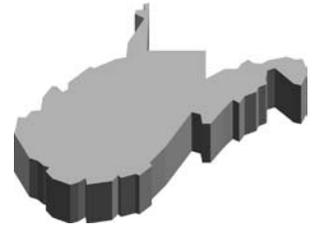




SUMMER 2009

# Mountaineer Pike

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE ALPHA THETA CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY



## All Alumni Invited to Reunion 2009: August 7-9, 2009

### Alumni Reunion Schedule of Events

#### Friday, August 7

##### Times TBD

Golf at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort  
([www.nemaocolin.com/thelinks](http://www.nemaocolin.com/thelinks))

Contact: Lee Yates [tyates@cvzoom.net](mailto:tyates@cvzoom.net)  
(724-628-7165)

##### 4:00 p.m.

Picnic at Coopers Rock - Shelter #3

Contact: Bob Risher  
[bobrisher@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobrisher@suddenlink.net) (304-295-8388)

#### Saturday, August 8

##### 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob houses in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. Tickets for admission should be purchased in advance at [www.fallingwater.org](http://www.fallingwater.org) or 724-329-8501. Tour goers should try to purchase the 10:30 a.m. tour at Fallingwater followed by the 2:00 tour at Kentuck Knob.

Contact: Penny Gardner  
[pennmack@aol.com](mailto:pennmack@aol.com) when you've signed up and let her know whether you'll be able to drive others or will need a ride.

##### 10:00 a.m.

Alumni Association Meeting at Synergy at the Pines Country Club.

Send agenda requests to Bob Risher, Secretary at [bobrisher@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobrisher@suddenlink.net)

##### 1:00 p.m.

House Company Meeting at Synergy at the Pines Country Club

Send agenda requests to Doug Ladish, Secretary, at [ladish@mindspring.com](mailto:ladish@mindspring.com)

##### 6:30 p.m.

Cocktails at Synergy at the Pines Country Club

##### 7:30 p.m.

Reunion Banquet at Synergy at the Pines Country Club



**Twenty-five members and their families travelled over 26,000 miles from 14 states for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Alpha Theta Alumni Association Reunion held last year in Morgantown. How many of these Pikes from 1955 through 2005 do you recognize?**

For the eleventh year in a row, Alpha Theta alumni and their families are expected to converge on Morgantown, West Virginia for the annual Pike alumni reunion.

This year's event, to be held August 7-9, 2009, will feature golf at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort ([www.nemaocolin.com/thelinks](http://www.nemaocolin.com/thelinks)) on the morning of Friday, August 7. Following golf, alumni and their families are invited to gather for a picnic at Coopers Rock State Forest ([www.coopersrockstateforest.com](http://www.coopersrockstateforest.com)).

The following day, Penny Gardner will organize a day trip to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob houses in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands.

While spouses and guests tour the Frank Lloyd Wright homes, alumni are invited to the Alumni Association Meeting at 10:00 a.m. and the House Company meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Everyone will gather together to conclude the weekend at a Reunion

Banquet at Synergy at the Pines Country Club beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A number of alumni have already indicated that they will attend including: **John Allevato '62**, Pam and **Dan Brennan '65**, **Bill Chittum '62**, Peggy and **Larry Cobb '59**, **Clifford Lee Comm '57**, **Ryan Coss '03**, Adrienne and **Al Dering '65**, Bonnie and **Gary Earp '65**, **Bob Elliott '64**, **Miguel Frisco '84**, Penny and **Mack Gardner '65**, **Phil Iapalucci '83**, Nancy and **Doug Ladish '62**, El and **Jim Laughlin '60**, Carol and **Tom Pendleton '55**, Phyllis and **Bob Risher '64**, and **Jack Russell '62**.

The Alumni Association has reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express. To obtain the special rate of \$83 per night (including breakfast), alumni should mention the "Pike Reunion" and call Jennifer Bell at 304-291-2600. The Holiday Inn Express is conveniently located at the Pierpont exit of I-68, close to the Mileground airport and Pines Country Club.

## Undergraduate Officers

### President

Zach Shackelford '07  
Capon Bridge, WV

### Internal Vice President

Ryan Combs '06  
Keyser, WV

### External Vice President

Drew Shelton '07  
Centreville, VA

### Treasurer

Andrew Folio '05  
Clarksburg, WV

### Secretary

Nicholas Furst '07  
Centreville, VA

### Sergeant at Arms

Hector Luna '07  
Germantown, MD

### Rush Chairman

Brendan Smith '07  
Mahwah, NJ

### House Manager

Christopher Doerflinger '07  
Sterling, VA

## Founders' Day 2009



Approximately 40 actives, 10 pledges, their dates and several alumni gathered at the Synergy Restaurant and Tavern to celebrate Founders' Day and to root on the Mountaineer hoops team to victory over South Florida. Among the participants were, from left to right, **Miguel Frisco '84**, **Mike Shook '77**, **Mike Murray '78**, **Bill Chittum '62**, reigning Dream Girl **Carly Aliseo** and **Alvin Guthrie '87**. The Synergy Restaurant is owned by Brother **Michael Murray '78** and is located in the Wharf district in Morgantown. The event was held on Sunday, March 1, 2009. This year's reunion will be held at Murray's other restaurant, Synergy at the Pines Country Club.

