Hutson, Annabelle

Com 300 Section 11

Personal Profile

As far as Connor K. Proehl is concerned, chivalry is not dead in the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Washington State University.

Connor is the public relations chair of his chapter, taking on many duties to represent the fraternity on campus. These include running the social media accounts for the chapter, thanking sororities for their participation in events, and other tasks that present the fraternity well. “It’s all about creating an image for the house and chapter that I can be proud of” he says. “I want to show the community that Pi Kapps are men of class.”

A fellow Pi Kappa Phi brother, Devin J. Sepich, claims “Connor is proactive,” whereas past public relations chair holders have not done much to improve the fraternity’s standing with sorority women or the public. He describes Connor taking on duties such as handwriting letters of thanks for sorority women and delivering flowers to the sorority’s house after a shared event. He also wrote serenades as well as choreographed dances to them to perform for sorority women on homecoming weekend.

Devin notes that these acts of chivalry are not very common throughout the fraternity chapters at Washington State University. “It’s absolutely about being a gentleman to the ladies” he says, reflecting on Connor’s actions to make sure women in sororities feel appreciated for coming to events. Devin claims one of the fraternity men’s core values is about being a gentleman and treating others with respect. He believes through Connor’s interactions with sorority women, other men in fraternities, and the general people of the public, Connor well exemplifies this core value.

While being a gentleman to the women of sororities is an important value for Pi Kappa Phi fraternity members and regularly modeled by Connor, it is important to reach out to the wider Greek system and Washington State University community. Brennan D. Quirk, a friend of Connors and fellow member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, recalls Connor standing out in a big way by reaching out to a neighboring fraternity chapter when one of their members committed suicide earlier in the academic year.

“I just remembered a kid going through rush from Alaska who loved basketball” Connor says. He recalls not knowing him very well but recognizing the young man who took his own life when the news broke. Brennan recollects Connor going over to the house with a hand written note of condolences, and sending messages via social media lending support for the members of the fraternity as well as events they hosted for suicide prevention later on. Connor says he wants a bond between all the fraternities together to support each other in hard times, and that being in brotherhood has changed his life.

Not only that, but Connor feels it is important to get the men of Pi Kappa Phi involved in all kinds of ways with the Greek community. He recalls members of a neighboring sorority hosting a philanthropy event for domestic violence prevention near the beginning of the academic year, and inviting the fraternity brothers to join in games to fundraise. “It was a great chance for our new guys, pledges, to get out there and meet some new people while doing some good” he reflects. He reports that after the event he sent a tweet on social media to thank the women for hosting Pi Kappa Phi men and show support for their cause.

“Running the social media is one if the biggest things” Connor states, when asked what is the most important part of his job. Brennan is on the recruitment chair for the fraternity, and says Connor helps draw in new potential members by giving them “a look at what life in the fraternity is really like.” More than that Brennan also claims Connor jokes around in good fun with other fraternity chapters on campus via social media, promoting good feelings between them.

“The best part of this fraternity is that you are working for something bigger than yourself” says Connor. He says he is grateful to have an amazing support system of brothers during the best four years of his life, and is extremely pleased to do work as the Public Relations chair to give back to his brothers. “You’re really working for the guy sitting to your right and your left.”