

OFFICERS

Lambda DKE Alumni Board

President: Walter Butler '68
WalterButlerMD@yahoo.com

Vice President: Sam Baker '13
SamuelYorkBaker@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Edward Hourigan '05
EHourigan@gmail.com

Recording Secretary:
Nat Enelow '12
NatEnelow@gmail.com

Board Members

Sam Adams '81
fireflyfarm@mac.com

James Asimes '11
james.asimes@gmail.com

Peter Bianchi '78
peter_bianchi@comcast.net

Gregg DeSilvio '74
GDeSilvio@gmail.com

Bill Geist '76 Bill@BillGeist.com

Bob Heasley '60
bpheas702@kagres.org

Hewitt Heiserman '82
hewitt.heiserman@gmail.com

AJ House '80 ahouse@adams.net

James Irwin '69
amadeus@irwinllc.com

James Pierce '78
jrpjr007@yahoo.com

Jeff Spear '78
jeff@hansenspear.com

Art Stroyd '67
astroyd@dscslaw.com

LET'S CONNECT

Are you getting our Lambda DKE emails?

The **Annual Meeting** of the Lambda DKE Alumni Association took place via Zoom on October 20 at 9 p.m. EDT.

Didn't get the memo? Just send a quick note to alumninews@affinityconnection.com and let us know to add you to the Lambda DKE Alumni Association emailing list.



ΔΕΛΤΑ ΚΑΠΠΑ ΕΠΣΙΛΟΝ

THE LAMBDA DKE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

LAMBDA CHAPTER • December 2020

FRIENDS FROM THE HEART, FOREVER

Lambda DKE Mason Morjikian '88 Shares His Experience as Chair of the DKE International Board of Directors, and the Road He Took to Get There

Fall, 1984 at Kenyon College. Amidst a decade of economic change and technological advancement, a new group of freshmen arrived on campus, with a young man named Mason among them. Mason had arrived early for pre-season soccer training that year and was ready to kick off his college career. During Rush Week, students woke to find invitations slid under their dorm room doors from ADs, Phi Kaps, Betas, and Delts... But Mason had another fraternity in mind.

Mason Morjikian '88 had already heard about Delta Kappa Epsilon from his fellow athletes on the soccer team. He knew it was a place for men who're equal parts "gentleman, scholar, and jolly good fellow." So even before the first rush invitation slid under his door, he knew he was headed for the West Wing. "I never looked back," he says.

DKE was an essential part of Mason's college experience. "Being a member of DKE added so much dimension to my four years at Kenyon: the structure, traditions, ritual, and of course, incredible amounts of humor. I made incredibly important friendships that continue to enrich my life today." When asked about his favorite memories, he says, "It might be impossible (or foolish) to list them all..."

But the DKE experience didn't end after graduation. "Friends from the Heart, Forever" is more than a saying; it's a promise that endures long after you sing your swan song on the steps of Rosse Hall. So when Mason returned home to New York, diploma in hand, he faced the world with his brothers at his side, sharing a NYC apartment with fellow Lambda Dekes.

Even as his career took off (he worked in management roles at three major high-end carpet companies) and after he moved out of that first apartment (in 1995 when he met his

wife **Livia**, pictured here) Mason never strayed far from his roots as a DKE man. When he learned that many Lambda Dekes in the city belonged to The DKE Club of NY (an affiliate of The Yale Club of NY), he joined immediately. Before long, Mason was on the club's Board of

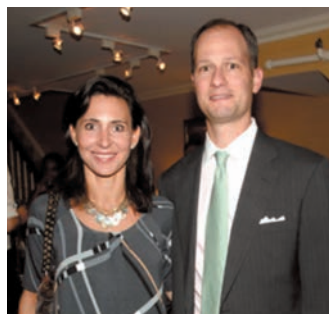
Directors, on which he still serves today.

