



# THE OMEGA OMEN



DECEMBER | 2019

## Buzzed

Frater Cesar Cortes, '21, get clipped to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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- 2** Omega named one of the nation's Top TKE chapters – again!
- 3** New officers elected; new members join
- 5** Frater David Towne, '97, inducted into TKE advisory hall of fame
- 8** Never too late — Frater Craig Theros receives his scroll number



TAU KAPPA EPSILON

OMEGA CHAPTER | ALBION COLLEGE

## OMEGA NEWS



### Omega Again Named Top TKE Chapter

The men of Omega Chapter brought home more than memorable experiences and mouse ears from the 2019 Conclave in Orlando, Florida; they picked up some fresh hardware for the trophy case, too. For the second year in a row, Omega has been designated a Top TKE Chapter by the international fraternity, one of 17 in TKE Nation to earn the honor. The chapter previously won the Top TKE Chapter award in 1962, 1963, 1965, and 2018.

"I want to congratulate all of our 2018-2019 award winners," said Chief Executive Officer Donald E. Aldrich. "These chapters and individual Fraters are prime examples of Building a Championship Culture within TKE. Their dedication to excellence creates a positive impact on their campuses and in their communities. Thank you to the alumni, volunteers, and advisors who worked tirelessly and gave selflessly to make these honors a reality."

In addition, Fraters of Omega at Albion College are one of only 40 TKE chapters to achieve the 100 percent KRA Award distinction, recognizing their excellence in meeting Key Results goals in: Initiates; Average Chapter Size; Education; Philanthropy; Accounts Receivable; e-Compliance, an online training portal outline rights, responsibilities and expectations.

### Philanthropy

During the 2018-19 Academic year, the men of Tau Kappa Epsilon raised more than \$6,700 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and more than \$7,300 for charity as a whole. Omega Fraters participated in events including the *St. Jude run/walk*, *Tekes Go Bald for St. Jude*, and the annual pig roast. TKE also joined in other organization's charity events to help raise money including Alpha Chi Omega's *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* and Delta Gamma Sorority's *Anchor Splash*.

Other philanthropic initiatives demonstrate TKE-Omega's commitment to love, charity and esteem by supporting diversity on campus and in the community. The chapter plans to work with the Ruth Ellis Center, a safe haven for LGBT+ children, teens, and adults by creating fundraisers benefiting LGBTI Prom for local high school students. The annual pig roast will take place in the Spring, as will the annual head shaving event benefiting St. Jude. (See more photos in Philanthropy, page 5.)

**Scholarships awarded** On December 2, Board of Advisors Chairman Jerry Johnson, '93, announced the 2019-20 honorees for the Dr. John L. Seaton Scholarship, awarded to Frater Trevor Hill, '20, and the William C. Prout, Jr. Scholarship

## OMEGA NEWS



Fall 2019 initiates include Lewis Eastmead (red shirt, center row, then l-r), Ryan Klooster and Devon Funk.

to Frater Hill and Frater Skylyr Zink, '22. "This year's recipients are to be celebrated for their scholarship, and for their contributions to Tau Kappa Epsilon and the broader community," Johnson said. "These Fraters are to be commended for embodying the best of what our fraternity espouses in building better men for a better world."



### Leadership

Student Senate President Frater Jim Takeshita, '21, welcomed 443 members of the class of 2023 to the Albion College family during matriculation on August 23. This is Albion College's most diverse freshman class: 44 percent identify as minority students from 14 states and 3 foreign countries.

**Fall Rush 2019** - The chapter initiated three outstanding new Fraters on Sunday, November 24: **Lewis Eastmead, Devon Funk, and Ryan Klooster.** In its 93-year history, the chapter has initiated 1,867 MEN. (photo courtesy Frank Hernandez, '22.)

### New Officers elected for the 2020 term:

- Venerable Prytanis: Parker Schanen, '21
- Epiprytanis: Sam Vanderveen, '22
- Grammateus: Frank Hernandez, '22
- Crysophylos: Lewis Eastmead, '22
- Histor: Sam Calhoun, '22
- Hypophetes: Skylyr Zink, '22
- Pylortes: Aubrey Spears, '20
- Hegemon: Cesar Cortes, '21

Congratulations to the new cabinet, and sincere thanks to our outgoing collegiate officers.

### New alumnus cashes in

Out of thousands of applicants and 100 interviewees, Josh Sannes, '19, was offered and accepted a position with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as a financial institution specialist in Columbus, Ohio.



