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ΔΕΛΤΑ ΚΑΠΠΑ ΕΠΙΣΙΛΙΟΝ

# THE LAMBDA DKE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

LAMBDA CHAPTER • May 2021

## LAMBDA CHAPTER REINSTATED AT KENYON

### "We're Back!"

Those were the words Alumni President **Biff Butler '68** shared with the Board of Directors in December 2020 upon hearing that the Kenyon Student Council had approved the reinstatement of Lambda Chapter at Kenyon. The Council action was the last of three hurdles that were required last semester to bring the Fraternity back to campus.

This brings to a conclusion a 3-year gauntlet that, for older alumni, would make The Road of Life seem like a Springtime romp in a field of daisies. Through it all, the seven DKE pledges that are now seniors were unwavering in their commitment to their Lambda brotherhood.

Now, the real and, in a way, more difficult work begins. The new actives are currently working on recruitment issues, which are complicated by the fact that there were no freshmen on campus this Spring. Instead, Rush was carried out remotely via Zoom and Instagram as our guys were dedicated to bringing new blood into the Chapter before they graduated.

Eternal appreciation (and possible



*The Lambda DKE Lodge in 1930 and today.*

knighthood?) to **Biff Butler, Jim Irwin '67**, and all the alumni that worked behind the scenes to assist our guys through this long, debilitating nightmare. And, to the seven young men who never gave up, DKE International President Doug Lanpher had this to say:

"The fact that this group of guys hung in there through all of this is unprecedented

in my 11 years at DKE. Never has a group of young men shown so much persistence and grit, and put up with everything they did, in the face of one hurdle after another. On the surface, it's not obvious what motivated them to do this. But the answer has to be that they felt an extraordinary bond with each other and with the guys who are now alumni who recruited them into DKE. Whatever created that bond, it's pretty special...and whatever the future brings, I'll never forget what they did."

Nor will we. And, we are proud to call these men brothers.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**169**

Years of Lambda Chapter

**\$30,000**

Annual Fund Goal

**\$8,011.92**

Raised as of April 27

**44**

Alumni Donors Have Given

**3**

Ways for YOU to Give

- 1. Make a gift online** at [www.lambdadke.com](http://www.lambdadke.com).
- 2. Call** our toll-free Donation Hotline at **1-800-975-6699**.
- 3. Mail a check** using the enclosed envelope and donation form.

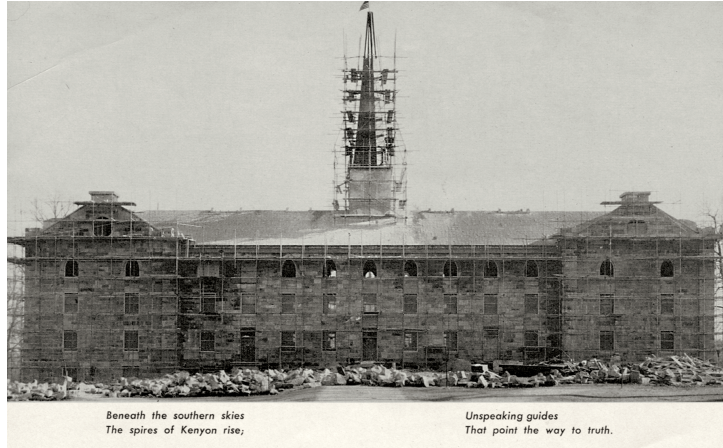
## LAMBDA CHAPTER HISTORY

### The 1950 Rebirth of West Wing

This school year marks the 70th anniversary of the rebuilding of Old Kenyon, which was completely destroyed by fire on the morning of February 27th, 1949. At least nine students perished and scores were injured in the blaze.

The painstaking rebuilding process began almost immediately. From an account in the *Kenyon Bulletin*: “Detailed photographs were taken of the walls and then keyed to the undamaged stones, which were numbered for eventual replacement in their prefire positions in order to match the original building as closely as possible. The walls were then torn down, a new basement was excavated, and a steel-and-concrete superstructure was installed. After that, the old stones were meticulously reset to mimic the veneer on the outer walls of the original building. Amazingly, the “new” Old Kenyon was ready for occupancy when students arrived for the 1950-51 academic year on September 11, 1950.”

