



THE FIREMAN

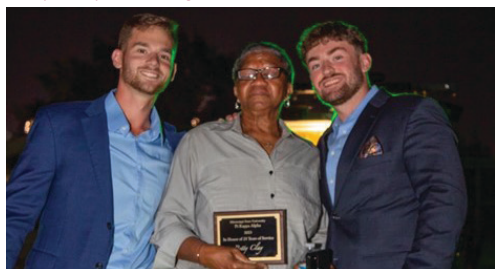


The newsletter for alumni and friends of Gamma Theta Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha at Mississippi State University



Above: Brothers at the Alumni Date Party. From left: Glenn Bell '78, son Brandon Bell '20, George Sherman '70, grandson Austin Vannostrand '23, and Mark Murrell '76. We had a great time this fall and encourage all alumni to attend next year.

Below: We were proud to recognize Ms. Betty Clay for 25 years of service to our chapter at the fall Alumni Date Party. Ms. Betty has made a significant contribution to Gamma Theta cooking meals and acting as house mom, and we are honored to dedicate the kitchen to her. Thank you, Ms. Betty Clay! From left: Ethan Fowler '20, Ms. Betty Clay, and Logan Strietelmeier '20.



Building on Our Strong Foundation

Alumni Commitment Helps Shape Gamma Theta's Success

Greetings! As we begin the new year, it's a delight to update you on the latest activities within our chapter. From successful events to the accomplishments of our members, your ongoing support continues to shape the legacy of Gamma Theta Chapter.

A highlight of our recent activities was the spirited Alumni Party on October 29, just before the Alabama football game. The party brought together generations of brothers, fostering a sense of camaraderie that defines our fraternity. This event has grown over the years and become one of the most anticipated events that the chapter members look forward to. The chapter members love meeting and getting to know alumni and hearing our stories. From shared memories to celebrating current successes, the evening was filled with laughter and a deep sense of brotherhood.

In reflecting on this past semester, I am thrilled to share the impressive successes of our undergraduate chapter. From academic achievements to outstanding philanthropy efforts, our current members have demonstrated dedication and excellence.

The chapter's commitment to scholarship and

community impact is a testament to the enduring values instilled by our fraternity. Your mentorship and support undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping these accomplishments, and we are proud to continue building on the strong foundation laid by previous generations.

Additionally, we encourage you to consider getting involved with pivotal roles on our Advisory Board or Alumni Association. Your experience and insights are invaluable in guiding the fraternity's future endeavors.

Whether you have news to share, updates about your life, or simply wish to reconnect, we welcome your contributions to our vibrant community. Your engagement continues to enrich the legacy of Gamma Theta PIKE.

Feel free to reach out to us if you are interested in taking an active part in shaping the fraternity's path ahead or if you have exciting updates to share with your fellow brothers.

Fraternally,

Jay Cook '02, House Corporation President
(662) 418-9605 | jaycook@bankcom.com

Celebrating Achievements

We sent seven brothers to the Thomas C. Tillar Leadership Academy this summer. Gamma Theta received multiple honors at the conference, including the chapter's first Raymond L. Orians Excellence Award, a programming award for Best Print Newsletter, a scholarship plate for achieving above a 3.0 GPA, and an international workday award.

This August, we started strong by recruiting and initiating 49 young men for our 2023 fall pledge class. During the fall semester, we had several community service and philanthropy events, such as setting up Pumpkin Palooza in downtown Starkville, cleaning up trails and campsites for Camp Seminole, Starkville's Get Swept Up event, Operation Christmas Child, and working for the Starkville Humane Society. We also hosted our annual Pikes for Pups event from which we donated \$7,500 to the Homeward Bound Project.

Chapter and Brothers Receive Recognition

Gamma Theta Chapter also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Gamma Theta Academic Excellence Fund to brother **Jared Morykwas '21** for winning Most Improved Pike Scholar as part of our program to promote high academic achievement among our brothers. Additionally this semester at our annual Alumni Date Party, we honored multiple active brothers and alumni for their contributions to the chapter. Congratulations to:

Gamma Theta Hall of Fame: **Dr. Eddie Keith '67**
Alumni of Excellence: **Reed Nelson '97**
Ideal Pike: **Ryan McMinn '20**
Best Pike on Campus: **Matthew Wingerter '21**
Most Improved Pike Scholar: **Jared Morykwas '21**
Most Athletic: **Wilbur Ramos '22**
Ideal Pledge: **Hastings Saffle '23**

We also have many brothers serving in positions throughout campus and nationally:

- **Ryan McMinn '20** as undergraduate vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha Supreme Council.
- **Matthew Wingerter '21** as IFC senator.
- **Clayton Stoddard '21** as a member of Alumni Delegates.
- **Adam Ritter '22**, **Rob Hubbard '22**, and **Wilbur Ramos '22** as Rho Chis.
- **Mason Anglin '21**, **Will Robertson '21**, and **Tanner Lunn '21** as members of Maroon VIP.
- **Bryse Carlton '21** as recruiting assistant for MSU Football.
- **Jackson Campbell '20** as a fan experience assistant for MSU Athletics.
- **Hastings Saffle '23** as a New Maroon Camp counselor and member of Freshman Reach.
- **Logan Miller '23** and **Brayden Shockey '23** as members of Freshman Reach.
- **Adam Ritter '22** a former associate member of IFC.

