

The Greek Cross

The Alumni Newsletter for the Tennessee Zeta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon

TN Zeta | www.lambuthsigep.org

Spring 2007 Volume 1, Issue 1

Statistics

Man Power: 33

GPA: 3.09

Recent Awards:

Man Power, Academic
Excellence Award



Executive Committee

President:

John McGreger

VP of Programming:

John Wells

VP of Finance:

Andrew AsBridge

VP of Membership Development:

Kris Stewart

VP of Recruitment:

Anthony Johnson

VP of Communications:

Justin Luzader

Chaplain:

Adam Jones

State of the Union

President John McGreger '08

Brothers, alumni, and family, it is my continuing honor and privilege to serve as Tennessee Zeta's President. As President, I wanted to take a moment and briefly address the things that we have been doing so far this new year and with this new chapter leadership. If I may be so bold, TN Zeta is retaking the Lambuth University campus by storm. Sure, we're number one in manpower and GPA among the fraternities. That, my friends, is perennial; we prove ourselves to be the

best fraternity on campus by pure numbers every year. However, if all we had to hang our hats on were just these two mere accolades, then we wouldn't be "breaking the cycle" of fraternity life, as we so eloquently put on our recruitment shirts this year. Being on top in manpower and GPA is hardly an achievement; rather, these statistics are and should be expectations of TN Zeta, because of this, we have set even higher, loftier objectives. With great joy I

am happy to tell you that TN Zeta is firing on all cylinders, and through a re-energized development program, our chapter is meeting goals and restoring our chapter image with remarkable pace. This publication is symbolic in itself, as it has been a short while since the last *The Greek Cross* was made. This newsletter highlights some of our achievements this semester, and I hope that you are as pleased as I am with what the chapter is doing where our chapter is headed.

SigEp in the News

LaBrandon Dates '09

Determined to disprove common stereotypes about fraternity life, the Lambuth Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon hosted a massive philanthropy event designed to raise awareness about homelessness in the Jackson area. The event, cleverly named SPE Box City, took place on January 26, 2007, in

the Northside United Methodist Church parking lot. For SPE Box City, the Lambuth SigEps went homeless, and depended on the community to bring donations that would help them survive the cold night. SPE Box City pulled in massive media coverage from the Jackson Sun, Jackson's ABC

News Affiliate WBBJ, and are featured in an article in the recently published, Spring 2007 SigEp Journal. The successful event raised over 1,200 items which were donated to Jackson's Regional Inter-Faith Association.

Brothers Start Business Anthony Davis '02



"Without the Balanced Man development program, I don't know where I would be"

- Anthony Davis '02

In the summer of 2005, two fairly recent TN Zeta alumni decided it was time to get away from the corporate world and become small business owners. Anthony Davis ('02) and Brian Hamblen ('02) started I Design, a Marketing and Creative Agency in Nashville, TN. I Design began as an idea that spring after the tiring corporate shenanigans had begun to weigh in on Brian Hamblen. Having worked as a Senior Graphic Designer at Gaylord Entertainment, the long nights and stringent rules had caught up with him. With fellow alumnus Anthony Davis, he began to think of the possibilities of being an entrepreneur. Anthony had been working at Christie Cookie Company, a Nashville based gourmet cookie company. While the environment there was of a small company, three years of hard travel was weighing in. I Design opened its doors for

business July 5th. I Design began with a few loyal clients, and became one of Nashville's known creative design agencies in just ten short months. The agency designs everything from logos and identities for start up companies, to CD art and book covers, to full web site development projects. I Design has become known on for its creativity, as evidenced by each project. The client list has tripled, and the firm is currently developing several large web site projects.

Utilizing the positive impact of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Brian and Anthony have created an environment where they and their two design employees can succeed. Davis says, "My experience at Lambuth, and particularly as a leader within SigEp, translates every day in managing clients, meeting demands, and fulfilling project deadlines. The office environment is always laid

back, but we always get the job done, spurred on with a constant enthusiasm for our on-going projects. Without the Balanced Man development program, I don't know where I would be." The experience gained from being active in Sigma Phi Epsilon has been a huge asset for Hamblen as well. He notes, "My experience in TN Zeta put me in a place where I knew that I was creating my future and surroundings at all times. Some of the things that I do as a professional seem small in comparison to the things that I accomplished at TN Zeta. The brotherhood and change we created there is a constant source of inspiration for me. I often wonder what humanity could accomplish if Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love were lived out in our world."



