

# Mountaineer

# PHI PSI

West Virginia Alpha...A strong, rich tradition of Phi Kappa Psi



Zachary L. Mendelson '79, Editor

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## WV ALPHA ATTENDS LEADERSHIP MEETING

West Virginia Alpha was well represented during the recently completed Woodrow Wilson Leadership School, held July 12-16, at UNLV in Las Vegas. The chapter members attending included: Brian Beverly (Chapter President), Garrett Prendergast (V-President), Mark Fusco (Treasurer), Chris Ambrosio (Historian), and Mark Carretta.

The WV Alpha alumni representative was Robert Henderson '60.

Over 250 brothers attended, and the five representing WV Alpha was the second most of any chapter attending. Typical day consisted of leadership activities, guest speakers, focus groups, along with the respective district council meeting.

In addition, the brothers also took part in a service project which consisted of weeding and cleaning plant beds at a local community center. The 124 degree heat during the conference was a Vegas record! The officers noted the leadership activities offered them excellent ideas with respect to planning for the upcoming school year.

The following are some key dates during the Fall Semester:

### Fall Rush September 5-13

Once again, the Chapter is asking for referrals from alumni about any legacies, friends, or just good young men interested in joining a fraternity. Contact Garrett Prendergast at: [gprender@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:gprender@mix.wvu.edu) or 304-619-8263.

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## PRESIDENT HARDESTY'S FOUNDER'S DAY REMARKS

### Phi Kappa Psi Founder's Day February 26, 2005

Today, WVU's Morgantown campus enrolls 25,250 students. Nearly 12,000 employees work in its buildings, hospitals, and research centers. But, when West Virginia University's Phi Kappa Psi's chapter was formed in 1890, there were only about 425 students at WVU taking classes in six buildings. Our chapter was started by young men who wanted to support each other during their college years and stay in close touch throughout their lives.

About 75 years later, when I was initiated in 1964, there were about 9,000 students, and we had just begun building the Evansdale campus.

In some ways, it was the end of an era. Woman still had hours, and ROTC was mandatory for two years. Football was played in a downtown stadium against Southern Conference Teams. The campus was about 1/3 the size it is today. And about 40 percent or more of the campus was Greek.

I was recruited two summers before I came to campus by older men who had been members of several different fraternities: Phi Sig, Sigma Chi, Beta, and Phi Psi. An older friend got me to the house. I was rushed by actives and alumni, including one man who had been national president of the fraternity.

Rush stressed the diverse nature of the house: athletes, scholars, student leaders, and social butterflies. Some members had just come back from the Army, and the chapter had a very mature feel to it.

There was a house mother here whose job it was to make sure women were treated properly and that manners were taught and learned.

Above all, during rush I was told that Phi Psi's were "gentlemen," respectful of others, including women, and that while in college I would be supported by active brothers and when I entered the world of work, I would be helped along by older brothers.

I was proud to pledge Phi Psi, and I received a good pledge education, free of hazing because of a serious policy against it. My big brother was an older married man in pharmacy school. He was mature and caring. He was more of a mentor than a friend. Our pledge educator was diligent and honest. My pledge brothers were superior-many are friends today. We took our meals together, and

