

# NU NEWS

- Fall 2020 -

A PUBLICATION OF THE NU CHAPTER OF TAU KAPPA EPSILON  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



## NU CHAPTER TURNS 100!

We tell new pledges when they accept their bid, that Tau Kappa Epsilon is a “Fraternity of Life”. We tell them of the hundreds of quality men who have signed the scroll and are forever linked as their Fraters in the Bond. And, while they experience that bond on numerous occasions throughout their time at 2725 Channing and into their life thereafter, rarely is their one occasion that distills our lifetime experience across multiple decades into one amazing weekend.

The last weekend in September 2019 will live in TKE Nu lore as one of the best occasions Fraters have ever experienced in the bond of brotherhood. After hosting “gameday” BBQ’s at the house for years, never has a football “gameday” experience been so memorable as having 80 fraters across the decades share beverages on the front lawn prior the Cal-ASU football game on Friday evening, September 27th. Quality ribs from Chef Felipe, cold beverages, and great memories were abundant before we all walked up to Memorial Stadium to watch a rare Friday evening game. While the game ended as many Cal games have (yes, we are Cal fans), the energy created was just the beginning of an epic weekend.

Prior to our dinner celebration, we held a very successful golf tournament at the Tilden Park Golf Course. We had two dozen players participate and everyone had a great time. James Brady was the MVP, crushing many tee shots. He won the longest drive and one of the closest to the pin contests, while Mark Edelstone won the other closest to the pin contest.

Saturday evening Nu TKEs from 7 decades gathered to celebrate at the University Club room atop the pressbox of the

remodeled Memorial Stadium. The views of the field and the views from the deck overlooking the Campanile, campus and bay were stunning. With an open bar and quality appetizers, Fraters quickly began to get into the spirit of the evening with bear hugs, high fives, and much laughter. Pledge brothers regaled stories of old to younger Fraters, only to be out done by older Fraters who had funnier and more adventurous stories of their own.

An amazing meal was served as dusk settled in. We sat in awe realizing while 1400 men have signed the scroll (many who passed the Chapter Eternal), 150 Fraters who had signed that scroll were communing together in solidarity of that bond.

Frater Dick Anderson delivered a comprehensive history of Nu Chapter as none had ever heard that will be used as fodder for future Pledge quizzes. In a warm up for the guest speaker, Frater Steve Schmidt led the room in Cal cheers that would make “mic men” of today, pale in comparison.

Cal Athletic Director Jim Knowlton was keynote speaker for the evening. He had Frater Mark Edelstone had an open mic conversation before opening the floor to Fraters for their questions on the state of Cal athletics. In listening to Jim Knowlton, it is clear that Cal athletics is in good hands. In a surprise to Fraters, Coach Mark Fox, the newly hired Cal Basketball coach, followed and spoke of his vision for the future of Cal Basketball.

As the evening came to a close at Memorial Stadium, many Fraters meandered back to the house to hoists of few cold beverages with the actives of house. *(Continued on page 4)*



*Nu News* is published by Nu of Tau Kappa Epsilon, founded October 3, 1919 in Berkeley, California. Please direct all news to: *Nu News*, c/o FMG PO Box 12010, Tucson, AZ, 85732-2010 or preferably via email at CalTKE@TKENu-Alumni.org

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### CHAPTER ADVISORS

Graham Van Leuven '06

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRYTANIS

### *Simon Vaillancourt - #1312*

The month of March was certainly a turbulent time for the actives at 2725 Channing Way. In between flip-flopped COVID-19 policies from the Cal administration and a growing social fear of the virus, many fraters returned home to finish their classes and isolate themselves with their families. However, unlike the majority of the CalGreek system, our TKE house supported nearly two dozen fraters from the start of the Shelter-in-place order in Alameda county to the end of the semester.

Whether it was travel barriers/expenses, job prospects, internships, or even fear of asymptotically spreading the virus, many active fraters made the decision to reside in the House throughout quarantine. While this may seem like a recipe for disaster, the resulting ecosystem was a testament of this chapter's immeasurable dedication and appreciation for one another. Following Spring Break in late March, fraters constructed a new take on the social contract that included limited gatherings in common rooms, respecting one another's space, not inviting non-TKEs over, and limiting trips beyond the safety of our walls. While it was certainly not the most luxurious lifestyle, we took comfort in supporting one another through what should have been an extremely difficult and lonely time.

