



THE *of Psi Upsilon* REVIEW

One Brother's Quest to Lead His Chapter (Back) to Greatness

Donor Profile: Philip Timon, Tau '86 (*University of Pennsylvania*)

Spring 2015



When Philip Timon, Tau '86 (University of Pennsylvania) arrived on campus at Penn, he found that almost all student groups including college houses and fraternities, attracted students with narrowly defined, specific interests. "You could point to the "X" house and say 'Oh, the soccer team lives there. The preppy Niedermeyers are over there or those guys are pre-med.'"

But Philip saw that Psi Upsilon was decidedly different. "Their brotherhood was like the 'everything' house," Philip says. "As I saw it, one of the major benefits of attending a great university was to experience diversity and a broadening — but Penn didn't do a particularly good job at facilitating that. When I saw the guys at The Castle (the nickname of the Psi U house), they were from all sorts of backgrounds and majors and faiths. That was the number one selling point in my joining."

Fraternities can help members learn to be leaders and Philip took full advantage of the Tau's opportunities to advance his confidence and skills. "I was treasurer and vice president. I ran for president and lost — so I even learned to appreciate the wisdom of diverse crowds since I came to realize they actually made the best choice."

Philip says that having to raise money, run the house, manage the labyrinthine Penn bureaucracy, and work toward common goals were all exceptional preparation for the real world. "I learned the guiding principle that it's

not about what I can do, but how can we get 45 guys to do something that I alone could never personally accomplish."

When Timon graduated in 1986, the management major accepted an offer from an elder Psi U brother he'd met a year earlier. "Part of the reason I'm so loyal to Psi U is because of Bob Bodine, Tau '65. He came in for homecoming my junior year. We got to know each other, and eventually he decided to get involved with our chapter. We worked well together on some fundraising projects. His business happened to be doing what I wanted to do, long-term investing, right in Philadelphia. This also made me believe in and evangelize the value of undergrads interacting with alums. It was great for me, but Bob also benefited from being able to recruit a great coworker in a fully informed way."



In 1990, the Tau Chapter was kicked off Penn's campus when a rogue pledge master involved a number of the pledges and brothers in a sordid and ill-conceived

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cap. At that point, the alumni asked Philip to head the alumni corporation and lead the effort to recolonize and earn Penn's permission to return to the Castle. Few guessed what a Herculean effort it would require. "I was basically starting from scratch. For the next seven years, I worked closely with the Penn administration, our alumni, and the International Fraternity to get our house back while trying to get a student group that was interested in finding a new place of belonging. That was hard, since for so many years there'd been no Psi U presence at Penn and we had no home."

Like a phoenix which arises from the ashes of an all-consuming fire, the Tau Chapter rejoined the Greek landscape at the university in 1997. Its ascent since has borne the unmistakable mark of one man whose dedication and commitment is rooted in the Psi Upsilon principles he himself learned at the chapter three decades ago. After turning over the reins in 1998, Philip only worked behind the scenes until 2013 when he was encouraged by his brothers to take the lead again.

This time the goal is more than survival or relevance, it is to take the Tau to a higher level than it has ever achieved. In early 2014, Timon launched a major funding effort to secure the future for The Castle and its brothers. Later that spring, the Tau chapter of Psi Upsilon swept up at Penn's Greek awards banquet, and Timon was named outstanding alumni board officer as he had been back in 1997.

Reinstituting an outstanding meal plan and launching a new alumni website are two of the most recent enhancements. "The Tau has everything it needs to go from a great organization to a truly preeminent institution of leadership and learning in the Northeast," Timon insists. "We're working hard to make this chapter what it can and should be ... Both alumni and undergraduates have a great deal to gain by working closely together. Lifelong association in Psi Upsilon is a privilege, not an obligation."

Philip Timon was recently awarded Psi Upsilon's Distinguished Alumni Service Award. As chief investment officer for Endowment Capital Group, he's had over two decades experience as a successful portfolio manager for clients including the endowments of Yale, MIT, Princeton, Notre Dame, Columbia, Stanford and the University of Chicago.

