

**THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
TO THE
174TH PSI UPSILON CONVENTION**

Lexington, KY

On June 24th, 2017, Psi Upsilon will gather for the 174th time to celebrate our enduring brotherhood, and we choose to do so in Lexington, KY. While this is unusual - typically the Conventions of our great Fraternity are hosted by one of our Chapters, in the proximity of one of our campuses - it is not unprecedented, as we have done so nine times in the past twenty five years. In some ways it is advantageous to meet on unfamiliar ground, as it gives us separation to meet, consider, and reflect on what Psi U means to us, and what we mean to Psi U.

But Kentucky is not without its connections to Old Psi U, as even in US states and Canadian provinces where we do not yet have chapters, there are few places that are not touched by our brotherhood in one way or another. Kentucky is no different. One of our brethren, Brother F. M. Sackett, Sigma (Brown University) 1890, served as US Senator from Kentucky in the early part of the 20th century. Brother Sackett, originally from Rhode Island, took up the practice of law in Louisville after graduating from Harvard Law School. In addition to serving as US Senator, Brother Sackett was also appointed as Ambassador to Germany during the Hoover Administration. Brother Sackett is an excellent example of how our membership find ways to lead and contribute to our communities, both those into which we are born and those that we adopt as our own.

As we gather in Lexington to renew our vows of Brotherhood, I am happy to report that the state of our Fraternity remains excellent. We continue to grow the numbers of our brotherhood and strengthen the whole Fraternity as we strengthen the quality and quantity of the membership at our individual chapters. We currently number over 1,400 undergraduate members, which is a particularly strong position for our membership and is among the largest the undergraduate membership of our Fraternity has ever been. The addition of 484 new members in the past academic year is one of the largest increases in membership in decades. It is a testament to the strength of our Fraternity that we continue to provide meaningful connection and a sense of community to so many of our undergraduate members while we continue to expand the size, and the number, of our Chapters.

The Fraternity is also well positioned to increase the number of active Chapters on our chapter roll. We continue to see interest from groups on a variety of campuses, and continue to build on the momentum we have seen with our addition in recent years of the Tau Epsilon Provisional Chapter (Clemson University) and our colony at Purdue University. We enthusiastically welcome the Phi Chapter's (University of Michigan) successful return to active status in Ann Arbor. The Executive Council and the staff are also reviewing the conditions for the return of the Chi (Cornell University) and the Iota (Kenyon College) Chapters in the near future.

But Psi U is more than the sum of our numbers, or just a collection of intelligent, resourceful, ambitious, and like-minded individuals. We have shown the relevance of our membership and the conviction of our members in the ways in which our members have strengthened and improved our communities, our campuses, and our host institutions:

The Phi Nu Chapter (Christopher Newport University) created a mentorship program to help underprivileged students at Hidenwood Elementary School in Newport News, VA, with their schoolwork and to provide mentorship and guidance. This program is so successful it has been extended to the entire Christopher Newport University community.

The Lambda Sigma Chapter (Pepperdine University) has raised over \$100,000 to endow a university scholarship in memory of Brother Cameron Lee Johnson, who passed away unexpectedly in 2016.

The Rho Chapter (University of Wisconsin) expanded their successful program to combat sexual assault on campus. “We're Better Than That - Men Against Sexual Assault” is a program designed to educate and engage the male student population in ending sexual violence, designed and first implemented by the Rho.

The Tau Chapter (University of Pennsylvania) achieved “Gold” status accreditation from the university, and was the only chapter to do so. The accreditation program evaluates chapters on academic achievement, membership development, civic engagement and relationships with the broader community.

The Delta Nu Chapter (Keene State College) received recognition as the outstanding Greek organization of the year. This award is based on noteworthy projects conducted by the chapter, the observable ways the chapter upholds our ideals, and the contribution by the Delta Nu to the overall student experience at Keene State College.

The Zeta Chapter (Dartmouth College) raised over \$11,000 for the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center, the only National Cancer Center Institute-designated Comprehensive Care Center in northern New England, and over 750 hours volunteering in support of the Special Olympics.

The Upsilon Chapter (University of Rochester) established a signature philanthropy event in support of National Breast Cancer Foundation, and raised funds for the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, and have helped out at multiple events with the Boy Scouts of America, including Scouting For Food and the Boy Scouts retreat

The Zeta Zeta Chapter (University of British Columbia) raised over \$12,000 for the benefit of multiple charities, and participated in over 1,000 hours of community service. One Brother even created a new non-profit to provide aid to the homeless population in Vancouver.

The Fraternity remains fiscally healthy. On behalf of Psi Upsilon I extend my thanks to our loyal Brothers who contribute to the fundraising efforts of the Fraternity and Foundation; you are making a difference for our members, and by extension the communities in which we live.

