



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

MOUNTAINEER PHI PSI

Zachary L. Mendelson '79, Editor

Summer 2023 ■ Volume 81, No. 1



ROUSING SUCCESS PINEHURST, AUGUST 2023

What started in 2014 as an alumni retreat concept with 34 attendees has now blossomed into a full-fledged Alumni Outing. In June, 94 alumni, representing five decades, descended upon Pinehurst, NC for the 5th biennial outing.

A traditional annual golf match between **Tim Hoffman '81/Tim Muscaro '79** vs **Bob Burkhardt '78/Zach Mendelson '79** kicked off the week activities on Wednesday afternoon at Country Club of NC (CCNC). Hoffman/Muscaro, retired dentists (aka the “drill team”), took down the Yinzers...for the first time. That evening, **Greg Valant '79** served as entertainment during dinner as he attempted to describe Brother Muscaro watching golf video's while at the gym.

On Thursday, 16 brothers participated in a round of golf at CCNC. Good weather and good times were had by all. That evening, over 70 brothers arrived for the Welcome Reception. Southern Q Catering provided traditional Carolina cuisine: beef brisket sliders, ribs, slaw, and meatballs.

Many brothers were up early Friday morning for pickleball. A handful of brothers traveled to DeWitt's Outdoor Sports for Clay Shooting, followed by lunch. Talamore Golf Club hosted 74 brothers for golf in the afternoon. As no one got injured at any of the daily events, this defined a successful day! That evening, after a delicious southern barbecue served up by the Pine Crest Inn, brothers were entertained by the Swingin' Richards. The band was lively playing traditional favorites, Sweet Caroline and Country Roads.

Saturday did not disappoint. Five brothers were out the door early for bass fishing, followed by another day of pickleball. Both events were hosted at CCNC. In the afternoon, Longleaf Golf & Family Club hosted the golf outing. Before golf, brothers were served up a special treat as pepperoni rolls were delivered to the golf course.

The evening dinner was highlighted by remarks from two of our finest brothers, **David Woodrum '61** and **Jack Bowman '58**. Brother Woodrum, the former SWGP, presented all brothers with an 1890 Indian Head Penny, symbolic of the founding year of WV Alpha. In addition, he presented a print detailing Morgantown at the time of our chapter's founding. Lifelong West Virginian Forest 'Jack' Bowman retired from law three years ago. Today, he spends his days authoring novels. Jack shared the insights/experiences embedded in his novels, and provided each brother with a signed copy of his novel, *All Our Yesterdays*. Having grown up in the aftermath of World War II in small town similar to the setting for this novel.

Save the Date
Pinehurst 2025
June 5-7, 2025

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA**JAMES COCHRAN
HOUSE ASSOCIATION****President**

John Miesner '81

Vice President

Charlie Hageboeck '17

Secretary

Mike Hoffman '17

Treasurer

Gary Waters '74

CHAPTER OFFICERS**President**Brodie McUmar
Weirton, WV**Vice President**Jack Penwell
Enola, PA**Treasurer**Kaysen Conver
Pittsburgh, PA**Corresponding Secretary**Connor Rosado
Long Island, NY**Recording Secretary**Phillip Waller
Atlanta, GA**Historian**Riley Carlin
Pittsburgh, PA**Messenger**Ryan Moffett
Lumberton, New Jersey**Sergeant-at-Arms**Josh Ferguson
Wellsburg, WV**Chaplain**Nicholas Grayson
Lancaster, OH**MORE PHOTOS FROM
PINEHURST 2023**

(left to right) Doug Sutter, David Calabrese and Jim Hamer catching up on old times.



John Miesner '81 (left) displaying the Mr. Pinehurst Award. The traveling trophy will be presented again in 2025.



Representatives of the Pledge Class of 1977.



Representatives of the Pledge Class of 1978.



Representatives of the Pledge Class of 1979.



Representatives of the Pledge Class of 1981.

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA



From left to right: Larry Talbott, Steve Talbott and Chris Cavallo.

CELEBRATING FOUR GENERATIONS OF PHI PSI TALBOTT & CAVALLO

“Only in West Virginia can your daughter marry your Big Brother’s son and everyone is happy about it”

– Larry Cavallo ’81

This Phi Psi Story started 99 years ago, back in 1924 when (Roll #277) **Richard H. Talbott Sr ’24** (Senior) pledged Phi Psi. He owned and operated the Talbott Insurance Agency of Elkins. He was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates and also served as clerk of the Senate. I am certain the Elkins native had no idea his decision to join WV Alpha would begin a legacy for the Talbott Family that is celebrated today...something unique within all of Phi Kappa Psi. They are the only four-generation legacy family in the Fraternity’s 171-year history.



