This newsletter is intended to provide the membership important updates regarding the growth of the society and recognition to those chapters whose members and programs that exemplify the mission of Nu Rho Psi.

Future newsletters will be posted annually. To insure they contain valuable information for all, we need your help.

If you, or your chapter, have significant news regarding chapter initiatives, activities or graduate's accomplishments, please share them with your chapter's Regional VP and they may be included in a future newsletter.
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE
Mike Kerchner

The State of the Honor Society

For the past several years, we have seen continued growth in the number of chapters and members in the society. In the very near future, it is likely that we will award a charter to our 100th Chapter. Although this is a significant accomplishment, it should not be the only measure of the health and accomplishment of the society and many of our earliest chapters and their members. In recent years, we have also been able to expand the number of our awards and research grants and increase the funds available for support of undergraduate research grants and support of chapter activities associated with our annual themes.

Nevertheless, there are some chapters that have appeared to struggle in some ways. In the next year, part of the emphasis of the Council will be to re-engage with those chapters that have not inducted any new members in the previous three years. The approved changes to the National Bylaws require that these chapters would be regarded as inactive and that they meet certain requirements to be reinstated among the active chapters.

In some cases, we have lost contact with chapters once the advisors have changed, or an advisor has been awarded a sabbatical for some period, stepped down or left to pursue professional opportunities elsewhere. Whenever there are such changes in the Chapter Advisor(s), that information must be communicated to the Nu Rho Psi National Office. Change of Advisor Forms may be downloaded from the Nu Rho Psi website.

Nu Rho Psi Chapters
At this time there are a total of 98 Chapters of Nu Rho Psi. Chapters that were established between 2018 and 2020 are listed on page 5 of this newsletter. WELCOME TO ALL!

Membership
Since Nu Rho Psi was established, there have been over 7,000 members who have been inducted, including 14 Honorary Members. Honorary Members are: "...distinguished persons who have national or international reputations because of the contributions they have made to neuroscience."

Honorary Members may be inducted by individual chapters or by the National Council, but all honorary member candidates must be approved by the national council. Contact your Regional VP for guidance regarding the approval process and the criteria for Honorary Member Status.
Maggie Gill - North Central College
Immediate Past President

Greetings Nu Rho Psi members! When I took over the president's position and we last met at the SFN meeting in the fall 2019, nobody would have predicted that our world would be so disrupted in just a short year, and the environment at colleges and universities would look so different. Between the intersection of a global pandemic and increased awareness of the issues facing our underrepresented students, faculty, and staff in our campus communities, it has been a difficult start to fall semester for everyone. However, if there is a silver lining in it all, it has brought forth many meaningful conversations among the Nu Rho Psi executive board, and I am hopeful that the upcoming changes will make Nu Rho Psi a better organization for all its members as we continue to grow and evolve. Over the last year and a half the executive council has worked hard to revise the bylaws in order to make sure our policies are in line with practice; and based on feedback from our member institutions, have initiated a provisional membership status so that chapters can grow and have a larger impact on their college or university early on in student’s academic careers. The council also approved adding a non-competitive travel grant component to undergraduate research grants starting in 2019 to encourage students to disseminate the results of their Nu Rho Psi funded projects at the national SFN meeting. This summer the council approved two initiatives to remove barriers and encourage underrepresented individuals to become members of Nu Rho Psi. We added a question to the new chapters form for chapters to describe what steps their neuroscience department is taking to remove barriers and be inclusive of underrepresented groups. We also have added a grant that will cover national induction fees for underrepresented individuals of need, so that the cost is not a barrier to becoming a member of Nu Rho Psi. Finally, we are currently discussing a research/travel grant either specifically for underrepresented individuals or to conduct neuroscience research on underrepresented groups. I am hopeful that all of these changes are just a start to make the Nu Rho Psi community more welcoming and inclusive for everyone. It was great to see everyone via zoom for our 2020 annual meeting in October!