We are looking forward to a great spring semester!

Fraternally,

Adam Ritter '22, President

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Winter 2024

PIKE Transcending Generations

Scot '88 and Ryan McMinn '20 on the Impact of the Brotherhood and Shared Experiences

Scot McMinn '88 went through recruitment at the behest of his now wife with no intention of pledging, but as he got to know the diverse, genuine men of Gamma Theta and saw their strong bond, he knew it was the place for him.

While Scot's affiliation was a factor in **Ryan '20** joining, it was PIKE's strong sense of brotherhood that drew Ryan in, and it was evident that the brothers wanted to get to know him. PIKE also encouraged him to get involved in leadership positions within the chapter and on campus.

Just like his father before him, Ryan now serves as chapter president. It has been special to Scot to be able to pass along what he learned during his time and offer a sympathetic ear, and getting advice and wisdom from Scot has been invaluable to Ryan. "I believe we have a deeper understanding of each other's experiences and the values that PIKE has instilled in us," Ryan said.

While being president has been challenging for Ryan, it has also been rewarding as he helps ensure Gamma Theta continues to thrive. Under his presidency, the chapter received its first Oriens Excellence Award. At the PIKE Leadership Academy last summer, Ryan was honored to be one of 12 men nationally to receive the Undergraduate Award of Distinction from the North American Interfraternity Council, which recognizes his leadership in the chapter and on campus.



Scot and Ryan fishing this summer.

Attending the event was inspiring to Scot. "Hearing stories of adoration about your son from adult leaders you are only just meeting is a humbling and proud moment for a parent."

In August, Ryan was one of two Pikes selected to serve as undergraduate vice president on the Pi Kappa Alpha Supreme Council. He has loved representing Gamma Theta nationally and helping to shape the future of the fraternity.

Scot and Ryan have loved sharing the PIKE brotherhood with each other, and they have many fond memories—their most cherished to date being Ryan's initiation, where Scot pinned his PIKE pin to Ryan's lapel. They've also enjoyed several alumni and parent events where Scot has met Ryan's brothers and parents (which is special when those parents are also alumni!), and Ryan has met Scot's fraternity brothers.

"I think being able to share this bond with my dad and attend alumni events with him has given me a deeper appreciation and

understanding of Pi Kappa Alpha's brotherhood and how it transcends generations," Ryan said.

In his career, Scot is a manager of program management at FedEx. PIKE taught him how to lead by letting his team know that he cares more about them than the task at hand, and he has leaned into that concept since.

"I believe a true leader makes a conscience choice every day to take care of the people around them," he said. Regardless of the FedEx team I lead or what our objective may be, building those relationships and earning the trust of the team always leads to a successful outcome."

In PIKE, Scot and his brothers discovered who they wanted to become and grew into men together. His friendships remain strong today, and whenever he and his brothers get together, even after decades, they'll always pick back up as if they were together yesterday.

You can connect with Scot at rsmcminn@fedex.com and Ryan at rsm334@msstate.edu.

"Pi Kappa Alpha has been a pivotal part of my college experience. The friendships, values, and experiences I've gained through this fraternity have shaped me into a better person and have completely changed my life." —Ryan

"I don't have the words to describe how proud I am of Ryan and what he has accomplished thus far." —Scot

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Adam Ritter '22

External Vice President
Tanner Lunn '21

Internal Vice President
Trace Dye '23

Treasurer
Landon Saffle '21

Secretary
Jack Jewell '22

Vice President Membership
Development
Jackson Luscy '21

Sergeant-at-Arms
Manuel Seymour '22

Member at Large
Rob Hubbard '22

Recruitment Chairmen
John Mark Anderson '22
(601) 606-5234

Hudson Hadley '22
(601) 941-9971

Hastings Saffle '23
(601) 731-8445

New member educators with the freshly initiated fall 2023 pledge class. Brother Brock Boatner '20 (middle) and his team helped successfully to recruit our 49 new members.



Welcome, New Members!

