



BETA-SIGMA TKE

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity | University of Southern California | Fall 2022
Alumni Relations Office | 531 Main Street #902, El Segundo, CA 90245 | www.tkeusc.org



*We Had to Do It
Here's Why:*

Beta-Sigma Disaffiliates from USC, and So Will Everyone Else

by David Bohline, #777
Beta-Sigma Board of Trustees

Breaking up is hard to do, and breaking up a 74-year relationship is even harder. But that is what TKE and seven other fraternities did on August 12, 2022, when we disaffiliated from USC. It was a difficult decision that had been under consideration for quite some time and the events of the previous school year were the final catalyst for our action.

In mid-October of 2021, multiple reports of alleged drugging and sexual assault were made against some USC fraternities. TKE and most other fraternities were never accused of any wrongdoing. Regardless, and in violation of its own student code of conduct, USC placed every fraternity on a complete suspension of activities that included not only social events, but philanthropy events, parents' weekend, community service, gatherings, intramural competitions, and lunches or dinners of an educational nature. USC's suspensions framed every fraternity and every member as guilty of serious crimes.

The media amplified this message. In response, protestors marched down the Row, vandalizing one fraternity and occupying the front yards of several others, including TKE. Our members were called racists and rapists by the mob. Soon after, USC announced the formation of a "Working Group" to tackle "sexual violence and misconduct," address "failures to act consistently with [USC] values," and review and redesign fraternity recognition expectations. These unprecedented actions and responses were taken against fraternities in "good standing" without a single fact evidencing any wrongdoing, and by doing so, USC decreed the fraternity system inherently guilty, culturally misaligned, and in need of mandatory re-education.

It was becoming very clear to us that it was time to separate. But this was not the only reason for our decision. In 2017, USC imposed restrictive grade and academic requirements on fraternity and sorority student organizations before students were allowed to join. This requirement was only made for Greek-letter organizations. It became known as deferred rush. USC claimed that new students needed time to adjust to student life on campus and that early participation in Greek life imposed unique burdens. However, documents obtained in legal actions demonstrated that the real reason for the change was that USC was soon to bring online its new University Village housing project and, according to USC's VP of student affairs, students who joined Greek life and exited the dorms posed the single greatest threat to the success of the residential college option USC was offering. In addition to deferring rush for freshmen, USC made the rush process burdensome by requiring students to pay a registration fee and formally visit every fraternity on a set schedule or be disqualified from further participation. Fewer men rushed, fewer men were initiated, and far fewer fraternities now exist at USC.

There were 28 fraternities at USC when I rushed in 1985 but only 15 are left today. Sig Ep was kicked off

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Fall Rush



Prepping for the Blue Chip Dinner

by John Schantz #1,883

Fall rush this semester was a very new experience for all of the current members of the house. For the first time in several years, we were able to rush freshmen in their first semester at USC and the results were very positive.

We exceeded our own expectations and took a pledge class of over 50 men, with a good mix of freshmen and sophomores. The events during the week included house tours, lunches, and several large events both at TKE and off campus.

The process was a lot of hard work and took a huge amount of effort and planning from everyone on the rush committee and entire house. We could not be prouder of the results. We are extremely excited for the direction that Beta-Sigma is headed with this class of new members.

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From the Prytanis



Luke Hopkins #1,886

After seven months of discussion with the North-American Interfraternity Conference, the Beta-Sigma alumni board of advisers, the TKE National Headquarters, and several other fraternities within the University Park community, Beta-Sigma declared independence from the University of Southern California and joined a new group of fraternities known as the University Park Interfraternity Council (UPIFC). Although the news may have struck many as daunting, the decision was perhaps one of the most beneficial for ensuring the chapter's ability to conduct rush, social, philanthropy, and brotherhood events in a safe and respectful environment while granting each fraternity the freedom to express itself freely without previous restrictions imposed by the university. The current state of the chapter has never been higher in regard to morale, participation, and anticipation for the future of Beta-Sigma.

As will be mentioned in the latter portion of this article, disaffiliation from the university allowed for fraternities within the UPIFC to allow first-semester freshmen the opportunity to join a

fraternity. With that came one of Beta-Sigma's largest pledge classes of 48 new members who are looking to contribute to what it means to be better men for a better world. Additionally, the chapter had the pleasure to be visited by TKE CEO Donald Aldrich, who spoke with our entire chapter about the importance of upholding one's character to prove

to others that while our status with the university has changed, the mission of the chapter has not.

