



# Convention 2022: *Reflecting on the Brooklyn Convention*

by Alex Pruce, Psi '13

It is hard to believe that our fraternity's 175th anniversary has come and gone. The 2021-2022 academic year was full of local, national and international events to celebrate our demisemiseptcentennial, but the capstone was Zeta Psi's Brooklyn Convention in August. Both Stephen M. Halperin, Beta Tau '84 and the author of this article, Alex Pruce, Psi, '13, were very honored to co-chair the convention, which was also the first in-person convention with full programming since the Baltimore Convention in 2019.

Due to the pandemic, Zetes from across the world had been anxiously waiting for a reunion after the three-year hiatus. Many brothers and their guests took the opportunity to explore Brooklyn and New York City at-large on their own. Going to Broadway shows, attending a Yankees game, boat cruising around the city, partaking in a pizza tour and getting lost in Times Square are just some of the wonderful stories experienced during the week.

As for official events, we kicked off the convention with a happy hour meet-and-greet in midtown Manhattan. Afterwards, Zetes attended a variety of programs and meetings at the host hotel, the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. In the evenings, brothers and their guests traveled to Coney Island for a Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game with a picnic dinner. On the last night, they attended the annual Grand Chapter Banquet. It was great to spend time and catch up with brothers from all over the world.

This year was especially meaningful for our chapters. The Psi Chapter had one of its own brothers, Maurice Ducoing '03, elected as President of the Zeta Psi Educational Foundation, succeeding another Psi, Tom Roerden '83. Tom served as President for the last two years and spearheaded the creation of the Emergency

Scholarship Fund, which helped numerous brothers in need. The Beta Tau Chapter of Tulane had a special convention as Will Woldenberg, '07, was elected to the Phi Alpha position of Zeta Psi. Aaron Ronksley, '07, was elected to the Secretary position of the Zeta Psi Educational Foundation.

Since this was the first in-person convention in three years, we were once again able to present awards to the specific honorees. Past Phi Alphas Andrew Nunez, Iota Alpha, '94 and Barth Gillan, Alpha Psi, '85, were honored with Distinguished Service Awards, Bill "Landru" McKnight, Theta Xi, '80, was honored with the James J. Carey Leadership Award and Christopher Arnold, Theta Eta, '11, received the Douglas P. Donaldson Young Alumni Award. Highlights of the chapter awards were the Phi Lambda chapter receiving the McElroy Chapter of the Year, the Gamma Epsilon chapter receiving the the William R. Durry Award and the Theta Omicron chapter receiving the William A. Comstock Award. Theta Omicron became the first European chapter to claim this award.

Seattle will be the host city in July, 2023 as will New Orleans in July, 2024. The Convention Strategy Committee is actively reviewing and soliciting bids for host cities in the coming years, so if you have a proposal, please let Alex Pruce and the Committee know. We hope to see you in Seattle in July.

In Tau Kappa Phi,

Alex Pruce, Psi '13 & Stephen Halperin, Beta Tau '84



Zeta Psi brothers visiting the burial site of John Bradt Yates Sommers



Theta Omicron brothers with their Silver Chapter Award



Jeff Wozer presenting the Saturday morning Keynote address



The traditional Gamma elders dinner with the international brothers at Dinosaur BBQ



The annual crazy shirt night at the Brooklyn Cyclones game