

Tau Kappa Epsilon Alumni Newsletter

WESTERN MISSOURI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – SUMMER 2004



Sept. 6, 2004

Summer Edition



Special Interest Articles:

- Josh Ruhnke has a near brush with a devastating medical trauma, relaying the details of his condition and his quick, accelerated recovery (page 1,4)
- Local businessman, Frater Jay Kerner, opens a drive in for the whole family to enjoy (page 2)
- Distinguished alumni Dan Danford pens his second finance book and receives award of achievement from Missouri Western (page 2)
- New Alumni Updates for the issue include lawyer Matt Growcock, new husbands Richard Hussey and Dan Pummill, firefighter Nate Nowak, and chemist Josh Wilson (page 3)

Individual Highlights:

WMAA 2 nd Year	1
Heart of the Matter	1
Kerner's Drive-In	2
Danford's 2 nd Book	2
Alumni Updates	3
More on Coleman	3
Alumni B-Days	4

**Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
Western Missouri Alumni
Association**
3649 Gene Field Road
Apt. E-32
St. Joseph, MO 64505
<http://www.mwsc.edu/orgs/tke>
(816) 364-5513



Back for the Second Round: WMAA Year 2

Now in its second year of operation, the Western Missouri Alumni Association has evolved from a figment of a few men's imaginations to a recognized entity of alumni from both Missouri Western, TKE headquarters, and yes, Commerce Bank.



What began as just a brainchild of several alumni still living

Ruhnke's Recovers with Heart of a Champion

In a technical sense, Frater Josh "Slim Jim" Ruhnke (#186) should be dead. Those words are from the very mouth of his cardiologist and primary care physician. No frills, no sugar coating; Josh Ruhnke might have died from a massive heart attack in early June. Thank God he's still alive. Here's his story.

Early in June, a piece of plaque broke loose from Josh's arteries and into his blood stream.

Unknown to him or his fiancé, this renegade blockage coursed through his bloodstream,

in the St. Joseph area still continues to support TKE alumnus information, but now is poised for annual events to be held again this year. With such an array of already established alumni gatherings – such as the golf tournament, homecoming, alumni barhop, and RCB – members can see where there is a direct benefit to supporting the value of the WMAA.

Additionally, in just our first year of operation, there have been a couple of small milestones to celebrate:
- Only fraternity alumni group at MWSC Homecoming 2003.
- Fraternity recognized by TKE

eventually leading him to have only 40% circulation of his blood stream (normal people have 68% circulation). Remember, fraters, Josh is just 27 this year.



Upon hearing this news, both family, friends, and fraternity



Intl. Headquarters, Missouri Western, and the Second Harvest Food Bank as organized.

- Three alumni sponsored scholarships distributed to undergraduate chapter for Top Member GPA, New Member GPA, and Most Improved GPA. Please continue to support the future activities of the TKE WMAA through your membership this year!

brothers were shocked. How could this happen to Ruhnke? Ruhnke will probably go down in Xi-Eta record books as being the healthiest, most in shape frater ever. Upon coming to college, he had a workout regiment that rivaled Rob Calloway's. He walked on to the MWSC football team, where he proceeded to play for four years. What could have account for such a travesty?

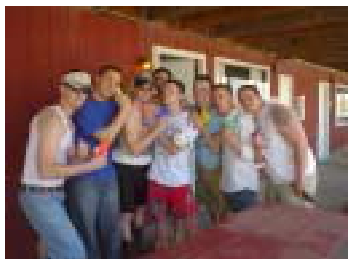
After surviving the initial attack, Josh, being laid up in a

(continued on page 4)



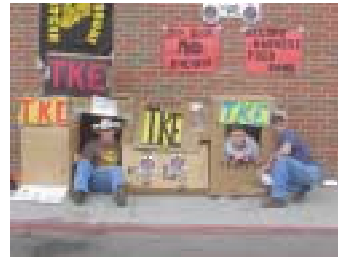


(at top) The men of TKE last year at the Mayor's Thanksgiving Dinner, posing with Mayor David Jones, former Mayor Larry Stobbs, and Executive Director of the Food Bank, Nicholas Saccaro.