While last semester was full of many challenges in my first semester as prytanis, I have grown into the position and have come to realize that while I am the leader of the house, I am not alone. With the support of my executive board, I have learned that one is only as strong as those they surround themselves with.

Taking a step back to look at the current state of Beta-Sigma, I could not be prouder of the fine men that make up our 163-person chapter. I am excited to see what the future holds for our house and hope to continue by instilling the many lessons I have learned throughout my experience in the following generations of leaders who will continue to look to change the chapter, the community, and the world for the better.

Yours in the Bond,

Luke Hopkins

Luke Hopkins #1,886



Philanthropy



Pledge Class at the St. Jude Fundraiser

by Christian Shaw #1,930

The Beta-Sigma Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon wants to start off by saying thank you for any and all donations to St. Jude made on behalf of the chapter. This year, we really wanted to focus on embedding our philanthropy into the pledging process by teaching them what St. Jude is about. We also wanted to get them motivated to help fundraise for St. Jude. All of that culminated into the chapter deciding to hold a car wash in the back lot. It was spearheaded by the fall 2022 pledge class and was a huge success, raising nearly \$1,000 for St. Jude.

Athletics

by Sam Stack #1,925

Tau Kappa Epsilon sports wrapped up a dominant month with wins in the intramural soccer playoffs and an undefeated basketball regular season. Soccer standout **Case Wagstaff, #1,934**, punched in the game winner from the penalty spot in the quarterfinals to move on to the semis. Marshall Soccer couldn't compete with a deep TKE squad in the semis, and the home team played in the final at Brittingham. Closer to home, **Conner Cirillo, #1,865**, carried us to another championship on the dodgeball court, doing his best Peter La Fleur impression in an overtime win. The game was carried live on ESPN 8: The Ocho*, which will be carrying anchor ball and Phiball in the coming weeks. *Daily Trojan* sports columnist Yoav Gillath projects TKE will enter both



Tri-Delt Dodgeball Event Winners

events as the number one overall seed. There looks to be more parity than ever up and down the Row, and the boys will have to be locked in to avoid an upset.

*Disclaimer: ESPN The Ocho reference is a joke.



CHAPTER OFFICERS



Most E-board Officers Pictured Above

Prytanis
Luke Hopkins
President

Epiprytanis
Holden Arnett-Zhong
Vice President

Grammateus
Jack Deardorff
Secretary

Crysophylos
Jed Choi
Treasurer

Risk Manager
Tanner Kleinberg

Rush Chairmen
Chris Laird
Taj Pinkner
Eddie Gallardo

Brotherhood Chairmen
Reade Hansen
John Schantz

Histor
Chris Laird
Historian

Hypophetes
Jack McMann
Chaplain

Pylortes
Nick Hodge
Sergeant-at-arms

Hegemon
Max Bregman
Educator

Social Chairmen
Tucker Bruce
Billy Harrington
Burke Bloom

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chairman
Max Rovner

Philanthropy Chairman
Christian Shaw

Fall 2022 Pledge Class



Fall 2022 Pledge Class

Jaden Boyle
Keller, TX

Theo Bravos
Yuba City, CA

Coby Broukhim
Encino, CA

Braxton Cobb
Fresno, CA

Nicky Denaro
Miami, FL

Grey Dixon
Mill Valley, CA

Erik Fahlberg
McLean, VA

Freddy Gazal
Greenwich, CT

Nico GB
Palo Alto, CA

Dominic Gianatiempo
Saint George, UT

Noah Hanning
Pacific Palisades, CA

Cole Hench
La Jolla, CA

Jack Higley
Santa Monica, CA

Bowen James
Danville, CA

Joe Jordak
Atlanta, GA

Holden Knostman
Denver, CA

Hunter Kolodziej
Hermosa Beach, CA

Kane Lauterman
Corte Madera, CA

John Levy
Beverly Hills, CA

John Mccance
Mamaroneck, NY

Carson McCann
Austin, TX

Mikey McCarthy
Northfield, IL

Brad Miller
Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Thorton Mitchell
Cordova, TN

