

The Minervan

THE OWL NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2019

☞ Lambda Iota Meets Pi Kappa Phi: June 20, 2019

By Spencer Baker '64

For the last five years, 440 Pearl has been guarded by Mansfield Hall. They have taken reasonably good care of our Nest, while providing an invaluable service to young adults with Asperger's syndrome and their families. Due to some significant changes in their program, Mansfield Hall has asked to vacate the Nest three years before the end of their lease. They will honor their financial commitment to us and will be "subsidizing" our new residents for the next two years.

So where do we go from here? Most of us have accepted that returning to UVM as a local undergraduate fraternity will not happen. With no young alumni to rebuild our society, our options are limited. Personally, I've never considered that selling the Nest was an option, and I hope it is never a necessity. So how do we perpetuate our society and honor the many Owls who have blessed our parliament for more than 183 years?

Ten years ago, we were in discussion with a large national (homeless) fraternity at UVM about leasing the house. They were unwilling to make a significant financial commitment, and, when Chris Gookin and I met with their actives, they seemed to care little about our history and viewed our Nest solely as a great party place (been there). I met with the same fraternity in November of 2018. Nothing had changed financially, although the alumni with whom I met exhibited a lot more respect for our property and history.

Forward to December of 2018. I "discovered" another fraternity on campus: Pi Kappa Phi, chartered at UVM on April 14, 2018. After researching Pi Kapp, I called and left a mystery "once in a lifetime opportunity" message with CEO Mark Timmes. Mark obviously returned my call and, after several phone conversations and emails and two visits to Pi Kapp headquarters in Charlotte, North Caro-

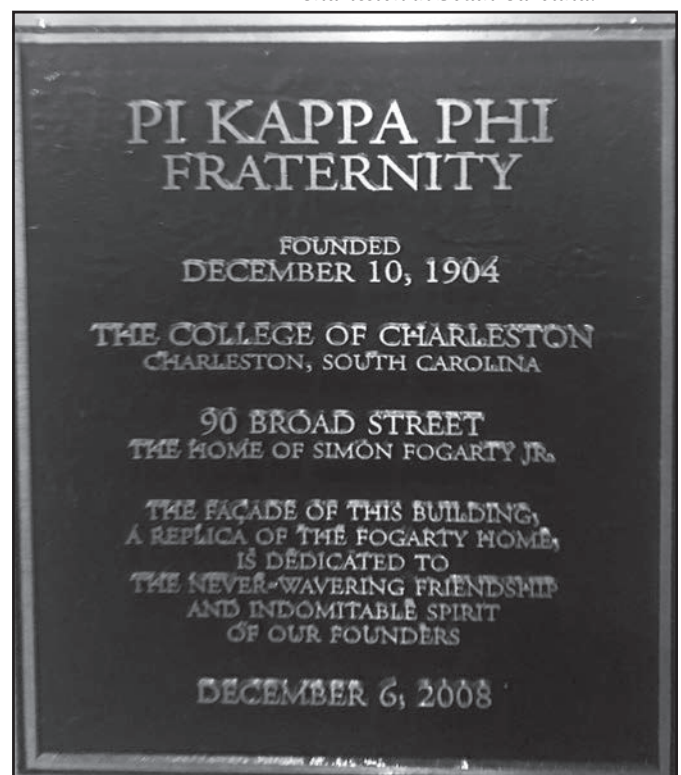
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lina, we were underway.

Due to a short time frame, there were numerous hurdles in the path of a program with Pi Kapp for the 2019–2020 academic year, but we pulled it off. We have 13 leases for the coming year and a good chance of filling the house the following year. With Pat Martin's (Paul's son) patching and painting skills, Jim Jorschick's carpentry skills, Grace Dionne's cleaning skills, and my everything-else skills, we were able to move seven Pi Kapps in by May 25, with the remaining residents arriving in August. Our Nest is alive again. Our new residents are pitching in to help where they can and are truly enjoying their new home.

You will sense from the articles submitted by UVM Chapter Archon (President) Tim Beard and national CEO Mark Timmes the respect they have for our society. That was also reflected in the attitudes of the brothers during earlier tours of the Nest. While we are starting with a three-year commitment, I am confident that this is the beginning of a long partnership to perpetuate Lambda Iota Society, to preserve our archives while adding new history, and to return us as a member of the UVM community through our partnership.

