



the **LAMBDA ΔKE** Alumni newsletter

SPRING 2024

ALUMNI BOARD

OFFICERS

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Sam Adams '81

sam@woodhullcapital.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

James Asimes '11

james.asimes@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Hewitt Heiserman '82

hewitt.heiserman@gmail.com

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WalterButlerMD@yahoo.com

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BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Bianchi '78

peter_bianchi@comcast.net

AJ House '80

ahouse@midwesterncalcium.com

James Irwin '69

amadeus@irwinllc.com

James Pierce '78

jrpr007@yahoo.com

Art Stroyd '67

astroyd@dscslaw.com

EX-OFFICIO

Bill Geist '76

Bill@BillGeist.com

Edward Hourigan '05

EHourigan@gmail.com

President's Report

2023 was a milestone year of accomplishments for Lambda. First and foremost, ΔKE at Kenyon continued to grow, as the undergrads initiated a pledge class of fourteen new ΔKEs in April 2023. Our chapter now stands at 25, with brothers occupying the top two floors of the Wing, including the Bullseye. With your generous help, the alumni association was able to purchase the land on which the Lodge sits. We also built a new patio and firepit behind the Lodge, providing undergraduates and candidates a private place to convene. We removed or trimmed trees that threatened our historic Lodge and refurbished the pathway from Kokosing Drive down to the Lodge. We installed a 24/7 monitored security system with exterior cameras and an internal alarm. Finally, we're having historic, handwritten documents dating to our founding professionally conserved.

All of this progress was accomplished through your loyal support of the chapter and your generous gifts toward Lambda's projects. Thank you for honoring your past by giving to ΔKE's future at Kenyon. Together, we have created a permanent legacy for our brotherhood by securing the future of our beloved Lodge and environs, preserving our history for future generations, and supporting the next generation of Lambdas to carry on our traditions.

We had an outstanding reunion celebration in October, with 25 alumni in attendance. The new patio and firepit were blessed, and a plaque was dedicated to the top 100 donors for our land and patio projects. There were dinners and tomfoolery, as well as accurate and outlandish stories. Above all, there was good fellowship among brothers of all ages. See the article and photos, page two, and make your plans for our reunion next October!

In early December, our undergrads held their annual Shawn Kelly Memorial Holiday Party for the Head Start kids and families. This year was an outstanding success, serving 300 children and 250 parents. See the article, page three.

Alumni association officer and board elections were held at the annual meeting in December. I was re-elected to a second two-year term. Our other new directors are **Jim Dempsey '83**, **Andrew Kotler '22**, **Dylan Osimetha '23**, and the



Lambda ΔKE undergraduates at the West Wing, spring 2023

Rev. Mark K.J. Robinson '81. **Bill Geist '76** will continue as another assistant secretary assisting with communications. Thank you **Sam Baker '13**, **Phil Sheers '19**, and **George Williams '06** for your many years of leadership as undergraduates and also as alumni.

Sadly, three board members, **Gregg DeSilvio '74**, **Bob Heasley '60**, and **Jeff Spear '78** passed away this year. We miss these departed brothers, all of whom supported our chapter and International in many ways. Please read more about them in the Mystic Circle article, page four.

Looking forward, plans are underway for Rush as the spring semester begins. Our undergrads report that they already have strong interest and aim to have another dozen or so high-quality pledges this year. With our new patio and firepit, our undergraduates have a great place to meet with prospects and pledges.

Your support helped us make 2023 a year of great accomplishment for Lambda. None of our recent successes could have been accomplished without the active engagement and generous support of our alumni. Your faithfulness in standing with your Lambda Brothers (undergrads and alumni) and your generosity in supporting our ongoing work will help ΔKE live on for future generations of Kenyon men. 🇺🇸

In the Bonds,
Sam Adams '81

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We Need Your Help

Please help us remain a vibrant chapter with a financial gift. Go to lambdadke.com and then **click the blue "donate" link** in the upper-right corner. Also, share your story. E-mail us news of your recent wedding, new job, community service recognition, fishing trips with fellow Lambda Dekes, etc. to lambdadke.com/submit-an-update. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/lambdadke.



Preserving Our History

During the 2016 Lodge renovation project, a number of historical documents were found. These documents include a book of handwritten documentation of communication with other chapters. The first handwritten entry was from September 1854, not long after Lambda had been officially recognized by the College. Other documents include a photo album of undergraduate Lambda ΔKEs from the early 1860s and a handwritten letter from 1861.

