



# BETA-SIGMA TKE

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity | University of Southern California | Winter 2019-20  
Alumni Relations Office | 531 Main Street #902, El Segundo, CA 90245 | [www.tkeusc.org](http://www.tkeusc.org)



## FRATER BARR RECOGNIZED ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

**T**au Kappa Epsilon has many awards that honor fraters who have fulfilled specific needs of our great fraternity. There are two awards, in particular, that top the list—the Order of the Golden Eagle and Fraternity for Life awards. Only a handful of men have received both of these coveted awards, but each should be seen as a model of what it means to be a Teke.

Our own Frater **Bob Barr #479** was recognized, with both of these awards, during TKE’s 60<sup>th</sup> Conclave in Orlando this past summer. Congratulations Bob!



Frater Barr receiving the Order of the Golden Eagle Award at Conclave and congratulated by fellow Beta-Sig Greg Woodson.

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## MEET THE FALL 2019 PLEDGE CLASS (read more on page 3)



# From the PRYTANIS



It is with difficulty I write that we have lost one of our own this semester. On September 4, our brother Ben Duma passed away. Ben was a junior studying industrial and systems engineering in the Viterbi School of Engineering. Ben truly embodied what it meant to be a TKE Beta-Sigma. He not only was heavily involved and participatory in the house, but across campus as well as he was an active member in the Navy's ROTC program. He aspired upon graduation to become a naval aviator.

The tragedy struck us greatly—and still affects the chapter to this day. We are thankful for how

supportive our control board, TKE International (especially CEO Donald Aldrich and Director of Education Alex Swenson), and the overall USC community has been. I am so grateful for the brothers we have in this house in assisting each other through a trying time.

While our house is still reeling, I would be remiss to not mention the great strides we have taken in the past semester. Our GPA rose to a 3.32, increasing by .11. Much of this success can be attributed to a higher house-wide priority on school as we have increased our resources going toward academics, enhancing study areas, and

adding a printer in our library. In addition, our rush this semester was extremely prosperous as we added a great group of 18 diverse young men. Lastly, we have fully overcome our social suspension and no longer have any restrictions on events, a considerable accomplishment when considering the current lens fraternities are looked at across the school and country.

As I am sure all previous prytanes have felt, this role has provided an unbelievable opportunity for growth through facing a plethora of diverse challenges. Our entire executive board has learned a tremendous amount serving this house and building for the future. I am excited to see this chapter continue to build and flourish

Yours in the Bond,

*Max Jablonski*

Max Jablonski #1,707

## Brotherhood

by Harry Derecat #1,647 and Joey Giralmo #1,711

This semester, our brotherhood program is fully invested in uniting the members of our house. A large part of this initiative consists of activities planned



Tekes enjoying spring break in Mexico.

to integrate young members with older members of the house. We do weekly sports tournaments in the backyard (basketball, whiffle ball, volleyball). Additionally, we host out of the house events, such as a recent beach clean-up. Moving forward, we have planned several events, including trips to professional sports games, camping trips, and other outdoor activities.

We also have strong ties with our alumni group, bringing members of the house to our TKE tent tailgates just outside the Rose Garden with our alumni every home football game. We are excited for the rest of the semester and will continue to build ties amongst the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon.



TKE Ace Championship Game.

## Athletics

by Harrison Bach #1,761

The athletes of Beta-Sigma hope to provide excellent representation of our house in this semester's sports season. Many brothers of TKE participate in club sports ranging from rugby to tennis to baseball. These athletes show constant commitment to their sports, regularly attending practices and travelling for weekend tournaments with other universities.

In addition, Beta-Sigma embraces a culture of athletics through intramural sports. TKE has already begun intramural basketball and currently boasts an undefeated record thanks to our diverse skillset, including the sharp shooting



Champion TKE flag football team.

of senior Cole Cirillo and defensive efforts by Khalid Smith and Max Jablonski. Later in the semester, we plan to participate in intramural flag football and soccer as well, led by some of our senior athletes. We have an exciting sports season ahead of us and look forward to becoming better men through competition and sportsmanship.

## Philanthropy

by Harrison Bach #1,761

TKE is excited to continue its philanthropic efforts from the end of last semester. In March, Beta-Sigma hosted its annual volleyball tournament, TKE Ace, and raised over \$15,000 for the Jack Jablonski Believe in Miracles Foundation. TKE also participated in a daylong service trip to Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles, where we served ice cream and organized supplies for the homeless population in L.A.

Beta-Sigma looks forward to contributing to more philanthropic causes this fall. Following the loss of our brother, Ben Duma, a group of seniors organized a car wash fundraiser dedicated to suicide prevention and awareness. TKE has also participated in some sorority philanthropy events this fall, including AD Pi's Row Cup and Pi Phi's Arrowspike. With more sorority philanthropies on the way, the brothers of Beta-Sigma are eager to show off their athletic prowess while contributing to great causes.

# Fall Rush

by **Aiden Banfield #1,780**

Just a few days after moving in for the new school year, we embarked on another rush in search of the individuals who could come together as one to continue the legacy set before them. After a tightly organized week, our second semester of formalized rush ended equally as successful as our first. Taking a smaller pledge class during the fall presents its difficulties as we were tasked with giving out a very limited number of bids to a group of almost 500 fine young men. After a week that included many house tours, lots of new faces, and an excellent trip to Dave & Buster's, the house welcomed in



Brothers Preparing for Blue Chip Dinner.

the fall 2019 pledge class, USC's best. We cannot wait to see what our new members will bring to our community and hope to see them become leaders in the big brown houses at the end of the Row.

