



TAU KAPPA EPSILON

RHO CHAPTER



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Rho Chapter TKE Alumni Newsletter August 2009

In this edition:

- ⇒ [President's Message](#)
- ⇒ [WVU Awarded Top TKE Chapter](#)
- ⇒ [New TKE House Fall 2009](#)
- ⇒ [Homecoming Alumni Events](#)
- ⇒ [Scholarship Makes Rho "Top TKE"](#)
- ⇒ [New Donation Levels and Incentives](#)
- ⇒ [Chapter Fund Allocation](#)
- ⇒ [Feed Your TKE Family Tree](#)
- ⇒ [Reach-Out to Your TKE Friends](#)
- ⇒ [Online Social Networks](#)

President's Message

By Jake Bendel P1031, President

As alumni we have all shared a common goal to see a new home for Tau Kappa Epsilon Rho Chapter. Since our last newsletter, there has been much speculation surrounding the housing situation for our active chapter. Until recently, this conjecture has been constantly evolving.

I am proud to announce (officially) that the foundation has been laid, the house construction is currently on-schedule, and we have set an active move-in date! Many Thanks go to Frater Justin Byers for making this possible.

Despite the housing turmoil and uncertainty, our active chapter remained strong – finishing out the year with 30 new members, bringing the Rho chapter total to 52 active members for the start of the 2009 school year. In addition to their recruitment achievement, I'm happy to announce that Rho Chapter has been named one of the 10 Top TKE Chapters, Nationally.

The officers of the RCAA (Rho Chapter Alumni Association) have been inspired by the active chapter's perseverance. We initiated our fourth year by reevaluating our strategy and goals to better align with the needs of the active chapter and alumni base. We have set aggressive, but attainable goals to further strengthen our organization and position ourselves as a benchmark among TKE alumni associations nationwide. I invite you to review our current mission and vision, goals and strategies on the RCAA website under "[About Us](#)".

As you will read in this news letter, the RCAA plays a large role in supporting the Chapter, and we have an obligation to continue to do so by awarding scholarships, assisting with rush materials, and now, more so than ever, with a new house.

Finally, on behalf of the RCAA, I would like to invite you all to celebrate the inauguration of the new TKE house at 692 N. High St. in Morgantown, with a kick-off party sponsored by the RCAA and active chapter. The event will take place Friday October 23rd, preceding the Homecoming football game. I hope to see you all there.

Let's Go Mountaineers! YITB, Jake

WVU Awarded Top TKE Chapter



By Ben Carroll, Executive Assistant to the TKE Nationals CEO
July 22, 2009

Dear Men of the Rho Chapter of TKE:

It is our pleasure to inform you that your chapter has been selected as a Top TKE Chapter for the 2008-2009 academic year.

This year's winners were chosen from a highly competitive group of applicants. Your chapter is one of only 10 total chapters, out of all the TKE chapters across the United States and Canada (268 total), chosen to receive this distinction. Your selection was based on your high achievement in the following Awards of Excellence categories:

- Excellence in Recruitment - Results
- Excellence in Recruitment - Chapter Size
- Excellence in Involvement - Alumni Relations
- Excellence in Achievement - Academic Success
- Excellence in Achievement - Extracurricular Activities

On behalf of the Grand Council, Volunteers and Offices of the Grand Chapter staff, we are pleased to present you with these awards in recognition of your chapter's efforts and accomplishments during the 2008-2009 academic year. We are all very proud of the Rho chapter.

Your chapter, along with the other winners of the Top TKE Chapter Award, will be featured in the summer 2009 issue of The Teke magazine, and on our website, www.tke.org.

Your award will be presented to you at the 55th Biennial Conclave in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 6-9, 2009. We look forward to recognizing your chapter at the Undergraduate Awards Banquet, and hope to see continued success from your chapter in the future.

New TKE House Fall 2009

By Matt Brady P945, Housing Chairman

A new era for Tau Kappa Epsilon at WVU is about to begin!

Since 1995, when Rho Chapter moved back to the location it called home in decades past, 692 North High St. has been the cornerstone of fraternity life for hundreds of TKE's. With a new TKE house targeted for chapter move in Saturday August 22nd (school starts Mon. Aug. 24th), TKE's for decades to come will have a new place to call home.



The Rho Chapter Alumni Association (RCAA) has been actively engaged throughout the housing project providing status updates to both alumni and actives alike. With the house project close to completion RCAA has an ongoing responsibility to advise and mentor the chapter on the social, legal, managerial and financial aspects of operating a \$1.5 million dollar, 33 bedroom facility.

Now more than ever before alumni involvement in RCAA is imperative to ensure the longevity and prosperity of Tau Kappa Epsilon at West Virginia University!

House pictures are added to the RCAA website each week. See the latest construction photos, at www.rhotkealumni.org/house

Share your favorite memory of living (or partying) in the TKE house. Go to Facebook (www.facebook.com) and search for "Rho Chapter Alumni Association".

Chapter Room Furniture Drive

Tekes come back to campus and move into the new house this month! (August 21). RCAA would like to welcome members into the new house by purchasing chairs and tables they can use for meetings in the chapter room (rather than the unsavory collection of couches).

