



# Mountaineer

# PHI PSI

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

Zachary L. Mendelson '79, Editor

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## UPDATE FROM THE HOUSE CORP

John Miesner '82, President

Through this strange 2020, our chapter has fared well despite the challenges and concerns attendant with the COVID-19 pandemic. The House Corporation Board has continued to meet monthly via our Ring Central conferencing system. This system was implemented with the leadership of **Todd May '83**, and timely right before in-person meetings became untenable.

Numerous other brothers are owed thanks for their continuing efforts and support of the Chapter and functions to keep House operations on track. **Rob Dinsmore '77** will be winding down his tenure as the Chapter Advisor and we appreciate all his devoted work, directly with the actives and in maintaining our physical plant.

We had a strong turnout at the August 1 Work Day by both actives and alums, with **Rick Pill '70** and **David Faris '76** as notable participants. **Dr. Lee Pyles '75** led the House Safety Committee anticipating the return to school and in developing the protocols which largely kept the COVID-19 cases in the House to a minimum. Lee also funded our PKP face mask program which included a donation of masks to the PA Alpha chapter. We did have a few COVID cases in the House in October and those brothers were quarantined in their rooms and served meals, and we checked the spread.

**Charlie Hageboeck '17** was recently elected as a Director on the Board, and additionally has taken on the new role of Chapter Liaison with the National Office, leveraging his residency in Indianapolis to coordinate and improve our actives access to national information, scholarships and leadership opportunities, while launching the longer-range goal of becoming a Grand Chapter of the Fraternity (related story on page 6).

Graduate student **Ben Lauro '17** has held the fort as House Manager through these interesting months. Thanks also to Chilton Wise for his work on the Board as a Director, and as our local legal resource for both the chapter and individual students. Chilton was also adept with a rake and hoe at the Work Day.

As you all know, **Zach Mendelson '79** continues to provide the best in alumni communications and in the planning of brotherhood events. As a Corporation Director and one of my sounding boards, there is little about WV Alpha that does not get filtered through Zach, and I appreciate his hard work and longtime dedication to the chapter. Equally reliable and hardworking is **Gary Waters '74** as our Treasurer. Managing our cash flow, getting the bills paid, preparing financials, tax information and watching the status of resident receivables takes hours per week, and without Gary our operations would be difficult.

I mention the foregoing not to the exclusion of our many other Directors and alumni who provide support, guidance and encouragement. **Steve Walker '70** recently resigned his Board seat after many years, and we thank and appreciate his time and insights. House Corp Vice President **Alex Greenberg '05** continues to keep an eye on our insurance issues after relocating to Philadelphia with his new bride. Another excellent example of our use of the conferencing system.

The House has been full since the start of the fall semester, a first since rechartering. We recently replaced a large commercial refrigerator and the kitchen dish machine, while welcoming a designated Chef through our new food service partner UpperCrust (<https://www.uppercrustfoodservice.com/>). Food service reviews have been gratifying since these changes and improvements.

The active chapter of approximately 80 continues to maintain an impressive average GPA, and the University Greek Life Director gives us high marks. We have managed to take a Fall pledge class and initiate the Spring class, so the rhythm of the chapter continues despite all the odds.

In the coming months you will hear more details about the accomplishments of the chapter. The future is bright and we ask you to continue to think about, support and be proud of West Virginia Alpha. Live Ever, Die Never.

Amici

# “A COVID FIGHT FOR LIFE”

By Dave DiCarlo '82

[Editor's Note: With permission, Dave allowed me to share his Covid story which he shared with me on July 30th]

Morning Zach and hope you and your family are well. Just wanted to bring you up to speed on an unfortunate event from earlier this year in my life that had a surprisingly different outcome. In mid-March – attributed to a business trip I took to Atlanta – I came down with CV-19. I suffered through it, quarantined at home, and still tried to work in my home office as much as I could for two weeks. I can say it was much worse than the flu and for two weeks everyday was the same. I would work for two hours, become exhausted, go back to bed, then get up later in the day and do another hour or two of e-mails to try to keep up. Then go back to bed and start all over the next day. This went on for two weeks with no real changes until I then developed large blood clots in both my lungs and was admitted to the hospital immediately.

