

SPRING 2020



# BETA ETA DATA

**University Closes for  
the Semester Amid  
COVID-19 Concern pg.9**

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**TKE Wins 3rd Overall in  
the 112th Best Ever pg.10**

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**New Members to be  
Initiated in the Fall pg.14**



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## On the Cover -

Frater Nick Kucharski - BH1193 stands under a rainbow.

~Photo by Gerald Sonnonberg - BH1209





## A Word from our Advisor

**D**ear Fraters, As you can imagine, our fraternity and university are facing significant challenges with the advent of the Coronavirus. All classes have been moved online, and the majority of students have returned home for the remainder of the semester. I continue to be impressed with the maturity and leadership of our active chapter as we work together to keep everyone safe and position the chapter for ongoing success. At a recent Board of Advisors meeting, we developed near term transition plans for distance learning, determined necessary financial action, and discussed solutions to challenges with new member recruitment. We are also working closely with other fraternity advisory groups to share the lessons we have learned as we chart this new territory together. Although we have significant work ahead, our collective

leadership is working together to ensure a healthy chapter for current and future TKEs. We recently awarded \$10,900 in scholarships to 22 deserving students to recognize their academic success and chapter involvement. I am happy to report that two members received the 4.0 scholarship, and three were awarded the Continuing Academic Excellence scholarship (3 consecutive semesters at a 3.5 or higher). Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

We appreciate your ongoing support as we all work together to continue the legacy of Beta Eta!

