



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

MOUNTAINEER PHI KAPPA PSI

Zachary L. Mendelson '79, Editor

December 2021 ▪ Volume 77, No. 1



OUR STRONG BAND

Holiday Greetings Friends and Brothers,

2021 has been an exceptional year for Phi Kappa Psi at West Virginia University. The House Corporation has facilities management operating at a high level. The Chapter has attained excellent academic standing, is the largest and most prominent fraternity on campus and has been recognized by the president of the University, Dr. Gordon Gee as the "gold standard of fraternities".

Following, please see the names of individuals who have recently offered time, talent or treasure toward this incredible success: **Cole Amos, Bob Bird, Danny Bonner, Jack Bowman, Kim Craig, Bob Douglas, Joseph Dunn, Tim Dyer, Doug Ernest, David Faris, Lee Fuller, Alex Greenberg, Charlie Hageboeck, Jim Hamer, Dave Hanna, Eric Hellested, Matt Herrick, Justin Heydon, Michael Hoffman, Tim Hoffman, Robert L. "Trey" Holland III, Abe Key, Dominic Martin, Charles "Chip" Matala, Todd May, Andy McMunn, Izaak Mendelson, Zach Mendelson, Phil Mikos, Tim Miller, Rick Pill, Lee Pyles, Doug Sutter, Drew Thawley, JT Thomas, Gary Waters, Tom Wiley, Chilton Wise, David Woodrum,** and others.

If your name is not listed above, I have mistakenly left you off (and I offer my apology) or we need to get you engaged with us very soon. I'd love to hear from you either way. Thanks, and have a great 2022!

Our Strong Band,

John Miesner '81
House Corporation President
john@wvlawyer.net



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WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

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NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

A RECAP FROM HOMECOMING WEEKEND

2021 Fall Founder's Day Luncheon And Past Donors Recognition Event

As part of the Homecoming Weekend festivities, over 90 alumni brothers, chapter officers, and spouses/friends gathered at the Erickson Alumni Center on Sunday, October 3rd for a celebration of WV Alpha Donors—both past and present...along with a Founder's Day Remembrance.

Dom Martin '19, Chapter President, provided an update on the chapter and their various activities. While maintaining the highest Greek GPA on campus (3.2), the actives are also “kicking butt” in intramurals, student government, and university philanthropy. Luke Erny '20 has been elected Chapter President and his term will begin in January 2022.

John Miesner '81, House Corp President, overviewed the 'State Of The House', while also recognizing the many alumni volunteers who provide valuable support to the chapter and chapter house. “Our cash flow covers our debt load. We are blessed to have so many who care,” noted Brother Miesner.

Zach Mendelson '79, assisted by Bob Douglas '50, presented recognition pins to brothers attaining their 5-year, 10-year, and 25-year alumni status. It's always a treat to recognize Brothers celebrating 50 years of Phi Psi. Due to Covid, Brothers from both 1970 and 1971 were recognized. Attendees included: John Gaydos, Ben Hardesty, Bill Hevener, Tom Mainella, Steve Miller, Rick Pill, Gary Pyles, Rick Pyles, Dan Richards, John Thomas, and Allen Vanatter.

Rick Wagener '69, and his wife Jay, also attended and were recognized for their \$1M gift to the WVU baseball program. For their generosity, the Wageners' namesake will be recognized on the field beginning in 2022, and known as Wagener Field at Monongalia County Ballpark.

