

THETAN



Phi Kappa Psi Penn Theta Chapter, 715 Sullivan Trail, Easton, PA 18042
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Another 500

By David Wenger '12...1550

The brothers of Phi Kappa Psi made a strong commitment to serving various communities during the fall semester of 2011. The brotherhood goal of accumulating 500 service hours throughout the fall semester was set by Philanthropy Co-Chairs David Wenger and Melroy D'souza. Although the goal was to be met by the end of the semester, it only took until October for the goal to be surpassed. By the end of fall 2011, 900 hours were spent by the brothers, of the Penn Theta chapter, doing community service or raising money during philanthropy events.

Many brothers went out on their own and participated in events such as Alzheimer walks, blood drives, and holiday helpers. Others worked

"For the fall semester, the brothers of Phi Kappa Psi raised \$1750 together."

Campus Climate and IFC Updates

By Matthew O'Loughlin '12...1554

The past year has been crucial in defining the future of Greek life at Lafayette College. The Greek Life Working Group released its long awaited report this past semester, with a series of 28 recommendations to improve how the Greek community functions. The Board of Trustees examined the recommendations, and selected four issues that must be resolved within the next three years or the presence of Greek life at Lafayette will be "reevaluated." The four issues of interest are:

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with Engineers Without Borders, gave swimming lessons to autistic adults, or spent time mentoring kids in the community. Brothers also collectively participated to help out with events like Freshman Move-in Day, Make A Difference Day, and Light the Night.

But most of the hours were spent throughout the semester participating in traditional philanthropy events that were continued due to their success in previous years. The first event held was Cafe Phi Psi which was organized mostly by our new members. Together, they successfully raised over \$250 turning the front of the house
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- Fraternities and sororities must provide open access and engagement opportunities to all students at Lafayette (non-discriminatory in selection of members).
- Fraternities and sororities must facilitate demonstrated learning opportunities for students and provide benefits to the College as a whole.
- The academic performance of students affiliated with fraternities and sororities must be comparable to the student body as a whole.

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Looking Forward

By GP James E. Ripeon II '13...1603

The sentiment towards Greek life at Lafayette College is changing. What used to be regarded as a deeply integrated part of the college experience has slowly been reduced to what we see now. There are many challenges that we are in the midst of facing, but one constant is what will keep our organization strong. Within every man inducted into the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity is an obligation to uphold the values that make us unique. I have faith in our brotherhood to maintain their duties of service to themselves, their college, and their community. Through this we will be able to demonstrate to everyone watching that Phi Kappa Psi, along with our neighboring Greek organizations at Lafayette College, can rise to the occasion. It would not be an understatement to say that every action that we make will be judged. For that reason, we must bring to light all of the positive facets of Greek life

Café Phi Psi: A Continued Tradition

By Brendon Hodgens '13...1573

A year ago Pledge Educator Brian Christopher Stobbe '11 asked the Fall Pledge Class to help him start a philanthropic tradition. He told the class about his idea to have a Sunday pancake brunch to raise funds for the Easton Boys and Girls Club.

Combining Philanthropy with Fraternity Education he oversaw the project and created a learning experience by allowing the pledge class to plan, market, and implement the project. The event went off without a hitch.

This year our Pledge Educator Derek Ridinger '12 took over the tradition and thrust great responsibility onto the pledge class. Once again the pledges proved themselves to be well

“Derek Ridinger '12 furthered the tradition ...set forth by Letterman and Moore.”



Newly elected GP (left) carrying on presidential tradition that we can while fully respecting the tradition that defines who we are. It is important that we strengthen our bonds to the student body, school administration and Phi Psi alumni in order to facilitate the change that we wish to see.

We have much to look forward to this upcoming year. I am anticipating the rewards of success through the hard work that we put forth. As honorable men, I know that we can do the right thing and commit to the appropriate actions.

chosen by working together to plan, market, and implement a large group philanthropy project raising hundreds of dollars for Easton Boys and Girls Club. Derek Ridinger furthered the tradition of Cafe Phi Psi started by his own Pledge Father Brian Christopher Stobbe and the tradition of service set forth by Letterman and Moore. The Joy of Serving Others lives on.



