

# Mountaineer

# PHI PSI

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

Zachary L. Mendelson '79, Editor

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## WVU GREEK SYSTEM-A YEAR OF CHANGES

[Editor's Note: Below is a sequence of events over the last eight months]

On February 14th, 2018, Greek Life at WVU changed forever. An emergency mandatory meeting was called by President Gordon Gee. Present at the meeting were leaders and advisors from every fraternity and sorority, Matt Richardson the director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Dean of Students Corey Farris, President Gordon Gee, and various other WVU Staff. Alumni attending on behalf of the chapter included: **Rob Dinsmore '77** (Chapter Advisor), **Lee Pyles '77** (Faculty Advisor), and **Zach Mendelson '79**.

During this meeting the *Reaching the Summit* standards was announced in addition to informing all IFC Fraternities were being placed on moratorium of social functions, membership recruitment, and new member activities. This action was triggered by a pattern of behavior issues related to a select number of fraternities.

**Very important to note at this point that WV Alpha was NOT one of the fraternities that triggered this action by the University.**

The Greek organizations affected include: Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Sigma Phi, Kappa Alpha Order, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Sigma Kappa, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Chi, Sigma Nu, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Theta Chi.

As a result of this action by the University, the Chapter learned of the following immediate changes. I have also noted (in bold) the action taken by our chapter:

- Pledge Initiation: all new members (pledges) must be initiated within 72-hours or be dropped by the chapter. Basically, our new initiates at that juncture had three new member meetings. **{WV Alpha initiated our class of young men, but did not allow them to attend/vote at chapter meetings until such a time they completed a full understanding our values, history, etc}**
- Officer Transitions/Elections: Starting in Fall 2018 Officer elections will be held on the Academic Calendar, as opposed to January-December. This is in direct conflict with Phi Kappa Psi National Policy, . This meant the current Executive Board would either have to leave at the end of the current semester or stay on until Spring '19. **{With the Chapter's consent, the officers stayed on to provide continuity during this critical time until Spring '19}**
- Membership Review: Effective immediately, all Chapters at WVU were ordered to conduct a membership review the moratorium. The goal is to "trim the fat". **{Our chapter came**

**through the review process with outstanding grades}**

- Reinstatement: From February 14th, 2018 until August 1st, 2018, all WVU chapters were placed on Special Review Status. This basically meant that WVU put together a group of faculty, students, and headquarter partners to determine who should be "invited back" to campus. **{Our chapter moved through this process quickly as we stood as the only chapter with a CLEAN Record over the last three semesters}**

Below are a few of the comments from President Gee as respects the overhaul of the Greek system:

"I'm not asking you to do the easy thing. I'm asking you to do the right thing." said Gee, himself a member of Pi Kappa Alpha national fraternity.

"It is time to rebrand Fraternity and Sorority Life at West Virginia University – and potentially at a national level," he said. "You have the solutions. You know what needs to be done. But it will take hard work. It will take trust. It will take courageous leadership.

"It will mean holding each other accountable – including the administration and our alumni leaders."

"We have faith in our student body. We have faith in this University – and we have faith in you," he said. "We cannot allow West Virginia University to become the next national headline for the wrong reasons. We need to get to work now to change the dynamic."

Within a week of this announcement, the following text was written by Mike Hoffman, GP of the Chapter, over the last year. With his permission

**On June 21st, 2018...**it was announced that four fraternities [Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Alpha Mu, Pi Kappa Alpha, and Phi Sigma Kappa] had been suspended following a review by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) at WVU as a result of the *Reaching The Summit* review process. West Virginia University suspended four fraternities following a review by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life (OFSL). Pi Kappa Alpha will be suspended indefinitely, losing its recognition as a student organization for violating its current suspension. Phi Sigma Kappa also lost recognition through fall 2020.