This was pretty early in the CV battle, and they were just starting to put the correlation that a lot of CV patients developed blood clots which is now much more well known. I was in the hospital for a day before the doctor came in and told me I had 5 minutes to call my family to say good-bye because I was going on a ventilator. He had no idea when I would come out of it and it all seemed like a slow-motion nightmare happening. At the time I didn't know the survival rate on a ventilator was less than 25% or I would have freaked out more than I did. I will spare the horrible stories about the torture of being on a ventilator for some-time over a beer. Things went wrong as soon as I was placed on it with blood pressure dropping very low and organs starting to shut down. My wife would get calls about every two hours with more bad news and my family gathered at home praying but thinking the worse might happen. After four days I came out of the coma and what exactly happened to turn the corner is a guess. I never spoke to the doctors or really knew who they were for this part of the treatment. Spent another four days in ICU before going home weak and on oxygen.

After a few weeks of recovery, I am happy to report I did a 25-mile bike ride 3 weeks out of getting out of the hospital and now working out, swimming laps, and riding just about every day like before this happened. I am probably the least likely person to get this. I don't hang out in bars or crowds. and doing stuff around the house or running to the store the extent of my life during Covid. I really do think it was the trip to Atlanta as I developed the symptoms as soon as I got back from it! But I am very thankful. Just thought I would share this story with you in case you hear of any other brothers who have issues and need to talk to. While I might scare them with what happened – can't lie about almost dying – but I can share a success story. You can share this information with others as you see fit. Seems like everyone I speak to knows no one who has had this horrible illness. I become their poster boy that it can happen to someone very unlikely to get it. If anyone needs to talk, I am an open book and would be happy to do so.

[Editor's note: Dave Email Address: DiCarlod@schneider.com]

## CHAPTER REPORT – President Adam Tucker '17

The year 2020 began with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life commemorating the marking of 130 years of Greek Life at West Virginia University with the founding of the West Virginia Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi. The University's plan to celebrate with the chapter was to be determined.

On January 24th, many of our brothers volunteered their time for Coach Huggins' Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser that helped to benefit the Norma Mae Huggins Endowment Fund and Remember the Miner's Scholarship Fund.

On January 26th, the brothers of WV Alpha extended bids to 32 men that made up the Spring '20 class (Theta Class). One of which is a legacy, Payne Blankenship, son of David Blankenship.

On February 17th, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life celebrated President's Day by announcing a social media contest that allowed the winner of each council to be invited to a dinner with Dean of Students, Corey Farris. GP Adam Tucker had won the contest with the help of members of the chapter and was able to represent Phi Kappa Psi in a discussion about the concerns and future of Greek Life at WVU.

On March 10th, brother Haden Miller ran and was successfully elected as a Senator for the Student Government Association. Shortly thereafter, brother Haden Miller also ran and was elected as the VP of Recruitment for the Interfraternity Council.

On March 31st, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life congratulated their inaugural Burch Fellows, brothers Brad Bordelon and Haden Miller, for successfully completing the Nolan Burch Greek Leadership Academy in the Spring 2020 Semester. The Leadership Academy was important in spreading awareness of Nolan Burch's unfortunate passing while using his legacy to improve the safety and well-being of the WVU Greek community.

On April 1st, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life awarded the WV Alpha Chapter annual awards in Excellence in Recruitment/Intake and Excellence in Risk Management.

The brotherhood ended the Spring '20 semester with a term GPA of a 3.35, and Cumulative GPA of a 3.25.

As for Fall Semester, activities have been extremely limited due to COVID-19. As an organization we were not allowed to hold in-person chapter meetings, let alone receive any approval for any hosting of events throughout the semester. However, we had some brothers attend the Kansas State game with the generosity of brother Rick Pill and I have attached a photo of us that were in attendance.

Food Service: The new food service is night and day compared to the food service in years past. The quality and variety has increased greatly and the Upper Crust staff has been nothing but professional. The brothers, especially those that have lived in the house in the years past, are greatly appreciative of the improvement.

The current size of the chapter is made up of 88 active brothers.

