

From: Lambda DKE alumni@lambdadke.org
Subject: News from your DKE Alumni Association
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To: bill@billgeist.com

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SAVE THE DATE & RECONNECT

The success of your Alumni Association is dependent on the involvement of Brothers like you. Please join us every year on the first weekend in October as we hold our annual meeting at Kenyon to review our progress, elect new leadership and reconnect with lifelong friends. We also encourage you to join the [Lambda DKE Alumni Association Facebook group](#) and the [Lambda DKE Alumni LinkedIn group](#) to stay in touch with Brothers and see frequent updates on the active chapter.



WE'RE ON OUR WAY!!!

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I would like to extend thanks and congratulations to those of you who have donated to the Lambda Lodge Project. We are making great progress towards our goal with nearly \$16,000 raised!

In honor of the generous donors who have contributed, we will be placing the names of all donors on a plaque in the Lodge. We have established 4 levels of donors: Blue (up to \$150), Crimson (\$150-\$499), Gold (\$500-\$999) and Rampant Lion (\$1000+).

These levels and the names of donors to date are shown below. If you previously gave anonymously and you would like your name or initials included, please send me an email at samuelyorkbaker@gmail.com. If you would like to give a gift in honor or memory of another Brother, your pledge class or anything else, please send me a note or include this information on the <http://www.gofundme.com/lambdalodge> page.

As spring begins, we continue to watch the project gain momentum. Given the scope of this initiative, and the rough Ohio winters, the work will need to be completed in a single summer. Our aim is to reach our \$25,000 goal by the end of the academic year so that the actives can remove important memorabilia from the lodge and the work can be done this summer. We have just over a month left to reach this goal and we are 63% of the way there after only two months. Your support will be crucial to achieving this goal. If you have already given, thank you again. The best thing you can do now to help us is to pass along a message to DKEs with whom you are close, your pledge class and Brothers you see.

If you haven't yet given, please click the link below to learn more details about the project, and consider a

If you haven't yet given, please click the link below to learn more details about the project...and consider a donation. As you can see from our donor levels below, all contributors will be included on the plaque because every donation helps us achieve our goal. We are looking for more Brothers to make the Lambda Pledge...and hoping for even more Rampant Lions. If you have any question about donations, the project or the general Alumni body, feel free to reach out. We would love to hear from you.

ITB,
Sam Baker
President - Lambda DKE Alumni Association

INVEST IN THIS PROJECT

RAMPANT LION

Walter Butler '68
Bob Carnighan '59
Jeffrey Grover '84
Bob Heasley '60
Ed Hourigan '05

GOLD

Gregg DeSilvio '74

CRIMSON

Dick Baker '69
Sam Baker '13
Roger Bell '69
Robert Bridges '86
Gary William Davis '67
Danilo Lobo Dias '13
Earl Dorsey '70
Cal Frost '64
Bill Geist '76
James Hawk '60
John Kirk '66
Richard Levey '68
Tom McCormick '93
Chris Murphy
Anthony Olbrich '70
Brice Overmier '60
Brice Pendleton '70
Denis Pierce '66
Karl Reichtstetter '03
James Reinhart '02
David Sibley '06
Turner Straeffer '67
Art Stroyd '67
Joe Tegreene '74
Perry Warren '70
Jonathan Wright '84

BLUE

Barry Auger '60
Bruce Blocher '66
Chris Freedman
Scott Matus
Peter Bepler '97

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

TONY RIDGWAY '66: A CULINARY ICON IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Tony Ridgway '66 may not have known that his life's calling would find him in the culinary world in one of Florida's great destinations... but his contemporaries in the West Wing probably aren't at all surprised. You see, Tony was always the one in charge of the food at DKE parties.



In a recent conversation with Bill Geist '76, Tony shared that it was a natural transition from having an interest in food while growing up to learning techniques in the Bexley Kitchen with Professor Bob Page (Tau '44 and Lambda Chapter Advisor in the '60s). After a stint in the Air Force, Tony followed his family to Naples FL to consider his options. When a small restaurant went on the market, Tony did some homework and snapped it up.

"I'd never actually run a restaurant, but diving in and learning from the ground up ultimately was the best education I could have had in this industry," he said. Several iterations and additional restaurants later, Tony opened Ridgway Bar & Grill and Tony's Off Third (a wine and bakery shop) in 1995 in Naples' hip, historic downtown to join the Bayside Seafood Bar & Grill in the Venetian Village as part of his collection of eateries.

He's still at one of the locations most days, designing menu updates, handling the business side and always finding time to engage patrons...and his Lambda brothers. He doesn't work the kitchen as often as he used to, "but I still know my way around a grill," he grinned. And, it shows as a recent Yelp review gushed, "Tony is a culinary genius."

As he reflected back on his days at Kenyon, he mused that the confidence he gained from his days in West Wing was likely what enabled him to jump headlong into a venture he'd never tried. "The bonds and friendships I made in Lambda have served me well over the years," he said. And, if any Brother is near Naples, he'd love to give you some of

ABE NELSON '14: WORKING HIS WAY THROUGH ARGENTINA & COLUMBIA



Abe Nelson and Asher Reynolds Russem recently embarked upon a journey that many of their Lambda Brothers could only dream about. We asked Abe to recount his experiences for the newsletter:

Using networking skills we learned from numerous DKEs like Charles Nathaniel Bitterman '11, Garrett Shane Fields '12, Samuel Robert Hull '12, Christopher Graham Freedman '12, Cody McCabe Shankman '12 and Samuel York Baker '13, we contacted, charmed (and occasionally annoyed) many Mendozan wineries. Ultimately, we landed a job at one of the largest wineries in Argentina, Familia Zuccardi. Brendan Walker Casey '14 initially intended to join us as well...but accepted a job working for the skipjack Stanley Norman.

For three months, our days were spent giving tours, running events, learning about wine-making and marketing. Our nights were either spent being driven into town by a boisterous, gap toothed cab driver, Carlitos, or at our small house between the vines cooking our dinner over a wood grill. It was reminiscent of grilling on south quad...but with Malbec instead of Keystone.

Through it all, having Asher there to help stave off the loneliness and separation was crucial. Especially as we we looked at online pictures of alumni weekend and Kenyon. Other than pledging and living in the Bullseye, I never forged such a tight bond with a Brother.

Now, working at farms and ecohostels on my own in Colombia, I have had time to reflect on the whole experience. As unusual of a road as we chose, Brother after Brother expressed support or reached out. In particular, the online DKE gridiron Fantasy Football league let me feel like I was still in the Back Bullseye on Sundays.

Right before heading off to Colombia, I got to address the fresh faces of the 162nd pledge class at their first lineup. If I could speak to them now, I would tell them that the unity and desire that will get them through pledging lasts long after initiation. When you are a Brother, you truly are never alone (cliche, but true). DKE forges a bond that stretches

near Naples, need love to serve you some of the highest rated cuisine and wine in Southwest Florida.

over oceans and continents and drives you to do things you never thought you could.

ITB,

Abe

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Bill@BillGeist.com

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Know of a Brother doing cool stuff...or curious where a Brother landed? Shoot us an e-mail at bill@billgeist.com and we'll feature him in an upcoming edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

CONNECT WITH US



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