For (Roll #725) **Richard H. Talbott Jr ’53** (Junior), it was somewhat of a different path. His college of choice was Princeton. Upon graduation, he attended WVU College of Law. Once he landed in Morgantown, he made the decision to pledge Phi Psi... an interesting decision when you consider the limited time available for a social life. But Senior had planted that seed years earlier and Junior wanted to carry on the legacy. He pledged because of his “Phi Psi roots” according to (Roll #1477) **Steve Talbott ’79**.

While he was born in Elkins, unlike his grandfather and father, Steve grew up in Fairmont. The family moved when Steve was young. He recalls hearing Phi Psi stories from both Senior and Junior...that were etched in his memory. Not to mention the Phi Psi keepsakes Senior passed

on including: Pin, Wallet, and Membership Card.

In high school, Steve met **Dr. Lee Pyles ’76**, who invited him to visit the Fraternity house. Steve credits Brother Pyles for introducing him to the chapter. Steve was quite active with the chapter as an undergraduate, which includes serving as GP.

Larry Cavallo ’81 grew up in Clarksburg, WV, and attended Washington Irving (WI). There were several from his senior high school class who came to WVU and pledged Phi Psi. Larry acknowledged that neither he nor his sister (Lori) knew anything about Greek life upon arriving in Morgantown but went down that path because so many classmates (**Tim Dyer ’81, Tom Dyer ’81, Tom Caruso ’81, John Hornor ’81, Mike Robinson ’81, Pat Parrill ’81, Todd Furbie ’81, Brad Hall ’81, Tom Kennedy ’81**) had an interest and eventually joined as well.

Larry vividly recalled visiting the Fraternity house “on the second night of rush week”. He met Steve (Talbott) for the first time. Steve’s name tag reflected he was from Oslo, Sweden. Upon receiving his bid and beginning pledgship, Larry decided he wanted “that dude from Oslo as his Big Brother”. Thus, a new Fraternity seedling began, but they never dreamed of what would lie ahead. Through the years, Steve (and wife/Debbie) and Larry (and wife/Cathy) would hang out in the Blue Lot at WVU Football Games. But it was with the annual Christmas card exchange that their kids would vicariously become smitten with one another.

In 2009, the Talbott Family traveled to Morgantown (Hawley Field) for an American Legion

Baseball Tournament. It was (**Roll #2245**) **Chris Talbott ’11** who was tagging along to watch twin brother Ryan play. With Larry, Cathy, and their daughter Carrie attending the games...sparks began to fly quickly between Chris and Carrie. Chris arrived (to start college) in Morgantown in 2010, and Carrie followed three years later. According to Steve, those WVU Football tailgates allowed this romance to develop.



On August 10, 2019, Chris and Carrie officially blended the two families with their marriage. And on February 14, 2022, Tate Joseph Talbott arrived. Chris and Carrie reside in Bridgeport, WV. With any luck, Steve and Larry will be sitting in their rockers 18 years from now celebrating a five-generation Talbott legacy.



I can note that during my Zoom interview with Steve & Larry, I got to see young Tate and he is cute as a button. And now, at 16 months, I can most definitely state he is Phi Psi material.

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA**CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

As of 08/01/2023

Campaign Goal

\$2,250,000

Cash and Pledges

\$544,334

Goal Remaining

\$1,955,666

Loyal Donors

73

**CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP****Honorary Chairman**

David Woodrum '61

Campaign Chairman

Tim Miller '74

Committee

Jack Bowman '58

Rick Pill '70

JT Thomas '70

Bob Bird '73

Kim Craig '74

Dave Hanna '77

Zach Mendelson '79

Tim Hoffman '81

Tim Dyer '81

John Miesner '81

Izaak Mendelson '07

CLASS CAPTAINS**1950's**

Jack Bowman '58

1980's

Doug Stoup '83

Richard Carlin '86

1960's

Rick Wagener '69

James Dobbs '69

2000's

Izaak Mendelson '07

1970's

Rick Pill '70

JT Thomas '70

Kim Craig '74

Jeff Tennant '74

John Giamalis '76

LIVE EVER. DIE NEVER.**A STRONGER TOMORROW.**

Dear Brothers,

Summer is winding down and the young men of West Virginia Alpha are preparing to return to campus. As I look back on the significant role Phi Psi played in shaping who I am today, I am reminded of how vital such brotherhood is for the current generation of college students.

