Briarfield ASSOCIATION

CHI PHI ~ PSI CHAPTER ~ LEHIGH U. ~ EST. 1872 ~ 142 YRS

NEWSLETTER FALL 2013 / SPRING 2014

Hi Brothers!

I hope you are all having a safe and fulfilling summer! Covering a years worth of news, I'm thrilled to finally present to you our new and enhanced Briarfield Newsletter! In addition to this digital copy, you can also expect a hardcopy to arrive in your mailbox later this month.

Reflecting on the past year, I can confidently conclude that it has been a journey chalked full of remarkable accomplishments, unanticipated challenges, and, of course, inevitable surprises. In recent years we have seen A LOT of policy change at Lehigh, but we continue to adapt successfully, staying a step ahead of the constantly evolving Greek culture. While change can often bring frustration and growing pains, we continue to remain positive and support our active chapter to success.

For the first time since our repopulation in 2010, we are on average, over 60 brothers strong! This success is a direct reflection of the incredible support and contributions from all of you. The Briarfield Association still remains one of the strongest alumni organizations not only at Lehigh, but also on a Chi Phi national level; thank you!

Before delving into the details of the past year, it is essential that I share with you a note I received from our Grand Alpha in response to his trip to the Psi chapter this spring semester. His touching remarks eloquently embrace the current state of the chapter and assist in setting the tone for this newsletter.

"I only wish some of our other Chapters could spend some time visiting and observing the men of the Psi Chapter. By men, I am referring to both Alumni and Undergraduate Brothers. If all of our Chapters looked like the Psi Chapter, we would be the "Best Fraternity in America"!

"Life as a college fraternity is a constant challenge and occasionally poor choices are the result, but it is what we do thereafter that reveals true character. As rough as your road has been, I am convinced that your Chapter is stronger and better from the journey.

"On behalf of myself and the Staff, we thank the Alumni of the Psi Chapter for making the difficult decisions and the Chapter Actives for embracing the accountability that followed.

"I was honored to visit and spend time with this remarkable Brotherhood."

Fraternally,

Jim Soderquist
Grand Alpha

CONTENTS

President's Letter 1-4
Inside the Chapter 5, 6
~Letter from the Alpha
~Networking with Alumni
~In the News
~The Chef
From the University 7
~A Word from Tim
~Facility Update
Beyond Lehigh 8, 9
~Reflections: Field Exec.
~OmegaFi
~Congress 2014
~Educational Trust
Our History 10
Features 11
~Alumni Spotlight
~Where is she now?
~1970s reunion
Briarfield Dues, Events 12

Fall Semester: We began the fall semester with a Gold accreditation rating awarded from the prior year. This was a huge achievement for our chapter, and it is the highest form of recognition that can be awarded to Greek organizations at Lehigh. On a National level, we were recognized as Accredited with Distinction. We also won a pile of awards over the summer at Congress that acknowledged both our alumni and the active chapter, some of which are noted on page nine.

In other news, we recruited and initiated three new brothers; a solid number for the fall. We were ranked 8th on the hill amongst fraternities with an average GPA of 3.1. As we do every semester, the Briarfield rewards the brothers with the highest GPA with checks and also treats everyone that received a 3.0 or higher to a dinner in Philadelphia.

One of the major challenges we faced all year was sorting out the alcohol incident that occurred in early December. Presumably, you know I'm referring to the image of the out-of-season rush event depicting a massive beer cup setup that went rapidly viral on the Internet, gaining much unneeded attention for our chapter. Given our recent hazing incident and repopulation in 2009/2010, and the current policies for Greek life, we knew the University would be firm with their response. Our immediate concern was the loss of our chapter; these types of events put the survival of our chapter in severe jeopardy. It's moments like this that require the leadership to of the Briarfield to intervene and make important decisions. Moving swiftly, we worked with the actives, national office, and university to develop an 8-Point Action Plan. Some of the items in this plan consist of education, retreats, membership reviews, discipline, and most significantly, the removal of six brothers onto alumni status, restricting their involvement with the actives. While the removal of brothers was an incredibly challenging decision for our trustees to make, it was by far, in the best interest of our chapter. Being pro-active with our action-plan resulted in a sanction that was *not* decided in a trial, as it formerly was for the hazing incident in 2009. The sanctions are as follows:

1) Disciplinary Deferred Dissolution (Jan 16, 2014 – May 31, 2014), 2) Disciplinary Probation (May 31, 2014 – May 31, 2015), 3) Alcohol Free (until Feb 15, 2015)