YITB,

John Eash - BH536



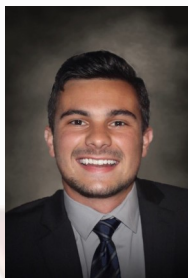
## Our Chapter



## Spring 2020 Officers

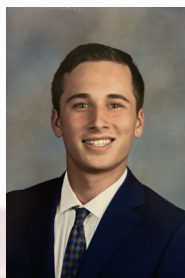
### Prytanis

Brenden Bratsch  
BH1128  
Fall 2016  
bbgx6@mst.edu



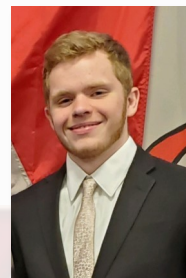
### Epiprytanis

Grant Janicki  
BH1172  
Fall 2018  
gwjd58@mst.edu



### Grammateus

Nick Suda  
BH1197  
Fall 2019  
njsbhk@mst.edu



### Crysophylos

Ethan Lowrey  
BH1151  
Fall 2017  
edl6f4@mst.edu



### Histor

Trey Breshears  
BH1200  
Fall 2019  
tlbnf5@mst.edu



### Hypophetes

Colton Gholson  
BH1126  
Fall 2016  
ckgt2d@mst.edu



### Pylortes

JC Walkenhorst  
BH1150  
Fall 2017  
jcwh4@mst.edu



### Hegemon

Alex Huff  
BH1184  
Spring 2019  
ach638@mst.edu



### Rush Chairman

Josh Walkenhorst  
BH1194  
Fall 2019  
jrwgdf@mst.edu



### House Manager

Griffin Elliott  
BH1156  
Fall 2017  
gef2f@mst.edu



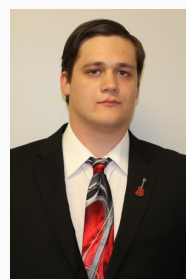
### V.P. External

Eric Summers  
BH1198  
Fall 2019  
emswdn@mst.edu



### V.P. E&S

Eric Hanson  
BH1145  
Fall 2017  
emh2m2@mst.edu





## Prytanis

**W**hat a wild semester this has been so far. The unique situation presented by the Coronavirus has forced us to adapt our approach to school, our personal lives, and our brotherhood in TKE. In response to COVID-19, we had to make the unfortunate call to close the house during this year's Pat's celebration. Helping to contain the virus and protect our members and their families will be a top priority through the coming weeks. The recent stay-at-home orders affecting St. Louis and parts of Kansas City will have a severe effect on this year's rush. PRO Days, rush events, and dinners have been cancelled until further notice, and we will be seeking help from our friends and alumni to make up for the lost time once the orders are lifted. In the following weeks we will be asking for new volunteers to aid us in planning and hosting events. Our rush committee plans to remain in touch with as many potential new members as possible though this lull in our time at the house. We are grateful for any suggestions or constructive criticism to help improve our chapter's methods through these difficult times. Even with many of our active members at home, our chapter is still being an active part of the TKE Nation. Our officer corps will continue to communicate and perform their jobs to the best of their ability. The active chapter and alumni will be kept up to date on all TKE activities that are taking place while we are working remotely. I am extremely proud to see our chapter doing everything we can to succeed in the face of these obstacles. All in all, I am confident that our chapter will continue to develop and thrive through these tough times. Our resilient nature will enable us to come back this Fall and continue to be one of the top TKE chapters in the nation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

YitB,

Brenden Bratsch - BH1128

[Bbgx6@umsystem.edu](mailto:Bbgx6@umsystem.edu) | 314-805-1049



## Epiprytanis

**T**his semester is well under way, and the internal committees have been making plenty of progress. The house development committee, headed by Jake Bartch, has been busy updating the weight room. The fresh coat of paint and new exercise equipment have transformed the room into a spectacle for our physically active members to enjoy. In line with our new enthusiasm for fitness, an ad hoc committee has been formed to work with Bessie on improving our in-house menu. The rush committee has been adjusting to the big changes in our schedule, and is developing a plan for continuing the recruitment process without access to the house. Despite the current COVID-19 situation, all internal committees heads will continue their work as possible. I plan to check in with all internal committee heads on a regular basis, and prepare for normal operations in the summer and fall. The active members currently staying in the TKE house in Rolla have elected a spring/summer House Manager who will be in charge of house operations until school resumes in the fall. I plan to work closely with the officer corps for the remainder of the semester and summer and am excited to return to normal operations in the fall. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy throughout these difficult times.

YitB,

Grant Janicki - BH1172



### Internal Operations Committees

Academics	Comp. Service	Concessions
<u>Colton Gholson</u>	<u>Zach Kraft</u>	<u>Eric Hanson</u>
<u>BH1126</u>	<u>BH1160</u>	<u>BH1145</u>
Finance	House Dev.	House Main.
<u>Ethan Lowrey</u>	<u>Jake Bartch</u>	<u>Griffin Elliott</u>
<u>BH1151</u>	<u>BH1144</u>	<u>BH1156</u>
Rush	Steward	
<u>Josh Walkenhorst</u>	<u>William Bump</u>	
<u>BH1194</u>	<u>BH1155</u>	

TKE

## V.P. External

**A**nother Beta Eta Data has arrived! This Spring semester has been packed full of events. We hosted our annual Trivia Night which helped us raise a lot of money for St Jude. We had our St. Jude "Teke Week" which was an awesome opportunity to get Tekes on campus and get our letters out there. Between St. Pat's and our other events, we had a lot of good opportunities to wear our letters and get some good Public Relations exposure. TKE social media has been highlighting special events and accomplishments that have been made by our chapter, so if you don't already, be sure to follow **@tke\_bh** on Instagram. Because of the unfortunate circumstances with the virus scare, I don't foresee many events or highlights coming from our chapter for the rest of this semester. However, for my remaining term in the fall, I plan to host a lot more events on campus to get our members out there and show off our letters! P.R. and the image of our house are very important to me, and I want to boost those up to the highest they can be before my term is over. Hopefully next semester our chapter can come back bigger and stronger than we left it, and we can increase participation, morale and most importantly—brotherhood.

