



THE FIREMAN



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

BUILDING OUR RELATIONSHIPS

We Want to Keep You Connected to Our Brotherhood

We've put another semester in the record books, and I cannot even begin to say how excited and honored I am to be associated with the young men of Pi Kappa Alpha. As chapter advisor, I am so proud of the position the chapter is in and how much these boys are achieving. This was one of the most positive semesters to date with all their accomplishments and achievements. As a fellow brother and alumnus, I know that this success is owed in part to the foundation that has been established by our alumni.

Gamma Theta Chapter has had a long and storied history at Mississippi State University going back to our chartering in 1927. I have been extremely fortunate to witness the progression and maturity of the chapter over the past 12 years and hope and pray for continued growth and success.

We hosted our annual alumni social back in the fall and, as always, it was a wonderful event. In recent years, we have been able to build on the occasion by incorporating new awards and accolades to honor alumni members.

This spring, we held a brunch to provide an opportunity for alumni to connect with active members. We plan on continuing to host both events and look forward to more formal and informal gatherings at the house.

We want to build those relationships even more and need your help to do so.

The Gamma Theta Chapter house should be a home similar to how it was when you were in school and one that is inviting to everyone and their families. We want this to be a place we are proud to call a home, where alumni come back often to interact with our youngest generation and catch up with the brothers that were a part of their own journeys within PIKE.

Be on the lookout for news and updates on events, projects, ideas, and programming we are building up in the next few months as we look to the future! We hope you will get involved one way or another, and can't wait to see you at future brotherhood events.



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

P.S. We'd also love your feedback! Share your experiences, thoughts, and suggestions for recruitment recommendations (and anything else) as we strive to constantly improve ourselves and our brotherhood.

ΠΚΑ

Bonds Built to Last

Edwin Keith '67 Feels Blessed to Be a Pike

Reflecting on his time in college, **Edwin Keith '67** cannot understate the importance of Gamma Theta as a foundation for success. The 1960s were a great time for Pikes at Mississippi State, and Eddie was fortunate to discover Greek life through high school connections that led to a sense of belonging at Gamma Theta.

COLLEGE YEARS

"Three of us Gulfport High School graduates were among the 73 men who pledged Gamma Theta that fall," Eddie said. He lived in the PIKE house for several semesters, which was quite a change for Eddie as an only child. Studying and playing IFC sports with Pikes, Eddie enjoyed everything from hanging out in the house den to

winning the IFC All-Sports trophy in senior year. "Although we came from different towns and states, had different majors, and were unique individuals, we shared a bond of brotherhood that has been, as our Founders wrote in the Preamble, 'firmer and more lasting.'"

Through stints as vice president, recruitment chairman, and pledge educator, Eddie developed valuable skills for teamwork and communication amongst peers. Eddie was even elected as the IFC sports chairman.

LIFE BEYOND MISSISSIPPI STATE

After college, Eddie underwent basic training for the Army National Guard before studying

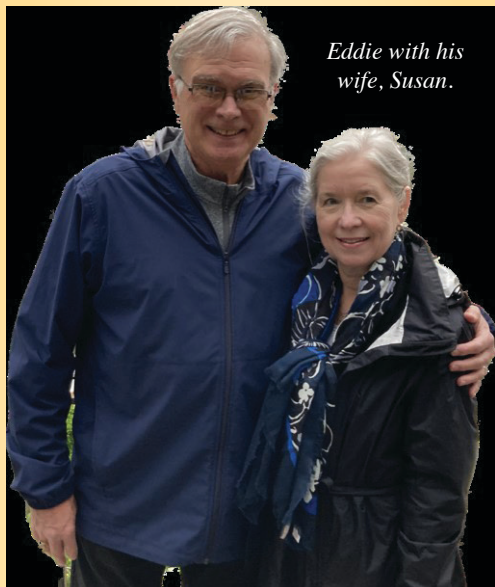
for his master's degree in counselor education at Mississippi State. He went on to work at the University Counseling Center as a counselor.

"Working in student services with college students was my true calling," Eddie explained. He met his wife, Susan, then added a Ph.D. in counselor education from the University of Florida to his résumé.

Eddie would spend the next 10 years of his career at counseling centers in Florida and Alabama before returning to MSU to direct the Office of Student Life and later the Colvard Student Union. "One of the highlights of my
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Bonds Built to Last

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*Eddie with his
wife, Susan.*

time working in the Union was the renovation of a 42-year-old Student Union building.”

