

Alpha Rho Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity – A History

The Petition of 1929

On December 6, 1929, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity received a petition to the Supreme Council (then located at 636 Church Street in Evanston, Illinois) for a Pi Kappa Phi charter from a local group of men at West Virginia University calling themselves the Delta Epsilon Fraternity. The Delta Epsilon men were organized in 1924 by “ten young men of good standing and reputation.” Their aims were high, and their standard of behavior, scholarship and accomplishment was exemplary. Of the ten men, six were elected to Tau Beta Pi (the honorary engineering fraternity), three to Phi Lambda Upsilon (the honorary chemistry fraternity), and two to Phi Beta Kappa (the honorary academic fraternity). During the three year period prior to petitioning Pi Kappa Phi, the men had an average annual scholarship ranking of six among 22 national and local fraternities on campus.

The Delta Epsilon activities outside of scholarship represented more than twenty campus organizations including the Dramatic Club, Football, Wrestling, Intramural Sports, Religious work and other interests. The Dean of Men reported the group’s social activities to be “uniformly of high order and never had occasion to discipline the chapter in any way.”

West Virginia University President John Roscoe Turner was the author of the 1929 petition to Pi Kappa Phi. “It will be a pleasure, I assure you, to welcome Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity to the campus of the West Virginia University. I am sure this would be of high profit to the University, to the group of boys who are petitioning you, and an addition to your own organization which I trust will measure to the high standards you maintain.”

There is a level of significance to the President’s letter and the Delta Epsilon Fraternity petition being sent on December 6 to arrive in the Supreme Council office by Founders Day on December 10.

The Delta Epsilon Fraternity members who petitioned Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity were:

John McLean Adkins	Charles Wickline Hill
Ellis Alton Bradley	Theodore R. C. King
Oscar D. Englehart	Walter Ware Murrill
Wellesley Day Fitzsimmons	Charles Frederic Stewart
Edwin Lee Fox	Joseph Bartlett Sutton
Samuel Nathan Headlee	Joseph Townsend Van Voorzien
Edward Harrison Higgs	James Edwin Winter

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In 1929, the “eighteen substantial brick and stone buildings” that comprised West Virginia University were valued at \$4,462,000, and the enrollment was 2,407. Mountaineer Field had just been built for \$500,000 and had a seating capacity of 36,500. This stadium would showcase West Virginia University football for the next 50 years. The West Virginia men’s basketball team in 1929 had the distinction of being the only collegiate team to defeat Pittsburgh’s champion team. The “backyard brawl” started with football in 1919 and was well established by 1929.

Greek Life at West Virginia University was thriving in 1929. The first national social fraternity was established on campus in 1883 and 46 years later had grown to 21 national fraternities, seven national sororities, five local fraternities and three local sororities – 36 organizations in total. Fraternities were governed by the Council of Administration and the Inter-Fraternity Council. There were also 35 Honorary Societies in 1929, many of which exist today. Phi Beta Kappa, Sphinx, and Mortar Board are just a few.

Delta Epsilon Fraternity History

Delta Epsilon Fraternity was founded in the fall of 1924 by the efforts of a small group of students, and the instigation of Head Coach Dr. C. W. Spears, a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. The group was granted a charter by the University Board of Administration on May 21, 1925. The organization progressed rapidly from its inception, socially and financially, and in the fall of 1926 moved into a house. The first formal initiation was held on December 12, 1926.

The Charter Members of the Delta Epsilon Fraternity were:

John Coleman	Geoffrey P. Jones
Win. A. Cosgrove, Jr.	Lyle Edgar Langfitt
Ben Evans	George E. Phillips
William S. Hayse	Leo Clovis Shinn
Edwin Channing Jones*	J. Edgar Snyder

*It is interesting to note that transfer student Edwin Channing Jones was a member of Pi Kappa Phi’s Upsilon Chapter (University of Illinois-Urbana/Champagne) and was probably influential in moving the chapter toward a Pi Kappa Phi affiliation.

These men drew up the Constitution and By-Laws, formulated a ritual, and designated the pin and coat-of-arms. Dr. Spears helped organize the fraternity for the purpose of petitioning Delta Kappa Epsilon, but no action was ever taken in this direction. He left the University to coach at the University of Minnesota; interest in Delta Kappa Epsilon lagged and the fraternity bent all efforts toward building a strong local fraternity.

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Although nothing is noted in the formal history of Delta Epsilon Fraternity archives, the general belief is that one of Pi Kappa Phi's Founding Fathers, Dr. A. Pelzer Wagner, was a visiting professor at West Virginia University in 1928 and was introduced to the Delta Epsilon Fraternity. Dr. Wagner shared the history of Pi Kappa Phi with the Delta Epsilon brothers, which may have persuaded them to move toward choosing Pi Kappa Phi for a national affiliation.

The first Delta Epsilon house was located at 207 Fife Avenue. In the spring of 1927 because of the growth of the group it became necessary to secure larger and more suitable quarters and they moved to a sixteen room house ideally located on the main street where it is within easy reach of the University and the business section of town. (The house was located on High Street where the current Post Office was built).

In 1926 a Delta Epsilon Alumni Association was formed by the graduating group. Each man agreed to pay yearly dues and to sign a pledge to pay \$100 to the fraternity within four years after graduation; this money to be deposited in a fund to be called the Delta Epsilon House Fund.

The 1929 Petition was recommended by the following University representatives:

Harry E. Stone, Dean of Men

I have personally and intimately acquainted myself with the members of Delta Epsilon fraternity for the past four years. I have watched them meet and solve fraternity problems and grow in strength and influence thereby. I have attended their social functions on many occasions and found them uniformly of high standard. I have had no difficulty in securing at all times the willing cooperation of this group with the University administration.

At present Delta Epsilon has twenty active members and twelve pledges. It is represented in a wide variety of campus organizations and activities, athletic, scholastic, musical, dramatic and religious. It is above the average in scholarship, has the respect of other fraternities, is in sound financial condition, and in every way is worthy of membership in a fraternity with the splendid reputation Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity enjoys.

Ruth D. Noer, Acting Dean of Women

I am very happy to be able to recommend for your consideration the Delta Epsilon fraternity of West Virginia University. This is a group of fine men, who have maintained always a creditable reputation on this campus both scholastically and socially. I believe you will find them worthy of a charter and we should be very happy to see a chapter of Pi Kappa Phi on the campus.

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L. Val Hood, Inter-Fraternity Council President

The Interfraternity Council of West Virginia University has received a petition from Delta Epsilon Fraternity requesting our permission to petition Pi Kappa Phi. The Council has granted this permission and we should like to have the privilege of recommending this group to you.

Delta Epsilon has enjoyed a steady and well balanced growth since its inception, and is now the outstanding local on the West Virginia campus. We would like to see them affiliated with a national fraternity and do not hesitate to recommend them to Pi Kappa Phi.

We would be glad to welcome Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity to our campus.

Dr. Montagu F. Modder, Professor of English

I am informed that Delta Epsilon is applying for a charter from your organization. I have been closely associated with this group of young men for the past two years during which it has grown and progressed in a very satisfactory manner. These boys are among the most representative on the campus; they are leaders in scholarship, athletics, politics and social affairs.

I am sure these boys would be a credit to a national organization.

A. L. Darby, Chairman of University Social Committee

I take pleasure in recommending to you Delta Epsilon Fraternity, which is seeking admission into Pi Kappa Phi. Delta Epsilon has been on our campus since 1925 and was founded, and has been guided, but prominent faculty members. It has a membership of strong students many being outstanding on the campus. We have plenty of room for another national fraternity, and would welcome in our midst Pi Kappa Phi. My own feeling is that Delta Epsilon is worthy of the honor of being your initial group. For these reasons I urge you to establish here a chapter of Pi Kappa Phi in Delta Epsilon.

D. R. Richards, Vice President and Cashier of The Bank of Morgantown

We take pleasure in recommending to you the Delta Epsilon Fraternity and believe they are worthy of national recognition. They have always carried a very good account with our bank and we think well of them and feel they are men of high character.

The recommendations were reviewed, the petition granted, and the Delta Epsilon Fraternity became the Alpha Rho Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity on Friday, May 16, 1930. Dr. Wagner, along with John R. Goss (District 8 Archon), Edwin Jones (Upsilon – University of Illinois at Urbana/Champagne), and members of Alpha Nu (The Ohio State University) Fred E. Rector, R. H.

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Crossley, Alvin H. Frye, Edwin R. Stickel, Walter C. Insley, and Marcy Powell initiated the Delta Epsilon Fraternity men into Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, Alpha Rho Chapter. The official announcement was posted in the *Star and Lamp*, Volume XVI Number 2, May 1930.

1930 - The Birth of Alpha Rho Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi

The Alpha Class of Alpha Rho Chapter was made up of the following men:

AP 1	Charles Leet	AP 10	John Musgrave	AP 19	Charles Fred Stewart
AP 2	Lawrence Oneacre	AP 11	James Wilson	AP 20	Ellis A. Bradley
AP 3	Joseph Van Voorhis	AP 12	W. Fitzsimmons	AP 21	Howard Martin
AP 4	Charles Hill	AP 13	Paul Fisher	AP 22	Edward Kime
AP 5	Walter W. Murrill	AP 14	Edward Rodgers	AP 23	Wilbur Massonheimer
AP 6	Edward Higgs	AP 15	Elton Smith	AP 24	Donald Headlee
AP 7	James Winter	AP 16	Charles Hall	AP 25	Theodore R. C. King
AP 8	Jack Shipman	AP 17	Carl Lewis	AP 26	Gail P. Auldridge
AP 9	August Marques	AP 18	John Adkins	AP 27	John E. Winter

The first Executive Council of Alpha Rho included Archon Charles Leet (AP 1), Secretary Elton R. Smith (AP 15), Treasurer John Musgrave (AP 10), Historian Charles “Fred” Stewart (AP 19), Chaplain Walter W. Murrell (AP 5), and Warden Ellis A. Bradley (AP 20).

The *Star and Lamp*, Volume XVI Number 3, October 1930 printed the following article:

“On May 16, 1930, Pi Kappa Phi entered the ‘Panhandle’ state and selected for its 39th undergraduate chapter the local fraternity Delta Epsilon, located at the West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

“The installation ceremonies were in charge of Brother John R. Gass, Eighth District Archon; assisted by Dr. A. Pelzer Wagener, Supreme Archon; Brother John C. Johnston, Supreme Treasurer; Brother Edwin C. Jones, Upsilon; and a member of the Faculty at the University and an initiation team of six from Alpha Nu Chapter, consisting of Brothers Fred rector, Edwin Stickel, Walter Insley, Marcy Powell, Robert Crossley and Alvin Frye.

“It was a glorious event for the men of Delta Epsilon, and Pi Kappa Phi has acquired a splendid group of young men and a well-organized and progressive chapter. Elaborate preparations for the social part of the installation had been made by the local fraternity, the high lights of which were a formal banquet, formal dance and reception. The installation consumed three days and there was something doing every minute. A wonderful spirit of friendliness and loyalty prevailed

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among the thirty odd visiting Pi Kapps representing the following chapters: Alpha, Psi, Rho, Kappa, Omega, Upsilon, Xi, Theta, Alpha Theta, Alpha Mu and Alpha Nu.

“Promptly at the appointed hour on Friday morning, all candidates, the members of the installing group and many visiting brothers assembled in the ballroom of the Hotel Morgan and the ceremonies started. After an hour’s recess for lunch, the installation proceeded, and when the smoke had cleared, twenty-seven men had been initiated into the mysteries and fellowship of Pi Kappa Phi. A splendid feature of the installation was the initiation of Dr. John E. Winter, head of the department of Psychology at the University, and his son, James E. Winter, a senior. Dr. Winter is an alumnus of Delta Epsilon. The charter was very ably and impressively presented by Dr. Wagener, a former member of the Faculty at the University.

