SPRING 2024

THE MINERVA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF WYOMING ALPHA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

Let's Talk About That

Wyoming Alpha Chapter Announces New Alumni Communication Program

We are thrilled to kick off this exciting initiative by bringing in a professional communications company. Our primary goal is to bridge the gap between our undergraduates and esteemed alumni, cultivate a thriving network that celebrates our shared values and experiences, and foster stronger connections, engagement, and involvement within our Fraternity community at the University of Wyoming.

OUR GOALS:

1. **Enhancing Communication:** We aim to establish robust communication channels to ensure our valued alumni are updated on news and events. We'll keep you informed about the Fraternity's activities, achievements, and plans through newsletters, social media platforms, and exclusive emails.

2. **Rekindling Bonds:** We're committed to restoring the spirit of brotherhood by creating meaningful opportunities for alumni to reconnect with former classmates, forge new friendships, and reminisce about the golden memories that define our Fraternity.

3. **Encouraging Involvement:** Your wealth of experience and wisdom are invaluable to our Fraternity's growth. We invite you to participate actively by sharing insights, offering mentorship, and contributing to the development of our current members. Your involvement will immensely benefit brothers of all ages.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Attend Alumni Events
Mark your calendars for special reunions, Homecoming celebrations, and networking gatherings.

Share Your Expertise
Mentorship programs, career panels, and workshops allow alumni to contribute their professional expertise, guiding undergraduates toward successful futures.

Support Fraternity Initiatives
Your donations, sponsorships, and volunteer hours are pivotal in advancing our Fraternity's mission and programs.

Volunteer
Give back to the Fraternity as a chapter advisor, house corporation, or alumni association board member.

The Wyoming Alpha Chapter thrives on the bond between past and present members. Together, let's build on our legacy and nurture a vibrant community that embodies the essence of our brotherhood. Stay tuned for more communications and upcoming events! We look forward to reconnecting and strengthening our Fraternity family.

In the Bonds,
Nick Turner '14
House Corporation Vice President





Alumni and undergraduates alike enjoy a beautiful day at the chapter house during last year's fall 2023 Round-Up event.



There's nothing like a snowy mountain hike to bring brothers together!



Brothers gather with newly initiated members for a commemorative group photo.

RISE ABOVE

RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY, SERVICE

Undergraduates Strive for Excellence on and off Campus

GETTING INVOLVED

Our brothers have found unique ways to raise funds for the chapter. This past fall, we launched the "CSU Hate Board" on Prexy's Pasture, where students participated by throwing paint-filled balloons at a CSU logo. This creative and engaging event garnered enthusiastic participation by many on campus. We collaborated with Chi Omega to paint the CSU logo target, which fostered unity and camaraderie among the Greek organizations on campus while showcasing our creative talents.

We have also taken on security roles for events at university football and basketball games. This partnership helps us financially and provides valuable experience and networking opportunities for our members.

PHILANTHROPY EVENTS

In fall 2023, we achieved a remarkable feat during our annual Halloween event: after three nights of generating screams and scares from our peers on campus, our haunted house raised an incredible $8,680! Community and university support enabled this event to be a premiere destination, with attendance lines out the door.



Brothers deliver flowers and shovel snow for sororities on a snowy January day.

We are proud to say the haunted house not only shattered last year's donation record but also reinforced our commitment to making a positive impact. The entire sum was donated to the Laramie Soup Kitchen, supporting their essential work in our community. With a resolute commitment from every membership class, it is the chapter's goal to host an even more successful event at the FSL awards this spring.



Undergraduates compete in the Tug of War competition during Greek Week.

ACADEMIC ENCOURAGEMENT

Our commitment to academic excellence remains steadfast. Last semester, our chapter achieved a GPA of 3.0. While we are proud of our members' hard work, we are committed to enhancing this performance still further. As a chapter, we have resolved to improve our performance through a comprehensive and disciplined study regimen. It is important for any members who are struggling in the classroom to know that they have an extensive support system.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Thank you for your continued support! It was truly wonderful to see the turnout at Homecoming festivities and other UW football games. We hope this trend continues in the future, and we look forward to updating you on our progress and sharing our achievements.