Among the alumni who contribute to the Fraternity, in time, talent and treasure, are those Brothers who are members of the Executive Council. Executive Council members are volunteers who pay their own expenses to support Psi U and who support the Fraternity and Foundation through recurring leadership gifts.

Please join me in appreciation of the all the hard work and generosity of the members of the Executive Council: Samuel J. Tinaglia, Omega '88, vice president; Laura King, Chi Delta '04, secretary; Lew Finkelstein, Omicron '83, treasurer; and the alumni term members; Jeremy McKeon, Eta '08; Matt Eckenrode, Epsilon Nu '04; Patrick Gilrane, Psi '83; Jay LaPanne, Delta Nu '89; Greg Rupp, Phi '81; past presidents and Life Members: Tom T. Allan IV, Theta Theta '89; Mark D. Bauer, Omega '83; David A.B. Brown, Epsilon Phi '66; Charles M. Hall, Nu Alpha '71; Richard A. Rasmussen, Upsilon '72; and James A. Swanke, Jr., Rho '80; the Honorary Life Members Jeb Becker II, Psi '61; Bradley R. Corner, Omicron '72; Murray Eskenazi, Lambda '56; Chuck Werner, Omega '55; and William Wishard III, Delta Delta '64. In addition to the alumni members of the Executive Council, we also have two elected undergraduate members who join us at our meetings. I'd like to thank Daniel Shippen, Zeta Zeta '18; and Stuart Slayton, Lambda Sigma '17 for their service to the fraternity.

I also want to thank the officers and directors of the Psi Upsilon Foundation for their support of the mission of Psi Upsilon Fraternity. Chairman Patrick Gilrane, Psi '83 is supported by vice-chairman Alex Senchak, Eta '06; secretary Jessica Frame, Gamma Tau '07; treasurer Tim Zepp, Chi Delta '08; and directors Matt Eckenrode, Epsilon Nu '04; Lew Finkelstein, Omicron '83; Gary Pan, Eta '86, Bob Peterson, Omicron '68, and past chairman Sam Tinaglia, Omega '88.

Over the past year, the Executive Council and Foundation Board have embarked on a Strategic Plan for Psi Upsilon. I commend the leadership of Psi U for embracing the challenge of charting a strategy for our 184 year old organization, and the dedication and devotion such an undertaking represents. I am pleased to report that much progress has been made in this endeavor, and the we will be sharing the draft strategic plan by the next Convention.

I am also pleased to be able to work with our Executive Director, Tom Fox, Omicron '00, as Executive Director of the Fraternity. As many of you know, Brother Fox is a committed member of the Fraternity and works tirelessly to keep our brotherhood operating efficiently and to improve our relationships with the critical staff at our host institutions that make our existence possible.

I would like to recognize and thank Dominic House, Lambda Sigma '15 who is leaving Psi Upsilon after serving for 2 years as our Chapter Leadership Consultant. Dominic has served in this position with distinction and we wish him the best of luck for the future as he returns to his native California.

We also welcome Levi El Fattal, Upsilon '17, who joins our staff as a new Chapter Leadership Consultant. Levi will be working directly with the chapters to improve operations and develop their leaders.

I also would like to specifically thank Mark Williams, Phi '76, for his over 27 years of service to Psi Upsilon. Mark first served as Executive Director of the Fraternity and has in recent years been in the role of President and CEO of the Psi Upsilon Foundation, and also as general counsel of the Fraternity. Mark has recently announced that he will be retiring at the end of this year, and we cannot thank him enough for his years of selfless devotion to Psi U, in making our professional organization operate efficiently, and in developing our Fraternity's leadership at both the undergraduate and board levels. He will be missed, but I hope he will be able to stay involved in our lifelong brotherhood.

As we take the time over the coming days to think about what Psi Upsilon means to each of us and how we can best chart its course for the coming year, I greet you with the words of Charles Dudley Warner, Psi '1851, who spoke at the semi-centennial Convention banquet in Albany, in 1883, and said:

Brothers of the Psi Upsilon, I greet you with brotherly love and confidence. I am proud of the association, of its membership, of its record; I believe in its future. That however, is largely in the hands of the active members. You can keep up and advance its standard. Let us be, however under no illusions. We cannot all be governors and senators and presidents; we can only be worthy to be.

As we ponder well our words and actions at this Convention, let us, in Brother Warner's words, strive to advance Psi Upsilon's standard, and be worthy of all that to which we have been entrusted.

Yours in the bonds,

Evan W. Terry, Epsilon Phi '93
President, Executive Council
June 17, 2017