“Capping the events of the day, a formal banquet was held in the main dining room of the hotel, with places marked for fifty. The big table was arranged in the form of a letter ‘U’ and was decorated in the colors of the Fraternity. Huge vases of red roses also adorned the table and everyone present was given a rose as a token of friendship. Brother Edwin C. Jones presided as toastmaster.

“Toastmaster Jones introduced Brother Charles Leet who welcomed all present. Dr. Wagener then addressed the gathering in behalf of the Fraternity. His remarks were an inspiration and were enjoyed keenly by all present. In a manner that was most interesting, he outlined the history and progress of the Fraternity, spoke of its ideals and purposes, and explained just what will be expected of the new chapter. Having been a charter member of Alpha Chapter and the incumbent of many offices in the Fraternity, including the highest, which he holds at the present, Dr. Wagener is well acquainted with his fraternity, and his talk was intensely interesting and instructive.

“Dean Harry E. Stone, Dean of Men of the University, followed Dr. Wagener with a splendid address, giving the University’s attitude toward fraternities in general and Pi Kappa Phi in particular, and welcoming Pi Kappa Phi to West Virginia. He made some fine predications for the future of Alpha Rho Chapter, based on his intimate knowledge of the past performance and standing of Delta Epsilon and of the character and type of men composing the new chapter. Dean Stone mentioned that it has been his experience that within five years after a local fraternity has gone ‘National,’ in practically every case, the new chapters have gone into a ‘nose dive’ scholastically. He stated, however, that he expected Alpha Rho would prove an exception to this established custom and would not follow the example set by its predecessors on the campus.

“Following Dean Stone, Brother Janes C. Wilson spoke for Alpha Rho and pledged the co-operation of the chapter to Pi Kappa Phi and to the University.

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“Many telegrams and messages of greetings from alumni, friends, and other chapters of Pi Kappa Phi, that had arrived during the day and evening, were read at intervals by the Toastmaster, adding to the enthusiasm that already prevailed.

“Brief remarks were made by Brothers John R. Gass, John C. Johnston, Gene Dunaway, Fred Rector and others. Brother Dunaway is Archon of the Second District and hails from Roanoke, Virginia. After telling of the narrow escape he and Brothers Ed Bell, Neil Gilbert and R. R. Rush had on their journey to Morgantown, in which the four brothers ‘stood on their heads’ literally and actually for Pi Kappa Phi, Gene cut loose with a facetious tale that contributed much mirth in contrast to many of the more serious talks that preceded his remarks. But telling stories is not Gene’s failing; it is ‘wimmin.’ Attest the young lady that caused his party to be half a day late in getting started back to Roanoke.

“A fitting climax to the banquet was the announcement by Dr. Wagener of the appointment of Brother Jones as Chapter Adviser to Alpha Rho Chapter.

“Saturday morning was spent in sightseeing. The visiting brothers were taken on trips through the University campus and buildings, To Cheat Mountain, Lake Lynn and other points of interest. In the afternoon practically the entire group of members and visitors attended the Big Four track and field meet, consisting of teams from Washington and Jefferson, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Institute of Technology and West Virginia University. Brothers Charles Hill and Joe Van Voorhis took part in the meet as members of the University team. Brother Hill celebrated his initiation in to Pi Kappa Phi by taking first honors in the shot put, discus, and hammer throws and fourth place in the javelin throw.

“In the evening the formal installation dance was held in the ballroom of the Hotel Morgan, with approximately one hundred and fifty couples in attendance. The ballroom was artistically decorated in the colors of the Fraternity and music was furnished by a splendid dance orchestra. In the receiving line were President and Mrs. Turner, Dr. Wagener, Brother Johnston, Dean Ruth Noer, Brother Gass, Dr. A. L. Darby, and Brother and Mrs. Jones. The dance proved to be one of the outstanding social functions of the year.

“An unusual and interesting feature of the proceedings took place at the chapter house after the dance in the form of a regular chapter meeting, held for the purpose of instructing the officers of the new chapter in the manner of procedure of conducting chapter meetings. To make it the more impressive, the officers were attired in the official robes and all members present were in evening dress. The members of the initiation team served as officers of the chapter for this meeting.

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“An informal reception was held at the chapter house on Sunday afternoon in honor of the Supreme Officers, members of the installing group, and visiting brothers. Over two hundred guests were entertained during the afternoon, consisting of members of the Faculty, friends and representatives of campus fraternities and sororities. The house was beautifully decorated with garden flowers and greenery. The table in the dining room was centered with a crystal bowl of snap-dragon, larkspur, roses and iris, and the lighting was supplied by tall tapers in silver sticks, placed at each corner. A pink Killarney rosebud was the favor on each plate.

“Mrs. Edwin C. Jones was in charge of the refreshments and was assisted by Mrs. H. E. Stone, Mrs. Jessie M. Stewart, Mrs. John E. Winter and Mrs. Robert T. Donley. Miss Francis Chenoweth played a program of piano numbers during the receiving hours.

“Brother Charles Leet introduced the guests to the following honor guests: Dr. A. Pelzer Wagener, John C. Johnston, John R. Gass, Edwin C. Hones, Allison Ament and William Simon. The reception was a beautiful demonstration of the genuine spirit of hospitality and friendliness that prevails at this institution, and will long be remembered by those present. It was a fitting climax to the events of the two preceding days.

The chapter was housed at 65 High Street at the time of chartering, and moved to 40 High Street from 1930-1933, 698 North High Street from 1933-1934, 2109 University Avenue from 1934-1935, and at 692 North High Street from 1935-1938.

One of the original men to petition Pi Kappa Phi, James Edwin (J. E.) Winter, was chosen after graduation to be on the Pi Kappa Phi Committee on Scholarship, and coordinated the academic efforts for all Pi Kappa Phi Chapters in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 8. District 8 included Alpha Nu Chapter at The Ohio State University and Alpha Rho Chapter at West Virginia University. The Committee was chaired by Dr. W. E. Edington at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

During the May 16/17, 1930 Initiation weekend, three more members were initiated on May 17 to form the Beta Class. They were:

But chartering in early 1930 was a rocky foundation financially. On October 24, 1929 “Black Thursday” started the most devastating stock market crash in the history of the United States, when taking into consideration the full extent and duration of its fallout. The crash signaled the beginning of the 10-year Great Depression that affected all Western industrialized countries.

In the fall of 1930, 10 men were pledged to the chapter: Paul S. Moyers, Charles Young, Robert L. Harper, John Bradley, Ralph IZard, Richard Siers, Paul Thompson, Lindwood Young, Maurice White, and Benjamin Leo Williams; all from West Virginia. The chapter would start a regular communication with its alumni, and they named the publication *The Alpha Rhose*.

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1931

1931 ranked Alpha Rho sixth on campus with a total of 21 men's fraternities at WVU. In March, Alpha Rho was admitted to the university's Interfraternity Council after only 10 months on campus...the standard was a one-year waiting period. A new tradition began in 1931 of presenting a jeweled fraternity pin to the pledge making the highest scholastic and pledge rating (developed on a point system). The spring 1931 pledge class consisted of Linwood Young, Robert Harper, Paul Moyers and Clarence Menear.

On April 18, 1931 a formal dance was given by the brothers at the chapter house to celebrate the first year anniversary. The chapter philanthropy was giving two free meals each day to the poor through cooperation with the Salvation Army.

The 16th Supreme Chapter was held in Detroit, Michigan August 25-28, 1931. Travel from Morgantown to Detroit was \$9.38 one way in a Pullman railway car! You could reserve a room for two at the Hotel Statler for \$5.50 per night with a shower, or if you wanted to spend the extra \$1.50, you could have a room with a tub. One of the fellow delegates at the Supreme Chapter meeting was Andrew A. Kroeg of Alpha Chapter. Most interesting was registering with the Supreme Chapter Convention Committee to find a delegate a date. On a detachable return card to the Convention Committee, you could register your TYPE preference of Blonde, Brunette or Red-head; your SPECIES preference of Co-Ed, Flapper or Serious; and your HEIGHT preference of Tall, Short or Medium.

The year 1931 brought a new recognition button to the fraternity. The design consisted of a white star upon a gold pentagon crossed by two swords. The standing of chapters in the Efficiency Contest found Alpha Rho exactly in the middle: Ranked 20 out of 40 active chapters.

The fall 1931 pledge class included Rupert Bradford, Leo Williams, John Bradley, Woodrow Horn, Ralph Iazard, Lucien Clipfel, Kenneth Cooper, Robert Currence, George Grow, Paul Thompson, ralph Woodburn, Kenneth Menear and John St. Claire.

1932

By 1932, Howard D. Leake, Executive Secretary of Pi Kappa Phi, reported to the National Council that Alpha Rho was "probably the worst hit chapter as concerns the depression. A defunct bank took some of their money. The boys' parents are handicapped as a whole apparently. The fate of the chapter lies in the increase or decrease of distress due to present business conditions. If they do not improve, the chapter will go under or require considerable nursing."

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May 1932 marked the first of many Alpha Rho members who would become members of Mountain, West Virginia University's highest honorary organization. Charles Hill was initiated into Mountain during the spring of his senior year.

1933

December 1933 witnessed the chapter moving from 40 High Street to 698 North High Street in the middle of "Fraternity Row" as six fraternities were on the same street. Marvin Watring, Historian, wrote for the December 1933 *Star and Lamp*: "Our rushing season was climaxed with a stag party at Brother John Johnston's cabin, better known as 'The Hermit Hut' on Cheat Lake. Pledges Millhouse and Tsorvas are members of the freshman football team which has just completed a successful season. Pledge Arbuckle, a transfer student from Louisiana State, is a member of the freshman wrestling team, and Pledges Watring and Lutz are out for freshman basketball. On October 25 the actives entertained their dates at an informal dinner at the chapter house, and the pledges, not to be outdone, had a dinner for their dates on November 15. Preceding the cadet hop on November 24, a formal dinner was served to all members and pledges and their girlfriends. Captain and Mrs. Whipple were guests of honor at this dinner. An elaborate banquet was held in celebration of Founders' Day at which actives, pledges, alumni and brother in the city were all present. Archon Adkins is captain of the West Virginia Chapter of Scabbard and Blade. Brother Clipfel was recently made a member of Sphinx, honorary senior organization. Dr. J. E. Winger and John C. Johnston, members of the faculty, have shown much interest in our chapter and had dinner with us on different occasions."

1934

Pi Kappa Phi's 25th Anniversary in 1934 witnessed the 17th Supreme Chapter held in September at the Waldor-Astoria Hotel in New York City. Woodrow Horn represented Alpha Rho on the Resolutions Committee.

The Chapter Report to the *Star and Lamp* in December 1934 read: "Dr. John E. Winter (faculty advisor) met with a very serious accident this past fall while returning from a trip to the middle west. The accident which occurred in Michigan, was fatal to his wife, and cause both him and his youngest son serious injury. At the present time Dr. Winter has recovered sufficiently to resume his duties as head of the Psychology Department at West Virginia University and his son is rapidly improving. Lamar Watring is president of the sophomore class this year and sophomore representative on the Student Council. The other fraternity politician is Woodrow Horn, vice-president of the senior class. The chapter has been honored recently with visits from District Archon Harold O. Merle, and Executive Secretary Howard D. Leake. Their visits were both beneficial and most welcome. We are indeed proud to announce that John c. Johnston is our new faculty adviser. In him we see an able and competent leader, and hope to fulfill his expectation. Pledge Williams placed second on state-wide cattle judging contest, and is proudly displaying a gold medal as a result of his efforts. Amonth the alumni who have visited the chapter this fall

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are Brothers Higgs, Woodburn, Firzsimmons, Smith, Thomas, Hill and Orler. Announcement has been made of the wedding of Charles Leet to Mary Alice Lambert, which took place at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Thursday, December 30. The chapter extends its congratulations and best wishes for their happiness in the future.”