Nelson Niyongabo
Denver, CO

Douglass Peterson
Atlanta, GA

Justin Pfahler
Calabasas, CA

Owen Philps
West Vancouver, BC

Mikey Port
Miami, FL

Cameron Randolph
Naperville, IL

Hayden Ranshaw
Sherman Oaks, CA

Didi Adbel Rhim
Cape Coral, FL

Jack Roberts
Greenville, SC

Carter Rocket
New York City, NY

Henry Roth
Los Angeles, CA

Josh Shapiro
Arlington, VA

Sean Simon
Pacific Palisades, CA

Walker Spoor
Ketchum, ID

Matt Suri
Elizabeth, NJ

Jack Tatum
Dallas, TX

Nico Taylor
Newport Coast, CA

Arjun Virmani
San Jose, CA

William Vreeland
Nashville, TN

Champion Whitton
San Diego, CA

CJ Williams
Santa Ana, CA

Warren Zhang
Buellton, CA

George Zhou
Ladera Ranch, CA

Social and Events

by Billy Harrington #1,887

Beta-Sigma's social scene has erupted in the wake of COVID-19 safety guidelines being removed. In the spring of 2022, we hosted our new signature daytime party (or "darty"), "TKEs and Caicos," featuring a set-up exclusively based in our sand pit and with a 17-foot water slide. Additional spring 2022 parties included our register, Tropic Thunder, and a "Foam in Rome" party to celebrate the school year coming to a close.

This fall, most Saturdays have been occupied with tailgates. We also held our classic TKE Halloween register and other daytime outdoor register events. Thanks to the expansive outdoor space at the house, current Beta-Sigma members always have all the facilities we need to throw a memorable party.



TKE Ace Philanthropy Event



TKE Foam in Rome



TKE Tropic Thunder



TKEs and Caicos

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 for you so we can keep you up-to-date throughout the year.

Go to www.tkeusc.org and click the alumni directory link. Enter your last name to access and update your profile information.



HEARD FROM THE BOND

Jean Runnels, **George Strella's, #21**, niece, reached out to let us know of her uncle's passing this past June. Frater Strella, a founding member of Beta-Sigma, was a longtime supporter of the chapter and the alumni association.

Dr. Dennis Jarrard, #339, is retired and doing well. He'll be 85-years-old in January.

Susan Mackin, **Harry Mackin's, #371**, wife, shared news of Harry's passing back on July 31, 2020, from a form of ALS. "He was very proud to be a TKE and had a mug from TKE displayed in his office. When he retired, he brought the mug home and it still sits on his desk," wrote Susan. Susan has donated to the TKE Annual Fund in memory of Harry.

Chuck Milam, #435, has been retired since 2008. He's got three grandkids, aged nine- and five-years-old. The nine-year-olds are fraternal twin boys. Chuck has been living in Manhattan Beach since 1988 and married to Marilyn Sutton Milam since 1972. They celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 28. Chuck volunteers at the LA County Natural History Museum and Calif. Science Center (Endeavor Exhibit). He's also the treasurer of the Manhattan Beach Round House Aquarium.

Galen Clifford, #484, is retired and still scuba diving and snowboarding. Stay active, Galen!

Rick "Smitty" Smith, #526, donated to the Annual Fund in memory of his pledge brother, roommate, and basketball teammate, **Stan Janusz, #530**.

Peter Lund, #722, checked in with some business and personal updates: he's a managing member of Pacific

Properties, LLC, which develops, owns and operates healthcare properties. He's SVP at NAI Capital and director of healthcare services – providing real estate representation to the healthcare industry. Peter is also a managing member of Hawaiian-Pacific Distilling Company, LLC, which produces Villa Amarilla Limoncello. Peter is the current President of the Ferrari Club of America – Southwest Region (Southern California and Hawaii). He has a daughter at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks. Finally, he's looking forward to the Riley era to begin! Fight On!

Daniel Swift, #756, retired from the Oregon State Police Department in April of 2000. He and his family moved to Savannah, Georgia, in June, 2021, where his son is attending Benedictine Military School.

Henry Marvin's, #812, insurance agency, ISA Stephen B. Marvin Insurance, recently opened a location in Libby, Montana. Henry's daughter Morgan has started her PhD program at UC San Diego. His other daughter, Brooke, graduated from Cal Poly SLO in materials engineering. Henry's son Stephen is a sophomore at Cal Poly Pomona. Henry enjoys the TKE newsletter and memories. Go Beta-Sigma Tekes!