Fall pledges show the money raised from Café Phi Psi

Philanthropy

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Into a cafe where waiters served a variety of breakfast foods, coffee, and juice. *More on this event in Café Phi Psi: A New Tradition.* We also continued our DG-Phi Psi Haunted House for the second year. Almost the entire brotherhood participated either by decorating the house, preparing the script, marketing the event, or acting as various blood thirsty ghouls. This year, the Old Grey Barn was transformed into a haunted hospital which included a surgery ward, burn ward, infectious disease ward, and mental ward. Much of the college community attended, as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Easton, to tour through the Phi Psi house which included a brief movie, plenty of screams, and of course a chainsaw.

The newest Phi Psi philanthropy event held this past semester were two holiday dance parties which killed two birds with one stone. It provided the campus community an open non-alcoholic social event, and at the same time helped us raise over \$1000. The first event was Halloween themed and was held after our haunted house. The second one was held on the last day of classes and was winter holiday themed.

For the fall 2011 semester, the brothers of Phi



Brothers of Penn Theta and sisters of Delta Gamma celebrate after the haunted house success

Kappa Psi raised over \$1750 together. \$1000 was donated to the Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama after our nationals asked all Phi Psi chapters to help raise \$4,700 by Founders Day. More about this can be read at the Boys and Girls Club section of Phi Kappa Psi's national website. The rest of the money will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Easton during a Lafayette basketball game next semester.

This upcoming semester, Phi Kappa Psi will be participating in Relay For Life. We would love alumni participation and contribution. If you are interested in helping the Penn Theta undergraduates make a difference, please contact Ryan O'Sullivan (osullivr@lafayette.edu) or Matt McKenzie (mckenzim@lafayette.edu).

Successful Rush Season for Penn Theta

By Hamish MacPhail '13...1572

After two weeks of rushing, the brothers of Phi Kappa Psi Penn Theta welcomed twenty-six new members into the pledging process, the largest pledge class in over ten years. Rush week was planned and coordinated by Matthew O'Loughlin '12 and Hamish MacPhail '13, with the help of others. During the two weeks, the brothers of Phi Psi took potential new members to an Iron Pigs baseball game, a picnic at Hackett's park in Easton, a barbeque on the porch of Phi Psi, a school-wide

open concert with DJ Kap Slap, bowling and a wing and information session night. Attendance was high at all events, topping seventy in some cases.

The highlight of the rush weeks was on the first Friday night. At 10pm, Phi Kappa Psi invited all members of the Lafayette community to march field for a free outdoor concert featuring the rising DJ Kap Slap from Lehigh University. The concert featured Lafayette DJs as well, including Phi Psi's own Mike Gaykowski '12. With openness and inclusiveness becoming a top priority of Greek Life, Please see *Class* on page 4

Climate

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- The disciplinary profile of members of fraternities and sororities, as well as the individual organizations, must be comparable to the student body as a whole and other student organizations.

Goals and progress points for the above issues will be determined by the elected Implementation and Assessment Group on Greek Life. The committee will consist of five undergraduate members (two with Greek affiliation), 3 alumni (two with Greek affiliation), Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Religious Life, and the Associate Dean of the College. The group also includes members from the four faculty governance committees Student Life, Student Conduct, Academic Progress, and Diversity.

The Inter-Fraternity Council at Lafayette has been actively addressing these issues. The board's first requirement regarding open access is meant to address the current sense of exclusionary recruitment practices toward minority students. In response IFC has created a list of what we as community look for in potential new members, and will be publishing this information on our website. IFC has also allocated funds to create recruitment booklets that will be available in the Farinon Student Center. These booklets will contain the IFC rush eligibility requirements, the character qualities published on the IFC website, individual chapter desirable qualities, and a bio and list of notable alumni for each chapter.