1935

In the Spring of 1935, the Pledge Class included George Brown, Martin Burke, James Williams, Allen Phillips, Harry Workman, Wilbur Adkins, Cracraft Forney and Isaac Judy. In the May 1935 *Star and Lamp* report: “Brother Woodrow Horn left school to accept a position in Charleston WV. Brothers John E. Winter and John C. Johnston were special guests at a banquet given in honor of the new pledges on March 22, 1935. The pledges later won another dinner in their honor by beating the actives in a basketball game on March 26. They have now challenged the actives to a softball game. The actives have hopes of being entertained this time. The pledge class is under the able direction of Arden Trickett. Howard D. Leake, Executive Secretary honored us with a short visit on his way south the last of March. Several Members of Alpha Nu (Ohio State) Chapter were our guests for a week-end recently. They saw that Brother Merle, our district archon, was safely escorted home then after a week’s stay with us. James Arbuckle and Pledge Williams are members of the livestock judging team which expects to visit Ohio State, Penn State and Purdue in the near future.”

The Fall Pledge Class 1935 was John Arbuckle, George Brown, Joseph Bott, George Hodel, Stanley Smith, Thomas McGuire, Fred Nebera, Jess Park, Lewis Campbell, Frank Tosi and Harry Workman. The notes from the December 1935 *Star and Lamp* read: “Alpha Rho is very proud of its pledge class this year and is expecting truly great things from them. Nebera is a member of the varsity squad, holding down a position in the backfield. Bott is on the freshman squad, and his name is always found on the starting lineup. Hodel comes to WVU after two successful years in dramatics at Lynchburg College, VA. McGuire is very active in 4-H work and has just recently spoken over the NBC with regard to his work. Brown is our very able representative on the college daily. Arbuckle and Smith come from Greenbrier Military School, so we have hopes of having a general, or something, in a few years. Park hails from Albany, NY and having a connection with the Bayer Aspirin Company, sees that the fraternity is void of headaches. Campbell has aspirations of being either a G-man or a Blackstone, having enrolled in the school of pre-law. Tosi is doing his best to “Sox the men and hose the women”—Real Silk to you. Workman showed his skill as a decorator by sponsoring the house decorations for the homecoming game. The actives honored the pledges with a banquet October 25. Dr. John E. Winter, John C. Johnston, faculty advisor, and James E. Winter were special guests. A dinner of similar nature was held for Founders’ Day. The chapter has been honored recently with a visit from J. H. McCann, assistant secretary. His visit was both beneficial and most welcome. James H. Arbuckle wet to Chicago as a member of the livestock judging team. Among the alumni who visited the chapter this fall are Brothers Clipfel, Firzsimmons, Higgs, Woodburn, Hall, Auldrige, Young and Cooper. It

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seemed like “old home week” among the Pi Kapps at the W&L game in Charleston this fall. Why can't we plan luncheon preceding the game next year? Alpha Rho's winter formal will be held Saturday night, February 29, at the Hotel Morgan Ballroom. Rush week was successfully brought to an end this fall with a party at John Johnstons's “Hermit's Hut” on Cheat Lake. The actives and pledges were given a surprise Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26. Arden Trickett had charge of the arrangements. John Johnston furnished the turkey, and with three generations in the kitchen—Mrs. Beck, her mother and daughter—the dinner was the best that could be wished for. Being a surprise to the majority of us, it was doubly enjoyed!”

1936

In the February 1936 *Star and Lamp*, the chapter wrote: “We had the pleasure of a visit from District Archon Harold Merle in December, and hope that his next one will be for a longer period. Alpha Rho is quite active in intramural sports this season, and has moved up eight places towards the top of the list on the last report from the athletic department. We were in the “last round-up” in the handball play, and lost two out of three games on the final set with Phi Kappa Tau. At the present time we are leading our league in basketball, and hope to bring home the cup when the last game of the tournament is played. We are looking forward to our dance to be held the last day of February. It is our earnest hope that as many alumni of this chapter, and as many brothers from other chapters, who can do so, will attend. The chapter appreciates very much the Christmas cards received from alumni and friends. Such thoughtfulness means a lot to the fellows at the house and gives rise to many pleasant memories. Announcement has been received of the marriage of Brother Ralph Woodburn to Elizabeth Ann Laughrey of Clarksburg on January 3. Ralph is working for the Pure Oil Company in Clarksburg. They are residing at 423 Duff Avenue.”

The *Star and Lamp's* May 1936 edition had an article written by Brother Robert Harper on the Hermit's Hut at Cheat Lake, a favorite hang-out for the Brothers of Alpha Rho:

“The Hermit's Hut serves as Mecca of Alpha Rho and W.V.U. Faculty. Clinging to the side of one of West Virginia's scenic mountains and overlooking Cheat Lake is the Hermit's Hut, the summer cabin of Brother John C. Johnston, past National Treasurer of Pi Kappa Phi and present chapter adviser of Alpha Rho Chapter. Many rushing parties have taken place there, and many pledge pins safely launched, not to mention innumerable teas for the sweethearts and mothers. But John Johnston is no hermit of Alpha Rho members. It is always with pride that Alpha Rho takes its distinguished visitors out to Johnny's, for as a host he is second to none, and he is famous for miles around for his delicious steak dinners. Johnny came into the fraternity from Theta Chapter at the University of Cincinnati, and was instrumental in getting Pi Kappa Phi established on the West Virginia University campus. He is a graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and his large acquaintance of well-known artists of today is evidenced by the photographs which cover one side of his Hut, autographed to him by such well-known artists as Richard Crooks, Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink, and Rosa Ponselle. There are many articles of interest in the cabin, an oxen yoke that has seen many years of service hangs over the stone fire-

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place; iron kettles from Virginia slave kitchens rest on the hearth; Egyptian rugs hang from the balcony, rare old pieces of china stand on the plate racks; and numerous other articles made interesting because of their romantic history. Probably the rarest of all things to be found there is indescribable--the comfort and relaxation one finds while snuggling in an arm-chair absorbing the cheerfulness and contentment radiated by the crackling logs in the fireplace. After a visit to the Hermit's Hut, one feels that perhaps after all the world is not such a bad place in which to live. He has found not only the quietude of the country, but all the latest appliances that are found in the most modern of town homes, and a genial and friendly host who is held in highest regard by all who know him."

In 1936 the chapter sent two delegates to the 18th Supreme Chapter August 19-22 in Seattle, Washington. Brothers Arden Trickett (Delegate) and Williams (Alternate) traversed the country to represent Alpha Rho. The Brothers met with representatives of the National Fraternity to discuss the chapter's organizational health regarding Accounts Receivable, Membership, Scholarship, Recruitment, Intramurals, Alumni Relations and the newly elected Executive Council for the 1936-37 academic year. Brother Trickett served on the Time and Place Committee for the convention to research and make recommendation for future Supreme Chapter meetings.

NOTE: 40 years later, the Brothers of Alpha Rho would find another Cheat Lake location to take Associate Members for the Ritual of Initiation...the Good Council Friary "the Castle." Thoney Pietro started building "the Castle" in 1928 and completed it in 1933. It cost him about \$200,000 back then, or about \$3 million in today's dollars. The Castle includes 3,700 square feet of space in 23 rooms on three levels. Pietro pulled the river stone for the project from nearby Decker's Creek. He gave the Castle and 32 acres of land to the Franciscan brothers of the Catholic Church in 1949 and it became the Good Council Friary. The Franciscans ran it for 58 years, with much of that time under the direction of the Reverend Jude Mili.

1937

The January 1937 *Star and Lamp* featured the following from Alpha Rho: "The chapter recently initiated John Arbuckle, Arthur Ederson, George Hodel, Fred Nebera and Denzil Westfall. The following were pledged last fall: Alexander Adair, Guy Avey, Denver Gragg, Paige Sapp, Carleton Shaffer, Stanley Smith, Hector Martinez, Alec Mellenick, Paul New and Shelton Workman. Fred Nebera has been outstanding in his capacity as right-end on the varsity football squad this year. Much credit is due him because he is the lightest man on the line. Hodel was scenic designer and Archon Orlor was in charge of the lighting effects of "Roadside," the first dramatic production of the Drama school this season. Secretary Lutz is senior intramural manager this year. Pledge Mellenick is guard on the freshman football squad. Chapter Adviser John C. Johnston has been confined in the Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh for the past few weeks with a heart ailment. We are expecting to have him with us again soon. Preceding the first Panhellenic dance of the season, the actives entertained their dates with a formal dinner at the chapter house. Alpha Rho entertained with a smoker to commemorate Founders' Day. Members and pledges

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of the chapter and a few invited faculty members were guests. Day Fitzsimmons was recently married to Bertha Martin Von Philp at Wheeling, WV. They will make their home in the city where Day is practicing law. Among the alumni who have visited the chapter this fall are Brothers Clipfel, Higgs, Smith, Fitzsimmons and Judy. James Arbuckle is chief herdsman at the Pinecrest Sanitarium in Beckley, WV. Alpha Rho's winter formal will be held on Saturday night, February 13, 1937 in the Hotel Morgan Ballroom. It is hoped the alumni will begin making plans to be with us for that affair which promises to even surpass our formal party of last year. Thomas G. Williams is employed by the International Shoe company of St. Louis and at present is stationed in Huntington, WV."

From the May 1937 *Star and Lamp*, Historian Bob Harper wrote: "Victor Orler was recently chosen as one of three out of a group of fifteen electrical engineers to be given a job by the General Electric company, following his graduation in June. He will be located in Pittsburgh this summer and then go to Schenectady. We were pleased to have Executive Secretary Leake spend a few days with us in February and are looking forward to seeing him again in May. John C. Johnston, Alpha Rho's faculty adviser, is rapidly recovering from a heart attack which occurred last fall. He is back at the office now and, with spring in the air, is anticipating with much pleasure quitting his town quarters for his cabin on the lake—the Hermit's Hut. Alpha Rho's annual spring formal which took place in the ballroom of the Hotel Morgan on Friday, April 23 was indeed up to the high standard of former Pi Kappa dances. Brother Trickett and his committee of Burke and Orler are to be commended for their efforts in making the dance the grand success it was. Brother George Hodel enrolled in the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York City for the term beginning April 1. Brother Ellis Bradley is once more back "in the fold" of Alpha Rho, having enrolled for work in the College of Education which will qualify him for teaching school. It seems that conversation has reached a new high since he arrived."

1938 – The End of an Era

Alex Adair, Historian, wrote the following report for the January 1938 *Star and Lamp*: "Graduation last June took several of our actives. Seniors who graduated are Boyd Lutz, Victor Orler, Jess Park, Robert Harper and Arden Trickett. Ellis Bradley, a graduate student, completed his work and Johnny Arbuckle, a junior, did not return to school this year. New Officers elected last spring are: Marty Burk, Archon; Denzil Westfall, Treasurer; Johnny Arbuckle, Secretary; Alex Adair, Historian; Harry Workman, Chaplain; and Fred Nebera, Warden. Ike Judy, returning to school after a year's absence, was elected secretary to replace non-returning Arbuckle. We enjoyed very much having Executive Secretary and Mrs. Gilbert visit us in October. Fred "Chief" Nebera, our contribution to the Mountaineer football team, has been going places this year. A senior, he has played a fine game at the end of the whole season. He was made acting captain for the WVU-Georgetown game. His great defensive play at the end was one of the main reasons that West Virginia lost only one game this year—to Pitt, after a stubborn resistance. We are lucky in having a very active pledge class this year. Besides doing a lot of work on the house,

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they gave a dinner party in November. This year's pledges are Roy Jack, Seth Amols, Robert Reger, Jack Keck, Donald Lee Adamson, Robert Weaver, Fay Straight, Sheldon Workman and Jules De Ville. The fraternities on this campus have been drawn a step closer this year by a series of pledge exchange dinners. Once a week each fraternity sends four pledges to another designated fraternity for dinner. At the same time, they are hosts to four pledges from another fraternity. We took advantage of everybody's leaving for Thanksgiving vacation to varnish the floors. We also bought a new rug. While most of our actives left town for the vacation, alumni came in for the homecoming game with George Washington. Pi Kapps had better stay on the right side of the law, or they will have a fraternity brother on their trail! Bob Harper, '36, has passed his examinations and is now learning how to be a "G" man. Vic Orler is working with General Electric, and Boyd Lutz and Ellis Bradley are school teachers. Jess Park is working as an accountant. We gave a formal dinner before the Panhellenic dance December 3. Henry Busse played for the dance, which is the biggest one of the year.

