

THE OWL



BETA BETA CHAPTER OF PSI Upsilon ♦ TRINITY COLLEGE – CONNECTICUT ♦ FALL 2020

Message from the President



Brothers:

First and foremost, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones both safe and optimistic as we continue to navigate these unprecedented circumstances. I know these times have been filled with levels of stress and uncertainty, but they have also brought out the best in our group, with solidarity, camaraderie and resiliency shifting to the forefront.

As we shift to the “new normal” in every aspect of our lives, the Colt Trust Inc. has adopted new ways to stay connected with the undergraduate chapter, making sure every effort is taken to keep them safe during this pandemic so we can all continue to work toward our common goal in strengthening the future of the chapter.

In this spirit, the chapter has also launched this initiative to create stronger connectivity with the Beta Beta alumni community. We want to thank Ben Williams '58 for his support in helping to bring this effort to fruition. Now more than ever, the future stability and sustainability of Beta Beta and The Colt Trust relies on the support from our alumni base.

Please know that members of The Colt Trust board take our role as the stewards of 81 Vernon St. very seriously, and there are a number of programs we are exploring that will set the chapter up for long-term success, as well

continued on page 4

Alumni Spotlight: Rhoden Monroe '09



*EDITOR'S NOTE: For this edition of the newsletter, we're shining the spotlight on Brother **Rhoden Monroe '09**. From the hometown of Laborie, St. Lucia, Rhoden moved to New York City at age 12 with his family. After graduating with a degree in economics from Trinity, Rhoden has fast-tracked his career with an ambitious move into the position of founder and CEO of CariClub, a talent acquisition company in the nonprofit industry. CariClub was recently named by Built in NYC as one of “50 startups to watch in 2018,” and Rhoden was recently featured on Causeartist as one of “14 social entrepreneurs of color making history through social innovation.” CariClub was previously named by CB Insights as one of “21 nonprofit and charity tech startups to watch.” Aside from Rhoden's professional achievements, as an undergraduate member, he was honored by Trinity College with The Gary McQuaid Award.*

What did you enjoy most as an undergrad chapter member?

The Beta Beta Chapter at Trinity College is no doubt one of the more fun chapters, so there was never a dull moment as an undergrad chapter member; let's just leave it at that! In fact, our events were so much fun that we would frequently host brothers who would travel far just to experience a weekend or a night at our house. I'm grateful for the many friendships that came from my time as an undergrad chapter member, many of which have lasted to

this day. During homecoming weekend, I also enjoyed connecting with older alumni who would visit the house each year and tell me stories about their own experiences as undergrad chapter members while teaching me their version of the rules to their favorite games. Some of those alumni eventually became mentors of mine, and they've opened many doors that accelerated my professional development.

How did your college experience help you along the way?

continued on page 4

The Beta Beta Chapter of Psi U recently received two awards at the 2020 Psi Upsilon Digital Summit.



The Garnet and Gold award was given to chapters whose average GPA was higher than non-Greek students on campus.



The Clasped Hand award was given to those chapters that showed exceptional dedication toward a philanthropic event. We were given the award for the Pink the Rink fundraiser, which raised over \$50,000 for breast-cancer awareness.

From the Chapter President



The past year has been an incredible time of growth for the Beta Beta Chapter. The brotherhood welcomed in over 25 new members last

year who all possess the character of upholding our values. The brotherhood had an unprecedented amount of success and involvement in academics, philanthropy, and athletics. The current brotherhood is proud of our 23 varsity athletes, who include three captains and all-American hockey player **Mike Grande '21**.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, Trinity has put forth many precautions that have made the fall semester look unusual. With strong help from The Colt Trust, we were able to figure out ways to allow brothers to safely come back to the house. The college has mandated that there be no more than 10 people inside a house, along with a 25-person capacity for outdoors. Furthermore, there are to be no social gatherings at Greek-letter organizations. Despite the restrictions imposed on all students, we created a system in which groups of 10 brothers can still come to grab lunch and dinner at the house, as well as get together for brotherhood events. Although events such as the Around the World formal, Thursday-night dinners, and Homecoming will no longer be possible, it is great to be back on campus.

