



Mountaineer Pike

December, 2000

Newsletter of the Alpha Theta Alumni Association of Pi Kappa Alpha

(Editor's Note: The following is a Christmas message from Brother Doug Ladish, President of the Alpha Theta Alumni Association.)

Sunday Evening, March 1, 1868
University of Virginia

For the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis;
for the promotion of brotherly love and kind feeling;
for the mutual benefit and advancement of the interests of those with whom we sympathize and
deem worthy of our regard;
we have resolved to form a fraternity, believing that thus, we can most successfully accomplish our object.

Robertson Howard, Julian Edward Wood, James Benjamin Sclater, Jr., Frederick Southgate Taylor, Littleton Waller Tazwell (Bradford), William Alexander

Brothers,

We first encountered these words shortly before becoming pledges. For me, what was 38 years ago. I must admit that I hadn't thought about our "Preamble" much during those years. However, I recently ran across it somewhere--perhaps a recent issue of "Shield and Diamond"--and something struck me at the time. These words are timeless, just as valid today as they were in 1992, 1982, 1968, and 1868.

We formed friendships on a firmer basis during our years in Morgantown. While graduation tended to send us many different ways, some friendships were more lasting and have endured to this day. But the thing that recently surprised me was how strong those friendships have been for many of us when reunited after many years of no contact.

When we heard the tragic news about the vandalism of our chapter house and the withdrawal of Alpha Theta's charter, a sizeable number of us from multiple generations were mobilized to action.

Another revelation--the common bonds of phi phi kappa alpha quickly created friendships among brothers who had never met on campus.

A website was created. Enabled by the Internet, an alumni meeting was organized (oh, the wonders of modern technology and eMail). A house corporation was established. An electronic newsletter began regular distribution. Goals were set to protect our property and re-establish our chapter. Our electronic communication network expanded to include brothers from the 1940s to the 1990s. An Alumni Association was formally organized and volunteers were identified for a Chapter Advisory Board.

As Y2K draws to a close, an ongoing dialog has been established with our International Office and WVU. We have seen a very encouraging string of events unfold. The details are a topic for a separate message. Watch for it early in the new year.

In the meantime, enjoy the holiday season. Reach out to that brother you haven't seen or heard from recently. Bring him into our eMail loop. Rekindle that friendship established years ago.

May this holiday season bring you and your loved ones happiness and a prosperous New Year.

Doug Ladish

President, Alpha Theta Alumni Association