



Conversations

with the Chairman

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> PUT YOUR SUPPORT BEHIND "FREE BROADBAND NOW"

Some of the funniest conversations I have with students today revolve around life before the Internet. It is a source of endless amusement for them to hear about school papers done on IBM Selectric typewriters, faxes received in long, shiny rolls of paper and research done in the cubicle of a cavernous library. Today, of course, the Internet has become a vital part of our lives, and most likely of yours. However, while most of us rely on web-based communications to learn, work and play, a surprisingly high number of our fellow American citizens - at least 114 million - are either completely unconnected to the Internet or rely on a dial-up connection. For the United States to maintain its status as the world leader in innovation, those numbers must change. It is embarrassing that the International Telecommunications Union ranked the U.S. at 21st - right behind Estonia - on the Digital Opportunity Index, a scale that measures the deployment of advanced services such as broadband. It is startling to have 58% of American homes stuck with dial-up, or no connection at all to the Internet, when countries such as Japan and South Korea enjoy higher broadband penetration rates at speeds up to 20 times faster at roughly the same cost. And it is astonishing that 43% of small businesses are not using the Internet at all for business-related activities, mainly because service quality is low and prices are far too high. So what can be done? Specifically, what can we do, as a relatively nascent group of current and future college parents, to reverse these troubling statistics? We can support the **Coalition for Free Broadband Now** in their efforts to convince the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow willing companies to provide Americans with a fast, free and family-friendly wireless Internet network. Theirs will be a multi-pronged effort over a period of time, but you can show your support today by visiting the home page of www.freebroadbandnow.org where an easy-to-sign petition is awaiting your online signature.

> TKE SELECTS VEGAS FOR BIENNIAL MEETING

The biennial meeting of our TKE Grand Chapter is called **Conclave**. Conclave is a great celebration of brotherhood, where Tekes from all over the world come together for three days to select the leadership of TKE, vote on changes to the governing rules and policies of the Fraternity, recognize our best and brightest Fraters and Chapters, participate in intense leadership development, and build friendships. The **Riviera Hotel and Casino** is the site for the 54th Biennial Conclave, which will be held August 5-8, 2007. Located toward the north end of the famous "Vegas Strip", the historic Riviera is known as the Entertainment Center of Las Vegas.



> CHAPTER ALUMNI BOARDS ADOPTS NEW INITIATIVES

In conjunction with the chapter's upcoming 40th anniversary celebration, the Lambda-Upsilon Board of Advisors and the Board of Directors of the Lambda-Upsilon Alumni Association have adopted a number of new joint initiatives designed to take Tau Kappa Epsilon at Georgia Southern University to the next level of excellence. The **40th Anniversary Fund** represents an initiative to secure \$100,000 in funds for current and future housing needs for the collegiate chapter. Our new **Founders Fund** will work to secure in excess of \$50,000 in endowed scholarship funds, through the creation of six additional scholarship funds with the TKE Educational Foundation, each named in honor of our seven Founding Fathers (the first such fund, the Clarence Butler Scholarship Fund, has already been established and fully endowed). We've renewed our commitment to expand our annual **Tourista Tour Golf Tournament**. Proceeds from the tournament benefit Lambda-Upsilon's scholarship program and the Ronald & Nancy Reagan Research Institute of the Alzheimer's Association. Our new **Life Loyal Teke Project** will seek to award membership in the TKE Life Loyal Teke program for each member of the collegiate chapter that successfully graduates from Georgia Southern while remaining in good-standing with the collegiate chapter. Next autumn we'll launch our new **TKE Alumni Mentor Network**, connecting collegiate Seniors with successful alumni, easing the transition from college-life to the real world. We'll continue to expand our **TKE Leadership Initiative**, providing our collegiate members with exciting new opportunities for learning and growth. Current Leadership Initiative programs include our Alumni/Candidate Weekend, Officer Installation Weekend, Annual Officer Retreat Weekend, and our Fraternity for Life Weekend. We'll also expand our commitment to provide funds for collegiate participation in the TKE Regional Leadership Conference and biennial Conclave programs, among others. In the near future, we'll add additional support for an annual chapter retreat with professional facilitation, opportunities for participation in other campus and fraternal leadership opportunities, and a new volunteer training experience for new and existing members of our chapter volunteer leadership team. Be sure to keep an eye on our new website at lambda-upsilon.org for announcements regarding each of these important new initiatives. And, as always, thank YOU for your continued support of our Lambda-Upsilon Chapter endeavors. Your commitment helps make these program initiatives possible.

