



# News from Alpha Theta

## February 2007

FEBRUARY 12, 2007 NEWSLETTER  
ABE LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

Bill "Mitch" Mitchell  
Alumni Editor

### NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI

#### CALENDAR

Founders' Day	March 3 and 4, 2007	Washington, PA
Work Day	Last half of April(to be set)	Chapter House
Annual Alumni Picnic With preliminary Summer Rush Picnic	Second Weekend of August	Coopers Rocks
Homecoming	October 20 and 21, 2007	Morgantown

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#### **FOUNDERS' DAY PROGRAM** Open to all Brothers, Their Wives and Their Dates

##### Saturday March 3, 2007

- 3 PM Auggie's Road House, 1180, Mapleview Drive, Washington, PA  
Gather, mix, mingle, snacks and drinks, Viewing available for the WVU  
Greek Life Task Force Power Point Presentation
- 4PM Live Broadcast of the WVU vs. Cincinnati Basketball Game
- 7:30PM Dinner Holiday Inn, 380 Racetrack Road, Washington PA  
Informal, pay per person dinner with ten minute traditional Founders' Day

message from Doug Ladish followed by each brother present in turn introducing himself and giving a brief three minute anecdote representing what Pi Kappa Alpha has meant in his life.

Sunday March 4, 2007

10AM to 1PM Holiday Inn Brunch Brotherhood and Fellowship Meeting for all who stay over and care to attend.

Farewells in the bonds of phi, phi, kappa alpha 1868, 1904, 1925, 2003

RSVP [mitchline@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchline@yahoo.com) or RSVP 270-351-4915

ROOMS - WE HAVE A BLOCK OF ROOMS RESERVED AT HOLIDAY INN, Racetrack Road. Give Reference: WVU and Pi Kappa Alpha

SEE MAP - CLICK ON MAP FILE attached to the message accompanying this message. If you have any problems receiving the message with the map, contact me at [mitchline@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchline@yahoo.com)

ALREADY RESERVED: Doug Ladish, Joe Foleo, Mike Shook, Gary Duryea, Anthony Duryea, Ben Sherman, Richard Driver, Bill Chittum, Mitch Mitchell, Adam Cobb, Brendan Ruppert, Tom Whalen, Active Chapter

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From TOM SOWINSKI:

"I sent Lane an e-mail about the Gator Bowl, as Pat and I always go when the 'eers are there. We have friends in Jacksonville, so it's not too bad a trip for us. Anyway, haven't heard back from Norm, a roomie of mine at the House for a while, as was Larry Cobb, Terry Broadwater and Rich Hopkins. So, hope to hear back from him about getting to do some tailgating before the game. We usually manage to get a parking space close to the stadium ....So, if I hear back from my old Roomscrew (as he was fond of calling us), I'll let you know. God forbid I have to pick up the gawdam phone and call him! Take care and if you ever manage to be in SC, plan on staying with us some.  
Tom "

From BOB RISHER

"Hello,  
I have just switched my e-mail address from bobrisher@charter.net to bobrisher@suddenlink.net. Please use this new address for all future e-mails. Switching to Suddenlink Internet Service using TrueSwitch's automatic Internet account switching service was easy. You should check it out!

Thanks,

Robert

[bobrisher@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobrisher@suddenlink.net)

From DOUG LADISH:

Doug's a busy man. Many of us are aware of his heavy travel schedules for Dow

Reichhold and for Pi K A, but somehow he still finds time for family. Some recent news: November, granddaughter Claire baptized. By December 1st: Mark, Claire's father, had been promoted to Major and had just left for his second deployment in Iraq. December, daughter Julie married on the Winter Solstice. Looking ahead: Beth and the girls are planning to return for another visit this summer...June 23<sup>rd</sup> a celebration party in the mountains for Julie and Bill...and Mark's return in September.

