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## LET'S CONNECT

### Are you getting our Lambda DKE emails?

If not, you're missing out! To sign up, just send a quick note to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com) and let us know to add you to the Lambda DKE Alumni Association emailing list.



# THE LAMBDA DKE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ΔΕΛΤΑ ΚΑΠΠΑ ΕΠΙΣΙΛΟΝ

LAMBDA CHAPTER • July 2020

## REINSTATEMENT UPDATE

### Lambda Passes First Hurdle to Reinstatement

Over the past three years, seven men that were preparing to be initiated into the Lambda Chapter of DKE have pressed forward, never abandoning the commitment they were about to make. Robbed of their sophomore and junior years of fraternity life, they never gave up hope that they would, one day, be DKEs. Last month, they successfully passed through the first gauntlet in that quest. **Andrew Kotler '21** picks up the story from here...

Brothers:

My name is Andrew Kotler, and I am writing on behalf of the group of Kenyon students petitioning to reinstate Delta Kappa Epsilon on campus. We petitioners are members of the 165th pledge class and were nearly finished with the pledging process in spring of 2018 when the Chapter was sanctioned. The petitioning members of the pledge class are:

- Andrew Kotler '21, Political Science major, Skillman, NJ
- Nate Saindon '21, Chemistry major, Takoma Park, MD
- Amir Brivanlou '21, Biology major, New York, NY
- John Scandale '20, Biology and Spanish majors, Glen Rock, NJ
- Andrew Gibbens '21, Economics major, New Canaan, CT
- Winston Reid '21, History major, Los Angeles, CA
- Bryan Yoshino '21, Math major, Dublin, OH

On May 4th, our petition for reinstatement passed the Kenyon Greek Council. We will need to pass Student Life Committee and Student Council this coming fall to gain full admittance as an organization on Kenyon's campus. By virtue of passing Greek Council, however, we are able to function as a "prospective organization." This is extremely helpful and important for



(from left to right)

Nate Saindon, Amir Brivanlou,  
Andrew Gibbens, Andrew Kotler.

us as we move forward. Our classification as a prospective student organization enables us to function as a fraternity/organization on campus. We can have meetings, hold elections and market DKE to the campus. In addition, since the sanctions on Lambda DKE were officially lifted at the end of this past semester,

our class can now get initiated (which we are extremely excited about). This initiation will take place most likely in late summer or early fall. We will be in constant communication with DKE National Executive Director Doug Lanpher, Gamma '77 and Director of Student Engagement Sam Filkins to hammer out details for initiation...and those details will be shared amongst the Lambda DKE alumni.

As noted, we are now able to hold officer elections. With this in mind, we are thrilled to announce our new tribunal:

- Brother Beta: Andrew Kotler
- Brother Sigma: Nate Saindon
- Brother Kappa Rho: Amir Brivanlou

Other elected positions (including Brother Pi) will be filled pending approval from Student Life Committee and Student Council.

These are extremely exciting times for Lambda DKE. While we face two more hearings to gain full approval, we are moving in the right direction. Thank you for your unwavering support throughout the last few years. We are excited to meet as many alumni as possible as we continue on our journey with DKE. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

You can reach us at:

[kotler1@kenyon.edu](mailto:kotler1@kenyon.edu) (Andrew Kotler),  
[saindon1@kenyon.edu](mailto:saindon1@kenyon.edu) (Nate Saindon), or  
[brivanlou1@kenyon.edu](mailto:brivanlou1@kenyon.edu) (Amir Brivanlou).

ITB,

*Andrew Kotler '21*

## Notable Lambda DKEs Throughout History

**Are you following the page “This Day in Deke History” on Facebook? You should be. Here’s a look back at some of Kenyon’s remarkable DKEs.**



**John Grant Mitchell** (November 6, 1838 – November 7, 1894) was an Ohio lawyer and a general in the Union Army during the American Civil War. Brother Mitchell was active in several

important campaigns and battles in the Western Theater, including the Chickamauga, Atlanta, and Franklin-Nashville and Carolinas campaigns. He commanded a brigade of veteran infantry in many of these operations.



**William J. Bland** was killed instantly in 1918 by artillery fire near Euvezin, France. Major Bland commanded the First Battalion of the 356th Division. Brother Bland was

the first graduate of Kenyon College to be the recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship and, while at Oxford, Brother Bland became the first American to be elected President of the Oxford Union Debating Society. An American Legion Post in Kansas City is named in honor of Brother Bland and a memorial to him was elected there.

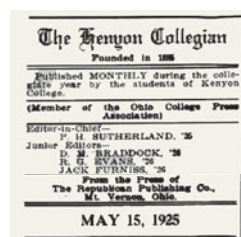


**Otis Harlan** died at age 74 in 1940 after a long career on the Broadway stage and in movies. In 1937, Brother Harlan voiced “Happy” the Dwarf in the Disney classic “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs;” he also voiced Mr. Mole in the classic film “Bambi.”



