

# Tau Kappa Epsilon Alumni Newsletter

## WESTERN MISSOURI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – SPRING 2006



April 17, 2006

Spring 2006 Edition



**Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity  
Western Missouri Alumni  
Association**  
421 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/tke  
(816) 294-6139



### Special Interest Articles:

- **Chili Cookoff** gives an excuse for alumni to get together and watch football with Chris Ryberg taking home the top prize for the best chili (page 1)
- TKE Fraternity Alumni prepared to get together this summer, June 10<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chapter's founding at Western (page 1,2)
- St. Patrick's Day Barhop hosted by **Josh Wilson** in St. Joseph, MO, sees a large TKE turnout (page 2)
- New Alumni Updates for the issue include entrepreneur **Stephen Robison**, former two-terms Prytanis **Jim Hoene**, financial advisor **Dan Danford**, construction consultant **Brad King**, and high school educator **Donald Individual Highlights:**

Chili Cookoff	1
TKE 35 <sup>th</sup> in June	1
Wilson's Barhop	2
Alumni Updates	3
Xi-Eta Update	3
Engagements	4
Alumni B-Days	4

## TKE Chili Cookoff Caps off Regular Season

Fraters took time out of a Saturday afternoon in early December to throw together their best Emeril impression, roll up their sleeves, and show



off secret Chuck Norris recipes to each other by having a manly Chili Cookoff, hosted by **Frater Guy Johnson** at his home in the Country Club.

Taking home first place for the

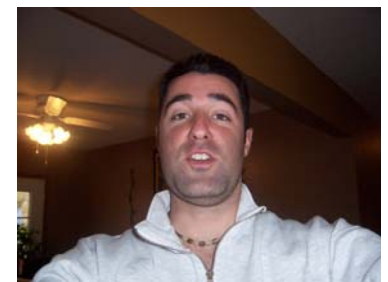
## TKE 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – June 10<sup>th</sup>

About 35 years ago, just after transposing themselves from the downtown Junior College campus in the on 10<sup>th</sup> and Edmond Streets (formerly Robidoux Middle School, now an apartment complex), a new generation of college students pulled up stake and moved out to 3 buildings on a pasture east of St. Joseph.

They moved to the campus of what was then becoming Missouri State College.

Soon afterwards, many of the male students on this campus came together in pursuit of social interaction and mental

afternoon was **Frater Chris "Huey" Ryberg** (scroll #237, initiated fall '98) with a perfectly blended recipe. Chris credited the good people at Hormel for all of his chef success. **Frater David "Shadow" Paige** (scroll #204, initiated fall '97) showed up with a good recipe that took home second place and **Frater Jay "Skywalker" Muller** (aka "Paco", scroll #233, initiated fall '98) also brought a culinary masterpiece that was devoured by all present. Other memorable chilis shown off during the day were Steve Robison's "The Fridge" chili (everything he



could find in his fridge that morning), Josh Wilson's "White Chili" made with ham and beans, and Zach Ramsay's "Cincinatti Chili", which was actually the worst chili there and no one ate. A good time, drinks, and good conversation was had by all, cheering the Chiefs to a victory.

and moral development. They wanted to become leaders, hang out on the weekends, accomplish campus service and community involvement, and just enjoy college life to its fullest.

They wanted to become members of a fraternity. The chose to become Tekes.

The first days of TKE quickly saw the organization get their members involved in various aspects of campus life – student government, professional organizations in departments, Homecoming, a annual Wild West masquerade party, dances, and a fundraising drive for

aplastic amenia victims in St. Joseph. They planted the first "frat tree" on campus and took possession of the first fraternity house in the community at the corner of 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Mitchell Avenue. In 1977, St. Joe Mayor William Bennett even proclaimed an official "Teke Week" in the city and the Lieutenant Governor of Missouri at the time – William Phelps – came to the Chapter's house to take a tour during this time.

Raging success continued for the Chapter in the late '70's and early 80's. However, a series of unfortunate events and a house



# Tau Kappa Epsilon 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Xi-Eta Chapter – Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>



This page out of the 1977 Missouri Western yearbook highlights the proclamation of "Teke Week" from Mayor William Bennett to then Prytanis Marvin Atkins and a tour of the house for Lieutenant Governor William Phelps by Frater Dennis Atkins.



TKE Brothers at Homecoming 1999 in front of their finished and well-pomped float – the Chapter placed 2<sup>nd</sup> this year.

fire led to the Chapter's sudden departure from campus in 1983. Quickly, the Chapter was disbanded from Tau Kappa Epsilon Intl. Fraternity after a short-term suspension and there was no talk of re-opening right away or even ever again.