*Continued on page 4*

# FROM HERE . . . TO THERE

- (499) **John Shott '42**, 115 Fawn Circle, Bluefield, VA 24605. Mailed \$50 contribution.
- (602) **C.V. Critchfield '47**, 6322 Muir Ct, Huntersville, NC 28078. Sent \$35 renewal and notes: Partied with Ed Brandt and George Steinmetz at Jim Wroe's 80th birthday party in Pawleys Island, SC on March 18th, 2005.
- (619) **Richard Campbell '47**, 11015 N. Canada Ridge Dr, Tucson, AZ 85737. Ph: 520-877-8032. Mailed \$125 and writes: The comments from **Ken Kincaid '47** in the January issue of the Mountaineer Phi Psi was of great interest to me since he and I were in the same pledge class. That was a large one (27) and I have often wondered what happened to the brothers that became Phi Psi's that day-March 2, 1947! Enclosed is a copy of a photo taken that day of our initiation. It was taken in what was then the front room of the house at Spruce and Goose. I have captioned the photo with the names as I remembered them several years ago. In his note, Ken challenged those in his pledge class to send a like amount. I accept his challenge, and will go him a little better. Enclosed is my subscription contribution of \$125. I also challenge my pledge class to renew their subscriptions, but ask that they do better than I did. If the challenge continues, it is going to cost one at the end of our class a good bit more; so the pledge class brothers should renew right away. Like Ken, I also have had my medical problems. Nothing serious, no joint replacements, no heart attacks. Just the fact that I am getting old. My daily recipe of medicines keeps growing, but I am still hanging in there. Life in Tucson, AZ is conducive to good health (no snow, no earthquakes, no hurricanes, and no twisters). Just a lot of sunshine and warmth. After twenty-five years in the Air Force, fifteen years with the Department of Energy in the nuclear weapons program, and a few years of consulting, I really enjoy doing what I want to do when I want to do it (which isn't very much). Keep up the good work Brother Mendelson. The Mountaineer Phi Psi is always received with interest in the news of West Virginia Alpha!
- (632) **Jack Poundstone '47**, 3510 South Pointe Rd, Cookeville, TN 38506. Contributed \$65 and writes: I retired from Raytheon in Mass in 1992. Now I am owner and general manager of a tax preparation business in Cookeville, TN. I am having great fun being my own boss.
- (716) **John R. Holliday '53**, 2338 Martinsburg Rd, Newark, OH 43055. Renewed subscription at \$35.
- (721) **Gus Conley '53**, 408 Lakeshore LN, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Sent \$50 and wrote: Mostly retired. Traveling. Libby and I missed Tsunami by two weeks. Was incredible to watch the videos of the water flowing where we had been.
- (733) **Fred Hiehle '53**, 1748 Garfield Ave, Wyomissing, PA 19610. Ph: 610-374-8164. Sent along \$100 contribution noting: Retired in 1996. I am glad to see the alumni support for the chapter. I hope that many of us can join to support "Preserving Our History Campaign" with financial contributions. We need your help!
- (748) **Allyn Griffiths '54**, 1313 Deans Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802. Ph: 256-883-6854. Subscription renewed for \$35 and notes: RVing. NASCAR events and trip to New England and Canada next up.
- (944) **Rick Nelson '64**, 7565 Franklin Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066. Ph: 724-538-4650. Mailed \$65.
- (978) **W.C. Bird '65**, 10 Maple Ave, Morgantown, WV 26501. Ph: 304-296-2337. Mailed \$65.
- (1058) **William Richards '68**, 656 Trace Crossings Trail, Hoover, AL 35244. Ph: 205-945-6575. Sent \$50.
- (1087) **Michael Hoffman '68**, 2571 Baltimore Pike, Hanover, PA 17331. Contributed \$100!
- (1115) **Ben Hardesty '69**, Rt 1, Box 386, Clarksburg, WV 26301. Ph: 304-623-3581. Mailed along \$100 while noting: All is well in Clarksburg. A note on the passing of Brother **Jim Marsteller '40** in 2004. When I moved to Clarksburg Country Club in 1984, the late **H. Willard White '60** pointed out that by his account, seven of the nine homes facing the club were owned by brothers: Willard White, **G.L. Petrey '30**, Jim Marsteller, J. Robert Hornor (W&L), **David Nichols '56**, **John F. Wilson '29**, and me (and I bought my home from brother **Phil Jones '65**). In the twenty-years since, David Nichols has moved out-of-state and all of the other brothers are in Chapter Eternal. By the way, the other two homes were owned by a Delt and a Sigma Nu.
- (1215) **Tom Douglas '72**, 3201 Kanawha Ave, Charleston, WV 25304. Mailed \$100 and writes: I have been an anesthesiologist in private practice with general Anesthesia Services, Inc since 1983. I have been married for twenty-three years and have a 17-year-old daughter, Catherine. Her godfather is **John Jacobs '72**, and her godmother is JJ's wife, Kathy. Please add me to your mailing list. I was in the initiation class of 1972. [Editor's note: Glad to have you back on the mailing list!]
- (1252) **Bob Bird '73**, 2104 River Sound Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922. Sent \$50 and notes: Thanks for all of your efforts associated with the newsletter and the good of the fraternity.
- (1273) **Tim Miller '74**, 701 Laurel Road, Charleston, WV 25314. Ph: 304-345-5867. Contributed \$100 and writes: Attached is my check to cover my 2005 subscription. I recently received a letter from pledge brother **Sam "Daddy Wags" Wagner '74**, advising of an upcoming fishing trip out west. Sam also enclosed a picture of him holding a 21 inch brown trout caught from the Bow River in Calgary this past year. As always, Brother Wagner appreciates the finer things in life. Anne and I are doing well with two out-of-colleges; one in college at WVU; and a twelve year-old who keeps us young. Thanks for your efforts to keep us informed of Chapter events.
- (1322) **Paul Nichols '75**, 3804 Candlelight Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Ph: 717-554-5443. Mailed \$75 and writes: Our daughter, Danielle, is a sophomore at WVU-majoring in communications. She is a member of the Pi Kappa Phi Sorority.
- (1442) **Tim Muscaro '79**, 3502 Bay to Bay, Tampa, FL 33629. Ph: 813-286-7560. Enclosed \$100 and writes: Glad to hear about the house renovations. Tell my pledge brother **Matt Herrick '79**, I need some refurbishing down here in Tampa. Hope everyone is doing great.
- (1483) **Terry Mahoney '80**, 11 Colony Ct, Summit, NJ 07901. Ph: 908-277-1469. Contributed \$100 and states: Have three sons, one attending WVU and (just) pledged Phi Psi. Enjoy hearing and seeing old Phi Psi brothers.
- (1627) **Jim Rittenhouse '86**, 12264 Sherborne Street, Bristow, VA 20136. Ph: 703-393-8457. Renewed subscription for \$35 and notes: My wife, Terry, and I had our 3rd son, Andrew James, on 12/12/03. In the process of getting into carwash (business) as a side-life with Brother **Steve Southerly '84**, in Manassas, VA.

