

Mountaineer

PHI PSI

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

Zachary L. Mendelson '79, Editor

September 2019 • Volume 76, No. 1

THE STORY OF SARAH B. COCHRAN

During my 40+ years of being a member of West Virginia Alpha, I have on occasion been asked about the oil painting portrait which (which was donated at the time of her passing) and has hung in the chapter house living room for many years. Well, it was not until this summer when several local alumni received an inquiry from Kimberly Hess, an author, working on a book about the life of Sarah Boyd Cochran, aka “Sarah B”, that I felt the need to re-acquaint all of us with perhaps the most prominent lady in the history of WV Alpha.

But Ms. Hess is not just any author, for she is also a fourth generation descendent of Sarah B as her third great-grandfather and Sarah Cochran’s mother were siblings. In fact, Sarah put Kim’s great-grandmother through school 100-years ago at what’s now Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).

This interest gave me pause: How and when did Sarah Boyd Cochran come into the life of WV Alpha?

As noted in the book: *In The Bond, 100 Years Within West Virginia Alpha*, by **David Woodrum '61**, Sarah Boyd Cochran was a member of a family long prominent in Western Pennsylvania. Her Twitter bio could have read “Unexpected coal queen, traveler, philanthropist and suffrage supporter” with assorted hashtags about breaking a glass ceiling or being the first. Sarah Cochran (nee Moore) was born of humble means in Fayette County, Pennsylvania in 1857. As a young woman, she was the maid in the home of James Cochran, whose son, Phillip, fell in love with her. They married in 1879, had one son, James Phillip Cochran, and resided in (Fayette County) Dawson, PA.

In a move that seemed ahead of its time, Phillip taught Sarah the coal business because he believed in her. By the mid-1890s, Phillip led the family business before dying of pneumonia in 1899. She took over his business responsibilities and balanced

business leadership with bold public and private philanthropy that included women’s suffrage. It’s a story that remains relevant today.

Phillip’s death must have felt devastating to Sarah. Professionally, she was a vice president in what was considered one of the most extensive coal and coke operations in Pennsylvania, with business in Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. In her early forties at the time, Sarah could have lived the rest of her life comfortably as a coal magnate’s widow. Instead, she chose to act boldly and took on her husband’s business responsibilities.

Her businesses were said to have grown threefold in her charge, and she expanded it to sell coke overseas. She was considered one of the wealthiest women on the East Coast, and “at one time the nation’s only coal queen,” according to the *Evening Standard* in Uniontown, PA. This was at a time before American women could universally vote or serve on juries.

Business endeavors seemed to be balanced with philanthropic ventures, some private and some public. Sarah focused on results, not the personal publicity these could attract. For example, she was known to quietly fund higher education for local men and women of promise, and when the sixty Italian stone masons who worked on her mansion wanted to become American citizens, she sponsored them for citizenship. Her public philanthropy included multiple projects in academia, including funding a Sarah B. Cochran Chair of Philosophy at Bethany College and construction of Cochran Hall at Allegheny College. She became the first female trustee of Allegheny College and was on the board of directors of American University in Washington, D.C.

(Continued)

THE STORY OF SARAH B. COCHRAN

(Continued from Cover)

Sarah's experience in the coal business may be what led her to support a woman's right to vote, and it's in her support of women's suffrage that she put her name and home to use in a strategically public way. In 1915, she opened her mansion for a suffrage fundraiser to benefit the Fayette County Woman Suffrage Party, charging \$1 per person. Newspapers estimated that the event drew 500 or 600 people, each greeted by Sarah.

Her son, James Phillip Cochran, was initiated in 1899, into Pennsylvania Iota Chapter (Phi Kappa Psi) at the University of Pennsylvania. He died as an undergraduate member of the chapter of pneumonia. But Sarah became very fond the (Phi Kappa Psi) fraternity and contributed to the chapters at: University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny College at Meadville (PA), and West Virginia Alpha.