Alumni continued to stay in regular touch over the years and after the dissipation of the Chapter, however, and there were plenty of occasions of brothers getting back together, a 20<sup>th</sup> reunion of many of the Chapter members, and regular communication of many of men through St. Joe connections. Brothers turned into husbands. Houses were purchased, careers were started, and kids were born. Frater Bruce Windsor continued working his way up at Hillyard. Larry Ball began an electrical contracting business. Ron Nold built the first home on Alpha Lane in the zoo area. Dan Baker started working for himself with a partner and founded Devoy Baker Insurance. Jay Kerner had two girls and opened a Drive In movie theater. Dennis Atkins

worked about every place imaginable for American Family before returning back to St. Joseph to their regional offices. Jim Hoene began a family and purchased a home in Eureka. Mike Conard moved to Kansas City and teaches mechanical and façade repair. Brent Hendrix became a lawyer and started his own practice in Springfield. Doug Cook ran the meat department for Green Hills in St. Joseph and occasionally hosted a big party at the Knights of Columbus hall. Mark Pankau moved to Virginia. Dale Chrystie moved to Wyoming. Brothers changed and evolved and had plenty of life experiences, but a new group of men were graduating high school and breathing new life into the TKE spirit at Missouri Western for a new generation. Men such as John Norton, Joe Alderton, Chris Uliana, Jeff Peve, and Mike Lewark came together to form a strong union of brotherhood and support. The men were involved in student government, intramural

sports, the Honors student program, and their majors. They were interested in recruiting the top-notch men which the campus had to offer to be their collegiate and lifelong friends. TKE has now been on campus for 10 years, watching many of their first 5 years members graduate and start this cycle of brotherhood and life friendships. Brothers such as Guy Johnson, Josh Ruhnke, Matt Growcock, Ben Barnhart, Scott Coleman, Brian Hirsch, Taylor Crouse, Curtis Martin, Brian Weese, and Dennis Walling kept the Chapter alive and going from its inception. The men of Tau Kappa Epsilon – the sequel – have lasted almost as many years as the first version of Xi-Eta. In total, it has been 35 glorious years from the time the first new member, John Burgess, signed the scroll to the newest member, scroll #338 Derek Lewis, was initiated weeks ago. There is much to be celebrated and relived this summer, and we will do just that on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph.

## St. Patrick's Day Barhop Hosted by Wilson Well Attended by Tekes



Undergraduate Prytanis Jeremy Funk and alumni John Fabsits and Josh Wilson, Party Liaison, on the St. Joe St. Patrick's Day Barhop



105.5, hosted a St. Patrick's Day Barhop in St. Joseph, Mo., the Friday night of St. Patrick's Day 2006. DJ Dan had announced the event throughout the St. Joseph area using his mass-media connections, and before Josh

knew it, over 90 people had signed up to go on the barhop extravaganza. Another bus was purchased for the event, and a 5-hour trek around St. Joseph from bar to bar saw a fun-filled evening for everyone who attended

Several TKE brothers who didn't attend the event met up with the busses at Legend's Bar & Grill for drinking and socializing. Thanks to Josh for organizing such a fun event for such an affordable price!



**Frater Josh "Turbo" Wilson** (scroll #234, initiated fall '98), his fiancé Aimee Pike, and a friend of TKE, DJ Dan Michaels of KKJO



## Alumni Updates – What the Old and New School Are Doing Now

**Frater Stephen “Mulligan” Robison** (initiated fall '97, scroll #204) has started his own company, DIP Capital Group, and is investing in real estate around the St. Joseph area. Steve has already turned over several homes and owns quite a few more, renting and selling them. He also owns and leases a salon on 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Contact Steve at (816) 616-7667 or [svr4643@stjoelive.com](mailto:svr4643@stjoelive.com)



*Steve at the Mayor's Thanksgiving Dinner in November with his girlfriend, Micah McClure, sister of brother Jeremy McClure. He works as a support care provider in St. Joseph, too.*

**Frater Brad “Rocky” King** (initiated fall '97, scroll #202), President and CEO of Infrastructure Consulting in College Station, Texas, had some very proud moments in the months of February and March as his wife, Laura King, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Intermediate II level of equestrian events for the Texas A&M Aggies cowgirls team. Laura, a mother, worker, and full-time college student, is just in her first year of riding and doing incredibly well as a lynchpin member for the A&M squad. Contact Brad anytime at his e-mail [Infraconsultant@aol.com](mailto:Infraconsultant@aol.com) or call him at (832) 385-5979.



*Although this photo from the A&M website is not confirmed as Brad King's wife, Laura, this is a nice representation of what a lady riding a horse might look like after winning 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Frater Jim Hoene** (scroll #150) is doing well in Eureka, Mo., and looking forward to coming back for the 35<sup>th</sup>. E-mail and contact him at [hoene@aol.com](mailto:hoene@aol.com).