I hope you will agree with me that we want those now living at 780 Spruce and those to come, to experience that same special bond and pride knowing you were a part of something bigger than yourself. For that to happen, we alums need to pay it forward by providing a permanent foundation to support academic excellence, leadership training and the Phi Psi experience while providing quality housing for our younger brothers.

The chapter is currently in a campaign to upgrade our beloved home at 780 Spruce Street and build an educational endowment to support our chapter in perpetuity. I ask you to join me, along with others who have stepped forward with significant gifts/pledges, including **Lee Pyles '77, John Miesner '81, Rick Pill '70, Jeff Tennant '74, Rick Wagner '69, Zach Mendelson '79, Kim Craig '74, Jack Bowman '58, Mathew Mazanek '82 and Michael Fiery '79.**

We have already reached over \$550,000+ in cash and pledges but we are a long way from our goal of \$2.25 Million and have only had 73 brothers step up so far. This level of participation is well below what should be expected from a chapter with the venerable history of WV Alpha.

I will remind you the stained-glass window in our chapel states words to the effect that a joy shared is doubled and a sorrow shared is halved. That is what brotherhood is about. So, I ask that you respond now and generously when contacted by our Foundation fundraising staff or our Class Captains, or feel free to reach out to me directly. If you would like to discuss the campaign, the chapter, your pledge or ways you can join or support the campaign, let me know where and when and we will be there.

In the bond...

Tim Miller '74

Campaign Chairman

Scan the QR code or visit pkpfoundation.org/wv-alpha to make a gift to the *Live Ever. Die Never. A Stronger Tomorrow Campaign* today!

If an error has been made in recording your gift on the next page, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign team at the Foundation by calling 317.275.3400 or emailing Lee Fuller at lgf@pkpfoundation.org.



NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

We are so grateful to the following WV Alpha brothers who have committed over \$544,000 to the *Live Ever. Die Never. A Stronger Tomorrow. Campaign*. With your gift, you join chapter brothers across the nation in celebrating Phi Psi's strong history at WVU and our even greater future. Together, we are ensuring that the young men who follow in our footsteps in WV Alpha have a state-of-the-art chapter facility to learn in, lead in and call home. We have moved the needle, but additional commitments are needed to accomplish our campaign goal of \$2,250,000.

GIVING LEVELS

As of 08/01/2023

1852 LEGACY SOCIETY

Honoring those that have designated WV Alpha in their estate plans.

Lee A. Pyles '77

1890 FOUNDERS LEAGUE

\$100,000+

LETTERMAN SOCIETY

\$50,000-\$99,999

Richard A. Pill '70

John T. Miesner '81

CHAPEL SOCIETY

\$25,000-\$49,999

Richard H. Wagener '69

Timothy M. Miller '74

Jeffrey V. Tennant '74

Michael D. Fiery '79

Zachary L. Mendelson '79

WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA CLUB

\$10,000-\$24,999

Forest J. Bowman '58

John L. Thomas '70

Thomas R. Douglass '72

Kim Craig '74

John N. Giamalis '76

Timothy R. Hoffman '81

Matthew J. Mazanek '82

Douglas C. Stoup '83

Wagener-Gearhart Family Foundation

HARLAN SELBY SOCIETY

\$5,000-\$9,999

Michael D. Hoffman '68

Dennis G. White '71

Robert B. Bird '73

Phillip R. Stevens '75

Timothy T. Whalen '75

Philip A. Compton '79

James P. Hamer II '79

Izaak T. Mendelson '07

PHI KAPPA PSI SOCIETY

\$1,000-\$4,999

Hubert A. Shaffer Jr. '58

David L. Woodrum '61

David C. Hardesty Jr. '64

Benjamin A. Hardesty '69

Steven C. Miller '69

James S. Walker '70

Stephen D. Scales '72

Samuel D. Morris '73

Gary K. Waters '74

David M. Ziegler '75

Stephen A. Spencer '77

Adam H. Mandleberg '94

Douglas Ernest '17

Anonymous

AMICI CIRCLE

\$1-\$999

William R. Samples '50

Earl A. Pauley '56

Stephen D. McWhorter '60

William A. Jones Jr. '62

Maurice G. Taylor Jr. '63

Eric Van Lilly '64

William F. Hartwig '65

Robert C. Spiker Jr. '65

Robert H. Douglas Jr. '66

William J. Quinn II '66

Stephen R. Crislip '67

Thomas J. DeWitt '68

William H. Hevener '70

Mario J. Marra '72

Richard E. Jones '75

Bruce E. Duchene '77

Timothy Muscaro '79

Theodore N. Pauls '80

Philip B. Hall '81

Michael W. Robinson '81

Edward R. Stike '81

Jeffrey S. Roberts '84

Vito S. Manno Jr. '86

Steven A. McBride '86

Daniel W. Lucas '93

Timothy J. Mento '00

Todd B. Jessup '04

Daniel J. Markowitz '04

Brandon Copeland '17

Charles J. Hageboeck '17

Scott Dana

WAYS TO GIVE

Tax Deductibility

All gifts to the campaign are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law through the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation and designated to the West Virginia Alpha Housing Fund or West Virginia Alpha Endowed OneFund.

