



# Mountaineer Pike

Electronic Newsletter of the Alpha Theta Alumni Association

October 2006



## NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI

Greetings Alpha Theta Fans!

My name is Bill Mitchell, also called "Mitch," an Alpha Theta initiate of 1960. I have agreed to edit a monthly (ten months per year) email newsletter, which will be a joint effort of the active chapter and the alumni. John Hooks, Alumni Secretary for the Active Chapter will be providing us with news from the chapter and from the alumni initiated since the new chartering. Hopefully we will also be able to do a US Postal Service mailing of a condensed hardcopy version about four times per year to those who do not have an email address.

For this effort to be successful it is essential that we have the participation of many, and not simply present a little news from the same group in each issue. To this end, and so that we may all get to know our leadership, I am requesting that each of the following who are listed in the masthead of the August 14, 2006 "The Campaign for Alpha Theta" letter write me a paragraph or so about themselves and include a little news of at least two of your classmates. JOSEPH C. FEOLA, C. DAN BRENNAN, WILLIAM A. BRIDY, and PHILIP J. IAPALUCCI are requested to respond by the next publication deadline, which is September 26th, 2006. BUT, EVERYONE is requested to SEND SOMETHING!

Soon I will be asking two individuals from every decade to serve as correspondents, agreeing to provide news of 2 or 3 of their vintage. Volunteers are requested at this time. Please respond to [mitchline@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchline@yahoo.com) immediately, otherwise, human nature and the pace of life being as they are, this will be out of sight and out of mind within 24 hours or less.

This, the October Issue of our newsletter, has been divided into two sections - this and a final segment set for distribution at the end of September. This was done to give everyone a full month's reminder of HOMECOMING WEEKEND set for OCTOBER 14TH and 15th. Hopefully, many of you will plan to attend this year. It should be an exciting game (playing Syracuse) and an entertaining weekend. Please send a brief email to [mitchline@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchline@yahoo.com) if you plan to attend. I will list all those planning to attend in the first of October segment. Each name listed should encourage a couple of our brothers to join us. We will be sending more info on Homecoming Weekend activities in the next segment.

There were several responses to the "Return of the Bell." Jerry Hamill recalled an event about the fall of '58 when the KA's had "stolen" the Bell. They ran it around the field as a prank at Halftime and then returned it to us. There was also another mention of the tradition of the bell in a recent John Samsell column of the Morgantown paper. Obviously far more than just Pi K A are aware of and interested in the return of the bell and its longstanding and rich tradition. Ethan Bown sent us a lead on the present whereabouts of the Bell, and I referred his message to the SMC of the active chapter for appropriate follow-up. Norm Lane and others are clamoring, "What about the Fire Truck?" Patience! Each in its turn.

We still need history and anecdotes about the bell. We plan to provide some of this to the local papers and the to the Athenaeum to enable and encourage them to print an article about the history and tradition of the bell with an appeal for its return, so that it may once again rouse the Mountaineer Spirit of students, alumni, fans, local Morgantonians and all friends of WVU. Should this appeal fail, we will have to resort to other measures and your ideas and suggestions are solicited.

Following are a couple of Bell anecdotes from my freshman year. Hopefully, the associative property of memory will work to produce an incoming stream of memories from all of you to serve the purposes indicated above. My first memory of the Bell and of PI K A was after the first football game, Fall of 1959. Many of you will recall that Freshmen were required for the first home game each Fall, to enter Mountaineer Field only through the tunnel at the North end of the field, wearing their "beanies", and to run once around the track bounding the field before entering the stands. The Bell clanged all through this and also throughout the game, cheering especially touchdowns, key defensive plays, and key Mountaineer first downs. But really exciting for me, was after the victory (as I recall, over Richmond) to see and hear the bell and carriage loaded into the back of Tom Pitsenberger's old black '46 Ford Pick-up truck, careening around the Campus and downtown Morgantown. Indeed it was the events of this day which first introduced Pi K A to me, and attracted me to Pi K A. I received several attractive bids during formal Rush of the Fall Semester, but decided to wait and see if I could wrangle an invitation to be rushed by Pikes. Later that semester, I learned that my Proctor on the Third Floor of "D Entry" in Men's Hall, Don Bonar, was a Pike and through him I ultimately received the coveted bid to pledge Alpha Theta.

The next great memory of the Bell was a couple of weekends later when we "beat the Hell out of Pitt" - especially sweet after some of the news media had touted the highly favored Panthers and trashed the WVU team as a (paraphrasing) "bunch of second raters from the backwater coal towns of Pennsylvania." But I'll save that one for next time.