The documents had been assessed by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia in late 2019, but further activity was put on hold due to the COVID lockdowns. **Walter ("Biff") Butler**, **Hewitt Heiserman '82**, and **Richard Snowden '79** met with the officials of the Conservation Society in May to review plans for conservation and digitization of the documents.

The board approved phase 1 of the document conservation project, which will involve digitization of all of the documents. This will be followed by phase 2, which will allow for physical stabilization of the bindings of some documents, with restoration and conservation of the pages to prevent further deterioration.

Completion of Phase 1 is anticipated in 2024. We hope to be able to display the documents' content in an online format on the Lambda Facebook site to share with alums. Efforts will be made to store the documents once conserved in a temperature and climate-controlled environment at the rare book section of the Chalmers Library, although final arrangements have not yet been made.

Lambda Reunion

Once again, Lambda Brothers from far and wide convened in Gambier for our October reunion. Festivities commenced on Thursday with the return of "Lambda One," the unmissable big blue bus-turned-RV emblazoned with "ΔKE" and driven by Brother **Alex "A.J." House '80**. Apparently, the railroad horn affixed to the side can be heard all the way from Mount Vernon. It was parked daily in the middle of town, where Mr. House and **Brother Tom Bulkeley '80** provided evening seminars to eager undergrads seeking knowledge at the feet of the masters. There might have been beer. Friday night featured a meet-and-greet dinner in Peirce Lounge for arriving alumni. College dignitaries in attendance included Shawn Dailey, Director of Alumni Affairs, and others. Saturday morning provided a chance for alumni to visit the Wing and undergraduates living there, including the Bullseye (there may or may not have been a return visit Saturday night for some friendly Beer Pong, at which time it was learned that age yields not only wisdom but Pong skills!). Saturday lunch featured the "ribbon cutting" cookout on the new Lodge patio, with the undergrads' new grill ably managed by Brother Bulkeley. The new patio and firepit were blessed with ΔKE-branded champagne, provided by **Doug Lanpher** of ΔKE International. A hearty round of snaps to Doug and the International. Without their support, our little flame of three undergraduates would not have grown to our present blaze of 25 and growing. As noted, the top 100 names of generous brothers were read aloud at the picnic, and thanks given to all brothers who have donated so generously to sustain Lambda. Saturday culminated with a BBQ dinner featuring alumni awards at Weaver Cottage, well attended by undergrads and alumni, including **J. Paul Weaver '81**. It was a magnificent sight to look out over the mix of Lambda ΔKEs of differing generations, sharing stories and laughter, bound by our traditions and the knowledge that we are friends from the heart forever.



Lambda ΔKE class of 1978 (L–R): (front row) Rob Mitchell, Henry Sethness, Dave Stavelly, Scott Taylor; (back row) Jim Logan, Peter Bianchi, Dewey Clinton, Rich Vincent, Doug Holmes, Kurt Myers, John Adams, Jeff Spear, Joe Hagin, Matthew Smith.

No Reunion is complete without remembering those who created Lambda and who, sustaining our chapter, have gone before us. On Sunday morning, the annual commemoration was held at college cemetery behind Rosse Hall, honoring those ΔKEs in eternal rest there and around the globe. At the end of the memorial, a benediction for our brotherhood and its departed members was given, prepared by **Rev. Mark Robinson '81**.

October '24 will be here before you know it, so make your plans top be in Gambier and visit the Big Blue Bus! While dates are yet to be confirmed, plan on October 18-20. Further details to follow!



Milestones

Congratulations to **Alex and Lynn House** on the birth of their first grandchild, Philippa Hunt Marchand.

Watch Hill, RI: Mark Robinson '81 last fall baptized his Pledgemaister Jim Pierce's '78 two grandchildren, Pierce Robinson Martin, and Miller Elizabeth Martin.

Undergraduates Report

Outgoing Brother Beta **Max Thesing** writes, "I am incredibly thankful to have held such a meaningful position within this fraternity. Lambda is a special group, and I am excited to see the continued growth of the organization with new leadership. It is with great pleasure to share that **Aymeric Mauvais** was elected to become the new Beta of Lambda ΔKE! Aymeric is an amazing brother and has played a massive role in our success this past year. He truly embodies what it means to be a Lambda ΔKE."