Harry Workman, Historian in March 1938, provided the following report to the *Star and Lamp*: "On January 18, we elected the following men to office for the semester: Archon, Alexander Adair; Secretary, Isaac Judy; Treasurer, Denzil Westfall; Warden, Paige Sapp; Historian, Harry Workman. We have just pledged Carol R. Fisher, an agricultural student from Gassaway, WV, and have prospects of pledging at least five more boys before the end of this month. The *Alpha Rhose* will appear early announcing our All Fools' Day dance on April 1. The University Armory will be the scene. The spring issue of the *Rhose* should roll from the presses just before school closes for the summer. We enjoyed and appreciated very much the visit of our District Archon, Brother Ralph Tabor, on February 8. Brother Tabor had the unusual experience of knowing what it is to lose one's self in these West Virginia hills. Another welcome visitor was Brother Tommy Williams who spent a week with us in February and plans to spend one week a month in Morgantown from now until school closes this spring. Tommy certainly knows his shoes as his sales reports show. Robert Harper was married to Miss Edith Smith of Parsons, WV on December 26, 1937. Brother Harper is connected with the Department of Justice with headquarters in Atlanta, GA."

Harry Workman again provided a report for the May 1938 *Star and Lamp*: "After days of extensive planning and arranging, Alpha Rho brothers threw open the doors for the annual spring formal to one of the largest crowds in the history of the affair. This occurred April 1, with many alumni and friends in attendance. The pledge class held a smoker for the actives in March and invited several non-fraternity men in to meet the entire Pi Kapp chapter. We made a good impression on the visitors and succeeded in pledging Charles Goodlin, a Pennsylvania boy. Among recent visitors to the chapter house have been Arden Trickett '37, and Thomas Williams '36 both formerly prominent in Alpha Rho affairs. Brother Trickett is planning to attend the Jacksonville convention. We are expecting to have at least two representatives of the chapter at the convention. Another interesting edition of the *Alpha Rhose* has just come off the press. Spring rushing

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was satisfactory and our annual spring initiation saw new faces among the actives of Alpha Rho.”

The May 1938 report would be the last written by the original Brothers of Alpha Rho.

On Saturday, August 20, 1938 the National Council took action at its meeting in Jacksonville, Florida (19th Supreme Chapter), placing Alpha Rho Chapter on probation due to pre-war financial and resource liabilities. 19 days later, in a letter to the National Council dated Thursday, September 8, 1938, Brother R. Lynn Kennett, National Office Assistant, reported that the action of the National Council taken at its meeting in Jacksonville had not proved effective in enabling the chapter to re-establish itself and that he, together with Brother Ralph R. Tabor, District Archon, and Brother John C. Johnston, Chapter Advisor, had closed the chapter disposing of its available property, paying off local debts as far as was possible and arranging to collect certain of the accounts receivable.

Accordingly, in order to make this action a matter of record, William J. Berry, National President, proposed the following resolution on Monday, September 12, 1938 to the members of the National Council:

“WHEREAS, Brother Lynn Kennett, Office Assistant, has reported that he, together with Brother Ralph R. Tabor, District Archon, and Brother John C. Johnston, Chapter Advisor, had closed Alpha Rho Chapter located at the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, W. Va., disposing of its available property, paying its local debts where possible and arranging to collect certain of its accounts receivable, and

WHEREAS, Brother Kennett further reports that the charter of said chapter has been surrendered and is now in the physical possession of Central Office, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Council place itself on record as approving and confirming the action taken by Brothers Kennett, Tabor and Johnston, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Alpha Rho Chapter, located at the University of West Virginia, Morgantown, W. Va., be and it hereby is dropped from the list of active chapters of the PI KAPPA PHI Fraternity.”

Ten days later on Thursday, September 22, 1938, Brother George Coulter, National Secretary penned a memo to the members of the National Council announcing that the resolution proposed by President Berry was carried by a majority vote of the Council. 66 Pi Kappa Phi initiates had no chapter.

Fast Forward to January 1977

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Steve Merck (Delta Lambda 69), a Pi Kappa Phi Brother from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (which had just been chartered in September of 1973), transferred to West Virginia University in the mid-1970s to complete his studies. With the National Office's desire to re-charter its Alpha Rho Chapter at WVU after 40 years of dormancy, Durward W. Owen, Executive Director of Pi Kappa Phi, communicated with Steve to put an Associate Chapter together after interviewing men and educating them in the ways of Pi Kappa Phi. The Associate Chapter had been meeting during the Fall Semester 1976. Sophomore student Patrick Farley saw a flier on an announcement board in the Mountainlair to attend a meeting of a group of men wanting to start a chapter of Pi Kappa Phi on campus. Even though Patrick was attending Spring Semester Rush Parties, and had pretty much pledged his commitment to Sigma Chi Fraternity (where many of his high school friends were pledging), he decided to attend the meeting of the Pi Kappa Phi Associate Chapter to see what it was all about.

The Pi Kappa Phi Associate Chapter was very different than any of the established fraternities at WVU. Young men were Associate Members, and not Pledges. Hazing was not part of the Pi Kappa Phi program, but a sense of brotherhood and friendship was much greater among this small group of men than it was in the larger chapters on campus. Soon Patrick realized that he was more interested in being a part of fraternity history than a part of fraternity degrading. He dropped out of Formal Rush, and started attending the meetings of the Pi Kappa Phi Alpha Rho Associate Chapter. By the end of the Spring Semester 1977, Patrick and Steve had become a dynamic force aimed at re-chartering the Alpha Rho Chapter. During the summer of 1977, Steve moved in with Patrick and, as roommates, the process started to bring Alpha Rho back to campus by the end of the Fall Semester 1978 with an Associate Member class 25 strong. During the 1977-78 academic year, Pi Kappa Phi made its presence known on campus. Fund raisers, Rush parties, sporting events and social connections to other fraternities and sororities made Pi Kappa Phi the most recognized group on campus. The young men of Alpha Rho spent most of their free time together at the Mountainlair. Weekly meetings were held in apartments, trailers, houses and in campus facilities. The group started networking with other Pi Kappa Phi chapters at The Pennsylvania State University (Alpha Mu), James Madison University (Delta Tau), the University of Pittsburgh (Delta Upsilon), and West Virginia Technical University (Gamma Zeta).

The first reappearance of Alpha Rho (Associate Chapter) appeared in the Winter 1978 *Star and Lamp* with the following report: "Greetings from Alpha Rho! Our first fall semester at West Virginia University is behind us. The Associate Chapter has been steadily growing since our reforming in the Spring of '77. The active membership in the fraternity is now 21, and this semester we plan to add at least 10 new members. This semester our main goals are new membership and then to get chartered. Along with seeking new members, we plan to rent a house for a central gathering place for the brothers. The brotherhood would like to thank all of the alumni in

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the area for the help they have given us in our early days. We know that they will keep on supporting us and we thank them.”

1978

Durward W. Owen, National Executive Director, invited Patrick Farley and Craig Winkelmann to come to Pi Kapp College held at Roanoke College in Roanoke, Virginia, in August 1978 to become more educated about Pi Kappa Phi. Patrick and Craig drove from Morgantown to Roanoke in a borrowed car (Craig was spending the summer at his parent’s home in Pittsburgh, and Patrick was in Morgantown taking summer classes for his undergraduate degree in child psychology. Taking classes in the summer of 1978 allowed Patrick to reduce his academic schedule in the fall 1978 semester so he could focus on getting Alpha Rho re-chartered.) While attending Pi Kapp College, Brothers auditioned to be part of the Pi Kapp College Ritual Team. This Ritual Team would perform the Ritual of Initiation for the entire Pi Kapp College attendees in an auditorium to provide an example to the attendees of how the Ritual of Initiation should be rehearsed and presented at the chapter level. Durward met with Patrick and Craig the day before the initiation, and offered them the choice to become initiated into Pi Kappa Phi during the Ritual to be held the next night. Patrick accepted the offer, and was initiated at Pi Kapp College as Alpha Rho 67 on August 15, 1978. Craig declined the offer as he wanted to be initiated with the rest of the Associate Chapter in Morgantown. Patrick’s initiation was a historic event as he was initiated into a chapter that was currently dormant. Patrick’s and Craig’s attendance at Pi Kapp College, and Patrick’s initiation into the Alpha Rho Chapter turned out to be a huge catalyst for Fall Rush, and for the efforts to re-charter the Chapter in November, 1978.

Returning to the WVU campus a few weeks later, Brothers Farley and Winkelmann were eager to share with the Associate Chapter what they learned while at Pi Kapp College. To further inspire the Associate Members, Patrick drove Robert Laughner to James Madison University on Saturday, September 23, 1978 to be initiated as Alpha Rho 68 during Delta Tau Chapter’s Fall Ritual of Initiation. Now there were two active Alpha Rho initiates and the excitement for the re-chartering date grew.

In October 1978, Brother Farley flew to Charlotte, North Carolina, to attend the Pi Kappa Phi National Council Meeting and personally deliver the petition for Alpha Rho Associate Chapter to become a full chapter of Pi Kappa Phi. On Tuesday, October 24, 1978, the National Council of Pi Kappa Phi passed “Resolution 32 – Approval of Re-Chartering for West Virginia University.” The Resolution read as follows:

WHEREAS, Alpha Rho Associate Chapter located in Morgantown, West Virginia, has met our requirements for re-chartering as prescribed by the Supreme Laws, and

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WHEREAS, The re-chartering of Alpha Rho Associate Chapter has the full approval of the Area Governor and Executive Director,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Alpha Rho Associate Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity be re-chartered as Alpha Rho Chapter on Saturday, November 11, 1978 and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Steve DePalma (Beta Alpha) be appointed as Re-Chartering Officer and Tim Ribar (Xi) be appointed as Assistant Re-Chartering Officer.

With the assistance of Epsilon Psi Chapter at Slipper Rock University, and Delta Tau Chapter at James Madison University, the Alpha Rho Associate Chapter became the Alpha Rho Chapter on Saturday, November 11, 1978. It was extra special for Craig Winklemann as his brother, Brian Winklemann (Alpha Phi, Illinois Institute of Technology), participated as part of the Ritual Team. A very special guest, Brother Howard “Abe” Garrison Martin (AP21) attended the re-chartering ceremonies. Goal achieved!

Alpha Rho Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, Part Two

The men initiated as the next generation of Alpha Rho Chapter were:

AP 67 Patrick Edward Farley	AP 76 John Easterling Ryder
AP 68 Robert Jesse Laughner	AP 77 Donald Joseph Ross
AP 69 Craig Alan Winklemann	AP 78 Charles William Huber
AP 70 Robert Hand Southworth	AP 79 James Franklin Peterson, Jr
AP 71 Mark Alan Upton	AP 80 Jonathan Enos Ramey
AP 72 Daniel Gregory Sharpes	AP 81 Charles William Francis
AP 73 Byron James Misak	AP 82 David Nelson Strickland
AP 74 Michael Carl West	AP 83 Matthew Job Gaunt
AP 75 William Fuchs	AP 84 Dale Lynn McClendon

The Chapter Advisor at the time of re-chartering was Dr. John D. Brisbane, (Alpha Mu, The Pennsylvania State University) who was the Dean of Admissions and Records at WVU.

Without a chapter house, the chapter used various Brother’s apartments as headquarters, and would hold more formal rush events on the main floor of Elizabeth Moore Hall. Their chapter meetings were held in the Mountainlair followed by an after-meeting social gathering at the Blue Tic Tavern, located in the basement of the Mountainlair. Social mixers with a sorority were held in Tony’s Cellar, the lower floor of Tony’s Restaurant located on University Avenue in Morgantown. The 1979-1980 academic year the chapter was “housed” at 609 Pierpont House located at 445 Oakland Street on the Evansdale Campus. From 1980 to 1982, 505-2 Pierpont House was the official residence.