From HANK WAGNER:

Thanks for including me on your e-mail concerning the Task Force on Greek Life. I have enjoyed getting back in the loop over the past few months with the help of Bill Mitchell and Doug Ladish. Yes, I would like a CD of the presentation. I am spending most of the winter in Naples, FL. My address is:  
7225 Pelican Bay Boulevard, #1101  
Naples, FL 34108  
Hank Wagner '64

From ANDY BARRETT:

Bill, I want to sit down and give you a decent remembrance of my experiences in the fraternity but I have not been able to get it done and believe I may have to go back to the old photos and try to relate as many experiences as I can as they relate to the people. The fellow who had the most to do with me being a PIKE was Kent Myers whom I had known only slightly from my high school homeroom at CHS. He is a precious guy and was a dedicated worker. He served as treasurer as I remember it. I had gone on active duty with the National Guard as a medic so went to WVU one year behind all my classmates and actually lived off campus in a professor Fulton's home on High St in So Park and walked the 3 miles to class every day. I made the best grades in school that year and carried 19 hours each semester while doing so. I took a 57 Chevy convertible up there the next year and my academics went sour. I became the worst of what a fraternity boy should be and I paid a price for it. My big brother was Rupert Bowling who got married that year and who along with trying to do the serious academics was not able to participate that much. Owen Moore later an IBM guy in Harrisburg Pa. was my most memorable paddle signer who wrote "FUN BE THE PLEDGE AS A CLOWN. LETS GET SERIOUS FROM NOW ON" on it. How I wish I had taken that great guys advice. I will try and finish more as I get to it. My pledge class President was Bill Meredith of Fairmont and Tom Taylor was in there somewhere. Tom was in the Insurance business in Ohio the last time I saw him in Morgantown, and I believe his little blood bro Bill was in the insurance business in Lexington Ky. Bill married Diane Divese(sp) who was Linda McMorrow's neighbor in Charlton Heights near Gauley Bridge. Tom married Julie Harding of Morgantown.

From MIKE "SHOOKA " SHOOK:

Auggie's Roadhouse has made arrangements with the cable company for live broadcast WVU vs. Cincinnati game for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Founders' Day. Tom "Carp" Whalen definitely coming.

Response:

Great News! Both counts: TV game and "Carp".

Mike, I know you have really put a lot of time and effort into this. What we all thought would be pretty simple task---getting a TV broadcast of the game--- turned about to be a real challenge. We all---me , Doug, John, Bill Chatom, the Active Chapter---all of Alpha Theta UNITED really appreciates your persistence in seeing this through. Kudos to Bill Chittum also, who, faithful as ever, pitched in with a couple of actives, Brent Kottner and Brad Blickenstaff, to help out on this. I think you are going to very gratified by the attendance. We haven't even started to promote it yet, and already have commitments from over ten of the alumni plus the Active Chapter. Had to get the program before we could really begin to promote. We have 24 days to beat the drum!

Last July 11, two guys talked for the first time in 43 years and agreed to get together a reunion of their old HS classmates. No one had seen each other since the school closed in 1962. In 36 days they located about a hundred of the old guys, and had a reunion on a 500 acre farm 22 mile south of Elkins, WV with over 50 in attendance on August 15th. In 36 DAYS ! And about 2 hours off any Interstate Highway. And they had to find'em first! 43 years later! Remind me to tell you the Don Bosco story sometime.

Moral: we have 24 days to CRANK UP THE VOLUME! And we've already got our list of addresses and phone numbers and many email addresses. We have enthusiasm! We're depending on Gary Duryea and Ben Sherman for the Brother to Brother Phone Calls. But I encourage you(AND EVERYONE) to take a half hour off from TV each evening and just call some of the guys you haven't heard from for a while. It's fun, it and will make Founders' Day a lot more fun if you have 5-10 of your old gang around instead of just 2-3. Don't make work of it. Just do it for fun and to catch up on old times and some news. (Send me the news for the next Newsletter---old times too.) As John Allevato shows in this Newsletter, old memories are powerf ul stories.) And if you can wrestle your son's cell phone from him, the calls will be free. Here's an idea. Get him into some kind of trouble so you can send him to bed early.

