SUMMER 2024

THE MINERVA REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF WYOMING ALPHA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

Another Round-Up to Remember

Strengthening ΣAE Bonds

Your Wyoming Alumni Association is pleased to share that the 2024 Round-Up Reunion, held April 26-28 in Laramie, was a great success. There were no reports of anyone regretting their participation!

Alumni Attendance

We had 57 alumni and 10 undergraduates gather for Friday's Welcome Home Drinks Party at the historic Union Pacific Depot. A charcuterie board was provided by the Grazing Cowboy, and nobody left the event hungry.

One hundred twelve individuals, including 34 undergraduates and three University of Wyoming guests (representing the UW Alumni Association, UW Foundation, and UW Greek Life administration), attended the traditional "Our Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys" dinner and Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Union Pacific Quadra Dangle Lodge.

Inductees William **"Tom" Sullins '71** and **Lee Betsill '83** accepted their honor, and **Rod Everett '70** and **C. Richard Skinner '53** were also inducted. We look forward to Rod accepting his honor in person and a member of the Skinner family accepting on Dick's behalf (inducted posthumously) at the 2026 Round-Up.

Looking Ahead

The alumni association welcomes anyone who would like to orchestrate the 2026 Round-Up to speak up at the earliest opportunity. It takes a lot of work to pull the whole thing off (just ask **Bart Trautwein '71**, **Rick Tempest '72**, **Paul Ogle '12**, and **Nick Turner '14**), but the general roadmap has been well established. It's impossible to get started too early.

We also invite brothers to engage in some detective work to help find "lost" alumni. The database is ever-improving, but it comes down to individual brothers making the effort to find email and/or physical addresses for those who have gone "missing" for one reason or another and to report contact information to the board. There are considerable challenges with communication, but one thing we know for sure is that brothers are not likely to show up for events they know nothing about.

Fraternal Growth

On a broader note, the alumni association needs everyone's help to grow into a more robust organization. We know that a meeting—probably via Zoom—would be a good idea! Our association bylaws provide that everyone who has been initiated into Wyoming Alpha Chapter, as well as any ΣAE alumni (from any chapter) living in Wyoming, are de jure members of the alumni association. There is no need to register to be a member of the association. There are no fees or dues involved; any contributions to the association's coffers are voluntary, and every member stands on an equal footing.

Ready to Jump In?

If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or initiatives that you would like to offer regarding the alumni association, contact **Joseph Kelly '80** at [redacted] or [redacted] or via mail at P.O. Box [redacted], Shelter Island Heights, NY [redacted].

Best Regards and Phi Alpha,
The Wyoming Alumni Association

ΣAE Through the Years



Little Sister of Minerva





Homecoming Kilty Parade

Building on Our Brotherhood

CHAPTER GROWTH AND RECENT ACTIVITY

Wyoming Alpha Chapter continues to strive for success on campus and beyond. Here's a quick recap of our latest events and accomplishments.

New Membership

On February 2, Wyoming Alpha initiated five members into the class of 2027. Initiation is always a chapter highlight. Partaking in a ritual that has been passed from generation to generation for more than 150 years and that we can share with thousands of brothers nationwide is very meaningful to us.

Ryder Ulschmid '27 shared: "My experience in ΣAE so far has been great! Everyone has made me feel welcomed and like a true brother."

We are excited to welcome the brothers into our order and have already seen them do great things and show potential for the future!

Valentine's Day

On the afternoon of February 14, Wyoming Alpha participated in the yearly tradition of walking to the Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and Alpha Phi sororities to deliver the gift of song.

The brothers sang "Tiny Dancer" by Elton John and "Violets" at each sorority house as the supportive women applauded our (im)perfect pitch and rhythm. This is a tradition that current Wyoming Alpha members are working to ensure carries on for years to come!

Philanthropic Efforts

On February 13, Wyoming Alpha partnered with UW's NMDP (National Marrow Donor Program; formerly Be the Match) Club, setting up a table in the Union and encouraging students to join the registry. More than 60 students were added to the registry, increasing the chance at life for many with blood and bone marrow diseases.