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Dean Brisbane and his wife Leah sponsored an annual event at their home each November to celebrate the re-chartering of the chapter. The event required a jacket and tie, and each Associate Member in attendance would take turns sitting by the fireplace and chatting with Mrs. Hoye, the revered mother of Mrs. Leah Brisbane. The Brisbane family was always a “home away from home” for the Alpha Rho brothers.

1979

The Winter 1979 *Star and Lamp* had the following letter from Alpha Rho written by Patrick Farley (AP67): “It was a proud night for Pi Kappa Phi on November 11, 1978 when the newly initiated brothers of the Alpha Rho chapter were presented with their Charter. While the presidents of nearly all the fraternities and sororities on the WVU campus looked on, Patrick Farley (then Archon) accepted the original charter issued over forty-five years ago. A lot of hard work went into re-establishing the Alpha Rho chapter. We are deeply indebted to Steve DePalma (Beta Alpha) and Tim Ribar (Xi) who were the re-installing officers. A particular note of thanks goes to the Gamma Zeta chapter at West Virginia Tech and Delta Upsilon chapter at the University of Pittsburgh, the initiating teams. There are many others I have not mentioned who played an important part in our chartering. Our gratitude for their help and guidance will never be forgotten.”

The same issue of the *Star and Lamp* contained this article on the re-chartering of Alpha Rho Chapter: “From 1938 to 1978, Alpha Rho Chapter at West Virginia University was not active. After some hard work on the part of the Administrative Office, area alumni and of most importance, students – this chapter is now active. It almost wasn’t! An early winter storm prevented the chartering officer, Steve DePalma (Beta Alpha, NJIT) from arriving in Morgantown on time. His assistant chartering officer, Tim Ribar (Xi, Roanoke), was already in town as was the staff of the Administrative Office (Henry Groves, Frank Havard and Bill Gurney). The initiation of the 18 new members was accomplished by a joint initiating team from West Virginia Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh. They ended the 40 years of inactivity for Alpha Rho Chapter through their performance of the ritual of initiation that 10th day of November, 1978. The following evening a banquet was held when the original charter was returned to Patrick Farley, the new Archon. His other officers were Bob Southworth (Vice Archon), Mark Upton (Treasurer), Robert Laughner (Secretary), Dan Sharpes (Historian), John Ryder (Chaplain), and Craig Winkelmann (Warden). It is interesting to note that the original and the re-chartering banquet were both held at the same location, the Hotel Morgan. Of significance at this banquet was the presentation of the Golden Legion certificate to Dr. H. A. Wilson, Illinois, who is a WVU Professor Emeritus of microbiology.”

AP 67

Upon graduation in May 1979, Patrick Farley was selected to be a Chapter Leadership Consultant for the National Fraternity in Charlotte, NC. Patrick spent the summer in “boot camp” with five other Leadership Consultants for intense chapter leadership training. Patrick started his Consultant work with Delta Kappa Chapter at Pembroke College in Pembroke, NC, and (78 chapters later) finished the consulting year with Delta Chi Chapter at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS.

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Coming back to Charlotte for the summer of 1980, Patrick was chosen to be the first Administrator of Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy Project P.U.S.H. (Play Units for the Severely Handicapped). Patrick worked closely with Durward Owen (Xi Chapter, Roanoke College) and the project's creator Thomas Sayre (an alumnus initiate of Kappa Chapter at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) to develop a chapter marketing program, as well as a public relations program in the greater Charlotte area. Patrick appeared on talk shows and radio shows to grow the national attention to the needs of the severely handicapped. The very first large-scale fundraiser was a concert donated by the band *ALABAMA* at Carowinds amusement park in Charlotte, NC. The band's lead singer was Brother Randy Owen (Delta Epsilon, Jacksonville State University) and the band was releasing its first album in conjunction with the Carowinds concert. Patrick drove the band members throughout the Charlotte area stopping at music stores and radio stations for album signing events. Even in a torrential downpour, the concert went on and over \$10,000 was raised for Project PUSH.

Over the years, Project P.U.S.H. would become PUSH America, and finally The Ability Experience with its own management and fund raising systems.

After serving the National Fraternity for two years out of Charlotte, NC, Patrick headed back to West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, to complete his Master of Public Administration degree, and his Doctor of Education degree which prepared him for the next 15 years of university work with Greek Life at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), West Chester University (West Chester, PA) and Duquesne University of the Holy Ghost (Pittsburgh, PA). While in Morgantown, Patrick served on the Alpha Rho Housing Corporation and the Alumni Advisory Board. Patrick continued volunteering with the National Fraternity as the Chair of the Education Committee, Chair of the Resolutions Committee for four Supreme Chapter meetings, and Area Counselor for Area I. During his years of work in Higher Education, Patrick volunteered as Executive Director of the Northeast Interfraternity Conference (NEIFC) for five years bringing his knowledge of student leadership to more than 200 campuses in the greater northeast.

While serving the Fraternity as Area Counselor from 1982-1987, Patrick developed the Area Conclave education model which was the national standard for gathering chapters for leadership training between Pi Kapp College and/or Supreme Chapter sessions. By 1987, the Area Conclave developed into the Chapter Mid-Year Leadership Conference and is now referred to as Pi Kapp College for Chapter Officers. On August 14, 1987, during the 42nd Supreme Chapter held in Dallas, TX, Patrick was presented with the Pi Kappa Phi Merit Citation for his groundbreaking programs to include as many undergraduate chapters as possible. The Merit Citation is awarded biennially and is presented to alumni who exhibit exceptionally meritorious service on behalf of the Greater Fraternity. First awarded in 1934 at the 17th Supreme Chapter, fewer than 250 alumni have received a Merit Citation. Later that same year, Patrick would receive the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Fraternity Advisors for his development and expansion of the NEIFC.

The Undergraduate Chapter Journey Continues

1979

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During the 75th Supreme Chapter held in Charleston, SC in August 1979, Alpha Rho was one of four chapters awarded the President's Club plaque for raising more than \$1,000 for PUSH. The Supreme Chapter Delegates for Alpha Rho were Robert Laughner (AP68), Craig Winkelmann (AP69), James Peterson (AP79) and Charlie Francis (AP81). The President's Club award would be given to Alpha Rho again in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985.

1979 also brought to the chapter the Master Chapter Award for excellence in scholastic, leadership and financial stability. These accolades prompted the very first alumni communication sent by Archon Robert Laughner (AP68) on September 7, 1979. This form of Alpha Rho alumni communication became The Alpha Rhose in December 1979 which included updates from the Executive Council and Committee Chairs, as well as news of Alpha Rho alumni around the world.

Alpha Rho joined the West Virginia University Interfraternity Council during the fall of 1979 and has remained active with the IFC through the years.

The Alpha Rho Housing Corporation requested State of WV incorporation in 1979. The first Housing Corporation Board was President Bill Coleman (Alpha Phi, IIT, Vice President of West-over Bank), Dean John Brisbane (Alpha MU, Penn State, Dean of WVU Admissions and Records), Bill Stees (Alpha Upsilon, Drexel) and Craig Seacrist (Alpha Upsilon, Drexel). Brothers Stees and Seacrist were working in the Morgantown area after graduating from Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Alpha Rho engaged in its first sorority mixer with the members of Delta Delta Delta Sorority on November 1, 1979 at the Red Cellar in Morgantown. Craig Winkelmann (AP69) became a charter member of the Golden Key National Honor Society.

The *Star and Lamp* presented the following chapter report in the Winter 1980 edition: "Greetings y'all from Morgantown. After one year on the West Virginia campus, Alpha Rho has found itself highly respected among WVU's other Greeks. In late September 1979, the chapter officially became a member of the IFC and is now taking an active role in IFC functions. The Brothers have participated in two very worthwhile community service projects this semester. First, we helped WVU's Blood Bank in keeping its life-blood flowing. In addition, we are helping a needy graduate student obtain funds for a thesis journey to Scotland. Our school year started with a successful retreat in the mountains of West Virginia where the Brothers planned the fall semester. A second retreat was held mid-semester at a Holiday Inn in Uniontown, PA at which time we evaluated what had been accomplished and what is yet to come. The Chapter was very supportive of the mighty Mountaineer football team this season. The Brothers attended on masse while six of the Brothers participated in one of the best college bands in the country – the Pride of West Virginia. During the "Backyard Brawl" with Pitt, the Brothers met half a day early at the stadium to start the festivities. On the sporting side of the Chapter, the athletes were rather anemic. After our captain broke his hand in practice, it was all downhill for the football team. The Alpha Rho tennis team had a lot more success than the Gridders. After losing the first tennis match, the team proceeded to win four straight matches to capture the White Fraternity League crown. On December 7, there were five new additions to the Chapter. These men have participated in everything from community service to intramurals. While ending the semester, Alpha Rho is hoping to have one of the highest GPA among all of the fraterni-

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ties on campus for the third straight semester. Last semester the chapter achieved close to a 3.0 overall average and this semester a higher one is expected. Alpha Rho will spotlight the year with their PUSH Project. Led by Chairman Steve Woodard, the Pi Kapps are well on their way toward reaching their goal. The Chapter is hoping to raise enough money to buy a PUSH unit for the Colin-Anderson Center in St. Mary's, WV. Some of the planned PUSH events are car washes, raffles, a benefit dinner and capping off the year with a PUSH-A-Thon on April 12 where a wheelchair will be PUSHed from Morgantown to St. Mary's to raise contributions."

PUSHing Forward

1980

On April 11/12, 1980, Alpha Rho combined their efforts in a full-scale PUSH-a-thon which traveled 100 miles from Morgantown to Parkersburg, WV. The PUSH-a-thon was the culmination of a year-long effort by the chapter to design a fund raising event which would not only prove successful but would enable the entire chapter to participate. Plans for the event began in August 1979 when chapter members attending Supreme Chapter in Charleston met with PUSH Designer Tom Sayre. Upon returning to Morgantown, Co-Chairmen for the project Steve Woodard (AP86) and Chuck Dunbar (AP90) began coordinating media coverage, small fund raising events, support from community groups, and logistics.

Governor John D. Rockefeller IV assisted the effort by proclaiming April 7-13, 1980, as PUSH Week in West Virginia, and in doing so "urged all able-bodied and disabled adults to become aware of the many needs of West Virginia's severely disabled children and adults." As part of PUSH Week, members manned a special display table in the Mountainlair.

A major part of the chapter's effort during the year focused on contacting local community and campus organizations concerning the efforts to build a PUSH unit at the Colin Anderson Center in St. Mary's, WV. Over 50 organizations were contacted by the committee, many of which invited brothers to speak at their meetings. Over \$500 in contributions came from such visits.

After months of planning, the actual PUSH-a-thon began early on the morning of April 11 as Dean Joseph Gluck, Vice President of WVU, took the first turn pushing the wheelchair. PUSH Designer Tom Sayre and Chapter Leadership Consultant Patrick Farley (AP67) were also present for this event.

The actual safety considerations and route planning were coordinated by Brother Dunbar. The 100 mile journey was completed in 16.5 hours with an average speed of six miles per hour. At one point the police clocked the chair traveling at 12 miles per hour!

Upon arriving in Parkersburg, Gordon Bourland, a representative from the Colin Anderson Center, addressed the group and presented the project with a check from the staff members of the center. Funds from other events and those raised through the PUSH-a-thon exceeded the amount necessary to finance the WV unit.