The current officers are as follows:

GP: Adam Tucker - Warrenton, VA

VGP: Adam Maugeri - Garnet Valley, PA

P: Ryan Noark - Ballwin, MO

AG: Dominic Martin - Charleston, WV

BG: Jeevan Murthy - Charleston, WV

SG: Michael DeFelice - Morgantown, WV

PHU: Garrett Spikes - Oakwood, OH

HOD: Jacob Cooper - Elkins, WV

HI: Cole Amos - Bridgeport, WV

# 2021 SUMMER REUNION

## Pinehurst, NC

### June 11-13



**Online Registration Now Open!**  
To the right is the link to register.

Go to the following link: <http://wvuphikappapsi.com/events/pinehurst-2021/> to register today for Pinehurst 2021, the official WV Alpha Alumni Retreat. While you are provided an online registration, you will still send your (deposit and registration) money to Mountaineer Phi Psi. Note that you can now register for events ala carte, versus as a package. This gives you the flexibility to arrive/depart as your schedule allows, while also affording you the ability to participate in different activities each day.

The Pine Crest Inn <https://www.pinecrestinnpinehurst.com/> will once again be our weekend home. Built in 1913, this iconic venue was once owned by Donald Ross from 1921 until his death in 1948. In addition to breakfast & dinner, brothers can now relax on the extended front porch and enjoy a glass of “Mr. B’s” which is the new private label house wine just unveiled earlier this year.

Country Club of North Carolina <https://www.ccofnc.com/>, and Forest Creek, [www.forestcreekgolfclub.com](http://www.forestcreekgolfclub.com) will be the golf venues. Dewitt’s Outdoor Sports, [www.dewittsoutdoorsports.com](http://www.dewittsoutdoorsports.com) will once again host the skeet shooters. While fishing will be at the CCNC Lake.

Accommodations for biking and tennis will also be made upon request. For registration questions, send your email to: [zach.mendelson@epicbrokers.com](mailto:zach.mendelson@epicbrokers.com)

## BRAD AND ALYS SMITH OUTDOOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE

The state got another lift in October from another Silicon Valley tech icon, former Intuit CEO Brad Smith. He has donated \$25 million to fund a program to recruit tech talent to the often overlooked Mountain State. “We are dreaming big and some might be very surprised by the transformations we’re making and the quality of life here with mountain biking, hiking, fishing and white water rafting,” said Smith, who is from the tiny town of Kenova, West Virginia. Plans are to launch the program by early 2021 with applications from out-of-staters looking to apply their tech talent, work remotely and change their lifestyle.

A graduate of Marshall University in Huntington, Smith previously donated \$10 million for scholarships at his alma mater Marshall University and gave \$25 million to its college of business renamed the Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation. His initiatives look to instill an entrepreneurial culture in West Virginia, and he’s invited such tech leaders as Sheryl Sandberg to speak to local students (though Covid-19 has delayed those plans) and has organized startup pitches at the university. “We believe these investments and efforts will advance the state’s efforts to become a start-up state,” Smith says.

I truly appreciate the faith that Brad and Alys have placed in West Virginia University,” Gee said. “This exceptional investment represents a shared commitment to reshaping our state’s future, an undertaking only achievable through their generosity, trust and vision.”

As more and more people work remotely, the statewide remote worker program at WVU aims to leverage West Virginia’s outdoor assets to bring fresh talent to the Mountain State, cultivate dynamic communities, and continue to fuel the entrepreneurial and innovative thinking of West Virginia. The program will target fully employed individuals from outside the state who can work anywhere and want to be part of a contemporary, experience-driven lifestyle. Outdoor enthusiasts or young families who can help create a more diverse, inclusive and purposeful community will be given preference in a competitive application process.

Wanting to invest in the future of West Virginia and provide hope in communities that are often overlooked, the Smiths learned about the initiatives happening at WVU and were captivated by the work and potential to leverage the state’s outdoor assets to enhance economic development in West Virginia.

The Mountain State needs entrepreneurial energy, high tech talent and venture capital spending to regain from its losses. But while signs of a rebound are surfacing and some sandboxes are emerging in life

sciences, data centers and cybersecurity, there is still a long way to go.

Only one start-up in West Virginia got venture funding in 2019 for a total of \$200,000, statistics from the National Venture Capital Association show. On the high side, California recorded 3,870 venture deals closed totaling \$65.6 billion in 2019.

## HYPERLOOP COMING TO WEST VIRGINIA

Richard Branson’s Virgin Hyperloop plans to open a certification center and testing track in West Virginia for its transformative transport technology. Branson’s friend, former Cisco CEO and JC2 Ventures founder John Chambers, a native West Virginian, is among tech titans making big investments in the distressed Appalachian region, with the aim of bringing its coal and chemicals economy into the future.

