



Mountaineer Pike

Electronic Newsletter of the Alpha Theta Alumni Association

December 2006



Greetings Alpha Theta Fans:

Have we got NEWS for you! Just a Peek reveals that we have brewing

"Almost Heaven" for Double O Seven

Four MAJOR events already cooking plus much more marinating within the fertile meninges of our minds!

START YOUR ENGINES! MARK YOU CALENDARS! PLAN ON IT!

Founders' Day Tentatively March 3, 2007.

Work Weekend Scheduled by the Active Chapter. Hopefully late April, but the International Fraternity sets a window for this event.

Alumni Reunion Usually the second weekend in August --- BUT....

Homecoming Date set by WVU, but plan for October or early November.

FOUNDER'S DAY: Already two alumni co-chairmen and an Active Chapter Chairman are planning a grand Founder's Day Event! To be held somewhere in the Sex Cities Mounties Area (now before your dirty little minds get feverish, let me explain that "sex" is derived from sextuplet---referring to the six cities up in Mason-Dixon country, to wit: Morgantown, Wheeling, and Weirton in the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave, and Pittsburgh, Washington and Uniontown (lying in that foreign land for which, "We don't give a damn----for the State of Penn sill vain ee uh, WE ARE THE MOUNTAINEERS). But get over it! They are PROXIMATE! Among other things.

Possibilities: one or possibly more of the following: TV viewing of the WVU vs. Cincinnati Basketball Game a la Embassy Suites Founders' Day weekend held in Charleston a few years ago. Washington, PA is most centrally located of the Sex Cities. Do they have an Embassy Suite? How about a Motel 6? With a name like Washington they should certainly have a Mount Vernon, and that's a pretty nice place!

Other possibilities, maybe even conjoined---a Traditional Founders' Day, celebrating traditional fraternity values. Or a Beer Party---with Iced Tea and Lemonade for those under 21 lest the Long Arm of the Law a/k/a the Police Power of the State of Pennsylvania and the US of A (to say nothing of the City, County, and Township)

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reach out and "touch" someone over 21. (Parenthetically---Would it not be a Modern Day Tragedy if these Latter Day Fraternity Men never, even once, experienced the SHEER JOY of a game of "Wale's Tales"; or if they failed to learn all 317 of the Limericks of old, or the 158 verses of "Waltz Me Around Again Willie" --- To say nothing of "Roll Me Over in the Clover", "The Rotterdam Dutch", "My Grandfather's Clock", "Down in Raunchy Tennessee", "On the Steps of Chi Omega", and so forth!!! Now you guys see the value of the Old School song sessions held in the days of yore, when your humble servant was Pledge Master! Hey! Tom Taylor threatened to black ball me if I didn't show up for the first beer party of my pledgship. One was all it took to addict me!)

WORK DAY Plan to make it a weekend, but part work - part play. Probably last half of April. Active Chapter will take the lead on this one, but we want a big and positive response from the alumni to clean up, paint up and fix up Pike's Peak.

AUGUST REUNION Working on it! Usually the second weekend in August. Hopefully we can conjoin the Cooper's Rock picnic reunion with the Golf Outing for a Morgantown UNITY 2007 Celebration. Our theme for all of 2007 will be ALPHA THETA UNITED!!!

HOMECOMING Once WVU sets the date, we'll make some firm plans, but mark it on your October planning calendar now, and plan to be in Morgantown for 2007 Homecoming. We're going to have a block of tickets reserved through Mike Shook. And while not fully formed, our thoughts already include SUMMER RUSH. Perhaps a pilot project for Northern West Virginia to start, but we can do any thing, any time, any place with loyal Pikes and ENTHUSIASM! Perhaps we can put on our thinking caps while at the Sex Cities Mounties Founders' Day Event and kick around some ideas for summer rush. ESPECIALLY in West Virginia. West Virginians and WVU will always be our base! Music please..."If over land or sea I roam, still I think of happy home, and my friends among those West Virginia Hills" (How many remember who got to sing "silent section" at each year's Mothers' Day Sing?)