Fraternally,
Damon Grace '23
Eminent Deputy Archon
[redacted]

Chapter Officers

Eminent Archon
Jackson Miller '23

Eminent Deputy Archon
Damon Grace '23

Eminent Treasurer
Levi Johnson '23

Eminent Recorder
Liam Sipple '23

Eminent Warden
Reece Moorehouse '22

Eminent Herald
Josh Brockway '21

Eminent Correspondent
Gage Stanek '23

Eminent Chaplain
Nick Marsh '23

Eminent Chronicler
Mason Wiesen '23

Health and Safety Chairman
Anton Kudar '23

New Member Educators
Zach Blundell '21
Brian Raichert '19

Scholarship Chairman
Garrett Cox '21

Recruitment Chairman
Cameron Swarts '21

House Manager
Garrett Clamage '23

Elevate Your Giving

Donate Online

Wyoming Alpha's fundraising just got a major upgrade with **wyomingsae.causevox.com**!

This is your one-stop hub for fundraising news, updates on total funds raised, and complete donor lists. Plus, it's easier than ever to donate or simply view your giving history. Scan the QR code to donate today!

ALUMNI NEWS

Ronald White '60 is restoring a 1973 Ford Bronco. He makes trips to Canada, which is only 50 miles from his home in Mount Vernon, Wash. Email: [redacted]

Ronald Gardner '60 worked in the vending food industry, including 7 Up, Dr. Pepper, and Pepsi, and had warehouses in four states. He bought a home in the retirement town of Jackson, Mo., and now plays golf and travels. Email: [redacted]

Rex Colling '61 retired from his job as a pharmacist in 2002 and now has an antiques and collectibles business. Following the death of wife and best friend, Rex spends his time volunteering and keeping up with sports. He resides in Mason City, Iowa. Email: [redacted]

V. Frank Mendicino '62 is semi-retired but continuing in the investment management business. His primary residence is in Laramie, but he also has a home in Boulder, Colo. Email: [redacted]

James Georgis '64 retired after 52 years of practice as a neuro-optometrist. His specialty was carbon monoxide injury to the brain. He is now spending time with family, fly fishing, and keeping up with old friends. James resides in Pueblo West, Colo. Email: [redacted]

Ralph Godbe '65 is enjoying life with his beautiful wife, Silvia, in Yerington, Nev. Email: [redacted]

James Ricketts '66 has been retired for 20 years. He did some traveling and now spends time with his children and grandchildren. James officiated high school and college football and basketball for 45 years. When the weather permits, he tries to play golf near his home in Sioux Falls, S.D. Email: [redacted]

David Bitner '69 is enjoying his retirement, grandchildren, and traveling. He lives in Casper, Wyo. Email: [redacted]

Jim Lilly '69 is an author and trainer of disciple-makers. He is enjoying grandfather duties and living in Plymouth, Minn. Email: [redacted]

Thomas Turek '71 was married in November 2023. He travels a good bit and even attended the 2023 Homecoming activities, 56 years after he pledged ΣAE! Thomas lives in Highlands Ranch, Colo. Email: [redacted]

Steve Stelter '72 volunteers three days a week at a children's hospital in Ft. Worth. He has a 39-year volunteer career at PGA Colonial. Steve has traveled to 41 countries and plays golf four to five days a week in Ft. Worth, Texas. Email: [redacted]

Robert Edwards '77 shares, "We are continuing our travels of the world for the past 30 years!" Robert resides in Ventura, Calif. Email: [redacted]

Travis Anderson '78 has a farm and ranch in Warwick, N.D. "We also operate a camp resort on Devils Ranch," he says. Email: [redacted]