YitB,  
Eric Summers - BH1198



## External Operations Committees

<u>Athletics</u> <u>Cameron Brown</u> <u>BH1188</u>	<u>Activities</u> <u>Cole Steiger</u> <u>BH1173</u>	<u>Social</u> <u>Brenden Bratsch</u> <u>BH1128</u>
<u>Parent's Club</u> <u>Kevin Wich</u> <u>BH1210</u>	<u>RCB</u> <u>Jacob Lovel</u> <u>BH1136</u>	<u>PR</u> <u>Alex Huff</u> <u>BH1184</u>
<u>Alumni Relations</u> <u>Trey Breshears BH1200</u>		



## V.P. E & S

**F**raters, as unfortunate as the canceling of the St. Patrick's Day Celebration was, it seems that even this cloud has a silver lining. Our chapter performed well enough in the celebration's competition to earn third place overall, as well as take home a number of other accolades. We scored second place in the Top Ten Lists, Snake Pits, and Float Competition, and third place in the Show Shillelagh competition. Thanks to all the members of the house who gave their time and effort to helping us achieve this victory. With philanthropy, the Beta-Eta Tekes have successfully hosted the third annual TKE Trivia Night in partnership with the University Police. This year, we raised over \$4,000 dollars for the St. Jude Children's Hospital and earned nearly 300 hours of community service in support of the event. As always, we would like to thank those who participated, and will be working to increase our amount raised from this event in the coming years. Finally, it's never too early to be looking forward to next semester's events. After winning first place in St. Pat's last year and placing high on the leaderboards this year, we plan to funnel that same level of energy and dedication towards winning the Greek Week competition in the fall. And, as always, we will be hosting another historic homecoming celebration this year. Please feel free to direct any questions towards our homecoming liaison; Brenden Bratsch. Despite the current events, let's make 2020 a year to remember for the better in Beta Eta TKE history.

YitB,  
Eric Hanson - BH1145





## Rush Report

**D**espite the circumstances at hand, we have been contacting numerous potential new members to ensure a successful rush season for the fall class of 2020. Overall, we have been very successful in staying in contact with the potential new members and gaining their interest. The COVID-19 situation has forced us to postpone all rush-related activities until the end of April, subject to change. If you know of students planning to attend MST during the 2020 fall semester, please let me know so that we may reach out to them.

YitB,  
Josh Walkenhorst - BH1194  
jrwgdf@mst.edu



Below is a list of the rush events planned for Summer 2020

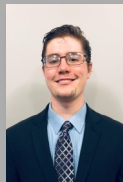
May 30th - Bowling  
June 6th - Volleyball/Basketball  
June 13th - Grill Out  
June 20th - Mini Golf  
June 27th - Swim and BBQ  
July 11th - **Need a host! See Below**  
July 18th - English Landing Park (KC)  
July 25th - River Day  
August 1st - Pool Party  
August 8th - Float Trip

Available to host a rush event on July 11th?  
Please contact Josh if you are interested.

## IFC

Zach Kraft - BH1160

Senior Rep.  
Office: V.P. Internal  
Committee: Fields



Nathan Wacker - BH1174

Junior Rep.  
Committee: Sales



Nick Suda - BH1197

Baby Rep.



## Pat's Committee

Brent Bauerschmidt - BH1133

Senior Rep.  
Executive Board: Sales Manager  
Court: 1st Guard 2020



Adam McTigue - BH1154

Senior Rep.  
Committee Head: Philanthropy  
Court: Trumpeter 2020



## Philanthropy

Philanthropy has continued to be a driving force within the Beta Eta chapter this semester. Our biggest event, the annual TKE Trivia Night, has continued to be a huge success.



The scorekeeping crew poses for the camera.



The winning team of Trivia Night, *Drinking Team with a Trivia Problem*, shows off their trophy with Fraters Dean Buffa, Justin Williams, and Maj. Oscar Kemp.

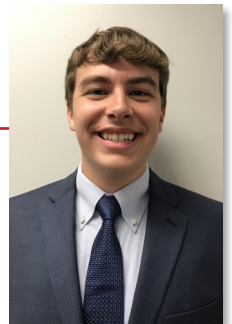


Trivia Night volunteers line up after the event.