## Alumni Reunite for WVU Game



Following an afternoon of visiting the chapter house and discovering a new watering hole, *Archie's*, **Doug Ladish '62**, **John "Greek" Allevato '62**, **Bob Risher '64**, and **Ron "Pitt" Guziak '65** cheered their hearts and voices out at the WVU vs. Cincinnati game on November 8, 2008. Joining the alumni before the game were **Bill Chittum '62** and **Gary Earp '65**. "I really hope we can organize more of these kinds of get-togethers in the future," said Risher. "If you would like to link up with others when you visit WVU, e-mail me at [bobrisher@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobrisher@suddenlink.net) and I will help with the connections."

## Letter from the Alumni Association President

To the Brothers of Alpha Theta Chapter:

Greetings from Slippery Rock. We traded a cool, wet spring, for a cool, wet summer up this way; I hope your weather's treating you better where you are. This summer, Jenny and I are finally building the retirement home we've been talking about for years, so anytime rain's in the forecast, it's a problem!

We lost **Bruno Muscatello '66** this winter. He was my little brother when he pledged in the old house on Campus Drive. Even though we lost touch with Bruno and Audrey over the years, when Jenny and I moved back to Western PA a few years ago, 'Butch' took up our friendship right where we left off. I get the same feeling when I get back to the reunion in Morgantown; we signed up for a lifetime of friendships while we were doing all those things in the active chapter. Maybe we didn't realize it then, but it becomes clearer every year for me. The real value of our membership in the fraternity is the bonds we've made with each other, and the strength of those bonds.

We're blessed to have a group of dedicated brothers who won't just let our chapter fade away. They're hard at work making sure there will be

an Alpha Theta chapter for the next generation. Maybe they realized earlier than most of us just how valuable an experience we all shared during our college years. Whatever the reason, I'd like to offer a special thanks to **Doug Ladish '62**, **Joe Feola '79**, **Mack Gardner '65**, **Phil Iapalucci '83**, **Al Dering '65**, and many others for creating and sustaining the effort to insure we have a house to return to, and the chapter has a home on campus. Thanks also to **Bill Chittum '62**, who's been involved in Alpha Theta more or less continuously since he was a pledge! Finally, to the newest of our Alumni chapter officers, thanks to **Bob Risher '64** for bringing energy and passion to the task of rounding us up and keeping us informed.

Have a great reunion this year. I'd like to urge you to take time to get back in touch with that pledge brother, or big brother, or little brother of yours you've been meaning to call. You can find his contact information at [www.wvupikes.com](http://www.wvupikes.com). Time's a wasting.

In the Bonds,  
**John Buttermore '65**  
Slippery Rock, PA



Communication support and assistance provided by Omega Financial, Inc. (800) 955-ALUM (2586) [www.OmegaAlumniServices.com](http://www.OmegaAlumniServices.com)

[www.wvupikes.com](http://www.wvupikes.com)

## Alpha Theta Meets Interim Housing Benchmarks, Moving Forward

Thanks to a small group of dedicated Alpha Theta alumni who personally guaranteed a \$120,000 credit line and a larger group of alumni who have and continue to financially support the fraternity's capital campaign, the House Company of Alpha Theta Chapter, Inc. (the alumni house corporation) has met all required benchmarks to date and is on track to assume full home ownership of the Pike House located at 117 Belmar Avenue assuming the final benchmarks are met over the next two years.

"Many people still don't realize," explained House Company President **Joe Feola '79**, "that the Real Estate Commission of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity built the house for us in 1967." "Over the last 42 years," he continued, "the Pike National Headquarters has owned and managed the house for us through various departments and entities of the national fraternity." White Horse Holding Corporation (WHHC) is the current Pike organization that owns and manages the house.

In January 2006, the House Company negotiated a deal with WHHC to purchase the property at an attractive price. However, the deal is contingent on the House Company meeting certain benchmarks over a period of 5½ years.

Since January 2006, the House Company has met all of the required benchmarks, and work continues on the remaining tasks. A summary of benchmark achievement over the past three years include:

- Borrowed money to conduct a capital campaign and conducted the campaign. A total of 87 pledges were received (6.6% of living Alumni), payable over a 5 ½ year period.
- As of June 2009, the pledge total was \$284,380, and \$158,785 has been collected.
- All outstanding debt has been retired.