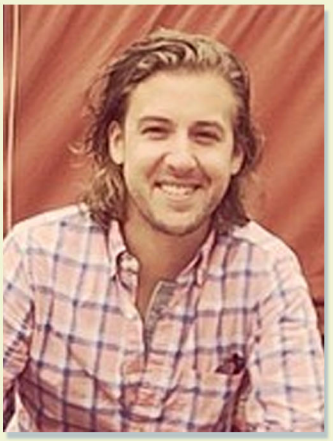
In the formal sanction letter from the university, it is important to note that the rationale for the sanction reads: *"The sanctions in this case could have been more severe including dissolution or termination of the organization. However the alumni association has developed a meaningful plan to hold the chapter and the individual members accountable. Within that context these sanctions are appropriate."*

Spring Semester: We began the spring semester with an Alumni / Active Realignment Retreat that lasted two days. This was one of the requirements from the 8-Point Action Plan. We had over ten alumni back from a range of eras to work with the actives on four areas identified as needing improvement: Briarfield relations, recruitment, risk management, and accountability. The goal was to have an honest discussion and critique of each of these topics, analyze the challenges and current procedures, and create an action plan for each area to address how the chapter will move forward. While the action plans were sent to the university upon completion, the primary function of the document set was to serve as a template for the chapter to utilize on their path towards success. Overall, the retreat was incredibly productive and, per the actives request, we'll continue to do this on an annual basis at the beginning of the spring semester.

The actives had a successful recruitment period with 21 accepted bids out of 26 issued, pushing the active membership comfortably above 60 men! One new member ended up dropping out before New Member Education, so in total, we initiated 20 new brothers into our chapter.

On a somewhat related note, for a number of years, we have mentored and worked with the Rho chapter at Lafayette as they rebuilt their chapter off campus. Even though they are now over 30 men strong, we continue to allow them to use our chapter house for portions of their new member education weekend. Their alumni and actives are outstanding men and we are working towards having alumni events with both our chapters.

Undoubtedly, the greatest surprise during the fall semester was the collapse of the FMA (Fraternity Management Association). The FMA acted as the money management company for the chapter. A large portion of the money covered food expenses and the chef's salary. In March, Betty Fisher, former Director of the FMA, sent a letter to alumni leadership and active treasurers noting they were having cash flow problems since spring 2013, and might file for bankruptcy. From that point forward the FMA ceased operations and we realized that, along with other Greek organizations, all our monies they held were



President, Matt Scheller

PRESIDENT'S Letter

Br. Scheller presenting Br. Emery's Lifetime Service Award plaque

presumably spent (in excess of $125K). There has been a lot that has transpired between now and then, much of what I covered in a former email. With a few sacrifices and the financial assistance/general guidance of the Briarfield, the actives made it through the semester. The Briarfield paid for the Chef's salary, overdue taxes, secured a loan from the Chi Phi National office, waived the semester fee to the Briarfield, and gave them any additional financial support and guidance as needed. After Betty Fisher and her staff fled the company, Theta Chi alumni Gary Tilles was appointed as the new director by the voting undergraduate delegates on the newly elected board. He has been sorting through mountains of files, unearthing all the critical documents required for each Greek house to recover. In the process, he has secured boxes of records that indicate how corrupt the FMA had become. Since Tilles' appointment, we have hired common counsel to represent all the Greek houses affected. So far, the Briarfield has contributed $1500 for our share of the retainer fee for the attorney. The total estimated loss is $2 million. There is an overwhelming amount of evidence that Fisher and her staff were comingling company funds, engaging in fraudulent activities, and embezzling funds for quite a few years. The FBI has been contacted and is involved in the case. We hope to potentially recover funds through D&O and/or general liability insurance. We will continue to pay for legal representation as long as it is financially responsible.

If you have any questions regarding details of the FMA situation, please visit the Briarfield website to see the latest report, or contact our treasurer Alan Abels. Br. Abels has been working tirelessly with the active treasurer cleaning up the FMA corpse. His knowledge and efforts have been a tremendous asset to steering the chapter back on track, and certainly deserves a round of snaps. Since this incident, the actives are now signed up with a new management company called OmegaFi. More information about OmegaFi can be found on page eight.

At our Spring Briarfield meeting we were very excited to introduce two new awards onto the walls of our chapter house: the "Grand Council Membership Award" and the "Eustace B. Rodgers Lifetime Achievement Award." The Grand Council Membership Award was created for brothers who have served on the Grand Council. We have had eleven brothers in our history to hold this honor; many held numerous roles or multiple terms. In 1880, Boudinot Keith served as the only Grand Alpha from Psi. The living recipients of this award are:

Matthew Chiaverini '14 (Member at Large 2012-13, Grand Iota 2013-14)
Barry Kraver '04 (Grand Iota 2000-2001)
Alan Abels '74 (Member at Large 2013-2014, 2014-2015)