NEWS FROM MORGATOWN

From Bill Chittum

Mitch,

I agree that we need to step up the alumni participation in a big way. I went to the WVU Fraternity Alumni Support Group meeting last month and found out that we are really out of sync. The KAs had a really big turnout for homecoming because of their new house. That was to be expected. The Phi Sigs had about 350 alumni and family for their homecoming and plan to break ground on their house remodeling next spring. The Kappa Sigs also had a good turnout. They had about 150 show up for their homecoming activities and will begin construction on their house expansion in the spring. The Phi Psis had an alumni event, which included an outside speaker and

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chapter development. There will be a fraternity in the Sig Ep house, which WVU has already started to remodel. The Delt house will also have new tenants under the control of WVU. There is another meeting of the WVU Fraternity Alumni Support Group (soon).... I'll let you know if I learn any more.

Some news of the Active Chapter.

They recently held election of officers, initiated 13 pledges, and are now into semester break. So they probably will not have time to send news until after Christmas Break.



Alpha Theta Initiates, Dec 1, 2006. Left to right: John Rostick, Noel Nacpil, Zack Lambert, Mike Hudzik, Ryan Combs, Chris Kitzmiller, Steve Hudson, Brad Blinkenstaff, Matt Ponchin, Andrew Shreeves, Brent Kottner, S. Grayson Owen, Patrick Taglinetti

The chapter has already appointed a Chairman for Founder's Day, and will be coordinating with the alumni for that event.

They are also planning again to have a significant "Work Day" this Spring. Date to be announced ASAP! The Actives really did put forth a strong effort last year and, would appreciate the strong aid and encouragement of the alumni for "Work Day" in the Spring of 2007!"

Bill has also been busy clipping news articles (via computer) for us and will make them available on our website. Look for articles in the new section of our site at www.geocities.com/PiKAWVU. Click on the "Town Crier" for "News in the News" and

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select the article from the list. If the link above does not open automatically, cut and paste the address into the address of your browser.

1. Pike Jeremy Hatcher, recent grad, was feted as Mr. Mountaineer during Mountaineer Weekend. Jeremy has served as an executive officer of Alpha Theta, as the Chapter's representative to the Inter-Fraternity Council, and as Executive Director of the Mountaineer Maniacs. He will be entering a graduate program in geography for further preparation in his chosen field of Environmental Studies.
2. Richard Lee Hopkins was the first recipient of the Wesson Letterpress Award for the Preservation of Letterpress. Read the complete article on the Geocities site. Rich first became interested in printing at the age of 12, and his fascination continues to the present. Actives of the late fifties and early Sixties will remember the beautiful printing Rich did for the chapter in those days---our newsletters, invitations, Christmas cards---all the chapter printing was professionally done by Rich on the School of Journalism (his major) presses! By the way Rich, we need you for an encore!
3. The new Kappa Alpha house: Now completed, their new home was built on the site of their old house on "Fraternity Row". After over 100 years "The Manor" as it was known to KA's for over a century, was razed to make way for the new one. See the article on the www.Geocities.com/PiKAWVU site.
4. John Samsell has again paid homage to The Bell in his column in the *Dominion Post*. We have a real ally in Samsell. He persistently reminds all who will listen of the proud tradition of The Bell. See file attached below. Many Pikes will refuse to stifle until The Bell is returned. We need an alumnus to step up and lead this important project. This article is also posted to the with the others.

NEWS VON DER HINTERLANDS

From Mike Shook:

Thank you for including me in the circulation of your letters. A few thoughts:

1. I would have loved to come to Homecoming. But there is no reason to go to Homecoming if you can't go to the game.... Shortly after I graduated in 1981, I kick started the alumni association again. I purchased about 20 game tickets for Homecoming and invited people to come. Of course those who came had to pony up the cash for their ticket, but tickets were available.... The alumni didn't have to scramble to get tickets and sit wherever. "Send me a check and I will send you the tickets." We all sat together. Nice! Maybe we should do this again.

RESPONSE: MIKE HAS AGREED TO MANAGE TICKETS FOR HOMECOMING

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2007. As soon as you are able to firm up plans for Homecoming 2007, email Mike so he will know how large a block to purchase. WVU will not announce the exact date until sometime next Summer, but most of us know right now if we can include an October Homecoming in our plans. GIVE IT A VERY HIGH PRIORITY! Let's show the Phi Sigs a PIKE crowd of 350.

Mike Shook's email address: vwushook@zoominternet.net

2. Mike continues: I look forward to notices about Work Day and Founders' Day. The more notice the better. Maybe we can get a few more to help out. I can see a few Pittsburgh guys coming down to work and spending Saturday night in town. But that needs some advance notice. Maybe we can get a few rooms at a discount. Know anyone who works at a hotel?