### Chairman's Report

Fraters,

I would like to extend a thank you to everyone who helped contribute to our philanthropy this year! Luckily, we hosted our St. Jude week and Trivia Night in just a few weeks before campus closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. I would like to extend a special thank you to Maj. Oscar Kemp and the Missouri S&T Police Department for co-hosting this event with us for the third year in a row. This school year we were able to raise \$6,250 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, with \$3,600 of that coming from our annual trivia night. This year we also had fraters hand out free hot chocolate on campus and accept donations on behalf of St. Jude leading up to our trivia event. Thank you again for your continued support.



YitB,

Justin Williams - BH1125





## COVID –19 Updates

The men of the Beta Eta Chapter are working hard to keep up with the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation. The Officer Corps has been working closely with our Board of Advisors to make decisions that are best for our members, alumni, and their loved ones. **Below you can find some general information related to our chapter in response to the outbreak.**

### House Policy -

No active members, alumni, or guests will be allowed in the house without approval from the Officer Corps through May 22nd.

### Events (subject to change\*) -

**All house-sponsored events have been cancelled for the remainder of the semester.**

Active members may return to the house beginning May 22nd to retrieve their belongings for the summer. All personal belongings must be removed by May 29th.

The Alumni Association's Annual Golf Outing (6/20) and Family Picnic (7/5) have not been cancelled.

\*Contact an officer or BOA member to confirm dates.

For more information, see our house policy:

[COVID-19 Residency Policy](#)

And the University's updates:

[Coronavirus Information](#)

### Contact Information

#### Primary In-House Contact

Ethan Lowery - BH1151

(314) 518-4591

#### Secondary In-House Contact

Preston Walden - BH1141

(660) 525-0703

#### Prytanis

Brenden Bratsch

(314) 805-1049

#### Histor

Trey Breshears

(816) 804-2967





## 112th Annual Best Ever St. Pat's



Above: The class of Fall 2019 shows off their well-earned trophies.  
Left: Tekes line up in preparation for the 8-legged race event.



Though we missed our alumni participating with us, the 112th Annual can still be considered the Best Ever St. Pat's. TKE won third place overall, and won several other awards in the games that were held. Our in-house socials and activities will be remembered for the remainder of our S&T careers, as they will be the last memories we have in Rolla from the spring semester.





## Pictures from Pat's



Left: (left to right) Fraters Josh Baker, Gerald Sonnonberg, Jacob Martin, and Andrew Condon show off their shillelaghs outside the snake pits.

Bottom: (left to right) Kevin Cummins stares into a ditch while Fraters Zach Kraft, Gerald Sonnonberg, Andrew Condon, Dean Buffa, and Josh Baker work to pull a potential cudgel out of a creek bed.

Right: (left to right) Fraters Gerald Sonnonberg, Logan Gallagher, and Eric Summers pose in front of our Pat's themed letters.





## Active Member Spotlights

**Kevin Wich - BH1210**



**K**evin “Geronimo” Wich has become a very active member in the house since joining in the Fall. Kevin is the head of our chapter’s Parent’s Club and oversees the planning and execution of events like Parent’s Day. He is also a member of the philanthropy, merchandise, house maintenance, social, rush, and PR committees, as well as the house’s *Out ‘Till Midnight* fundraiser representative. As a freshman, Kevin is studying mechanical engineering and working toward earning his bachelor’s degree. Kevin enjoys his time on the S&T Trap and Skeet Team, and is even looking into joining the Collegiate Eagle Scout Association. His ability to quickly adapt has earned him the title of the “Human Swiss Army Knife” from a former boss, and he hopes to live up to that legacy within TKE.