Philanthropy Chairman **Martin Szabo '27** said: "Philanthropy is a top priority for us. So far, ΣAE has been the top contributor to philanthropy events held by Chi Omega, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Delta Delta, and Alpha Phi, and we plan on continuing this run."

Martin worked tirelessly to organize Paddy Murphy Week this spring with a goal of raising more than $1,000 and collecting more than 1,000 cans of food for the Laramie Soup Kitchen. Paddy Murphy Week started on April 7 with the traditional coffin carry, followed by a week of fun, competitive events.

Other Announcements

Fall initiation is scheduled for Friday, September 6. We have a goal set to initiate 30 new members. All alumni are welcome and highly encouraged to attend and take part in the ceremony.

Fraternally,
Matt Carlson '24
Alumni Relations Chairman | [redacted]

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2027
NEW MEMBERS



Our newly initiated members join their Wyoming Alpha brothers. Front row, from left: Trai Fritz '27, Marcus Jaques '27, Riley Frye '27, Ryder Ulschmid '27, and Braden Hansen '27.



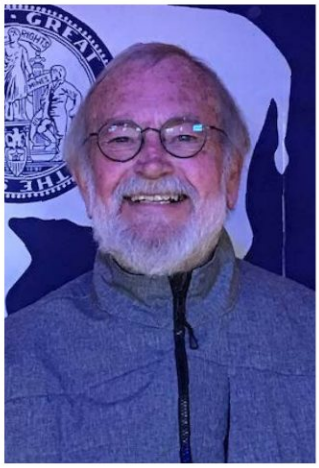
Our true gentlemen ask the sisters of Kappa Kappa Gamma to team up for Greek Week. They said yes!



Our undergraduates are making us proud with numerous FSL awards.

BEING TRUE TO ΣAE

Colin Keeney '71 on Lifelong Brotherhood



In 2000, when **Colin Keeney '71** stepped in as chapter advisor, Wyoming Alpha was down to one active brother on the rolls as alumni desperately tried to save the chapter. "We received tremendous support from the ΣAE national office, from Province Eta, and the WYAL House Corporation, but the following five years were challenging," Colin recalled. "For me, the payback was getting to know and work with the most tremendous group of young men I will ever meet. And now, we are all brothers in the bonds!"

Those challenging times reaffirmed Colin's experience with the brotherhood as a student: Sig Alphs tended to be self-directed, even willful individuals. When he went through formal rush (now recruitment), tours of every house were mandatory. He found Sigma Alpha Epsilon to be more relaxed during their tour, and the members seemed to share something in common—something he later realized was brotherhood.

"Sustaining brotherly bonds and supporting an active chapter often requires a great deal of interpersonal negotiation in search of common outcomes," Colin said. "I'm convinced that this is excellent preparation for success in the outside world."

Aside from the unforgettable Bushman's Ball, some of Colin's best Wyoming Alpha memories stemmed from the mundane: simply spending an average evening together. "Put another way, we didn't necessarily have to have something going on to enjoy ourselves."

Because ideals and commitments don't have a shelf life, Colin believes brotherhood has no expiration date. This was clearly demonstrated in April at Wyoming Alpha's Hall of Fame gathering. "When you're a brother in the bonds, you will always have a seat at our table. (You might need to help fix a leg on that table before you sit down, but…)"

Colin retired from the University of Wyoming, where he chaired the Faculty Senate; he also served the state as director of the Wyoming Writing Project. Colin and his wife enjoy their retirement by traveling together, and he enjoys playing music for an audience when the opportunity arises. Their daughter has found success as a ballerina and professional aerialist. ("Frankly, I had nothing to do with either of those pursuits, but I think we raised a pretty spunky kid.")

Colin lives in Laramie, Wyoming, an[redacted]gether with brothers!