Timon is on the investment committees of the Delaware Community Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware and is a current or past trustee of The Pine School (Stuart, FL), Westminster Presbyterian Church (Wilmington, DE), Psi Upsilon of Philadelphia, Psi Upsilon Fraternity Executive Council and The Castle Foundation (New York). He lives with his wife Isabella in Chadds Ford, PA with their six children.

Empowering Brothers With What They Need to Succeed

Undergraduate Spotlight: Jack Sherrer, Lambda Sigma '15 (Pepperdine University)



One thing Jack Sherrer knew he wanted out of college was adventure. In 2010, he traveled cross-country from his hometown in Columbus, Georgia, searching out which institution

might satisfy his drive for that, while also being close-knit and intimate, with a strong commitment to both academic excellence and Christian values.

Jack ended up on the opposite side of the country, on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, at a school accepting around 800 freshmen that year.

"I found everything at Pepperdine University," the senior recalls. Jack wasn't planning to join a fraternity when he arrived freshman year, "because I didn't think it would be something very important to me. But what I found here wasn't what I was expecting."

As Jack began checking out several of the school's five fraternities, something stood out about Psi Upsilon. "A lot of alumni were coming out for our recruiting events — I loved meeting these older brothers. Not many chapters showed this kind of involvement from their previous graduates, so I could see that was a sign of strength."

Psi U's values solidified the deal. "So, the four core values are brotherhood, service,

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excellence and leadership. I'm very rooted in my faith, and I wanted my participation in a fraternity to be an extension of that. There's this short prayer I say each day: "I want to give a little bit at some cost to myself." And I could see our Lambda Sigma chapter being the place to do that."

Jack wasted little time serving his brothers, accepting the position of new member historian his freshman year. In calendar year 2013 he served as treasurer, followed by a yearlong term as archon.

"Those positions were very challenging. When I took over as treasurer, I had to make a lot of hard decisions... our collection rate was around 65% and it had become a cultural norm for many not to pay dues."

Jack began in earnest to turn things around. He completely cut all discretionary expenses, including the social budget, and hiked the dues. He set more stringent rules for members who'd fallen behind on their dues, not ruling out utilizing an outside collection agent as a last resort. "That was tough. But at the same time, for guys who were genuinely having a hard time financially, I worked really hard to help them individually find solutions to equip them to succeed. We'd rewrite resumes, connect them with some job sources, whatever tools and support they needed. I found that if they were in Psi U for the right reasons, they were very willing to pay their dues."

In his first semester as treasurer, Jack improved collections to over 99%. "We're in a much better position today ... we just needed kind of a culture change, with some brothers needing a push or guidance in the right direction."

Sherrer found Lambda Sigma's significant involvement in philanthropy to be one of the most positive and surprising aspects of life with Psi U. "Our chapter won

an award for service and philanthropy last year from Pepperdine. Our brothers actually served a third of all the volunteer hours last year of all undergraduate students at the University."

As he graduates and moves on to life beyond college, Jack reflects on his efforts to leaving his chapter a better place than he found it. "I hope that some of the changes I helped put into place with some specific improvement measures will help our members stay more accountable to themselves and to each other. The balance between 'tradition' and staying relevant has been a challenge.

In my opinion, if you give your members a framework to succeed that's clear and attainable, they will attain it! I try to really listen to the needs of others — balance individual brothers' interests with the interests of the group is one of the hardest things to do."

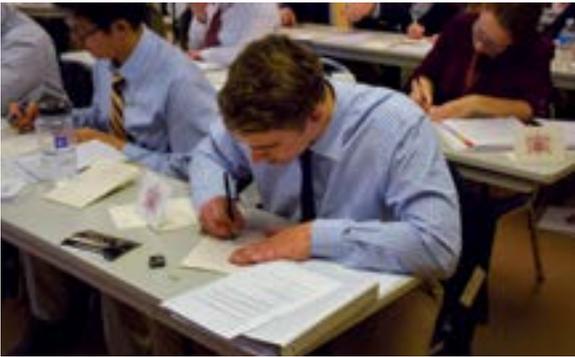
Jack says he knows he is fulfilling his purpose by his involvement in Psi U. "Coming out to California from rural Georgia, I definitely needed a tight-knit community to belong to. I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to take things to the next level, so I made a purposeful decision to dedicate all my efforts to Psi U. And I think that's paying off."