The second award we created, The Eustace B. Rodgers Lifetime Service Award, recognizes members of the chapter that have eternally dedicated themselves to the betterment of the fraternity. This award is named after Brother Rodgers, the 15th brother initiated into Psi. Although he soon left Lehigh for UC Berkeley, he had a fondness for Psi that brought him back to Bethlehem whenever he was in the area. At Berkeley, he was integral in founding the Lambda chapter. After college, Rodgers entered the Navy. Whenever he had shore leave on the east coast, he would spend his time working with Psi in Bethlehem. There are five brothers to date deserving of this honor, and three of them are no longer with us: Eustace Rodgers 1876, Boudinot Keith 1880, Jack Coneen '30. The two living brothers we honored are:

Ned Spitzig '57
Ardie Emery '61

The dedication of these brothers through the years is unparalleled, and they are certainly more than deserving of this prestigious honor.

Above: Eustace B. Rodgers Lifetime Service Award
Below: Grand Council Membership Award

Grand Alpha, Br. Soderquist pictured in the center

In April, we had a very special dinner at the chapter house. We hosted the Grand Alpha Jim Soderquist, and from the National office: Executive Director Michael Azarian, Assistant Executive Director Collin Zimmerman, and Assistant Director of Member Services Barbre Berris. Per the quote on the first page of the newsletter, Br. Soderquist had very touching remarks about his visit to the Psi chapter. Before the dinner, Berris held a learning module regarding Bystander Intervention, a requirement of the 8-Point Action Plan from the fall.

The active chapter ended the year receiving an accreditation rating of silver. While a drop from gold the following year is disappointing, the chapter certainly had a significant set back with the fall alcohol incident. Briarfield will continue to educate, guide, and support the actives as needed to help them regain gold status. Moreover, on a National level, we were recognized as "Accredited."

In June, at Congress in Austin, TX, we had an unprecedented 11 Psi brothers present; six actives and five alumni. We had Psi alumni representation on the National staff, the Grand Council, and as a voting delegate. The alumni that were there sponsored by the Briarfield were: Alan Abels, Jay Crosby, and myself. We made many essential connections to better our chapter and also a few exciting changes that will help better all the Chi Phi chapters. The Psi chapter continues to leave its mark on the Chi Phi Fraternity. Please read page nine for more details!

We have a lot to look forward to in the upcoming year, including the highly anticipated 150th Lehigh/Lafayette Football game at Yankee Stadium. We have reserved 80 seats for alumni. Unfortunately, every ticket has been accounted for and we are unable to purchase more. Stay tuned for more information pertaining to Psi chapter gatherings both before and after the game. If you reserved tickets with me, you'll be receiving an email soon with payment details. At the end of the newsletter, you'll see a list of upcoming events, including the 24th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament, happy hour dates in Philadelphia and New York, and the Fall Briarfield meeting.

If you have a Facebook account, please join our "Psi Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity Alumni" page. Membership will enable you to stay more connected with updates, including photos and general news of the fraternity. Also, you can learn more about the Briarfield Association at *briarfieldassociation.org*, and about the active chapter at *chiphilehigh.org*.

Lastly, and most importantly, is your continued support. Despite the challenges we've had, it's exciting and promising to realize we are truly stronger than ever. We've developed a model that is forward thinking that other chapters are emulating. This model will assure us of a long existence at Lehigh. While it is easy to get frustrated by the change, change is something that we've always had to adapt to, and our track records proves we are very successful at doing so. The best way to contribute and stay involved is to join our alumni Facebook page, attend events and meetings, share new ideas or suggestions, organize an alumni event in your city, and, most importantly, *pay your annual dues to the Briarfield.* Since we repopulated in 2010, and especially after the FMA incident, our Briarfield account has been heavily depleted with little replenishment. We have put out A LOT of money towards successfully getting the chapter back on track. We certainly wouldn't be here today without the donations of the past. In order for us to continue to run a successful alumni association and offer meaningful alumni events, keep the chapter active during challenging times, reward actives for their academic achievements, maintain a beautiful chapter house, send alumni to Congress, and SO MUCH MORE, it is critical that you show your financial support and *pay your annual dues*! Please refer to the last page of the newsletter to see how to contribute!

In conclusion Brothers, it has, and continues to be an exciting and rewarding journey for our fraternity. As your President, it is an honor to be at the wheel of such a dedicated, engaged, and supportive alumni base. I will continue to put forth as much effort as possible to see our chapter succeed. I will also work towards developing events to connect our alumni. We are in the process of organizing an annual cocktail and dinner gathering at Lehigh in February for our chapter's birthday. Part of this event will take place at our chapter house. Most of us have very fond memories of our time at the Psi chapter, and it is my goal to give you all the opportunity to come back to the house and reminiscence about those special moments.

Long live the Psi chapter, Brothers! Please feel free to reach out to me at anytime!