Two other fraternities lost recognition from their national organizations and had those actions affirmed by the OFSL working group. Phi Gamma Delta (nicknamed FIJI) lost recognition

## WVU GREEK SYSTEM-A YEAR OF CHANGES - (Continued)

indefinitely and Sigma Alpha Mu was suspended through fall 2020. OFSL Director Matthew Richardson said none of the suspensions are permanent at this point.

Dean of Students Corey Farris cited ongoing issues with drugs, alcohol, sexual assault and hazing. “WVU Greek Life has suffered several high-profile incidents during recent years. Among them, a social media post involving a fraternity member garnered attention for using racial epithets. In October 2016, Sean Guthrie went to smoke on the roof of the Kappa Alpha house, fell and died from his injuries. In November 2015, Phi Gamma Delta members were caught in a prank involving duct tape and kidnapping. An 18-year-old Kappa Sigma pledge, Nolan Burch, died in November 2014 from acute alcohol poisoning after a hazing incident. Tests revealed his blood-alcohol level was 0.493,” stated Farris.

Kappa Alpha Order has lost recognition for letting its chapter GPA fall below 2.75. Student leadership and alumni are charged with crafting a rehabilitative action plan to present to the working group for approval. Sigma Chi was under interim suspension. In November 2014, members of the Sigma Chi house were disciplined after a large group ran intoxicated through the South Park neighborhood.

“Transparency is key, and we intend to publish all relevant information regarding our chapters to our website for students, parents and families to see. This will include academic and judicial histories on our campus.” Farris called the measures a step in the right direction. “I’m happy for the work the committee has done and the recommendations. I’m happy that we’re moving forward and building the best fraternity and sorority system” that supports good behavior and helps make students into good citizens.

**By August 1st, 2018** ...the four fraternities noted above entered into discussion with WVU as they contemplated dissociation from the university. President Gordon Gee noted at the time, “While there is still much work to be done, we had an open and honest conversation. I believe we more clearly understand each other’s position, and we are hopeful that we can come to an agreeable resolution.”

“Nevertheless,” he said, “West Virginia University will not deviate from its goal to provide for the safety and welfare of its students. We are also dedicated to working with our student leaders who remain steadfast in their commitment to strengthen fraternity and sorority life on our campus.”

WVU previously said the fraternities took action, in part, because they object to “*Reaching the Summit* Standards” enacted this month in response to health, safety and academic concerns that led to WVU placing a moratorium in February on all social activities for campus Greek life pending release of the standards.

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Sigma Chi is under interim suspension. In November 2014, members of the Sigma Chi house were disciplined after a large group ran intoxicated through the South Park neighborhood. Richardson said he expects both plans will be approved before the start of the academic year in August. Alpha Sigma Phi lost recognition pending an ongoing investigation by the Office of Student Conduct. Several others are not suspended but must undertake remedial measures. Phi Delta Theta, Pi Beta Phi and Sigma Kappa will have a faculty or staff mentor

appointed for academic support and must revise their academic plans for OFSL approval. They must consider recognizing their minimum GPAs for new members. Sigma Alpha

**On August 20, 2018**... Parents of WVU students received an official letter from the university warning that there are ‘dissident fraternities’ attempting to withdraw their association from West Virginia University. The university announced three of the fraternities that fell short of meeting new academic standards that went into effect with the start of the new semester notified WVU that they would sever ties and continue to operate off-campus as independent organizations.

Fraternities, working in conjunction with university representatives, needed to agree to become compliant with new standards by August 1. Alpha Sigma Phi, Phi Sigma Kappa, Kappa Alpha Order renounced WVU recognition in a letter to the school. A fourth fraternity, Sigma Chi, sent a similar notification dated August 10.

Before the letter was sent, Alpha Sigma Phi was listed by WVU as suspended indefinitely; Phi Sigma Kappa was listed as suspended through Fall 2020; Kappa Alpha and Sigma Chi are suspended pending action plan approval.

WVU President Gordon Gee issued his own letter, saying that any unrecognized fraternities will be prohibited from participating in the WVU-recognized Interfraternity Council, any recognized sponsor programs with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, University-sponsored activities like intramurals, nor any activity sponsored by a recognized student organization.