**Frater Dan Danford** (scroll #109) was recently quoted in both a column in the Chicago Tribune (“money makover” in the Your Money section of the paper) and in MSN Moneycentral’s “Mutual Funds” column (advisement on sector-specific funds). For financial advice, contact Dan at [ddanford@familyinvestmentcenter.com](mailto:ddanford@familyinvestmentcenter.com) ©.

**Frater Donald Crabtree** (scroll #2) will be retiring from his long-time teaching position at Parkhill High School at the end of the May school year. Contact Donald at [crabtreed@parkhill.k12.mo.us](http://crabtreed@parkhill.k12.mo.us).

## What the College Boys are Doing Now: An Undergraduate Xi-Eta Update

**This issue of the TKE alumni newsletter is going to visit the undergraduate Chapter a little more in-depth, as the men of the Chapter have been busy and active in a wide variety of activities for the fall and spring semester this last year. For more information on the Chapter, please go to the website or contact President Jeremy Funk at (816) 261-1138.**

The Xi-Eta Chapter has sustained a great tradition and continued in the same examples set forward for them by previous generations of TKE's in their last 10 years on campus since recolonizing. The 2005-2006 school year has produced a few noteworthy milestones for TKE Fraternity that they have not seen happen previously:

\* Frater Warren “Tank” Webb became the first TKE to be president of The Ebony Collegians (TEC), a student organization with the purpose of advancing African-American interests and

scholarship on the Missouri Western campus.

\* Frater Fred “Nightcrawler” Cline has become an advocate and “faceman” for Non-Traditional Students Association at Western, an organization with the purpose of advancing the interests of non-traditional students. Fred joined the Chapter at the young age of 37 years old.



*The 7 members of the Phi class pose for a photo just before going in for their initiation in the fall semester.*

\* In the fall 2005 semester, the Chapter initiated 7 new members into the Chapter. This spring semester 2006, the Chapter is initiating 3 more new members in the Chi candidate class.

\* The Chapter has continued with its “Adopt-a-Street” and “Adopt-a-Highways” by cleaning this spring.

\* One of the top Chapter attendances again at this February's TKE Regional Leadership Conference (RLC) in St. Louis, Mo. Chapter members learned a great deal about chapter structure, officer roles, and picked up some great ideas for the future of “fraternity” on college campuses.

\* First place Homecoming window and 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall finish. The Chapter is continuing the strong Xi-Eta tradition of the “3D” window and finishes in the top 3 yearly.

\* Successful “Teke In A Box” event for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, raising over \$2,200 for America's Second Harvest Food Bank of St. Joseph and over 25,000 lbs. of donated food (special thanks to Frater Marvin Atkins for his special truckload donation – yes, you are reading this correctly – 12 1/2 tons of donated food!!!).

\* Greek Fraternity of the Year for the 5<sup>th</sup> Year in a row, including Vern Wheeler as “Greek God”, Logan Compton as most involved new member, Top Recruitment Program, Top Education Program, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Greek Week.



## Tau Kappa Epsilon

Western Missouri  
Alumni Association  
*Upcoming Events*

**June 10, 2006** – TKE 35<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebration at  
Ramada Inn in St. Joseph  
*(check your mailbox for more  
information)*

**September 2006** – TKE 5<sup>th</sup>  
Annual “Open Invitational” Golf  
Tournament at Fairview Golf  
Course *(more TBA)*

**October 2006** – Missouri  
Western Homecoming  
Celebration and Alumni  
Banquet *(more TBA)*

*A special thanks goes out to those  
members who paid 2005-2006 TKE  
Western Missouri Alumni Association  
dues this year.*

Joseph Alderton  
Scott Coleman  
Mike Conard  
Matt Growcock  
Guy Johnson  
James Kerner  
Jeremy McClure  
David Paige  
Zach Ramsay  
Steve Robison  
Chris Ryberg  
Jay Muller

*Your donations help keep the TKE  
alumni newsletter going and make a  
real difference in keeping Love,  
Charity, and Esteem alive!*

**Tau Kappa Epsilon  
Fraternity**  
*Western Missouri Alumni  
Association – serving the  
St. Joseph, Mo. Area!*  
421 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

**We're on the WEB!** Check  
out pictures of alumni  
events, read past issues of  
the newsletter, and pay  
your alumni dues (or  
donate) at:  
<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/tke>

## Alumni & Undergrads Get Engaged, Pursue Careers

Although you are probably aware of the notable new school alumni getting married this summer – **Ezra “Smokey” Prescher** (*initiated fall '00, scroll #256*) and Crystal Norse and **Frater Josh “Turbo” Wilson** (*initiated fall '98, scroll #234*) and Aimee Pike – what you might not be aware of is that many of the men in the undergraduate Chapter have also recently decided to take the plunge into matrimony while STILL IN COLLEGE.