In Scarlet and Blue -
Matt Scheller
mattdavidscheller@gmail.com / 4845531072

PRESIDENT'S Letter

Brothers,

The mission of our Fraternity is "to build better men through lifelong friendships, leadership opportunities, and character development". Almost every initiative we have implemented over the course of the last semester can be traced back to this seemingly straight-forward goal. This year presented the chapter with a number of challenges. Each one has been handled with the chapter's mission in mind. Through these difficulties we believe our chapter has grown stronger as a result and will continue to do so as we develop lasting policies, programs, and systems. As challenges arise in the Lehigh community and within the chapter, Chi Phi continues to seek advice from alumni and OFSA.

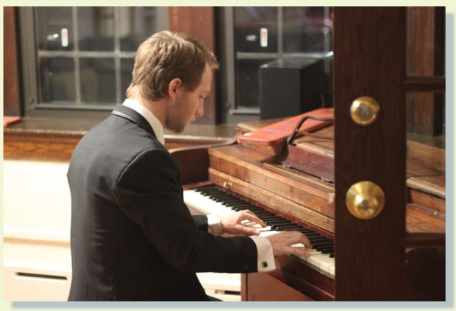
As many of you may know this semester was not an easy one for the active chapter as we have faced many challenges. The first was overcoming the effects of the incident on December 6th. In response, the actives and Briarfield came up with an action plan to deal with the situation internally that included the removal of six brothers heavily involved with the event, brother self-evaluations at the close of the semester and a realignment retreat. At the start of the next semester the actives and alumni had a retreat to refocus the chapter and concentrate on solving key issues within the fraternity. We used this retreat to develop internal action plans that we would implement over the course of the semester. This semester was an excellent opportunity for the actives to look inward, identify key problems and develop action plans that will help the chapter's sustainability for the future.

In the Spring, our chapter was faced with a financial crisis. The Fraternity Management Association (FMA) used to manage our finances until we received a letter from the executive director saying they were going to file for bankruptcy. This led myself, the chapter's Delta Sabin Colton, Matt Scheller and Alan Abels to act immediately. Our plan of action is to collect dues from brothers who have yet to pay as well as get reimbursed for expenses from the Programming & Education account through Lehigh. Lehigh has awarded those affected by the FMA 14 meals a week and the Briarfield also paid to keep our chef, Haika, at the house to cook dinners for the actives. Regardless of the financial situation the brothers still functioned regularly, participating in service activities, having brotherhood events and successfully executing a spring formal.

The chapter's efforts this semester have proved we are resilient. Through adversity the chapter never forgets its goals to assist in the community, build better men, and strive for Chi Phi's longevity and future success. Our efforts this semester are reflective of these goals. As the best way to learn about our efforts, please come by the house and speak with any of the active brothers. I'm sure you will be greeted with the chivalric demeanor that extends into the day-to-day actions of our chapter.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the active chapter.

Sincerely,
Dean Eldridge
Psi Chapter Alpha
dje215@lehigh.edu



Recent graduate, Egor Ampleev, playing the chapter's piano

Spring 2014 New Members at T. Schoop's Grave. President (left) and New Member Educator pictured kneeling in the front.

Inside the CHAPTER

NETWORKING with Alumni

One of the most valuable experiences of being an active brother in the Psi Chapter is the opportunity to network and build strong relationships with our alumni. Our alumni provide guidance, support, and motivation to build character both personally and professionally. Here at Lehigh I have decided to focus my academics on a pre-dental curriculum, working through the challenges of organic chemistry, biology, biochemistry, and physics. Throughout this journey, Dr. Paul (Chip) Schwarzbach, one of our most dedicated alumni and General Dentist here in Bethlehem, has served as my mentor by helping me further solidify why dentistry is my passion. I have spent time in Chip's private practice and have also shadowed him at one of the Lehigh Valley Health Network dental clinics he volunteers at. As I move into my junior year, I hope to gain even more experience in dentistry with Chip and continue to build our fraternal bond.

Chip and I first came into contact at the Spring 2013 Briarfield Meeting soon after I was initiated. Connecting with Chip has been very easy over the past year, as he lives so close to campus. Although this convenience may be uncommon for other active-alumni relationships, I encourage our alumni to do their best at providing the actives with learning opportunities in their respective fields. As actives we are working to implement new events for alumni to visit the chapter, and I hope these future programs will make networking easier. Thank you to all of our alumni for your commitment and support of the Psi Chapter.

Fraternally,
Ross Camiel

Chef Haika Powell

In the NEWS

Chi Phi Brother Jeff Peisner was recently featured in the Allentown paper, the Morning Call, for his work in 3-D technology printing with Lehigh's Baker Institute for Entrepreneurship, Innovative, and Creativity.