# CHAPTER NEWS

It was another great semester in Phi Psi, as we have finished the school year strong and have already been preparing for next fall. We recently elected our new officers for the 2005/2006 year. They are as follows: President - Brian Beverly, Vice President - Garrett Prendergast, Treasurer - Mark Fusco, HOD - Mike Soleau, Recording Secretary - Tim Conduis, Corresponding Secretary - Ryan Pozerycki, Chaplain - Ruffner Alexander, Sergeant at Arms - Derek Krymowski

The 13th annual Queens of the Beach Volley Ball Tournament, our annual philanthropic event, was held on April 23. Despite the unexpected cold weather, many sororities came out to play, and we were able to complete the tournament. We are pleased to report that the chapter was able to raise nearly \$1,000 dollars for the West Virginia Children's Hospital. The money will be presented to them this summer during their annual telethon.

Nine graduating seniors were inducted as alumni of the chapter on May 3 at a ceremony at the chapter house chapel. They are as follows: Jason Lynch, Alex Videtto, Adam Pratt, Mike Corcoran, Matt Ashburn, Ross Myers, Nick Morisi, Jeff Baker, and Aaron Brehove. We wish them all luck.

The chapter will be continue to be busy over the summer as we are sending seven brothers to the Woodrow Wilson Leadership School in Las Vegas. The School will be held July 12-16 at UNLV. Also, we are already making big plans for next year as 38 brothers will be living in the house.