Plaque from the founding chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.



∞ An Introduction to Pi Kappa Phi

By Mark E. Timmes, CEO, Pi Kappa Phi

Greetings!

On behalf of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, we are excited that our student chapter at UVM will be using Lambda Iota Society's historic and beautiful Owl House this year.

A few things about Pi Kappa Phi:

We were founded at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, the oldest municipal college in the country, on December 10, 1904. We have since grown to 180 active campuses, with 12,000 undergraduates this past spring and over 100,000 living alumni.

Initially, we were founded as Nu Phi (for "non-fraternity") on the premise of leadership to win the presidency of the prestigious campus literary society. It then evolved into Pi Kappa Phi. Uniquely, our third chapter was at Cal-Berkeley, because one of our original founders transferred there, making us a "national" fraternity.

Over the years, Pi Kappa Phi prides itself on the role we play in developing students leaders.

- We were one of the first fraternities to have a national leadership school, Pi Kapp College, started in 1959.
- We remain the only national fraternity to have started and sustained its own philanthropy: then Project PUSH in 1977, and now The Ability Experience, teaching leadership through services by working with people of all abilities.
- We have one of the oldest national housing corporations, Pi Kappa Phi Properties, started in 1966 to provide housing support.
- We were the second national fraternity to institute a four-year student member development program. The breath and depth of our educational, leadership, and service programs is unmatched by any other fraternity.

- We are the industry leader in risk management and prevention education, having developed award winning programming. More importantly, we have shared them with other fraternities and sororities to assist all in the difficult choices today's students face.

Because of all this, Pi Kappa Phi is a respected, desired, and admired national fraternity. We are in the top ten in almost all categories of the over 70 men's national fraternities. At the same time, we remain grounded on the important role we play in educating young men outside the classroom. For more information on us, go to www.pikapp.org.

We are honored that the Lambda Iota Society has considered us a worthy partner and is exploring even closer ties. We look forward to a bright future together!

Interfraternally,
Mark E. Timmes

∞ Message from the Board of Governors

By Chris Gookin '99, Chairman, Board of Governors

Brother Owls:

Greetings! I hope this *Minervan* finds you and yours hale, hearty, and sound...

The 182nd annual celebration was attended by a small but motivated group of Owls, spouses, and guests. Owls and their families enjoyed catching up and, for many, a long anticipated tour of the Nest. The revelry and reunions continued with around 13 intrepid Owls and their significant others venturing into to their old haunts for some well-deserved spirits.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the alumni and families for their presence, generous support, and continued wise counsel. Your attendance consistently provides added clarity and motivation for those of us who serve on your board of governors.

I would invite any Owl who can spare some time to attend a BoG meeting and, if possible, to join your board of governors in helping to ensure the governance and lineage of the society remains intact. The board of governors continues to initiate, to develop, and to maintain professional development opportunities and relationships that complement all aspects of the Lambda Iota Society, including membership in the Greek Alumni Advisory Council, Association of Fraternity Advisors, and the Association of Fraternal Leadership & Values.

We are actively working to update the bylaws and BoG responsibilities by position of the Lambda Iota Society. Additionally, there is ongoing research of our traditions, history, and rituals in order to preserve them and to perpetuate our society. Some of the foremost concerns are predicated on maintaining and incorporating our history and traditions going forward

so they will ensure an unbroken lineage to those Owls who came before.

As of May 24, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity will be leasing rooms at 440 Pearl Street, and the chapter will be sharing the house with the Lambda Iota Society for at least the next three years in an anticipation of developing a permanent partnership that ensures the perpetuation of our society.

We are stronger together, and with the critical mass of ideas, energy, unity of purpose, and owl energy, we can establish ourselves where we want, how we want, and when we want. We can stay the course while remaining flexible and agile enough to remain true to the ideals of the Original Thirteen.

The 183rd annual celebration will be held in October to coincide with Alumni Weekend, October 4-6, 2019. We are seeking your input and participation in the ongoing planning and the attendance of what will prove to be an event of epic proportion, truly worthy of that fiercely independent spirit, and your active participation is desired!

Your continued involvement will set the tone of the future Lambda Iota; your comments, questions, and concerns will assist in the guidance of the society.