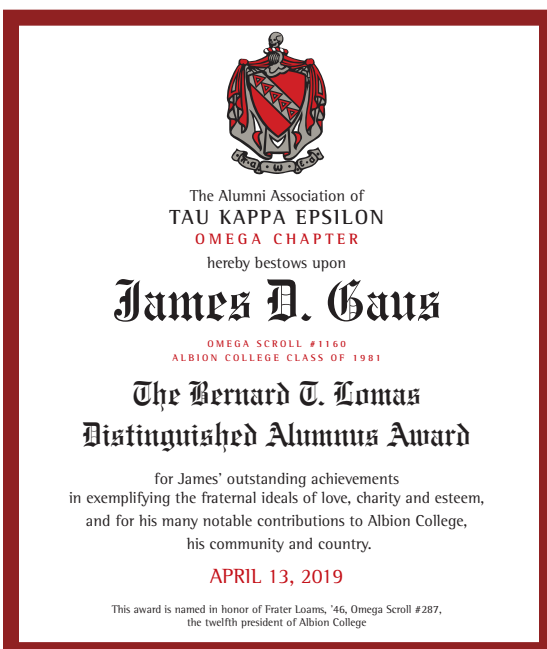
Sannes' four-year position includes almost two years of training to make him an expert in consumer protection and risk management. He will be looking at banks and their investments to ensure they are responsibly insuring consumer deposits. ■

**Read more here:** <https://bit.ly/2RQsBZb>

## OMEGA NEWS



**Frat James Gaus, '81**, was honored in April at the Founder's Day Celebration with the Bernard T. Lomas Distinguished Alumnus Award for more than 25 years of service to the Fraternity as a member and chairman of the Board of Advisors. Frater Gaus was also honored with a resolution from the Grand Chapter and the Grand Prytanis Key Leader Award.



**Dawn Morgan** has been the House Gourmet for Omega Chapter for 21 years. Throughout those years she has provided encouragement and support to Fraters who describe Dawn as the "House Mom." Whether it is providing a place for the pig to cook during pig roast, or hugging seniors about to graduate, Dawn shows she loves each and every one of the brothers every day.



**The Grand Getaway on Mackinac Island** in September hosted 13 Omega Tekes and at least one TKE Sweetheart. Pictured above are (l-r): Jim Wolfe, '82, Robert Armitage, '70, Max Tech, '17, William Raffail, '70, Olivia Alfano, '17, Kurt Tech, '80, Bill Sitterley, '70, Michael Haines, '85, and Norris March, '64. Not pictured: Thomas Elliott, '56, James Flack, '74, Michael Fritz, '62, Richard Maxwell, '65, and Paul Rehkopf, '72.

## PHILANTHROPY

# Committed to the Cause



**You can help: visit <http://fundraising.stjude.org/AlbionTKE>**

This year, Omega has already raised nearly \$7,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through events like the annual Walk/Run (held at sites across the U.S. every September) and Go Bald resulting in nine Fraters lopping off their locks in the fight to end childhood cancer. Thank you to those donated!

Visit the link above to make a donation in support of Omega chapter's continued legacy of philanthropy for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



## ACCOLADES



## FRATER DAVID TOWNE

was inducted into the TKE Advisory Hall of Fame at the TKE International Conclave in August. He was initiated into the Omega Chapter at Albion College in 1994 where he served as Histor and Prytanis. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Albion in 1997, he went on to receive his Juris Doctorate *cum laude* from Michigan State University in 2002.

**A Life Loyal Teke**, he is a graduate of Charles R. Walgreen Jr. TKE Leadership Academy in 1995 and of the 2010 William V. Muse Alumni Volunteer Academy. He is a recipient of a Key Leader Award, Volunteer of the Month, and the Fraternity for Life award.

Frater Towne has served in multiple advisory roles for Omega chapter and currently serves as Chapter Advisor. From 2006 to 2011, he served as a Grand Justice on the Grand Court, and from 2011 to 2013 he served as the Chief Grand Justice. He is the past Grand Province Advisor of the Great Lakes Province and currently sits on the Grand Chapter's Alumni Advisory Committee.

Frater Towne is a practicing attorney in the metro Detroit area. He is the third Omega Teke to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

## TKE ADVISORY HALL OF FAME

## HISTOR'S REPORT



# Lineage and Family Tree Project

By Andrew Baker, '20

Shortly before becoming Histor, I noticed that the Omega Chapter website contains a complete list of each Frater on the scroll, but that the Big/Little section of the site was typically blank. I felt the website could use some updating. It is important for men of Omega Chapter to know the history of their lineage, who their grandbig was, and how far back their line goes. The lineage project is not complete, but I hope it will continue to grow through the years so future Fraters may know their legacy.

