



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***

Alpha Theta 2007 Highlights

President's Corner

As the new president of the AQ Alumni Association, I have good news to report across a number of topics below.

Property improvements continue at the House. University relations grow stronger as we cooperate in innovative planning for Rush Week and for a Greek Village in the decades ahead. We have a close and beneficial working relationship with the International office of our fraternity. The Alpha Theta House Company is advancing with plans that will anchor the chapter on the premier Belmar Avenue site.

Further good news notes the successful fall Rush with 16 pledges—much work lies ahead, but the chapter is vibrant and functioning well. Alumni groups are meeting, golfing, cooking out, visiting each other via emails and in person—all establishing and re-establishing friendships across the years.

If you are at a point in life where you can assist in our noble efforts, if you can join us for an event, or set up your own, if you have suggestions, or want to share some ideas—let me hear from you. Perhaps most important, watch for 2008 dates for the March Founder's Day and the August Cooper's Rock picnic—and attend and bring a brother to the event.

My central mission is to sustain the momentum gained by the past leadership and expressed in the values embedded in our enduring traditions.

My best wishes. --John Buttermore (1965), President

A personal note from Doug Ladish, Alpha Theta Alumni Association President, 1999-2007

It has been a little over 8 years since I re-connected with a small group of my fraternity brothers ...some for the first time in over 30 years.

That reunion in Morgantown the second weekend in August 1999 was special and a glimpse of things to come. Of the Alumni who gathered that weekend, 11 were my contemporaries from the early 1960's. The other one was a 1990's initiate who we quickly recognized had shared most of all of the experiences we cherished from our time on campus. He had just experienced it as an undergraduate member of Alpha Theta nearly 30 years later.

Clearly we all had experienced something that was special and worthy of perpetuating for future generations of Alpha Theta Pikes!

The past eight years have been gratifying. While serving as president of the Alumni Association for much of that time, I have reconnected with Pikes that I had known as an undergraduate and made new friendships spanning 70 years of Alpha Theta history.

We have come a long way in the past eight years. While we have capitalized on today's technology of email, internet and cell phones, our collective success is the result of dedicated efforts from a lot of Alpha Theta brothers from many different generations. To all of you I send my heartfelt thanks for your personal friendship and support of Alpha Theta.

Best wishes to all of you. --Doug Ladish (1962)

Homecoming 2007 Mississippi State vs. West Virginia University at Mountaineer Field

Saturday, October 20, Kick-off at new time, 3:30 p.m. A very few tickets may be available. So, attend the Homecoming Game and the post-game social at the House.

For game information, see the WVU Web site.

<http://www.wvu.edu/homecoming/generalinformation.htm>

For TV coverage info, see MSN Sports Network,

<http://www.msnsportsnet.com/page.cfm?cat=netnews&story=11469> .

For Chapter plans, email Brent Kottner, Chapter Alumni Relations Chairman, (Bkottner@mix.wvu.edu

The game to be televised by ESPN Regional, and WCHS-TV (Charleston), WVFX (Clarksburg), WOAY (Beckley), WTOV (Wheeling), WPCW (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and WJAL (Chambersburg, Pa.).

The Mountaineers (5-1, 1-1 BIG EAST) are currently ranked No. 8 by the A P Poll and No. 9 by the USA Today Coaches Poll.

A sample of "typical" chapter fall activities

- ongoing improvements at the house, scheduled a company to do necessary roof work
- teamed with a sorority for Homecoming and Mountaineer Week
- got an action picture of Rush Chair (me) rushing a potential pledge on the front page (15,000 copies) of the Daily Anthenium
- scheduling an open house after the Homecoming game.

--Brent Kottner, Chapter Alumni Relations Chairman, (Bkottner@mix.wvu.edu

Summer, 2007

The 8th annual Morgantown Reunion was held Friday – Saturday, August 10 -11.

Attendees included: Larry Saunders, Gordon Smith, Bob Nixon, Ted Goodwin, Larry Cobb, Tom Pendleton, Phil Iapalucci, Doug Ladish, Bob Risher, John Buttermore, Mack Gardner, Brendan Ruppert, Tony Skees, Andy Barrett, Tom Sowinski, Dick Rawlings, Terry Broadwater, Al Dering, Charlie Porritt, Bill Chittum, Mitch Mitchell, Mike Connelly, Jack Russell, Joe Burford, J. B. Wilfong, Miguel Frisco, Hank Wagner, Ed Ayers, Bill Loesel and Gary Earp.