Above, Peisner discusses his prototype hand exoskeleton device with Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network staff member Cynthia Bauer (right) after making a presentation on the technology in Allentown on Monday, July 28, 2014. Lehigh Students demonstrated how they developed the devices with the use of medical 3D printing, and how they were inspired by what they learned about pediatric stroke patients from Good Shepherd staff.

The CHEF - Haika Powell

Many of you have not met the new Chef at the chapter house, so we decided asked Haika a few questions...

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, Haika is married and owns two cats. She was the Pastry Chef at Saucon Valley CC for eight years and also held a temporary position at Rodale Publishing for six. She claims to have attended the "School of Practical Application". When asked what interested her about working in a fraternity, she said with a chuckle, "...I don't like being told what to do by people that are less experienced and less knowledgeable than myself. In other words, I'm virtually unemployable anywhere else!" For fun outside of work she cooks "fun stuff that she loves, but is probably too exotic for the boys."

The active brothers have taught her that she has far more patience than she thought she did. The most challenging aspect of cooking at Chi Phi for her are "the days when I'm big sister, surrogate mom, cool crazy aunt, AA sponsor, drug counselor, psychologist, sounding board, relationship coach, voice of reason...the list is probably endless. But I don't mind. They're my boys! :)".

A Word from TIM

Chi Phi Alumni,

Greetings from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs! Another summer is quickly winding down and we are less than three weeks from our students returning to South Mountain. It is an important year for Lehigh, and specifically our Fraternity and Sorority Community. Perhaps the most impactful element of 2014-15 will be the Commission on the Residential Environment (CORE) Commission that has been installed by the Board of Trustees. CORE is a group of committees that will be reviewing the residential environment at Lehigh and making recommendations to the Board on how to continue to ensure that Lehigh's residential community is cutting edge. This process came about from recommendations from the Offices of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, Residence Life and Residential Services to the President and Provost. Committees are comprised of faculty, staff, students and alumni, Greek and non-Greek. Some of the critical areas that will be examined include: The current state of the Greek community and its impact on the Lehigh community; the role of social policy and what recommendations and revisions need to be put in place; the relationship between on and off-campus and the impact it has on both Lehigh and Southside Bethlehem. CORE is an important process that will allow Lehigh to continue to grow. I am serving on the committee examining Greek Life. The committee is being chaired by Dean of Students Sharon Basso and Dean of Athletics Joe Sterrett. It will be exciting to make recommendations on how to better our community, while making sure that the historic aspects of Greek Life at Lehigh are honored.

It is my pleasure to announce that Psi Chapter will have a new Assistant Director. Elizabeth Shayler has accepted our offer to come work in OFSA. Elizabeth comes to Lehigh from Harvard, where she worked for the past several years in the Offices of Advising and Student Life of Harvard College. Elizabeth brings extensive greek, housing and first year programs experience from Harvard, Pace and Vanderbilt Universities and it an exciting addition to our staff. Her first day is August 18th, and she cannot wait to meet the undergrads and alumni.

Tim Wilkinson
Assistant Dean of Students and
Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

FACILITY Update

If you have driven past our chapter house in recent months you probably noticed a large chunk of stone that has broken free from our highly regarded front porch. This was caused by excessive deterioration. On April 17, a site visit was conducted by engineers to assess the condition of the entire exterior stone wall. They found that the mortar joints between the steps and adjacent retaining wall were either deteriorated or missing. There was also no flashing present to prevent water from penetrating into the exterior stone retaining wall, causing the wall to move away from the stairs in upwards of three inches. Also deteriorated, was the mortar between the joints of the capstones going up the stairs, causing further water penetration into the exterior wall.

On the exterior wall, where the damage is most visible, there is a portion 6' wide by 5' high which has fallen, leaving the edge of the concrete steps exposed. (see above pic) After further analysis, it was determined that the wall had outward lateral movement up to 4".

In conclusion, the engineers believe that majority of the stone retaining wall is stable. Overtime, however, improper draining and lack of flashing has caused deterioration of the mortar joints at the step area.

Over the summer the university has been conducting the following repairs:

-Remortar/repointing on interior stone wall by steps
-Remortar/repointing on exterior stone wall and addition of stabilizing rods to tie wall back together
-Flashing added to step/wall joint
-Capstone joint repair

A Year Exploring Chi Phi Chapters: Reflections from a Field Executive

By: Patrick Lee, Psi '13, *former Alpha*

Since June of 2013, I have been lucky enough to visit 18 Chi Phi Chapters and Colonies working as a Field Executive for the National Office. Besides becoming an expert at navigating airport security and a connoisseur of business traveler hotels, I have gained an interesting perspective on how Psi fits into the larger Chi Phi organization. For those unfamiliar with what a Field Ex ecutive actually does, the position is similar to that of a management consultant. Over three days, I meet with executive officers and committee chairman to learn how the Chapter is currently operating and find areas for operational improvement. I also meet with alumni in the area and representatives from the respective universities to get their perspective on the Chapter in question.