Tim Miller '74 was formally introduced as the Campaign Chairman for our chapter's upcoming campaign—*Live Ever. Die Never. A Stronger Tomorrow*. Tim noted, “It is impossible to move forward this new campaign until we close the door on prior campaigns.” Several bronze plaques were unveiled recognizing significant donors, including:

- Bob Reynolds '71 - *Robert L. Reynolds Breezeway*
- Bob Douglas '50 - *Robert E. Douglas Veranda*
- John L. Thomas '70 - *Recognizing/remembering: John R. Hayne '70, Charles Lewis '70, and David Laughlin '69*
- John R. Holiday '53 - *Amici Usque Ad Aras*
- Richard Adams '65 - *The Adams Living Room*
- W.C. Bird '65 & R.B. Bird '73 - *Honoring West Virginia Alumni*

Forest “Jack” Bowman '58 offered personal reflections of his 63 years in Phi Psi and how much the fraternity has impacted his life, as well as the importance of a new campaign now. The retired (and revered) law school professor, legal scholar, and history buff has become an author in his retirement years, and his latest book, *All Our Yesterdays*, is a story of grit and determination. It is a must read that you can find on Amazon.com.



NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA**ALUMNI RECOGNITION****Celebrating the Accomplishments of our Brothers****ROBERT “BOB” DOUGLAS ‘50**

and his wife Nancy, were awarded Most Loyal West Virginians Award during Mountaineer Week ceremonies at halftime of the November 6th football game between WVU vs Oklahoma State. Bob and Nancy Douglas, of Charleston, have demonstrated their dedication to West Virginia through nearly a lifetime of service. Bob and Nancy are 1956 graduates of the College of Law and School of Music, respectively. Bob has practiced law for more than 60 years, while Nancy’s career in education spanned 50 years. Beyond their professional endeavors, the couple has been generous with their time and resources. A former WVU Marching Band drum major, Bob served in the U.S. Army and has been actively involved with Boy Scouts of America and his church, First Presbyterian of Charleston. The Douglasses are significant contributors to scholarships and facilities at WVU and a variety of community causes they find important, including Charleston’s Clay Center and the Kanawha County Public Library. During the October 3rd Homecoming & Founder’s Day Celebration event at the Erickson Alumni Center, a permanent plaque was unveiled—The Robert E. Douglas Veranda—commemorating the significant donation(s) made during past WV Alpha campaigns.

**CHARLES MAHAN ‘57**

was recognized and honored as the recipient of the 2021 Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Welch Rose Award for academic public health service. The award recognizes the highest standards of leadership and scholarship in public health...and is considered a lifetime achievement recognition! Mahan, is a

Morgantown native, spent a significant portion of his work life

in Florida after earning his medical degree from Northwestern University. From 1988-95 Mahan served as Florida’s State Health Officer, before becoming the second Dean of the College of Public Health (COPH) in 1995.

DAVID HARDESTY ‘64

was inducted into the WVU Order of Vandalia on September 10, 2021. This prestigious award dates to 1960 when WVU President Elvis Stahr outlined his idea for a special honor to be bestowed upon the most loyal servants to West Virginia University. Hardesty has distinguished himself as Student Body President as an undergraduate, the University’s 16th Rhodes Scholar, then serving as President of the University from 1995-2007. At the time of Hardesty’s retirement as President in 2007, WVU enrolled over 34,000 students and maintained several regional campuses. It was also during his reign that over 25 programs were designed to make WVU a more “student-centered” institution. One of these was the Mountaineer Parent’s Club, which was founded and chaired by Susan Hardesty.

**RICK WAGENER ‘69**

along with his wife Jay, have contributed a major gift of \$1 million to the WVU baseball program. For their generosity, the Wageners’ namesake will be recognized on the field beginning in 2022, and known as Wagener Field at Monongalia County Ballpark. “It’s gifts like this one from Rick and Jay Wagener that help our athletics department compete

at the highest level,” Director of Athletics Shane Lyons said. “They met at West Virginia University as freshmen and never forgot their Mountaineer beginnings. The Wageners have been very generous to our department and baseball program through