Michael Black - Georgia State University
Current President

Thank you, Nu Rho Psi members, for your amazing efforts despite the challenges. Our council is looking forward to seeing more of your creativity and hard work to champion the mission of Nu Rho Psi with research, inductions, outreach, and events in safe ways that include online format. We want to highlight your good work, so please share pictures and news with your Regional VP and our Social Media Chair (page 5). At our national event, fellow members from around the country gathered online for an incredibly well-attended 2020 Annual Members Meeting in October focused on this year's theme of the Gut-Brain Connection. That theme will continue through this academic year with exciting discoveries and insights to share with members and the public. For a preview of next year's theme, see the report on the Members Meeting (page 8). Annually, we've been able to award research grants to six Nu Rho Psi members and increased from three to four Chapter Activity grants to fund the activities of our Nu Rho Psi chapters. We are proud to honor the work and accomplishments of our Outstanding Chapters and Members of the Year (pages 9 and 10). As Dr. Gill described so well, your council has been working hard to build on the foundations of our predecessors for the future growth, equity, and vitality of Nu Rho Psi. We will be meeting online with chapter advisors in January to further chart our course forward. Help us to increase our impact. We want to support you in the coming year and beyond, so let us know how best to serve you and our organization as we fulfill our mission together.
Bylaws, Policies, Challenges & Initiatives

Revisions to the Model Chapter Bylaws

During the past year, the Council drafted and proposed a number of revisions to the Model Chapter Bylaws to clarify existing policies and support the vibrancy of existing chapters. Among the approved revisions are:

- The option to include a Provisional Member Status
- Revised Qualifications for Membership; allowing minimum criteria exceeding those listed in the model bylaws
- Additional Chapter Officers: Social Media Chair
- Revisions to the local chapter officer election process
- Changes that allow local chapter dues to be waived
- Definition of Inactive Chapter Status and dissolution of inactive chapters.
- Guidance for faculty advisors regarding criteria for maintaining tax exempt status

The revised model bylaws are posted on the Nu Rho Psi website.

Inclusivity Policy

While there have been great advances in rectifying many aspects of social and economic inequity, events in the past year have made it apparent that there is still much that needs to be accomplished to achieve full equity, diversity, and inclusivity for all. The Inclusivity and Diversity Policy of Nu Rho Psi is posted on our website and we endorse those of the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN) and the Society for Neuroscience (SFN).

COVID-19

The pandemic has disrupted typical academic instruction and social programming across the country. Most academic and co-curricular activities have had to occur virtually, if at all. Throughout the coming spring, Nu Rho Psi will be hosting several virtual events for chapter officers and the membership. Check the Nu Rho Psi website and your email for notifications. If chapter officers have questions or require assistance regarding inductions, please contact your regional vice president or the national office.

New Programs and Initiatives

If there are any programs or initiatives that would benefit the individual members or chapters, we encourage you to share these with your chapter's regional vice president on the national council.
SOCIAL MEDIA

Does your chapter have its own social media site that features your chapter activities and accomplishments of your members? Contact our national social media chair (Tara), to feature your posts on the national social media pages: nurhopsimedia@gmail.com

HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/NURHOPSI
HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/NURHOPSI
HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/NURHOPSI

Shubhik DebBurman
May 24, 2019 · 😊

The 2019 Nu Rho Psi Induction at Lake Forest College welcomed 22 new students, alumni, and faculty and a keynote address by DePaul University’s Dean of College of Science and Health and Nu Rho Psi advisor of the DePaul Chapeter, Dorothy Kozlowski.

nurhopsi · Following
Ohio State University

nurhopsi · Hello Nu Rho Psi friends! Nu Rho Psi Ohio State here! We will be taking over this page for the next few weeks to show you what we are up to on OSU’s campus here in Columbus, Ohio. We have lots of fun events coming up so make sure you are following along with us! 47w
The following Chapters have been approved since the last newsletter was distributed.

### 2017-2018 - New Chapters

- Boston College [ε in MA]
- Bradley University [ζ in IL]
- DePaul University [η in IL]
- Florida State University [β in FL]
- Indiana University [γ in IN]
- Loras College [γ in IA]
- Loyola University [θ in IL]
- Millsaps College [α in MS]
- Notre Dame University [β in IN]
- Rutgers University [β in NJ]
- St Louis University [α in MO]
- Syracuse University [δ in NY]
- Transylvania University [γ in KY]
- University of Cincinnati [η in OH]
- University of Iowa [δ in IA]
- University of Kansas [α in KS]
- University of New Hampshire [α in NH]
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute State University [γ in VA]

### 2019-2020 New Chapters

By the date of publishing, the following institutions have had their charter applications approved:

- Creighton University [β in NE]
- George Washington University [α in DC]
- Mercer University [η in GA]
- Nova Southeastern University [β in FL]
- Quinnipiac University [γ in CT]
- Slippery Rock University [t in PA]
- St. Francis University [k in PA]
- SUNY Old Westbury [ε in NY]
- The University California, Los Angeles [γ in CA]
- Wayne State University [β in MI]
- Westminster College [β in UT]

### OUTGOING MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

We wish to thank those who recently completed their terms as members of National Council for their exceptional contributions to Nu Rho Psi:

- Zoe Hesp - Secretary (2014-2016)
- M. Jade Zee - President (2014-2018) *
- Shubhik DebBurman - President (2015-2019) *
- Stephanie Ross - Southern Regional VP (2017-2020)
- Susan Sollars - Midwest Regional VP (2016-2019)
- Alec Calac - Secretary (2017-2019)

* Extended terms of four years due to an unanticipated vacancy in the Office of President Elect
Congratulations to the newest Nu Rho Psi Inductees from Christopher Newport University!!
Due to the ongoing pandemic, we had our first virtual induction ceremony! 20 new students were inducted- our biggest group since starting the β-chapter in Virginia in 2013.