What I have found is that Chi Phi Chapters and other Greek communities are much more alike than they are different. Many of the issues and challenges that we are struggling with at Psi are the same issues that other Chapters are currently dealing with, or have dealt with in their recent past. Some common themes that emerge are risk management struggles, increased apathy as Brothers get closer to graduation, and keeping alumni involved as their priorities shift to starting a family and advancing their career. While there is no universal solution to any of these challenges, each Chapter has a unique and innovative approach to dealing with them.

It is very easy to only look at issues from our Chapter's perspective, but the reality is that we do not make use of our Chi Phi network nearly as much as we should. There are six other Chapters within a four-hour drive of Bethlehem. National events like RLA, Congress, College of Excellence and Alphas Academy provide invaluable opportunities for undergrads and alumni to network, share experiences, and get a new perspective on possible solutions to these common issues. And while these events provide a great environment for making these initial connections, it is up to those who value a stronger Chi Phi to continue to strengthen these mutually beneficial relationships. Together, we can create a better fraternal experience for all our Brothers.

OmegaFI: A New Partnership on the National and Local Level

By: Patrick Lee, Psi '13

OMEGAFI℠
run, raise, connect.

OmegaFi is no stranger to the fraternity management business. Founded in 1992, they have collected over two billion dollars on behalf of Greek Chapters around the country. Last summer at the 148th Congress in Baltimore, the Chi Phi National Office announced a partnership with OmegaFi to handle the Fraternity's membership database. This conversion was completed in December and resulted in a new member portal for undergraduates and alumni called Chi Phi Connect. Creating a Chi Phi Connect account allows Brothers to manage their contact information with the National Office, register for events like RLA and Congress, and access members only resources. If you have not been receiving your copy of the Chakett or getting email updates from the National Office, it probably means your information is out of date. To access all of these great features, go to chiphi.org, click on the Chi Phi Connect link in the upper right corner, and click the "Establish Access" button. You will need your badge number to verify your identity. If you need to be reminded of your badge number or have other issues setting up your account, please contact Collin Zimmerman at 404-231-1824 or Zimmerman@chiphi.org and he will help you out.

Psi also has a new partnership with OmegaFi. In March, our longtime money manager FMA announced their bankruptcy and impending closure. While this left the Chapter in a precarious spot to figure out how to deal with the rest of this semester's expenses, the partnership with OmegaFi will ensure that the Chapter starts next year on a solid financial footing. OmegaFi will provide many of the same services that FMA historically did: collecting money from Brothers for dues and meals, handling our chef Haika's payroll, paying food vendors, preparing and filing the Chapter's taxes, and working with the Delta to manage the budget and other Chapter expenses. While the circumstances that prompted the change were not ideal, the switch will allow the Chapter much more flexibility and financial transparency in the long run.

CONGRESS 2014 in Austin, TX

This year, in the last weekend of June, Congress was held in Austin Texas. We had an impressive presence, with over 11 Psi brothers in attendance! Br. Alan Abels, Br. Jay Crosby, and Br. Matt Scheller formally represented the Briarfield. Br. Casey Atkins, the first Alpha of our repopulation, a TX resident, stopped by for the weekend, and Br. Patrick Lee, the second Alpha after our repopulation, was there as an employee (field executive) for the National office. Additionally, we had five brothers represent the active body.

We currently have one brother, Br. Abels, serving on the Grand Council as a "Member at Large." Br. Abels has been incredibly active with the Grand Council and hopefully we'll see him as a grand officer in upcoming years. During the weekend we elected a new Grand Alpha, Br. Ron Frank, from Florida State. He will formerly take office in a year.

Last Congress, in 2013, Br. Crosby and Br. Scheller presented a new three-part ceremony that was successfully voted to be published into our customs book at the next printing. This year, they had the opportunity to perform the ceremonies at a Congressional Meeting for all the chapters to witness. The ceremonies are currently available on the members only section of the National Chi Phi website.

Br. Matt Scheller was presented with the "William M. Byrd Alumnus of the Year" award; an honor reserved for an alumnus who has distinguished himself in service to the fraternity. Br. Jay Crosby was awarded with the same title the prior year.

Overall it was a productive weekend and it is incredible to see the strong presence, and impact, that the Psi chapter continues to have at our annual National gatherings.