IFC has also put in place a tutoring program to improve potential new member grades, while also allowing men who performed poorly during their freshman year to improve their grades. Grades of the Greek community are currently comparable, and often above the all college average. The real problem to address is the sophomore pledge grade drop. To address

this IFC has required all houses to submit a house scholarship program. These programs outline what the house grade requirements are, and punishment/reward system based on performance. IFC has also raised the required GPA to join a house to 2.65 with a plan to increase it to 2.75 by fall of 2013. IFC has also changed the rules regarding GPA to rush. The system was previously based on cumulative GPA. The new system will require potential new members to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.65 only if they are rushing first semester sophomore year. Under the new system a tutoring program will be offered through ATTIC to help men who do not reach the academic standards improve their grades. Under the contract of the tutoring program, men will be required to meet with tutors and submit study hours to the IFC scholarship chair. Men engaging in the program will be allowed to join if they attend all of the required tutor meetings, log the required hours, and obtain a 2.75 GPA for the semester in the program.

IFC has also addressed the issues of disciplinary record comparability by creating an IFC Judicial Board to self-govern disciplinary issues within the fraternal community. Phi Psi has had a strong presence in shaping the new policies of IFC through its men on the Executive board particularly Matthew O'Loughlin '12 (outgoing president), Zach Roth '12 (Treasurer) and Adam Rabin '13 (Secretary). Michael Gaykowski '12 was also extremely useful as a delegate and voice of reason in delegate debates. Phi Psi will maintain its control of IFC as Tom Yaeger '13 was elected President this past semester.

The Greek community has been challenged by the administration, but IFC has begun making the necessary changes to ensure Greek life will remain at Lafayette College.

Class

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Phi Psi paved the way with a weekend scheduled, open and free event. Although precise numbers were not kept on number of attendees, estimates are around 400 Lafayette and non-Lafayette students attended the event.

After the concert, the rush process seemed to pick up tremendous steam. More interested rushes came to our events in the hopes of receiving a bid and brothers were more enthused about the rush process in general. While the second week was more low-key than the extremely lively first week, enthusiasm remained throughout the two weeks. In fact, over forty rushes attended the informational session featuring alumni speaker Bill Faust. The night was created to showcase the positive aspects of becoming a brother of Phi Kappa Psi Penn Theta. During the presentation, President Jeremiah Totten-Greenwood '12 also remarked on his trip to Cabo for the ALA retreat.

After the two weeks were completed, brothers had tough rounds of decision ahead of them. Narrowing down the rush list of 82 names was daunting but brothers remained gentlemanly and respectful throughout the meetings. After decisions were made, 35 bids were given out and

31 crossed over during the festive bid dinner.

With 26 inducted new brothers, the fraternity of Phi Kappa Psi Penn Theta became significantly larger. However, size did not wear down the brotherhood. The new members brought a sense of enthusiasm and pride that rejuvenated the house spirit. With momentum moving in the right direction, Mike Shapiro '14 and David Wenger '12 will take over the rush duties for the spring 2012 semester, hopefully using some of the successful aspects of the fall.



Guthrie Burke...1581 (Left to right), Brian Asingia...1562 and Mike Gaykowski...1557 act with Delta Gamma sisters in the haunted house



Pat Pabijan...1570 (Left to right), Brendan Hodgens...1573, Phil Schafer...1575 and recent grad Ian Owens...1543 relaxing



Undergraduate brothers celebrate Thanksgiving dinner at the house with a nice meal prepared by Chef Jim

Presidential Minute

Jeremiah Totten-Greenwood '12...1551

This semester has concluded my term as president. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the Brotherhood this past year. Time and time again, I have been impressed with the capability of our Brothers. I am eager to solidify the life-long relationships which I have developed over the past three years, during my final semester.

"On behalf of all current undergraduates in the Penn Theta chapter of Phi Kappa Psi, we wish you the very best for the New Year and appreciate your support."

Mike Gaykowski '12...1557 Alumni Relations Chairman