors by 10:15 due to reaching capacity. Since then we have kept the ball rolling with a slew of fun events with sororities like Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Gamma, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Pi Beta Phi.

Looking forward, we have a large group of fraters who are excited to go to Cabo for the week during spring break. Additionally, we have a strong end to the semester, including our philanthropy event, TKE Ace, a volleyball tournament hosted at the house, the Red Carnation Ball (RCB) in Las Vegas the first weekend of April, followed by Coachella the next weekend. With such a strong end to the spring ahead, the fall semester and its forever-loved tailgate season will be coming around the corner before we know it!



Brothers enjoying a silent disco.



President Max Jablonski and Social Chairs Ben Dankner and Scotty Polson getting ready for TKE Takeoff!



Brothers enjoy TKE Beta-Sigma's very own Louis the Child performance at The Shrine!



Guests having fun at Brochella.



New members at DG Invite.



TKE Takeoff with new-member Golden Landis Von Jones performing!

## TKE @ USC PARENTS' CLUB

All parents of active members are invited to participate in and support the TKE Parents' Club.

Parents and alumni interested in learning more about club activities can email [tkeparentsclub@gmail.com](mailto:tkeparentsclub@gmail.com) for more info.



# HEARD FROM THE BOND

**Leigh Mateas #386** shared some sad news...his wife of 55 years, Lindy, passed away from cancer last August. We are sorry for your loss, Leigh!

On a good note, Leigh's granddaughter received a full-ride athletic scholarship, and is now attending Oregon State.

**Brian Cox #512** serves as president of the Institute for Faith-based Diplomacy in Washington, D.C. In 2018, Brian made three trips to Romania, two trips to Jordan, and two trips to Israel in order to train the next generation of faith-based peacemakers and equip them to counter religious extremism. Thanks for your service, Brian!

Brian is blessed to have three grandchildren (Eric, 8, Eleanor, 4, and Emmett, 4) and one more expected in June 2019. He's traveled quite a bit recently with trips to Death Valley, Orlando, Dallas, Italy, and a couple of cruises (one transatlantic and one along the Mexican Riviera).

## Chapter Eternal

*Remembering our Departed Fraters*



**Jon Huntley #798**

Jon passed away on December 8, 2018, after a six-plus year battle with ALS.

He was an inspiration to many as he worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for the ALS cause—all the while contending with his disease.

Jon is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and two daughters, Olivia and Rachel.

### STAY CONNECTED with Beta-Sig

Take a minute right now to look yourself up and make sure that we've got the correct email address and phone numbers so we can keep you up to date throughout the year.

Go to [www.tkeusc.org](http://www.tkeusc.org) and click the alumni directory link. Enter your last name to access and update your profile information.



**TKE IS THE FRATERNITY FOR LIFE ...**



... share your photos, including TKE fraters from past friends and family trips, vacations, weddings, and other special occasions. Send them to Erik Brannon at [brannon@apollointeractive.com](mailto:brannon@apollointeractive.com) with a brief caption and the names of TKEs pictured and we will showcase them on the website and in future newsletters.

### Mark Your Calendars!

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Open House & BBQ

Saturday, July 20, 2019, at 12:00 p.m.



Jack Allen #328 checks out some TKE memorabilia.

Catch up with fraters, get to know the undergrads and take a tour the houses. Enjoy a delicious catered lunch, the open bar, and an opportunity to see our collection of chapter scrapbooks and other memorabilia including all of the membership scrolls.

Join us this July for a great afternoon and re-connect with TKE!

The per person cost is \$20 (significant others welcome!).

RSVP and sign up today at [www.tkeusc.org/support/ffl/](http://www.tkeusc.org/support/ffl/)

**We'll see you there!**