Then, about a decade ago, DKE International HQ went through a difficult transition in leadership. The DKE Club of NY stepped up to lend a helping hand, and it wasn't long before Mason was singled out and asked to serve on the International Board to liaise between the two organizations.

When he was recently asked to serve as Chair of the DKE International Board of Directors, it was only the next logical step.

Brother Morjikian takes his responsibilities as chair seriously, collaborating closely with the staff that runs DKE's day-to-day programming. "The board works at a strategic level, reviewing and approving budgets, initiatives, and programs," he says. "I really enjoy the board; they're an outstanding group of men from all across North America. One of the challenges is to balance the need for the fraternity to evolve and grow while honoring the best parts of our legacy."

Even as he leads at an international level, though, Mason never loses sight of where it all started. "I'm in touch with a bunch of guys. One of my pledge class brothers and our pledge master live a few blocks away in Pelham, NY. Lambda brothers and their families are part of group vacations, annual fly fishing trips, ski excursions to Utah... I give back to Lambda because I want to do what I can to make sure that as each new generation arrives at Kenyon, they have the opportunity to reap all the benefits that I did— and still do— from DKE. That matters to me."



Livia and Mason

Kenyon Dekes Share Favorite Memories and Life Updates

Thanks to these brothers for sending updates! If you'd like to submit a memory or update of your own for publication in an upcoming e-letter or edition of our alumni newsletter, visit the "Submit an Update" page at lambdadke.com, or email your updates and photos to alumninews@affinityconnection.com!

Stewart Brown '62**Favorite Event at Kenyon:**

Homecoming. Each fraternity built a display for the lawn in front of their portion of the dorm. We were not builders. Instead we "borrowed" an abandoned out-house from an abandoned farm across the river from the railroad bridge, put it in the trunk of someone's car (mine?), and set it up outside West Wing. The sign said "Dump Oberlin" or some such rival team. We won the top prize!!!

Life Update: Happily retired in Hilton Head, SC, where I'm active in the community. I'm chasing fourteen grands and four great-grands in VA, KS, TX, MN, NE, and KY, with one wonderful wife and 55 years of marriage.

Calvin Frost '63

Favorite Event at Kenyon: I didn't have a lot of money and spent my first two years working like crazy selling shoes in Mount Vernon and cleaning the floors of the dining room every evening. I loved fall and spring dance weekends. West Wing was party central, and I was certainly part of that. The Lambda alumni, particularly Doc Drake and Roger Houston, took pity on my financial situation and gave me jobs working on the lodge, which in those days was a mess. I somehow painted the building and roof. Not sure how because the roof has a very steep incline. Probably hung on a rope.

Life Update: The most exciting thing in the way of Gambier is that there are three Kenyon grads working in our company: myself; my daughter, Cindy; and my son-in-law, Rich Hoffman. Our grandson, Alex Hoffman, just graduated and was a Lambda DKE!!!



"This photograph was taken in 1968-69. We were allowed to live off-campus, and just a short drive away was a summer camp called Camp Kokosing. We rented the building that was for the girls at that summer camp (there was a separate building for the boys). We rented the girls' building because it had better facilities... Notice my second-hand, beat-up Ford Falcon? Back then not everyone drove BMWs on campus... By the way, Lambda DKE had the largest turnout of any Kenyon fraternity at our 50th Reunion." —Jim Irwin '69

Denis Pierce '66

Favorite Event at Kenyon: Fall and spring dance weekend... Lots of fun.

Life Update: I retired four years ago and now devote time and resources to NGOs, primarily dealing with the homelessness issues in Chicago. The Pierce Family Foundation is very active in Chicago with a staff of four people.

Edward Gaines '68

Favorite Kenyon Event: My favorite event was varsity wrestling all four years I attended Kenyon. I was a co-captain in 1966-67.

Life Update: I am a former career federal prosecutor of 30+ years. After I "retired" I engaged in private practice (primarily federal defense) from 2006-2019. At age 74, I decided to retire this year after the COVID pandemic lingered unabated after many months. I keep in touch with two of my former classmates from the class of 1968 by phone about four times per year.