Recent initiate **Jamie “Bow” Hanson** (*scroll #330*), **John “Ox” Wallace** (*scroll #323*) and **David “Heff” Williams** (*scroll #328*) have all recently asked their girlfriends to marry them either during or after college. This is going to be another summer of love in St. Joe! Also noteworthy as an alumni activity is **Frater Taylor “Peakaboo” Crouse** (*initiated fall '99, scroll #235*), who has thrown his hat into the

ring in Andrew County to run for County Collect in the August primaries. Best of luck in your bid to win, Taylor! It is also worth mentioning that brothers **Edwin “Billy Bob” Rivera** (*scroll #268*) and **John “Duece” Garr** (*scroll #304*) are back in St. Joseph, Mo., living and attending Western to complete their degrees. Best of luck in your bids to graduate, develop your careers, and in the pursuit of a home and a family, men!!!

### NOTES & NEWS BULLETINS

*The 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be at the Ramada Inn of St. Joseph at the corner of Woodbine and Frederick. TKE members are \$35 each and dates are \$25 each. Rooms will be \$64 each for singles. Check out the Alumni and Pictures Pages on the Missouri Western TKE Website to find information and photos capturing alumni still enjoying life!*



### The WMAA Purpose Statements



#### MISSION OF TKE WESTERN MISSOURI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The mission of the WMAA is to provide an atmosphere for Western Missouri TKE alumni, specifically located within the vicinity of St. Joseph, Mo., to continue their contacts with Fraters of various generations and chapters through social, networking, and professional development activities. Our membership shall consist of men of strong moral character who believe in serving the Fraternity for Life and supporting the essential elements of our Fraternal Bond – Love, Charity, & Esteem.

#### VISION OF TKE WESTERN MISSOURI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The WMAA has three underlying purposes supporting its mission: 1.) Maintain an accurate database of alumni contact information for promoting WMAA activities, networking initiatives, and conducting fundraising drives as needed for the WMAA and/or as requested by the regional Board of Advisors. 2.) Conduct regular social and professional development activities for alumni to maintain their fraternal contacts. 3.) Support a professional mentoring program to guide senior undergraduate members and alumni who have recently entered the workforce, and provide guidance to all alumni seeking a competitive advantage in the workforce.

## Alumni Birthdays: April, May, June, and July

### April

Joseph Carter – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Terry Coldwell – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Thomas Stubbs – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Louis Killacky – 21<sup>st</sup>  
Curtis Lanham – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Rickie McGinnis – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Douglas Ellis – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Dan Danford – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Shawn Eckley – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Randy McCollum – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Sergio Tower – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Tom Glidwell – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Alan Schneider – 3<sup>rd</sup>

### May

Dale Flowers – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Bruce Windsor – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Franklin Taft – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Brad King – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Jay Muller – 30<sup>th</sup>  
Marvin Fankhauser – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Thomas Holmquist – 31<sup>st</sup>  
Paul Roe – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Steven Snider – 16<sup>th</sup>  
Donald Weimann – 5<sup>th</sup>  
David Crumley – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Rusty Fitzsimmons – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Edward Garvin – 29<sup>th</sup>  
Brent Hendrix – 25<sup>th</sup>  
Roger Pankau – 5<sup>th</sup>

### June

Alvin Goehring – 26<sup>th</sup>  
Donald Jones – 26<sup>th</sup>  
Wes Ward – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Ronnie Abernethy – 14<sup>th</sup>  
Dennis Hughes – 13<sup>th</sup>  
Phillip Schweisberger – 20<sup>th</sup>  
W. Chaney – 30<sup>th</sup>  
David Summers – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Philip Dattilo – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Steven Williamson – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Thomas Pettigrew – 30<sup>th</sup>  
Patrick Gilmore – 30<sup>th</sup>  
Steven Carrel – 27<sup>th</sup>  
Harry Novak – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Steven Patrick – 29<sup>th</sup>  
Rodney Powell – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Keith Donaldson – 14<sup>th</sup>  
David Repulski – 24<sup>th</sup>

### July

Ed Crowley – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
John Burgess – 17<sup>th</sup>  
Patrick Linder – 28<sup>th</sup>  
Rodney Sander – 21<sup>st</sup>  
Michael Bunse – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Edmund Kozera – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Joseph Alderton – 26<sup>th</sup>  
John Ward – 14<sup>th</sup>  
John Sutton – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Jeffrey Beyer – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Bone – 27<sup>th</sup>  
Perry Oliver – 24<sup>th</sup>  
Craig Ross – 5<sup>th</sup>