**Great job Mike. Thanks**

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From SHEP HOPKINS

I have chapter pictures from 1953 thru 1960. I'm trying to put together an SMC list from that period. Stay Tuned. I don't have Tom Freeman's email address, but I do Tom Wetzel's. [EWETZELI@EC.RR.COM](mailto:EWETZELI@EC.RR.COM) He was teaching at a community college near Wilmington, NC the last time I saw him. I live in Sunset Beach, NC, about 25 miles from T. Wetzel. And I do have a number of 35 mm slides from the 50's which have been digitized. [shopkins@atmc.net](mailto:shopkins@atmc.net) 575-4692

Response: Thanks Shep . We're staying tuned for the SMC's List. The pictures and slides will be great for the History Project.

We need all of you to help out on the History Project by sending us the names of all former SMC's you can remember. We are making progress. Some new names of SMC's added recently: From Doug Ladish: Brendan Ruppert; From Bill Chittum : Joe Rosetti; From Andy Barrett: James Frederick Evans and Russell David Saucer.

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*Greek's Games*

by John Thomas "the Greek" Allevato

Mountaineer football was always a big part of my childhood even as far back as the early 1950s. Names like Freddy Wyant, Bruce Bosley, Joe Marconi, and Sam Huff reverberated around the house. We listened to the radio on Saturday afternoons and cheered the Old Gold and Blue against those Southern Conference opponents.

The interesting part of this story though has to do with the background noise. We constantly heard what we thought was a train in the background. Never paid much attention to it. It was just there. We certainly had plenty of railroads in Fairmont, and we were familiar with whistles and bells as the old B&O locomotives would come rumbling past the house.

The fact is there was a track that ran past the WVU as well. It snaked along the Monongahela and passed directly behind the Mountaineer Field House.

But it wasn't the trains doing the clanging on those Saturday afternoons as I discovered in 1960 during my first trip to Mountaineer Stadium on Campus Drive. I was there with some high school friends to watch a Mountaineer home game, something I'd looked forward to for years..

It wasn't long after we settled in our seats that a bunch of fraternity men entered the stadium from the open end. They were banging a bell with a fervor that made you think the British were coming. I recognized the sound immediately and told my companions that I'd been listening to that bell over the radio for years.

I stood and watched as the brothers escorted the bell at a brisk jog around the cinder track. It was attached to a bright red carriage, and the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha were guarding it like it was gold. Little did I realize that I would soon join that tradition. I pledged in 1961 and the bell became the pledge brothers' pride and joy.

Now nearly 50 years later, Brother Bill Mitchell has begun a quest to find that bell. It will be no small task, but it would be a spectacular feat after all these years if it were found and returned to banging out spirit no less traditional than the Mountaineer himself. Good luck.

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RESPONSE: Thanks Greek, and if we don't find the old bell herself, then we'll just have to buy a new one. But the tradition must return.

From: RON "PITT" GUZIAK

Bill, I have no information about the history of the bell, but have a great memory. As a sophomore and new active I had the privilege of pulling the bell for the Pitt game in the fall of 1965. Since my nickname was Pitt, and I was from the Pittsburgh area, this was

very exciting. John Buttermore was in my class and we pulled the bell in front of the cheerleaders and team. Great fun. But little did we know that the excitement was just about to start. From the field we saw one of the highest scoring college football games ever played. WVU 63-Pitt 48. It was a track meet that went down to the final minutes with each team scoring nearly every time they had the ball. Needless to say, the bell was rung many times that day to announce the scoring. I think there is a picture of us in the yearbook from that year celebrating the victory. Of course, the other part of the story is that Bobby Bowden, a Pike brother, was the new offensive coordinator that year. He has always known how to run an offense. Well that's my story, and as Yogi would say, "You can look it up!!" Ron "Pitt" Guziak '64