**Jared Gardner - BH1208**



**J**ared “Pampers” Gardner has been a key member of the House Financial Committee this semester. He processes all payments, deposits checks, and tracks markups for every member of the house, and next semester he plans to run for house Crysophylos. Jared is a freshman studying computer science, and he hopes to graduate from S&T with a bachelor’s degree within the next five years. Hailing from DeSoto, MO, Jared has taken his dream of being a video game designer to heart, and plans to work as a programmer for a major gaming company.





## Scholarships

The active chapter would like to extend a special thank you to the alumni that have donated to the Triangle Scholarship fund. It is clear that TKE had, and continues to have, a lasting impact on your life. Your contributions have helped to enrich the lives of our active members, and have not gone unnoticed. We are hopeful that our current actives will continue to follow the example you have set after graduation.

Eric & Darlene Dunning Alumni Scholarship: Brent Bauerschmidt

Tom McElyea Scholarship: Alex Rozycki & Justin Williams

Tom McElyea Sr. Scholarship: Alex Huff & Brady Hughes

John Eash Scholarship: Eric Hanson & Tyler Seats

Engaged Out of House Active of the Year Scholarship: Colton Gholson

4.0 Scholarship: Justin Williams & Devin Thomeczek

Continuing Academic Excellence Scholarship (3 consecutive semesters at 3.5):  
Justin Williams, Eric Hanson, Grant Janicki

Prytanis (Fall) Scholarship: Griffin Elliott

Prytanis (Spring) Scholarship: Brenden Bratsch

Histor (Fall) Scholarship: Alex Huff

Histor (Spring) Scholarship: Trey Breshears

Hypophetes (Fall) Scholarship: Colton Gholson

Crysopholos (Spring) Scholarship: Ethan Lowery

House Manager (Fall) Scholarship: Jake Bartch

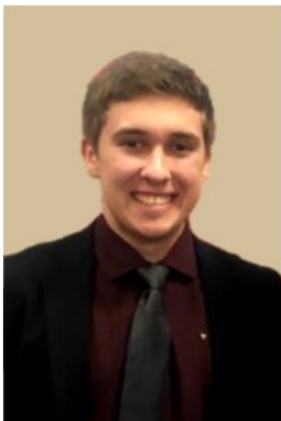
House Manager (Spring) Scholarship: Griffin Elliott

**Congrats to these fraters for their continued academic achievement and involvement in the house and community!**



## New Inductees

Below are the proud inductees of Spring 2020. Although their new member process has been temporarily halted, they will continue to function as an integral part of the Beta Eta chapter until we resume in the Fall.



*Kevin Cummins*

Hometown: Ozark, MO  
Major: Biomedical E.

*Dylan Rose*

Hometown: Festus, MO  
Major: Architectural E.



*Aidan Greiner*

Hometown: Galena, IL  
Major: Mechanical E.





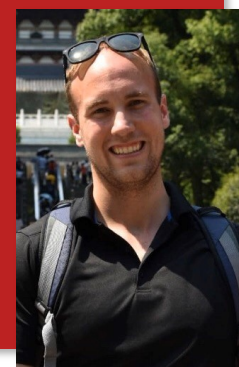
## Alumni Association President's Report

**W**hat an eventful few weeks this has been. A fellow alumni gave the best summary I've heard by saying, "How strange it is to live through history as it happens." I know St. Pats didn't play out as we hoped, but this is no time to lament and despair. In times of uncertainty, I've always been able to count on my brothers and the bond we share, and I hope you all feel the same. Now more than ever we need to come together (if only metaphorically—depending on your current distancing guidelines). So far, as alumni, we have only missed St. Pats, which means we get to enjoy the next one twice as much. However, as the house enters this critical time of rush under such unprecedented circumstances, the stakes become higher. I defer to the house and BOA for advice on how the alumni can assist, but I ask you all to please be on the lookout for information and requests for assistance as they navigate this new

uncharted territory. As we get through this short-term hurdle, we don't want to lose sight of the fun the future holds. We plan on resuming social gatherings as soon as we are able. We are still planning on hosting the alumni golf outing June 20th at Paradise Valley in Fenton, MO. Please RSVP to Kevin Lahay (kvnng8@hotmail.com). Also plan to join us for the 4th annual family picnic on July 5th at Blanchette Park in St. Charles. If you are interested in helping plan any of these events, or if you'd like to plan an event in a free month, please feel free to reach out. I look forward to sharing a beer with everyone and exchanging war stories from the local grocery stores. In the meantime, stay safe.

