

History

Alpha Theta Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha

December 6, 1904 – Alpha Theta Chapter Founded at WVU

The AΘ Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha was chartered with nine Founding Fathers.

Curtis Miller Hanna

William Thomas Owens

Albert Lafayette Lohm

Francis Allen Parsons

Cleveland McSherry Seibert

Alexander Hardin Foreman

Arthur B. Arnold

Robert McVeigh Drane

Ralph Franklin Staubly

April 1909 – Alpha Theta Charter Withdrawn

Chapter tradition has it that the Charter was withdrawn and the chapter suspended by WVU as a result of a party that was held in the Chapter House. The Chapter House at that time was on Walnut Street near the current location of the boat ramp. The story is that there was a showboat docked at the on the river for the entertainment of the Morgantown citizens. The men of PiKA invited some of the women from the showboat for a party that went beyond the boundaries of proper conduct for University men of good moral character.

June 13, 1925 – Alpha Theta Chapter Re-chartered

Alpha Theta Chapter met the requirement of the Pi Kappa Alpha National Fraternity was reinstated with a group of twenty-three new Founding Fathers.

The Years 1925 to 1998 – Alpha Theta Chapter Prospered and Grew

The chapter leased houses on Spruce Street. The earlier house was located on the lower part of Spruce Street near the location of the Greek Orthodox Church. The second house was located near the top of the hill at 665 Spruce Street. The chapter had grown strong enough that by the end of World War II they were looking to the future and decided that the chapter should own their own house. The Alpha Theta House Company was organized and the duplex at 34-36 Campus Drive was purchased and remodeled to fit the needs of the chapter. Shortly thereafter, the House Company acquired an old house and lot for future construction of a new house. This lot was at the location of Arnold Hall. WVU wanted to build the new dorm and a trade was made for the property on North High Street (Belmar) where the University Observatory had been located.

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In the early 1960s, the Chapter and the House Company began looking to build a new house on the lot on Belmar. The financing was not available locally for the construction of the house and an agreement was reached with the Pi Kappa Alpha Holding Company (now White Horse Holding Corporation). The local house company contributed both parcels of land and the money that they had in the bank for chapter housing. The deal was completed in 1966. Pi Kappa Alpha Holding Corporation took title to the properties, sold the Campus Drive property and secured additional funding to build the house at 117 Belmar Avenue. The arrangement was to eventually lead to the repurchase of the house by the local chapter house company.

March 21, 1998 - Alpha Theta Charter Withdrawn

The active chapter, already on probation for several violations of WVU policies, decided to have a party. This party was a deliberate violation of the terms of the probation and the brothers knew that it would probably result in the chapter being expelled by WVU. The individuals decided to destroy the house and its contents before they were expelled. The house was left in a shambles and was condemned by the Morgantown City Fire and Code Enforcement Officials. The house was boarded up and fenced to prevent further use and damage.

August 7, 1999 – Alumni Meet to Assess Future of Alpha Theta Chapter

Brother John Allevalo organized a reunion of Alpha Theta Alumni to renew old friendships and determine if the alumni could assist in the return of Alpha Theta Chapter and the renovation of the house on Belmar. The brothers visited the house and decided that they would become involved in the restoration of PiKA at WVU. The Alpha Theta Alumni Association and Alpha Theta House Company were resurrected and reorganized. The alumni, with the backing of WVU approached Pi Kappa Alpha International Headquarters about re-chartering Alpha Theta. PiKA agreed that colonization should be initiated.

September 13, 2001

Pike Headquarters sent a two man expansion team to campus to begin recruiting prospective members. Official business for the Colony began on October 22 when the new Founding Fathers received their colony pins amid the wreckage in the Pike house on Belmar. The new colony accepted the challenge to rebuild the chapter and, with the assistance of the alumni and PiKA, to rebuild the house.

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March 29, 2003 - Alpha Theta Chapter Re-chartered

The Colony brothers met the requirements set by Pi Kappa Alpha International for becoming a chapter in a little over a year. They completed their application and presented it to a review board from Pike Headquarters and several active chapters who made the trip to Morgantown on Presidents Day 2003 in one of the worst snowstorms in recent history.

The chapter was reinstalled and ninety new Founding Fathers were initiated into Pi Kappa Alpha on the weekend of March 29, 2003. The house had been partially renovated and the chapter took over management of the house.