Chi Phi's EDUCATIONAL TRUST & Chapter Excellence Funds (CEFs)

By: Alan Abels '74, *Briarfield Treasurer*

As I am sure you are all aware by now, the Chi Phi Educational Trust is in the middle of a capital campaign titled "Changing Lives." The goal is to raise ten million dollars for the trust. As of the last meeting of the Educational Trust, they had raised $8.7 million. For those of you who are not aware, giving to the Educational Trust is different than giving to Chi Phi, just as giving to Lehigh is different than giving to Briarfield. One is tax deductible and the other is not. Just as you can give to Lehigh for the benefit of Chi Phi, you can now do so with the Educational Trust, by designating a gift for Psi's Chapter Excellence Funds (CEFs). In the same manner as Briarfield can designate spending Chi Phi PLA funds with the university for certain educational purposes, so too, can Briarfield designate spending CEFs.

The reason why the capital campaign is so important is that in past years the Educational Trust has been funding the educational aspects of the National's budget. This amount of funding has been eroding the Trust Assets at a rate greater than they can earn income. These amounts, in addition to the gifts and grants the Educational Trust was providing to the active members of the Fraternity meant that the Fund was in a non-sustainable position similar to the Nation's Social Security System. There are two ways to rectify this situation; increase the asset base of the Trust Fund to generate income in excess of expenditures and reduce the amount of funds needed by the National fraternity.

The leaderships of the Educational Trust and the National Fraternity have decided to do both. The Educational Trust started its Changing Lives capital campaign and the National has worked diligently to increase the number of chapters as well as active members. At the national congress in 2013, the active chapters have voted to increase the amount of annual dues, with the extra monies to be used for expansion and growth. Chi Phi is aggressively going out to start new chapters and restart former ones.

Up until recently, any gifts given to the Educational Trust were spent as the Educational Trust saw fit, and the donor had no say in the matter. Now, just as with the University, the funds you give may be designated for use by our chapter. Once we have reached the required threshold of $5000 the Briarfield Association may begin designating the spending of those funds each year. These funds can be used for scholarships, paying the tuition for the Alpha to attend Alpha's academy or active members to regional leadership alliances as examples.

So brothers, if you give to the Changing Lives campaign, and I hope you do, please designate the funds for Psi Chapter.

Lehigh's First FOOTBALL Team

What is believed to be the picture of the first football team at Lehigh has four Chi Phis . Jacob "Jake" Shotwell Robeson is considered the "Father of Football at Lehigh" is in the center, holding the football. Jake was in the class of 1886 and played snapback or what we today call the center. In front of Robeson is George H. Neilson, quarterback, to his right is Robert R. Hedley and to the far right is William Bradford. This photograph is dated fall of 1884. Having recovered this photograph from the archives of Chi Phi National, brother Abels presented it last fall to Dr. Joseph Sterrett, Athletic Director at Lehigh for framing and hanging in Taylor Gym.

However, this is not the first group to play football for Lehigh. The first game was played on December 8, 1883 at Lehigh with the Sophomore Eleven from the University of Pennsylvania. This game was arranged by Robeson. The team that played that day, had only one other Chi Phi, Mark Anthony deWolfe Howe, also of the class of '86, who played half back. As recounted by half back Richard Davis, rear right, in the April 1891, Lehigh Quarterly, the game was played in mud.

Psi SCRAPBOOK

From 1912-1919, the Psi Chapter occupied this building, located on the corner of 3rd and Wyandotte. Today, this house stands across from the Sayre Mansion and was just purchased by Chabad of Lehigh.

This image (right) was taken in 1884. Pictured on the far right is Jacob S. Robeson, father of Lehigh Football. Left of him in the back row is Mark A. De Wolfe Howe, writer of many Chi Phi songs.

ALUMNI Spotlight

Matt Harmer (Psi '07) has made interesting use of the Chi Phi house since his time at Lehigh…as a backdrop for two video campaigns produced by 59 Second Media (formerly 59 Second Pitch), a company Br. Harmer founded over two years ago in NYC and has been growing rapidly ever since.

Matt formed 59 Second Media after working as a technology attorney and strategy consultant in NYC, using his experience as a business strategist and creative passion to build a stellar team of video and digital mavericks. The creative agency has won several awards for their innovative video and media campaigns, including two Webby awards last year.

59 has produced videos for other Psi entrepreneurs including Adam Stokar (Psi '06), who has built a successful health club platform technology entitled Club OS, and Jon Swanson (Psi '06), who operates one of Morgan Stanley's most well-regarded wealth management firms, The Swanson Group. 59 also brought on software engineer and active brother, Max Smith (Psi '15) as a partner in a spin-off software platform venture to be launched in September.

If you want to check out some of 59 Second Media's work at the Psi, check out the humorous "Stubble & Stache: Beard Care that Cares" campaign video and see if you recognize any locations. Last weekend, 59 shot part of an upcoming campaign at the Psi for the launch of Krass & Co's new greek line of "classy athletic shorts," which will go live on August 18th and are the brainchild of Pierson Krass, a recent alum of Lehigh and brother at Kappa Sigma (sneak peak image below...recognize the house?).

