



Kappa Tau
of Tau Kappa Epsilon
Hall of Fame Ceremony

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

ALUMNI HALL *of* FAME Award Ceremony



WELCOME TO THE 2nd Bi-Annual Alumni Hall of Fame Award Ceremony

The awards are being presented by Kappa Tau Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity on Friday, November 7, 2025 to Kappa Tau alumni for their outstanding achievements. Inductees are among a select group of alumni who have excelled in their career, their service to the community and/or to the fraternity.

This Years Hall of Fame Inductees are:

Steve Grande '74,
Phil Gutt '74
John Najarian '78
Hirath Ghori '80
Justin Giacotto '06

**TONIGHT
We Celebrate!**



OUR PROGRAM

Welcome

James "Ziggy" Benware '89
Grand Province Advisor, Sigma-Xi Chapter

Invocation and Moment of Silence

Dylan Harpster '24, Chapter Chaplain

Introduction of Special Guest

Anthony Eck '23

Spirit of Tau Kappa Epsilon

Grand Grammateus Jim Johnston, Epsilon-Eta '73

Status of the Chapter

Anthony Eck '23

Advisory Board Update

Col (Retired) Robert Newton, Omicron '79

Housing Corporation Update

W. Scott Johnston, Beta-Sigma Chapter '75

Presentation of the Kappa-Tau Hall of Fame Inductees

Per Oskar Casey '24

Passing of the Prytanis Gavel

Reception



2025 HALL of FAME

Inductees



Hirath Ghori '80

With a distinguished career spanning decades in engineering, program management, and international business development, Hirath Ghori has made a lasting impact in the aerospace and defense industries. After earning his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1983, Hirath began a journey marked by innovation, leadership, and achievement.

He built an impressive career with companies such as Raytheon, Tyco, and General Dynamics Space Systems, where his expertise in engineering and business strategy earned him numerous accolades. At Raytheon, Hirath served as International Business Development Director, Senior Program Manager, and Senior Engineering Manager, driving major initiatives that shaped the company's global presence. His groundbreaking work was recognized with Raytheon's President's Award for Innovation in 2008, 2010, and 2012, as well as the prestigious Program Management Award in 1998. Earlier in his career, he received the Chairman's Award at General Dynamics Space Systems in 1992 for outstanding leadership and contributions.

Beyond his professional achievements, Hirath has given back generously to his community and fraternity. From 2008 to 2013, he served as Chapter Advisor for the Kappa Tau Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), mentoring undergraduate brothers and strengthening the chapter's foundation for future generations. He has also served as an Alumni Board Member and dedicated countless hours as a volunteer coach for youth softball, soccer, and football between 2003 and 2008.

During his undergraduate years, Hirath was deeply involved in fraternity life, serving on the Rush Committee, Social Committee, Sports Committee, and the Greek Week Board, while also competing in various sports and tutoring student-athletes in math, science, and English.

Reflecting on what TKE and the Kappa Tau Chapter have meant to him, Hirath shares a simple but powerful message:

"TKE is Life!! The lifelong friendships still exist today. Nourish them. Cherish them."

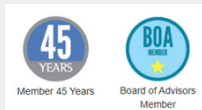
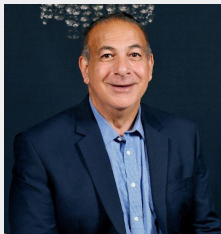


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Now enjoying retirement in Chandler, Arizona, Hirath finds his greatest pride in family. He is the proud father of Sirraaj Ghori (33, University of Arizona) and Shaheen Ghori (31, American University). Though his professional journey is complete, his passion for mentorship, brotherhood, and lifelong connection continues to inspire those around him.



John Najarian '83

With more than 40 years of success in sales, leadership, and business development, John Najarian has built a distinguished career across multiple industries while staying grounded in the values and relationships that shaped him during his time at the University of Arizona.

John earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1983, but his journey was defined by much more than academics. As an undergraduate, John embraced every opportunity to lead and contribute to campus life. He served as President of the Kappa Tau Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), Rush Chairman—earning the TKE National Award for Top Teke Rush—and Little Sister Chairman, while also receiving the Kappa Tau Chapter Top Teke Award.

Outside the fraternity, John was deeply involved in university life, serving as IFC Chairperson, a U of A Letterman, a member of the U of A Track and Field team, and even part of the U of A Cheer Squad.

Professionally, John has forged an exceptional path, working across industries in roles that highlight his sales expertise, leadership skills, and entrepreneurial drive. Over the years, he's held key positions at organizations including Hilti, General Medical, Advance Machine Co., ASGCO, CQMS Razer, Penttek, and more, ultimately culminating in his current role as Regional Manager for Nilfisk. Along the way, he has earned numerous sales and leadership awards, reflecting his ability to build lasting client relationships and deliver consistent results.