No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Fratres Aeternum Subtus Minerva,
Chris Gookin '99



∞ The History of the UVM Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi

By Tim Beard, Archon (Chapter President), Pi Kappa Phi

The history of the Kappa Rho Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi can be described using three words: brief, chaotic, and, at the risk of sounding vain, impressive. The Kappa Rho Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was chartered by our national organization on April 14, 2018. We transitioned from the Vermont associate chapter to Kappa Rho. As part of the chartering process, we were asked to write a history of our chapter up until the point of chartering to submit to our national organization. I thought that sharing what was written by our chartering committee and our former president would be the best way to introduce a little bit of the character and the history of the chapter all at once.

“Three semesters ago, in the fall of 2016, Erik Blakney and Tory Young, two handsome Pi Kappa Phi recruiters, came to the University of Vermont. They intended to launch a new chapter here on campus. They began by tabling in the Davis Center, the bustlin’ hustlin’ heart and soul of campus. If you don’t walk through the Davis Center going from class to class, you probably live on the sketchy outskirts of campus, also known as Trinity. Fortunately for our chapter, one of our first members, Alex Reese, didn’t live on Trinity, and something about that Pi Kappa Phi flag hanging in the Davis Center caught his eye. He strolled over to the two men, wondering what mysteries lay behind this striking table. He would go on to tell his friends and ultimately begin the group of men that would become our fraternity. Andrew Fuchs, another early member, shares a similar story; upon his approach to the table, he had no idea how much it would change his life. They both received bids later that week and were elected to executive board soon after.

“Through word of mouth, hard work, and leading by example, this chapter quickly grew into what it is today. In the weeks after Alex and Andrew approached the table, we pre-initiated many members who were up to the task of starting a new chapter, and our first semester ended with 18 brothers. As an associate chapter, we had to work hard to be recognized. We attempted to gain the acceptance of the UVM campus by participating in Greek Week. We were paired with Kappa Delta for Greek Sync, a large dance event. Our dance with Kappa Delta came in first place, helping us to get second place in

Greek Week overall. While this was the peak of our first semester, we had many more great things to come. During that winter break, we attended our first Pi Kapp College for Chapter Officers. Here, our officers learned how to run a functioning chapter.

“Once the executive board returned to campus, they were ready. They were ready to recruit the best young men, the most fit prospects who, as potential new members, would help make the chapter into what it is today. With immense planning and determination, our young associate

I am confident that our values will align with those of Lambda Iota, and I am confident we will make you proud.

chapter recruited its first class of brothers. Our first spring semester was critical in gaining manpower without compromising quality. We introduced the first new-member education class, jam packed in Votey 207, with 27 brothers eager to learn the history of Pi Kappa Phi. The first semester was a long journey that prepared the members to pass the national exam with flying colors. Whether it was playing pool at Pi Kapps recruitment events, the brotherhood event to Hyperglow, or the midnight cookie delivery, the members of this organization started to form an uncommon brotherhood that will hopefully live on for many years to come.

“Our brothers didn’t lose their camaraderie over the summer though, for it lived on through the season, and the chapter returned to campus with a new energy. Recruitment plan in action, they were able to select another class of brothers worthy of being named founding fathers of the fraternity. The chapter later stationed out in front of the library on a bike, riding for 12 hours straight and raising money for the Ability Experience. We also raised money through another very successful midnight cookie delivery, doubling profits/donations from \$200 to over \$400. The amount of money we raised that calendar year classified us under the three-star ranking as a Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

“When Erik and Tory entered campus with the intent of starting up a new chapter,

I doubt they had any idea of what they were sparking on campus. They likely had no idea of the legacy they would help to create in assembling a humble group of men and leaving them only the chaplain’s box of secrets. They likely did not know the extent to which they would form a group of swell gentlemen with a moral compass that points in a different direction than those of other fraternities.”

Since our chartering, we have not fallen victim to the trap that so often disables newly chartered chapters. We have not slowed, despite attempts from a specific administration. Instead, we have carried our energy from chartering all the way through the two semesters that have since passed. We are fortunate enough to have been able to recruit not only our Alpha associate-member class but also our Beta associate-member class. Every academic year, bringing in two associate-member classes has allowed us to grow rapidly and to be increasingly selective in our brotherhood. Our newfound residence in the Nest will be an invaluable tool in our recruitment process and will be to the betterment of our brotherhood. I can not believe just how far we have been able to come in the past three years, and I am incredibly optimistic for the combined future of our organizations.