Jeff Leisa Zoller '69

Favorite Event at Kenyon: Returning to school in the fall.

Life Update: Had a good career in business

but have greatly enjoyed retiring early.

Jim Irwin '69**Favorite Event at Kenyon:**

The DKE fraternity gatherings at West Wing are the most memorable, especially when my parents would come down from Cleveland for Parents' Weekend.

Life Update: I retired in December 2018, and I'm very much enjoying the freedoms and more time with Stephanie, family, and friends. I was a trial lawyer for 45 years and enjoyed the practice, but it was stressful at times, and that I do not miss. My third son graduated Magna Cum Laude in Physics from Kenyon in 2019. He, too, became a Deke. He loved his fraternity and the faculty.

Gregg DeSilvio '74

Favorite Event at Kenyon: Rushing prospective members. I found out I was very good at it, leading me into a career that began in sales.

Peter Bianchi '78

Favorite Event at Kenyon: Lodge meetings were always a momentous occasion. In addition to the business at hand, which we took seriously, just to be surrounded by so many years of DKE history was a notable event. We also had the annual traditional all-campus event, Spring Riot. With a 90-member-strong chapter, we had some excellent logistical advisors such as [AJ House '80](#), [Tom Bulkeley '80](#), [Jeff Spear '78](#), and others (you know who you are) who understood the physics of speed and the impact of water.

Life Update: My wife Jennifer (we were introduced by [AJ House](#) 27 years ago or so) and I live in Lake Forest, IL. Jennifer manages commercial properties. Our daughter Lilly graduated from St. Lawrence University this year and is now an academic intern at The North Country School in Lake Placid, NY. I am still in the field of media

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"BECAUSE OF LAMBDA DKE..."

Alumni Share How Being DKE Men Changed Their Lives

For many of us, Delta Kappa Epsilon was an important part of our Kenyon experience. Whatever you took away from your time in Gambier, I think we can all agree on this:

DKE's impact extends far beyond our brief time at the lodge.

Here's why Lambda Chapter still matters after you graduate, according to our fellow alumni brothers.

Stewart Brown '62

"I learned how to lead and manage a group of peers. There were 21 freshmen in our pledge class and maybe 20 active seniors, juniors, and sophomores at the time. Our class dominated voting and managed chapter affairs. Our pledge class was not filled with high-grade point people, but they all had very unique personalities and backgrounds, and they were all geographically diverse, fun guys."



Jeff Leisa Zoller '69

"DKE gave me the benefits of fellowship with a group of quality individuals diverse in background."

Calvin Frost '63

"Because of Lambda DKE, I understand the value of friendships that will last a lifetime and relationships that grow and mature. I have many Kenyon friends, one is even on our board. My freshman year was the start of 1959. Kenyon was all men. It was a completely different environment than exists today."

Denis Pierce '66

"I have long-term friends that I still stay in touch with. I see some Deke classmates throughout the year, primarily in Florida in the winter."

Edward Gaines '68

"As a Lambda DKE, I enjoy Kenyon DKE reunions and keeping up with my former classmates."

Peter Bianchi '78

"Our tradition of DKE brotherhood—'Friends from the Heart Forever'—really rings true as I am in close touch with many of my brothers on a weekly or monthly basis, sometimes daily. These are truly strong bonds honed over 45 years of friendship. In pre-pandemic days I would often travel on business and I was lucky enough to see many brothers on a regular basis, including my little brother, **Dave Hooker '81**, **Jim Pierce '78**, **Bishop Jim Logan '78**, and others. Any flimsy excuse to get together is all we need. **AJ House '80's** mom lived five minutes away until recently, so I would see him frequently as well as **John Merritt '79** when he's at his northern home."