RESPONSE: ANOTHER GREAT IDEA MIKE! Mike has already taken on Homecoming tickets and Co-chairmanship for Founders' Day! Can we get another volunteer to step up to manage a block of motel rooms for Work Day?

From Gary Duryea '71:

Gary tells us he is Chief Engineer for Monitor Instruments of Russellton, PA. His brother, Tony Duryea '71, is President of Trinity Select, LLC, of Russellton, PA. He says He knows that Ken Mossgrove lives in the Pittsburgh area because Ken is an officer for the Pittsburgh WVU Alumni Associating. {Hey Ken! Let us hear from you! } He says he located the following brothers in the PI K A Directory (which means they should also be in our list at: our website: www.wvupikes.com)

Gary also gives contact information for the following from his directory:

Mike Shurina '73, Representative for Falconbridge, Home address: 187 Kaufman Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044

Brian Bober '70, Allison Park, PA and refers you to the directory for: Bill Kascmarek, Dick Gasperini, and Rich Walczak.

From Ron Hagerman:

My address is 131 Cove Road, Newport News, Va 23608 , 757-679-4328 (cell). I am employed as a senior account manager by Praxair, Inc., covering southeastern Va and eastern NC. I have one grandson!!! ron_hagerman@praxair.com

My work contact info is:

R.E. Hagerman
Praxair, Inc
3201 Cmdr Shephard Blvd
Hampton, VA 23666

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(O)757-865-0801 x 18
(F) 757-865-8665
(cell) 757-679-4328

News on some of the other guys:

Dennis Lutz-
Speech Pathologist for Veteran's Administration Hospital
Johnson City, Tenn.,
Wife Carol- nurse at VA Hospital
423-929-7737

Mike Cox-
Charlotte ,NC
Property Management - The Keith Corp -commercial real estate and development
company. mcox@thekeithcorp.com

Bill Crigger
Mathews, NC
704-906-9595
The last I knew, he owned an employment service agency
bcrigger@ttsolutions.com (Last known email address. From about 2 -3 years ago)

From J. P. Chipps '83:

On the SMC List - Part of the History Project:

"I just happen to have a few composite photos within reach. This is what I can report
(to add to the listing of SMCs):

Jim Morgan 79
Byron Stansfield 80
David Conway 81
Jeff Lamp 82
JP Chipps 83
Tom Pielech 84

Just for clarity, I did not have composites for 82 and 84, but I remember that Lamp
came before me and Pielech came after. We also elected two SMC's per year after
81.

Good Luck,
JP Chipps

RESPONSE: Thanks J.P. This makes a good start for the 80's. We need for
EVERYONE to send us a listing of all the SMCs they can remember. Especially our
Senior members from the 30's and 40's.

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From Cecil R. Gates:

Brother Cecil Gates sent us an email adding Ray Whittington to the SMC list for about 1944. Perhaps this will get some other memories working. Brother Cecil also gave us an anecdotal lesson, which will be an important addition to the comprehensive history when published.

Many thanks to Brother Cecil whose address is: Cecil R. Gates, 163 Raven Rd., Tijeras, NM 67059

Brother Larry Cobb '59, initiated the SMC List Project and requests that you send any additions to those mentioned in this newsletter to him at: ethicsworks@aol.com

Larry has a good start beginning in about 1956 with: James Frederick Evans, Sheldon Hopkins, E. Thomas Wetzel 3rd, Thomas Mason Freeman, Earl Archie Cecil, Larry Russell Cobb, Thomas Andrew Taylor, Warren Neal Current, John David Lynch, Peter Anthony Neri 3rd, James Harold Laughlin, Jr, Henry Carrh Wagner, William Adrian Jones, Douglas Jackson Ladish, Joseph Walter Brand, Joseph Frasher Burford, Richard Budd, Alexander Dering, John Rohal, and David Pollitt (ending about 1968---additions, corrections, and information regarding the year and semester of service and precise sequence are requested)

Thank you also to Doug Ladish, Andy Barrett, and Bill Chittum for assistance in assembling the forgoing list.

!

Well Bill Chittum told me earlier this evening that the December Newsletter is already seven pages long so it's time to wind it up. I have some news from a few others, and won't be able to include it all...but next time.