## NEWS FROM MORGANTOWN

- Lieutenant Colonel **Robert "Bob" E. Lazzell II '85**, who has assisted with chapter advisor duties during the last several years, has responded to his country's call and departed for Camp Arifjan, Kuwait for a one-year mission. Bob is tentatively scheduled to return to Morgantown in July 2006. I plan to correspond with Bob and will keep everyone posted. Keep Bob, his wife Cathy, and their kids in your prayers!
- The "old" Kappa Alpha Fraternity House was razed this past spring. The "new" \$3MM house is scheduled for completion by spring 2006. When complete, it will be the second largest KA House in the nation.
- The Metropolitan Theatre, built in the 1920's, is close to completion of its multi-million dollar renovation. Yet finished, the theatre has been in use during the last year, but still does not have an air-conditioning system. Recently, Main Street Morgantown, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of downtown Morgantown, announced it had purchased the Angotti Building at 361 High St (next door to the Met) for the purpose of donating land behind the building to the Metropolitan Theatre. The theatre will use this land to house an air-conditioning unit that is expected to drastically cut down on air-conditioning costs, said Terri Cutright (wife of **Roger Cutright '74**), executive director of Main Street Morgantown.

# MORGANTOWN NATIVE HELPS RESTORE ELECTRICITY IN WAR-TORN COUNTRIES

By **Mary Helen Hinchliffe**  
**The Dominion Post**

As the war in the Middle East continues, a Morgantown native is working with Iraqis to restore electricity in Baghdad.

**Thomas K. Waters '90**, an alumni of WVU, is currently a program manager for the Gulf Region Division for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Waters, 33, has been in Iraq since December 1, 2004, as part of Restore Iraqi Electricity, or RIE, from a protected compound in the Green Zone.

"Anything to do with the electrical infrastructure of Iraq, we are basically putting it back together," he said in a recent phone interview. "What we work on is building and restoring power plants, substations and power lines."

Iraq currently lacks much of its electricity infrastructure. Aging substations distributing the electricity are breaking down, and insurgents also have blown up distribution lines.

Temperatures in Baghdad currently reach close to freezing. Waters said many remain without heat, hot water and lighting.

"One of my big projects right now is a substation that can provide distribution for up to 50 percent of all the power generated in Baghdad," he said.

Waters works for the Trans Atlantic Program Center, or TAC, near Winchester, VA., which is a subordinate command of the USACE. The organization provides military construction in Asia, Africa, Russia and the Middle East.

"With TAC, I travel to most of the countries in the Middle East," he said. "I was used to going there, but the war zones are a little different."

He initially arrived to provide short-term support for members of the USACE who frequent Afghanistan and the Gulf Region Division. However, after seeing the poverty and lack of electricity, he volunteered to stay until the end of May.

Waters works seven days a week, 12 hours a day to help restore Iraq's infrastructure. He, along with other civilian employees, reside in a compound protected by 12-foot-high concrete walls, monitored gates and armed guards.

Waters visits field personnel daily at multiple projects and is escorted by a personal security detachment. He also meets weekly with designated Iraqi officials to discuss construction progress.

The USACE has hired local Iraqis as engineers and translators. Waters said that Iraqis are vulnerable while entering and leaving the compound, as insurgents can be watching.

"There are people that risk their lives to work for us," he said. "It is very dangerous for them to come and go."

Insurgents launch regular mortar attacks on the compound, Waters said, and small arms fire can be heard in the area.

"Usually we hear a boom or gunfire every now and then," he said. "It's usually about every day."

During Christmas and New Year's Eve, Water said the com-

talked over the events of the day. I was initiated in a solemn and meaningful ceremony.

I later became the fraternity's pledge educator, and passed along my vision of the fraternity to the next pledge class. Older brothers in the community came to most chapter meetings to act as advisors.

I moved into the house during my sophomore year. I helped to pledge a good friend and roomed with the man who pledged me. During my Junior and Senior years I shared an apartment with brothers in the fraternity.