The Virgin Hyperloop project is aiming for safety certification by 2025, with commercial operations beginning in 2030. The Virgin Hyperloop project is aiming for safety certification by 2025, with commercial operations beginning in 2030.

West Virginia has received a much-needed tech economy boost with Richard Branson’s Virgin Hyperloop plans to open a certification center and testing track in the state for its transformative transport technology. The plans were debuted in Charleston (October 8th) by Virgin Group’s Branson, a strategic investor and partner in Virgin Hyperloop, and his equally influential friend, former Cisco CEO and JC2 Ventures founder John Chambers.

“Today is one of the most exciting days in Virgin Hyperloop’s history,” said Sir Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, in a release. “The Hyperloop Certification Center is the start of the hyperloop journey for West Virginia, for the United States, and for the world. We’re one step closer to making hyperloop travel a reality for people everywhere.”

“West Virginia failed to disrupt itself and was left behind when the coal mines and chemical producers closed,” said Chambers, a native of West Virginia, who is spearheading several philanthropic and investment efforts to revitalize the state with tech start-ups and venture capital, including through his VC firm. “The state needs a renewed focus on innovation to drive job creation and economic growth and create a tech ecosystem that will grow startups,” Chambers said. As one of his initiatives, his alma mater, West Virginia University, is getting ready to debut a new \$100 million business school building in April 2022 on the Monongahela riverfront (site of the Old Fieldhouse). The facility is an extension of the John Chambers College of Business and Economics established with a Chambers donation in 2018 to spur entrepreneurship in Appalachia.





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Day 7 of the quarantine  
My wife took up gardening but won't  
tell what she's going to plant

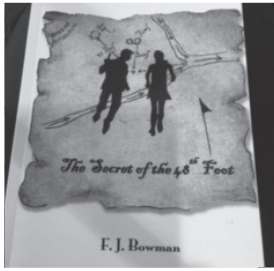


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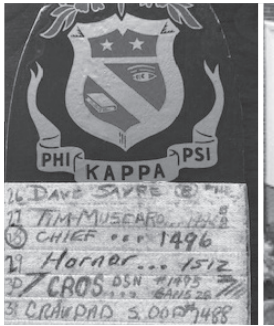
The NCAA is considering  
having football games  
without fans.

They have reached out  
to PITT for advice.





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# NEXT HORIZON – PROJECT GRAND CHAPTER

Brother's, let's take a flash back to the not too distant past – November 11, 2017. This was the day that West Virginia Alpha rejoined the ranks of the active Chapters of our beloved Fraternity. Since this time, the Chapter and its' active Brothers have been able to grow and take on numerous leadership roles inside the West Virginia University ranks of student leaders. What an accomplishment!

This would not have been possible without the combined support of the (at the time) colony leadership team and the Housing Corporation working in tandem to achieve the goal of "Re-Chartering". West Virginia Alpha's effectivity at accomplishing the tasks set forth by the National Fraternity set a benchmark that all colonies are compared against. Another accomplishment.

Since our re-chartering the chapter has been able to navigate COVID-19 (much better than our other Greek friends in Morgantown) and successfully operate the house in a manner safe for all inhabitants. The Housing Corporation is proud to announce a renewed partnership in an effort to achieve the Grand Chapter Award.

The Grand Chapter had historically been the center of the Phi Kappa Psi government where that chapter was the presiding chapter with law making capabilities for its two-year term. In the early years of our fraternity, the Pennsylvania Alpha chapter was regarded as the "Grand Chapter". The original form of the Grand Chapter went through 1886 with Gettysburg College serving as the last chapter to hold the title.

Starting in 1992, the Fraternity initiated the new iteration of the Grand Chapter Award, first designated to Ohio Lambda (Miami University). Until 2001, this award was given every two years – and has now become an annual tradition. This award is now granted annually and has been elusive to West Virginia Alpha – throughout our history.

The Housing Corporation added **Charlie Hageboeck '17** to its ranks earlier this summer. Caharlie was the Colony VGP and the first Active VGP after the re-charter. He now lives in Indianapolis, IN working at First Merchants Bank as a junior commercial lender. In addition to serving on the WV Alpha Housing Corporation, he also serves as a Manager of the Nelson Leadership Institute.