The goal is to raise \$3,800 to pay for this furniture. With your donation we can get there, give what you can \$10, \$20 or \$30 it all helps.

And speaking of couches, if you have a spare, we'll take 'em to help fill the house. If you're thinking about purchasing any new furniture for your home here's your chance to give that old couch a new home and legacy and we'll do our best to come pick it up!

To donate to the Chapter Room Furniture fund drive using Pay Pal or check, go to the RCAA website and click "[Dues & Donations](#)".

To donate a gently-used couch, email brandon.dudt.mulzet@gmail.com

Homecoming Alumni Events

By Patrick Curry P1098, Events Chairman

The start of each year at Rho Chapter is always filled with excitement, but the 2009-2010 school-year will take that to a whole new level. In August, Rho Chapter will move into a brand new house and on Friday, October 23rd RCAA will hold an outdoor barbeque to officially celebrate its opening. RCAA event times are contingent on the kick-off time for the WVU Mountaineers vs. UConn Huskies football game.

Game time is not currently announced and sometime changes if the game is televised. Currently we have two basic plans contingent on when game kick off will be scheduled for the football game.

If we have a 3:30 kick off or earlier:

Fri., October 23rd 6:30pm Bar B Q at the new TKE house, followed by a 7:30 Alumni Meeting

Sat., October 24th Noon-time tailgate near the stadium followed by the game

If we have a 7:00 kick off or later:

Fri., October 23rd 6:30pm Alumni Meeting followed by a Tour of new house

Sat., October 24th Noon-time Bar B Q at the new TKE house, a 4:30 Tailgate near the stadium, then the game

As we get closer to Homecoming we will send out invitations to our House Warming and Homecoming get together, and inform everyone who has RSVP'd via the website. Encourage your Pledge Brothers to come back as this is not an event that anyone will want to miss!

This weekend is still in the planning stages but one thing is for certain there will be a good time to be had by all. It should be noted that the time of the football game is to be determined which will impact the time of the tailgate. We can't wait to see everyone at the grand opening of the new TKE house and Let's Go Mountaineers!

Scholarship Makes Rho "Top TKE"

By Gary Nolan Welch-Bass II P775, Chapter Advisor, Scholarship Chairman, LLC

TKE Nationals awarded the Rho Chapter "Top TKE" in part because of the chapter's academic excellence. Alumni donations over the last nine years have allowed us to build the "Rho Chapter Scholarship Fund" and award chapter members memorial awards, named after two beloved fraters; Robert Butcher and Phillip Tennant. Currently we have \$9127.00 in our account at Nationals and \$250.00 in our account locally, for a total of \$9377.00.



Our goal this year is to raise \$4000.00 for our fund. Currently this year we have received donations in the amount of \$1080.00. So we still need to raise \$2920.00 to get this year's target amount.

Consider donating just \$20.00 in addition to your annual dues to help us reach our scholarship goal, and maintain the Chapter's academic excellence. When you donate to the "Rho Chapter Scholarship Fund", we will add your name and scroll number to a plaque in the house. There is a special plaque for alumni who donate \$1000 and more fully-dedicated to scholarship within a 12-month period. The plaques celebrate your generosity and remind actives, pledges, and rushees of Alumni support and recognition of academic achievement.

To donate now using Pay Pal or check, go to the RCAA website and click "[Dues & Donations](#)".

You may also send donations directly to TKE Nationals. You must CLEARLY state the payment goes toward "Rho Chapter Scholarship Fund" or it will go to a general scholarship fund. Also, send a quick email to Rho Scholarship Chairman, Gary Bass so he can track the payment: wbas775@msn.com.

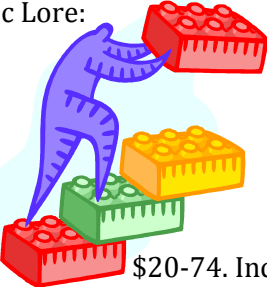
New Donation Levels & Incentives

By Dan Long P1065, Treasurer

It's a new year for RCAA and we are looking to retain our current and past members and encourage new members to join the Association. The RCAA is entering its fourth year as an active alumni association and we are anxious and ready to grow.

Donation Club Levels

We appreciate your donations and want to reward your generosity. RCAA has created four membership brackets to recognize alumni based on donations amounts, including the minimum \$20 dues. Here are the donation amounts required to reach each level, and the associated incentives. As we introduce this concept, we are happy to get your feedback about them.

Knights of Classic Lore:		+\$500. Avena, Carnation and Graduate Club benefits + recognized with a plaque at the TKE house
Avena Club:		\$200-499. Graduate and Carnation Club benefits + mailed hard copy of newsletter and RCAA polo shirt
Carnation Club:		\$75-199. Graduate Club benefits + discounted pricing for the April RCB event
Graduate Club:		\$20-74. Includes membership in Rho Chapter Alumni Assoc., alumni sponsored cookouts & tailgates, email updates.