During the Lambda Lodge Renovation a few years ago, a booklet, ostensibly a newsletter for the Alumni from the then-



Beneath the southern skies  
The spires of Kenyon rise;

Unspeaking guides  
That point the way to truth.

Actives, was discovered. Signed by Brother Beta **Robert Hall '50** from “Barracks 3” (apparently make-shift housing after the fire), it is a fascinating look back on the aftermath of the fire...and how Lambda then, as now, persevered.

Those that fondly remember the hours spent in the lower level of West Wing will enjoy this description of how the new design was coming together:

“One room, to be hereafter known as the Beck Room in honor of **William Beck '84**... will be a man’s room. Done mainly in a rathskeller style, it will be paneled with husky, built-in benches. The tables will be oaken

things on which you can feel free to play your last ace with the gusto it deserves or maybe even rest a beer mug. Brother Beck once said that he wants one day to be able to sit in the basement of West Wing and drink a beer in a room worthy of serious beer drinking. This will be that room.

“The other room will be like a really fine living room in a comfortable home. Oak paneled walls and an oak floor will set it off from other parlors on

campus. Comfortable and sensible furniture, a large fireplace, colorful appointments and carpets, two fully paneled walls, and twin French doors opening onto a southern terrace will make this room a room of which Lambda Dekes from '84 to '54 can be justifiably proud. There will be no equal room on the Hill.”

Fascinating that they designed a fireplace into a building that had just burned because of a flaw in a fireplace. But, it was, indeed, a room like no other.

If you'd like a PDF of the document, e-mail [bill@billgeist.com](mailto:bill@billgeist.com).

## AHHHHH... BEEP BEEP!

### Send Us Your Kenyon Car Shots.

We're always looking for photos to include in our newsletters and on the Lambda DKE website. And, coming up in our July issue of the Lambda e-mail newsletter, we'll be featuring photos of the cars we drove during our time on campus.

The **James Logan** profile in this issue mentioned all the 4-wheel

drive vehicles DKEs drove. But there were also these '70s gems like **Peter Bianchi's** Volkswagen and **AJ House's** Dodge.

Send your photos to [bill@billgeist.com](mailto:bill@billgeist.com) and let's relive the rides we rode.



# CHAPTER UPDATE

## Brother Beta on What Sustained Us



Andrew Kotler '21

Dear Esteemed Alumni:

It is no secret that the last few years were tough for the Lambda Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. With classes graduating in 2018, 2019, and 2020, we saw our numbers dwindle down to six active members. However, our pledge class never gave up. It's cheesy, but we always kept the undying spirit and belief that we would return to campus and grow the fraternity once again. There

were never any thoughts of failing for any of us. We

knew what DKE meant to us and what it brought to the community, and we knew the work we were doing alongside the alumni would pay off and we would make it back. Of course, the reinstatement process did not end up being linear - we faced many trials and tribulations as we attempted to come back - but in the end, it paid off.

Our deep belief in Lambda DKE originates in the bonds that we developed as pledges. DKE has a special way of connecting brothers within their own pledge class and within all pledge classes and truly making the fraternity feel like a home for all. There is a reason that brothers from all years are so involved in DKE and work with one another so well, regardless of whether they overlapped at Kenyon or not. Our class began to experience this bond in the spring of 2018, and it has only grown over the last three years as we have been initiated and met more dedicated Lambda alumni. We found our brothers for life through DKE, and we wanted to give that opportunity to future generations of Kenyon students. We did not want to have the sense of home and deep brotherhood end with us - instead, we want to look back in 30, 40, 50 years and see a thriving active brotherhood filled with brothers who found their home at Kenyon within DKE.