Bob Nixon wins the prize (bragging rights) for the longest trip (San Antonio, TX). Returning Alumni spanned initiation years from 1953 (J. B. Wilfong) to 2000 (Brendan Ruppert).

Golf at Nemaclin Check out <http://www.nemaclin.com/thelinks>

Leon Yates tyates@cvzoom.net (724) 628 – 7165) hosted this event on Friday, morning August 10th. Mack Gardner, Joe Burford and Dick Rawlings rounded out the foursome.

Picnic at Coopers Rock , hosted by Bob Risher and John Buttermore. Arrivals began around 3pm and food starts around 5pm continued until dusk. Once again, we had one of the picnic shelters at the Overlook. See the website: www.coopersrockstateforest.com for some of the views we enjoyed. Bob Nixon took lots of pictures of alumni groups at the overlook. Bob was even able to get in one of the pictures, thanks to Larry Cobb who graciously agreed to point the camera and press the shutter. Next time you see him, ask Larry about his photographic masterpiece!

Golf at Parkersburg: The Sandbagger Classic Golf Tournament was held in Parkersburg, WV on August 10th and 11th. There were 20 brothers in attendance. John Higgins ' 79 took home the plaque with this year's low round. JR Bishop, Byron Stansfield and Mark Russell made special appearances. A very lively rendition of Country Roads was heard on Friday at Buffalo Wild Wings' Karaoke night. Our hosts Dave Fleming and his fiancée' Kelly made sure a good time was had by all. Dave is a celebrity in the Parkersburg area. He appears on a TV Morning Show and has an "ask Dave" segment - live callers ask questions about landscaping, gardening, etc. There have been discussions about having next year's event in Myrtle Beach celebrating our 25th anniversary and moving the event to June-July. Details forthcoming. --Joseph C. Feola (1979)

Alumni Association Meeting: (Some items will be included in the next Newsletter)

The Alpha Theta Alumni Association met on Saturday morning, August 11th at Crosleys Restaurant, 616 Richwood Ave. Crosleys is next door to Mario's Fishbowl (aka Tom Torch's). After a continental breakfast, the meeting began. Doug Ladish provided opening remarks to set the context of the meeting. Doug reminded everyone that Alpha Theta has two different, but overlapping alumni organizations: Alpha Theta Alumni Association and Alpha Theta House Company.

Organization	Alpha Theta Alumni Association (ATAA)	Alpha Theta House Company (ATHCO)
Purpose	Establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis, within and across generations.	To own, lease, manage or otherwise provide housing for the undergraduate chapter.
President	Doug Ladish, 62	Joe Feola, 79
Vice-President	John Allevato, 62	J. P. Chipps, 80
Secretary	Rick Robinson, 63	Doug Ladish, 62
Treasurer	Reggie Osenton, 83	Phil Iapalucci, 83

While most all of the Alumni present were also voting members of ATHCO, the August 11th meeting was a scheduled and announced meeting of the Alumni Association for the purpose of communicating topics of interest and conducting Alumni Association business.

Summer Rush Initiative: Eric Dyson (WVU Office of Research and Graduate Education and Pi Kappa Phi house company president) made the first presentation on the WVU Summer Rush initiative by the Fraternity Alumni Support Group (FASG).

The FASG are interested alumni, students and community members who support the Greek community at West Virginia University. The FASG members have pledged to work in the best interest of the entire Greek community to accomplish their mission to:

- serve as advocates for undergraduate chapters of fraternities to University administration and the larger community;
- enhance the academic and social mission of fraternities at West Virginia University;
- provide personal and professional networking opportunities for members;
- pursue quality living environments for chapter members;

- increase the interaction and involvement of Greek alumni with undergraduate chapters and West Virginia University;
- foster open communication between all parties whose decisions impact the Greek community at West Virginia University; and
- provide a forum for members to share knowledge to make sound decisions in the best interest of the Greek community. In accomplishing our mission.

The Recruitment Committee of the FASG is a subcommittee tasked with examining fraternity rush practices on campus and providing recommendations and measures to improve the quality and quantity of membership for all fraternity chapters at WVU.

Currently, the recruitment committee is working with undergraduate chapters and IFC to produce a comprehensive overhaul to traditional recruitment. This effort is geared for a Fall '07 implementation. The recruitment committee members include: W.C. Bird, Phi Kappa Psi, Bill Brewer, Kappa Alpha, Bill Chittum, Pi Kappa Alpha, Eric Dyson, Pi Kappa Phi, and Steve Ostendorf, Kappa Sigma. One item of note: Alpha Theta Alumni Association was one of the key supporters of this effort through the volunteer efforts of Bill Chittum and a \$400 donation from the ATAA treasury for project seed money.

