



*Alumni from the 60s and 70s gather at the Lehigh chapter house to reminisce.*

## Lehigh centennial unites generations

BY BEN WAGMAN  
Lehigh '98

Last year, Lehigh University's Pennsylvania Epsilon Chapter considered ways to mark the occasion of their centennial anniversary. Since re-colonization in 1994, much of the focus was on building the chapter's strength. The results are impressive: the Buchanan Cup (2003) and Chapter House of the Year for their region (2006) from the Fraternity, as well as campus awards including Silver Chapter of Distinction (2004-2005) and Chapter of Distinction (2005-2006). The chapter's GPA is 3.27, and it ranks first in manpower at Lehigh. Just recently Lehigh was also accredited as a Residential Learning Community. In addition to these successes, chapter leaders knew they could do better in one aspect of fraternal life: alumni involvement.

The chapter wanted alumni back in the fold to help bridge the gap between various generations of Lehigh SigEps. First the chapter established a database of every brother's contact information. The university provided this data, but the chapter felt they needed to own and maintain it to get the results they wanted. They started a monthly email newsletter to update alumni and complement the semi-annual printed newsletter. This e-letter service allows brothers to

manage their contact information online.

Previous alumni events were held at the chapter house and well attended, but turnout was often limited to brothers living nearby. With that in mind, the chapter embarked on a year-long centennial celebration that would re-engage its more distant alumni. The chapter hosted reunions in cities along the eastern seaboard (where most brothers settled after graduation), and will hold a Centennial Gala this fall to benefit SigEp's service learning partner, YouthAIDS.

Many long-lost brothers spanning several generations attended events held in New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. With a bit of help from the chapter, SigEps from the 60s and 70s held a reunion organized by alumni from that era. At the largest gathering of Lehigh SigEps in the last ten years, younger brothers were awestruck by the sheer number of brothers attending, and by their generosity. The chapter strengthened that sense of history it had been rebuilding for years and was

grateful to be welcomed at this reunion. Pennsylvania Epsilon is not just celebrating its centennial anniversary at Lehigh, members are also building a stronger brotherhood for the next hundred years.



*Lehigh brothers from Philadelphia celebrate at one of several gatherings in different cities.*

## Pepperdine celebrates 10 years; plans for next 10

BY BLAKE KNIGHT  
Pepperdine '09

After a prosperous 10-year run, Pepperdine has positioned itself for continued success by implementing a plan for the next 10 years. Alumnus **Kevin Gifford, '04**, along with other founding and current brothers, presented goals to reach by 2017 at their 10-year alumni reunion.

**Matthew Hubbell, '07**, coordinator of the California Psi Ten-Year Plan, focused on improving the chapter's GPA, encouraging chapter involvement, and increasing annual philanthropy fundraising.

Hubbell gave the chapter tangible ambitions to strive for at the first Ritual meeting of the spring semester. Using the past 10 years as a model, the team looked at how to plan for continued progress. "A 'strategic team' met for two months," Hubbell said. The plan calls for incremental steps in order to achieve key objectives. For example, the plan calls for the chapter's GPA to be 3.05 this year and 3.1 next year, continuing until the chapter reaches its 2017 goal of a 3.5 GPA.

"By taking the initiative to form a 10-year plan, the alumni are confident that the undergraduate brothers will continue to strive for greatness as a chapter and as a brotherhood," Gifford said. "The success of this plan will depend on the dedication it takes to follow it throughout the next 10 years," Hubbell said.