Holden Arant | Olive Branch, Miss.
William Arthur | Memphis, Tenn.
Carson Cardell* | Hernando, Miss.
Brennen Chatham* | Fulton, Miss.
Camden Copeland | Sikeston, Mo.
Carter Crow | Sikeston, Mo.
Calder Farmer | Edwardsville, Ill.
Jake Frazier* | Memphis, Tenn.
Ryan Gant | Memphis, Tenn.
Ethan Gibbel | Carlinville, Ill.
Kilian Henderson | Covington, La.
Clay Hilton | Gulfport, Miss.
Jack Hodo | Hattiesburg, Miss.
Alex Johnston | Memphis, Tenn.
Cole Kirkland | Memphis, Tenn.
Jacob Leavitt | Sikeston, Mo.
Collin Ledsinger | Lakeland, Tenn.

Jaxton Lofton | Prairieville, La.
Brandon Lusk* | Collierville, Tenn.
Konner Mains | Oakland, Tenn.
Sean Marable | Olive Branch, Miss.
Colin Markey | New Orleans, La.
Heath Mattocks | Hattiesburg, Miss.
Harrison Middlecoff | Somerville, Tenn.
Logan Miller | Ethel, Miss.
Colton Payne | Memphis, Tenn.
William Pettway* | Lookout Mountain, Ga.
Lee Pierce Jr. | Hernando, Miss.
Logan Pontiff | Covington, La.
William Reed | Collierville, Tenn.
Avery Rogers | Covington, La.
Hastings Saffle* | Purvis, Miss.
Brennan Shaffett | Covington, La.
Caleb Shaffett | Covington, La.

Ian Shaffett | Covington, La.
Graham Shelton* | Tupelo, Miss.
Brayden Shockey | Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Drew Sisco* | Atlanta, Ga.
Cameron Sisson | Hattiesburg, Miss.
Joe Starr* | Tucson, Ariz.
Chris Stone | Dexter, Mo.
Austin Stoner | Decatur, Ill.
Ethan Strange | Tupelo, Miss.
Noah Strickland | Covington, La.
John Taffar | Arab, Ala.
Austin Vannstrand* | Brandon, Miss.
Conner Wallace | Sikeston, Mo.
Jackson Warmath | Dyersburg, Tenn.
Benjamin Wilson | Austin, Texas

*Legacy

WHY PIKE?

"From the first time I walked into the PIKE house, I felt at home. At that moment, I knew I wanted these men to be my brothers for life."

—Lee Pierce Jr.

"From the first time I walked in the door, it felt like family."

—Sean Marable

"With PIKE, you aren't just a number but a part of a real brotherhood."

—Ian Shaffett

**Hear from
Our New
Members**

Alumni News

Bert B. Jones Jr. '59 lives in Bremen, Ala., on Smith Lake and is loving retirement and spending time with his six grandchildren. Email: ebjonesjr@att.net

Randy Stone '58 shares that his only child, Mark, is an oncologist married to an internist. They have three boys, 15, 18, and 20. The oldest is at the University of Arizona, and the two younger boys play varsity soccer for Jesuit High School in Beaverton, Ore. Randy resides in Hillsboro, Ore. Email: rstone7266@aol.com

James E. Beasley '70 retired on April 1, 2022, after 50 years of working in manufacturing management and IT project management. He lives in Crowley, Texas. Email: jebeasley78645@yahoo.com

W. Beau Lacey '70 resides in Belden, Miss., and has been doing yard work and attending his grandchildren's activities. He shares that two of his granddaughters are sophomores at MSU. Email: whlacey2@gmail.com

R. Clinton Streeter '89 achieved the status of grandfather! His grandson, Tommy, was born in February 2022. Clinton resides in Madison, Miss. Email: cstreeter1967@gmail.com

Know Someone We Should Know?

Send Us Your
Recruitment Referrals!

Please refer any potential new members to one of our recruitment chairmen. Along with your recommendation's name, please include their phone number, hometown, high school, and social media accounts (Instagram, Facebook, etc.).

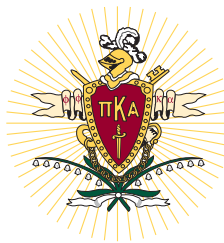
Thank you for helping to ensure Gamma Theta's continued growth!

Recruitment Chairmen
John Mark Anderson '22
(601) 606-5234

Hudson Hadley '22
(601) 941-9971

Hastings Saffle '23
(601) 731-8445

gammathetapike.rush@gmail.com



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Mississippi State



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WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH GAMMA THETA?

We welcome alumni to join our Alumni Association or Advisory Board to help continue our strong legacy. Find more details on page 1.



Brothers gather to clean up trails and campsites for Camp Seminole this fall.



Chapter Goals

1. Secure the largest spring recruitment class with the highest percentage initiated on campus.

2. Establish a cabinet under vice president of member development.

3. Recharter Gamma Theta Alumni Association and work closer with our Alumni Advisory Board.