Great strides are being made in updating our address list, but there are still a lot among the missing. Please assist this effort by responding to Mack Gardner's recent request for information of those on his list of the lost.

Recent conversations and emails have yielded more news than time and space permit, but here are a few tidbits:

John Allevato says:

Norm Lane is doing a lot of golfing...traveling - including some exciting adventures out West; divorced, but still chasing the ladies(but as Norm says, "That's another story"); still living in Boston, he stays in close touch with Dick Rawlings who lives a short distance away in New Hampshire. Dick Rawlings, quieter than Norm for sure, spent a career with Northwestern Mutual Life (the Quiet Company). Dick sent me a family picture with his last Christmas card. He and Marcia look remarkably young, and Dick supremely proud and happy holding his Grandson.

Dan Brennan is in Real Estate, specifically property management, in the San Diego area, certainly one of the most beautiful, and presumably one of the highest rent districts in the country.

Jim Gabriel lives in Portland, OR with wife Maryann...one of the many Pikes who remains married to his college Pin Mate. Jim is a nuclear engineer and works for the Harris Company. With Uranium at all time sky-high prices, the oil crunch, and global warming all in the headlines, the nuclear field looks pretty good right now. Have to check and see how many of the Actives are looking at this.

Frank Julian is recently retired and it's my understanding is no longer at Murray State in Kentucky but has moved West to Missouri. He's high on my list of those to talk to. Frank, please send me an email and give me the straight scoop.

Other late information is:

Ed Bowling is retired and living in Austin, TX. Ed and wife Cathy have three grandchildren. They visited Cathy's family in St. Albans, WV last June. Ed tells me that Bob Nixon lives in San Antonio and Doug Ladish has a daughter in Fort Hood, TX, so is hopeful of getting together with both sometime in the next year.

Bob Nixon retired from the Army several years ago and has been engaged in the real estate business in the San Antonio area for several years. Bob and wife Judy have a son living in Dallas, so they pass through Austin regularly.

Doug Ladish, as those of us who were in Morgantown on August 11th and 12th know, Doug was conspicuously absent. But he had the best of excuses. He was in Fort Hood, TX celebrating the birth of his second granddaughter, Claire Elizabeth Andres, who was born to his daughter and son-in-law on August 8th, 2000.

Finally, I wish to list those I remember from the Morgantown Reunion of August 11th and 12th. My apology in advance for at least three names I can't remember and for

not having more news of all these Brothers. Had I known at the time I would be writing this, I would have taken some notes. In attendance:

Alumni: John Allevato, Bill Chittum, Jack Russell, Gary Earp, John Buttermore, Bob Risher, Phil Iapalucci, Denver Atkins, Mack Gardner, Ray DeSabato.  
Actives: John Hooks, Alumni Secretary; Fernando Sousa, Pledge Master, Joe Bowie, IMC; and Ryan Coss, SMC.

In ppka,  
Mitch Mitchell  
Editor

## **NEWS FROM THE ACTIVE CHAPTER**

Forty rushees visited the Alpha Theta chapter house during our rush week from Monday the fourth until Friday the eighth of September. We will be extending bids to 28 of these candidates, and anticipate a twenty-eight-man strong pledge class. Formal rush and interviews will be conducted on Tuesday the twelfth and Wednesday the thirteenth. Formal bids will be extended the following week on Tuesday the nineteenth.

Our Philanthropy Weekend is going to start off big on Friday the fifteenth with Pikefest, an open party that has been in planning since the spring semester. Following Pikefest, on Saturday we will be holding the Dream Girl Pageant. Beautiful women representing their sororities will compete for the honor of being Alpha Theta's Dream Girl. All proceeds collected from our Philanthropy Weekend will be donated to the American Cancer Society's fight against prostate cancer.

We have set many goals for this semester. All semester brothers will be fundraising by selling Chick-fil-a sandwiches around campus. Pikes will be active in athletics with participation in Flag Football, Volleyball, Bowling, and Dodge ball. We are setting a realistic goal of attaining 5000 chapter community service hours. Five brothers will be attending the Pi Kappa Alpha Leadership Summit in Philadelphia from November third through the fifth. We will be busy!

We are looking forward to meeting many of our alumni as they visit the chapter house throughout coming year, and especially at Homecoming,. Pease plan to attend. We believe you will be very well pleased with our progress in cleaning up the chapter house and its landscape.

In ppka,

John Hooks,  
Alumni Secretary