Response: Yeah, and as Yogi would also say "If you come to a fork in the road, TAKE IT." And we certainly took the fork to FIND THE BELL! in this issue. We need both active and alumni members to get on THE QUEST FOR THE BELL! Volunteers can email [mitchline@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchline@yahoo.com) We need someone to volunteer to spearhead this drive. I have only so many hours in the day. Help Wanted. If we Can't find THE bell by Homecoming, we can find A bell and return this proud tradition to the WVU campus. Get that Bell Carriage ready. Now forming: THE LOYAL ORDER OF THE ALPHA THETA KEEPERS OF THE BELL. Join today! Email Mitch at address above.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

from Mitch Mitchell

### Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire, by Rafe Esquith

I didn't even read the book yet, but I can tell you it's great. Heard a radio interview of the author while driving (so unfortunately I couldn't take notes). But I'll give you from memory enough to get you to RUN out to buy the book, which is my next project... soon as I finish this Newsletter. Rafe is an award winning teacher (Awards from the President, the Queen of England, the Dali Lama, etc). Though addressed to teachers by its title, there is a parable here for parents, grandparents, coaches, mentors, kids, everyone who wants to see how to raise (and educate) "good kids".

Rafe has been teaching for over 25 years and is obviously really good at it. He teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Hobart Elementary, Public School 326 in Los Angeles. Most students are immigrant children who, after a year in Rafe's room, score as much as 50 points higher than their peers in other rooms. At bottom line, he attributes his success to creating a "culture of learning" in his classroom. A culture of respect, trust, consideration, treating each other "nice", working hard. He inculcates traditional values in such a way that kids show up at 6:30 AM for extra-curricular activities. Bulletin board messages such as "Be Nice", "Work Hard", "Be Trustworthy", "No Shortcuts" adorn the walls. His first rule: You must be TRUSTWORTHY. The teacher must earn the kids trust. Lead by example. Then the kids can learn to trust each other.

He has a veritable alumni association of former students who are volunteers. One, a Yale Law graduate, founded a tax free trust for Rafe, so he could stop working part time to buy musical instruments for the class. Another former student is his substitute while he is doing this book tour. He says she's a better teacher than he is. I could go on and

on. I'm surprised myself that I remember so much of this interview. Created quite an impression. Hint to John Allevalo and everybody else in the LA area: If I lived where you live, I would find a way to meet this guy and wangle a visit to his classroom.

Hope to receive so many review of this book by next issue, that I won't have space for half of them. But I promise to print a balanced representative sample. I think there's a parable here for Alpha Theta also.

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#### JOBBOX

Another brand new feature. Had it on our minds a long time, but an email from Jamie Thomas gave the immediate impetus. JOBBOX is for Job Seekers, New Graduates, Consultants, Career Changers, Human Resource & Personnel Officers, Employers, etc. The purpose of JOBBOX will be to bring our Alumni (and soon to be Alumni) together "for the mutual benefit and advancement of the interests of those with whom sympathize and deem worthy of our regard" in the business arena. Anyone of any age may make a brief appropriate posting by sending an email to [mitchline@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchline@yahoo.com)

From Jamie Thomas:

I am a former SMC of Alpha Theta. I am now responsible for bringing new financial services representatives into the Pittsburgh, Murrysville, and Connellsville, PA offices of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. I figured there couldn't be a better bunch of guys to talk to about a career. Contact me at:

Jamie R. Thomas  
5100 USX Tower  
600 Grant St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-288-2392; Fax # 412-281-5116  
[jamie.thomas@nmfn.com](mailto:jamie.thomas@nmfn.com)

#### HELP WANTED COLUMN

ENTHUSIASTIC dedicated, loyal, Alpha Theta Pikes to put together our summer rush program.

HISTORY, ENGLISH, JOURNALISM, PHILOSOPHY MAJORS or anyone with strong interest and self starting buttons to work on the History Project.

SUMMER RUSH Cooper's Rocks Picnic Immediately preceding the Alumni Picnic. Second Weekend of August 2007. We need to redouble our WV and especially Morgantown Area membership effort. Need a volunteer to Spearhead this effort. Need everyone, Active and Alumni, to begin to assemble a list of High School Seniors bound for WVU Fall of 2007.