The Spring 1980 *Star and Lamp* provided the following report: "As the semester started here at WVU, many of Alpha Rho's plans were already in full swing. Many of the brothers met over the

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Christmas break to get things started. Our two main priorities so far have been our housing project and PUSH. Alpha Rho's search for a house has met with little success, but this hasn't discouraged the Brothers in the least. We continue to check the Morgantown housing situation daily. Our efforts in PUSH are going very well, with all plans in their final steps. Under chairman Steve Woodard, response to PUSH from both the University and the community has been excellent. Pledges and contributions from many community organizations and University organizations are beginning to come in. We have been in contact with over 100 corporations and businesses in the Morgantown area. Governor John D. Rockefeller, IV has issued a proclamation making April 8-12 Push Week. Our PUSH campaign for this school year will climax with our PUSH-A-Thon. The Chapter will push a wheelchair from Morgantown to the Colin-Anderson Center in St. Mary's WV where we hope to get a PUSH unit. The 100 mile route is in the process of being approved by the West Virginia State Police. Also, each County Sheriff involved has been asked to escort us through his county. The Brothers are taking pledges on a per-mile basis, which has also met with much success. The Chapter has continued its blood donation community service project in the semester. Alpha Rho has been a big factor in helping the University Blood Bank. By the end of the year many of the Brothers will have donated blood. The Chapter is again active in the intramural program. With one more win the basketball team will move into the semi-finals. The bowling team is alive and holding its own. April will see five new additions to the Chapter. These five associate members are active on many committees and have a carwash for PUSH planned as their pledge project. Alpha Rho also has two alumni associate members this semester. Alpha Rho will round out two years here on the WVU campus in April. The Chapter has worked very hard and attained many goals, but we still have a long road ahead of us. We will continue to work and grow and make our presence known here on campus and nationally. Yes, Pi Kappa Phi, there is a West Virginia!"

The Fall of 1980 witnessed the cult movie "Animal House" filmed at the Pi Kappa Phi Alpha Omega house at the University of Oregon. And the same year brought Brother Randy Owen (Delta Epsilon, Jacksonville State University) and his band ALABAMA to the top of the Charts.

The Winter 1981 *Star and Lamp* report was: "As the semester here at WVU began, the Brothers were ready to make this semester one of the best in Alpha Rho's two-year history. The semester started out with a retreat to plan for rush and for setting some goals for this semester. It was held in the mountains around Morgantown, a perfect setting to get together and talk about Fraternity and Brotherhood. Rush for us this semester was very successful. We took 10 Associates, and on December 4, these fine young men were active. As Associates, they were active in the fraternity and we have high hopes for them in the coming semesters. In the area of sports, the chapter was very active. The brothers were out there every Saturday rooting for the Mountaineers and their new coach. Some of the football spirit must have rubbed off, for our intramural football team finished with a record of 3 and 5. Not a winning season, but the improvement over the previous seasons is staggering. Alpha Rho has continued its excellent record in the area of community service. Again this semester the Brothers donated blood to the area blood bank. We also raked leaves at a neighborhood church and went out to a local softball field to clean it up. This semester has produced a housing committee that just won't quit. The search for a house has intensified greatly and several prospective sites have been found, but nothing is definite yet. The march will continue, however, until something is found. In the IFC department, Alpha Rho has done well indeed. We captured first place in the fraternity divi-

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sion of Greek Sing and finished respectably in overall Greek Week. One of our Brothers was elected IFC Vice President, and we are very proud of him. Plans are now in the making for hosting an Area Conclave next semester. Although no definite plans have been set, they are in the making and everyone here is very excited about the idea. In conclusion, this semester has been a very good one for Alpha Rho and things are looking good for next semester. Alpha Rho is alive and kickin'!"

1981

The Alpha Rho report for the Summer 1981 *Star and Lamp*: "The spring semester of 1981 is going to be a very busy one for the Brothers of Alpha Rho. Plans are now in full swing for PUSH and an Area Conclave that the chapter will host. Will the Brothers of Alpha Rho do it again? The chapter is planning another PUSH-A-Thon under the guidance of PUSH chairman Chuck Huber. The Brothers plan to push a wheelchair for 100 miles around the WVU Coliseum and collect donations per mile. Plans to contact a radio station and for sorority assistance are being pursued. Alpha Rho is to be the ground host for an Area Conclave. Invitations have been extended to the chapters in Area XXIII and responses are now being received. It is the foal of the chapter not only to make the visiting Brothers feel welcome, but in addition to make the Conclave a substantial experience. Rush is going very well. The new Associate Members are working hard and the Brothers wish to extend their gratitude to these fine men. Our search for a house is still in progress. The chapter has been looking at different prospects. The search of the Morgantown area will continue. Alpha Rho's presence on campus is being widely recognized and through continual Brotherhood the chapter will become even more successful. We are determined not only to be the "Number One" fraternity on campus, but also to make our presence known nationwide. We extend our blessings to all of the chapters of Pi Kappa Phi. Go get 'em Pi Kapps!"

The Winter 1982 edition of the *Star and Lamp* Alpha Rho report: "The Brothers at West Virginia University send their best to all alumni and Brothers everywhere! A las has happened this fall. First, we would like to ask all Brothers to say a prayer for Brother Lawrence F. Oneacre (AP2) who recently passed away in his hometown of New Martinsville, West Virginia. His is sadly missed by all the Brothers here at WVU. Turning to some brighter news, let it be known that Alpha Rho NOW HAS A HOUSE! Thanks to the hard work of alumnus Brothers Pat Farley and Bill Coleman, housing directors, as well as many others, this chapter will be able to move into the two-story building this summer. It is located on the downtown campus. We invite all Brothers to visit us at the Pi Kappa Phi house next fall. Homecoming was especially good to the Brothers at West Virginia this fall. Our chapter sweetheart Sandy Yarish, a music major from Carmichael, Pennsylvania, was chosen as the 1981 WVU Homecoming Queen at special pre-game ceremonies before the student body. Newly elected Archon Edward Neese was Sandy's escort. Initiated into the Chapter on December 3, 1981 were David Edward, Jay Marano, Tom Huffman and Sean Cunningham. Our third annual PUSH-A-Thon will be much bigger this year. On April 24, 1982, the Brothers along with many volunteers will push a wheelchair around the perimeter of the Morgantown Mall in Morgantown. Brother Gary Thompson is spearheading the Chapter's efforts. A large PUSH booth will be set up in the Mall. We raised funds for the unit placed on Colin-Anderson Center in Parkersburg, West Virginia. It is performing well and is presently being much used. Alpha Rho will continue to be a President's Club Chapter. In conclusion, we wish all other chapters and brothers everywhere continued success and godspeed.

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1982

In the summer of 1982 the fraternity secured their first house at 206 Grant Street – directly across from the entrance to Summit Hall (a private resident apartment complex in the Sunny-side neighborhood). During the summer and fall of 1982, chapter Green Reports to the National Fraternity signaled a need for change in chapter leadership and management. A major re-organization of the chapter occurred in the spring of 1983 under the leadership of Archon Giles Davidson, Chapter Advisor John Brisbane, Housing Corporation President Patrick Farley and Glenn Dixson, Assistant Executive Director of Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity. After the reorganization, 10 active Brothers remained to lead the chapter. At the same time, Dean Brisbane decided to step down as Chapter Advisor. As his replacement, Dean Brisbane suggested Dr. Nicholas ‘Nick’ Evans, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Director of the Undergraduate Advisement Center. As Dr. Evans was not a member of Pi Kappa Phi, the chapter initiated him as an Alumnus Initiate on April 16, 1983. Dean Brisbane would remain as Alpha Rho Chapter Advisor Emeritus for the remainder of his life. The reorganization resulted in the Alpha Rho Charter being placed in escrow, not with the National Fraternity, but with the local Alumni and Advisors.

Alpha Rho Gets a House and a Sweetheart!

Karen Hooten of Bridgeport, WV, became the first Chapter Sweetheart. Karen was a senior majoring in education and a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority.

The National Rose Queen competition in 1982 culminated with Alpha Rho’s Rose Queen nominee Sandra Ann Yarish placing as Second Runner-up during Pi Kapp College in Roanoke, VA. Ms. Yarish would go on in June 1985 to star in *42nd Street* at the Forrest Theater in Philadelphia, and in *A Little Help From My Friends* at the Philadelphia Society Hill Playhouse. She would reprise her role in *42nd Street* in December 1985 at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center in Orlando, FL.

The Fall 1982 Chapter Report appeared in the Winter 1983 *Star and Lamp*: “The purchase of Alpha Rho’s first house has been a great driving force behind the Brothers and has developed a greater sense of unity. The house is shaping up nicely, and with the aid of several very successful fundraisers, more improvements are in the works. This semester, as in the past, our attention has turned to PUSH. The Brothers are looking forward to a very successful PUSH-A-Thon like the one held last year, and a very productive year in all aspects.”

1983 - Chapter Reorganization

On February 23, 1983, Pi Kappa Phi National Chapter Services Consultant Glenn Dickson visited Alpha Rho Chapter after three consecutive semesters of below-average statistics from traveling Leadership Consultants. Archon Giles Davidson (AP104) hosted Brother Dickson’s visit and decided that a full chapter reorganization would be the best approach to raising the chapter’s statistics in membership, academics and finance. 11 undergraduate members were placed on immediate alumnus status, which left 10 active undergraduates to re-build the chapter. The chapter’s charter was not revoked by the National Fraternity; rather, the charter was placed in escrow with the local Alumni Advisory Council until the undergraduate chapter re-built its foundation. The Alumni Advisory Council consisted of Dean John Brisbane (Chapter Advisor Emeritus),

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Dean Nicholas Evans (Chapter Advisor), Patrick Farley (AP67), Robert Laughner (AP68), Craig Winkelmann (AP69), and Charles Francis (AP81).

The 10 active members and the five Associate Members of the Spring 1983 reorganization were known as “Core 15.” The Alpha Rho Executive Council for the spring 1983 semester worked diligently to bring Alpha Rho back to higher ground. The Executive Council consisted of Archon Giles Davidson (AP104), Vice-Archon James McCormick (AP96), Treasurer William Russell (AP122), Secretary Timothy Leary (AP125), Warden John C. Marano (AP120), and Historian/Chaplain David Deskins (AP108). The remaining actives of Core 15 were C.R. Piatt (AP124), Bret Michael (AP94), Ed Neese (AP95) and Gary Thompson (AP99).

The Spring 1983 Associate Member Class, and part of Core 15, was Thomas McCormick (AP129), David Cowgill (AP130), Christian Derstine (AP131), Donald McNeill (AP132) and Thomas Mooney (AP133).

During the reorganization, many chapter events, such as frequent spaghetti dinners and formal rush parties were held in the apartment of brothers John C. “Jay” Marano, Jr. (AP120) and Charles R. “C.R.” Piatt (AP124) located at 883 East Everly Street, Apartment 5, on the Evansdale Campus.

The Summer 1983 report from the *Star and Lamp* read: “During a recent membership evaluation we found that many of the “actives” were not actually as active after all. These members were interviewed and asked to help support building of the fraternity in order to give Alpha Rho a solid, dependable membership base with which to continue strengthening our chapter. Our main goal now, this spring, was to once again raise \$1,000 for Project PUSH – a minimum chapter of contribution of \$1,000 qualifies for membership in the President’s Club at Supreme Chapter. Alpha Rho will become the first chapter to hold this award for five years running. Many thanks to the alumni who continue to support Alpha Rho, and we encourage you to let us hear from you often.”

The 10 active brothers along with the five new spring 1983 initiates spent most of the fall of 1983 and spring of 1984 building relationships with freshmen in the Towers Residence Hall. It was through this continuous, daily, focused and sincere recruitment that the chapter grew from ### to ### the end of the 1984 spring semester (Jay has dates and numbers)

In lieu of a spring Rose Ball Formal due to the chapter size, a Rose Ball Banquet was held at Tony’s Restaurant on April 29, 1983. Brother Giles Davidson was presented with the Lawrence F. Oneacre Award during the banquet. Special guests at the dinner were outgoing Chapter Advisor Dr. John Brisbane and his wife Leah, and incoming Chapter Advisor Dr. Nicholas Evans and his wife JoAnn.

Due to landlord disputes regarding a lack of maintenance at the chapter house at 206 Grant Street, Brother Giles Davidson decided it was best to vacate the house in the summer of 1983. Events were held at the rented house of Brother Davidson, 1030 Willowdale Drive (next to Blue Lot at Milan Puskar Stadium).

