



# Mountaineer Pike

Electronic Newsletter of the Alpha Theta Alumni Association



***For the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis...***

***...across the years and across generations***

***April 2010***

## **Alpha Theta Alumni Association Events for August 2010 Reunion**

The annual **Golf Outing and Sandbagger Classic** will be held August 6-7 in the Pittsburgh, PA area. This year will mark the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for this event. Joe Feola ([joseph.feola@mssb.com](mailto:joseph.feola@mssb.com)) and Mike Shook ([wvushook@zoominternet.net](mailto:wvushook@zoominternet.net)) will be coordinating the event at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course on Friday August 6 at 2PM and Chartiers Country Club on Saturday August 7 at 11AM. Be sure to contact Joe or Mike as soon as possible and let them know if you plan to attend Friday, Saturday or both days. They will be reserving a block of rooms at a local hotel and will forward the information to you.

### **Schedule for the annual Morgantown Reunion to be held August 13-15 in Morgantown, WV.**

**Picnic at Coopers Rock**, - Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be hosted by Bob Risher [bobrisher@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobrisher@suddenlink.net) and John Buttermore [john.buttermore@sru.edu](mailto:john.buttermore@sru.edu) from about 3pm to sundown at shelter 3, the same as last year. See the website: [www.coopersrockstateforest.com](http://www.coopersrockstateforest.com) for more information on this location.

**House Company Meeting** – Saturday, August 14th. Officer reports, Board Member elections and other business. Send any agenda requests to Doug Ladish, Secretary [ladish@mindspring.com](mailto:ladish@mindspring.com)

**Alumni Association Meeting** – Saturday, August 14th. Officer reports, elections and other business. Send any agenda requests to Gary Earp, Secretary, [2inapplevalley@comcast.net](mailto:2inapplevalley@comcast.net)

**Banquet** – Saturday evening.

**Suggestions for Group Activities** - Previous reunions have included: Golf at Nemacolin Woodlands; wine tasting at Forks of Cheat Winery; boat trips on Cheat Lake; day trip to Frank Lloyd Wright houses, Fallingwater and Kentucky Knob in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands; campus tours; a Saturday night banquet and a Sunday brunch. Visit [www.tourMorgantown.com](http://www.tourMorgantown.com). You will be surprised by the number, variety and up-scale options for lodging, dining and entertainment in the Morgantown area. If you would like to participate in event planning, have questions or have suggestions for group activities, contact Gary Earp ([2inapplevalley@comcast.net](mailto:2inapplevalley@comcast.net)).

## **House Renovation Status Update**

As of March 24th, work on asbestos removal and related demolition was complete. The required air tests had been performed. The contractor is required to wait for the test results before proceeding to the next step. For further specifics or questions, contact Al Dering ([awdering@yahoo.com](mailto:awdering@yahoo.com)) or Doug Ladish ([ladish@mindspring.com](mailto:ladish@mindspring.com)).

## Maintaining your Alumni Association

**Annual Alumni Association Dues** – Annual dues support news and the information fund, as well as special projects to support chapter leadership development. A recent use for leadership development was to help defray attendance for brothers such as Brent Kottner to attend Pike University (see News from Your Brothers). Learn more about Pike University at [www.pike.org](http://www.pike.org). Please provide your 2010 \$40 dues to Doug Ladish, Treasurer, 109 Kingussie Court, Cary, NC 27511. Make checks payable to Alpha Theta Alumni Association.

**WWW.WVUPIKES.WEBLY.COM** - Check out [www.wvupikes.weebly.com](http://www.wvupikes.weebly.com) for past Mountaineer Pikes newsletters, composites from yesterday through today and more! All are available thanks to Bill Chittum's ([wachittum@verizon.net](mailto:wachittum@verizon.net)) dedication to organizing an easy to use website which makes it hard to resist. Bill's not done yet. He needs to hear from you. Do you have pictures and tales of Alpha Theta? Let Bill know....now!

Happenings of the active chapter can be found at [www.wvu-pikes.com](http://www.wvu-pikes.com). For Pi Kappa Alpha International of today check out [www.pikes.org](http://www.pikes.org). Email Secretary Gary Earp [2inapplevalley@comcast.net](mailto:2inapplevalley@comcast.net) with what you are doing. Mountaineer Pike will share it with your Pike brothers.



## News from Your Brothers

**From Ryan Coss '03** [ryan.coss@us.army.mil](mailto:ryan.coss@us.army.mil)

Information and pictures requested from Ryan recently arrived. Ryan is preparing for his second deployment. Ryan provides the following: This picture took place at my Officer School Graduation Ceremony.



Flanking Ryan are his little brother, Michael Madia, and Ryan's grand little brother, Michael Hudzik.