Online

Giving with your credit card online at pkpfoundation.org/west-virginia-alpha is a quick and secure way to make an investment in our West Virginia Alpha project. Online, you can make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift in monthly, quarterly or yearly increments.

By Mail

You can mail a check or credit card gift for our West Virginia Alpha project to the Phi Psi Foundation at Phi Kappa Psi Foundation, 5395 Emerson Way, Indianapolis, IN 46226. Please be certain to indicate West Virginia Alpha Housing Fund or West Virginia Alpha Endowed OneFund in the memo section of the check.

Estate Gifts

The Phi Psi Foundation staff, our fundraising counsel, will work with you and your estate planner in designing a planned gift that meets your short and long-term financial goals and ultimately benefits our West Virginia Alpha Chapter. Planned gifts include but are not limited to cash, bonds, stock, securities, personal property, retirement plan assets and insurance policies.

Appreciated Stock/Securities

Multiple benefits are realized when using appreciated stock as a means of giving. The Phi Psi Foundation staff, our fundraising counsel, can work with your financial advisor to ensure your stock gift maximizes charitable tax benefits, while also making a direct impact on West Virginia Alpha

Matching Gifts

Numerous companies match an employee's personal donation to non-profit, tax-exempt foundations. Ask if your employer participates in a gift-matching program.



PHI KAPPA PSI FOUNDATION

Invest today. Change tomorrow.

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA**STAY CONNECTED****Chapter Website**

www.mountaineerphipsi.com

Chapter Instagram

@phipsiwbvu

National Website

www.phikappapsi.com

Foundation Website

www.pkpfoundation.org

Update Your Information

Make sure you stay up-to-date on what is happening at the Chapter and within the organization. Complete the form on the back of this newsletter, place it in a stamped envelope and mail it to the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation. You can also use the link at the bottom of the form to submit your information electronically.

Support WV Alpha

Gifts to the WV Alpha Endowed Chapter OneFund or Chapter Housing Fund can be made by check, credit card and/or appreciated securities. These gifts are 100% tax deductible through the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation.

You can give online using a credit card at pkpfoundation.org/west-virginia-alpha



or by mailing a check to:
Phi Kappa Psi Foundation
5395 Emerson Way
Indianapolis, IN 46226

Checks should be made payable to the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation and note WV Alpha Endowed Chapter OneFund or Chapter Housing Fund on the memo line.

GREETINGS FROM MORGANTOWN**MATTHEW R. RICHARDSON, ED.D., CSAED-FSL**

On behalf of our President, Dr. E. Gordon Gee and Dean of Students Corey Farris, I am sending the undergraduate and alumni members of the West Virginia Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi my warmest wishes.

The fraternity and sorority community at WVU likely looks a bit different in 2023 than it has in years past. The COVID-19 global pandemic, mixed with a new generation of students with their own expectations of higher learning, has created a time to reflect on the utility, merit and worth of what we know as a “Greek experience.”

Our community has shown agility during ambiguity, and in all times of challenge, we evolve. Above all obstacles, our community engaged in a much-needed paradigm shift. As we look toward the 2023-24 academic year, I would like to share with you the strategic direction of the Center for Fraternal Values and Leadership.

To echo President Gee’s charge of “Students First,” we will reflect on the foundational question of “Are we relevant in 2023?”

By reflecting on what makes fraternal life unique and special, we can better tailor our focus on providing a solid return on investment for our members. A driving force behind our operations will be intentionality. Whatever we do, we will have a clear purpose for doing it, while keeping fraternal growth at the forefront of our minds.

Next, we will acknowledge the proverbial “spotlight” that is upon us as a Greek community and accept it — as opposed to pointing out how “unfair” it is. We’ll learn how to better tell our story and use University resources to emphasize the positive impact of fraternity and sorority membership. We will also acknowledge when things go wrong and work to remedy our mistakes. And we’ll do so with a spirit of collaboration among all key stakeholders.