Douglas Nordmeyer '78 is a retired Navy pilot, retired director (VA), and head coach of the St. Olaf College alpine ski team. He resides in Apple Valley, Minn. Email: [redacted]

Robert Rippee, Ph.D. '80 is a professor at UNLV, an entrepreneur, and a casino gaming consultant in Henderson, Nev. Email: [redacted]

Todd Schutte '89 is working toward retirement. He is enjoying his kids and first grandchildren, who are twins. Todd travels regularly to Montana, Utah, Texas, and Wyoming, and has a 14-day EO trip planned for May, from Budapest to Amsterdam. Todd shares, "We are helping our aging parents, enjoying God's nature, hiking, camping, and elk hunting. Rooting for the Pokes and Buffalo Bills!" Todd resides in Parker, Colo. Email: [redacted]

James Johnson '95 lives in Buffalo, Wyo., and is a chiropractor. He enjoys hunting, golfing, and spending time with his family. Email: [redacted]

Clay Andersen '15 has a message for Wyoming Alpha: "Thanks for your efforts. Keep up the good work!" Email: [redacted]



Wyoming Alpha Round-Up and Hall of Fame Extravaganza

April 26-28, 2024

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 26
- Wyoming Alpha Historical Collection Viewing at the American Heritage Center (time TBD)
- Welcome Home Reception at Union Pacific Depot 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, April 27
- Golf Tournament and Spring Football Scrimmage (to be confirmed)
- Hall of Fame Induction and Gala Dinner at Quadra Dangle 6-10 p.m.

Sunday, April 28
- Farewell Breakfast at the Hilton

To get involved or for more information, contact **Joseph Kelly '80** at [redacted] or [redacted]

THE MINERVA REPORT

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Living the Wyoming Alpha Way

Tom Phelan '05 Remains Committed to ΣAE



"I hope to continue the family legacy so that my son, Will, can one day be a member of Wyoming Alpha and ΣAE."

Tom Phelan '05 has long devoted himself to Wyoming Alpha's growth, even before starting college. As a high school senior, Tom attended an alumni meeting when the chapter was down to one member. Honoring the legacy started by **Bernard Phelan '71**, Tom remains engaged as an active volunteer.

REBUILDING THE BROTHERHOOD

When Tom transferred to the Wyoming campus, he had already convinced his high school best friends to help Wyoming Alpha restore its charter. Tom found ways to devote himself to fraternal service as pledge president, eminent deputy archon, and eminent archon.

"These leadership opportunities helped me learn how to lead peers and recruit others to join while receiving several chapter awards. This carries into my professional role, as I lead a team in the workforce, my home, and remain an active alumni member."

CONNECTED BEYOND COLLEGE

Tom currently works for Empower Retirement in Denver, and he credits Wyoming Alpha brothers for helping him secure two jobs throughout his career. As an alumnus, Tom joined the chapter's house corporation to pay the ΣAE experience forward.

"I like the opportunity to further our brotherhood and build leaders coming into our realm," Tom said. His involvement has grown over time, nearing the 15-year mark as chapter advisor while starting as Province Eta president in 2024. Tom acknowledges fellow alumni like **Colin Keeney '71** and **Karl Pingel '71** for their selfless chapter support.

LIFELONG IMPACT

Whether meeting up locally with **Aaron Owens '06** or visiting **Paul Pswarayi '05** in Zimbabwe, Tom appreciates the longstanding bonds he developed through ΣAE. He even recognizes many of his father's brothers as brothers of his own. Tom hopes his 4-year-old son, Will, can one day share that Wyoming Alpha bond.

Tom met his wife, Lindsay, on the Wyoming campus where she was a Kappa Kappa Gamma. He is grateful for her understanding of chapter advisor responsibilities, including late-night calls and trips back to campus. The Phelan family enjoys sporting events, visiting the museum, and long drives through the Colorado mountains.

You can contact Tom at btphelan@gmail.com.