After graduation, he hopes to continue involvement in part by helping to implement a formalized alumni mentoring/networking program at his chapter, giving members a leveraged advantage over their peers. "In my opinion, that's a tremendously powerful resource for both the student members and the alumni, and it builds a sense of connection and indebtedness." Sherrer says he would like to see the effort spread internationally.

Jack Sherrer is graduating as a business administration major with a minor in French. He was awarded Psi U's Albert C. Jacobs scholarship grant and Pepperdine's "Greek President of the Year" designation in 2014. He was recently elected as one of two undergraduate members of the Executive Council of Psi Upsilon and also serves his chapter's standards and ethics board. Undecided on his path after graduation, he notes, "I know wherever I am, I'm going to make a difference for other people ... I need to be doing something that makes me happy, and if I'm in a purpose-driven career, I'll be happy."



22nd Annual Archons Academy Gets Rave Reviews



Chapter leaders from 26 chapters gathered for a weekend at the International Office in Indianapolis in January.

Three seniors, twelve juniors and eleven sophomores discussed effective strategies for leading their chapters and shared the challenges and successes they have experienced in their chapter. Tom Fox, executive director and Mike Thibideau, director of chapter services presented sessions on Psi U values and ritual, managing a crisis in the chapter, and how to have difficult conversations to implement change. Mark Williams, president of The Psi Upsilon Foundation discussed the history and traditions of the Fraternity.

Thanks to Annual Fund contributions, these brothers were able to attend at no cost to themselves or their chapters. The Archons Academy has proven to build bonds between chapters and improve communications between the staff and chapters.



SOME OF THE COMMENTS AT THE CLOSE OF THE ACADEMY INCLUDED:

"I can't wait to take this back to my chapter."

"I'm approximately three weeks in the position and I didn't know what I wanted to do. I do now."

"I'm not used to being in a leadership position and now I feel prepared."

"Being Archon is an intimidating job; it's good to know we have a support system. I'm proud to be a brother."

"I now have the perspective that the Fraternity is more than just my chapter."



Psi U Career Day and Mentoring Program to be piloted in more chapters

A college degree does not guarantee success in life after graduation. Certain skills are learned in the classroom but much more is needed to find satisfying work and well being in life. Students and young alumni must learn to develop and manage meaningful relationships. It is these relationships that lead to success in and after college.

The Psi Chapter at Hamilton College is developing a model career and mentoring program that over the past three years has become increasingly more successful each year. The program provides benefits to the individual, the chapter and the college. Even more importantly, as Psi U's succeed in life after college it benefits our families, our economy and our country.

Paul Freyer, Psi '74 has been instrumental in establishing the program at Hamilton College. "We have improved our relationship with Hamilton College by partnering with the career services office." According to Paul, job placement is not the goal of the program, but its success resulted in every Psi senior finding a job last year.

Building on the Psi model, Psi Upsilon wants to help the Psi "share what we have learned in the process with more Psi U chapters." At this summer's Leadership Institute in East Lansing there will be a program discussing how to present a "Career Day" where undergraduates refine their interviewing skills and prepare effective resumes that are reviewed by alumni. The Psi learned that these programs need to include recent grads who share their experience in their first jobs after graduation.

According to Paul Freyer, "This is a great way to give alumni an opportunity to stay involved, meet more brothers and strengthen friendships across generations of brothers."





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Epsilon Nu to Host 172nd Psi U Convention

The 172nd Psi Upsilon Convention will be held in East Lansing, Michigan under the auspices of the Epsilon Nu chapter at Michigan State University. Each chapter is required to send three official delegates to the Convention – two undergraduate brothers and one alumnus. The official delegates cast votes on resolutions presented before the governing body of Psi Upsilon.

More than three brothers can and should attend the weekend long Convention. Educational programming will include tracks for alumni and undergrads.

In addition, brothers are encouraged to bring their families and friends for the social activities. This year, our host chapter is sponsoring a riverboat dinner cruise, which will be an event not to be missed.

Watch for an invitation to attend the Convention, either in total, or in separate events such as the scholarship luncheon, the awards banquet and the dinner cruise. More information is online at www.psiu.org