

A NEW YEAR

Xi Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon



OFFICERS

- Prytanis - Benjamin Moore
- Epiprytanis - Nikolas Vedder
- Grammateus - James Cevasco
- Crysophylos - Humza Siddiqui
- Histor - Jorge Puentes
- Hypophetes - Luke Solondz
- Pylortes - Will McClellan
- Hegemon - Kyle Joseph
- House Manager - Kyle Schulte
- Recruitment Chair - Mathieu Letendre
- Philanthropy Chair - Scott Massey
- Social Chairs - Albert Son & Arik Wolk
- Community Service Chairs - Miles Charles
- Scholarship Chair - Andrew Saunders
- IM Chair - Gustopher Kasper
- Social Justice Chair - Andy Benckendorf
- Formal Chair - David Song

To a Fantastic Senior Year, Rush TKE

by Jorge Puentes

It seems like just yesterday when I first entered the house, nervous and excited for the open house during the fall of 2017. Now I open the door to the house and I know what to expect. Brothers in the library ready to just hang around. My room in the second floor with Joshua probably being annoying but in a loving way. And of course that off color, surprisingly persistent, stain in the front room.

However, I also realize what is not there anymore. Or should I say who is not there anymore. The fraternity I rushed is gone with the graduation of many close friends last semester. And while I do miss them (talking about you Garrett) I am excited to make the most out of my senior year to with all the people I welcomed into the brotherhood.

Thus, pour one for the bois and Rush TKE.
Yours in the Bond,
Jorge

Bear Beginnings – But Again

By James Cevasco

It's 2019, and XiTKE is back. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer, I spent most of mine at home in New Jersey grabbing some extra credits from Monmouth University so I can hopefully study abroad next fall. For me, summer was a time to take a step back from WashU life, and to return to some simpler times of high school life. My summer was sweet but short, since on August 13th I caught one of the last Southwest flights that will ever fly out of Newark, and from there I made my way to camp WUSA.

WUSAs come back early to WashU every year. We have about a week of training, and from there we're ready to lead the charge on move in day and throughout Bear Beginnings. This year is the first year that Bear Beginnings stepped up from being a 4 day experience to a whopping 9 day endeavor. Past programs such as SOAR and pre orientations were cut, and instead replaced with 5 extra days of more Bear Beginnings. Think about it: this year, I got to do Bear Beginnings, but again! And for 9. Whole. Days.

For most people, this may seem irrelevant unless you're an RA, a WUSA, or some other person who deals with first years. But I was curious to see how this would work out. A person's most critical time to adjust and to adapt to college is often during their first few weeks of school. Bear Beginnings has the opportunity to set the tone for new students, many of who may rush in the semesters to come. So what did this new orientation do for the future of WashU, and maybe even for the future of TKE?



Being one of the people who were here for all 9 days and then some, I saw first hand how the first years reacted to the lectures, meetings, and other programming throughout the week. I saw plenty of people with busy schedules becoming more tired as the days went on. But I also saw people meeting each other and all hanging out together in their res colleges, which is different from last year when I had seen small preO cliques traveling together while non-preO students didn't have that advantage of already knowing people. I participated in Wilderness Project the summer before my freshman year, so I was as disappointed as anyone to see it and other preO's cut. But without the self-segregations that preO's created, students were more open to meeting other people. I saw this especially in Dauten, the res college where I lived last year and where I'm a WUSA for now. To say that things didn't all run smoothly is an understatement. It's a new process, things were unorganized, and it was a long 9 days. But the first year center made big changes- some for the better, others for the worse. What do you think about 9 day Bear Beginnings?

Business and Bosnia

By Nik Vedder



I learned about great injustices and the negligence of first world countries like the US and France through the inaction of the League of Nations. It was disheartening to hear about such atrocities, many of which the youth in the US will never hear about. If you're reading this and have not heard of the Bosnian Genocide, look it up. There are people actively trying to re-write history to cover up the murder of 8000 Bosnian men, and the western world is either oblivious or indifferent to it.

The rest of my summer I spent interning at Southwest Strategies, a PR firm in San Diego. There I learned how to run ad campaigns, target people on social media, and how to lobby support around various projects. This experience was rewarding, especially because I got to work with so many young, talented, ambitious people, that helped invigorate my professional drive. This summer was truly rewarding, I grew a great amount this summer and I'm looking forward to the challenges this school year will bring.

Every fall, college students around the nation return from their summers. Many of these young scholars are being reunited with their peers after spending the spring or summer abroad. I am one of those students. While this isn't a "Going abroad changed my life," article, I do believe there are a lot of elements of spending time abroad that changed my outlook on American life and culture.