“I want to resolve this issue, also,” Gee said . “But I will not allow our students or the rules of the University to be subverted or threatened. My first responsibility is for the safety of each student at this institution. Sanctioned rogue behavior by national fraternity leadership is irresponsible and will result in further deterioration of support for Greek organizations in this country.”

**On September 28th, 2018** ...in light of five fraternities disassociating from and being banned by WVU, Monongalia County Assessor, Mark Musick, is investigating whether the frat house properties are now subject to taxation. Musick said he began looking into the issue several weeks ago when the fraternity controversy first arose. He’s had meetings on it and is gathering information but hasn’t reached a conclusion.

The question arises because state code exempts from property taxes real estate up to 1 acre used exclusively by a fraternity or sorority affiliated with a university. For the five fraternities that are forming a new Independent Fraternity Council – Alpha Sigma Phi, Kappa Alpha Order, Phi Sigma Kappa, Sigma Chi and Theta Chi – university affiliation is broken and Musick is deciding if that subjects their properties to taxation.

Appraised values for the five properties are available at the assessor’s office. A representative of the real estate department said the assessed value for taxation is 60 percent of the appraised. Here is a look at the values. One of the four is owned by a different fraternity and one is owned by a for-profit realty company.

- Alpha Sigma Phi: owned by Kappa Sigma House; building, \$451,600; land, \$144,500; total, \$595,500; assessed, \$357,300.
- Kappa Alpha Order: building, \$698,900; land, \$228,400; total, \$927,300; assessed, \$556,380.

- Phi Sigma Kappa: building, \$936,400; land, \$43,400; total, \$979,800; assessed, \$587,880.
- Sigma Chi: building, \$586,200; land, \$67,700; total, \$653,900; assessed, \$392,340.
- Theta Chi: owned by Pinion Realty; building, \$541,500; land, \$108,900; total, \$650,400; assessed, \$390,240.

**On September 28th, 2018...** President Gordon Gee has a message: don't suffer buyer's remorse as WVU announced a 10-year ban Alpha Sigma Phi, Phi Sigma Kappa, Kappa Alpha Order, Sigma Chi, and Theta Chi. Those five announced the formation of an Independent Fraternity Council just hours before the ban, officially removing themselves from WVU and the school's Interfraternity Council (IFC).

"I'm very disappointed in their nationals," Gee said. "The fact that they really urged their students to try to go independent."

The severance marks the end of more than a month of back-and-forth between the fraternities and WVU administration, with the fraternities initially threatening to sever ties as a response to WVU's RTS plan, which went into effect Aug. 1. "I think we've made the move in the right direction of those groups that don't want the support of the university, those groups that — I think — have not put safety as number one, we've separated them," WVU Dean of Students Corey Farris said on WAJR's Morgantown AM. "And if they don't want to be a part of us, that's fine."

'Fine' is a subjective term in this case — since Gee and Farris made it clear they intend to let parents of current and potential future WVU students know at every moment possible that the five banned fraternities are not WVU-affiliated. "I will do whatever is necessary to make certain that our students are safe and that they are living within the umbrella of the university," Gee said.

"As long as I can be assured that our fraternities are living within the framework of our university, then we have a lot of opportunity to do some really good things," Gee said. Some of the chapters date back more than a century. The Alpha Rho Chapter of Kappa Alpha Order, for example, was first established in March of 1897 at WVU. Farris said there are others who will likely look to make WVU their new home. "We've got a number of other fraternities who aren't on WVU's campus now who have reached out to us and said, 'We'll live by those rules. We think they are great. WVU's a good campus, and we'll be happy to come there and live by your rule,'" Farris said.

"Everyone has a right to their first amendment rights," he said. "The university also has a right to hold itself to its standards and to what we're doing. I feel very badly about this. This is not something that I take a lot of pride in — drawing a bright line like that. But I think it is entirely appropriate given that we were really trying to work with some to come up with a logical way to approach all this."