Triple Trouble Y'all: TKE Back in Session for Fall

Wake the neighbors, phone the kids, apply for Griffon Edge leader, make a Rush Schedule – the fall 2004 semester is underway for the men of the Xi-Eta Chapter! Coming into the fall semester, the undergraduate group is looking at a returning active membership of about 25 members, most of which are sophomores and juniors at Missouri Western. Already, the men have made moves to adopt two more recognized philanthropies – the Second Harvest Food Bank and the American Cancer Society – to start the fall. Riding strong on the heels of a **THIRD**



STRAIGHT "Fraternity of the Year" honor among the Greek organizations at Western, Prytanis Jeff Brandhorst and the rest of the chapter are excited about keeping the momentum going.

Rush hopes are sitting at about 15-20 new members to begin the fall. The Chapter is also eagerly anticipating their turn

this year, as the 6th annual Football Run with NWMSU TKE is scheduled for Oct. 16. Homecoming is set for the week/weekend of October 2 – 9, with this year's game against Truman State promising to be a good one.

Xi-Eta even looks like it will still be financially stable, with collections and budgeting under the Board of Advisors increasing accountability and priorities.

Check out all the latest developments and PICTURES of undergrad and alumni events and members at <http://www.mwsc.edu/orgs/tke>.

Horseshoe Lake Drive-In Popular New Attraction

Frater James Kerner (initiated '77, scroll #135) has recently opened the Horseshoe Lake Drive-In in the St. Joseph area. He and his wife, Jeannie, developed this business to capitalize on a lack of novelty and nostalgia around St. Joe.

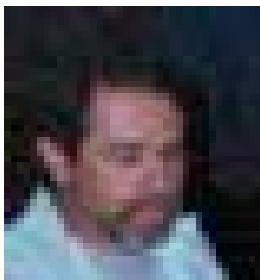
Since June of this year, Jay has been showcasing two movies a night in a family movie atmosphere, capitalizing especially on the weekend family crowds and bringing a quality entertainment value to the community. Movies are run in conjunction with I-70 Drive-In and Twin Peaks

Drive-In out of Kansas City. Additionally, flea markets are held once a month on the drive in premises, a nice augmentation to the community, too.



He is doing very well with his groundbreaking business and has been featured several times in the St. Joseph News Press Gazette. Contact Jay or Jeannie at winkbub@stjoelive.com.

In other alumni news, **Frater Taylor "Peakaboo" Crouse** (initiated fall '98, scroll #235) has recently acquired a position on the Missouri Western Alumni Association's Board of Advisors. Crouse, an '01 graduate of the college, was Student Regent to the Board of Regents of the college for two years as an undergraduate. Being on the Board is a position he feels where he can make a direct impact in the future of MWSC alumni relations. He currently resides in north St. Joseph and works as the General Manager for Breit & Hawkins Funeral Home in Savannah, Mo.



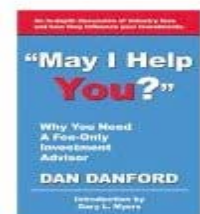
Frater James Kerner and his wife, Jeannie, have recently built the Horseshoe Lake Drive-In on the east side of St. Joseph, right next to the Platte River at the corner of Frederick Ave. and Riverside Dr. The drive in has been rather successful since opening earlier this summer.

'Bling-Bling' Knowledge Nets Danford Success in Business

Frater Dan Danford (initiated '74, scroll #109) having recently authored an expert consulting book on personal finance entitled *May I Help You? Why You Need a Fee-Only Investment Advisor*, is now publishing and selling the

book through Infinity Publishing. Danford has authored two books now on family investments and is President of the Family Investment Center in St. Joseph. His other book is *Million Dollar Management: Simple Lessons to Use Wealth Management*

Principles for Your Family Investments. Additionally, Danford was recognized last year by Missouri Western as a Distinguished Alumni of the college and was recently featured in the spring 2004 edition of the Western alumni magazine.





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

Frater Josh “Turbo” Wilson (*initiated fall '98, scroll #234*), is currently living in Platte City, Mo., and working for a pharmaceutical research company in the Kansas City. Josh has been assisting the alumni in developing the 2004 NFL fantasy football season as the league commissioner. Contact Josh by emailing him at turbotke@kc.rr.com.



Frater Turbo works in the south Kansas City area but continues to stay in touch with alumni living in the St. Joseph area and lives in Platte City.

Jada Goldsberry (*TKE friend*) will be getting married back in her hometown of Kehoka, Mo., in the near future.

