

# Lock Haven University

Official Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Mary White

Phone: (570) 484-2253

E-mail: [mwhite4@lhup.edu](mailto:mwhite4@lhup.edu)

Release Date: 24 October 2011

LHU event showcases Brian Keefer, new student lounge  
Big turnout for Sunday viewing of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

One of the highlights of Lock Haven University's Homecoming weekend was a Sunday evening showing of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.

The two-hour program featuring LHU student Brian Keefer was broadcast on the abc television network on Friday, October 21. Many LHU students were involved in LHU Homecoming events and unable to watch it live; Brian himself was home, watching the show with his family and neighbors.

The LHU Residence Hall Association sponsored a Sunday evening showing of Brian's Extreme Makeover program on the wide screen in Price Performance Center. Over 200 students turned out to take part. All those who attended were given numbered tickets which were used to give away Extreme Makeover prizes: shirts, autographed pictures and other items.

After the showing, RHA also hosted a reception in Woolridge Lounge, which had been renovated as part of the Extreme Makeover project and was featured in the show. Students got to see the new lounge, enjoy some food, see pictures of the lounge while it was being redone, and meet and talk with Brian.

During the reception, members of the RHA unveiled a plaque in Brian's name which will be permanently displayed in the new lounge.

According to Toni Viola, resident director of Woolridge Hall, the new lounge has been a big hit. "The students in Woolridge have made great use of the new student lounge," she said. "Its pool tables and ping pong tables are in constant use, and the students often use the space to bring their dinners and hang out with friends while watching TV.

Brian is paralyzed as the result of a gymnastics accident that occurred at a gym near his home in Etters, Pa., during the 2008 summer break. He is extremely well-liked and admired. Toni Viola commented, "As a new member of the LHU community, it was amazing to see the amount of love and support the students at Lock Haven have for Brian and his family. Brian has such a positive attitude and ability to connect with people personally and I know that's what everyone finds so inspiring about him. He has a true sense of determination and it is great to see his friends fully support his goal of walking again."



*Left photo: Speaking to the audience members in Price Performance Center were Brian Keefer; his father Steve Keefer; good friend and fellow student Jeff Gdovin; and Resident Hall Director Wendy Walsh. Right photo: The new Woolridge Lounge features bright colors and a welcoming atmosphere.*

Lock Haven University is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth. Its 14 universities offer more than 250 degree and certificate programs in more than 120 areas of study. Nearly 405,000 system alumni live and work in Pennsylvania.

####