YOU CAN REACH COLIN AT [redacted]

House Corporation Board

President **Nick Turner '14**	Treasurer **Tom Phelan '05**
Vice President **Steven Schoeber '12**	Secretary **Paul Ogle '12**

Alumni News

Gene Baldwin '48 resides in Newcastle, Wyo. He retired from ranching in 2020. Email: [redacted]

Jim Larson '67 is still working at almost 79, but he plans to retire soon. Jim lives in Joshua Tree, Calif. Email: [redacted]

Denny Gallegos '77 has been retired for 10 years from the Union Pacific Railroad. He spends his time playing golf multiple times per week and attending his grandchildren's sporting events. Denny lives in Redlands, Calif. Email: [redacted]

Kenneth Brown '81 is still taking court-appointed criminal prosecution cases, sitting occasionally on the municipal court bench, and doing some substitute teaching. He lives in Torrington, Wyo. Email: [redacted]

Nick Metzler '87 has been married to his wife, Tracy, for 35 years. They have raised four children, with the youngest currently studying construction management at the University of Wyoming. Nick is a real estate broker and consultant, and he has lived in Steamboat Springs, Colo., since graduation. Email: [redacted]

Tom Phelan '05 serves as Eta Province president, chapter advisor, and a member of the house corporation. He lives in Centennial, Colo. Email: btphelan@gmail.com

What are your favorite memories from Wyoming Alpha?

"Playing poker until 4 a.m. Being head hasher with the only key to the kitchen. Bushman's."
–Mike Martin '73

"After several years of coming in second to PIKE at Greek Week, in 2004, we became the overall winners—also beating them at flag football."
–Tom Phelan '05

SAVE THE DATES

September 6

FALL INITIATION

Join the ceremony!

September 23-28

HOMECOMING

Scan the QR code for more information or go to uwyo.edu/homecoming.

THE MINERVA REPORT

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Chapter Awards

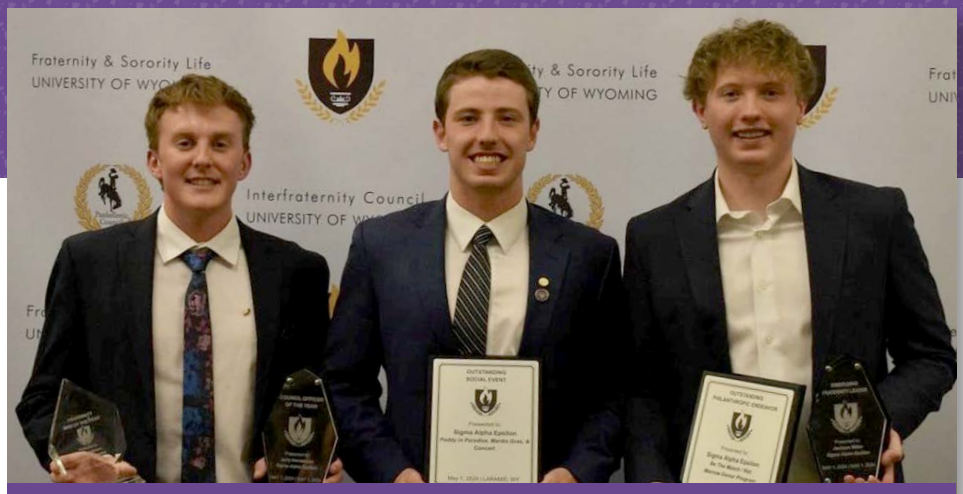
Wyoming Alpha won big at the FSL Awards. Our chapter and members were recognized with the following accolades:

Social Event of the Year

Philanthropy Event of the Year

Jackson Miller '25
Emerging Chapter Leader

Jerry Henderson '24
IFC Officer of the Year
AND
Fraternity Man of the Year



Wyoming Alpha brothers with our most recent awards.

Support Wyoming Alpha Today

HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO OUR ANNUAL CAMPAIGN?

By scanning the QR code below or visiting **wyomingsae.causevox.com**, you can support our alumni communications program and keep brothers in the loop on all things ΣAE.

SCAN ME!

Donations go directly to the Wyoming Alpha SAE Fraternity House Corporation.

DO YOUR PART TO HELP US STRENGTHEN OUR FRATERNAL CONNECTIONS!