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In September 1983, Alpha Rho welcomed Brother Randy Owen (Delta Epsilon, Jacksonville State University) and the members of the band *ALABAMA* to WVU for a concert. Randy Owen had just been inducted to the Pi Kappa Phi National Hall of Fame in August 1983.

The chapter celebrated Homecoming 1983 with parents and alumni during the weekend of October 14-16, 1983.

The Fall 1983 Chapter report appeared in the Winter 1984 *Star and Lamp*: “This year the Alpha Rho Chapter has been very successful. We have decided to raise our standards. We are planning to raise \$2,500 for PUSH, help out more in the community, and get our largest pledge class ever. We started out the year was a very successful canoe trip on Cheat Lake in the Morgantown area. We rented canoes, paddled down the lake, and had a picnic. It went so well that we hope to make it an annual event. Homecoming weekend was the next main event. We had great pleasure in entertaining our alumni both before the game with a tailgate and after with a reception. The next main event we are all anticipating is our Founder’s Day Formal which will be held at the house of Dean Brisbane, who is the Dean of Admissions and Records. This semester has gone quite well for Alpha Rho and next semester will be even better.”

1984

Prior to the spring semester of 1984, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity presented each undergraduate chapter a handsome brass bell to be rung at the beginning of each meeting. The bell was inscribed upon its base with the chapter name Alpha Rho. The chapter would also ring the bell during Formal Rush to gather everyone in attendance to be formally introduced to the newest Associate Member to accept his bid.

During the weekend of February 9-12, 1984 thirteen brothers and four associates traveled to Pipestem State Park in southern West Virginia for a retreat. They also traveled to Radford University the same weekend to attend the Area IX Conclave. Alpha Rho was the largest chapter delegation in attendance with 17 brothers.

On Saturday, April 7, 1984 Alpha Rho held its first Rose Ball formal since the reorganization of February 1983. The following Saturday, April 11, the brothers held their annual P.U.S.H.-athon at the Mountaineer Mall Parking Lot. The previous five years the chapter received the National Fraternity’s President’s Club Award (\$1,000 minimum annual contribution) for its outstanding fundraising abilities.

After much research and numerous deliberations with Judge Ronald G. Pearson of Charleston, WV, a lease was signed between the Alpha Rho Housing Corporation and Judge Pearson to secure the former Gamma Phi Beta Sorority House at 591 Spruce Street and the chapter officially moved in on Sunday, July 1, 1984. As the current Housing Corporation had no collateral, 10 faithful alumni signed individual security notes of \$1,000 each to come up with the \$10,000 security deposit for the property. Those alumni were John Brisbane, Giles Davidson, Nicholas Evans, Patrick Farley, Charles Francis, Charles Huber, Robert Laughner, John Marano, James Peterson and Craig Winkelmann. Having this house away from Fraternity Row, but across from the Sororities gave Alpha Rho the footing it needed to grow in the mid and late 1990's. The chapter increased its size considerably during this time. Mr. Bill Coleman remained the President of the

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Alpha Rho Alumni Housing Corporation. Giles Davidson was name Vice President of the Housing Corporation.

The 1984 Summer Report from the *Star and Lamp* stated: “We have nine pledges with the best attitudes we’ve seen in a long time. We have had two separate fundraisers for PUSH to help us reach our goal of \$2,500 and are one of the proudest Pi Kapp chapters. During February 9-12 we held a very successful retreat in southern West Virginia where 13 Brothers and 4 Associates were in attendance. We then proceeded down to Area IX Conclave at Radford University where we had the largest delegation in attendance. The whole weekend was successful.”

Brothers Chris Derstine (AP131), Victor Folio (AP135), Jay Marano (AP120), Tom McCormick (AP129) and Matt Reedy (AP139) attended Pi Kappa College in Roanoke August 5-9, 1984.

Tom McCormick (AP129) was appointed the Chapter’s first House Manager in August 1984.

Patrick Folio (AP147) won the Bell Award in fall 1984

On December 7, 1984 the annual “Wine and Cheese” Founders’ Day Reception was held at the fraternity house instead of the Brisbane’s home for the first time since the chapter was re-chartered. The fraternity house was decorated for the Christmas holiday. There were candles, pine garlands on the fireplace mantels and a Christmas tree decorated with strings of popcorn hand made by the brothers. Special guests in attendance that night were Chapter Advisor Emeritus Dr. John and Leah Brisbane and Chapter Advisor Dr. Nick Evans and JoAnn Evans.

1985

The Chapter’s First Groundhog Day Party, the brainstorming result of Brother Erik Presto (AP142) was held on Saturday, February 2, 1985 at the chapter house.

At the Spring Formal of 1985, Brother Giles Davidson (AP104), representing the Alpha Rho Alumni Advisory Council, returned the chapter charter to the undergraduate chapter. There was a brief ceremony to remove the charter from escrow and place it back into the hands of the chapter under the leadership of Archon Victor Folio (AP135).

During Supreme Chapter 1985 in Charlotte NC, Lisa Christina Hall (Kappa Kappa Gamma) was named First Runner-Up for the National Rose Queen. Lisa hailed from Clarksburg, WV.

1986

By 1986, Alpha Rho was once again a leader on campus, and Brother Ken Price (AP157) was elected President of the WVU Interfraternity Council. Brother Price was the first Alpha Rho undergraduate to serve on the IFC Board.

The Summer 1986 *Star and Lamp* featured Alpha Rho in the Chapter Spotlight: “Alpha Rho at West Virginia sees success; Years of work pay off. The Alpha Rho Chapter has had a somewhat unique past. Like so many chapters, it has had its share of difficulties. Alpha Rho began in May of 1930 through the efforts of Brother A. Pelzer Wagener. However, the chapter only remained on the campus of West Virginia University for a period of nine years. As time passed there were

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continued efforts by a small number of alumni to bring Alpha Rho back to life. Finally, after much perseverance, their dreams became a reality in November of 1978. The Rechartering event occurred in the very same location, with the same menu, as did the original chartering. The chapter again started out strong, but within a period of five years that chapter ran into the same difficulties it had experienced in 1930. This time, however, the charter was not withdrawn by the national organization, instead the chapter was reorganized. Three and a half years have passed since that reorganization, and the men of Alpha Rho are very proud to say that they are an integral part of the thriving fraternity world at WVU. Success did not come to the chapter overnight; rather, it was a slow but rewarding process. The reorganization had left the chapter with a core of ten Brothers and five Associates. “Core Fifteen” as it was called, pulled together and set out to become a fraternity which they could be extremely proud of. Alpha Rho is now the strongest it has ever been in its history. Forty-five Brothers will return to West Virginia this fall. They will continue to improve their membership, both qualitatively and quantitatively. It is difficult to determine exactly what made the chapter’s reorganization so successful. It is undoubtedly the result of a combination of various factors. The one that is most readily identifiable is the fact that the rebuilding process was done carefully, rather than hastily. The chapter had a few lean semesters, but never did it sacrifice quality for quantity. This, combined with strong leadership and plenty of organization, carried the Alpha Rho Chapter through its difficult past. The future is bright for Alpha Rho and it is certain that they will continue to prosper as long as they never forget the difficult time behind them.”

Brothers Joe Cabell (AP160), Patrick Folio (AP147), Phil Lowe (AP153) and Ken Price (AP157) attended the 1986 Pi Kappa College in Roanoke, VA, and returned with the Bronze Star Award for raising a minimum of \$2,500 for Project PUSH, a second place finish for the Management Award, the Added Value Award for having more than three Alumni Initiates, and the +5 Award for initiating five more Associate Members than our goal. More impressively, Alpha Rho brought home the Theron Houser Award for most improved chapter in the nation!

Alpha Rho participated in the 1986 WVU Homecoming events for the first time, teaming up with Delta Delta Delta Sorority and winning First Place for the week! Brother Patrick Folio (AP147) was selected as a finalist for “Mr. Mountaineer” that year.

1987

In 1987, Jay Marano, Jr. (AP120) was chosen to be an Area Counselor for Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity covering Area I and Area IX. Jay’s jurisdiction included the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Slippery Rock University, West Virginia University, Marshall University and West Virginia Institute of Technology. In the same year, Brother Marano became the Alpha Rho Housing Corporation Vice President.

1987 also brought Alpha Rho recognition as Armando Bonilla (AP169) was selected Drum Major of the prestigious WVU Mountaineer Marching Band.

We initiated Slippery Rock sometime in 1987?

The fall of 1987 saw new faces on the Alpha Rho Housing Corporation. Bill Coleman resigned as President. A full Housing Board was put into place with President Craig Winkelmann (AP69),

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Vice President Jay Marano (AP120), Treasurer Victor Folio (AP135), Secretary James Smallridge (AP [redacted]), and President Emeritus Bill Coleman.

Brother Joe Cabell (AP [redacted]) was appointed the WVU Interfraternity Council Vice President of Rush.

1988

During Pi Kapp College 1988 in Dallas, Texas, Brother Armando Bonilla (AP169) was named Second Runner-Up for Pi Kappa Phi's National Student of the Year and was selected to be part of the Ritual Team for Pi Kapp College.

The tenth anniversary of the Rechartering of Alpha Rho Chapter was celebrated in 1988 at the Hotel Morgan.

1989

In 1989, Brother Bonilla (AP169) was selected WVU's Greek Man of the Year and named First Runner-Up for "Mr. Mountaineer!"

On March 14, 1989, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity Assistant Executive Director Glenn Dickson wrote to Alpha Rho Archon Jarett Bush (AP190), requiring a letter to be received in Charlotte, NC by no later than April 1, 1989 signed by all chapter officers indicating compliance with the Fraternity's Risk Management Policy, and especially the section dealing with the purchase of alcohol with chapter funds. This letter would be the first of many conversations between Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity and Alpha Rho Chapter about a problem that would eventually lead to the chapter's charter being revoked 26 years later in 2015.

Alpha Rho was chosen to be the official Initiation Team to bring Zeta Pi Chapter at Marshall University into Pi Kappa Phi on Friday, September 29, 1989 in Huntington, West Virginia. Ten Alpha Rho brothers participated in the Ritual: Dave Porter (AP [redacted]), Steve Duke (AP [redacted]), Tom Dahlquist (AP156), Dan Roy (AP [redacted]), Greg Hack (AP [redacted]), Tim Snow (AP [redacted]), Michael Turner (AP220), Jeff Kummer (AP241), Fred Lewis (AP [redacted]), and Ken Snyder (AP [redacted]).

In the 80's, and as the decade was winding down, fraternities on campus were experiencing their height of popularity. Fraternity membership numbers averaged well over 100 men, and some fraternities were as large as 150 men. Pledge classes of 50 to 80 men were not out of the ordinary. Fraternities were largely seen as a way for underage men and women to drink without worrying about the legal drinking age. Massive parties with hundreds of kegs a night being tapped were the norm. Recruitment was about throwing the biggest parties and getting a bunch of freshman to show up. It was here when the legend of WVU as the nation's #1 Party School was formed. Consequently, and as might be expected the quality of Greek membership began to decline. Several unfortunate and high profile incidents began to put the Greeks under a microscope. Hazing, alcohol poisoning, sexual assaults and a death on campus after a Greek party, really had WVU officials questioning the future of all Fraternities and Sororities. Our campus wasn't alone in this phenomenon. Across the nation there were many similar incidents that resulted in multi-million dollar judgements against National fraternities. The media took every opportunity to question if there was still a place for Greeks on American campuses. At the same

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time, the cost of insuring the homes and liability for Greeks began to skyrocket. As a result, many fraternities joined together to form purchasing groups to pool the risk. With these purchasing groups, the insurers insisted upon rules and risk prevention measures being implemented as a condition of being insured.