As brothers, the men of Phi Psi socialized together, to be sure, but we also participated in student government, campus contests, intramurals, and classroom activities together.

My wife was a Kappa, and we dated throughout college. She became close friends with the brothers and helped to recruit new pledges. The brothers serenaded us when we got pinned, and one was in our wedding party.

Most of my friends were Greek, but those that were not were welcomed in the house. In fact, I was elected student body president with strong support from "independents."

The brothers were proud of me and I was very proud of them. Many became active in student government. Many led other organizations. Every week after our chapter meeting we would go onto the lawn and shout to the world our pride in our fraternity: "Hi, Hi, Hi. Phi Kappa Psi. Live ever. Die Never. Phi Kappa Psi!"

A brother and I joined a law firm that is now led by another brother.

My younger brother became a Mountaineer Phi Psi. His experience was essentially the same, with just a few exceptions.

In fact, Phi Kappa Psi has given me a sense of connectedness all of my life. Part of the reason I stayed close to WVU is my closeness to the Greek friends I made during my undergraduate years.

I stayed so close to my alma mater that I eventually became its president. During the first year of my appointment, I was recognized nationally as what amounted to the Phi Psi of the year. It was noted several times that year that three Mountaineer Phi Psi's were serving as college presidents at the same time: the presidents of MIT, WV Wesleyan, and WVU.

My story began over 40 years ago. Your stories are probably just as rich in memories. I hope you feel as indebted to your fraternity as I do.

Last year I heard a talk by the national leader of the 4-H headquarters in the Department of Agriculture. It helped me understand why the fraternity means so much to me. Her talk was about the "essential elements of youth development."

Dr. Cathann Kress asserted in her talk that to develop properly, young people need to feel wanted, that is to belong to a caring group capable of providing a safe haven for learning at a difficult age. Students also need lifetime skills, character education, and the ability to relate to people in groups and teams.

Appropriate youth development programs should consider the whole person, that is, foster a holistic approach involving mental abilities, physical wellness, psychological well being, and character development.

Looking back, with the benefit of my lifetime of experience, I see that Dr. Kress is absolutely correct.

I have been fortunate to be cared for and nurtured, not just by a loving family, but also by a church, youth organizations, Phi Kappa Psi, and my wife and children. I have been cared for in a manner that allowed me to aspire to be all that I wanted to be.

I believed in the premise enough to install the RFL program in our residence halls, orientation 101, and a host of 30 other programs designed to make life outside and inside the classroom stronger at

WVU. Enrollment at WVU has grown fairly dramatically in recent years, in large measure because we care about our students and their development.

In my scheme of things, fraternities and sororities, as I knew them, would be very attractive to men and women on our campus. If the same percentage of our campus was Greek today as in 1955, 9,000 men and women would belong to fraternities and sororities.

This leads us to ask a question that we must address if we care about Phi Psi:

Why has membership in fraternities declined so dramatically, not just on our campus, but across our country?

Why has membership in an organization that has all the trappings of a solid youth development organization declined in recent years?

I don't really know the answer, but I have some ideas:

- The rules of social life have changed dramatically and fraternities have not done a good job of adjusting their cultures to these changes. Students today want some structure in their lives and structure is missing from some fraternities.
- The increasing costs of college and maintaining a house have challenged the budgets of those who would otherwise like to join a social fraternity.
- The elimination of house mothers or house parents has made the houses less attractive dwelling places to serious students and their parents. Adult guidance and mentorship is missing from many houses.
- There are many alternative forms of entertainment available.
- Technology has changed the way we view community, and it was embraced late by some chapters.
- Fraternities in recent years have not focused on careers and jobs, the number one concern of today's students.
- Substance abuse has been allowed to invade some chapters in a very unsafe and unhealthy way. In fact, according to one study, on some campuses there is a prominent belief that there is no use joining a fraternity if the house is "dry."
- Finally, in the phrase social fraternity, the emphasis has been placed on SOCIAL rather than on the phrase FRATERNITY. These are just a few possible reasons why fraternities and sororities are not growing.