WVU Task Force on Greek Life: Ron Justice, Director of Student Affairs made the next presentation on the WVU Task Force on Greek Life and plans for the resulting Greek Village project.

- In the autumn of 2004, WVU President David Hardesty initiated a discussion with Vice President of Student Affairs, Ken Gray, on the topic of how to improve the WVU Greek System. This led to three Vice Presidents of different WVU operating areas commissioning a "Task Force on Greek Life." The safety of Greek Houses and the ability to properly manage them is one area they studied.
- After more than two years of study and benchmarking Greek Systems at other Universities, the Task Force prepared its report. Their report identified concerns, set goals, and established some pilot programs . . . all directed at improving both Greek housing and the overall quality of Greek Life at WVU.
- The most recent development is a plan for a zoning overlay in the Belmar Avenue, North High Street and North Spruce Street area to create a "Greek Village". According to this plan, Belmar Avenue will be closed and service roads and parking lots will be established behind the fraternity houses on Belmar. Several of the older houses will be demolished and replaced with new structures designed to fit the Greek Village concept.
- Another outcome of the WVU Task Force is possibility that the University can provide services to manage fraternity houses, providing services such as: rental contracts, rent collects, managing repairs and even providing a House Mother.

A task force of the Alpha Theta House Company (ATHCO) has been in discussions with WVU since February 2007 regarding potential participation by Alpha Theta in the broader Greek Village project. This task force includes: Hank Wagner '61, Bruno Muscatello '66, Larry Cobb '59, Al Dering '65, Bill Chittum '62, Joe Feola '79, and Doug Ladish '62) One thing is certain... Pi Kappa Alpha occupies the most prominent location in the future Village.

After a brief break to thank our guests so they could go on to other obligations, the meeting continued. Al Dering reported on activities of the ATHCO Task Force which has been in discussions with WVU regarding options for PiKA in the future Greek Village.

- Face to face meetings with Ron Justice were held in late April and again in late May, along with multiple conference calls throughout the time frame.
- The most recent meeting was on Thursday, 8/9 with the Task Force and Chief Legal Counsel for WVU. This meeting accomplished our objective to formally get PiKA included in the Greek Village planning and development. The bottom line of Al's presentation: We are

making steady progress towards a goal of providing first class housing for Alpha Theta Chapter and a method for achieving sustainable financial management. There are a lot of details to be worked out and it will take time.

- The 28 alumni present at the meeting voted unanimously to endorse the continued direction and efforts of the ATHCO Task Force.
- As of the end of September discussions and progress have continued. A contractor has drawn up preliminary plans and a set of first pass costs. Financial review is pending.

Officer Elections: Larry Cobb (59) ethicsworks@aol.com, Gary Earp (65) 2inapplevalley@adelphia.net, Phil Iapalucci (83) Philip.J.lapalucci.1@nd.edu and Brendan Ruppert (00) bruppert03@hotmail.com served as the Nominations Committee for the election.

They proposed the following slate: President, John Buttermore. Vice-President, Mike Shook. Secretary, Larry Cobb and Tom Sowinski to share over two years. Treasurer, Doug Ladish.

The proposed slate was elected with no dissenting votes.

ATAA Treasurer's Report. Doug Ladish had been serving as interim Treasurer, after Reggie Osenton had requested a break after serving as Treasurer for about 15 years through two incarnations of the ATAA. Doug reported that all attending the meeting had paid their annual dues of \$25. As of July 31, 2007 the new bank account at BB&T had a balance of \$392.73.

Annual Alumni Association Dues

Annual dues are \$25 and are payable on a fiscal year starting July 1. Payment of annual dues is also a pre-requisite of voting membership, as stipulated by our By-Laws. The funds collected are applied to communication expenses and other worthwhile projects.

Please show your support by sending a check now.

Checks larger than \$25 are welcomed and appreciated. Make your check payable to **Alpha Theta Alumni Association** and mail it to:

Doug Ladish
109 Kingussie Court
Cary, NC 27511

To contact a Brother, check out www.wvupikes.com for contact information on the "Brother Search" tab.

Check your personal information and make sure it is up to date. See the "News and Information" tab for personal news notes.

Leave a news note yourself!