Concurrently, we will focus on the theme of membership experience. I often hear “the reason why I joined was not the same as the reason I stayed.” If this is true, then what are the priorities of an undergraduate experience that prepares a man for active alumni membership? What are the elements that go into a healthy, collaborative and fraternal community? How can we continue to have fun and forge lifelong friendships that power our large alumni networks and enhance our sense of belonging at our alma mater?

The future of our community must be vested in student learning while proving the merit, value and worth of our existence. Students must help create the changes they wish to see. They have a voice. They have the intelligence necessary to engage in authentic mission-driven conversations. It is their table that we, as alumni members, have a seat. My goal is to ensure that undergraduates are good stewards of the charter that keeps their chapter alive. When they are not, they jeopardize our history. Let’s impress upon them, together, the important role they play.

My door remains open to students and alumni alike. Until we are together again, know of my admiration of Phi Kappa Psi. I remain your constant friend and ally.

Fraternally,

Matthew R. Richardson, Ed.D., CSAEd-FSL

Director, Center for Fraternal Values and Leadership, West Virginia University
m.richardson@mail.wvu.edu

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA**FROM HERE...TO THERE**

Annual Pittsburgh Christmas Social - 2022 Group Photo
Tim Muscaro '79 received the award for traveling the furthest to attend—Tampa, FL!



Annual Pittsburgh Christmas Social - (left to right)
Greg Gillette, Bob Burkhardt, and Greg Valant.



Annual Pittsburgh Christmas Social - Joe Fox and his wife,
Rena



Annual Pittsburgh Christmas Social - (left to right)
Matt Herrick, Tom Morse, and Tim Muscaro.



Eight of 13 WV Alphans from class of 1974 celebrating their
Morgantown High School 50th Class Reunion. (left to right)
Doug Hall, D.B. Teter, Roger Cutright, William King, Gary
Waters, Dick Ratcliff, Larry Goff, and Tim Miller. Unable to
attend: Jim Lorenze, Dave Pill, and Jeff Tennant. Ray Ponceroff
and Junior Taylor in Chapter Eternal.



Members of the Gillette Family (left to right): Chris IV,
Chris '80, President Gee, Elijah '21, and Luke at the Blaney
House following the December 2022 WVU Graduation
whenever Carrie Gillette was awarded a Presidential
Honorary Doctorate Degree at West Virginia University's
Commencement.



Brothers attending the Memorial Service of Bill "William"
Douglas, former Dean of College of Physical Activity and
Sport Sciences. (left to right) Zach Mendelson, Jack Bowman,
Charlie Mahan and Tom Rogers. Douglas was a Phi Sig, but a
good friend to many Phi Psi's and a neighbor of Brother
Mendelson in Morgantown for 30-years.



Jack Bowman '58 received the National Society of
the Daughters of the American Revolution Historic
Preservation Award on June 20, 2023.

**WVU GREEK ALUMNI
HALL OF FAME
ZETA CLASS OF 2023****Phi Kappa Psi**

Rick Pill '70

Kappa Kappa Gamma

Susan Hardesty

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Carla Hunter

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Patrice Harris

Sigma Nu

Ken Kendricks

**Phi Sigma Kappa
(Delta Class of 2023)**

Kevin Berry

WVU GREEK AWARDS**Greek Man of the Year**

Payne Blankenship '20

**Excellence in Interfraternalism****CHAPTER ETERNAL****Badge #1,635**

Stephen C. Williams '86...

March 27, 2023



MOUNTAINEER PHI PSI

PO Box 4070
Morgantown, WV 26504-4070

RETURN MAILER

Mail to: **Mountaineer Phi Psi**
PO Box 4070
Morgantown, WV 26504-4070

Name _____ Init. Yr. _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____

2023 SUBSCRIPTION

\$50.00

Voluntary Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Save a stamp, renew/donate via Venmo:
Mountaineer Phi Psi @ WVALPHA

☐ The contact information above is new

Share an update by including your news in your return mailer.

News About Me: _____

You're invited to Founders Day!

You and a guest are cordially invited to join us during homecoming weekend for a Fall Founders Day celebration of West Virginia Alpha Phi Psi.

SUNDAY

October 22, 2023 @ 10:30 AM

Erickson Alumni Center

1 Alumni Dr, Morgantown, WV 26506

HOSTED BY

The James Cochran House Association of Phi Kappa Psi
& WV Alpha Chapter

Brunch will be served and brothers from the Class of 1973 will receive their 50-year gold pins.

Please RSVP by October 13
by scanning the QR code or visiting
bit.ly/wv-alpha-homecoming-2023

Family and friends are welcome.