Circa 1890, enter into the picture **Rev Dr. Aaron Moore Buchanan, PA Alpha 1879**. For more than 28-years the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown, and also considered the father of West Virginia Alpha. Rev. Buchanan was one of the most distinguished members of the Presbyterian clergy in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Notable among his achievements as a churchman was his successful effort to have the Presbyterian Church advance financial aid to subordinate churches for religious work among students in state university centers. He was the pioneer in this movement within the Presbyterian Church of the United States, which previously had devoted all its financial help to endowed schools of its denomination. The securing of this recognition of state universities made him widely known throughout.

By reputation and through his personal efforts, he secured from Sarah the gift of the large and beautiful WV Alpha Chapter House located at 480 Spruce Street in 1903 as a memorial to her son, James. Known as the 'Nye Property', this was the first chapter house on the WVU campus, and it became known as the James Cochran House. Formal dedication was held on April 24, 1903, with Sarah in attendance. In the year 1908, Sarah again gave the chapter funds needed to add to the original property a large dining room, modern kitchen, two rooms with baths for guests, and four bedrooms. [Editor's Note: And since 1939, the House on the Hill, at 780 Spruce Street has been our home].

Although she died in 1936, Sarah left a mark in rural southwestern Pennsylvania's "built" environment. Linden Hall at St. James' Park is the 35-room mansion that she built after traveling in Europe and Asia. She built it for herself as a widow, and it was the site of her suffrage fundraiser. The Gothic style Methodist Church that she built and named for her husband is also there. Both the Phillip G. Cochran Memorial United

Methodist Church and Linden Hall are on the National Register of Historic Places.

If Sarah were alive today, it would be interesting to know what causes she would support, what advice she would give women in business, and if or how she might use social media to shine a light on particular issues.

Regardless, her real life is full of lessons in being and doing what no one has seen.

FROM HERE TO THERE

- (792) **Dan Ferguson '55**, mailed \$90 from Kenova, WV.
- (801) **Charles Mahan '57**, sent along \$100, Charlie has now retired to Waynesville, NC.
- (876) **Robert "Bob" Henderson '60**, mailed along \$200 from Morgantown (and Fort Myers)!
- (925) **Mike Keller '63**, mailed \$100 and notes: retired from 44-years of practicing with Bowles Rice. Living in Morgantown. Married to Royce Harworth, DG '64.
- (933) **Leigh Shorr '63**, sent along \$40. Still in Bridgeport, WV.
- (967) **Robert Spiker '65**, mailed \$50. Noted: "Proud to be a Phi Psi".
- (1072) **Tom DeWitt '68**, sent along \$50.
- (1092) **Charles Wilson '69**, mailed \$200. Charlie noted catching with **John Crynock '69** and noting "brotherhood still there"!
- (1105) **Steven Miller '69**, sent along \$65. Great to see Steve at Founder's Day in April.
- (1115) **Ben Hardesty '69**, mailed \$140 and notes: Enjoyed seeing my pledge brothers at Founder's Day-our 50th reunion!
- (1117) **Kyle Hamilton '69**, mailed along \$30 from Fairmont. [Editor's Note: Great to see Kyle at his 50th Anniversary in Phi Psi at Founder's Day in April].
- (1166) **John Thomas '70**, sent along \$140 noting: sixth grandchild. Everybody doing well.
- (1208) **Gordon Letterman '72**, delivered a check for \$350 whenever to traveled to Morgantown in April 2019 to speak at Founder's Day. Gordon lives in LaLuz, New Mexico.
- (1215) **Tom Douglass '72**, mailed \$100 and notes: retired after working 35-years with General Anesthesia Services as an anesthesiologist. Moved to Las Vegas to be near my daughter.
- (1261) **Wayne Hall '73**, Mailed \$40 from Moore, SC.
- (1279) **Jim Lorenze '74**, sent along \$140 and notes: working for my son in property management. Traveling and enjoying 5 grandchildren.
- (1311) **Tim Whalen '75**, mailed \$100 from Bridgeport, WV.
- (1339) **Jeff Stevens '76**, Mailed \$180 and wrote: living in Alum Creek, WV with wife, Carol, and our 3 dog's and cat. Children are young adults in Charleston, Morgantown, and Pittsburgh. Kudo's to the many brothers who support our GREAT frat! Jeff also made \$200 donation to House Fund!
- (1395) **Jim Holtzapple '77**, sent along \$100. Still living in Spring Grove, PA.