-Submitted by Dr. Darlene Mitman, CNU Nu Rho Psi Chapter Advisor

HALE NU RHO PSI SEMINAR ZOOM (POST-COVID, ON ZOOM, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020). THIS IS PART OF THE NEUROSCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES, ORGANIZED BY THE STUDENTS OF NU RHO PSI. THE SPEAKER FOR THIS PARTICULAR SEMINAR WAS DR. MELINA HALLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. WE REGULARLY HOST AT LEAST THREE NEUROSCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES TALKS EVERY SEMESTER.

Lake Forest College  [γ in IL] Submitted by Jean-Marie Maddox, LFC Chapter Advisor.

Purchasing chapter supplies or instructional items such as textbooks online? A portion of what you pay can be donated to Nu Rho Psi National via Amazon Smile.
Greetings! My name is Darlene Mitrano and I am extremely excited to introduce myself as the newly elected Regional Vice President for the South. I am currently an Associate Professor of Biology and Neuroscience at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. Born and raised in Queens, New York, I started my journey and love for neuroscience while an undergraduate at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, where I majored in Psychology. From there, I did my doctoral work at Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia, in the Molecular and Systems Pharmacology Program. My love of the brain encouraged me to focus my dissertation research on neuropharmacology and neuroanatomy. After obtaining my Ph.D., I was a postdoctoral fellow in the FIRST (Fellowships in Research and Science Teaching) Program, where I honed my teaching skills at Spelman College and continued research at Emory University. My first faculty position was at Georgia State University in the Neuroscience Institute as a Visiting Lecturer where I shared my office with our current Nu Rho Psi President, Dr. Michael Black! I finally landed my position at Christopher Newport University in 2012, where I have been dedicated to teaching Biology, but more favorably Neurobiology, Neuroanatomy, and Neurobiology of Addiction. I hope to be a resource for the other Nu Rho Psi chapters in the southern region and act as a liaison between the chapters and the National Council. Thanks to all who elected me to this position!

President Elect (2021) - Sarah Cassella

Hello Nu Rho Psi!
Currently, I am an Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at Loras College (Dubuque, IA), and the advisor for our Nu Rho Psi Chapter, Iowa Gamma. My enthusiasm for teaching and neuroscience began as an undergraduate at Oberlin College – this led me to pursue my PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati and a teaching postdoc at Susquehanna University. My favorite classes to teach are Drugs and Human Behavior, Neuropsychiatric Disease, and Neuroanatomy, and my research interests revolve around the neurobiology of stress.

As I serve on the Executive Board, I hope to contribute to two aspects of the organization: membership networking and outreach. Finding easier ways for our network of student and professional members to communicate will increase and enhance the unique experiences and opportunities a membership in Nu Rho Psi provides. Also, due to my love of outreach, I would like to help increase visibility of the impactful work our chapters are doing. I think sharing information between chapters presents an opportunity for all programming to improve, and changing how chapters “get the word out” will increase the chances of connecting with the campus and the surrounding city community.

I am so excited to join the leadership of this organization. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to the exciting things to come!
During the 2019 Annual Nu Rho Psi Member Meeting and Social, participants and guests discussed a number of topics for the 2020-21 Annual theme. The consensus among the participants was the Gut-Grain Connection; the interconnected relationship between the gut microbiome and brain function, behavior, cognition, mood and general health.

Four chapters were awarded Nu Rho Psi Chapter Activity Grants (CAG) in 2020. Such grants are competitively awarded to chapters to facilitate activities and public chapter programs related to the annual theme. Recipients of these 2019-20 CAG awards were chapters at Rutgers University and Skidmore College. This year CAG awards recipients were the chapters at Georgia State University, Lake Forest College, Loras College, and SUNY Old Westbury. The recipients of these awards were recognized at the 2020 Annual Member Meeting; our very first virtual member meeting and social.