Fraters spread out throughout the house in order to give each their personal space, and while mornings and afternoons were reserved for virtual lectures and studying, our Crysophylos Konnor von Emster completely reworked our budget to ensure those of us who stayed behind would continue enjoy all the pastimes we all fondly remember participating in, from a friendly game of pong to a true Senior Sendoff. In addition, our Head Chef Felipe Barajas continued cooking out of our kitchen Monday through Friday, delivering only the most quality of meals twice a day to our fraters, limiting our need to leave the house. We truly could not have had it any better.

While many assumed our Officer Corps job had gotten a lot harder, we found it to actually be the opposite. Our men banded together without a second thought, supporting each other through a period that none of us will ever forget. The true key to our success were the frequent Housing Board Operation Committee meetings headed by Erik Lewis, Anthony Wright, and Graham van Leuven, who continued to support our every need through our countless zoom calls.

I have since returned home to spend the summer with my family in the great state of West Virginia, and while I miss my daily interactions with my brothers, I know that our Epiprytanis Oscar Matousek is doing a fantastic job running Summer TKE back in Berkeley. It is strange to reflect and realize that this quarantine brought me so close to many of my fellow fraters, but I will never forget our times together. Most of all, it truly showed me that this fraternity is not one of wealth, rank or honor, but for personal worth and character.

Yours in the Bond,

Simon Vaillancourt #1312  
Prytanis, Nu Chapter

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## GRAHAM VAN LEUVEN – NEW NU CHAPTER ADVISOR!

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After a February TKE Housing Corp meeting, Frater Graham Van Leuven and I sat at Henry's and discussed his new role as Chapter Advisor at TKE. Settling into a Golden Bear, a Blonde Ale and a plate of nachos, Graham chatted about his experiences that led him saying "yes" to the new position.

Growing up in the Sacramento area, and graduating from a small high school, Graham landed at Cal in 2003 as a Junior transfer after time at community college. He found himself at Bowles Hall where he met Naz Kahn who introduced him to TKE. Rushed by Erik Lewis, Graham joined the Beta Class of TKE and eventually took on the Hegemon officer position. Graham recalled great memories with his fellow Fraters as well as some of the internal challenges that the house had with the University during the early years after re-chartering. He graduated in 2006 with a double major in English and Political Science. He knew he was destined to be a lawyer and went to law school at George Washington in D.C.

Upon returning to the west coast, John Waste recommended that he move to Fresno and helped him gain his first position of his legal career in insurance law. He loved his experience in Fresno and it didn't hurt that Jeff Tedford started coaching at Fresno State football while he lived there. His boss had 40 years of experience and was eager to share his legal knowledge with his new protégé. While he saw a future in Fresno and a path to partnership, he received a call from a recruiter representing a firm in San Francisco that did insurance law. While the firm the recruiter represented was not of interest, the recruiter fresh with Graham's resume, shopped it to the firm that Graham was most interested in the City. Shortly thereafter, Graham interviewed with and received an introduction to that firm, and 2 weeks later an offer was extended. From a cost of living standpoint, the new position was a pay cut, but from a professional experience it was a great opportunity. He continues to grow and learn the

law and increase his expertise. Graham states that he loves the law and loves what he does.

Graham is excited to be back in the Bay Area and have the opportunity to reconnect with fraters in TKE. He also is excited and somewhat nervous about stepping into his new role as chapter advisor. Graham stated he wants to give back to TKEs the experience and direction that he received during his days at 2725 Channing Way. He recalls many of those lessons helping through his duties as Hegemon as well as in his post-Channing days. Remembering the Chapter Advisor partners of "Steve & Peter", and "Erik & James", Graham indicated that he is looking for a fellow TKE alum to assist him in guiding the chapter through future growth. He recognized having a pair of Chapter Advisors with dual observations (yin and yang) would be a great asset for the house.

Stepping into this new role, Graham is looking forward to getting to know the Officer Corps and the actives in the house. He has begun attending chapter meetings and getting a feel for the pulse of the house. As the new officer corps for 2019 takes on the Spring semester, Graham has asked them how he can best be of help to them and he finds his way to understand the role of Chapter Advisor. He acknowledges that he is not sure what he is stepping into, but just wants to find a way to give back to the Fraternity that gave him so much. He is confident in his ability to bring his knowledge and experience to be of benefit of the Fraters.

As we closed our conversation, a feeling of comfort sets in (or maybe it was the Golden Bear) as I realized that TKE is in great hands with our new Chapter Advisor. He is a Frater with the passion, experience and integrity to assist TKE Nu continue to thrive in the next decade. We hoist this one to you Graham! Thanks for stepping up and giving back!

