

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Brothers of Alpha Omicron,

Some of you are aware of the Phi Kappa Tau Scholarship that we established in 2017. However, I learned from the College earlier this month that there are 196 living Alpha Omicron brothers. So I thought I should ensure that all are aware of the events of the last two years, and the College has graciously agreed to send this email to all Alpha Omicron brothers.

At Reunion 2017, I ran across Henry Van Dyke '57 and the late Jim Vorosmarti '57 who suggested establishing a Phi Kappa Tau Scholarship using as seed money the roughly \$4,000 that remained after our chapter closed in 1974. I sent several emails to the approximately 38 brothers whose addresses I had accumulated over the years and, after several months of discussion, we established the Victor Partridge/Edwin Washington Phi Kappa Tau Scholarship Fund to provide an endowed scholarship. A description of the origin of the scholarship is in the attached letter, which will be given to every recipient of the scholarship. You may have seen an article about the scholarship and a picture of Ed in the March 2018 issue of Connections: The Campaign for Lafayette College.

We set a modest goal of raising \$10,000 to fund the scholarship. As of today, the Fund balance is \$35,982 and the first recipient will receive a scholarship of \$1,389 this spring. In future years, the amount of the scholarship will be determined by the fund balance. As the fund grows through future donations, the scholarship will grow proportionately. Based on the College's policy regarding endowment spending, the scholarship will be awarded in perpetuity.

It is amazing that with a living membership of 196, there have already been 57 donors to the Scholarship Fund. I want to ensure all of you know about the origin of the scholarship and have the opportunity to donate if you so desire. You may do so simply by earmarking some or all of any future donations to the College to the Partridge/Washington Phi Kappa Tau Scholarship Fund.

As an aside, I am in my second year as a tax-aide with the AARP. What we are seeing this tax year is that few taxpayers can itemize deductions because the standard deduction threshold has doubled. However, if you are over 70 1/2 and make charitable donations from your IRA (not 401k or 403b) as a qualified charitable distribution, the money you donate counts toward your required minimum distribution and isn't added to your adjusted gross income and, therefore, your tax bill. I talked to my investment adviser today about how to set that up for myself. You may wish to do the same.

If you have not received emails from me in the last few years and would like me to send you news relating to our chapter such as updates on the Scholarship Fund, names of scholarship recipients and news about our brothers (for example, the recent deaths of Drew Anderson '65 and Jim Vorosmarti), reply to me at hryder45@gmail.com and I will add you to my address book.

Best wishes to you all!



Henry Ryder '67