



Brothers of Psi Upsilon,

It is with profound honor and a deep sense of gratitude that I present my first annual communication as President of the Executive Council to the 181st Convention of Psi Upsilon.

Syracuse has hosted our Psi Upsilon convention a total of six times, beginning with the chapter's 25th Anniversary in 1900 and every 25 years since to today, its 150th – a remarkable achievement in a storied history. As we come together to celebrate our Brotherhood and reflect on our shared path forward, we do so in a place that reminds us of the importance of connection—both to each other and to the world around us. At the convention of 1900, Brother Timothy Woodruff, Beta 1879, Lieutenant Governor of New York, spoke to a large audience of the “America of Today”, and the opportunity for American young men at the turn of the century, previewing a period in which the United States would become the world's leading superpower.

At the convention of 1925, our fraternity honored the legacy of Brother Herbert Bridgman, Gamma 1866 who served as the President of the Executive Council for an unprecedented 41 years. The assembled brothers recalled how it was Brother Bridgman who helped instill our fraternity's culture of chapter self-reliance and ensured that the convention itself, not the Executive Council served as the “supreme power” guiding our future. The work our assembled brotherhood conducts at each and every convention is vitally important to the long-term health of our organization and as such, let us continue to honor the traditions instilled by generations of brothers with the thoughtfulness and diligence of our work once again this year – our 181st convention.

As we shift our focus to the present day, I want to provide an update and acknowledge the progress made under the strategic priorities introduced at last year's Convention—part of our 10-year roadmap as we prepare for Psi Upsilon's 200th anniversary in 2033.

The four key initiatives outlined last year remain central to our long-term success:

- **Alumni Engagement:** We have continued to reinvigorate alumni involvement through expanded communication, social media outreach, and the building the infrastructure to support alumni clubs to bring together brothers not just by chapter but by shared experience.
- **Career Development:** This year we formally documented and built templates for career mentorship programs to connect undergraduates with alumni in diverse professional



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fields. These programs have been implemented on multiple campuses in years past to great success and we look forward to engaging more of our alumni who will be vitally important to scaling these efforts to benefit all of our chapters in the future.

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** The launch of the *Psi U Cares* program was a major step forward in destigmatizing mental health concerns in our Brotherhood. With workshops, campus partnerships, and increased peer support, we are working to create a culture that fosters emotional resilience and openness.
- **Alumni Advisor Support and Education:** Strengthening chapter leadership begins with strong alumni support. This past year, we made strides in developing comprehensive advisor training modules, expanding access to leadership resources, and creating opportunities for ongoing engagement and recognition of our most dedicated volunteers.

These initiatives were built with longevity in mind. But as we reflect on their implementation, we also recognize the need to go even deeper. Strategic goals and initiatives cannot succeed in isolation—they require **active communication, authentic connection, and sustained engagement** across our Brotherhood.

That is why, in the year ahead, we will additionally renew our focus on **how we interact with one another—how we share our stories, how we continue to engage brothers of all ages and backgrounds, and how we continue to strengthen the lifelong bonds that extend far beyond the undergraduate years**. Whether through personal outreach, improved technology platforms, or in-person gatherings, our mission is to ensure that every brother, from every chapter and generation, feels seen, heard, and valued.

For the upcoming year, we intend to actively work to:

- Evaluate our communication channels and messaging to ensure that brothers—young and old—hear from the fraternity regularly, reliably, and transparently.
- Rethink how we build connections between undergraduate chapters, alumni groups, and our international leadership—through mentorship, digital networking, and regional events like Alumni Clubs to find the most impactful and scalable opportunities



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- Identify more targeted opportunities to engage alumni in a way that most thoughtfully aligns with their skills and interests so we may broaden our network of dedicated volunteers and donors

Our work as a fraternity helps to grow not only the sincere friendships we share with one another but also amplifies the positive impact our brothers deliver to the world around us. Below are just a small fraction of the remarkable activity and accomplishments happening across our brotherhood:

- Our chapters collectively raised nearly \$240,000 and engaged in over 1,200 hours of community service
- Through the efforts of the United States of Adventure, a non-profit founded by **Lambda Sigma (Pepperdine)** alumni, four Psi Upsilon undergraduates from three chapters were able to traverse the Camino del Santiago earlier this summer, a unique cultural experience
- Undergraduate brothers and numerous chapters achieved remarkable scholastic success, such as the **Upsilon (University of Rochester)** Chapter which placed over 80% of their brotherhood on the Dean's List
- We continued to grow our calendar of unique, thought-provoking events such as the Gilrane Economic Symposium, Fish Fund Venture Summit and multiple Speaker Series Events
- The **Pi Chapter (Syracuse)**, undergraduates and alumni, continue to make a large impact on the Movember Foundation, and raised over \$150,000 in 2024. When this Philanthropy effort began in 2013 the chapter raised about \$2,000.
- The Psi U Cares program continues to grow with over 20 chapters reporting some level of participation and qualified programming supporting the mental wellness of our chapters.
- At Michigan State University, our **Epsilon Nu Chapter** remains the largest, having recruited 49 new members last year. Other chapters also posted impressive results: **Theta Theta (Washington)** doubled its membership, and both **Lambda Sigma (Pepperdine)** and **Sigma Phi (St. Francis)** realized significant recruitment gains.



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These achievements are not accidents—they are the product of engaged brothers, dedicated alumni, and a deep belief in the lifelong value of our fraternity.