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## THE NU CHAPTER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

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The 63rd Annual Nu Chapter Christmas Luncheon took place at the venerable Le Bateau Ivre in Berkeley last December. Fraters spanning seven decades joined for the event and a joyous time was had by all.



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Multiple generations partied together as if we were in the same pledge class. It was truly an appropriate end to a beautiful day.

As we reflect back on the epic weekend, it really could have not gone much better than it did. But in retrospect, it could not have happened without the vision and planning or Frater Mark Edelstone. As the President of the TKE Nu Housing Board, he spearheaded the weekend. While the Housing Board picked up on the tab for the room, meal and bar, it was Frater Edelstone who kept the committee on task with contacting fraters, arranging the Keynote speakers, and being the passionate TKE that he is. Thank you Mark, we lift this glass to you!

As you reflect on that weekend and your identity as a TKE, if you desire to give back to the Fraternity that gave you so much, there are numerous opportunities to do so through your time or resources. Please reach out to Mark or donate as you desire via the following link [www.tkenu-alumni.org/donate](http://www.tkenu-alumni.org/donate).



# TKE

# NU CHAPTER TURNS 100!



# NEWS OF NU ALUMNI COVID CHRONICLES

*We know that Frater Updates is the favorite section for many Nu News readers, but given how different everything is with 2020, we wanted to update this section just a bit with what you have been up to while we all make the most out of this year.*

**MARK EDELSTONE '83** While the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging and sad for those who have been personally impacted by the loss of life, jobs, etc..., it has been very interesting for me and a period of my life that I will never forget. The most impactful memories for me are as follows:

- Being in Tahoe for our annual TKE Pac-12 basketball tournament ski trip with Chris Burns, Andrew Dun and Rob Fowler when the Bay Area went on lockdown.
- After being bummed that all the ski resorts closed in Tahoe just as the biggest storm of the season happened, I had Chris drop me off at the end of my street and skied to the bottom where he picked me up at the bottom and drove us back home.
- While I have enjoyed not having my 3+ hour, 120-150 mile daily commute from Moraga to Silicon Valley, work has been intense, as the companies I work with have all been looking for advice on how to best manage through the turmoil and uncertainty. While sitting on zoom calls all day can be taxing, it is far better than sitting in traffic on 680, 101 or 280.
- In late April, golf opened up at one of the local public courses in Kings Beach and I will never forget how happy I was to actually get outside and do something fun after weeks of confinement.
- In order to pass the time, a bunch of my high school buddies and their fraternity brothers from Cal Poly organized two virtual cribbage tournament with 32 players, which was fun and a good way to pass time in the early stages of SIP.
- Seeing how well our officer corp at TKE have managed to keep the fraternity humming during the turmoil and figuring out how to keep our brothers safe and the house operating at appropriate levels during the summer and fall semesters.
- The best part of the pandemic has been having my son and fellow Teke home from NY with his girlfriend Nikki since mid March, as Lori and I have been able to spend the most quality time we have with them since Steven moved to the east coast after college.

**PETER CLOVEN '86** Like most, the idea of multiple video conference calls in one day (let alone consecutive days) was a foreign concept prior to the Shelter in Place orders that hit the Bay Area. After a few weeks in the house with stir crazy teenage girls, I was delighted to receive and Zoom invitation from my pledge brother Joe Brabant for a virtual “cocktail hour” on a Wednesday evening. Retiring to my man cave with a cold IPA and logging into the Zoom meeting, the daily grind of isolation and business calls was lightened as I connected with many of my pledge brother and fellow Fraters from the 1980s. Each of us with a cocktail in hand laughed at memories from Channing Way, and discussed current issues and how they impact our lives. The levity of the call was amazing and it was great seeing the smiles of my friends. Joe has kept the virtual cocktail hours going on a bi-weekly basis and it has been a welcome distraction to angst that exists in the world today. To you Frater Brabant, I lift my glass!

**ANDREW DUN '84** Like everyone, my wife Carolyn and I have had widely divergent experiences already in 2020. The year started with my daughter’s wedding in January, with Mark Edelstone, Chris Burns and Tom Kritzik attending with their wives. The following Monday after the wedding, I started a new job for a distributor serving commercial and industrial contractors. I was fortunate to see Mark, Chris and Rob Fowler in March to ski in Tahoe, just before “shelter-in-place” orders went into effect and the ski areas closed for the season. Since then, we have adjusted to working from home and letting my hair grow out! My company has operated through the pandemic as an essential business, so I still go my office once a week. It’s challenging to learn a new business



working remotely! As the weather has improved, we hosted our son Drew (also a Teke, Delta-Xi Chapter at Miami of Ohio) for a “socially distanced” birthday on our deck. With Wisconsin opening up earlier than Illinois, we “escaped” north for Memorial Day weekend and enjoyed a bike ride outside!