Gee further went on and said the issue over dissociation comes down to matters of safety — those fraternities now aren't tied to WVU's rules. Gee said that's a problem for the school that has worked repeatedly to reform campus culture and Greek Life culture in the wake of the 2014 death of Nolan Burch, a freshman from New York who died with a blood alcohol content of 0.493.

"We have to make certain that our students are safe, that there are certain expectations and rules and involvement in terms of activities within the institution," Gee said. "Just to go out and say, 'We're going to do whatever we want to do without any guard rails whatsoever' is unacceptable."

**October 22nd, 2018...** WVU announces a pilot program for Fall recruitment. In a letter from President Gee to the University Community, the president noted that during a recent meeting with Inter-fraternity Council Leadership, a proposal for a truncated, second-rush period (Fall semester) that would allow freshmen who meet certain requirements to explore recognized IFC fraternities. This second recruitment period is a pilot program. Organizations wishing to participate must agree to the parameters outlined by the University to remain an Interfraternity Council member in good standing at WVU. Activities will begin with a chapter meet-and-greet Wednesday, Oct. 24, and conclude by Friday, Nov 16.

Guidelines for students, including those in their first semester seeking IFC membership, must have a minimum 2.75 GPA, per midterm grade reports, at the time of recruitment. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will review and approve all scheduled activities related to new member recruitment. All rush events must be alcohol-free. IFC organizations must publicize their recruitment schedules, and University staff will closely monitor recruitment activities.

Students who receive a bid and accept membership to a chapter must participate in weekly education programs surrounding alcohol education, hazing prevention, Title IX and bystander education. In addition, our consultant who helped us create the *Reaching the Summit* process will be on hand this week to assist with implementation and provide an overarching assessment.

President Gee notes, "though I am still a fervent supporter of deferred membership, I am confident that this pilot program will provide our fraternity leadership with the platform to demonstrate that fraternity life on West Virginia University's campus is changing for the better. The ability to check mid-term grades, along with the substantive programming and operating procedures that have been implemented since 2014, has created a more transparent and thoughtful process. I also believe this will allow our students, particularly our freshmen, to explore the opportunities available in those organizations still associated and overseen by the University."

**In conclusion**, our House Corporation Leader, **John Miesner '82**, shared with Matt Richardson that our plan is to remain committed to staying within the University's F&S system as long as the system is responsive to all the chapter and house realities the system imposes, and that a return to the level playing field in recruitment is implemented. Recruitment is life blood to existence and future viability on campus.

John notes, "we try to run a tight ship, and plug the inevitable leaks promptly. My thoughts are to keep our ship, which is in the University fleet, off the shoals ahead. Regular and reliable recruitment of students into our organization is essential. This past pledge period was in many respects the worst in the memory of my alumnus group. The 'pre-registration' by the University for students to receive a bid is one additional hurdle to recruitment that needs to be evaluated for effectiveness. I can implement a robust process directly in my chapter...save pre-registration for pledging at the non-complying fraternities."

John continued, "The **rebranding** effort heralded earlier in the year was needed in advance of this last semester. From the external vantage of students and parents looking at WVU fraternity & sorority membership, the University, having called the balls & strikes on individual chapters needs to now publicly and effectively countenance and bless in no uncertain terms those organizations which have met the standards and are 'recognized' as approved student organizations. Right now, there is a dark cloud and every

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fraternity is under it; the cooperative and the uncooperative. “Recognized” means by the University; so make that recognition apparent.”

Presently, Phi Psi has one of the BEST experiences that can be offered a young man interested in casting his lot with a fraternity at WVU. But, the policy changes imposed on cooperating chapters must continue to be a work in progress. Students sign leases for private housing in November...therefore, deferred rush means spring members will likely not be able to live in my fraternity house for another whole (junior) school year. This is why a Fall pilot rush initiative is critical to remaining financially viable.