PICKING UP WHERE THEY LEFT OFF

Returning to MSU, a fellow Pike encouraged Eddie to start gathering email addresses for alumni communications. He gladly accepted the call, and Eddie would send updates each semester to 150 Pikes about recent MSU events.

In 1999, Eddie joined 15 alumni for a duck hunt outing after an earlier gathering proved successful. Today, Eddie and fellow Pikes from the late 1960s have evolved the outings into an annual gathering that has only missed one year due to COVID.

“It was absolutely amazing to me at the first duck hunt when a group of guys, some of whom hadn’t seen each other in about 30 years, were able to pick up conversations where they had been left off in the late 1960s.”

While the duck hunts have become less about trekking through the mud for birds, Eddie and fellow alumni are fortunate to recognize the blessing of their lifelong bonds. “The annual Pike Duck Hunt is almost like Christmas... and is a heck of a lot better than my birthday!”

Eddie has been married to Susan for 50 years, and they have two children and five grandchildren. In his spare time, Eddie enjoys MSU sports, reading, traveling, family time and, of course, PIKE gatherings. You can contact Eddie at ekmstdog@gmail.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
Ryan McMinn '20

Internal Vice President
Matthew Wingerter '21

External Vice President
Mason Anglin '21

Vice President of New Member Development
Brock Boatner '20

Treasurer
Jacob Ackerman '20

Secretary
Hayden Alcorn '20

Sergeant-at-Arms
Gibson Lamastus '19

Member at Large
Ethan Fowler '20

Recruitment Chairmen
Logan Strietelmeier '20
(901) 600-2455

Tyler Lunn '21
(702) 339-4052

Chase Henley '21
(662) 401-5547

CHAPTER GOALS

1
Win a Raymond L. Orion
award or better this
summer at the Thomas C.
Tillar Leadership Academy.

2
Recruit a 45-man
pledge class for
the fall semester.

3
Improve our GPA
to a 3.20 in the fall.

Welcome, New Members!

Hear Why Some of Them Joined PIKE

Josh Deaton
Saltillo, Miss.

Ben Duncan
Florence, Miss.

Leland Dye*
Hernando, Miss.

“To be a part of like-minded individuals.”

Zachary Fisher
Hernando, Miss.

Luke Lacey*
Adamsville, Tenn.

“I felt like the guys were more brotherly than others. They made me feel like they wanted me to succeed. I liked how there was no awkward stage and I felt right at home. The recruitment chairmen really took the time to get to know me and who I was instead of treating me like a number.”

Myles Person
Collierville, Tenn.

Chase Pollick*
South Riding, Va.

Zachary Rutledge
Meridian, Miss.

Jed Stephenson
Birmingham, Ala.

“The fraternity’s values, camaraderie, and dedication to personal growth have enriched my college journey in ways I couldn’t have imagined. From the moment I stepped foot into the house, I felt an instant connection and a sense of belonging.”

*Legacy



Left: Gamma Theta continues to be the right hand for the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, helping in all Starkville community events throughout the school year, and was recognized as Partner of the Year at the Annual Banquet. From left: Jack Jewell '22, Logan Strietelmeier '20, Zak Kelly '19, Ryan McMinn '20, Lewis McRee '20, Ethan Fowler '20, and Jackson Cardell '20. Center: Brothers helping with tornado relief in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Fostering a culture of giving back has led to our young men stepping into communities that need it most. From left: Hayden Alcorn '20, Trey Rhodes '21, Clayton Stoddard '21, Daniel Filardi '21, John Sawyer Berryhill '20, and Drew Dacus '21. Right: Landon Saffle '21 was the first recipient of the Gamma Theta Most Improved Scholarship, a new award from the freshly minted Gamma Theta Academic Excellence Endowment, whose goal is to grow and build out Gamma Theta's scholarship program. From left: Chapter Advisor Jay Cook, Ethan Fowler '20, Landon, and Ryan McMinn '20.

A CHAPTER OF EXCELLENCE

GAMMA THETA REMAINS DEDICATED TO STARKVILLE AND MSU COMMUNITIES

Throughout the semester, we were very involved with the local community, including helping set up and work the annual Frostbite Race in Starkville, hosting a donation drive, volunteering for Amory tornado relief, and washing firetrucks for the Starkville Fire Department each month. We also organized a raffle, from which we were able to raise \$7,500 for the Homeward Bound Project of Mississippi.



Perhaps our most notable achievement this spring was The Greater Starkville Development Partnership awarding us Starkville Main Street Partner of the Year, which recognizes excellence in service to the community. **PIKE is the first fraternity and the first Mississippi State organization to ever receive this award!**

In addition to outstanding service and philanthropy, brotherhood bonds were alive and well.