Frater Matt “Kingpin” Growcock (*initiated fall '97, scroll #200*), will be getting married this fall to his long time fiancé Jennifer Eklofe. Matt, having successfully completed law school at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is in the process of taking his bar exam and moving back to the Springfield, Mo., area with his besotted. Pending his passing of the bar (should be a gimme!), Matt will assume a position with a local legal firm. If you would like to contact Matt, please call his home number at (417) 485-2653 or e-mail him for a limited time at mgrowco1@bigred.unl.edu.



Richard and Abbey Hussey at the 2004 RCB, now happily married.

Frater Richard “Styles” Hussey (*initiated fall '99, scroll #257*) married long time fiancé and friend of the fraternity Abbey Russell (Alpha Gamma Delta sorority) on June 26, 2004. Richard and Abbey will continue to attend Missouri Western until their upcoming graduations. Contact Richard at rwh5722@mwsc.edu.

Frater Greg Gallup (*initiated at Gamma Phi Chapter, Xi-Eta Chapter Board of Advisors President*) has moved to a new occupation at Rockhurst University, Kansas City, in the Information Technology department. He has also relocated residency down to south Kansas City, although he continues to remain active advising the St. Joe chapter and on the BOA. Contact Greg by e-mailing him at gregmgallup@yahoo.com.

Frater Ken Wheeler (*initiated at Delta Mu Chapter, Xi-Eta Chapter Board of Advisors member*) purchased and renovated the Smithville Lake Marina in early spring, operating the entire summer,

offering a bar & grill type atmosphere with lakeshore docking services for the patrons of Smithville Lake (imagine a trip to Margaritaville with Jimmy Buffet!).



Frater Wheeler, pictured on the left, was the two-term Prytanis for the Delta-Mu Chapter as an undergraduate.

Ken even generously employed two of the undergraduate members of the Xi-Eta Chapter to work under his tutelage this summer. Contact Ken at kenwheeler13@yahoo.com.

Frater Nathan “Odie” Nowak (*initiated fall '98, scroll #224*) has one semester left at Missouri Western and has recently passed firefighter training to pursue a job with the Kansas City Fire Department. Contact him at emtodie@hotmail.com.



Dan Pummill grinning from ear to ear at the thought of being married to Amy, the love of his life.

Frater Danny “Squirtle” Pummill (*initiated fall '00, scroll #261*) will be marrying his collegiate sweetheart and friend of the fraternity Amy Traynor in September in Louisiana, Mo.

Coleman Part Deux: I Intend To Live Forever - So Far, So Good



Remember the spring newsletter edition with a lengthy and sanctimonious piece on the life and times of former President Scott Coleman? Well, just in case

you have forgotten and can't get enough of Frater Stripes, here is a quick 411 of what's going on with scroll #199:

Scott and wife Aimee, you might or might not be aware, are expecting a second child sometime in January. Way to procreate, Scott! Big sister Caitlin is being prepped for the affair.

Additionally, Scott and Aimee continue to live in Germany, where he has just been promoted

to CAPTAIN Aug. 1. Although we're all sure he earned the promotion, he gets off the hook by just letting everyone know that he's an Army man bumping his head on a good one while trying to avoid a "major malfunction."

At any rate, we're all proud of you, Scott, and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. Try to get back to the states to visit when you get a chance. Thanks for your lifetime alumni dues. Email him at Goffrey.s.coleman@us.army.mil.

Don't forget to check out your Golf Tournament flyer included in your mailing and pay your TKE Western Missouri Alumni Association dues for the 2004-2005 year to keep these going



Tau Kappa Epsilon
 Xi-Eta Chapter
 Alumni Officer Corps 2004
Board of Advisors Members
and Western Missouri
Alumni Association Officers
for the 2004-2005 Year

Board of Advisors Chairman
 Greg Gallup
gregmgallup@yahoo.com

BOA Member
 Ken Wheeler
Kenwheeler13@yahoo.com

BOA Member
 James Kerner
winkbub@stjoelive.com

BOA Member
 Robert Bergland
berglan@mWSC.edu

BOA Member
 David Bennett
Bennett@mWSC.edu

BOA Member
 Wanda Berry-Howe
berryhow@mWSC.edu

BOA Member
 Ron Nold
americannatlon@aol.com

Chapter Advisor
 Guy Johnson
Ggj6166@hotmail.com

WMAA President
 Zach Ramsay
zachramsay@hotmail.com

WMAA Historian
 Taylor Crouse
Peakaboo1978@yahoo.com

WMAA Chapter Relations
 David Paige
Shadowpaige64506@aol.com

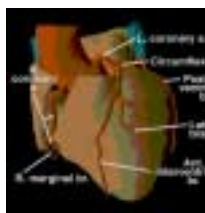
Tau Kappa Epsilon
Fraternity
Western Missouri
Alumni Association –
servicing the St. Joseph,
Mo. Area!
 3649 Gene Field Road
 Apt. E-32
 St. Joseph, MO 64505