On top of everything, we had an incredibly strong support system throughout the entire process, ranging from new alums to older alums,

and this was vital. We knew that the alumni would support us in our endeavors, because similar to us, they wanted to see a revitalized DKE succeeding on Kenyon's campus. Without alumni support, we would not be in the position we are today, able to recruit a new member class this spring. Seeing how strongly the alumni felt about DKE post-graduation only served to strengthen our feelings about the importance of DKE.

ITB,

Andrew Kotler '21, on behalf of the 165th Pledge Class of Lambda DKE



*On New Year's Day, fifty alumni from every decade since the 1960s welcomed our newest actives: Amir Brinvanlou, Andrew Gibbens, Andrew Kotler, Winston Reid, Nate Saindon, John Scandale, and Bryan Yoshino. Ben Nash was initiated at a later Zoom ceremony in April 2021. Special thanks to DKE International executive director Doug Lanpher and Turner Spears for making this first-ever Zoom initiation glitch-free. Onward and upward, Lambda!*

## STAY CONNECTED

### Find Alumni Brothers Online

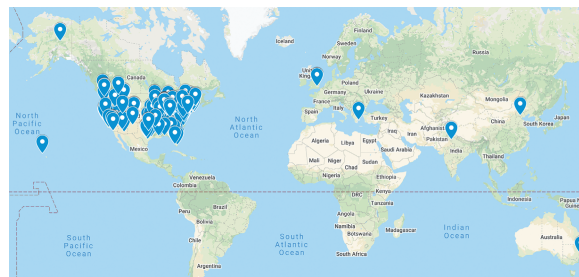
Are you plugged into our Kenyon DKE alumni website and Facebook group? Follow us to reconnect with your Lambda Chapter alumni buddies online, find out about upcoming virtual and in-person events, and keep up with the latest news from the chapter.

#### Website

Visit [www.lambdadke.com](http://www.lambdadke.com) today and login to see exclusive alumni content including alumni updates, flashback photos, and more. Don't remember your login info? Email [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com) and our alumni communications partner will help you log in.

#### Alumni Map

With vaccines being distributed, Lambda



DKE alumni can't wait to get back together in 2021! See which alums live in your neck of the woods and find their contact information with our new interactive alumni locator map. To see the full map, log on to our alumni website and visit the "Directory" page under "Alumni" on the main site menu.

If you notice your information is out of date on the map, email your updates to us at

[alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).

Login at [www.lambdadke.com](http://www.lambdadke.com) today to find the map. Delta Kappa Epsilon brotherhood is for life.

#### Facebook

Also make sure to join our private alumni Facebook group where we share pictures, stories, and everything Lambda DKE. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/lambdadke](http://www.facebook.com/groups/lambdadke) and then request to join the group; a group administrator will approve your request.

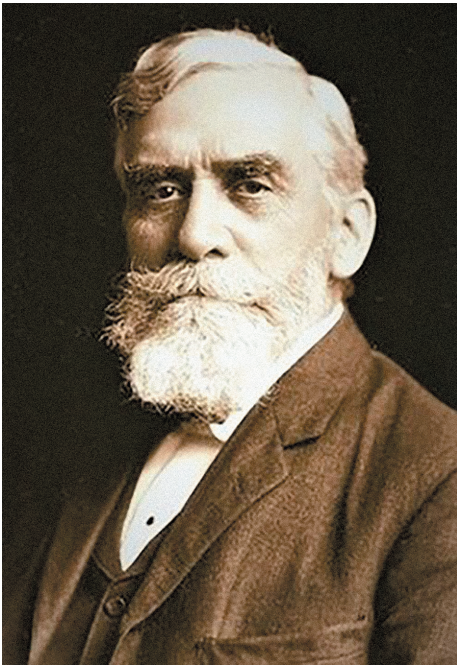
#### Instagram

Keep up with the chapter by following them on Instagram. Search for their handle:

[@dkekenyon](https://www.instagram.com/dkekenyon).