Incoming brother Beta **Aymeric Mauvais** writes, "For the ΔKEs at Kenyon, the approaching holiday season meant preparing for the Shawn Kelly Memorial Charity Event. Over the past 32 years, the ΔKE undergraduates on campus have partnered with Knox County Head Start to put together a Christmas-themed dinner for children and families in Knox County. The function is hosted in honor of Shawn Kelly, a Lambda ΔKE who sadly passed away in 1990."

"Thanks to your support, this year's event was a resounding success. We hosted approximately 300 children and 250 parents. The kids had the opportunity

to engage in many fun activities (cookie decorating, making reindeer food, musical chairs, etc.), and everyone went home with a present from Santa Claus. While the event is for the kids, it also eases the burden on parents. Thank you also to Knox County Head Start, the girls in Theta Delta Phi, and our dedicated community service chairs, **Max Belt '25** and **Jackson Kennedy '25**.

Turning to sports, **Connor Moss '25**, **Dylan Fuerst '24**, **Gefen Bar-Cohen '25**, **Henry Brandt '26**, **Juan Sergio Matabuena '25**, **Miles Versa '25**, **Nick Nelson '26**, **Povilas Cereska '26**, and **Sam Lieberman '25** are on the basketball team. With a recent three-game win streak, the team is poised for an exciting and successful season ahead. Our recently graduated member and former Brother Beta, **Maxwell Thesing '23**, had an outstanding season with the Kenyon soccer team, culminating in a remarkable journey to the NCAA Division III tournament championship game. Our members are also involved in many other campus groups, such as the tennis and rugby teams, student council, Kenyon Theater, Kenyon Thrill, WKCO, sports videography, and more!

Newly elected officers include treasurer (KappaRho) **Aakash Gunturu '26** from South Windsor, CT, vice president (Sigma) **Eliezer Gonzalez '26** from Bogotá Columbia; and president (Beta) **Aymeric Mauvais '25** from Menlo Park, CA. **Reily Scott** is this spring's pledgemaster.

In a recent e-mail to the undergrads, Sam Adams wrote, "As I read stories about ΔKE of yore, I am reminded of the spirit of the Lambda chapter today and how proud we alumni are of you all. You have continued the resurrection of the chapter, maintaining the highest standards for membership. You have stood out with an incredibly successful Shawn Kelly event this year. You have maintained good relations with the college and have a great reputation on campus. You are campus leaders and

“...you are great, fun guys who love ΔKE and Lambda with the same dedication and passion as have the generations who have come before you.”

involved in many parts of college life. But above all, as was so evident during reunion, you are great, fun guys who love ΔKE and Lambda with the same dedication and passion as have the generations who have come before you.” 🇺🇸

2023 Lambda Spirit Award Recipients

We're pleased to announce that this year's recipients of Lambda's 2023 **Spirit Award** are Gregg DeSilvio, David Griffith, David Horvitz, and Chip Sansom.



Gregg DeSilvio (posthumous) '74, was our chapter's historian, a frequent attendee at Lambda reunions, and an alumni association director for many years. Gregg passed away unexpectedly in July 2023. Chip Sansom wrote in Gregg's obituary that his little brother's favorite place in West Wing was the Grundy Room, where Gregg and his dad once drank bourbon together and toasted Gregg's becoming the first in the family to attend college. Chip added, "No matter what Gregg did for ΔKE, he poured his heart and soul into it, because of his sincere love for our fraternity and everything it stands for."



David Griffith '76, played lacrosse and served on the Gambier Fire Department, and graduated with high honors in economics and history. In October, David stepped down after ten years as executive director and head coach of Episcopal Community Services of Philadelphia. In addition to his work at ECS, David is the chairman of The Modern Group LTD., chairman of Delaware Valley Floral Group, chairman of Hooper Inc., director of the JJ Haines Company, and director of Mountain Laurel Spirits, LLC. He also serves on the boards of the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia; the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, where he chairs the governance committee; and Friends of Foundation Academy. David and his Jacqui support our undergraduates who need financial assistance to pursue off-campus internship opportunities.