**Don McNeill** became the first student-athlete from Kenyon to win a national title in 1940. While at Kenyon, Brother McNeill went undefeated in three years of Ohio

Athletic Conference competition. In 1939, he became only the second American to win the French Open. He returned home with the French Open doubles title that same year. He later went on to win the 1944 U.S. Nationals doubles title and took the U.S. National Indoor Championship in both 1938 and 1950. Brother McNeill was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, the Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame, and the Kenyon Athletics Hall of Fame.



**Daniel McCoy Braddock**, the acting chargé d’affaires to Cuba, was responsible for operations of the Embassy in Havana when the

U.S. broke diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961. This was published in the May 1971 “Deke Quarterly”: “After the evacuation, Brother Braddock and eight subordinate American officials calmly ignored possible physical dangers to themselves and remained at the Embassy to help in the departure from Cuba of American citizens not connected with the Embassy and oversee the shipping of files and other U.S. Government property. The transfer of all U.S. diplomatic and consular business in Cuba to the Swiss Embassy in Havana was arranged by Brother Braddock.”



**Chip Sansom** first began assisting his father Art Sansom on the newspaper comic strip he created called “The Born Loser” in 1977.

Brother Sansom then took over running the business altogether after Art’s passing in 1991. The comic strip is distributed by United Features Syndicate and won the 1987 National Cartoonist Society Humor Comic Strip Award and the 1990 Newspaper Comic Strip Award.



**Joseph “Joe” Hagin** was appointed by President George W. Bush as the White House Deputy Chief

of Staff on January 1, 2001. Brother Hagin served in that capacity until July 20, 2008. He also served in the same role for President Donald Trump from 2017 to 2018. In April 2009, Brother Hagin co-founded Command Consulting Group which is an international security and intelligence consulting firm, headquartered in Washington, D.C. While at the White House, Brother Hagin picked up the Dubya nickname “Big Joe.”



**Judson St. John** passed at age 83 in 2009. Brother St. John was the President of Ayerst Laboratories, later Wyeth-Ayerst (1983-1989). Brother

St. John previously served as Vice President of Operations (1971-1976), Executive Vice President (1977-1982), and President (1983-1986). On the merger of the two companies, annual sales amounted to roughly \$2.5 billion.



**Jonathan Winters** died at age 87 in 2013. Winters was a giant of American comedy. On television, he was Mearth to Mork played by Robin Williams. In movies,

he starred in “It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World” and “The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming.” His final feature film was “The Smurfs 2,” which was dedicated to his memory. Winters attended Kenyon College only briefly and left pursue his interest in drawing and cartooning at the Dayton Art Institute. In 1999, Winters was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. In 2008, he was presented with a Pioneer TV Land Award by Robin Williams.

### Lambda DKE Brothers Come Together to Do Something Special

Brothers,

Meet our new sister DKE. She is the four legged one with lots of golden hair. The beautiful woman in the photo is Jessica Palffy. Jessica Palffy married the love of her life, Doug Schuster, on March 8, 2019. The wedding was moved up from its original date in July of 2019 because Jessica's father, **John Palffy '80** was battling cancer. The wedding was a spectacular affair. Jessica and her family hosted a wedding celebration that was full of joy and love. Several Lambda brothers were in attendance.

For the Palffys, golden retrievers are full members of the family. When John was diagnosed with cancer, a host of Lambda brothers came together via an email chain to offer friendship and words of encouragement. It was a lively exchange covering a wide range of topics from the current state of the Lambda



chapter to politics to the essential things in life. A wedding registry was circulated showing a golden retriever puppy as the featured item for Jessica and Doug.

Brother Clark Standish suggested we all chip-in some money to give Jessica and Doug a golden retriever puppy. Not only did we raise enough money for the puppy, there were sufficient excess funds for puppy supplies and one year's worth of puppy chow. Brothers **Joseph Hagin** and **David Hooker** were honored to present the gift at the wedding. In response, John said this to his daughter: "Jessica, you earned the reverence

of a core group of friends that are here today and that I hope will remain with you throughout your life—like mine have with me. There's nothing more special than friends."

John was right. Sadly, John died on March 28, 2019.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Submit Your Update Today!

Thanks to these Brothers for sending in their Alumni Updates! We hope you Brothers will do the same and let us know what you're up to. Send your updates to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com), or visit our website at [LambdaDKE.com](http://LambdaDKE.com) and head to the "Submit an Update" page. You can read the rest of these updates and more on our website. Here's what your Brothers had to say:



#### Brother Denis Pierce '66

"Pleased to report that a small group of brothers met for lunch in Coral Gables, Florida late February. Guests included **Bill Brooks '64**; **Barry Tatgenhorst '67**; **Tony Ridgway '66** and **Denis Pierce '66**.

Accompanying the brothers were wives, Wynne Ridgway, Ann Tatgenhorst and Martha Pierce.

Many in the group went on to spend a few days together in Naples, Florida. A fine time was had by all!"