Growth and expansion remain essential to the vitality of our Fraternity. I'm proud to share that the past year has seen encouraging progress in this area. In October we will formally install the Delta Omicron chapter at Purdue as Psi Upsilon's 50th chapter. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome back undergraduate brothers at the **Beta Beta (Trinity College)** and **Phi Nu (Christopher Newport University)** chapters in the fall.

Looking ahead, the Executive Council remains committed to reestablishing our presence at several distinguished institutions where Psi Upsilon has historical roots, including **Theta (Union College)**, **Chi (Cornell University)**, **Rho (University of Wisconsin)**, **Mu (University of Minnesota)**, and **Delta Nu (Keene State College)**. These expansion efforts reflect our belief in the enduring value of the Psi Upsilon experience—and the opportunity to pass it on to new generations.

However, it must be said that for every chapter we rebuild, we risk losing another. Without robust recruitment, sustained alumni involvement, and local mentorship, our chapters struggle. Reversing this trend requires the active participation of every brother in this room and beyond. **Expansion is not the work of a few—it is the shared responsibility of the entire Brotherhood.**

Looking back upon my first year in this role, I would like to recognize the efforts of the officers and term members of our **Executive Council**, whose dedication continues to inspire me in my role:

- **James Platner, Phi Delta '10**, Vice President
- **Cathy Lefebvre, Gamma Tau '18**, Secretary
- **Madison Turkette, Delta Omicron '19**, Treasurer
- Directors: **David Hollis, Gamma Tau '11**; **Steven Malinski, Epsilon Iota '09**; **Lance Miller, Epsilon Nu '80**; and **Jon Szykowski, Epsilon Nu '06**
- Undergraduate Advisory Board: **Aidan Stewart, Theta Theta '27**

We are also deeply grateful for the continued support and wisdom of our **Life Members of the Executive Council**:

- **Thomas T. Allan IV, Theta Theta '89**
- **Mark D. Bauer, Omega '83**
- **David A. B. Brown, Epsilon Phi '66**



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- **Charles M. Hall, Nu Alpha '71**
- **Jeremy McKeon, Eta '08**
- **Richard A. Rasmussen, Upsilon '72**
- **James A. Swanke, Jr., Rho '80**
- **Evan W. Terry, Epsilon Phi '93**

And our **Honorary Life Members**:

- **Bradley R. Corner, Omicron '72**
- **Murray L. Eskenazi, Lambda '56**
- **Patrick Gilrane, Psi '83**
- **Charles A. Werner, Omega '55**

Additionally, I would like to thank the Brothers of our **Psi Upsilon Foundation Board of Directors**, who have served as thoughtful partners in shaping the future of our organization through scholarship programs, educational grants and numerous programs to drive engagement throughout our brotherhood.

I extend my deep appreciation to:

- **Alexander C. Senchak, Eta '06**, President and Chair
- **Matthew J. Eckenrode, Epsilon Nu '04**, Vice Chair
- **Patrick J. Gilrane, Psi '83**, Chair Emeritus
- **Martin Brayboy, Gamma '84**, Secretary
- **John F. H. Ong, Gamma '82**, Treasurer
- Directors: **Garrett Gleim, Tau '01**; **Doug Jackman, Omega '89**; **Gary G. Pan, Eta '86**; **Larry Rakers, Omicron '86**; **Jennifer Roper, Gamma Tau '03**; **Apurva Upadhyay, Eta '06** and **James Volpentest, Theta Theta '90**

Their vision, stewardship, and generosity make a tangible difference in the lives of our undergraduate brothers and the sustainability of our Fraternity.

To all our **Alumni Presidents, Alumni Advisors, and Chapter Alumni Board Members**, thank you. Your time, your counsel, and your presence are the glue that binds our undergraduate chapters to the broader Psi Upsilon experience. This fraternity is better because of you.

Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to Psi Upsilon's professional staff led by Thomas Fox, Omicron '00 our Executive Director. The tireless work of our staff brings to life the goals and vision our brothers help to shape with a level of professionalism and dedication that should



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make all of us proud. We also wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Stephen Oechsle**, Director of Chapter Services and **Travis Smith**, Director of Growth for their years of service to Psi Upsilon. We are also excited to welcome **Mia Driskell, Delta Omicron '24** as our new Chapter Services Coordinator.

Brothers, we stand at a pivotal moment. The strength of Psi Upsilon lies not just in our traditions, but in our willingness to adapt to the challenges of the present and continue to evolve how we adapt and rise to that challenge. Our success depends not only on ideas, but on action. Our fraternal leaders have a bold vision for the future—but we must ensure we build the infrastructure and support system to execute upon it.

Let us renew our commitment to **open communication**, to **genuine connection**, and to **active lifelong engagement**—with our chapters and with one another to bring this vision to life.

If you are an undergraduate: lean into leadership, reach out to alumni, build connections at this convention and with one another and take ownership of your chapter's future.

To our alumni: please consider making a donation, serving as a mentor, volunteer or finding other ways to reconnect with your chapter or your fellow brothers. The simplest of actions such as responding to an email from a younger brother or picking up the phone to check in on a old friend could have a bigger impact than you realize in strengthening the bonds of brotherhood that make our organization strong.

Let us leave this Convention not only inspired, but mobilized, reinvigorated and engaged. Let us lead Psi Upsilon with the same spirit of friendship and excellence that has guided our Brotherhood for nearly two centuries.

Thank you for your time, and your continued belief in the power of our shared bond.

Yours in the Bonds,

Timothy Zepp, Chi Delta '08
President, Executive Council
Psi Upsilon Fraternity