The Keynote Speaker at the event was Susan Erdman, DVN, MPH from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her Keynote, "Microbes and Oxytocin", focused on the way that the early maternal bonds formed between mothers and their offspring may be influenced by the maternal microbiome, particularly Lactobacillus reuteri promoted production and release of maternal oxytocin.

Chapters may obtain theme related resources from the Nu Rho Psi website, including a link to Prof. Erdman's keynote address.

*Members attending the 2020 Member Meeting and Social proposed several themes for 2021-2022. The 2021-2022 theme that received the most endorsements is "The Neuroscience of Identity and Bias"*
2019 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS - CONGRATULATIONS!

2019 Chapter of the Year Award
Georgia State University (in GA)

2019 Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year
M. Jade Zee – Northeastern University (in MA - 46)

2019 – 2020 Chapter Activity Grants
Boston College (in MA)
Rutgers University (in NJ)
Skidmore College (in NY)

2019 Nu Rho Psi SFN Travel Awards
Jacob Nadel (Oberlin College - in OH)
Haoyang Huang (Skidmore College - in NY)
Jordan Gilbraith (Vanderbilt University)
Lydia Loiselle (Ithaca College)
† Non-Nu Rho Psi Institutions

2019 Undergraduate Research Grants
Sydney Blum, Ohio State University
(Mentor: Andrew Fischer)
Abigail Cahill, Northeastern University
(Mentor: Dagmar Sternad)
Juhi Mehta, The University of Pittsburgh
(Mentor: Edward Burton)
Sama Radwan, Emory University
(Mentor: Daniel DiLks)
Sarah Margaret Shapley, Baldwin Wallace University
(Mentor: Jacqueline Morris)
Recipient of the 2019 Andrew G. Mickley Award
Blake Anderson, University of Nebraska at Omaha
(Mentor: Suzanne Sallars)

Regional Conference Poster Award Recipients
Miolabs 2019
Katherine English, University of Evansville
Mentors: Shalini Saggu & John J. Shacka, University of Alabama at Birmingham

NEURON 2019
Lily Zhong, University of Connecticut
Mentor: Alexander Jackson

MIDRBRAINS 2018-19
2018: Christopher Kwon, Colin Liphart, Chris Leppink-Shands,
Max Pope & Gifty Amos Nwankwo, Carlton College
Mentor: Julie Neisworth
2019: Rachel Rucker, University of South Dakota
Mentor: Brian Burrell
2020 ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS - CONGRATULATIONS!

2020 Chapter of the Year Award
Georgia State University (β in GA)

2020 Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year
Leslie Stone-Roy – Colorado State University (αCO-13)

2020 Outstanding Student Member of the Year
Janavi Ramesh – Georgia State University (βGA-81)

2020 – 2021 Chapter Activity Grants
Georgia State University
Lake Forest College
Loras College
SUNY – Old Westbury

2020-21 Undergraduate Research Grants
Kelly Coakley, Regis University
(Mentor: James Maniscalco)

Nicolai “Nic” Peña, University of Arizona
(Mentor: Daniela Zarnescu)

Carris Borland, Lake Forest College
(Mentor: Shubhik DebBurman)

Nithyaa Shree, Georgia State University
(Mentor: Angela Mabb)

Aviva Gars, Georgia State University
(Mentor: Nancy Fegner)

Recipient of the 2020 Andrew G. Mickley Award
Jordan Nowlin, North Central College
(Mentor: Michael Stefanik)

Regional Conference Poster Award Recipients
NEURON 2020
Jordyn Hurly – Northeastern University
(Mentor: Teniel Ramikie, Harvard Medical School)
Would you like to share the accomplishments and activities of your chapter with other chapters? Are there individual faculty, current chapter members, or alumni that deserve special recognition for their accomplishments? Has your chapter implemented programs or initiatives that other chapters may be interested in emulating? Have their been innovative instructional and co-curricular initiatives that your chapter has launched?

Please share information and photographs regarding your chapter activities and the accomplishments of your members with your chapter's Regional Vice President for possible distribution on the Nu Rho Psi website and/or the 2021 Annual Newsletter.

- **Northeastern Regional VP:**
  Stephanie Reeves - stephanie_reeves@berkeley.edu

- **Southern Regional VP:**
  Darlene Mitrano - darlene.mitrano@cnu.edu

- **Midwest Regional VP:**
  Lora Becker - lb47@eveansville.edu

- **Western Regional VP:**
  Phillip Quirk - phillip.quirk@colostate.edu

*Submissions throughout the year may be highlighted on the Nu Rho Psi website during the year. 2021 Activities/Initiatives/Accomplishments that are shared prior to November 1, 2021 may be included in the 2021 Annual Newsletter.*