Where is she NOW?

Lisa Williams, also known as "Lisa Babe," was the queen of the Psi's kitchen for 15 years! In 1997, she relieved her father, Dick Williams, and worked until 2012. Lisa was a strong presence in the chapter house and loved dearly; it was unfortunate to see her reign come to an end. Currently, she is managing Egypt Star Bakery (the "cheesesteak bread place") in Whitehall. She has met a great guy last year and they moved into a small two bedroom house in Whitehall. When asked what she misses the most about Chi Phi, she said "I miss the guys the most!!! Chi Phi kept me up to date with things and made it a little easier raising three sons alone. I loved working there and wouldn't have traded the experiences for anything." Lisa eventually plans to move to the south.

1970's REUNION

Pictured is a group image of our brothers from the 1970's enjoying their very successful reuion last September.

If you want to have a reunion for your era, let the Briarfield know! We can help!

FEATURES

Annual DUES to Briarfield!

Membership into the Chi Phi Fraternity is a lifelong commitment. Part of that commitment is showing financial support on an annual basis to our alumni association, The Briarfield. Without your financial contributions, we would not be able to support the active chapter, maintain the condition of our chapter house, hold alumni events, offer academic awards for the actives, stay involved on a National level by sending brothers to Congress, and so much more. Your donations to the Briarfield keep our chapter alive. Recently, we have triumphed amidst the challenge of changing times and have become a stronger chapter than ever before. Your support is not only greatly appreciated, but critical in helping to maintain our continued growth and keeping our longstanding history and tradition alive! We have seen a drop in dues in recent years and have also had to spend a lot of money rebuilding the chapter. This past semester in particular, helping the active chapter survive the FMA failure, was a dramatic drain to our funds. Kindly send in your dues so we can begin to rebuild our financial status!

If you would like more information on where your money is specifically going, please contact Br. Scheller.

YOUNG ALUMNI *(graduated less than 10 yrs ago)*: **$25**

ALUMNI *(graduated 10 years ago or more)*: **$75**

Dues are not tax-deductible. Payments can be made online at briarfieldassociation.org via PayPal.com ***OR*** *you can mail a check payable to "Briarfield Alumni Association" to:* ***Alan Abels, 157 Jordan Road, Brick, NJ 08724***

DONATIONS to the Active Chapter

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Psi chapter directly to the University. The Briarfield does not have access to these funds. This money can go into the Lehigh Programming and Education (P&E) Account or into the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Donations to the P&E are used to fund educational programs and conferences for the actives, as well as improvements to our chapter house. The Memorial Fund goes towards scholarships for active brothers.

These donations can be made online at briarfieldassociation.org, http://mylehigh.lehigh.edu/givechiphi, ***OR*** *you can email a check payable to "Lehigh Annual Fund" to the above address. In the memo, please write "Chi Phi P&E Account" or "Chi Phi Memorial Scholarship Fund".*

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S !

SEPT 20 | 10am

24th Chi Phi Golf Tournament

Wedgewood Golf Course (Coopersburg, PA)
$65 per alumnus / $30 per active
Prizes will be awarded!!

PLEASE RESPOND BY **SEPT 10** and make checks payable to "Briarfield Alumni Association" and send to:
Frank Staber '88
105 Torey Circle Lansdale, PA 19446
(215) 855-7572 (home) / chiphigolf@verizon.net

SEPT 25 | 6pm
Philly Alumni Happy Hour - Bru Craft & Wurst
OCT 2 | 6pm
New York Happy Hour - Tavern 29
OCT 18 | 9:30am
Briarfield Meeting - Chapter House
NOV 6 | 6pm
Philly Happy Hour - Twisted Tail
NOV 22
150th Lehigh/Laf Football - Yankee Stadium
DEC 11 | 6pm
New York Happy Hour - Flatiron Hall
JAN 24/25
Alumni/Active Retreat - Chapter House

Briarfield LEADERSHIP

President: Matt Scheller, *mattdavidscheller@gmail.com*
Vice President: Andrew Basso, *ajbasso1@gmail.com*
Secretary: Ray Glemser, *ray.glemser@glemser.com*
Treasurer: Alan Abels, *aabels157@comcast.net*
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Ken Sinclair, *kps1@lehigh.edu*
IT Coordinator: Casey Atkins, *cratkins767@gmail.com*
Events Coordinator: Brian McAuley, *brian.mcauley@comcast.net*

Trustees:
Andy Hutnikoff
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Chip Schwarzbach
David Long
Michael Bearmore
Barry Kraver
Mau Arellano
Andrew Basso
Ray Glemser
Alan Abels
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