Wes Goldstein, #1,015, retired from the U.S. Navy after 23 years. Wes is currently the COO of Mobilize Networks, Inc., a SAAS company based out of the Bay Area. Thank you for your service, Wes, and best of luck with your next career!

Adam Borba, #1,091, recently finished executive producing *Peter Pan & Wendy* for Disney. It stars Jude Law as "Captain Hook" and Jim Gaffigan as "Mr. Smee." The movie is expected to premiere in March of 2023 on Disney+. Adam's second middle-grade novel,

Ski Trip

more than 30 years...but who's counting?



Circa '93 – Solitude Ski Resort in Utah

by **JP LoMonaco, #789**

It all started in 1991 when **Tom Rule, #805**, and **Mark Barnes, #754**, decided to go skiing for a long weekend. The next year, **Rob Boesel, #791**, **Dean Haney, #779**, and **Kurt Adams, #753**, joined the fun. In those early years, the trips also included **Jeff Fiedorowicz, #748**, and **Chris Simonoff, #760**, with the most recent addition being **Mike Sobolov, #797**. Mark takes care of all the details and keeps the annual trip alive, even after moving across the country.

Although our skiing abilities peaked years ago, the chance to get together and share life's stories for over 30 years has been a gift. When we were undergrads, there was no way for us to know that the friendships that were just starting would grow into a lifelong bond. I'm looking forward to this year's trip and adding a few more stories to the tradition.

Outside Nowhere, was published by Little Brown Books for Young Readers. He hopes everyone has a chance to check both of these out with their families.

Beta-Sigma Disaffiliates

Continued from Page 1

in 2013, SAE and ATO in 2014, Delta Chi and Fiji in 2016, and even after six to nine years, they have not been allowed to return. Why? Shutting down a fraternity due to misconduct is understandable. But not allowing a fraternity to return after all the members responsible have graduated is not reasonable, and this has been USC policy for well over a decade.

Our decision to disaffiliate was the culmination of extraordinary efforts by fraternity chapters and alumni adviser groups this past summer. It is a decision that is supported by our members, international headquarters, board of advisers, and house corporation. We formed and joined a new, independent IFC called the University Park Interfraternity Council (UPIFC). The UPIFC is supported by the North American Interfraternity Conference and has adopted a constitution, by-laws, and chapter standards. TKE will continue to follow state and local laws, the policies of TKE International, and the policies of the UPIFC. The UPIFC hired a director to manage and support the chapters, meets weekly, and is now composed of 12 chapters with more applying at the time of this writing. It is expected that all 15 USC fraternities will join the UPIFC by the end of this school year. Sororities are impressed by the



UPIFC and have agreed to associate with the member chapters and participate in their events.

I am often asked why we disaffiliated when everything was going so well for TKE, and it's a good question. Despite the rest of the Greek system shrinking, TKE has thrived and is larger than ever. But we don't want to be the only fraternity left at USC. We want the fraternity experience to be available to all young men and that requires a thriving, competitive system. And we believe that system can only exist independent of USC.

So, how is TKE doing? First, I want to say how proud we are of the chapter and its leadership. They have continued to responsibly run the fraternity under the same policies and guidelines that predate disaffiliation. Contrary to USC claims, TKE did not disaffiliate to "break the rules." And despite dire warnings from USC, rush was a huge systemwide success with first semester freshmen eagerly participating. TKE took 52 pledges and initiated 48 of them as members, the biggest class on the Row and by far the largest group ever recruited by Beta-Sigma.

Will we be disaffiliated from USC forever? I hope not,

but it's a time of change whether we like it or not. USC shocked us all with a move to the Big 10. It makes me sad, but at the same time I believe it was the right decision for the future of our football program. As alumni advisers, it's our job to guide and ground TKE decisions in what is best for our student members. One of our priorities is a commitment to future potential members' ability to join TKE to participate at the highest level of the collegiate experience. Our move to the UPIFC positions us for long-term success and stability amidst a rapidly changing USC cultural landscape. We had to do it.



Remembering our Departed Fraters

George Strella #21

David Harvey #72

Charles Krieger #44

Donald Lievsay #131

Edward Appffel #52

Harry Mackin #371