QUEST FOR THE BELL PROJECT LOOKING FOR smart, hard driving, no nonsense, git 'r done type to Spearhead formation of LOYAL ORDER OF THE ALPHA THETA KEEPERS OF THE BELL, locate and redeem the old Bell or get a new Bell, but, ALL EXCUSES ASIDE, to Return the proud 60 year old tradition of the PI K A Bell, not only to Pi K A's, but to WVU students, the citizens of Morgantown and a worldwide community of WVU alumni. This is a fantastic job opportunity for any loyal, red blooded, son of Alpha Theta to do something which will literally touch hearts WORLDWIDE. Might even launch you onto the front cover of Mountaineer Magazine. Could result in TV talk show, game show, reality show invites. Propel you to TV IDOLDOM. Don't delay. Apply today. Email Mitch Mitchell: [mitchline@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchline@yahoo.com)

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DON'T FORGET!

DO IT NOW!

ANNUAL ALUMNI DUES ARE DUE.

Annual alumni Dues: \$25  
Make Check as follows:

Payable to: Alpha Theta Alumni Association  
Memo Field: Alumni Association Fund

The checks can be mailed to me:  
Doug Ladish  
Alpha Theta Alumni Association  
109 Kingussie Court  
Cary, NC 27511  
919-523-0908 (Cell)  
[doug.ladish@yahoo.com](mailto:doug.ladish@yahoo.com)

#### NEWS FROM THE ACTIVE CHAPTER

From: ADAM COBB, Alumni Relations Chairman      Dateline: Feb 12,2007  
Hey Mitch sorry for the delay. We have 16 brand new pledges! WORK DAY is still in the making, but we are really considering sometime in April as you suggested. The furnace did spring a leak. I was out of town all weekend and just got back. The house is chilly, but Ryan Coss and Richard Driver and White Horse are working on getting repairs. The heating system has been a problem for the past couple years,---not putting out enough heat---so maybe long run it's a good thing. The furnace is "attention seeking". We had a Leadership Summit last week. The Summit included a risk awareness presentation given by Chris Kitzmiller titled "Being your Brother's Brother". The event was narrated by Zach Stone. And much thanks was given to Zach as well as Brad Blickenstaff for helping to put all the pieces together. Other portions of the Leadership Summit included presentations by Ryan Coss and a WVU official on Leadership. Coss brought us a lot of lessons he learned at the Chapter Executives Conference he attended in Memphis in early January. We also had a presentation on

Rush...lots of pointers on how to Meet and Greet. There's more, but duty(crammin' for zams) calls.

BRADLEY BLICKENSTAFF, a December '06, initiate has created a great new website for the Active Chapter. Alumni are invited to join. Take a look at:

[www.wvu-pikes.com](http://www.wvu-pikes.com)

Congratulations on a great job Brad, and thank you for taking the initiative to be of service to your brothers. Service is a fundamental underpinning of Pi K A..."for the mutual benefit and advancement of the interests of those with whom we sympathize and deem worthy of our regard."

NEWS FLASH FROM: ADAM LYNCH:

Dear Mr. Mitchell,

Brother Chittum told you correctly that I am currently campaigning for Board of Governors for the Student Body. I am on the Trusted Ticket which has 11 other Greek members. I am running for this position because I want to make a difference at WVU and make our experiences as students a little bit better than the way we found it. Not to mention to represent our Fraternity in a great way. Just to give you a little background about myself I am a Junior Communications Major from Mission Viejo, California. I went to high school at Robert C. Byrd High in Clarksburg, WV. I currently work at The Daily Athenaeum as a Senior Sales Executive. As you know, I also serve as External Vice President for Alpha Theta Chapter. I hope you will be able to place this information in the Newsletter. If anyone would like to know more, feel free to call me anytime. My cell phone number is 304-476-3274. I hope to speak with you soon. I will see you on March 3rd in Washington, PA. Thank you for caring about my campaign and let the alumni know that contributions in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Phi, phi, kappa, alpha,

Adam

RESONSE: GOOD LUCK ADAM! Let's all send Adam a couple of bucks. Even college campaigns cost money. Send campaign contributions to:

Adam Lynch  
117 Belmar  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-476-3274  
[alynch4@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:alynch4@mix.wvu.edu)