There are a couple of items I must pass on. Ethan Bown wrote volunteering to help any way he can to rebuild Alpha Theta. He is one of the members under the new charter. He says his older brother was a Pike in the 90's---NOT one of those who did the damage. We really need to hear from some of you guys from the 90's to gain SOME INSIGHT INTO WHAT HAPPENED in the 90's. There are always at least two sides to every story. If we don't attempt to understand what created the atmosphere, which culminated in such a tragedy, we risk it happening again. Please send your emails to: mitchline@yahoo.com

Thanks Ethan. We look forward to working with you in reuniting Alpha Theta from 1904 stretching down to tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow!!!

Had a nice Christmas chat with Big Brother (Pike---not Orwellian) Andy Barrett earlier this evening. He has heard from El, Jim Laughlin's wife. Jim has been having heart problems for some time. He has been to Harvard Medical Center, and they have finally diagnosed a serious anomaly, explained in medical terms far beyond my

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memory and ken. Let me simply ask that we all keep Jim in our prayers. Jim Laughlin has been a leading light of Alpha Theta since the day he pledged in September of 1959.

Had a cheery note from Norm Lane. Norm says he's planning a trip to the Gator Bowl. Here's Norm's email address and phone number for those planning on the Gator Bowl. Perhaps you guys can get together. ndl6351@verizon.net Phone: 617 - 268 - 3086 He and many others have expressed their thanks for the work I do on this newsletter. It's a labor of love. Just wish there were more hours in the day (and electrons for email). BUT, I hope that each of you will thank Bill Chittum for all his efforts. He's the guy who puts my tangled web into the beautiful e-letter, which you actually see. Please drop a note of gratitude to Bill. He deserves it far more than do I.

(I was in New Orleans for the 1993 Sugar Bowl loss to Notre Dam.
EMBARRASSING!)

(I was at the Otter Creek Tavern in nearby Flaherty KY watching WVU lose in sudden death overtime to Louisville in March Madness 2005. WRENCHING!)
(BUT, who can forget Jerry West leading the Mountaineers to within a HEARTBEAT of being NUMBER ONE in the country in the NCAA finals of 1958---losing in sudden death overtime to UCLA? Heartbreaking, BUT EXCITING!!!)

But now to the real expert on SPORTS: John Thomas Allevato, the GREEK, who although he spent a career in the skies (first, not so friendly over Viet Nam and later friendlier, for the airline) actually majored in Journalism and once harbored a yen to be a Sport's Writer!

And so, Here he is WITH:

"GREEK'S GAMES"

Mountaineer pride has risen to new levels during this football season. Everywhere I go out here in California, people who know I'm a West Virginia hillbilly, pound on my back, and yell, "Go Mountaineers!" It's great to be a winner. It's also great to know that the ole alma mater is truly a two-sport school. Not many can say that their team was ranked in the top ten concurrently in both basketball and football.

When I was wearing my freshman beanie, the Mountaineer football faithful suffered through a one-win season. We were used to waiting for basketball season to begin back then. Jerry West was gone, but the Mountaineers were still a powerhouse at the old Field House, and it was fun watching them clean house.

Just so you know, I got to see that UCLA game last year. Brother Ron Guziak, who lives only a few miles from me, called to say he had tickets. Now, UCLA doesn't normally lose at the Pauley Pavilion, but the Mounties took 'em. Never mind that they blew a big lead and had us (Ron and I as well as many other Mountaineer fans who were there) pulling our hair out at the final buzzer. Even though the 2006-07 basketball team doesn't look to be as fearsome as its predecessors, I'm looking for continuous success in both sports for years to come.

So where am I going with all this? Football and basketball gives us the great

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opportunity to reunite with brothers while enjoying one of the best programs in the country. Homecoming is a given. But I also know that every home game offers the chance to get back to Morgantown, where we all enjoyed so much of our early years. You'll always find a bunch of Pikes tailgating. But for us with geographical problem, away games and bowls also provide the means for gathering ourselves for some Wales Tales or a few Limericks.

THANKS to John for a reminder of just how much Mountaineer sports has meant to so many of us, and to the entire State of West Virginia---tiny, but it has had, and will continue to have moments of GREATNESS in the national arena

This letter was scheduled for early December. Even went out and bought a new laptop thinking to speed things along. We babes in the woods of computerese! Hours wasted trying to learn how to use the %&%#\$%&* thing. Finally went back to the library and did the newsletter in email for Bill Chittum to cut and paste together, PDFify (whatever) and get it to you looking beautiful.

Hopefully it reaches you in time for SEASONS GREETINGS and AULD LANG SYNE and BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

And even if it's late, A Very Merry, Happy, and Holy Christmas to you all, and to all a GOOD NIGHT!

More later!

In ppka,

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