#### Brother David Hooker '81

Following business school, I took a job as a District Sales Manager for an independently owned distributor of automobiles

and trucks called Mazda Great Lakes (MGL). MGL build a network of 130 independent Mazda dealers throughout the Midwest distributing cars, trucks and parts and providing marketing, advertising, public relations, service and training support to our dealers. I served in a variety of positions including advertising manager, Vice-President, Chief Operating Officer, and finally succeeded my father as President in the mid-1990s. In 2000, I negotiated a sale of the company to Mazda Motor of America, which was controlled by the Ford Motor Company. The sale was helpful for MGL's majority owner, 85-year-old Peter Cook, and my father. It was too early to consider retirement, and I had no-idea what professional opportunity would

be available to me. The love of my life and wife, Leslie, and I have three children and at the time the oldest was in middle school. We loved living in Grand Rapids and preferred not to go through a relocation.

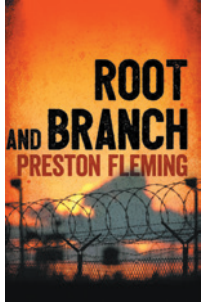
Unexpectedly, I received a call from a dear friend. We both served as board members of a charitable trust supporting an organization called Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Meijer Gardens was a young institution and needed a businessperson to lead the organization for up to year while a new Executive Director could be found. After three months of serving as Interim Executive Director, I was appointed President and CEO. While not initially seeking this position, it was one of the most fortunate things ever to happen to me. The job is incredibly rewarding and helping benefactor Fred (1919-2011) and Lena Meijer and the Meijer Family build the institution that carries their name has been fantastic.

**For more on Brother Hooker, head to the website for the full interview:**  
[www.lambdadke.com/recent-news/david-hooker-81](http://www.lambdadke.com/recent-news/david-hooker-81)

## BROTHERS WRITE BOOKS

### DKE Summer Reading: Check Out Our Brothers' Published Works

It's no secret that Lambda DKEs know their stuff and excel in their areas of interest. These three men are no exception; in fact, they're published authors. Consider purchasing their works as you continue to socially distance at home.



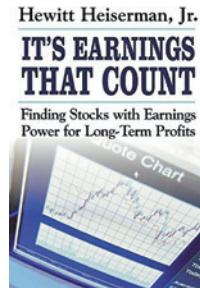
**Preston Zoller '71** recently saw his novel "Root and Branch" published. If you've been a fan of the thriller genre, chances are you are familiar with Preston Fleming, author of six novels. What you may not know is that Preston Fleming is the pen name of Lambda Alum Preston Zoller '71. His seventh book has just been released to rave reviews. "Root and Branch" has won a coveted Kirkus Starred Review and

was named an Editor's Pick by "Booklife." "Booklife" raved, "Thriller fans with a taste for politics will devour this exciting investigation into dangerous government overreach and the mangling of civil liberties in a time of crisis." And the Pacific Book Review called it "a brilliant novel...that delves into the question of human rights in the face of governments overstepping their bounds."



**Tony Ridgway '66** wrote "Kitchen Privileges," a 500-page cookbook. It's the culmination of several years' effort and is a proper ode to Tony's nearly 50-year career as a Naples, FL restaurateur. In the pages of this comprehensive book, read the story of Tony's upbringing and professional journey, from

the gardens and fields of Chester County, Pennsylvania, through today and Ridgway Bar & Grill, Tony's Off Third, Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar, and Sukie's Wine Shop.



**Hewitt Heiserman '82** is the author of the financial text "It's Earnings That Count." The book introduces the **Earnings Power Box™** — a tool for identifying companies with a wide gap between their accrual performance and earnings. Features include six ratios investors can use to make smarter decisions, techniques for identifying companies poised to outgain the market over the next five to ten years, and more. Brother Heiserman has a new book entitled "How to Invest Like a Superinvestor" coming in 2020.

## ANNUAL FUND

### Help DKE Kenyon Reach Our Goal!



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our annual fund so far! We are almost halfway to achieving our goal. We have the potential to make it, but we need your help, Brothers. If you have not yet contributed for 2019-2020, our giving year ends on August 31. To see our current Honor Roll of Donors and for more information on how to give, please see the enclosed letter.

Giving Year Began: September 1, 2019

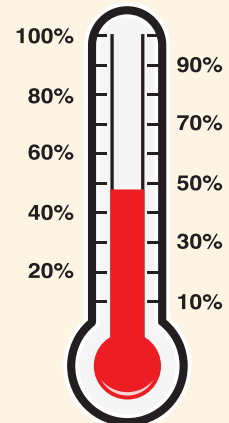
Giving Year Ends: August 31, 2020

Goal: \$30,000

Raised so Far: \$14,370

Donors: 65

**Goal: \$30,000**



## FIND US ON FACEBOOK



### Keep in Touch with Brothers

Join the Lambda DKE Alumni Association Facebook group to stay in touch with Brothers and see frequent updates on the active chapter. Just submit your request to join the private group and a Brother should add you shortly. You'll get updates, throwbacks, and even opportunities to meet up with Brothers online, like this Zoom conference we recently had with our pledges.