### WEST VIRGINIA HAS AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE FRATERNITIES SAFE

October 2018

By Hoppy Kercheval

[Editor’s Note: The author is well known state-wide talk show host who has covered the state and WVU for over 30-years]

Four years ago, Nolan Burch, a West Virginia University freshman from New York, died from alcohol poisoning during a fraternity hazing. His blood alcohol content was 0.493, six times the legal limit for driving. That was not only a great tragedy for his family and friends, but also for WVU. The University may be huge, but it is still a community that is bonded together by a strong sense of place and purpose.

Sure, WVU had — and still has — a party image, but there would have to be limits and consequences.

West Virginia President E. Gordon Gee, an admitted supporter of the Greek system, has worked since Burch’s death to bend the curve of bad behavior on campus, especially among fraternities. He initiated the *Reaching the Summit* program aimed at lowering the incidents of drug and alcohol abuse, hazing, and sexual misconduct at fraternities and sororities.

Part of the plan prevented first semester freshmen from pledging. Gee rightly believed that new students on campus need time to adjust to living on their own and dealing with the academic rigors of college before committing time to rush. That threw a curve ball to fraternities that count on first semester recruiting to fill their houses and pay the mortgage. For that reason, as well as other modest restrictions, five fraternities have dissociated themselves from the University.

In other words, the members still want to be WVU students and enjoy the many benefits the University has to offer, but they don’t want to play by even the most reasonable set of rules. Gee, who has bent over backwards to accommodate the frats, appears to have finally had enough. He announced recently that the five dissociated fraternities are banned from campus for ten years. I asked Gee on Talkline recently, “What if any of the five wanted to come back into the fold before 2028?” “Too bad,” Gee said.

Tens of thousands of WVU graduates, yours truly included, can tell stories of alcohol-fueled parties and wild times. Then again, very few campuses adhere to the same moral standards as, say, BYU. However, Nolan Burch’s party is over forever and WVU has not only the right, but also the obligation, to make its best effort to ensure that a similar tragedy does not happen again.

Tough love a tough decision Part of WVU President E. Gordon Gee’s State of the University speech read like tough love. That is,

the most vocal talking point in it that addressed the recent conflict with WVU’s fraternities. Or more exactly, the five fraternities that recently disassociated from the university and have since created an independent fraternity council. One expression goes, you cannot help someone who does not want help. Because the first step of the healing process is admittance or acceptance. We are not going to cite the reports of misconduct by fraternities that spurred WVU to enact a series of policy changes for Greek life this year. Needless to say, there’s no shortage of such events at fraternities on WVU’s campus and campuses across the country. In 2017, there were four fraternity hazing deaths nationwide, widespread suspensions by major universities of fraternity social activities and dozens of members facing charges.

Not to mention countless alcohol violations at many schools and reports of sexual misconduct. In February, Gee challenged fraternities and sororities by declaring, “I’m not asking you to do the easy thing, I’m asking you to do the right thing.” A freeze on 16 fraternities’ social and recruiting activities was soon followed by a host of restrictions, including raising academic standards and more oversight. We applauded Gee’s actions then and continue to agree the university is doing the right thing. Sometimes tough love is the only way to keep your own institution from spiraling out of control. In many instances, it’s more important to cut off those you are trying to help if your position is being negatively affected.

If things don’t look to be getting better or you are met with defiance or indifference, it’s time to let them go, after extending reasonable offers of help. No, WVU’s conflict with the Greek community was never an addiction rehabilitation one. But Gee’s resolve to act decisively on this matter was imperative in light of continuing reports of misconduct. One only need look back at the death of a freshman student at a fraternity event in 2014 to understand this resolve. Gee noted Monday the university is wisely working with the parents of that freshman on a program to combat hazing. What has happened since to ensure that never happens again one might argue is just WVU being reactive. We are inclined to believe Gee and WVU are being proactive on this issue, which we encourage. It’s possible this decision by this handful of fraternities to strike off on their own may end bad. The alternative though, to vacillate, would be all but certain to end bad.