So it was during the Mid-Year Leadership Conference after the fall semester of 1989, Archon Brent Webster (AP219) was informed that Pi Kappa Phi would be joining several other national fraternities in what was then known as F.I.P.G. Fraternity Insurance Purchasing Group. The rules of the group prohibited its member chapters from purchasing alcohol in bulk quantities (i.e. kegs, party balls, etc.) and did not allow for chapters to provide alcohol from common sources. It also prohibited chapters from having open parties. This news hit like a ton of bricks and signaled the end of unregulated parties. Brent Webster had the courage of his convictions and stated that regardless of what anyone thought, Pi Kappa Phi would abide by these rules at WVU.

1990

On St. Patrick's Day (March 17) 1990, the Alpha Rho Housing Corporation called an emergency meeting due to the owner of the Pi Kappa Phi house (Dr. Elias Costianes), did not want to renew the chapter's lease as he was leaning toward renting to a new sorority that had emerged on the WVU campus. After months of negotiation, a new lease was successfully negotiated for one year with a three-year renewal agreement. During the March meeting, the Housing Corporation elected new officers. The new Alpha Rho Housing Corporation was President Jay Marano (AP120), Vice President Allen Ashforth (AP___), Treasurer Charles Piatt (AP124), Secretary Charles Riggle (AP159), Alumnus Representative Keith Dague (AP146), Chapter Advisor Nicholas Evans (AP128), Undergraduate Archon Brent Webster (AP219), Undergraduate Representatives Dennis Resek (AP193) and John Gallagher (AP___).

We were the only Fraternity on campus to implement the changes and did not allow kegs or open parties beginning in the spring of 1990. This led to over half its members to quitting Pi Kappa Phi. The other Fraternities on campus openly laughed at us and spread rumors around campus that we were now a "Dry" fraternity. The chapter was only able to recruit 4 associate members in the spring of 1990. However, with the brave and determined leadership of Brent Webster over his two semesters as Archon, the Chapter and its remaining members renewed and strengthened their commitment to the ideals of the Founders and of the Rechartering Brothers.

After the dark year of 1989-1990, the Chapter had 20 members, no visibility on campus but was determined to emerge based on a belief that Alpha Rho and Pi Kappa Phi could be a great fraternity. After a good recruitment in the fall of 1990, the Chapter gained momentum and began to fight for respect. Strong and focused leaders such as Mike "Norm" Frola (AP___), Andy Dunn (AP___), T.J. Katz (AP___), Kurt Bolland (AP___), Chris Vari (AP___), Kevin and Rob Wallace (AP___), and Tom Begley (AP284) emerged from the legacy of Brent Webster and were determined to make Pi Kappa Phi the leading Fraternity on the campus of WVU.

1991

Beginning in the spring of 1991 Archon TJ Katz (AP___) and Vice Archon Tom Begley (AP284) led an unprecedented recruitment effort using innovative techniques that saw the Chapter bring in

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and initiate 38 new members over two semesters. Alpha Rho also gained newfound respect among the Greek community by leading in the Risk Management area proving that we could have fun yet be responsible. As other fraternities on campus struggled and resisted the changes that we had made in 1990, we moved forward. Our members were beginning to make a real impact on campus. The Chapter was honored and inspired by our Brother Rich Harbert who was selected as a rider for the Journey of Hope. His training, participation and completion in this event were, and still is, a source of tremendous pride for Alpha Rho. The academic achievement of the Chapter during this time also began to emerge.

In 1991, Alpha Rho was represented on the PUSH America bicycle team with Rich Harbert (AP [redacted]) who rode from San Francisco, CA to Charleston, SC in time for Supreme Chapter. The Alpha Rho Housing Corporation added T.J. Katz (AP253) as the Undergraduate Archon, and Undergraduate Representative Tom Begley (AP284) replaced Dennis Resek.

During the 1991 meeting of the Alpha Rho Housing Corporation, a new Board of Directors was elected: President Patrick Farley (AP67), Vice President Chuck Riggle (AP159), Treasurer C.R. Piatt (AP124), Secretary Tom Dulaney (AP165), Chapter Advisor Nicholas Evans (AP128), Alumnus Representative Victor Folio (AP135), Undergraduate Archon Jon Patterson (AP296), and Undergraduate Members Greg Hack (AP [redacted]) and Mike Frola (AP268).

Pi Kappa Phi was once again represented with the WVU Interfraternity Council when Brother Tom Begley (AP284) was elected Executive Vice President for the 1991-92 academic year and President for the 1992-93 academic year. Andrew Dunn (AP288) served with Brother Begley as the IFC Vice President of Public Relations for the 1992-93 academic year.

While serving as the WVU IFC President, Brother Begley also served as the Executive Vice President of the Northeast Interfraternity Conference (NEIFC) for the 1992-93 academic year.

1992

The Chapter began winning intramural competitions and for the first time ever, won the Greek Week competition and Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash. Under the guidance of Andy Dunn and Jon Patterson, the chapter held its first all Greek competition in the spring of 1992 to raise money and awareness for Push America (Now called Ability Experience). We raised more money for our philanthropy in this one week than Alpha Rho had collectively raised in all the years on campus to that point. By that time, we were the "It" fraternity on campus. With the difficulties of the 1990 calendar year clearly behind us, we were thriving.

The November 14, 1992 meeting of the Alpha Rho Housing Corporation re-elected the officers, and replaced the Alumnus Representative with Jay Marano (AP120), and the Undergraduate Representatives with Tom Begley (AP284) and Andrew M. Dunn (AP288).

1993

The Chapter had the highest cumulative GPA of all Greek organizations in the 1992-1993 Academic year. The hard work, good practices and results paid off for Alpha Rho when we were recognized as Best Fraternity on Campus for the 1992-1993 Academic year.

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Jeff Geissler (AP254) joined the Journey of Hope (formerly PUSH America) team in the summer of 1993 as a photographer and public relations representative.

1995

After 9 years at 591 Spruce St., Pi Kappa Phi Properties assisted in the purchase of 650 Spruce Street. Mike Turner (AP220) became Housing Corporation President was the driving influence behind Alpha Rho finally being able to purchase a home. He worked with Alumni and with local banks to secure the financing necessary to enter into the agreement with Pi Kapp Properties. For over 25 years, Mike has served continually as Housing Corporation President. No one has done more for Alpha Rho continually then Mike Turner.

1999

In the late 1990's, two Alumni had observed that over the years Alumni participation was virtually non-existent and that if the Chapter was to thrive, we needed a stable and active alumni base. Eric Dyson (AP355) and Anthony Graley (AP359) established the Alpha Rho Alumni Chapter in 1999. Using technology and burgeoning social networks they created a database that linked Alpha Rho all the way back to Charles Leet, AP1. It was the first time regular communication was used to allow Alumni to talk to and plan events with other Alumni. The Alumni Chapter became well organized and truly productive under the leadership of Ben Hanko (AP434). Ben led the Alumni Chapter as it planned and hosted several events that were attended by Alumni as far back as the 1970's

2003

Ben Hanko (AP434) guided the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Rechartering of Alpha Rho that was attended by over 170 Alumni and guests over a 4 day period in 2003. The success of the 25th Anniversary can be attributed to the yeomen's amount of work by co-chairs Tom Begley (AP284) and Patrick Folio (AP147).

-----**End of Farley Edit 083116**-----

The Aughtys and beyond.

At the dawn of the new Millennium, Alpha Rho lost its long time Chapter Advisor Dr. Nick Evans who resigned from the University after serving as Associate Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. Nick had been the Chapter Advisor since the early 1980's. To fill the void, Former Archon and Alumni Chapter founder Eric Dyson (AP355) took over the duties. Almost immediately, Eric was faced with enormous challenges with risk management violations and housing problems. Since he pledged in the fall of 1992, Eric has been active in all aspects of the Chapter. He and Mike Turner are responsible for having our Chapter continually on campus for as long as it has been.

After the 25th Rechartering, Tom Begley, AP284 was elected to the office of Alumni Chapter President. Tom had served on the Board of the Alumni Chapter and Housing Corporation and had remained active in the Chapter since graduation in 1993. During most of the 2000's, Tom

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assisted Eric Dyson as a member of the Board of Alumni Advisors and helped him create many of the processes that were put in place to assist the chapter. Tom has overseen both the 30th and 35th Rechartering anniversary celebrations in 2008 and 2014. As an undergraduate, Tom was part of the Executive Council during the 1990-91 year and served as Warden for Brent Webster during the tumultuous period in our Chapter's history.

During the late 2000's, the Chapter had strayed far from the ideals of the Founders and its members really detached themselves from the Rechartering spirit of Alpha Rho. The chapter found itself dangerously close to losing the Charter as the National Office and National Council had grown frustrated with the continual violations of Risk Management policies and procedures. Matt Loffa, AP 628 became Archon in 2011 and led the Chapter in a new and different direction. He implemented changes to processes and held members to account for their finances and to uphold the Oath they took during initiation. He oversaw incredible recruitment efforts that gave us associate class sizes that had never been achieved before. His efforts kept Alpha Rho afloat during some of the most difficult and tumultuous times in Alpha Rho's history. After graduation, he stayed active within the Fraternity and with Alpha Rho.

The chapter celebrated its 30th Anniversary of the Rechartering at the Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown. Pi Kappa Phi Chief Executive Officer Mark E. Timmes (AE, Florida) was the keynote speaker. Patrick Farley (AP67) emceed the event.

By the spring of 2014, the Alpha Rho Chapter had once again fallen back into a pattern of risk management violations and not adhering to the standards that Pi Kappa Phi and Alpha Rho Alumni have set for the chapter. Tom Begley was asked by the National Office to step into the role of Chapter Advisor to help turn things around. Alpha Rho was placed on an Action Plan that gave its members the choice of returning to the foundations of membership or removing themselves from active membership. In spite of the numerous verbal and written warnings, the Chapter continued to blatantly disregard the Risk Management policies. In May of 2015, the national organization brought the Chapter up on formal charges and was brought before a committee of the National Council where the Archon had to answer for the multiple transgressions in a very difficult and tumultuous hearing. After deliberations and consultations were held with the University and Alumni leaders led by Tom Begley, Eric Dyson and Mike Turner, the National Council voted to revoke the Charter of Alpha Rho. For the first time in 37 years, Alpha Rho did not have a Student Chapter on the campus of West Virginia University.

Although this was a sad and regrettable event, plans were immediately put in place to reorganize Alpha Rho. Thanks to the cooperative spirit that the Alumni, University and National Staff worked under during this time, Alpha Rho was assured that a Student Chapter would be returned to campus as early as possible.

Fortunately, the Housing Corporation was able to enter into an agreement with the University to lease the property during our hiatus and ensured financial stability. At the same time, efforts were made and to reconstitute the Alumni Chapter. A new Constitution and Bylaws along with a Code of Conduct were written and ratified by members. Tom Begley was granted permission to retain his role as President and Chief Executive Officer and named a Board of Directors that was comprised of members who spanned all eras of Alpha Rho's 37 years since Rechartering in 1978.

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As part of the new responsibilities outlined in the new Constitution, a Committee was formed to evaluate all aspects that led to the revocation of the Charter and to recommend processes to ensure that it never happens again.

In July 2016, the Alpha Rho Alumni Chapter lead by President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Begley (AP284) won the Alumni Chapter of the Year award during the 55th Supreme Chapter in Austin, Texas.

Throughout the year 2017, Tom Begley (AP284) and the Alpha Rho Alumni Chapter Board of Directors continued to have monthly meetings via conference calls, and sponsored two events in Morgantown: the Spring Alumni Weekend in April 2017 and Homecoming in October 2017. Both events were milestone events in attendance. In the Fall of 2017, APAC President and CEO Tom Begley received a call from Mark Timmes, Executive Director of Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity, informing him of the great news that the Alpha Rho Chapter petition to the National Council had been approved and expansion efforts for the re-chartering of Alpha Rho chapter at WVU would start in January, 2018. This news, combined with the approval of Pi Kappa Phi to return to the WVU fraternity and sorority community, started an avalanche of great events for Alpha Rho.

On the last Sunday of January 2018, Parker Begale and Conner Burk arrived on campus and began building the foundation for the new associate chapter.