YiTB,

Drew "Tugboat" Hall - BH1042



## Board of Advisors

<b><u>Chairman</u></b> Michael Taylor BH1094 mcgruff.1094@gmail.com	<b><u>Vice Chairman</u></b> Will Ruzicka BH1016 will.ruzicka@gmail.com	<b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Jeff Steinhart BH583 jeffsteinhart1@aol.com	<b><u>Secretary</u></b> Joshua Nixon BH1093 jmnqb@mst.edu	<b><u>Rush</u></b> Rob Starrett BH930 rstarrett930@hotmail.com
<b><u>Prytanis</u></b> Brenden Bratsch BH1128 bbgx6@mst.edu	<b><u>Chapter Advisor</u></b> John Eash BH536 john.f.eash@gmail.com	<b><u>Faculty Advisor</u></b> Dr. Mark Fitch BH999 mfitch@mst.edu	<b><u>A.A. President</u></b> Drew Hall BH1042 tugboat1042@gmail.com	<b><u>House Corp Chair</u></b> Dave Bernhard BH816 dave@bernhardautoworks.com
<b><u>Member at Large</u></b> Mike McEvilly BH615 mike.mceilly@huskyenergy.com	<b><u>Member at Large</u></b> Mark Downer BH655 mgdowner@gmail.com	<b><u>Member at Large</u></b> Ryan Elam BH989 TKEChief@gmail.com	<b><u>Member at Large</u></b> Ryan Rzadca BH958 ryanrzadca@yahoo.com	<b><u>Member at Large</u></b> Ivan Matthews BH1057 thorbh1057@gmail.com



## Editorial

**W**hile the school may have come to an unprecedented closing, the Beta Eta Chapter will continue to promote our excellence for the remainder of the semester. This situation is a historical event, and I will do my best to keep a record of both how we are responding as a chapter and the experiences gaining as individuals. While we recognize that this is a serious situation, if you have any humorous personal Coronavirus stories to share, I will document them for future TKEs and Alumni to recount. From our perspective as actives, COVID-19 wasn't just a change in our routine. Migrating back to our permanent homes has been difficult, and working from home has revealed how much we all need the socialization aspect that the fraternity provides. A friend of mine observed that we now "have all of the hard parts of being a student in Rolla, and none of the fun parts." I would add that it is now more important than ever for us to find (safe) ways to socialize, be it through an online medium, or even rekindling friendships with nearby neighbors. Working through programs like Zoom has helped us keep in touch with our

classmates and study groups, and is my favorite part of the day. If this had happened 10 or 15 years ago, hardly any of us would be able to keep in touch with each other. I have one Professor who has been doing his best to keep us entertained during class. In his first lecture he tried in vain to figure out how to turn on the classroom's camera but resorted to rotating the document camera toward the board. This of course resulted in his image appearing upside down, which he used to its fullest humorous potential. He noted how lonely the empty lecture hall was without his students and their IT support. To the actives remaining in house; Ethan, Preston, Devin, Jared, and Nathan, good look and Godspeed. To everyone else; I look forward to seeing you all on the other side.

YitB,  
Trey Breshears - BH1200  
Beta Eta Histor  
tlbnf5@mst.edu



## Stay Connected!

**Like our new look?** We've changed our style to better reflect an online format. Contact the Beta Eta Chapter Histor with comments or concerns regarding our newsletter.

**This will be the only Beta Eta Data for Spring of 2020.**



**TKEatMST**



**TKE\_BH**



**TKE\_BH**



**<http://www.tkemst.org/>**





# MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