I would like to say a massive thank you to Lambda Iota brothers Baker, Stewart, and Gookin for their continued support and determination to make sure all of the pieces were in place to make this transition possible. You have opened your home and accepted our chapter, and for that, we will be eternally grateful. I hope that you find Kappa Rho to be suitable tenants, not only in a transactional sense but in a fraternal sense. I am confident that our values will align with those of Lambda Iota, and I am confident we will make you proud. I look forward to further developing the relationship between our organizations and learning as much as we can from the Lambda Iota Society. Seeing as our chapter is so young, we have never had a substantial network of alumni to guide us as we progress through UVM or through post-graduation endeavors. Our adoption into your home has truly been a blessing and will continue to serve as one again. With all of the fraternal gratitude I can muster, thank you.

Faternally,
Tim Beard



∞ Lambda Iota's Regeneration: The Next Phase

By Joel P. Sodano '01

Fellow Owls:

Hard as it is to believe, it was roughly ten years ago when I took an active role in the Lambda Iota Society's board of governors. Over the years, you've come to expect long updates from me. You've also come to expect unreserved positivity. I will disappoint you on both fronts in this brief piece. Partly, this is because I had to step away from the BoG when I moved to England for a year in the fall of 2017 and then, after coming back to the US in the fall of 2018, I had to take a year off from everything when my wife, Meg, was diagnosed with a primary brain tumor. She is doing well now, after a long series of so-far-successful treatments, and we are just starting to regain a sense of normalcy. But this piece is mostly not about me, it's about

how I view the future of our society today.

Only a few months ago, I had gotten to a point I never thought I would ever find myself. With no prospect of retaining our lease with Mansfield Hall and UVM dismantling Greek life with impunity, I wrote to Spencer, Chris, and Bob to give my earnest by-then-outsider opinion. I felt in my heart that the best plan of action was to fold the tent... to sell the house, clear our debt, and use the leftover cash to preserve our archives. In short, I had given up. I had become one of the nay-saying voices that I fought so hard to rally against for so many years. Not that that was what I wanted, mind you. I just couldn't see any other way through.

To their credit, they didn't listen to me. In Spencer's article here, you can get a sense of what they accomplished in the face of what I surely thought were insurmountable odds. I kept in the loop as they

slowly executed a plan and am truly in awe of what the BoG has been able to do in such a short amount of time, when almost every chip was down.

My life is far different now from what it was in 2008, when I moved to Albany and was able to take on much of the society's heavy-lifting, but I will help in whatever way that I can to see Lambda Iota through to the next chapter in its sometimes illustrious, often ignominious, always beloved history. Less than a year ago, I was sure that history had come to a dark and unremarkable end; now, I believe that there are still many bright days ahead. I hope you will join me in repledging your support for this cause... our cause.

With Owlsh sincerity,
Joel P. Sodano '01



At left (L-R): Chris Gookin '99, Brian Glazer '92, Todd Rodriguez '93, and Mike Hennessey '93; above (L-R): Chris Gookin '99 and Jeff Monte '93.



Skiing in Vale, Colorado, on March 9, 2019 (L-R): Scott O'Connell '94, Tim Davis '97, and Jeff Davis '92.



Skiing in Vale, Colorado, on March 30, 2019 (L-R): David Gillkes '94 and Scott O'Connell '94.

