

Lambda Phi Epsilon

Chapter Name: Lambda Phi Epsilon

Nickname: Lambdas, LPhiE

Chapter Founding: University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

National Founding Date: February 25, 1981

Local Founding Date: December 7, 2002 at 7:45am.

National Crest:



UMass Lambda Phi Epsilon



Brief Description:

Traditional Asian campus organizations were often split along lines of national origins. The lack of continuity among the memberships in those organizations meant that at best, student associations provided a circle of friends spanning the years of undergraduate study and at worst, a group of familiar strangers encountered during periodic social functions. The yearly turnover of most organizations' officers made it extremely difficult to pursue any extended project as each new officer core set its own agenda. A solution to this dilemma was the adoption of a fraternal social structure.

Not satisfied with the single Asian fraternity on the campus of University of California, Los Angeles, Lambda Phi Epsilon was founded on February 25, 1981, by principal founder Mr. Craig Ishigo and a group of eighteen other dedicated men.

Noticing that Asian fraternities and sororities at the UC campuses were recognized as only service organization due to their memberships focus on Asians and to the exclusion of other ethnic groups, the goal of the founders was to transcend this limitation. The founders hoped to set new and higher standards of excellence for all Asian-interest organizations to follow, while feeling a need to offer a fraternity that would be recognized by the IFC and the Greek system. While the original charter focused on Asian-Pacifics, people from all ethnic backgrounds were welcome to join and support the brotherhood of Lambda Phi Epsilon. Their vision was that the members would eventually become the leaders of their respective communities and bridge the gaps that divided the Asian American community through the affiliation with a common organization.

On September 8, 1990, Lambda Phi Epsilon became the first and only nationally recognized Asian-American interest fraternity in the United States with the admission to the National Inter-fraternity Conference (NIC).

Over the next few years, Lambda Phi Epsilon National had grown tremendously. Between the years 1990 and 1995, Lambda Phi Epsilon increased in size to over twenty chapters. In 1995, we became a California non-profit corporation changing our name to Lambda Phi Epsilon National Fraternity, Inc. Once again, the first Asian Interest Fraternity to do so.

On December 5, 2004, Lambda Phi Epsilon became the first and only International Asian American fraternity, with the addition of University of Toronto, with the total of 44 chapters in the United States and Canada.

National Website: <http://www.lambdaphiepsilon.com/alumni.php>

Chapter's Website: www.umasslambdas.com

Community Projects:

National Philanthropy

Asian American Bone Marrow Donor Program

The brothers of Lambda Phi Epsilon felt it was important to choose a national philanthropy that helped Asian Americans directly. Previously, the national philanthropy was the Special Olympics. At the 1993 National Convention, U.C. Berkeley introduced to the assembly, the Asian American Bone Marrow Donor Program. This program had been started in order to create a national registry of Asian American bone marrow donors. In the past, the Bone Marrow Donor Program had a severe lack of Asian American donors.

Due to this, many people died because of the lack of a matching bone marrow donor and subsequent transplant. With this motivation, it was hard not to choose the Asian American Bone Marrow Donor Program as our national philanthropy. Already several brothers have donated bone marrow to the program and in turn, have saved lives.

Fun Facts:

- Lambda brother Yul Kwon survivor cook island champion
- first asian fraternity to be admitted into the NIC
- first asian fraternity to establish a second chapter (beta chapter)
- largest asian american interest fraternity in the US
- first international asian american fraternitiy

GPA to join: minimum 2.0, preferably 2.5+