From left to right are Michael Hudzik 06' (United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal, 4 YRS of SVC preparing to deploy); Ryan Coss 03' (United States Army 2nd Lieutenant, 8 YRS of SVC, 1 Combat Tour in Iraq currently preparing to deploy).; Michael

Madia 05' (United States Marine Corps now a 2nd Lieutenant 5 YRS of SVC, preparing to deploy). Email Ryan at [ryan.coss@us.army.mil](mailto:ryan.coss@us.army.mil).

Spencer Ferrebee'06, (United States Army, Sergeant, 4 YRS of SVC 1 Combat Tour in Iraq) appears here. Spencer is also Ryan's grand little brother. He returned safely home from his deployment in Iraq in January.



**From Bob Risher '64** [bobrisher@suddenlink.com](mailto:bobrisher@suddenlink.com)

Recently Bob and Phyllis Risher and Doug and Barbara Pettits (all strangers at the time) booked the same cruise. They had both been on the same roll call on a couples, arranged to be tablemates. The only thing both were from WV and that the Pettits were retired knew Terry Hawkins (Bob's little brother who is and they said they had been good friends. When Bob his little brother in the fraternity, Doug's eyes lit up. were both Alpha Theta Pikes. Doug was a couple many mutual friends. They had a great time on common interests including playing the guitar.



the Pettits in Glen Dale where they enjoyed a great guitar concert which included Doug and his group. They plan on getting together again soon and are sure to be lifelong friends.

website, and, along with 3 other they knew ahead of time was that educators. Bob asked if they deceased) who lived in their area, mentioned that Terry had been They soon discovered that they years behind Bob but they had board and found they had many Recently, Bob and Phyllis visited

**From Brent Kottner '06** [brent.kottner@gmail.com](mailto:brent.kottner@gmail.com)

First and foremost I hope all the best for everyone as this year begins. I've already had a very eventful 2010 and I know there is much more to come. My reason for writing today is to bring to everyone's knowledge the fact that I have recently sent in my application to the Pi Kappa Alpha Memorial Headquarters for a hopeful position as a Chapter Consultant for the International Fraternity. For anyone who may not be familiar, the Pi Kappa Alpha chapter consultant position is a very prestigious sought after position. Each consultant serves a one year term beginning with training that takes place in Memphis, TN at Memorial Headquarters. The position then continues with visitations to several chapters within an assigned region specified by the Director of Services at Pi Kappa Alpha.

As an undergraduate, I have always had a love for the fraternity beginning with day one of rush in 2006. I quickly developed a great respect for my elders in the fraternity and looked up to my big brother, Adam Lynch. I became as active in the fraternity as possible while still managing my studies at West Virginia University. I've made many lasting friendships and likewise have taken a little brother (Harrison Gorrell) with hopes of giving him guidance and experienced knowledge within the fraternity just as I looked to my big brother in times of need. I've held many positions and worked on a number of committees and feel that I have attained a great understanding of the workings of Alpha Theta. I took my knowledge from Alpha Theta and extended it by attending five leadership conferences through Pike University since 2006. I attained Gold Level Certification and strive to continue my knowledge not just of Alpha Theta but of the entire fraternity by hopefully getting hired by the International Fraternity.

#### ***UPDATE from Brent Kottner, April 12, 2010***

I flew down to Memphis, TN for the interview and came back even more excited about the position than before. After patiently waiting longer than the expected time to hear back from the International Fraternity, I got a call from Eric Hren who gave me the run down. Eric has a way of making someone believe something when the actual outcome is completely different. I was sure at the end of our conversation he would tell me that my qualifications were not going to be substantial for the position. But, like I said, I was happily surprised to hear him sneak the phrase "we want you to be a part of our team," into the conclusion of the conversation.

After some talk with my family I accepted the position as a chapter consultant for the International Headquarters of Pi Kappa Alpha for the 2010 - 2011 year. I will be the second chapter consultant to come

from Alpha Theta within 5 years and I think that's really something to be proud about. The position will start June 15, 2010. I will train at memorial headquarters all summer and will hit the ground running come August with my visitations.

### **Pictures from the 2009 Morgantown Reunion**



**Trip to Frank Lloyd Wright houses.** In past years, a possible trip to these venues has received a lot of interested discussion as an event for ladies and guests. Last year's field trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob houses in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands was enjoyed. If you would like to participate in event planning, have questions or have suggestions for group activities, contact Gary Earp ([2inapplevalley@comcast.net](mailto:2inapplevalley@comcast.net)).



This picture was taken after the Morgantown Reunion Banquet 2009

### **Chapter Eternal**

It is with sadness we report the passing of Florence H. Freeman February 10, 2010. Florence was the wife of Tom Freeman '57, [thomas.m.freeman@att.net](mailto:thomas.m.freeman@att.net). We offer our condolences to the Freeman family.