Owls Send Their News & Notes

On September 10, **Kenneth “Jet Job” Peirce Jr. ’52** will turn 90. His wife has a saying: “I wish that I felt as good as I did when I was only 80.” “I agree 100%,” says Ken: “I suppose I’ve got the usual problems of the age: overweight, creaking right knee incontinence (really annoying), nice new pacemaker (with lots of pills). Everything considered, I guess I’m doing pretty well. My wife and I get out for church (Unitarian), including potluck suppers. I’m no longer secretary of the local York Rite Masonic bodies, but I do get out for most meetings (my mother lodge is Washington #3, originally in Burlington, now in Williston, Vermont). So far, we’ve been able to keep up with our children, grandchildren, and even two great-grandchildren. Our daughter is a social worker, and our son is the minister of the Unitarian church in Reading, Massachusetts. So, that’s what we’ve been up to. Glad to hear that Lambda Iota will be carrying on as more than just a residence hall.” Keep up with Ken; write to him at kslocump@yahoo.com or at 330 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Clement Nadeau ’54 has added a new goal to his “bucket list”: “Gonna reach 100.” He was 87 this past April, and he refers to the Clint Eastwood quote from the movie *The Mole*: “Not gonna let the old man in.” Clement still golfs and asks if the Owls are having any kind of golf event, adding “I so miss that.” Clement moved into a new home in Texas: 2104 Civet Trl., Harker Heights, TX 76548. You can contact him via email at clemnadeau@gmail.com.

“Barbara and I still live in Lee, New Hampshire,” writes **Lloyd “Jud” Porter ’57**, “about a mile from the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Our daughters and their families live in the area. I’m still active in several organizations, including VFW, Rotary, and church.” Lloyd notes that he hadn’t gone fly fishing for most of 2018 but hoped to get started by the end of the year. Reconnect with Lloyd at jud12931@yahoo.com or at 27 Granger Dr., Lee, NH 03861.

Dewey Caron ’64 returned to UVM last October to give a lecture: “Good News on Honey Bee Health.” The invitation to lecture was courtesy of Mark Starret, associate professor of horticulture and a former student of Dewey’s at the University of Delaware. Dewey addressed the UVM beekeeping club, Vermont beekeepers, and anyone else who wished to attend. The lecture and travel was supported by a grant from the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. He also spoke to the Bennington (Vermont) beekeepers in November. Dewey spent the winter in Bolivia with his Africanized bee colonies in Cochambamba. He continues projects on the development of beekeepers in Bolivia and teaches part-time at the University of San Simon, which includes assisting with their annual beekeeping course. He lives in Portland, Oregon, where he retired in 2009 from the University of Delaware, enjoying “more gentle Italian honey bees.” He remains active in beekeeping clubs across the US and as an affiliate professor of horticulture at Oregon State University. Catch up with Dewey at

dmcaron@udel.edu or at 15965 SW Queen Victoria Pl., Portland, OR 97224.

Elise and **William “Woody” Widlund ’64** continue to enjoy their lives at Wake Robin Lifecare Community in Shelburne, Vermont. “Five years here and approaching 55 years of marriage. Overly involved in committee and activities, but feel we can make a contribution, so we continue to do so. We are both active physically with swimming, water aerobics, Pilates, walking, etc. Photography has slowed a bit since we stopped maintaining a community gallery here at Wake Robin, but we will do a show here in 2019 and in North Creek in 2020. Still traveling, but no longer in the backcountry in Southeast Asia. More genteel, with cruises on some rivers in Europe and the Baltic and travels in Norway with good friends. Elise’s vision is compromised with macular degeneration, but we are altering our lifestyle and doing well. We really enjoy being ‘back’ in Burlington with the Flynn, the Lane Series, and Vermont Stage. Two grandsons, age 22 and 20, at the University of Delaware, their parents *alma matter*, and a six-year-old granddaughter near us. We delight in having her visit the ‘old folks home,’ as do our many senior friends here. Meanwhile, daughter Heather and Matt have moved from Telluride, Colorado (elevation 10,000 feet) to Bozeman, Montana (elevation 5,000), which makes visiting less headachy.” Let Woody know what you’re up to; send him an update at woodman279@gmail.com or at 818 Wake Robin Dr., Shelburne, VT 05482.

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Skiing in Vale, Colorado, on April 12, 2019 (L-R): Scott O’Connell ’94 and Jason Murphy ’93.



Skiing in Vale, Colorado, on April 12, 2019 (L-R): Scott O’Connell ’94, Jason Murphy ’93, and Scott’s son Nico (17).