**FRED CONRAD '66** Thanks for the note Pete! I'm still groovin on Holiday event last December!?! I don't have any hot items, just glad to be easing along. Alas, the quiet campus is a real drag. Small businesses in this south campus hood, are barely hanging on, if at all. All is not looking good. Maybe we can get together in December!?!”

**ANTHONY WAYNE '72** Life in and around Washington DC has become Zoom-centric. I taught undergraduates and graduates this spring semester via zoom. We all adapted and still did good work! It was tough for the seniors who had to finish out their year back home, but they did great work. I am also doing many zoom webinars on Mexico, trade and many other international topics and continue to write Op-Eds on various subjects. They are available at [www.eawayne.com](http://www.eawayne.com). Would be happy to hear from TKE colleagues.

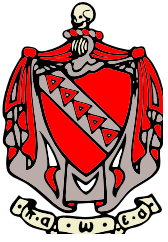
**CHARLES SHAPIRO '74** Charles from the pledge class of 1971 checked in to say he was still working full time as a Urologist at the Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center. However, in the COVID era he is working from home. He has been with his wife for 31 years and has two adult sons (both Eagle Scouts) and an adult daughter in Law School. He is looking forward to retirement in South Lake Tahoe.

**WILLIE MOORE '50** I cannot believe anyone would be interested in the “non-plots” of a 91 yo frater of the Class of 1950. Not many of my Cal class around still-Dan Costello was from '50 but several years older than me (he's a former GI & I was 13 in 1941) & not in good health as his 2019 Xmas card to me penned by his wife. Duncan Carter in Walnut Creek also '50 & still with us as we EMail regularly. He & I have been friends for 85 years as we entered 1st grade together at age 6 in Hawaii. My wife Sally (born on Maui but Mills College grad which is where I met her in 1949) & I live in a Honolulu retirement home called Kahala Nui with about 500 other seniors. We have been in almost total quarantine lockdown since mid-March. We can get out to walk the dog (we have none) or walk the neighborhoods for exercise (my

saving grace 1-3 miles daily). Otherwise I am Floor Captain for the 15 apartments on my floor & pick up menus early in a.m. and newspapers for those with ambulatory problems. Kahala Nui has no cases of COVID-19 & Hawaii very few & only 17 deaths with one million+ population. Travel restrictions & island isolation helped. Shut in rules slightly relaxed as now can play golf & my home only 10 minutes away. Before pandemic I had 16 golf handicap & played regularly, plus led weekly tours as a volunteer docent on a Hawaiian heritage site teaching Hawaiian culture & history. The Chief Justice of HI Supreme Court has me on a panel (longest serving member 20+ yrs) evaluating & counselling the hundreds of sitting State judges (chaired 3 sessions in 2019 but on hold now due to the virus). I am very healthy & active & looking forward to the COVID-19 getting under full control so I can go back to my volunteer work & even more golf. Hope all stay well.

**MARK PARRISH '78** I am retiring from Bayer Crop Science on June 30 after 36 years. My wife, Patty and I were married in Berkeley and held the reception in the TKE house on July 1, 1979. This year marks our 41st anniversary. We now live in Delaware close to our 2 children and 4 grandchildren.





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If you are not receiving any of our email updates we need your email address! Unfortunately there are still many Fraters that we don't have a valid email address for and hope that you can help us fix that.

If you have an email list of Fraters that you regularly keep in touch with and want to share that with us so we can fill in any gaps in our list that would be a tremendous help. That list can be sent to [CalTKE@TKENu-Alumni.net](mailto:CalTKE@TKENu-Alumni.net).

Visit [TKENu-Alumni.org](http://TKENu-Alumni.org)  
 and click on "Email Subscribe"

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## NU CHAPTER ON LINKEDIN

Have you joined the Nu Chapter Alumni group on LinkedIn? If not, you're missing out on an excellent opportunity to connect with your fellow Gamma Chapter alumni. We established the group because we wanted an easy way to capitalize on our fraternal network to help one another in the professional realm.

If you would like to join the group, please email us at [caltke@tkenu-alumni.org](mailto:caltke@tkenu-alumni.org) so that we can send you an invite. The group is private so you must request to join. We look forward to seeing you within our network.