- (1401) **Wayne Knight '77**, mailed \$1,000 from Morrow, GA. [Editor's Note: It was great to see Wayne in Pinehurst in 2018. Had not seen him in 35+ years. Also appreciate his \$\$\$ of this newsletter].
- (1408) **Paul Schulte '78**, mailed \$100 from Southampton, NJ.
- (1414) **Arch Reed '78**, sent along \$140 and notes: Enjoy seeing all brothers in Pinehurst. Next alumni gathering will be June 11-14, 2020! Welcomed our first grandchild, Reed Smith.
- (1417) **Doug Hennen '78**, mailed \$40 from Wheeling, WV.
- (1430) **Abe Key '78**, mailed \$100 from Washington, PA. He is "Mr. Pony Baseball"!
- (1440) **Steve Gissy '79**, mailed \$100 and noted: I retired at end of 2018 and really enjoying myself. Cindy (Alpha Xi) and I enjoy spending time with our two grandchild-daughters-Hadleigh and Cheyanne. Love seeing brothers at football games in Blue Parking Lot.
- (1442) **Tim Muscaro '79**, sent along \$250 and notes: all good here in Tampa. Love the Phi Psi boy's text string-just like old times!
- (1471) **Dave Strait '79**, Mailed \$40 and notes: Retiring and moving to Clemson, SC area.
- (1568) **Todd May '83**, sent \$140 from North Royalton, OH. Todd's son, Drew, is now a senior (PKP) at WVU.
- (1576) **Doug Stoup '83**, sent along \$400 from Olympia Valley, CA and notes: Living in Malibu and Lake Tahoe, CA. Launched my own ski last year called 'The Glider' with Bomber Ski (Bode Miller's Co). Now celebrating 20th anniversary of Axe Expeditions. Completed my 50th Anarctic expedition as well! Married to Alexa Woodward and have two teen boys (Tyree and Than) and 9-year old Jaxon.
- (1595) **John R. Davis '84** mailed \$140 and notes: NEW ADDRESS: 5113 Glenbrook Dr., Vienna, WV 26105. And notes: Please add my mother, Sally R. Davis, widow of (brother) Fred L. Davis '57, to the widow's mailing list.
- (1647) **Ken Graves '86**, mailed \$50 from Ramsey, NJ.
- (1758) **Brad Smith '90**, sent along \$40 from Nolensville, TN.
- (2071) **Mark Fusco '03**, mailed \$40 from Lunexa, Kansas.
- (2142) **Izaak Mendelson '07**, notes the following: Earlier this year I made a \$500 gift to the Phillip's Loan Fund which was matched 6X by my employer. Thus, the fraternity realized \$3,500. Lots of power in matching gifts. Inquire with your company today!
- (2176) **Nick Miraglilo '08**, noted NEW ADDRESS: 206 Infield Ave, Northfield, NJ 08225.
- (2202) **Joe Harmon '09**, sent along \$50 from Depew, NY.

Homecoming 2019

Alumni/Chapter Event

Friday, October 4th

7:30 to 11:00

AFTER THE

Homecoming Parade

Following the alumni parade
(@ 6:00 p.m.),

all alumni are encouraged to
come to the fraternity house
(front lawn) for a Pig Roast.