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

the years, and it's going to be special to see the Wagener name on the field. To honor Rick and Jay, our goal is to make Wagener Field at Monongalia County Ballpark one of the best home-field advantages in college baseball." "Rick was a tremendous player at West Virginia and into his pro career and has become a great friend and supporter to this program," WVU baseball coach Randy Mazey said. "The generosity between him and his wife, Jay, is extremely appreciated, both to the team, as well as me personally. I want to thank them for all they have done for Mountaineer baseball." Rick Wagener, who is a 1971 graduate with a degree in industrial management from WVU's College of Business & Economics and former member of the WVU baseball team, serves as the managing partner and registered principal at Wagener-Lee, LLC, a financial and investment advisor located in Columbia, Maryland. In all, he has practiced comprehensive financial planning and portfolio management for more than 30 years. Prior to that, Wagener spent three seasons in the New York Mets organization from 1971-73, after being selected by the club in the second round of the 1971 January Secondary Draft. Wagener, a left-handed pitcher from Linthicum, Maryland, finished with an impressive 16-3 overall record and a 1.79 ERA at West Virginia from 1968-71. He tossed 156 career innings at WVU, totaling 193 strikeouts in 26 career outings. Wagener was WVU's strikeouts leader for three straight seasons from 1969-71, and led the club in wins in 1971. All time, he ranks No. 2 in program history in strikeouts per nine innings (11.13) and No. 5 in career ERA (1.79). Of note, Wagener was the first-ever freshman to play at the varsity level for the Mountaineers in 1968.

RICK PILL '70

was recognized by the WVU College of Law as a recipient of the 2021 Lawyers & Leaders Award. After graduating from WVU College of Law in 1977, Pill honed his legal skills at a small Martinsburg practice. The Martinsburg region's burgeoning real estate market presented an opportunity for Rick and his brother Dave Pill '74 to join forces as Pill and Pill, PLLC in 1982. For nearly 40 years the brothers' practice has focused on residential and commercial real estate settlements, acting as a trustee for conducting foreclosures throughout the state. As part of his practice, Pill also keeps an eye on the bigger picture regarding West Virginia's legal and real estate industries. "I think the biggest impact I have had on the real estate field has been helping start and continue the West Virginia Real Estate Lawyers Association," he says. Brother Pill cites his experience in Phi Psi with steering his "rudderless early undergraduate years" in a more fulfilling direction. "I had no intention of going to law school during that time but when I was a junior, seven members of Phi Kappa Psi started law school and encouraged me to do the same," noted Pill. In gratitude to his WVU experience and idyllic Morgantown upbringing, Pill established a \$25,000 WVU College of Law endowment geared toward Phi Kappa Psi affiliated law students. Pill currently serves on the university's board of governors as well as the law school visiting committee.

**ZACH MENDELSON '79**

was part of the Gamma Class of Inductees during the October 1st Ceremony, held at the Erickson Alumni Center. "Honored and humbled" were the two words Mendelson used to describe his feelings when he was informed earlier this year of his selection.

Mendelson, who was initiated into WV Alpha in 1979, has been involved with the chapter on multiple levels for 40 years. After serving as a two-term president of the chapter in 1981, he immediately rotated onto the House Corporation in 1982 when he began graduate school, and has served on this board continuously. In 1985, he took the pen as editor of the chapter newsletter, *Mountaineer Phi Psi*, for which he is now in his 36th year.

In the early 2000's Mendelson was introduced to Jerry Nelson UCLA '48, who was organizing a National Mentoring Program for Phi Kappa Psi. Through this introduction, Mendelson became the catalyst in organizing four alumni trips to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. These trips ultimately assisted the chapter fundraising efforts. This introduction to Brother Nelson also became a main driver to Mendelson becoming involved with the Nelson Leadership Institute, where he now serves as chair of the Wineman Mentoring Advantage Program Committee.

In 2014, Mendelson was the chief organizer of the chapter's biennial Pinehurst Alumni Event. "The intent of Pinehurst was to find a venue that many of our alumni could drive to attend and include a multitude of events that all could enjoy. We had forty-five attendees in year one. In June of this year (2021), eighty-two attended. It is my goal to have over 100 attendees in 2023," noted Mendelson.

David Hardesty '64 was part of the Alpha Class of 2019.