Lowe Finney, former Chapter Counselor of TN Zeta and alum of TN Kappa, recently won the Tennessee State Senate position for District 27

Low Finney John McGreger '08

Low Finney, Chapter Counselor of TN Zeta and alum of TN Kappa recently won the Tennessee State Senate position for District 27 (comprised of Gibson, Carroll, and Madison Counties). Finney, a Jackson attorney and adjunct teacher at Lambuth University, ran as the Democratic candidate against former Democrat-turned-Republican State Senator, Don McLeary. Finney ran on platform supporting an increase for the minimum wage, affordable healthcare, and affordable education. Finney also took a strong stand on "hot-button" issues, being pro-life, against gay marriage, and against new firearm restrictions. Finney certainly had his work cut out

for him, as McLeary already had wide scale name recognition, not only as the incumbent Senator, but also from being a former local football star and coach. This daunting task did not faze Finney, as he continued to roll along with his campaign, visiting and meeting as many people as possible. Through a series of debates against his opponent, Finney carried himself very well, answering all questions that came his way competently and calmly. On November 7th, this exciting and grueling race paid off for Finney, as he claimed an upset victory over McLeary by a mere 477 votes, 26,801 to 26,324, making it one of the most thrilling and closest elections of the year.

The brothers of TN Zeta did what they could to further Finney's cause. Some brothers showed their support by attending debates decked out in "Finney-for-Senate" pins and stickers, while others drove the campaign truck so Finney could stop and meet potential voters. A few brothers even registered or re-registered people in Madison County to vote; while such an action may seem trivial, every vote counted in a race as close as this one. TN Zeta was happy to help in any way Senator Finney asked, and we eagerly look forward to do our part in his reelection campaign!

Recruitment LaBrandon Dates '09

Recruitment is defined as restoring the vitality or intensity of an organization by supplying new members. However, Anthony Johnson (the new Vice President of Recruitment) plans to surpass the denotative concept of recruitment. In a recent interview, Anthony was asked to give his personal definition of recruitment and described recruitment as "a process of events [which allows] people to experience what I've experienced." To ensure that potential brothers get this personal experience, many

changes have been made to the recruitment process. First, there has been an increased focus on Chapter image. Chapter image is vital to recruiting new members since "guys are going to be drawn to [the fraternity] where they see the best things happening." Chapter image is on the rise thanks to events such as SPE Box City and our refurbished Vitruvian Brother Program. Second, Johnson recognizes that recruitment is competitive marketing. He plans on further educating all current brothers about both

the history of Sigma Phi Epsilon and competing fraternities. Johnson noticed that "the most successful recruitments occur when the process is organized, and all brothers are well informed about their fraternity." Johnson is a history fanatic and plans on creating a database of his ideas and strategies for his successors. He explained that "we should look to the past, and model what others did to have success."



Anthony Johnson (the new Vice President of Recruitment) plans to surpass the denotative concept of recruitment.

Sigep's Cultural Awareness Chris Bright '09

As part of a continual membership development program, the members of the TN Zeta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon at Lambuth University have made a commitment to personal growth through gaining a greater understanding of the world and a broader outlook on life. In the pursuit of this goal, the chapter has made numerous efforts over the past year in attempting to learn more about the religious and cultural diversity present

in the Jackson community. Last year members of the chapter attended services at the Congregation B'nai Israel temple in order to learn more about the Jewish faith and the role that the Jewish community plays in the Jackson area. The chapter followed up that experience with a recent trip to the Islamic Center of Jackson. There members of the chapter listened to a presentation about the history of Islam and took part in a

question and answer session in order to gain a greater understanding of the Islamic faith. Both trips proved to be both enjoyable and informative for all who participated. "I think that the trips to both the synagogue and the mosque opened a lot of our eyes to different points of view and different beliefs. It is definitely very interesting to see these different religions," said junior John McGreger.