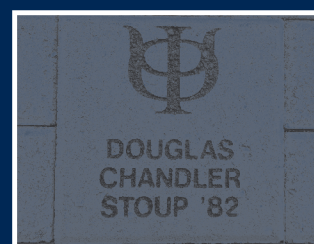
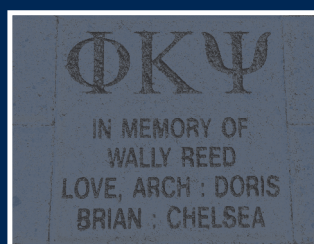
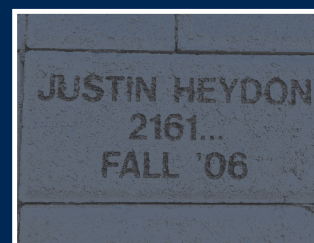
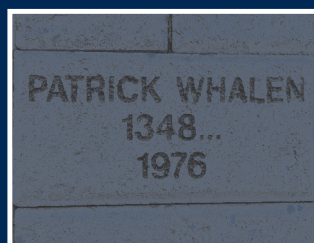
There will be plenty of food and
fixins. There will be a cash bar.

This event is being sponsored
by Doug Stoup '85.

Thanks Doug!

WV Alpha-Phi Psi Terrace

Your donation to the WV Alpha
Educational Fund will help
continue to fund scholarships for
undergraduate brothers with a
3.2 GPA or above who live in our
house at 780 Spruce Street.



To order your brick today,
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CELEBRATING FOUNDER'S DAY 2019

A Walk Back in History



Our annual event was filled with history, stories, and artifacts which only the last direct male descendant of William Henry Letterman could provide our audience. Over 100 brothers and guests enjoyed the many stories and artifacts shared by **Gordon Letterman '72**. Brother Letterman (pictured above) read several of the personal notes and letters his great grandfather penned over 150-years ago. Willie, as he was affectionately known, was a highly educated man, having earned his degree of Doctor of Medicine from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Gordon shared the international travels (Berlin and Vienna) of Willie, along with his relocation to Baltimore, MD where he resided for 8-10 years, having served in the Civil

War as a contract surgeon.

Gordon also brought the “#1 pin” of our fraternity (pictured to the left). In addition to speaking in Morgantown, Gordon also visited with members of our Alpha Chapter at W&J during his visit.

Sean Frisbee, President & CEO, of the WVU Alumni Association, also spoke to our group about the many ways in which the WVU Alumni Association are helping our alumni to succeed in their careers by providing an intellectual and emotional connection for alumni with their alma mater. He further noted how the alumni association

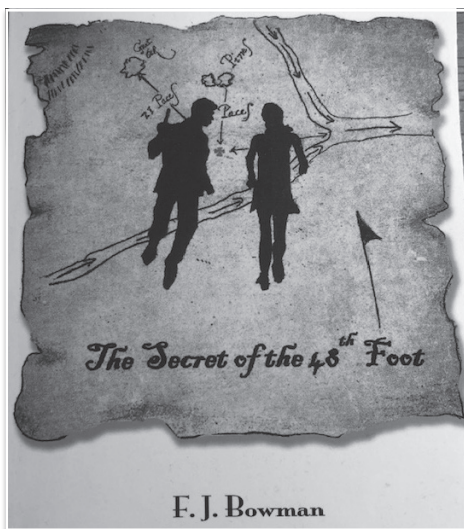
is a valuable asset by helping find alumni to recruit students, support research partnerships, provide internships and career opportunities and provide essential philanthropic support.



Always a joy to recognize brothers celebrating 50-Years of Phi Psi. Pictured are five brothers who pledged in 1969(L to R): **Chilton Wise '69, Jim Dobbs '69, Ben Hardesty '69, Kyle Hamilton '69, and Rick Wagener '69**. [Editor's Note:] **Steve Miller '69** also attended, but was not present for the picture. And finally, a special “thank you” to Rick & Jay Wagener for hosting brothers in a suite at the WVU Baseball Game following festivities at the House & Erickson Alumni Center.