Owls Send Their News & Notes

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

"Life's been wonderful since I retired," reports **Donald DeVries '67**. "Had a long run with interesting jobs, but now enjoying travel and something I never did at UVM, except for one day: skiing. My wife, Diane, and I spend the winter in Frisco, Colorado, and ski all the local mountains. To pay for this luxury, we both work as greeters at Keystone Children's Ski School. It's rewarding working with young people and happy skiers, and besides, it pays for our ski pass. My ultimate career... a ski bum. Life goes on. Look for us spring and fall in Shelter Island, New York, and in summer mostly in Italy, but who knows the future." (captdev@aol.com; PO Box 184, Shelter Island Heights, NY 11965)

"Nothing to report really," writes **Mark Dayman '73**, "which, at our age, is good!" Mark has lived in Atlanta since 2000, and all four of his children have also ended up there over time. He now has four grandkids as

well. He spends as much time as he can in Wyoming and in his place in Canada. "Still working and probably will never stop completely, but Ruth and I plan to slow down in two more years." Catch up with Mark at mdaymon@capval-llc.com or at 105 Buckthorn Ct., Roswell, GA 30076.

Brian Mack '91 writes: "It had been a few years since I had seen many of the guys from my era (early '90s). Some were even local. That had to change. Last summer, I organized a gathering of sorts at my place in Essex Junction, Vermont. It began on Friday with a FADC of sorts, sharing old stories, new family stories, and what ached and the meds we are taking. Saturday was spent down on Church St. for lunch and other shenanigans. Back to my place for a fire in the fire pit and AC/DC cranked in the background. Those in attendance: **Scott Beaudin '92, John Higgins '92, John Prescott '92, Dave Bartle '90, Chris Spagnoletti '91, Erik Gray '89, Chris Gookin '99, Kris Dulmer, Jeff Toussaint '89.**

I'm sure I'm forgetting someone... sorry. I hope other brothers can pick up on this and do something similar. I'm in!" Let Brian know what you're up to: owlsh_one@hotmail.com; 35 Discovery Rd., Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Scott O'Connell '94 writes "So fortunate to catch up with brothers **Jeff Davis '92** and **Tim Davis '97** for a couple of ERIC ski days in Vail. Welcomed Brother **Dave Gilkes '94** at the end of March and Brother **Jason Murphy '93** for more great skiing and riding. Look me up in Vail, and let's make some turns!" (scottoc13@hotmail.com; 71 Silver St., Edwards, CO 81632)

Jason Verdo '02 and his wife, Tracey, wanted all to know that "a little owl flew his way into our home and perched himself high up on our hearts." Benjamin Marc Verdo was born on March 18, 2017. Send your congratulations to jason.verdo@gmail.com; or to 8 Milo White Rd., Jericho, VT 05465.

Owls Who have Gone Before Us

Below is a list of all Owls we have learned of since the last issue of *The Minervan*.

Robert C. Doherty '43
September 16, 2016

Donald A. Perkins '50
July 27, 2008

John J. Whalen '56
October 15, 2014

Paul L. Hazard '64
June 5, 2017

Harry E. Howe '43
September 12, 2018

Freeman K. Creasey Jr. '51
March 3, 2014

Edward R. Nugent '57
September 11, 2016

Thomas G. Keppel '65
July 16, 2019

Robert L. Marcalus '43
June 18, 2014

Robert E. Morrison '51
November 12, 2015

Gerald J. Rice '57
September 28, 2014

Richard S. Kenney '70
February 22, 2017

Everett P. Merrill '48
October 13, 2017

Frederick S. Briggs '52
October 6, 2015

Daniel L. Simpson '61
November 23, 2017

David T. Heindel '71
September 5, 2014

David B. Hunter '49
May 23, 2012

Fred D. Holford Jr. '52
July 7, 2012

Frederick A. Smith '61
July 14, 2016

Richard A. Kirsch Jr. '80
May 20, 2015

James W. Parker '49
May 18, 2016

Thomas E. Kendall '52
October 23, 2016

Scott S. Hallock '62
June 1, 2016

Andrew L. Talcott '94
April 23, 2016

Andrew R Buchanan '50
March 16, 2019

Theodore L. Wegerdt Jr. '52
April 7, 2016

Ronald R. Wilson '62
April 3, 2015

Vannarin S. Ly '01
4/20/2018

George G. Corsones '50
October 30, 2013

Robert K. Brown '56
January 9, 2019

Daniel T. Monte '63
February 10, 2016

Patrick M. McCoy '08
March 22, 2015

William F. O'Brien '50
April 12, 2017

David A. Depatie '56
October 5, 2016

Daniel D. Boone '64
April 2, 2018