David Horvitz '74, one-time quarterback for our chapter's football team, is chairman of WLD Enterprises, Inc., a family office. David's philanthropic involvement is extensive and includes trustee of the Kresge Foundation, chairman of the board of Fort Lauderdale's Museum of Art, trustee of the Miami Music Association, and chairman of the late Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall camps. He was a Kenyon trustee, which included a stint as chairman of the board. David currently chairs Gund Gallery, Kenyon's art museum.



Arthur B. Sansom III's Brutus Perry "Thorny" Thornapple has made cartoon readers smile since 1977, when "Chip" started helping his Dad, Art Sansom, produce the "The Born Loser." Chip attended Kenyon and then graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a double major in Business and English. "Born Loser" has twice received the National Cartoonists Society's Reuben Award for best humor comic strip. Chip also supports the Ohio Literacy Network and is bass guitarist and vocalist for the band, "Rockin' Ravers," which plays in Cleveland clubs. Chip says cartooning is a great job but also concedes that writing a gag every day for 39 years takes effort. Chip carries a notepad everywhere he goes, so he can capture life's little misfortunes. See bulletin.kenyon.edu/article/winning-with-the-loser.

Prior recipients are: **Sam Adams '81**, **Biff Butler '68**, **Robert Carnighan '59**, **Phil Currier '56**, **Bill Geist '76**, **Bob Heasley '60**, **Ed Hourigan '05**, **Alex House '80**, **Jim Irwin '69**, **Andrew Kotler '22**, **Doug Lanpher** (Vanderbilt Gamma '77), **Denis Pierce '66**, **Jim Pierce '78**, **Mark Robinson '81**, **Jeff Spear '78**, and **Art Stroyd '67**.





Mystic Circle

Robert G. “Bob” Heasley ’60, passed away on February 1, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margaret “Peg” Heasley, three children (Graham, Scott, and Amy), nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Bob is a Lambda spirit award recipient and for two decades was Gambier resident chapter advisor to the undergraduate chapter and the boots-on-the-ground guy for everything related to the Lodge. Bob spearheaded and managed the 2016 Lodge renovation project. Bob and Peg were the hosts of many memorable Dekes-on-the-Deck Lambda get-togethers at their home, just west of the Lodge. Bob’s contributions to our brotherhood were profound. We will miss his wise counsel and generosity for all things Lambda.

Gregg DeSilvio ’74 passed away unexpectedly on July 24 at his home in Bonita Springs, Florida. During his time living in West Wing, Gregg served as pledge master, a post he appreciated. Gregg said one of his favorite activities was rushing potential members. “I found out I was very good at it, leading me into a career that began in sales.” Gregg was a master at making party tapes for his time as social chairman. His tapes always started with “Small Beginnings” by Flash and ended with Free’s “All Right Now.” After graduation, Gregg earned an MBA at the University of Chicago. Gregg remained a loyal Lambda Deke as an alumnus, including attending many reunions and serving as chapter historian. Gregg is a Lambda spirit award recipient.

Russell Selover passed away on March 22, 2023. “He will be remembered as a kind and generous man; elegant and amiable,” according to his online obituary. Russell enjoyed soccer, tennis, and bone-fishing. Russell was also described as a raconteur and bon vivant who “enjoyed nearly everyone he met, from grocery store clerks to rear admirals.” oysterbayfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1801/Russell-Selover/obituary.html

Jeffrey G. Spear ’78 passed away on Dec. 8 at his home in Quincy, IL. “Jeff loved Lambda and loyally supported our chapter. His great sense of humor and true interest in others made him a favorite of our brotherhood and a leader among us. We have lost one of the great ones,” said **Sam Adams ’81**. Jeff is a Lambda spirit award recipient.

Alex House’s memories of his big brother include birthday cards sent to security and housekeeping; flowers for Dean Fraser’s secretary; Sonnie Butler annual spring cookout at the river for the maintenance department, with special thanks to Charlie Jacobs and Sam Dobson (key freshmen tagged and rushed early in accordance with a master plan that had excellent results); Dekes in key positions across the campus; soccer, football, lacrosse, baseball, IFC, Collegian, Kokosingers; judicial board, and College Township Fire Department; mandatory lineups; and Lodge meetings and choir practices. Alex concludes, “On behalf of all Dekes past and present, thank you Jeff for all you have done for us.”



Jeff Spears’ ’78 visitation (L–R): Hewitt Heiserman ’82, Charlie Kingery ’77, Bruce Thompson ’77, Rob Mitchell ’78, and Alexander House ’80.