JERRY NELSON 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

On Saturday, June 8th, 2019, it was an honor for my wife, Krista and I to attend the 90th Birthday Celebration of Jerry Nelson '48 (UCLA). One Hundred and Fifty Brothers, Family, and Friends gathered at the Troon Country Club, in Scottsdale, AZ, to recognize and share the positive impact Jerry has had in our lives and in Phi Psi locally and nationally.



While 40+ years in the making, *The Secret Of The 48th Foot*, is a tense life-and-death chase through West Virginia and western Maryland as Ben and Julia follow more clues from the murdered student and dig into battle reports, old maps and even the diary of George Washington in an increasingly dangerous effort to locate the treasure and somehow stay alive. The author, none other than Forest **Jack Bowman**. '58 [Editor's Note: I read the book earlier this year and enjoyed every moment. Once you start, hard to put it down].

Available at Amazon.com...BarnesandNoble.com...Apple iTunes Ebooks

CHAPTER ETERNAL

- 518 William B. Maxwell '44
- 672 John Allison Buchanan '50 (grandson of Rev Aaron Moore Buchanan)
- Gary Dan McPherson '56 (Washington & Lee)
- 904 Richard Hash '61
- 1034 William Kerns '67
- 1114 Ronald Lee Goodman '69
- 1374 Michael Watts Ludwig '74
- 1428 Michael Trout '78

CHAPTER REPORT—

President Luke Robinson '17



On August 21, 2019, the West Virginia Alpha Chapter began another year on top of the hill. As you may or may not know, the current climate on campus is decidedly “anti-greek”. However, the men of Phi Kappa Psi remain the strongest, largest, and most influential chapter on campus. With 88 active brothers, we shatter the campus average of 45 actives. We maintained the highest chapter GPA with a 3.3/4 and we only aspire to get better.

Fall Rush took place during the first week of the semester. As we expected, we had the strongest turnout, the largest pool of rushees, and we took the largest potential new member class. We offered 22 young men and 21 accepted. During rush, I was delighted to find that almost all of the rushes were brought up to the house because of our reputation as high academic achievers who are well-liked and trusted by the University, Morgantown community, and women as well. We strive to fulfill what is asked of us by our ritual. The West Virginia Alpha Chapter is a brand of excellence on this campus, and it is my belief that this brand ensures a prosperous future for our chapter academically, socially, and for its members as future leaders.

Our chapter has worked hard to become a positive pillar in the community. We hosted multiple philanthropy events that raised thousands of dollars for multiple causes, namely the WVU Children’s Hospital. We hosted the “Queens of the Beach” volleyball tournament that holds a special place in the hearts of some of our more recent alumni. We raised over \$2000 and created memories that will last a lifetime.

The chapter is growing and spreading its roots once again. Not only do we succeed in the classroom, but we maintain a balanced, strong, and influential social presence on campus. Things aren’t always so serious inside the house. Our reputation as Phi Psi gentlemen who also know how to have fun is certainly attractive to any freshmen looking to rush. Our balance has certainly paid dividends and contributed to our recent success.

As my time as GP comes to a close, I’d like to thank all the brothers who’ve invested time in mentoring me, teaching me, and helping me become a better Phi Psi. It’s been a challenging, but rewarding experience to say the least. I’m confident in the future of the chapter, and I’m certain we will remain leaders at the WVU campus for years to come.