# THE FALL 2019 PLEDGE CLASS



- Michael Bennett** • Berkeley, CA
- Matt Breen** • San Francisco, CA
- Max Coulson** • London, UK
- Tyler Cullen** • Marin County, CA
- Max Dresner** • Long Island, NY
- Brendan Eggert** • San Francisco, CA
- Teddy Florescu** • New York City, NY
- Jack Freefield** • Cleveland, OH
- Austin Hill** • Portland, OR
- AJ Hull** • Los Altos, CA
- Tyler Jutting** • Mankato, MN
- Gabe Klorman** • Calabasas, CA
- Istvan Kovacs** • Sydney, AU
- Jack Rasmussen** • Los Gatos, CA
- Josh Sherman** • Seattle, WA
- Isaiah Townsend** • Los Angeles, CA
- Nigel Wilhelm** • San Francisco, CA
- Darren Wong** • Toronto, ON

# Social & Events

by **Scott Polson #1,704**

We have kicked the year off with two parties at the house. The first one was a Mardi Gras themed party with necklaces all over. We had a great turnout and it was an awesome way to start the year. The other party we hosted was a SpongeBob themed event called the Bikini Bottom. We went back to a childhood classic and all dressed up like we were

eight again. Looking forward, the next event at the house will be our Homecoming tailgate from the Arizona game. We are going to Homecoming with Kappa Kappa Gamma this year and are excited to have a week packed of fun events leading up to the game. Outside of parties, we just had our favorite brotherhood event called slosh ball, which I am sure many of you remember from your days in the house. We are excited for a packed semester of events!



Mardi Gras Party.

## 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.



Vegas trip.



Party day at the house.



Catalina Island trip.



# HEARD FROM THE BOND

**George Strella #21** has notified us that he has pics of the original SCorpsion club as well as the petition to TKE for acceptance into the fraternity! George, the Alumni Association would love to have those items for the TKE Archives. We'll reach out and make arrangements to receive them as soon as you're able to mail them off to us. Thank You!

**Richard Haskell #136** has a new lady friend—Joan Kasman of Laguna Woods. (Way to go, Rich!) Rich is still playing senior tennis and staying competitive. Last (5) National Tournaments: (1) gold ball (winner) in 80-plus age group, (4) silver balls (runner up), (2) in 80s and (2) in 85s. Rich continues to volunteer for Meals on Wheels on a regular basis.

**Jack Allen #328** and his wife, Carolyn, now have five children, 18 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. The two of them have been married for 59 years! Congratulations to the two of you, Jack!

**John Hamilton #348** reports that he is doing great. He's working on his 1971 BMW 2800 CS [at right]...and it's looking great too! John's also working on making a trophy knife...always busy in his workshop. His wife, Marianne, manages him and 31 tenants while their cat, Bots, runs the show.



**William Deans #383** recently wrote in saying that we should have done this (meaning the spring newsletter sent out back in May) years ago. He thought it was an "excellent presentation!!" Glad you liked it William!

**Charles Milam #435** stays busy in his retirement as the treasurer at the Manhattan Beach Roundhouse Aquarium, serving as docent at the L.A. County Natural History Museum, and volunteering at the California Science Center at the Endeavour Space Shuttle Exhibit. He and his wife, Marilyn, have been married for 47 years and have two sons and three grandsons.

**Jonathan Marshall #543** recently retired...but now that he's retired, he's gone and started up a new company, JM Media Sales. Good luck with your new venture, Jon!

**John Thompson #742** is in his 30th year as a mortgage professional. He recently earned the certified reverse mortgage professional designation—one of only 165 in the nation. Check us out at [www.borrowsmartreverse.com](http://www.borrowsmartreverse.com). John's middle son, David, graduated from SDSU in three years! He will be joining John in his mortgage practice. Youngest son, Joe, graduated from St. Francis High School.

**Henry Marvin #812** continues to work hard running his insurance agency. This is his 28th year in the business and his family agency is in its 107th year. Henry's daughter, Morgan, graduated SDSU with a bachelor's degree in psychology. His daughter, Brooke, is attending San Luis Obispo as a junior, studying materials engineering. His son is now a junior at Quartz Hill High School.

**Alexander Gittelson #1,184** had been running his own talent management/film & TV production company, The Gittelson Group, over for the past four years but recently joined ROAR, a well-established firm in Beverly Hills.

## Chapter Eternal

Remembering our Departed Fraters

### REMEMBERING BOARD MEMBER JOHN NELSON



**John Nelson #392**

We are very sorry to report that Frater John Nelson, Beta-Sigma #392, passed away on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. John joined TKE in 1961 and served on the Board of Advisors for the chapter for more than 30 years. His dedication, hard work, and expertise will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to his wife, Hoa, and daughter, Cynthia.



**Vincent Didio #153**



**Kingsley Thomas #262**



**Ron Frame #641**

## TEKES TAKE SCOTLAND!

This past summer, a group of TKE friends and their wives took a trip to Europe together. Below is a picture of the group on the coastline of Scotland!



Left to right: Mark (#603) & Vanessa Watters, Henry (#615) & Cathy Behrens, Craig (#604) & Shannon Moyer and Clay (#607) & Carolyn Vreeland.

**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.

## 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.