The lineage project also expanded into a desire to make family trees for each family in the house.

Most fraters remember their lineage through their family, so I was able to make family trees with the help of recent alums, chiefly Fraters Merucci, Becker, and Baguzis. Family trees are an excellent way to introduce candidates to their family, or to aid those mapping splits and schisms in families. While mapping lineages and family trees are not among my official duties, I feel that it helps fraters get in touch with the history of Omega Chapter. ■

If you'd like to help Frater Baker complete a portion of the Family Tree Project, visit your profile at: [my.tke.org](https://my.tke.org).

## CRAIG THEROS, Ω1853



### Never Too Late

Frater Craig Theros pledged the fraternity in 1978.  
It took 40 years to complete his initiation.

By Jim Gaus, '81

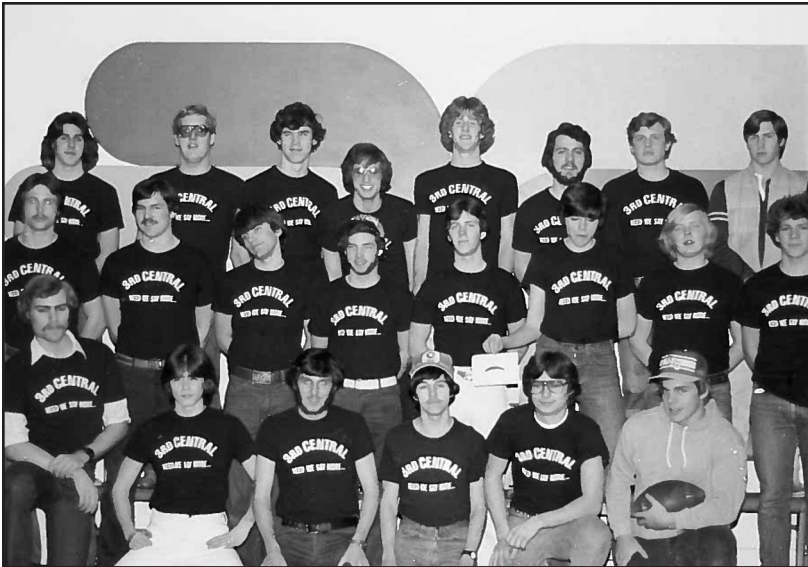
On April 13, the day of the Founder's Day Banquet, the Omega Chapter had the privilege of welcoming our newest member, Craig Theros.

Before the banquet, the active chapter and alumni participated in Craig's "official" initiation. The reason for putting quotes around initiation is because Craig had already gone through the process 40 years before. It's a story worth telling for all to appreciate the path we took to get to his initiation on April 13th.

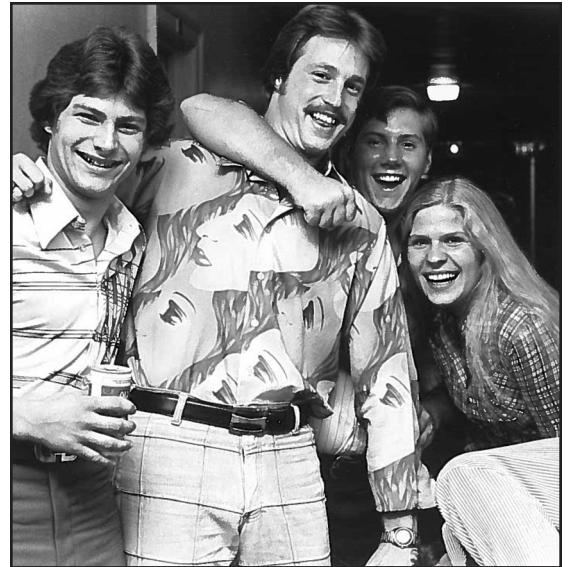
Craig Theros attended Albion College his freshman year starting in the fall of 1978. In the spring of 1979 Craig pledged the Omega Chapter of TKE along with many of his Wesley 3rd Central hallmates including his friend and roommate Byron Konschuh, '82. Craig went through the entire pledge process and initiation with his pledge mates before the end of the spring semester. Craig did not return to Albion his sophomore year.