John's entrepreneurial spirit shone early on when he owned and operated Toledo T-Shirt Company while attending U of A, and later as a co-owner of





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Foster and Lake, further demonstrating his dedication to innovation and growth.

Beyond his career, John has remained closely connected to TKE and the Kappa Tau Chapter. He participated in the first recolonization process of the chapter and contributed to key decisions surrounding the 1322 E. 1st Street chapter house, where so many formative memories were made.

Reflecting on what TKE has meant to him, John shares a heartfelt perspective: “I grew up in a household with two sisters and never understood what a brother was. My experiences with TKE-KT made it clear what true brotherhood means. As a student, I was fortunate to have mentors and a support system that guided me through challenges. Without their advice, encouragement, and belief in me, I might have returned to Ohio without a degree. I truly made friends for life at TKE-KT.”

For today’s undergraduate brothers, John offers timeless advice:

“Capitalize on the education, relationships, and opportunities available to you. Keep a positive attitude, be kind to those around you, and if you don’t like something, always offer an alternative solution—with enthusiasm.”

Today, John lives in Granada Hills, California with his wife, Robina Markari, and is the proud father of Daniel and Sofia Najarian. While his professional accomplishments are impressive, it’s his enduring relationships, mentorship, and dedication to the TKE brotherhood that continue to define his legacy.



50
YEARS

Member 50 Years

Stephen Grande '74

Initiated into Tau Kappa Epsilon’s Kappa Tau Chapter in 1974, Stephen Grande quickly emerged as a leader among his peers. As an undergraduate at the University of Arizona, he served as pledge class president, Rush Chairman, co-chair of Greek Week, and ultimately Chapter President from 1977–78, while also representing the fraternity on the Interfraternity Council. His commitment to the chapter laid the foundation for a lifetime of leadership, mentorship, and service.



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Stephen graduated from the University of Arizona in 1978 with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Economics, earning recognition on the Dean's List. He went on to complete his Juris Doctor at Southwestern University School of Law in 1981, graduating with high honors. While there, he distinguished himself as a moot court finalist and recipient of multiple American Jurisprudence Awards.

Professionally, Stephen built a distinguished legal career spanning more than four decades. He served as a General Partner at Gilbert, Kelly, Crowley & Jennett LLP from 1981–2012, including 20 years as managing partner of the Orange County office. He chaired the firm's Commercial Litigation and Class Action Defense Group, led new attorney training and evaluation, and worked closely with the Orange County District Attorney's Office on insurance fraud cases. He also served as a judicial arbitrator and mediator and was nationally recognized as an AV-rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell. From 2012–2024, he continued his practice as a self-employed attorney, advising clients across diverse industries.

Stephen was also a respected lecturer and presenter, sharing his expertise with the International Insurance Fraud Investigators Association and the Association of Southern California Defense Lawyers. Beyond his professional work, he gave back as a volunteer attorney assisting indigent clients and as a parish leader at St. Norbert Catholic Church, where he chaired committees on finance and development.

Even in his accomplished career, Stephen remained devoted to TKE. As an alumnus, he served as legal liaison advisor to Kappa Tau's Board, assisting with corporate bylaws and helping recover embezzled chapter funds in coordination with the Tucson District Attorney's office. His contributions safeguarded the integrity of the chapter and ensured its continued strength for future generations.

Reflecting on his lifelong connection to TKE, Stephen shares: "My association with my brothers in the Kappa Tau Chapter was one of the most enjoyable and meaningful experiences of my life. The friendships I built more than 50 years ago still endure today, and the lessons I learned in leadership, mentorship, and camaraderie shaped the successes I was privileged to experience in my career and life."

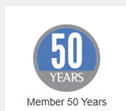
Stephen resides in Grants Pass, Oregon, with his wife, Sandra.





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Phillip Gutt '74

Phillip Gutt's journey with Tau Kappa Epsilon began in 1974 when he joined the Kappa Tau Chapter at the University of Arizona. During his undergraduate years, Phillip pursued a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering with distinction, while immersing himself in campus life as a Baird Scholar, Bobcat, President of the Student Union Activities Board, and member of Sophos and Chain Gang honoraries. His involvement also extended to campus cultural events and the U.S. Bicentennial Committee. Within TKE, Phillip was an active contributor in athletics, chapter life, and as a tutor to his fellow fraters.

After graduating in 1977, Phillip launched a pioneering career in association management. He co-founded Arizona's first association management firm and went on to lead multiple companies, including Association Managers, Inc., Professional Property Managers, Inc., and Superior Associations, Inc., where he serves as owner today. Widely recognized as a leader in his field, Phillip became a Certified Association Executive in 1989, co-founded AEGIS (an international consortium of association management companies), and served as president of both the Arizona Society of Association Executives and Skal International Tucson. He was also the principal author of the global code of ethics for the association management industry and contributed internationally as a director of the Institute of Association Management Companies.