# 79TH GRAND ARCH COUNCIL (GAC)

Submitted by: **Bob Bird '73**

The 79th Biennial Grand Arch Council was held in Las Vegas, NV in July. At the first General Session, WV Alpha was represented our banner to be hung proudly among those of all the active Chapters and Alumni Associations. It finalized the many defining moments of our return to the bond of Phi Kappa Psi.



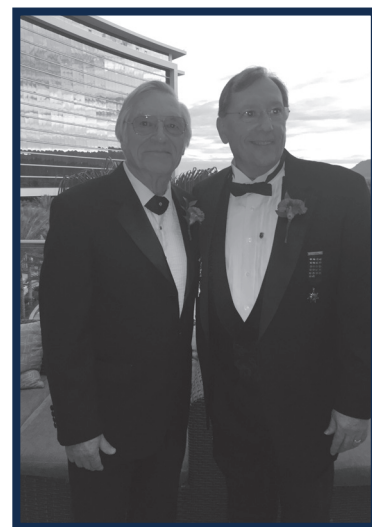
(From L to R): **Lee Pyles '77**, **Brandon Copeland '17**, **Luke Robinson '17**, **Mike Hoffman '17**, **Gordon Letterman '72**, **Bob Bird '73**, **John Miesner '82**, and **Abe Key '78**

West Virginia Alpha was well represented. From the Chapter, **Mike Hoffman '17 (GP)** and **Luke Robinson '17** served as our delegates. They were accompanied by our Faculty Advisor **Lee Pyles '77**. Our recent Colony member and initiate **Brandon Copeland '17** joined our group as he is working for the National Fraternity as a Chapter Services Consultant. **Abe Key '78** was also with our band of WV Alpha brothers. Abe currently serves as the Advisor for the Mother Chapter, PA Alpha.

**John Miesner '81** played a huge role at the GAC when he filled in for the Attorney General to lead the Constitution Committee. There were 48 potential amendments to the bylaws of which few if any were necessary. John meticulously sorted line by line through every one of them, in a room full of well ego'd lawyers and want-to-be lawyers, all of whom thought they had the only answer. Our Brother was masterful in handling this complex task.

**Gordon Letterman '72**, the last direct male descendent of our Founder **William Henry Letterman**, represented the New Mexico Alumni Association but as always, proudly proclaimed his affiliation as a WV Alpha initiate. Gordon thrilled many of the younger Brothers by showing them "Willy's Badge Number One" and allowing them to handle it and get a sense of its history. Gordon was called upon to speak to the assembly on multiple occasions, the most touching of which was the sharing of his having found a long lost family heirloom in the form of a jeweled Phi Psi pin in an elderly Aunt's estate.

Standing before the entire gathering at the closing banquet and in the most gentlemanly way, he pinned his beautiful wife and Phi Psi Sweetheart Ellen with the badge. Every woman in the room was jealous. John had secured the "1890" table through a Foundation auction for the closing banquet thus putting our group front and center for this endearing moment. It just seemed fitting for the renewed West Virginia Alpha contingent to be seated as a multi-generational, single purpose team for the dinner. We were humbly but clearly present for all to see, just as we have historically been.



**Gordon Letterman '72** (the last male descendant of founder **William Henry Letterman**) and **Bob Bird '73**

John (Miesner), Gordon (Letterman), and I participated in the Order of the S.C. annual banquet, initiation, and business meeting. Together, we represented over 50 GACs attended and that didn't include those Gordon went to prior to his initiation. There has been a natural changing of the guard within the Order. The new leadership, under the direction of Steve O'Rourke, Missouri '72, will create the celebration for the Order's 100th year anniversary at the next GAC. It is fitting to note how much Brother **David Woodrum '61** was missed. His presence at the GAC is a highlight for many. David has quietly battled a health issue that prevented him from flying. We all wish a David a speedy recovery and know he will be with the boys on hill for the next national gathering.