YITB,
Eric Thronson



Chapter Spotlight: Tejas "TJ" Agnihotri

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Representing the chapter in the spotlight is Brother **Tejas "TJ" Agnihotri '21**. From the hometown of Needham, Massachusetts, TJ is on track to graduate next spring with a degree in economics. On campus, TJ serves as VP of Consulting Club and secretary of the South Asian Student Association. He worked with professors in the econ department to create a senior seminar called "Slavery & American Capitalism" and will be the teacher's assistant for that class. Additionally, he serves as the chapter's external vice president and has worked closely with some alumni to generate better communications and networking opportunities.*



TJ and his mother at his high school graduation.

What led you to join the chapter?

I think Psi U has an interesting makeup of different types of people with common interest. I was fond of the bonds that older groups had made and wanted to be a part of that. I've found, through communication with older alumni, that these bonds are strong and remain intact well after graduation.

What are some of the changes that the chapter will implement this semester (COVID impact)?

Scheduled eating times and more emphasis on social services as opposed to organized events and parties. It is important we stand behind the school's mission to safely educate the student body.

How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

In every way possible. Economics is one of the most versatile degrees, which is why so many of our graduates enter differing areas of work.

What have you done to prepare?

I developed a network that will allow me to figure out how to best align my skill set with my passions. I am currently interning with a VC group that specializes in mid-market to lower-market tech

companies. This summer, I've also kept busy doing some independent consulting work for three different companies, and that has been a cool experience. One of these companies, OrbisPay, was especially interesting to me after my VC group worked with them. I plan on working for OrbisPay through the school year, which will be exciting. Another company, SmartShare, involved collaboration with Trinity's new chairman of the board, Lisa Bisaccia, who serves as an executive VP at CVS. That project is ongoing, so I will be working on it through the fall.

During my freshman and sophomore summers, I worked at an early-staged private-equity firm out of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and worked within the renewable-energy space, which really shifted my attention away from other

interest and into the finance/business world. I've been especially grateful for the connections that I have made through Trinity, some of which are Psi U. I hope to open my network to my peers so they can have similar opportunities.

Outside of school, what do you do for fun?

Anything active. I love watching and playing sports.



TJ and Ben Macshane '19 at a Trinity event.

Ben Williams '58 spends his time working at Beverly Farms and enjoys visiting and working with undergraduate brothers. Ben has been invaluable in the new communication efforts for the alumni chapter. His generosity and dedication to our success is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Ben!

Peter Duncan '81 participated in the Career Development Center's Finance Speaker Series: "Careers in Commercial Real Estate" this past fall. Peter also serves on the board of trustees for Trinity.

Brothers **Bryant Zanko '87** and **Rhoden Monrose '09** serve on the board of fellows and provide counsel to the college on how to improve all aspects of the Trinity community.

Brothers **Jay Monahan '93**, **Sam Kennedy '95**, and **Billy Hogan '96** participated in the Trinity ZOOM panel "At the Top of Their Game: Alumni Leading Professional Sports."



Jay Monahan '93 (bottom left), Sam Kennedy '95 (bottom right), and Billy Hogan '96 (top left)

Jay is the acting PGA commissioner, while Sam is the CEO and president of the Boston Red Sox. Billy works with the Liverpool Football Club as the chief commercial officer.

Leave A Legacy

Consider a lasting gift that will support Psi Upsilon long after you are gone. By including Beta Beta in your estate plans, you ensure the long-term health and success of our fraternity. The most common ways to include Beta Beta are through your will or life insurance. Consult a lawyer or your agent for assistance.

We need your assistance in making new connections. Please send your new member referrals to chapter President Eric Thronson at ethronson8@gmail.com.

Unto us has befallen a mighty friendship. Together, we can build an even stronger presence for Psi Upsilon.

Have Alumni News?

We want to hear from you! Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our account manager Kasey Breedlove at kbreedlove@elevateims.com, or simply fill out the enclosed news form and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of *The Owl*!

Community Service Update



Due to our shortened semester, there was a lot of food left over at the house. The brothers and Chef Dan Bergeron decided the food should be given out to those in need. Dan decided to partner with a local restaurant, 5 and Dine, to prepare free meals for residents in the community, first responders, and homeless shelters. As the food began to run out, current brothers and other organizations in the Hartford community chipped in to support the program throughout the summer.