Phillip's contributions extended far beyond his profession. A dedicated community leader, he founded Tucson Junto, served as president of one of the world's largest Rotary Clubs, was honored as a four-time Paul Harris Fellow, and engaged deeply with civic and educational organizations including Pima Community College, Davis-Monthan AFB, Pro Neighborhoods, and Imagine Greater Tucson. His legacy reflects a lifelong commitment to civil discourse, education, and public service.

As an alumnus, Phillip has remained one of the most active supporters of the Kappa Tau Chapter. He was instrumental in recovering stolen chapter funds, served as Executive Director of both the KT-TKE Alumni House Association and The 1322 Founders, and helped establish the KT-TKE Alumni Association. His leadership has ensured the chapter's stability and growth, and his guidance





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continues to inspire generations of Tekes.

For Phillip, TKE was a transformative force: “The chapter experience was instrumental in my development from high school graduate to college graduate. The friendships I made have lasted a lifetime—most of my best friends are fraternity brothers from college.” His advice to today’s undergraduates is clear: “Graduate, make friends, have fun, embrace new experiences, take reasonable risks, and never reject new fraters for petty reasons.”

Phillip resides in Tucson, Arizona, with his wife, Nancy. They have one daughter, Tori.



Justin Giacotto'06

Justin Giacotto’s leadership within Tau Kappa Epsilon began as an undergraduate at the University of Arizona, where he helped re-establish the Kappa Tau Chapter in 2006. Serving as Histor, he played a vital role in preserving the chapter’s early history and supporting recruitment and growth during its rebirth. His work as a re-founding member laid the foundation for the chapter’s continued success and the enduring brotherhood it enjoys today.

Justin graduated in 2009 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Business. As a student, he contributed to the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, gaining valuable hands-on and leadership experience. He later earned a Master of Engineering in Systems Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology (2014) and pursued graduate coursework in composites and materials engineering at Stanford University (2012).

Professionally, Justin has built an accomplished career in aerospace and defense. Since 2011, he has served in progressive engineering and leadership roles at Northrop Grumman, where he is now a Staff System Test Engineer responsible for integration and verification of advanced defense systems critical to U.S. national security. Earlier, he supported the Phoenix Mars Mission at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the





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University of Arizona as a Spacecraft Test Bed Operator—contributing to one of NASA’s historic planetary exploration achievements. His career reflects both technical excellence and trusted leadership in high-stakes environments.

Beyond his career, Justin has dedicated himself to mentoring junior engineers and interns, guiding the next generation of professionals in STEM. He remains an engaged alumnus of both the University of Arizona and Tau Kappa Epsilon, supporting Wildcats and Tekes through mentorship, professional guidance, and alumni connections.

For Justin, TKE was transformative: “Helping to re-establish the chapter at the University of Arizona was one of the most meaningful leadership experiences of my undergraduate years. TKE gave me lifelong friendships, a strong sense of brotherhood, and values that have guided me well beyond college—love, charity, and esteem continue to influence how I approach my career, family, and community.”

His advice to current undergraduates is simple but enduring: “Cherish the time you have together and invest in the chapter as much as you can—it will pay you back many times over in relationships, leadership skills, and opportunities. Remember that TKE is not just for your college years—it’s a lifelong bond.”

Justin lives in San Diego, California, with his wife, Bianca Giusto, and their son, Jett.





Thank You Volunteers

Advisory Board

Chairman:

Robert Newton '78 (Omicron Chapter)

Secretary:

James Benware '89

Treasurer:

Scott Johnston '75 (Beta Sigma Chapter)

Grand Province Advisor:

James "Ziggy" Benware '89 (Sigma Xi Chapter)

Board Member:

Keith Ballard '82

Board Member:

Gregory Ochser '17

Board Member:

Stan Haley '21

Board Member:

Trey Wanamaker '03 (Upsilon Delta)

Database/Webmaster/Social Media

Matt Noble, Fraternity Management Group

Executive Board

President :

Anthony Eck '23

Vice President:

Grishm Sethi '23

Secretary:

Dylan Carrillo '23

Treasurer:

Kyle Truitt '24

Historian:

Per Oskar Casey '24

Chaplain:

Dylan Harpster '24

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Brayden Berry '24

Educator:

Ben Adams-Munoz '23

Recruitment Chair:

Reese Winsor '23

Philanthropy Chair:

Jakob Brannon '23

Social Media Chair:

Nathaniel Bullock '24

Please reach out to Matt Noble at matt.noble@fmgtucson.com or 520-990-3250 if you would like to learn more about serving one of these boards.





TKE

Better Men *for a* Better World

**Kappa Tau Chapter
Tau Kappa Epsilon
University of Arizona**

Fall 2025