The Housing Corporation has also found a partner in **Brandon Copeland '17**, who was the first BG for the Colony before graduating a month before the EC meeting to present the re-charting petition. Brandon currently works with the National Fraternity as an Expansion Consultant and is leading the re-colonization effort at Indiana Zeta (Butler University).

Together, these two will be working together (in addition to the Chapter's leadership) to achieve the Grand Chapter for WV Alpha. They will be able to provide guidance and consistency to aide our undergraduate brothers on this quest for the Grand Chapter Award – as well as assist them in applying for the various scholarships and programming opportunities that the Fraternity and Foundation put on for the chapters.

WV Alpha is proud to be back on The Hill. Let's be the BEST!



## CHAPTER SPRING & FALL PLEDGE CLASS-2020

### Spring (THETA CLASS)

First Name	Last Name	Hometown
Eli	Sutton	Charleston, WV
Payne	Blankenship	Morgantown, WV
Blake	Boschen	Richmond, VA
Giorgio	Diacopoulos	Pittsburgh, PA
Luke	Erny	Cincinnati, OH
Jake	Orlando	Mason, OH
Angelo	Rinaldi	Medford, NJ
Shane	Humphrey	Tucker County, WV
Tanner	Kennedy	Clarksburg, WV
Jalen	Ramiro	Lebanon, OH
Michael	Morgado	Charleston, WV
Ryan	Wilson	Bristow, VA
Corrick	Ambrose	Tucker County, WV
Michael	Hoffman	Charleston, WV
Austin	Himes	Frederick, MD
Reece	DeLeo	Woodbury, CT
Jack	Rodgers	Endwell, NY
Christian	Hoerger	McDonald, PA
Sam	Dowling	Frederick, MD
Jack	Cimino	Charleston, WV
Chase	Kelly	Wheeling, WV
Ryan	Shatto	Ripley, WV
Liam	Hanover	Bristow, VA

First Name	Last Name	Hometown
Mike	Lippa	Niagara Falls, NY
Mason	Marrs	Clarksburg, WV
James	D'Annunzio	Clarksburg, WV
Seth	Conner	Charleston, WV
Wyatt	Ray	Pittsburgh, PA

### IOTA CLASS (FALL 2020)

First Name	Last Name	Hometown	
Nathan	Neville	Hurricane, WV	Freshman
Joseph	Biafora	Morgantown, WV	
Alex	Dunheimer	Frederick, MD	Freshman
Aidan	Gaiser	Buffalo, NY	Freshman
Nate	DeTemple	Charleston, WV	
Matt	Palmatary	Baltimore, MD	
Mark	Turenchalk	Poughkeepsie, NY	Freshman
Eric	Commodore	Morgantown, WV	Freshman
James	Halstead	Westchester, NY	
Ryan	Moffett	Lumberton, NJ	Freshman
John	O'Dwyer	Westchester, NY	Freshman
Kevin	Kilinskas	Freehold, NJ	
Zach	Bruer	Cross Lanes, WV	
Justin	Hinish	Pittsburgh, PA	
Aidan	Kuriger	Sicklerville, NJ	Freshman
Lance	Bumbu	Cleveland, OH	Freshman

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**12/2020**

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## CHAPTER ETERNAL

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Initiation Year</u>	<u>Deceased Date</u>
Hal	Shamberger	1946	10/22/2020
Charles	Critchfield	1947	7/7/2019
Arch	McCoy	1947	10/13/2020
Edward	Burkhardt	1948	8/29/2019
George	Daugherty	1951	2/3/2019
Richard	Talbott	1953	4/11/2019
Allyn	Griffiths	1954	7/5/2019
John	Boyd III	1959	6/15/2020 (Kansas Alpha, 48th National President)
Edward	McMillion	1960	12/2/2019
Ronald	Beck	1966	3/23/2019
Douglas	Keller	1968	9/15/2019
John	Cooper	1969	7/17/2020
Ronald	Goodman	1969	6/1/2018
Robert	Dotson	1970	12/11/2019
Bruce	Tavares	1974	11/7/2020 (Rhode Island Beta, father of Sam Tavares '11-WV Alpha)
Clay	Wymer	1976	8/10/2020
Brian	Steinberg	1979	4/29/2020
Derek	Gerlach	2009	8/26/2019



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