Shannon Price, Alabama '88 was elected to serve the fraternity at large as the SWGP for the forthcoming biennium. He is joined by Bob Marchesani, IUP '79 as SWVGP, David Moyer, Alabama '91 as SWP and Marc Dumas, DePaul '93 as SWAG. I was very proud of how our delegates weighed the qualifications of the candidates for these offices and considered how the good of the fraternity would best be served.

They cast their vote without any significant influence from our attending alumni but they did see fit of their own accord to counsel with their alumni. I was very pleased in their conduct of business. Watching how our Chapter Brothers went about their business confirmed more strongly than ever that West Virginia Alpha is not only back; it is here to stay!

I am extremely proud of the young men leading our Chapter today. The next GAC will be held in Minneapolis, MN in July of 2020.

# CHAPTER REPORT-PRESIDENT MIKE HOFFMAN '17

mchoffman@mix.wvu.edu

The West Virginia Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi began a new semester at WVU on August 14th, 2018. As you may be aware, Fraternity & Sorority Life at WVU is currently undergoing major change. The University is continuing its effort to rebrand Greek Life. As I have made clear in the past, our chapter has taken a role at the forefront of this. We take pride in our relationship with our host institution, as every collegiate organization should.

On campus we continue to maintain the highest academic standards of any IFC fraternity. Since our chapter re-founded in 2016 we have consistently maintained the #1 GPA on campus. We continue to have active involvement all across campus, whether it be positions in the Student Government Association, brothers working in various university offices, or being in leadership roles in other student organizations, Phi Kappa Psi is a leading group at WVU. Our chapter maintains a close relationship with Dr. Gordon Gee,



President of West Virginia University and one of the few university presidents who have committed to fraternity and sorority life.

Within the last 30 days, we wrapped up our homecoming festivities. We had multiple participants in the parade down high street. I am very glad to announce for the second straight year, a Phi Psi was crowned as WVU's homecoming king! Last year **Charlie Habeboeck '17**, our Vice-President was crowned. This year **Douglas Ernest Jr '17**, our Recruitment Chairman, was crowned king.

The chapter hosted an alumni reception after the parade, present were WV Alpha brothers of all ages. The event was a huge success and allowed an opportunity for the actives and alumni to mingle. Our alumni continue to be our single greatest asset with regard to the success of our chapter. President Gee, Dean of Student Corey Faris, and Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life Dr. Matthew Richardson were all in attendance.

The chapter was very excited to hear we were selected by the Nelson Leadership Institute to be a pilot chapter for their Mentoring Advantage Program. We have begun constructing our mentoring committee and look forward to getting the MAP program up and running soon.

## HOMECOMING 2018

*Submitted by: Mitch Buckberg '17, Corresponding Secretary*

Homecoming is always an exciting time on campus with big events all weekend. Homecoming 2018 was especially memorable if you're a Phi Psi. The events started on Friday evening with the annual parade which included floats, bands, sports teams, Greek organizations, and of course the homecoming court. Fraternities and sororities are paired up to build a float for the parade following some selected team.

Phi Kappa Psi was teamed up with Pi Beta Phi to create a *Nightmare on Elm Street* float, following a horror movie theme. The men and women of each organization worked hard to build the best float possible. Following the parade was a reunion at the Phi Psi house. Phi Psi alumni gathered from across the country to meet the current members and pledge class, celebrate the achievements of the fraternity, and rejoice on old memories at the house with members they had not seen in a year, or ten. It was an amazing experience for all.

That same night, brother **Brian Beverly '04** hosted the grand opening of his new business Embers, which saw an abundance of Phi Psi's who were happy to venture to the restaurant post reunion. The following day was highlighted with a win versus Kansas. But more importantly, the announcement at halftime naming **Douglas Ernest '17** as Homecoming King. But halftime began with the 2017 Homecoming King, **Charlie Hageboeck '17** returning to campus for the traditional trek across the field.