CHAPTER ETERNAL**Badge #700**

John Windsor '52 ...700
April 8, 2021

Badge #745

Paul Hornor '54 ...745
January 15, 2021

Badge #924

George Hughes '62 ...924
October 1, 2021

Badge #939

Jim Harner '64
February 9, 2021

Badge #1084

Edward Ernst '68
January 15, 2021

NEWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

LIVE EVER. DIE NEVER.

A Stronger Tomorrow.

Dear Brothers,

130 years in Morgantown has taught us that maintaining a great chapter requires a combination of a great facility, well-rounded undergraduate men, and capable and committed alumni. The needs of the chapter house and the chapter brothers change over time, and oftentimes from year to year. Being nimble in response to these changing needs is ever more important. Providing our volunteer alumni leadership with the resources to respond to those changing needs is imperative to the future of West Virginia Alpha.

Today, we have an opportunity unlike any other. We, as alumni brothers, can ensure the West Virginia Alpha experience at WVU is sustained for future by supporting the *Live Ever. Die Never. A Stronger Tomorrow.* campaign. This campaign will forever make our chapter more sturdy, more resilient, and more relevant to the changing face of West Virginia University and American society.

Over the last several years, the alumni leadership has worked diligently to chart path toward sustained excellence. It requires West Virginia Alpha to have significant alumni support to be the most well-resourced chapter we have ever been. It requires that the chapter has a modern facility; a place where our West Virginia Alpha brothers can gather – a place to call home.

To raise the funds necessary to achieve our goals, the House Corporation has strategically partnered with the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation to serve as our professional counsel as well as our charitable 501c3 partner. We are preparing to launch the *Live Ever. Die Never. A Stronger Tomorrow.* campaign. The campaign objective is to raise \$2,250,000 into two funds. \$1M is for a future chapter house renovation and \$1.25M is for the WV Alpha Endowment. This endowment will sustain our scholarship program while providing ongoing supplemental income to the House Corporation.

The goal is achievable, but it will require the financial commitment and leadership of all brothers. We urge you to think about what Phi Kappa Psi means to you and the impact it has had on your life. As you reflect on your Phi Psi experience, remember it was because of alumni who came before you that made all your experiences possible. Today, it is our turn to do the same for the next generation of West Virginia Alpha brothers

In the bond



Tim Miller '74
Campaign Chairman

STAY CONNECTED

Chapter Website

www.wvuphikappapsi.com

Chapter Instagram

@phipsiwvu

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/WestVirginiaAlpha



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.



PHI KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA
5395 Emerson Way
Indianapolis, IN 46226

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE!

Place this form in a stamped envelope and send to:

Phi Kappa Psi Foundation

5395 Emerson Way
Indianapolis, IN 46226-1415

Name _____

Initiate Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____

Save a stamp and update your information online at
portal.phikappapsi.com

Meet the House Manager **COLE AMOS '18**

My name is Cole Amos and I am a native West Virginian. I graduated from Bridgeport High School in 2017 and then attended West Virginia University, where I graduated with a Bachelors in Exercise Physiology. During my time as an undergrad, I served as the Health and Wellness Chair for 3 years and as Chaplain for 1 year. Additionally, I worked with the Young Life organization at WVU to start a Bible study for guys in Greek life. I led this Bible study for the last 1.5 years and now Seamus Cooney '19 is taking over as the main leader.

This Bible study has also led to the formation of 5 other Greek life Bible studies that started this Fall semester. Currently, I am in Physical Therapy school at WVU and also serving as Chapter House Manager. I hope to work as the House Manager for the entirety of my time in graduate school, which will be 3 years. Once I graduate, I plan to practice travel physical therapy for a few years. Then I hope to travel to rural areas of West Virginia or to Third World countries to provide physical therapy services for those in need. After that, I am unsure of where I will be led. I may end up settling back in West Virginia or somewhere near a beach. Lastly, I hope to continue to be involved with the chapter and give back a small fraction of everything this great brotherhood has given me.