- Spring began with recruiting 13 young men, nine of whom were initiated in March.

- Great event turnouts for Parents Weekend, formal in New Orleans, a Super Bulldog Weekend crawfish boil, and our Pikepalooza party helped strengthen all things PIKE.
- We held a few tournaments for brothers, including pickleball and 3-on-3 basketball.
- Alumni were invited for a social event, complete with crawfish and brunch!
- At our annual international workday, we took the time to clean up and make improvements to the house, including installing a new trophy case, building a back deck, and creating a new study room upstairs.

Gamma Theta rounded out the semester with a 3.09 GPA. We'd also like to recognize our brothers serving in positions throughout campus this past semester:

Graydon McCool '19 – Wake and Ski Club Treasurer
Hayden Miller '19 – College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Senator; Member of Alumni Delegates
Mason Anglin '20, Tanner Lunn '21, and Will

Robertson '21 – Maroon VIPs
Jackson Campbell '20 – Fan Experience Assistant for MSU Athletics
Ethan Fowler '20 – Member of Alumni Delegates; VP of the Accounting and Finance Student Society
Ryan McMinn '20 – College of Engineering Senator
Logan Strietelmeier '20 and Clayton Stoddard '21 – Members of Alumni Delegates
Jacob Cucullu '21 – Student Association Cabinet
Wilson Martinez Diaz '21 – Cultural Senator in the Student Association; Alumni Delegates
Bryse Carlton '21 – Recruiting Assistant for MSU Football
Matthew Wingerter '21 – IFC Senator
Wilbur Ramos '22 and Adam Ritter '22 – Rho Chi

We are looking forward to a great fall semester!

Faternally,
Ryan McMinn '20
 President

ΠΚΑ



Gamma Theta had a great turnout for spring 2023 Parents Weekend (and are looking to incorporate a parents event every semester from now on)!



SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Date Party

Gamma Theta invites all alumni to celebrate our 96th anniversary this fall. This year's Alumni Date Party will be during Alabama weekend on **Friday, September 29, starting at 7 p.m.**

There will be music, food, and an open bar. It will be a great time to connect with brothers.

RSVP with Alumni Chairman
Ethan Fowler '20 at (574) 334-6659 or
gammathetapike.alumni@gmail.com.



THE FIREMAN



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CHAPTER ETERNAL

Robert "Butch" Montgomery Jr. '69 entered Chapter Eternal on February 7, 2023, at Claiborne at Adelaide assisted living in Starkville. Butch was born August 30, 1950, in Leland, MS. He grew up in the Delta with a love for the outdoors, hunting, and fishing and lived an adventurous life.

Butch graduated from Greenwood High School, where he earned his bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University, and was a proud member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

To read more about Butch's amazing life and how you can honor him with the planting of a tree, please visit,
greenwooddeltafh.com/obituary/Robert-MontgomeryJr.

gammathetapike.com

Pi Kappa Alpha
Mississippi State

[@pike.msstate](https://www.instagram.com/pike.msstate)

[@PiKA_GammaTheta](https://twitter.com/PiKA_GammaTheta)

Calling All Alumni!



Send Us Your Recruitment Recommendations

**Do you know of an incoming
freshman who is a quality man?**

Send us his information!

Doing so is easy. Visit
gammathetapike.com/recruitment
or reach out to one of our recruitment
chairmen with the potential new member's
name (first and last), phone number, high
school, hometown, and any additional
information you think we should know.

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMEN
Logan Strietelmeier '20
(901) 600-2455

Tyler Lunn '21
(702) 339-4052

Chase Henley '21
(662) 401-5547

Join us in finding the right men to bring
Gamma Theta Chapter to new heights!

Congratulations, New Graduates!

We Can't Wait to See How You Shape the World



*Gamma Theta is extremely proud of our
graduating members' full-time jobs and our
current members' internships. Continuing to
grow great young men who obtain excellent
jobs is a focal point for Gamma Theta.*

Richard Amato '19
William Braswell '19
Chase Carlin '19
Wilson Martinez Diaz '21
Jack Garland '19
Cody Holmes '19
Cullen Johnston '19
Josh Karcher '19
Zak Kelly '19
Adam Kuhnle '19
Beau Land '19
Graydon McCool '19
Evan McCutchen '19
Hayden Miller '19
Trent Parker '20
Tanner Payne '19
Jackson Pettigrew '19
Clayton Pettway '19
Josh Presley '20
Gibson Steed '19
Sam Thorton '19