AROUND TOWN...AROUND CAMPUS

- **Zachary Mendelson '79** will serve as chairman/member of the Paul R. Wineman Mentoring Advantage Program (MAP). Developed by the Nelson Leadership Institute, MAP provides a level of engagement for undergraduates with a goal to cultivate men who are self-aware, cultured, active members in their communities and looking to make a meaningful impact in their personal and professional endeavors. About 8 in 10 college graduates lack a mentor in college. I am excited for this challenge and believe that MAP can/will be a differentiator for Phi Psi. **Tom Wiley '76** is also a member of the MAP Committee, and **Lee Pyles '77** leads the mentoring program for WV Alpha.
- The WV Legislature (House & Senate), in May 2019, passed updated legislation to ensure that the State’s Anti-Hazing Legislation would cover (in both spirit of the law and letter of the law) this new phenomenon of “disassociated fraternities” where organizations exist through recognition by a nationally-incorporated organization, but not holding recognition by an institution of higher learning. So, by clarifying the language within, the Bill relates to organizations where most of its members are “students at an institution of higher learning. It’s important to note that should a member of a non-University recognized organization haze another student, he or she could be held accountable under the current form of the Anti-Hazing Legislation. This amendment simply puts organizations with and without University recognition under one set of standards.
- For the 2018-2019 School Year, Phi Kappa Psi posted a cumulative GPA of 3.230. Additionally, we had a new member GPA of 3.28 (18 new members). We ended the school year with 82 total members. To provide perspective, the overall male undergrad GPA last year was 2.93. The overall female undergrad GPA was 3.18. **Congratulations!**
- **Robert “Bob” Douglas '50** opened an office in Charleston, WV upon graduation from WVU College of Law in 1956. At the end of this year, after 63 years of practicing litigation, he will retire. Bob has been a friend and gracious benefactor to not only our fraternity, but to many worthy causes. Wishing Bob (and Nancy) much happiness in retirement for many years!
- National Fraternity Update—for the remainder of this year, the Fraternity’s Executive Council has decided to return to a management structure that will allow it to end the 2020 fiscal year with a budget surplus. To accomplish this task, many of the national programs have been delayed/cancelled. Additionally, Mark Guidi, the fraternity’s executive director, has resigned. His replacement is Ron Ranson, Indiana Zeta '00, who has been serving as the Fraternity’s Chief Operating Officer. Therefore, more important than ever for all WV Alpha alumni to surround/support our chapter during the coming year.
- **Jacob “Jake” Mullett '65** posthumously, will be inducted into the Morgantown High School (MHS) Athletic Hall of Fame on September 20, 2019. The New Martinsville native was a member of the 1961 Magnolia High school state championship basketball team as a junior. As a senior, he played on Magnolia’s un-defeated football team. Mullett went on to play football for Pitt, before transferring to WVU, where he received his BS in secondary education. His induction into the school Hall of Fame is a result of a lifetime teaching, coaching, and as an administrator with the local school system. The MHS athletic department awards the Jacob Mullett Scholarship every year to a deserving athlete, and the press box at the football field is named in his honor.
- The documentary, “Hot Rod”, the story of legendary WVU Basketball Player and Utah Jazz announcer, Hot Rod Hundley, has earned the movie’s director/editor a regional Emmy Award from the National Academy of Arts & Sciences. The movie, nearly three years in the making, actually made its premiere March 28 in his hometown of Charleston, West Virginia, in front of 700 people. “Having been so close to the project, I wasn’t sure what the reaction would be,” says director Dan Lohmann, “so to hear people laugh, clap and cry throughout was really something.” Additionally, PikeWood Sports has earned an Emmy Nomination for the broadcast of the 2018 Pony League World Series Championship Game. **Abe Key '78** is the President & CEO of PONY Baseball & Softball.
- Former WVU student Ryan Diviney who was beaten into a coma a decade ago just off WVU’s downtown campus died Sunday, September 2nd. Over the last ten years, Thousands of dollars were raised on behalf of the Diviney family. Diviney’s father, Ken, shared the following: “Please let the people of West Virginia know how deeply our family appreciates everything they did for my family, and Ryan specifically. We are sincerely and eternally grateful. We love them. Let them know my family holds them in our heart today.”

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09/2019

RETURN MAILER

In less than two weeks, thirty brothers contributed nearly \$7,000 to fund the installation of a new basketball hoop at the Chapter House. The effort, spearheaded by **Pat McLister '78, Abe Key '78, and Rob Dinsmore '77** will become a reality with installation slated for September.