# NOTABLE LAMBDA DEKES

## Follow "This Day in Deke History" on Facebook for More Stories Like This!



"We applaud the business and civic contributions made by James Norris Gamble (Lambda-Kenyon College). Brother Gamble was the son of James Gamble, the founding partner in Proctor & Gamble. Brother Gamble is credited with laying the foundations for the most successful product of Proctor & Gamble – Ivory Soap. As a chemist at the Company, Brother Gamble developed the formula for a mild, white bar of soap called "P&G White Soap".

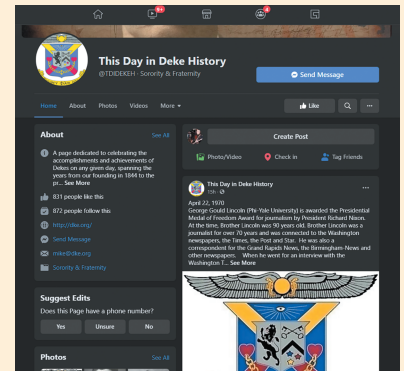
It is said that an accident brought about remarkable change to his formula as another employee left one of the soap-making machines running too long, which allowed too much air into the process. As a result, the finished batch of soap floated. Brother Gamble also served as the Mayor of Westwood, Ohio and as a member of the Board of Parks Commission of Cincinnati.

When Proctor & Gamble became a public company in 1890, Brother Gamble was named Vice President of the Company and sat on its Board of Directors. Brother Gamble retired from the Company in 1912

to concentrate on his other interests which included involvement in Cincinnati politics, religious groups, and charitable organizations including donations that he made to the YMCA and the University of Cincinnati. Brother Gamble was instrumental in forming the Christ Hospital Institute of Medical Research in Cincinnati."

### Read More About Our Fascinating Deke History

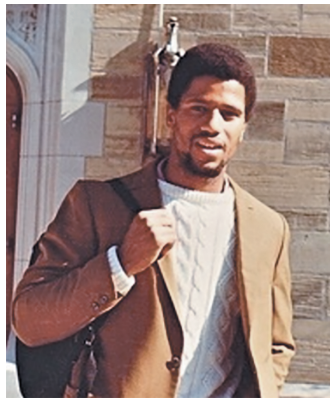
[www.facebook.com/TDIDEKEH/](http://www.facebook.com/TDIDEKEH/)



## JIM LOGAN, JR. '78

### Looking back on your time in DKE, what moments do you tend to remember most?

"There are so many memorable things that happened during those years... This is the one I remember the most with great fondness. I am sure I will take it - and the gratitude I feel for my brothers - to the grave. I had been studying in the library (admittedly a rarity in those days) and came back to the West Wing of Old Kenyon to find my brothers covered with grass stains and mud, watching television, drinking beer, and 'celebrating.' This in and of itself was not all that unusual except that such 'celebration' generally did not occur so soon after a 'tough' weekend near the beginning of the week.



I enjoy connecting and reconnecting with the brothers of DKE. I even had the opportunity to connect with a younger brother who inquired about my experience being the only African American in my class and in the chapter during my tenure. I also enjoy the comments I receive on social media.

I can be found on Facebook (ministry page is [@kfcc](https://www.facebook.com/kfcc).

[charlotte](https://www.facebook.com/kfcc)), LinkedIn, and YouTube as Bishop Jim Logan, Twitter as [@pastorjhl](https://twitter.com/pastorjhl), and Instagram as [@bishopjhl](https://www.instagram.com/bishopjhl). I can be reached directly at [pastorjhl@mac.com](mailto:pastorjhl@mac.com)."

I assumed that there had been some type of impromptu football game on the quad, only to discover that there had been a rumble between DKE and another unnamed fraternity. That group had been chanting in front of the Wing: 'all the fraternities are white and free, save the brothers of DKE,' to which the brothers present took exception. Though not at all happy about the chanting, I gained a greater appreciation for my brothers and felt a greater kinship because of something that happened in my absence.



Read the rest of **Jim Logan, Jr. '78's** story - and many more alumni profiles - at [www.lambdadke.com](http://www.lambdadke.com) under "Recent News"!