SigEp Initiatives – The Vitruvian Man LaBrandon Dates '09

With the Balanced Man Program, SigEps are challenged to grow mentally as well as physically. According to John Locke, "A sound mind in a sound body, is a short, but full description of a happy state in this World: he that has these two, has little more to wish for." Locke's words prove that a brother's potential is maximized when he practices

the Greek philosophy of "Sound Mind, Sound Body." In order to equalize "Sound Mind, Sound, Body," the brothers of the Lambuth SigEp Chapter have adopted Vitruvian Brothers. Vitruvian Brothers are responsible for helping one another maintain a regular, entertaining exercise regimen, and also hold one another accountable for avoiding

harmful activities such as substance abuse and unprotected sex. Along with the Vitruvian program, the chapter also organizes weekly sports activities that include rugby, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and even cricket. The Lambuth SigEp Chapter is determined to develop balanced men that will flourish in all aspects of life.

RLC Improvements Kris Stewart '08

If you walked into Tennessee Zeta's Residential Learning Center in the Fall of 2004 like I did for the first time, you probably would have wondered how long it had been since the Brady Bunch had moved out. The curtains in one of the rooms could potentially be called "monsters of the seventies", with their unrelenting shades of orange and brown blinding one's own fashion sense. This is not to mention the dust that encompassed them. The carpets were nothing to speak of either, and, in past years, many of its strangely colored stains led to stories about the house's former owner's supposed death. The next thing you might have noticed was the plethora of couches: couches in this room, couches in that room, couches were literally everywhere! In some dark corners you may have stumbled upon some computers or maybe even a random desk, but that would only be very rarely. The house lived up to residential side of its name; however, there was very clearly not much "learning" going on within its walls. Tennessee Zeta's Residential Learning Center stood still in time as a dream and a hope, seen vividly by some, but wholly unachieved.

That is, until the summer of

2006. After receiving a few donations from alumni, brothers' family members, and active brothers, renovations on the house began. A thorough cleaning was given to the house, removing dust and dirt that had been there since the last century. New rugs were brought in to give each room a more modern, homely appeal. The old curtains were torn down and thrown away, replaced happily with new white blinds. Rooms were rearranged in the hopes of helping brothers more efficiently use the house for their work. One room was named the Sound Body room, an idea that had existed before, and had unfortunately never withstood the test of time. However, with new equipment like an elliptical machine and more weights, the use of mirrors on the walls, and a television mounted in one corner, the room has proven to be popular. Many brothers can now be found working out and truly trying to achieve the Sound Body ideal.

Another room, formerly the home of the weight bench, has been turned into a new study area which has attracted many brothers and nonmembers alike. Group study sessions occur regularly, and several girls and

even a few men who are not SigEp's are regularly making trips to the RLC for its facilities. The computers have found a new space in the house as well, which leads us to the RLC's newest and greatest achievement---Internet! Finally, in the fall of 2006, Tennessee Zeta was given the green light to having Internet access in the Residential Learning Center! A network router was set up to allow for wireless Internet access throughout the house, a benefit many brothers are quite excited about and have used a lot already. From the first week of its renovations, the use of the facilities has increased tenfold, and more and more students are beginning to use it for both academic and athletic purposes. The new renovations have also opened up doors for new and exciting programs and events. Lambuth's newest Greek Advisor and other faculty have even come and taken a tour of the house, and all have expressed how impressed they were of our facilities.

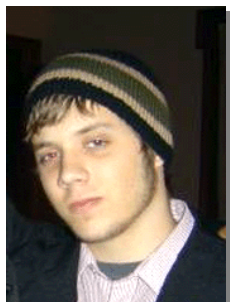
However, despite how far the Residential Learning Center has come, there are still many improvements to be made. We are still looking for useful furniture for the house, such as shelves, filing cabinets, desks,

coffee tables, etc. We're also looking for more exercise equipment. Anything from more weights to workout machines to a punching bag or more will serve us well. We are also willing to accept more rugs and wall decorations, such as paintings or academic or athletic oriented posters. More than anything else, we simply need money. Many of the walls have holes that need to be fixed and painted. The bathroom needs complete renovation, as it's nearly unusable. We also have hopes to begin renovations to the outside of the house this spring, and will surely need money to help fund the work needed. The RLC has now become a dream nearly achieved. Through the diligence of SigEp's present and past, we may yet make our facility the best in the nation, and will be able to tack another badge of excellence to our great chapter.

The Greek Cross - Spring 2007 : Staff

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LaBrandon Dates '09



Submit articles, photos, story ideas, questions and comments to the VP. Of Communications at jrluzader@gmail.com.