Recurring Payments Make Levels More Accessible

RCAA appreciates any amount you are able to give as a donation. We also realize that you may wish to donate a certain sum of money but are unable to pay it all at once. In that case, you may setup recurring payments through your Paypal account or online banking institution with your personal bank for a smaller amount. Be sure to note your target annual amount in the payment (or in an email) so we can recognize you at the appropriate level.

Regardless of donation, we would love your participation and presence at all of our RCAA and TKE events. We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming on October 24th!

Chapter Fund Allocation

By Dan Long P1065, Treasurer

Rho Chapter is going through an exciting transition and need our help with the construction of the new TKE House and the ever growing Chapter (60 plus actives).

Currently, we have three different funds to which your dues and donations are allocated:

1. General Fund
2. Scholarship Fund
3. House Fund

Scholarship	25%
Active Chapter Supplies	25%
Events	25%
Newsletter/Postage	19%
Charter Renewal	5%
State Taxes	1%

General Fund

Your dues and any general donations go to the General Fund. This fund is used for our operating costs (national TKE assoc. fee, mailings, website maintenance); alumni sponsor tailgates or events, and any improvements that are needed by the actives (rush banners or grills).

Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund is setup for the yearly scholarship given to two active Tekes that stand out in school, the Chapter and the Community.

House Fund

The House Fund was established to assist with any improvements for the new TKE House that is under construction and is scheduled to open Fall 2009. We, as Officers of the RCAA, have set a goal for the house fund to raise money so we can furnish and eventually purchase the new house.

To pay dues now using Pay Pal or Check, go to the RCAA website and click "[Dues & Donations](#)".

* For Paypal add 1.25 for services charge.

* For checks, make out "Tau Kappa Epsilon Rho Chapter Board of Control, Inc." and send to Daniel Long, 4222 Fox Lake Dr., Fairfax, VA 22033

Feed Your Family Tree

By Brandon Dudt Mulzet P1088, Fundraising Chairman

Crack open your sig book guys. We only need to connect 101 more Fraters through their big and little brothers to complete our family tree back to re-colonization. If your name is on the list at the bottom of the family history page or you know someone's big brother and little brother that are on the list or you keep in touch with someone who is one the list, help us make the connections – contact me.

To see the current list of names on the family tree, go to the “[Family History](#)” page on the www.rhotkealumni.org website.

To help fill in the family tree by providing family names, members and scrolls, email the information to familyhistory@rhotkealumni.org, or contact Brandon.

Our Incredible Growth

We are up to 1179 Fraters in the Bond at Rho chapter. Since re-colonization in 1983 we have initiated 485 Fraters in 26 years -- an average of 18.7 new Tekes a year. Prior to re-colonization the rate was 11.6-per-year rate. The Rho Chapter is enjoying a growth curve!

Reach Out to Your TKE Friends

By Brandon Hanna P1048, Membership Chairman

New social networking websites like Facebook and Linked-in, make it much easier to contact old fraternity brothers. RCAA is aiming to reach all generations of Tekes through this new technology, email, word of mouth, alumni events and postal mail in order to bring awareness of the benefits of being a member of RCAA. We all benefit from having a large and diverse alumni association.

Last year we had about fifty active members and we feel we can reconnect at least fifteen of our Brothers this year but we need your help! If you're in touch with alumni who haven't been to a TKE event since college or aren't receiving RCAA emails or this newsletter, send their email address or phone number to any of the RCAA chairman and we will add them to our database and get them in the loop!

To update your contact information go to www.rhotkealumni.org and click on “Alumni Database”.

To share updated contact information for your TKE buddies contact Brandon Hanna at Brandon879@hotmail.com

Online Social Networks

By Scott Chatelain P693, Communications Chairman

The RCAA website is of the most searched “TKE Alumni” websites on Google, and contains a well-maintained alumni address database.

Here are several ways to connect with your alumni TKE brothers:

Rho Chapter Web site

www.rhoTKEalumni.org

Find RCAA news, find brothers’ addresses, pay dues, view pictures, get event information, read past newsletters, and more.

Facebook

www.facebook.com

Register free on this social networking site to keep up with your friends, including TKE alumni. Post pictures, tell people what you’ve been up to, and invite friends to join your network. Search for the “Rho Chapter Alumni Association” group, and send an invitation to join us.

Linked-In

www.linkedin.com

Register free on this professional networking site to promote your professional experience, search for friends or jobs. Invite friends to join your network. While there, join the “Rho TKE Alumni” group list.

TKE Book

www.tkebook.com

Register free on this Rho TKE-built social networking site. This site provides community forums, party and rush schedules, a career board, housing information, and other great networking tools to help you navigate your undergraduate career, and beyond.

Regional Emails

Send emails to all Tekes in your regional area using one email address to; organize local events, build local membership, support your local NFL, NBA, NHL teams, organize road trips to Morgantown events.

Morgantown.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

Greaterwv.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

DC.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

Baltimore.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

Phillynyc.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

Pittsburgh.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

Southeast.alumni@rhotkealumni.org

Enjoy the Summer, and see you October 24 at the WVU Homecoming game.