- The "House Company of Alpha Theta Chapter, Inc." has been incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of West Virginia.
- All corporate filings with the State of West Virginia and the Internal Revenue Service are up to date. The IRS has recognized the House Company's non-profit status.
- Financing has been arranged through a local Morgantown bank (and is still available).
- An architect has been engaged. Conceptual and detailed drawings of an "apartment hybrid" floor plan have been developed.
- Preliminary contractor estimates have been received and reviewed.

Near term activities underway include:

- Continuing to refine the two options for renovating and managing the house by engaging the WVU Greek Village (WVU guarantee of mortgage payment and rental management) or the Emperor Group (a real estate development and management group specializing in Greek housing) to provide management responsibilities.
- Meeting with a broader group of contractors to refine material specifications and cost estimates.
- Developing a financial pro forma to help us determine whether the House Company should try to raise more money, borrow more money, scale back the scope of the project or implement a hybrid of one or more of these options.

For a detailed report and to follow the ongoing progress, alumni should visit the Alpha Theta Alumni website at [www.wvupikes.com](http://www.wvupikes.com).

## Alpha Theta Alumni Association

**Mission:**  
*Friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis, across the years and across the generations.*

**President**  
John Buttermore '65

**Vice President**  
Michael Shook '77

**Secretary**  
Bob Risher '64

**Treasurer**  
Doug Ladish '62

## House Company of Alpha Theta Chapter, Inc.

**Mission:**  
*To provide housing for Alpha Theta Chapter.*

**President**  
Joe Feola '79

**Vice President**  
Al Dering '65

**Secretary**  
Doug Ladish '62

**Treasurer**  
Phil Iapalucci '83

## Support the Alpha Theta Alumni Association

Alumni Association annual dues are separate from House Company capital campaign pledges. All alumni are encouraged to support the Alpha Theta Alumni Association for the 2009-10 school year. Gifts to the Alumni Association accomplish three important goals:

1. Alumni gifts help keep alumni informed and connected through this newsletter, the website at [www.wvupikes.com](http://www.wvupikes.com) and other communications
2. Alumni gifts provide meaningful leadership development training and experiences to deserving members of the chapter by sponsoring them to attend Pike University events ([www.pikeuniversity.org](http://www.pikeuniversity.org)), and
3. Alumni gifts support and enhance the chapter's pledge education program.

All gifts are managed by the Alumni Association Board of Directors to best promote friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis, across the years and across the generations of Alpha Theta.

Annual dues are \$40 and are payable now for 2009. Checks larger than \$40 are welcomed and appreciated. Please show your support by sending a check now.

Make your check payable to **Alpha Theta Alumni Association** and mail it to:  
Doug Ladish, Treasurer, 109 Kingussie Court, Cary, NC 27511





Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity  
West Virginia University #530  
PO Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile online at [www.wvupikes.com](http://www.wvupikes.com) or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, West Virginia University #530, PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Initiation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

## Brother to Brother

**Clifford Lee Comm '57** - My brother Harry Comm and I just returned from the 50th anniversary reunion of our WVU pharmacy graduation on May 3, 2009. There were five other members of our graduation class there with family members. It was a real blessing to see them again. Fifty years had past since seeing a couple of them. Dinner at Lakeview Inn was a great place for the Pharmacy alumni reunion. It was a great time of remembering when. My wife, Margaret, and I now have three married children, ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren, and we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in 2008 with a great family get together. I hope to see some old faces at the August reunion.

**Douglas J. Ladish '62** - After 42 years (and multiple jobs) in the chemical industry I have retired. Nancy and I are living in Cary, NC and have no plans to relocate. We have two daughters and three grandchildren, one of them being a Pike legacy born April 11, 2009. Give us a call (919-523-0908) or drop us an e-mail



On April 5, 2008, more than 80 alumni and brothers of Alpha Theta Chapter celebrated the Fifth Anniversary of the Re-Chartering of Alpha Theta Chapter. Included and honored was 2008 PIKE Dream Girl Carli Alesio, a junior communication major from Tom's River, New Jersey.

([ladish@mindspring.com](mailto:ladish@mindspring.com)). We'd love to hear from you!

*Do you have news you'd like to share with your brothers? Post interesting information about yourself online at [www.wvupikes.com](http://www.wvupikes.com). Did you recently get married? Have a baby? Change jobs? Retire? Let us know. Post your news today.*

## Visit the Pi Kappa Alpha Website

Visit [www.wvupikes.com](http://www.wvupikes.com), the official Alpha Theta alumni website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and e-mail address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Make a pledge to support the Fraternity