> BINGE DRINKING, PILL ABUSE INTENSIFY AT COLLEGES

Substance abuse on college campuses is nothing new, but it is taking a more extreme and dangerous form, with higher rates of frequent binge drinking and prescription drug abuse, and more negative consequences for students such as arrests and risky sexual behavior. That's the portrait painted by a new, comprehensive report tying together a range of recent research on college substance abuse, supplemented with some of its own new survey data. The report by **The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University**, argues substance abuse isn't an inevitable rite of passage for young adults. Rather, it argues a particular culture of excessive consumption has flourished on college campuses, and calls on educators to take bolder stands against students and alumni to combat it. Among the report highlights: 1) The proportion of students who drink (about 68 percent) and binge drink (40 percent) has changed little since 1993. But there have been substantial increases in the number of students who binge drink frequently (take five drinks at a time, three or more times in two weeks), who drink 10 or more times a month, and who get drunk three or more times in a month; 2) Though still used by far fewer students than alcohol, hundreds of thousands more students are abusing prescription drugs including Ritalin, Adderall and OxyContin than during the early 1990s. The proportion of students using marijuana daily has more than doubled to about 4 percent; 3) Analyzing outside survey data, the Center calculated 23 percent of college students meet the medical criteria for substance abuse or dependence. That's about triple the proportion in the general population.

> FINANCES TOP SURVEY LIST OF PARENT CONCERNS

College students' finances are of "extreme" or "great concern" to nearly half of the 1,727 respondents to the **Second Annual National Survey on the Current College Parent Experience**, which was conducted online from February 23 through March 5, 2007. Parents of current college students showed that they are in frequent contact with their child at college, with nearly 70 percent of the respondents communicating with their son or daughter at least two to three times per week. Consistent with the results from the first annual such survey in March 2006, cell phones are by far the preferred method of communication, with more than 80 percent of parent respondents saying that a "cell phone conversation" is "very frequently" or "frequently" the method they employ to stay in touch with their child. Only 3 percent of the respondents said that they "rarely" or "never" spoke via cell phone. What are all those cell phone conversations about? Respondents indicated that finances, along with health/safety issues, topped a list of concerns that also included academics, campus or community involvement opportunities, career planning and personal relationships. Those parental money concerns seem to be in sync with students, as respondents to the survey report that financial issues also top the list of topics on which their college student has "most requested advice or assistance" in the past year, followed by academics, and a near dead-heat between health/safety and career planning, with advice requested on personal relationships at the bottom of the heap.

▶ **VIEW THE SURVEY RESULTS:** <http://www.lambda-upsilon.org/r/psurvey.htm>

> TAX CREDITS CAN HELP WITH HIGH ED COSTS

Two popular tax credits, the Hope Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit, can help defray education expenses for you and your youngsters. And because they are credits, rather than deductions, they take a bigger bite out of your tax bill. A deduction reduces your taxable income, which can, but is not guaranteed to, reduce your final tax bill. A credit, however, is subtracted directly from the final tax you owe. **The Hope Credit** is the tax break you should look at first if you're putting kids through college, as long as one of those years your kid is a freshman or sophomore. For 2006 taxes, it has been increased to \$1,650 per student, up from \$1,500 the previous tax year. This credit applies only to course-work costs spent in a student's first two years of higher education. The schooling can be at a college or vocational school, as long as the work at the institution leads to a degree or certification. **The Lifetime Learning Credit** can be used for undergraduate, graduate and professional degree courses for anyone. This means a qualifying course you took to improve your current job skills or get new work could be partially paid for by the tax credit. If you meet Internal Revenue Service guidelines, you can count \$10,000 of your education expenses. If you have a child also going to college and that child has eligible expenses, you can count those toward the \$10,000 total, too, since the credit can be applied to all qualified education expenses in a taxpayer's family.

▶ **TAX CREDIT DETAILS :** <http://www.lambda-upsilon.org/r/taxtip.htm>

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