Jump forward 34 years to the 2013 Founder's Day Banquet held at Weber's Inn. Craig attended, along with many of his 1979 pledge mates, the initiation of George Constance, '79, as an honorary member. George was a strong supporter of TKE while he was at Albion College (and beyond), and as Craig's Resident Assistant (RA) at Wesley, a guiding influence for many of the men who joined in 1979. After the banquet there was a question about Craig's membership status. The reason for the question was that apparently his name was not listed on TKE headquarters' list of members for the Omega chapter. While interviewing some of his pledge mates it was confirmed that he went through the initiation process, yet somehow his name was not registered. Thinking this might have been just a clerical error, further investigation discovered that his name was not on the chapter's scroll. All his other pledge mates, in alphabetical order, were. It is not

## CRAIG THEROS, Ω1853



The crew of 3rd Central, 1977-78. Many joined the fraternity for life.



entirely clear why his name was not on the scroll. Maybe it was because it was known at the time that he was not returning his sophomore year, or maybe because of an error in the initiation process. Regardless of the reason, it was an error requiring a solution. In conversations with Craig after the investigation, he was disappointed and sad, yet hoped the issue could be fixed.

With the planning of the 2019 Founder's Day celebration, the Board of Advisors agreed that it was the best time to correct the omission of Craig from our roster. The active chapter approved the motion to accept Craig into our chapter. An application was filed with TKE headquarters and quickly approved. On April 13th, almost 40 years from when Craig went through the process as a pledge, he was formally and "officially" initiated into the Omega chapter. His name is now on the scroll and listed on TKE HQ's roster.

I am so very proud and appreciative of the support the collegiate chapter gave to the Founder's Day celebration and for coordinating Craig's initiation. I am equally happy and proud to have Craig as our latest member. Regardless of the path to his initiation,



he is a man who is a Teke. He has remained in touch with several of his pledge mates over the years, he is active in his church and community, and frankly he's a great guy and is a welcomed addition to our fraternal family.

Welcome, Frater Theros! ■

Jim Gaus, '81

Vice Chair and Immediate Past Chair  
Omega Chapter Board of Advisors

## THE SWEETHEART OF TKE



### Olivia Maleckas

For Sweetheart **Olivia Maleckas, '20**, Omega Chapter has been a place of refuge since her freshman year, when a friend began rushing Tau Kappa Epsilon. In that time, the brothers of TKE have provided her with support and comedic relief in trying times.

"TKE is special to me because it gave me a true home at Albion," Olivia said. "The past president (Trevor Hill, '20) is from my hometown, so I stuck with him and our mutual friends freshman year. I've ended up at TKE nearly every day for the past three years. It's always something different but I always

have the same feeling, like I'm home.'

Olivia, a senior majoring in psychology, intends to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology following graduation. A member of Kappa Delta sorority, she recently served as ritual chair and parliamentarian for her chapter.

The warmth and care Olivia has experienced at Omega chapter extends to their approach to others as well, she said. "Something else that makes TKE special to me is the consistent support for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Seeing the love that Tekes have for the philanthropy is inspiring."

## THE LAST WORD



TAU KAPPA EPSILON  
OMEGA CHAPTER

### Get involved. Stay Informed.

- ▲ Update your contact information at [my.tke.org](http://my.tke.org)
- ▲ TEKEs in Action — Send a photograph of yourself being a TEKE In Action, demonstrating what it means to you to be a better man for a better world. We'll plan to publish your story in a future edition of The Omen that illustrates some of the ways TEKEs are making a difference in the world. This could be a photo of you in a career, family, community involvement, volunteerism or philanthropy setting. Include your name, class year, cause, and a brief description.  
Send to: [omegatkealumni@gmail.com](mailto:omegatkealumni@gmail.com)
- ▲ Visit the collegiate chapter website: [www.albiontke.com](http://www.albiontke.com)
- ▲ Like and Follow the collegiate chapter's Facebook page: @TKE.Omega
- ▲ Send inquiries to: [omegatkealumni@gmail.com](mailto:omegatkealumni@gmail.com)
- ▲ Join the alumni association Facebook group, a members-only group



### Watch your e-mail and social media spaces for an upcoming call-to-action.

The collegiate members of Omega chapter are doing great things ... but they can't do it alone. They may need alumni support and your voice in the near future. Stay tuned.

JERRY JOHNSON, '93  
Chairman

NATE LOVE, '13  
Alumni President

PARKER SCHANEN, '21  
Prytanis

DAVID TOWNE, '97  
Omega Chapter Advisor



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