Below is a list of Brothers who have donated to the Basketball Court Project.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Andy McMunn | Steve Dunham | Pat McLister |
| John Miesner | Paul Schulte | Robby Maiolo |
| Zach Mendelson | Arch Reed | Rich Furbee |
| Vinnie Nowell | John Yochum | Rich O'Donnell |
| Gary Waters | Robert Dinsmore | Jeff Stevens |
| Dave McCormick | Doug Sutter | Ken Waldron |
| Abe Key | Bob Douglas | Steve Ludwig |
| Garrett Dinsmore | John Giamalis | Trevor Crocker |
| Dave Hanna | Eric Hays | John O'Shaughnessy |
| Todd Furbee | Don Costa | Michael Fiery |
| James Hamer | Brian Keefe | Tim Miller |
| John Ragan | Chip Matala | Brad Williams |
| Greg Valant | Izaak Mendelson | Jim Lorenze |
| Bob Raynes | Brad Layne | Jim Holtzapple |
| Tim Muscaro | Darrell Wickenhoffer | |
| Mark Vasilko | Keith Mangini | |



John Davis '82, of Davis Athletics, installed the new basketball hoop on Friday, September 13th. Great collaborative effort "by many" to make this happen so quickly!



Mountaineer

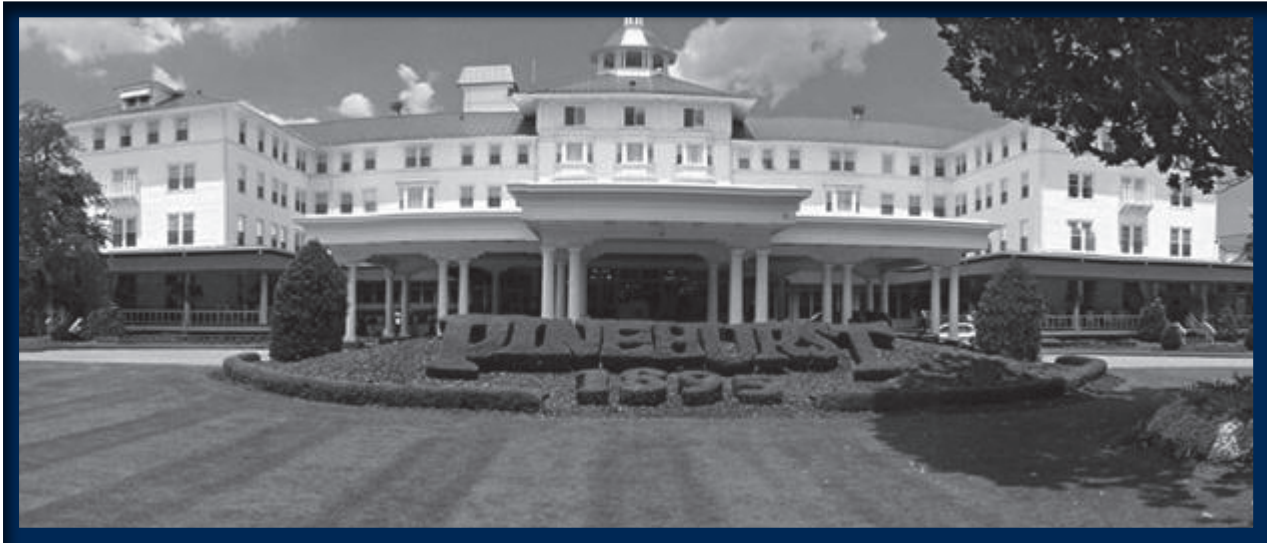
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IT IS ONLY THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS THAT THIS NEWSLETTER IS POSSIBLE.



Save The Date...June 11-13, 2020...Save The Date

The third annual alumni retreat for WV Alpha will once again be in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Last year, over 65 brothers participated. There are activities for everyone, including: golf, tennis, fishing, skeet shooting, bike riding, cigar smoking, poker, liars poker, or simply sitting on the front porch of the Pine Crest Inn and (re) telling stories that only have gotten better with time!