Bike4Alz

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About a dozen WKU students who are members of the Fiji fraternity are gearing up for a lot more than finals week.

They are preparing to ride their bikes across the country. Amy Bingham tells us why in this week’s View from the Hill.

It’s all in the name of Alzheimer’s research. This summer marks the fourth time since 2010 the Fiji’s have put together a Bike4Alz team to ride their bikes across the country in support of a disease that is near and dear to their hearts.

After months of preparation, it’s almost time to hit the road.

“A lot of us have been practicing drafting each other and the distance apart.”

Junior Joey Badinger said he was intrigued about the Fiji’s Bike4Alz trip from the moment he first heard about it.”  
“It’s definitely a huge talking point through rush. When they brought it up I was like that’s crazy. I would love to do that.”

But for Joey it’s about so much more than a bike trip.

“My grandpa Leo was affected and died from Alzheimers. It’s just one of those things that hits close to home. “

Same goes for junior Trent Erps who’se grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s nine years ago.

“It’s really hard to see someone you love and care about so much suffer from a disease like Alzheimer and dementia. See their memories start to fade.”

According to Alz.org- one in three senior citizens will die from Alzheimers or dementia. A statistic not lost on this young fraternity.

“How ironic would it be if a biker that went on this alzheimers trip got alzheimers in the future which is kind of scary but it probably will happen.”

This year’s team has a goal to raise 100,000 dollars during a 3600 mile trip from Washington state to Virginia.

“One of the biggest parts is partnering with the Alzheimers Association. They have different chapters set up across the country and so we’ve mapped our ride accordingly to hit some of those sweet spots across the country.”

As they pedal toward a cure, more than half of the team will be motivated by a personal connection to the disease just like Trent and his grandmother.

“For me this ride is for her and all the families that go through the same stuff.”

The Bike4Alz ride will begin on May 21st and end on July 23rd. If you would like to make a donation, log onto bike(the number 4) alz.org. Or you can email team members directly about in-kind donations.

The team says anything would be appreciated, especially prayers.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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