

XI OF PSI UPSILON APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER



Xi Chapter

Brothers,

First of all, I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family in high spirits and good health. Moving to online classes has been a universally uncomfortable experience both for students and professors. The series of zoom meetings, audio lectures, blog posts, and increased workloads have not been as favorable as the warm winds greening the grass at Wesleyan. More importantly, all undergraduate brothers remain in good health and are in frequent communication both as friends and for our ongoing weekly chapter meetings. Though this has been a trying time for us all, there are always many positives to consider.

Brother Asher Leeming reports uplifting news about the environmental betterment taking place in various parts of the world. He writes, “as global production grinds to a halt, we’ve seen blue skies over Beijing, clear water in the Venice canals, and visibility of the Himalayas from India for the first time in years.” He adds that this is an incredible opportunity for us to fundamentally change our practices in support of sustainability to see the recovery of our planet continue as vivaciously as it has as a result of the pandemic. Although the semester was cut short, Brother Asher had a very positive impact as the Sustainability Chair. His work only had time to center on ways to reduce waste in the house, but he has larger aspirations for the future; the largest is to reach carbon neutrality in the house by the time of his graduation in 2022, a goal we that we can all support with better practices. For more information about the health of our planet and various environmental facts, Asher can be reached by email at aleeming@wesleyan.edu.

In other news, Brother Lars Delin co-started the initiative Support A Pal aimed at “...connecting people in an unconventional way by pairing participants with individuals generations removed.” This is done by regular calls with especially isolated individuals to share stories and enjoy a conversation. He goes on to explain that the elderly population is among the hardest hit not only by the direct impacts of the virus, but also by the isolating nature of this time. He is looking for people of any age to get involved and can be reached by email at ldelin@wesleyan.edu.



Former Archon Esme Lytle was awarded the Outstanding Junior Award by Psi Upsilon's national chapter for upholding our core virtues and contributing so much well-spent time to the Xi.

Finally, Brother Wei-Ling Carrigan III has been awarded with the Griffin Award for Senior Excellence as a result of her outstanding painting thesis. Wei has held a position in the Xi every semester since her freshman year and is a double-major in American Studies and Studio Art. While actively searching for a job to start after graduating this May, she is using this time to take painting commissions; feel free to inquire about any specific work that you would like done by emailing her at wcarrigan@wesleyan.edu. I encourage you to check out her work on Instagram @weilingcarrigan.

Looking from the optimistic perspective of having in-person classes this fall, current pledges will pick up from where they left off in their process towards initiation. This will likely coincide with a push of fall rush to the spring of 2021. The pledges have already bonded enough to continue to stay in contact with each other during this most-unexpected break. More information about each individual will be sent once we initiate the chosen few in the fall.

Switching subjects yet again, my Wesleyan email was hacked so if you had sent me any message that went unanswered, please resend it; my deepest apologies for the lag-time.

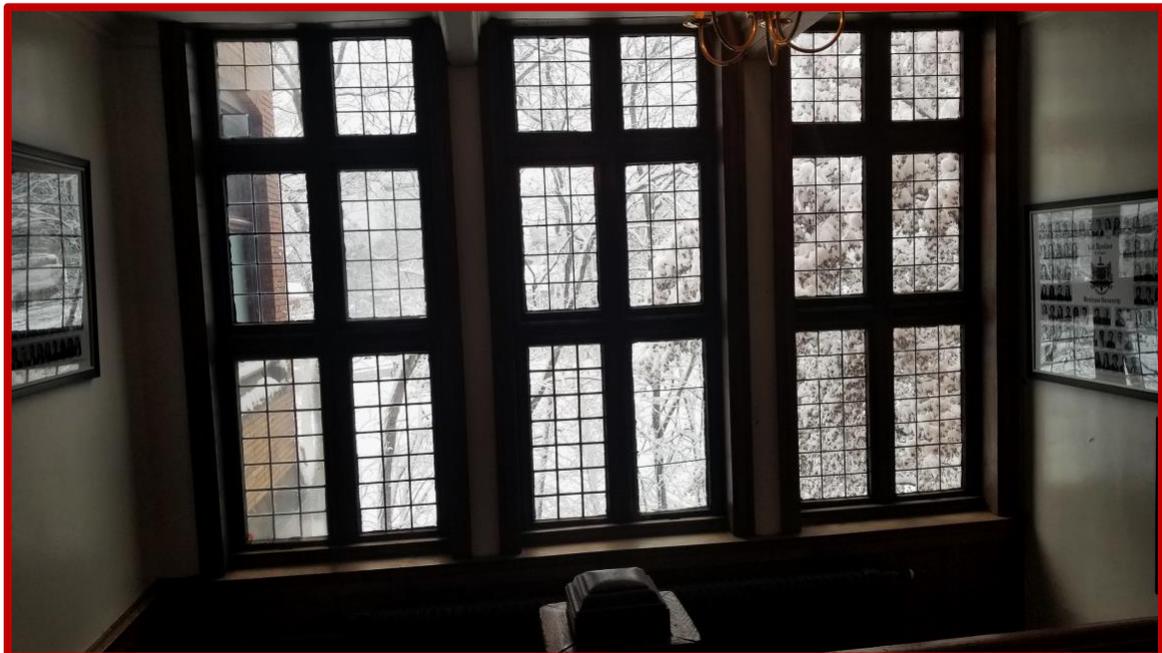
Below you will find a flurry of pictures from the semester right up until it was so abruptly cut off. Featured here is dusk settling in behind our glorious Foss Hill.





Above features a decadently informal brother dinner.

Below, falling snow peacefully shines onto the main stairs one Sunday morning.





Photographed above is our lovely Brother Esme

Below features a sharp picture of Brother Lars (left) and the other co-founder of Support a Pal.





Here we see Brother Wei-Ling with a few pieces from her award-winning thesis.

A stormy panoramic of Wesleyan's intentionally ambiguous center of campus glows with beauty ([here](#) is a book outlining Wesleyan's creation and history).





On a more personal note, I (left) was repatriated from Peru a few weeks ago.

Above are pictures from the Salkantay trek that I completed with three Wesleyan friends. As the first group to complete the closed trail this year, we emerged to connectivity only to discover both that Wesleyan had decided to



move classes online and that the Peruvian border would be closed to even foreigners trying to leave for at least fifteen days (though it remains closed six weeks later). Rather comically, you can find me on the CT news [here](#).

Donate

Please consider gifting the Xi with a donation to the Xi of Psi Upsilon fund. These donations are integral in maintaining and improving our beautiful chapter house. To do so, simply click [here](#) or make checks payable to the Xi Chapter of Psi Upsilon; address: Lichtenstein Financial Services, 25 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

If you wish to donate to the aforementioned fund that Brother Martha Wedner and I have opened to focus on the immediate improvement of equipment and various other aspects of the house, that can be done [here](#).

We sincerely thank all who have already contributed to either of these funds. Your help is vital to this fraternity.

Contact

To paraphrase Welcome Brothers: though the storm is raging high and deep darkness occasionally rules the sky (it is spring after all), keep in mind that there is still a beacon light bursting from Psi Upsilon. More pointedly, now is an especially great time to connect with brothers both of your time and of the present through our LinkedIn group Xi of Psi Upsilon which can be accessed [here](#). Please join and consider posting and connecting with other brothers!

Lastly, please communicate with me! We would like to hear any ideas, questions, or concerns that you have in addition to some history about your experience as a brother. I am most easily reachable through my phone, +1 860-929-1083, and by email, ncotteleerii@wesleyan.edu.

