

The Whippoorwill

Eta Chapter of Psi Upsilon Fraternity – Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

November 2020

Eta's take over Psi U Fraternity and Foundation, plus win Psi U award!

Did you know that our Eta brothers have the top leadership positions in both the Fraternity and the Foundation? Jeremy McKeon [Eta '08] is serving as President of the Fraternity's Executive Council. Alex Senchak [Eta '06] is serving as President and Chairman of the Psi Upsilon Foundation Board of Directors. Jeremy and Alex have been active in these boards for the past few years. Additionally, Dan Coviello [Eta '13] recently was awarded a Psi U Social Impact Fellowship grant. This newly established award aims to recognize and assist alumni who are dedicating their professional and personal lives to improving our communities and society. You will see details in the upcoming issue of the Psi U *Beacon* arriving electronically later this month. Congratulations and thanks to all three.

Undergraduate Report:

Needless to say, things have been far from normal since March. Once the dust settled on the aborted spring semester, brothers – especially rising sophomores – had to make hard decisions on what to do about housing for this current year. Everyone knew that competition for South-side housing was going to be tight if Lehigh announced the closure of campus. Whereas the University did not make that decision until late summer, brothers had to gamble and sign off-campus leases in order to assure themselves spots on the South side. Some upper-class Greeks have ended up on the less convenient north side of Bethlehem, but all Eta's are on the South side – spread across seven houses. Another positive that we strived for is that brothers are living only with other brothers. Two brothers elected to live at home this year, and another three took a leave of absence [hiking together].

Once the fall semester started the brotherhood worked to stay in touch with each other via zoom and events at off-campus houses. Originally the University set a limit on gatherings at 10 people, but as COVID cases flared, they dropped the figure to 5 people – with harsh penalties for individuals and houses found to exceed the rule. But, we have persevered. The last week of October we held elections, virtually, with several candidates taking a shot at most positions. New officers will get some training from outgoing officers, and will take over their duties Jan 1st.

Also, at the end of October we partnered with Pi Beta Phi sorority to hold a fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem. A virtual poll was taken, where people paid [donated] to vote. Over \$300 was raised. The house is currently planning a coats-for-kids drive for November. These events somewhat replace the traditional Spooktacular where brothers carve donated pumpkins with children from Bethlehem [which had to be canceled due to COVID].

Another abnormal item is rush/recruitment. This has been especially challenging given there is no main meeting place [the chapter house] and gatherings are limited to 5 people. This on top of the difficulty just meeting freshman when we are not milling around campus very much. Getting creative has been required. We have one brother who is on the university meal plan and is bringing contacts from the dining hall. Single invitations to dinner replace mass invitations to parties. We have been using connections of friends and families to meet freshman as well. Formal rush is Feb 1-12.

Of course, we are all disappointed in not having Lehigh/Lafayette activities. We look forward to the chapter house re-opening and things getting back to normal – whenever that may be. And we hope you are all well.

Initiation of 16 new Brothers:

On September 20th the Eta initiated the Spring 2020 New Member class in a virtual initiation via zoom. The new members' planned spring initiation was delayed and then cancelled when Lehigh switched to online classes after spring break due to rising concerns over COVID. A tremendous effort from the undergraduate brothers to coordinate with the alumni led to the organization of a modified new member education program and a memorable initiation under COVID restrictions for the new brothers. The event culminated in the initiation of sixteen young men to our fraternity with over 20 alumni in attendance. While we would have liked to host our usual alumni gathering, the brothers in attendance made the most of the situation. The initiation still involved the new brothers reciting the pledge, as well as singing songs like "Welcome Brothers", and "Dear Old Shrine". After the ceremony brothers and alumni broke into smaller meeting groups and had a chance to talk in a more intimate setting. The newly initiated brothers were able to learn more about the house from the alumni in attendance as they shared their experiences, words of advice, and the importance of the brotherhood. The initiates were also able to share a little more about themselves as well. This unusual situation produced some positives, as shared by Brother Skip Paul [Eta '71], "Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the initiation. This is the first time in 45 years I have had the opportunity to join in. Great class."

Next up – Lehigh/Lafayette weekend!

Ok, there unfortunately is no L/L weekend this year. But, we will be holding the annual meeting of the Goodale Literary Association, including election of the board of trustees. Like September's initiation, we will hold the meeting using zoom. This is another opportunity for alumni that cannot make it to the house to participate in your fraternity. Indeed, if you are interested in serving on the board, let me know. Details to follow.

Mark your calendar for the virtual GLA Annual Meeting & Cocktail Party: Saturday November 21st starting at 330

YITB,

John Mathews, GLA Secretary '81

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How to financially \$upport your fraternity

Option A – Donate to Psi Upsilon via Lehigh University P&E fund.

Donations to Psi U via Lehigh University are tax deductible. This plus comes with a slight minus in that the university has to approve the expenditure of funds – which must be used for programs and education [as defined by university].

1. Go to Lehigh's online contribution form:
<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1127/interior-hybrid.aspx?appealcode=WMLS&cid=9528&gid=1&pgid=5310&sid=1127>
2. Choose amount
3. Then on next page select "Areas of your choice" in lower right corner
4. On the next page, search for Psi Upsilon or scroll down until you find it.
5. Designate how much you want to give and then fund your contribution as directed on the web site.

Option B – Donate to the GLA

1. Dues and donations to the GLA are not tax deductible. This minus comes with a plus in that there are no restrictions on how the GLA can spend the funds. Historic annual GLA dues are \$50.
2. The easiest way is to use your credit card and the memberplanet web site. Yes, memberplanet does take a transaction fee to cover, but it is worth it for your convenience and knowledge that the money you donate goes immediately to the GLA.
3. memberplanet Psi U donation page:

<http://www.memberplanet.com/s/psiu-lehighuniversity-alum/annualdues>

Option C - Mail a check. Payable to Goodale Literary Association via the GLA Vice-President:

Jerry Cossel

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Many thanks