Doug is a senior marketing major from Vienna, WV. He was a Re-Founding Father who was initiated on Nov. 11th, 2017 and formally served as the recruitment chairman for Phi Psi and he currently serves as the parent/alumni relations chairman for WV Alpha. On campus, he is the president of the Order of Omega, vice president of recruitment for the Interfraternity Council, and holds several leadership positions in the Student Government Association. He is also is the recipient of the



(L to R) President Gee, Jennifer Ernest (nother), Doug Ernest, and Doug Ernest Sr (father)

PROMISE Scholarship, Diversity Scholarship, and Mountaineer Scholarship. He is also a food delivery driver for Meals on Wheels and a junior counselor for the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State.

Doug had been campaigning tirelessly for the week in hopes of being the second Phi Psi in a row to be crowned king. The anticipation was over when Doug's name was announced to the entire stadium, that he had been crowned king. All the Phi Psi's scattered about the student section stood and cheered. Homecoming 2018 was one for the books and the all members hope we can keep the tradition.

# RETURN MAILER

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

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(C) \_\_\_\_\_

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**11/2018**

# RETURN MAILER



New furniture (tables and chairs) for the chapter house library were contributed (August 2018) thanks to the WV Alpha Educational Fund.

Special thanks to **David McCormick '88**, and his company Omega Commercial Interiors, located in Morgantown, WV.



Several brothers attended the 2018 Golf Ryder Cup in Rome. Pictured from L to R: **Tim Muscaro '79**, **Matt Herrick '79**, **Mike Fiery '70**, **Jim Holtzapple '77**, and **Tim Hoffman '81**. Also attending, but not pictured were **Abe Key '78** and **Greg Valant '79**.



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**HARDESTY KICKS OFF MENTORING ADVANTAGE PROGRAM**

Mentoring is a personal development strategy for an undergraduate’s successful path into adulthood. It is about creating a structured, trusting relationship between an alumnus (mentor) and an aspiring undergraduate (mentee). Mentoring focuses on providing support and guidance around workplace skills and career exploration, as well as expertise and encouragement on life challenges through meetings, activities and information communication.

*The goals and expected outcomes of the Mentoring Advantage Program:*

- Build personal relationships that provide an ongoing source of encouragement, support, and information to undergraduate participants.
- Provide students with vocational guidance and career support where applicable.
- Assist in the development of participants academically, professionally, and personally.
- Establish alumni mentors as role models for undergraduate members, relating to the mentor’s own life and employment experiences.
- Provide undergraduate brothers with a competitive advantage in academic, personal, and professional matters.

**BENEFITS OF BEING A MENTOR:**

Work a real contribution to the life and success of an undergraduate brother. Assist in the development of the next generation of leaders. Utilize undergraduates as strong assets for information on new technology and emerging trends.

Cultivate a stronger relationship with undergraduates within the local chapter and national organization. Experience renewed pride and excitement for your field of work. Refine your coaching and mentoring skills. Expand your professional network. Recruitment opportunity for interns and entry-level talent.



On November 11, 2018, the WV Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi officially kicked off their Mentoring Advancement Program. We convened in the chapel at 11 am, WVU President Emeritus and Brother **David Hardesty ‘64** (pictured above with **Doug Ernest** and **Cody Papa**, Chapter Mentoring Chairs), discussed the importance of mentorship, and we finished the event by holding a reception at Brother **Brian Beverly ‘04** new restaurant, Embers. The group picture reflects chapter brothers who attended the event.



The purpose of the Mentoring Advantage Program is to match an alumnus who works in a career field with an active who aspires to get into that field and mentor that person. This will help the active become better prepared to enter his desired work force after college. We need 40 alumni brothers to participate in this program. If you are interested in participating in the program and want to mentor an active, please contact either **Douglas Ernest ‘17**, [dbernest@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:dbernest@mix.wvu.edu) and **Cody Papa ‘17**, [cap0002@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:cap0002@mix.wvu.edu).