My time abroad was spent working with startups in Spain and Bosnia and Herzegovina. I acted as a consultant for two firms in the animal care sector. My recommendations to both firms had similar themes. A focus on SEO improvement, Social media outreach, and customer segmentation were necessary for both young firms. As a result, these firms increased their social media presence. In the case of the Spanish firm, they have expanded into Latin American markets where I deemed there would be potential profits due to lack of competition and high pet ownership rates. The culture in both countries were unique from the United States, but since my family is of Croatian heritage, learning about the Bosnian war for independence and how the country is dealing with the fallout was important to me.

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Better Men for A Better World



Fraters Jack Leshem and Joey Vettiankal

"Winning the Top Teke Award was the perfect capstone to my time in the chapter. It was particularly special to me since TKE was such a crucial and formative part of my college experience and it was humbling to have my own contributions to an organization i really care about recognized."

- Joey Vettiankal

Flyin' High

By Luke Solondz

It's not everyday you get to see your house, local beaches, the Adirondacks, or the Statue of Liberty from thousands of feet in the air. But this summer, it was for me. Over the last three months, I spent a number of hours every week training for my private pilot certification, which I am proud to say I received just a few days before returning to WashU for the fall semester. I vividly remember my first solo flight back in June, and the feeling I had when I latched the cockpit door shut just before takeoff—just like my first solo trip after getting my driver's license, but significantly more exciting, and nerve wracking.

Now, taking a trip to Atlantic city, upstate New York, or eastern Pennsylvania feels just like hopping in the car to go get groceries, but with the added excitement of soaring alongside sprawling white cumulus clouds and Boeing 777's. I can confidently say it has been one of the most fulfilling opportunities I've had to date and I look forward to continuing my training towards further ratings and certifications.



"Now, taking a trip to Atlantic city, upstate New York, or eastern Pennsylvania feels just like hopping in the car to go get groceries"

Conclave

By Benjamin Moore

This past summer, I had the privilege to represent the Xi Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon at our biennial Conclave in Orlando, Florida. This conference was one of the most life-changing experiences that I have enjoyed since my initiation. Over the course of three days, I was able to gain meaningful insight into the various organizational structures of TKE chapters from across the country. The ability to meet the leaders of other TKE chapters allowed me to learn new strategies about our recruitment process, executive organization, and the manner in which we connect with our alumni network. Furthermore, I was able to attend numerous workshops lead by TKE's national executives. Workshops including "How to ask the right questions in recruitment?" and "How do you build a stronger alumni network?" provided me a gateway to learn new techniques on how to better our chapter.

Due to my experiences at Conclave, we, as a chapter, have started to implement some of the ideas that I learned from various workshops. For example, the leaders in our chapter have begun to reach out to the TKE foundation, formerly the TKE Education Foundation, for greater assistance on how to provide greater scholarships to our members to help offset the price of dues. Furthermore, we have revitalized our pledging process since last semester.

We have added greater emphasis on the personal development of our pledges. To achieve this, Kyle Joseph, our current Hegemon, has created new activities for our pledges that allow them to bond with their pledge class in more exciting ways. Furthermore, the chapter has planned to provide our new pledges greater access to workshops lead by chapter members on how to improve time management skills, presentation skills, as well as, improve their connection to the history of TKE. Many of these ideas were shared with me at Conclave and we hope that these new additions to our chapter will allow for the building of a better brotherhood.



A Cool Summer Internship

By Joshua Katz

Jake: “Did you know Joshua had a cool internship this summer”. PNM, “No, what was your cool internship”? My dad introduced me to the CEO of a corporate marketing company operating out of Atlantic City. Its office space is small, but its impact on the community is massive. I sent him my resume, and before I knew it I was on a nonstop flight to the [redacted] of this country, New Jersey.

My firm was hired by Mohegan Sun, with my role being to go undercover as a high stakes poker player, because of my past work in behavioral economics where I wrote a paper titled, “Tilt and Fallacies: Changing Risk Preferences in a Gambling Environment”.

My job was to gamble at poker and blackjack tables, and take note of the changes in a gamblers behavior based on their current win, vs loss streak to study winners and losers tilt.

This job was incredible, not only because I got to gamble for a summer, but none of the workers knew that I was undercover, so I ended up drunk by noon most days. Some of the craziest moments of my life were during this internship. For example, I watched a man play a single hand of blackjack and throw \$100,000 dollars into the pot. When he busted, he instantly dropped to the floor sobbing and yelling out about the man that wasn't going to get paid. My research and experiments were reported on a weekly basis to my CEO, to be processed and examined by our team of market analysts,. The market analysts would then report their findings and advice to the managers of the Mohegan Sun Casino. The team would look for patterns that Mohegan Sun could exploit, to extract the most money from a gambler.

I also took the MCAT.



**"I also took
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