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.mWSC.edu/orgs/tke>

Ruhnke Shows Heart of a Champion *(continued from page 1)*

hospital, began to ask these questions himself. He had always lived healthy. True, he used Creatine on a fairly regular basis, but this shouldn't have affected someone as young as he.

After some long weeks of hospital time, Josh got the answers he was looking for. He was still in physically good condition; the plaque was the only reason for his major heart attack. He had been running on



Disclaimer:
 Heart shown
 is not Josh
 Ruhnke's
 actual heart.

the same blood circulation as a 70 YEAR OLD MAN who had had a bypass surgery!

Ruhnke's recovery has come rapidly and completely since the events of June. According to his doctors, his entire heart

has healed to the point that his previous condition is unrecognizable. His circulation has returned to that ABOVE NORMAL at 70%. He has been instructed to continue working, given doctors order to workout (not that this is a difficult order for Slim!), and given a Rush Limbaugh size prescription of drugs for future use.

Good to have you back to your normal self, Josh!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The WMAA will be hosting our annual TKE Open Golf Tournament on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004 at the Fairview Golf Course. Additionally, check your mailbox for October information on MWSC Homecoming Weekend, to be held at Spratt Stadium and around St. Joe!
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: September, October, November, December

September

Dan Garvin – 2nd
 Jim Herndon – 3rd
 Dale Chrystie – 5th
 Jeffrey McMurry – 10th
 James Hoene – 10th
 Michael Cox – 14th
 William Scott – 15th
 Thomas Heald – 17th
 Mark Lang – 18th
 Tom Roe – 23rd
 Stephen Schmidt – 30th
 Aaron Hopkins – 30th
 Louis Bruns – 30th

October

Clarence Morrill – 1st
 Dale Davidson – 2nd
 Michael Jones – 3rd
 Randall Lawrey – 3rd
 Milton Streck – 7th
 Randall Claypole – 7th
 Jacob Ross – 10th
 William Gabbert – 10th
 Lewis Helm – 13th
 Robert Tanner – 14th
 Dan Dickerson – 14th
 Josh Wilson – 14th
 David Brown – 16th
 Jeffrey Borchardt – 17th
 Jay Marriott – 19th
 John Musser – 25th
 Stephen Archer – 25th
 Ed Hansen – 26th
 Michael Lewark – 29th
 David Healey – 31st

November

Chris Uliana – 2nd
 Michael Marriott – 2nd
 Michael Dennis – 3rd
 Dennis Sharp – 3rd
 Cary Mason – 5th
 Douglas Hoskins – 5th
 Robert Donaldson – 6th
 Larry Ball – 7th
 W. Fred Daily – 10th
 Michael Slattery – 11th
 Dennis Steppe – 12th
 Charles Moore – 13th
 Richard Fobair – 14th
 Martin Murphy – 15th
 Mark Lindensmith – 18th
 Michael Albright – 21st
 Harold Collier – 22nd
 Terry Warren – 24th
 Jeremy McClure – 24th
 Mateo Sanna – 24th
 James Conard – 26th
 Alan Pickard – 27th

December

Bryan Auxier – 1st
 David Bass – 3rd
 Philip Lindensmith – 4th
 Steven Kroffit – 6th
 Dennis Kampen – 10th
 Ronnie Nold – 10th
 Gary Burton – 10th
 Raymond Gideon – 12th
 George Morey – 12th
 Ben Weeks – 14th
 Steve Nichols – 15th
 Benjamin Hansen – 16th
 David Eaton – 17th
 James Rector – 17th
 Scott Adams – 18th
 Guy Johnson – 20th
 Justin Sizemore – 22nd
 Noel Berger – 25th
 Harry Cook – 26th
 Jeffrey Peve – 26th
 Christopher Schultz – 29th