Jeff Spear '78

My favorite part of being a Deke was the friendships, but it goes deeper than just

having buddies. Our chapter was a well-oiled machine with respect to traditions, rituals, and recruitment. We worked together to make rush a memorable bonding experience for all brothers.

I have always maintained that if one served as an officer in the Lambda Chapter, he had a leg up in the corporate world. We

could organize anything! It took an entire team to make the fraternity work, and it was fun to help organize or just be part of it. So the leadership skills learned at the feet of upperclassman brothers were the most important things I took away from my involvement with DKE.

And the brothers I served arm-in-arm with 40+ years ago still remain in touch. Our late-1970s group has tried to remain in touch with visits to Gambier or brother **AJ House '80's** farm in Illinois. Almost daily emails espousing very divergent political views keep all of us in touch with a level of respect for opposing views that this country so needs today.

I have stayed active with the alumni association and hope to keep Lambda viable at Kenyon for future generations to have the experiences I did."

Bruce Cummins '84

"I have strong friendships forged long ago from Lambda DKE."

ALUMNI NEWS

—Continued from page 2

sales, currently working for Crain Communications. Prior to that, I spent a combined 35 years at *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *The Economist*.

Jeff Spear '78

Life Update: I am currently a funeral director, employed by my son

who owns our family funeral home. My wife—whom I dated during my college years and whom my brothers lovingly refer to as "Mother Theresa"—and I have a one-year-old grandson, Zeus, who lives in the state of Washington.

Bruce Cummins '84

Favorite Event at Kenyon: Reggae Party at Robinson's Farm.



Delta Kappa Epsilon Lambda Chapter

Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

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"Because of Lambda DKE..."
*Brothers share how becoming
DKE men at Kenyon
changed their lives*

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PRESERVING LAMBDA HISTORY

Seeking Scanned Composites & Alums to Become Era Agents

Brothers: are you looking for a way to pay it forward that doesn't require a ton of your time or treasure? These quick, free, and easy ways to give back to the chapter may be perfect for you!

Scanned Composites

When we renovated the lodge a few years back, we discovered several years of composites were missing. We'd like to get as many years represented on the walls as possible. Do you still have your old composite lying around? If so, please scan it (preferably at 300 dpi or above) and send it to **Bill Geist '76** today at bill@DMOproz.com.



Era Agents

The DKE Kenyon Alumni Association is currently seeking Era Agents to help us

identify alumni who should be highlighted in upcoming Lambda DKE communications. We're looking for at least one man

from each decade to step up, though we're happy to have more.

All you have to do is send us notable brothers' names from your era, and we do the rest by conducting a quick interview with them via email or phone to publish in our next alumni communication. No heavy-lifting required on your end.

Interested in this pain-free position? Email Bill at bill@DMOproz.com.

Share Your Story

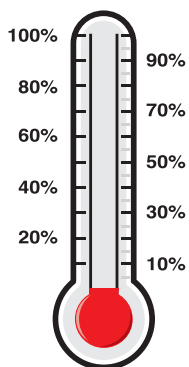
Or, if you don't want to commit to becoming a class agent but you or a Lambda DKE you know would make a great alumni spotlight, just

email your suggestion to alumninews@affinityconnection.com, or use the "Submit an Update" page at lambdadke.com!

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Help Us Make the 2020-21 Giving Year Strong!

Goal: \$30,000



Alumni contributions are at the heart of everything we do. Our communications, events, and support for the chapter all rely on gifts to our annual fund. The giving year began anew on September 1. Help us make this giving year the strongest one yet for Delta Kappa Epsilon at Kenyon. As an alumnus, you hold the key to preserving our fraternity for its next 168 years. To give to the 2020-21 annual fund today, use any of these methods:

- **Visit** our website to donate online at lambdadke.com;
- **Call** our toll-free donation hotline at **1-800-975-6699**;
- **Mail** a check to our donation processing center listed below.

Delta Kappa Epsilon, Kenyon College
Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
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