And yet they should be. In a world of insecurity, with young people craving community, fraternities could offer every member a safe place to enjoy friendships, seek out mentors, gain an education, connect with the workplace, and have lots of fun, while learning leadership, social manners and interpersonal skills.

Will they?

The answer lies in the hearts of actives in the room today. The choice of direction is yours. This is a pivotal point in the long and distinguished history of Phi Psi. The current chapter advisors and mentors have shown you the way. But there is only one group that can choose the right direction—the active chapter.

Fraternities are at a tipping point. Will they become extinct, because like dinosaurs they will fail to adapt to changing environmental conditions? Or like universities themselves, will they morph into something new, something valuable and something different, while retaining the values of their founders?

I want you to know that I believe in the Phi Psi ideal now, more than ever. But the Phi Psi I believe in has yet to be reinvented, and can only be created by you. Judging from what I have seen in recent months, I have every confidence that you will make the right choice, and that Phi Psi will be around as a contributing member of the WVU community for decades to come.

"Live ever. Die Never. Phi Kappa Psi!"

# RETURN MAILER

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# RETURN MAILER

## MORGANTOWN NATIVE

*Continued from page 3*

pound received heavy fire, including rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms fire. However, he wasn't aware of anyone being injured.

For the most part, Christmas at the compound was just another work day, Waters said. However, the office did take a break for some holiday food.

"We had a Christmas feast, which was crackers, a cheese log and a summer sausage," he said laughing. "That was it. We really didn't do anything special."

During the holiday, Waters said, he missed his wife Cathy and children Anna, 3, and Michael, 20 months, who live in Winchester. Just after arriving in Iraq, he received surprising news from Cathy over the phone.

"About a week after I got here she found out she was pregnant with baby number three," he said. "I feel like I'm missing out on my kids growing up."

Christmas was hard for his parents, **Gary** (and **Sandi**) **Waters '74** of Morgantown. Both said they really miss their son, who no matter where he travels, is a Mountaineer.



*Thomas Waters, a Morgantown native working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq and Afghanistan, poses with his friend and colleague Dennis Karns in front of a statue of Saddam Hussein's hands.*

*In the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, homes are built into the mountains like a puzzle.*

Born and raised in Morgantown, Waters graduated in 1994 from WVU with a bachelor's degree in resource economics and a master's degree in safety and environmental awareness.

"He is one of the biggest promoters of Morgantown," Sandy said smiling. "Anywhere he goes, everybody know this is the home of the Mountaineers."

## WV ALPHA

*Continued from page 1*

### Homecoming Weekend

**October 14th & 15th**

**Louisville vs WVU-Oct 15th!**

The Chapter will be hosting alumni & parents the weekend of October 14th & 15th. Game time will either be noon or 3:00 ( TV will dictate). The chapter will determine their event schedule once game time has been confirmed. TBD!

### Chapel Service

**December 9**

The annual Holiday Chapel Service will be held on Friday, December 9th-which is the Friday before finals.

A sorority is invited, as this venue presents a wonderful opportunity for the chapter to show-case the chapel. The program will be determined at a later date.



**Mountaineer**

**PHI PSI**

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## Phi Kappa Psi West Virginia Alpha Initiates March 2, 1947



*Front row (left to right): Hugh Shott, Joe Coddington, Jim Aspinall, Bill Bivens, Kenny Kincaid, Joe Reger.  
Middle row (left to right): Chuck Critchfield, Jim Vandervort, Bill Lambert, Bill Hawley, Glen Donaldson,  
Jim Clark, Jim Bartlett, Tom McCoy, Jack Colburn.  
Top row (left to right): Morris Fox, Matt Harrison, Bob Romine, George Hough, Ben Hancock, Sam Morris,  
Lem John, Dick Campbell, Jack Bolton, Martin Little, Albert Reeves, Scott Shott.*