For recent graduate and new alumnus **Ben Ferrucci '20** (pictured above playing for the Trinity lacrosse team), son of Bantam lacrosse player **Paul Ferrucci '86** (M'08 in economics), nephew of **Steve Skillman '93** and **David Ferrucci '90**, and grandson of **Peter Ferrucci '58**, it was always clear that Trinity would be at the forefront of his college search.

Beta Beta 140th

We need your support! Help us meet our goal of \$40,000 to be distributed as follows:

- ◆ \$10,000 for the house
- ◆ \$10,000 for scholarship
- ◆ \$10,000 for celebration
- ◆ \$10,000 for communications



Giving is easy! Simply complete the enclosed gift form and return it in the enclosed return envelope. With your support, we can do great things.

Rhoden Monroe '09

continued from page 1

For starters, I built my very first company while I was a student at Trinity, and I was even able to create an economics independent study around the idea, so I was able to get academic credit. The company was called TrinSnacks; it was basically like Seamless or Grubhub, except we were the only vendor selling Coke products on campus (Trinity only sold Pepsi products at the time). Beyond that, the Trinity College alumni have been invaluable mentors, advisors, board members, and investors. The Trinity alumni are far and away the most reliable and receptive group to whom I continue to reach out well after graduating Trinity. I am grateful for the generosity and support of all those whom I've connected with along the way.

When did you feel inspired to begin your new venture?

I began my career as a derivatives trader at Citigroup. While the work was rewarding, it felt like something was missing, and I tried to fill the void by working harder. In 2011, I found a circle of like-minded individuals who found purpose in using their time, talent, and money to make an impact through nonprofit engagement. My personal experiences with nonprofit organizations helped fuel the passion to develop a technology platform where other young professionals could have the opportunity to engage with nonprofits at a higher level.

Message from the President

continued from page 1

as keeping the chapter focused and vigilant on the near-term challenges to make sure our community remains safe from the effects of COVID.

It is my honor to serve this brotherhood, and there will be growth from this experience. I look forward to being in touch with all of you and sharing our plans for growth.

YITB,
Kevin Collins '11



From there came the idea of CariClub, a unique online platform strategically positioned at the intersection of corporate citizenship and leadership development.

How does CariClub work?

CariClub unlocks the potential within each individual to become a driving force for good. We are the world's only premium network connecting young professionals to leadership roles on nonprofit boards. Provided as an employee benefit paid for by employers, our unique platform offers members a database of over 1,000 nonprofits to choose from. Our matching algorithms provide carefully curated matches based on member experiences and demonstrated interests. If that description didn't make sense, you can simply just think of CariClub as the Tinder or OKCupid of nonprofit board-matching, except, instead of helping you to find a date, we're helping you to find a board position with a nonprofit that is involved with a cause that you are passionate about.

Why do you feel it's important to give back to the community?

I grew up in Harlem, New York, after emigrating from Saint Lucia at the age of 12. With the help of nonprofits, I had the opportunity to attend Middlesex School before earning a scholarship to Trinity College. Upon graduating, I began my career as a derivatives trader at Citigroup.

My company was founded as a way to pay it forward and give back to the nonprofit universe. Nonprofit organizations played a key role in altering the trajectory of my life. I never would've been able to get to where I was without them.

I also found immense value in joining the associate board of Row New York, and it gave purpose to my life outside of work. CariClub was created so that other young professionals can do the same, all while propelling their careers forward through hands-on leadership experiences.

Which achievements are you most proud of at CariClub?

We recently conducted a survey of our most engaged members and gleaned some key insights: 60% feel that joining a board using CariClub has improved their overall work-life balance; 87% think that CariClub membership enhances a firm's ability to recruit and retain talent; and 100% feel that access to associate board service strengthened their desire to stay with their current company to some extent.

Outside of work, what do you do for fun?

My favorite hobby is charcoal drawing. I've always enjoyed drawing, but I learned how to draw with charcoal in high school, and I've been excited about it ever since. I was also very involved with sports, especially soccer and rowing, in both high school and college. I'm on the associate board of a nonprofit organization called Row New York, so I'm still involved in the sport, even today.

What advice can you give the undergrads and alumni about success?

Know the value of perseverance. I can't tell you how many times people have said "no" to me in different ways throughout the life of CariClub. Don't let those rejections get you down. Instead, treat them as a challenge; use them as fuel to power you through and to prove your value.