

Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of **DELTA KAPPA EPSILON**



and **DELTA KAPPA SIGMA** P.O. Box 18231, Richmond, Virginia 23226

February 28, 2010

Alumni Association & Chapter Update

Greetings Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers: It has been a few moons since our last newsletter and this represents our first communication of 2010. Unfortunately we have some very sad news and also some bad news to report along with all the other kinds of normal tidbits of wonderful information that comes with newsletters.

Dick Quible (Fall '51) passes away

First, the sad news. With deepest regrets we are sorry to announce that F. Richard (Dick) Quible passed away in November. Dick was an ardent supporter of the University, VT Athletics, and yes his beloved fraternity Delta Kappa Sigma. Among the many accomplishments and associations listed in his obituary, it was proudly stated that "... Dick was a member of Delta Kappa Sigma, now Delta Kappa Epsilon, serving as the fraternity's president his senior year." Many Deeks and Dekes had the opportunity to meet and speak with Dick over the years and he was always generous with his time to talk about the history of the fraternity. Dick was also a regular financial supporter of the Alumni Association and a member to the 10-YEAR-CLUB. His presence will be missed by those who knew him. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family. A copy of his obituary has been posted to the our website - it's an impressive read, so check it out. RIP.

PLEASE join our e-mail list

We've had an e-mail newsletter going since 2007, and many of you (about 300!) have added your e-mail address to our list. We're grateful - it helps us better keep in touch *and* send paper mailings less often, money better spent on the house, events or both. But there are still at least 300 more of you out there who we're not reaching.

We don't e-mail too often - mostly just tailgate announcements and anything else major. **Please join our list** - it's painless - just visit www.vtdke.com and click "Update Records" at the top on the right side.

Active Chapter receives one year suspension from VT

And now the bad news. At the end of last semester, the Active Chapter was suspended as a student organization by the University for a one year period. DKE was suspended as a result of several unrelated alleged incidents. The first involved unaffiliated underage students telling university administration that they were given alcohol during fraternity parties, and the second followed a complaint from a 'concerned' town resident driving up Roanoke St on the morning of the VT-Miami football game. He reported seeing a "you honk, we drink" sign, with people who appeared to him to be underage on the DKE House porch and veranda drinking in response to a car honk. Despite the reliance on hearsay for these complaints, the chapter was found "responsible" for all the alleged charges. Unfortunately, the chapter leadership did not inform the Alumni Association in a timely fashion, and we were unable to help them prepare for and fight back at their judicial hearing. A belated request for an appeal was denied despite overwhelming supporting evidence (at least from the perspective of our unbiased DKE alumni board).

The Alumni Association is currently preparing a formal letter of response to senior University officials (including President Steger and the Vice President of Alumni Relations) outlining our dismay and concerns over the unfairness of the entire process. Now this sanitized version is not to say that the choir boys of 302 East Roanoke St are all saints and have done nothing wrong, but simply to say that the punishment was overly excessive for the infractions that occurred. Improved attention paid to the documented risk management practices is required by the Active Chapter to avoid similar situations in the future.

Now the question you are all probably asking is "what does being suspended by the university mean?" Well, it



means that the currently DKE has the same status that Delta Kappa Sigma held for some 20-25 years before being formally recognized. Also, DKE as an organization may no longer use university facilities to hold functions, and can't receive any financial support from the university. But wait...you may still ask; (1) when, what and how often does the fraternity use on campus facilities and (2) how much financial support does it receive? The answers to those questions are: (1) very rarely (only to participate in Greek sponsored charity events) and (2) none as in zero \$. From what we can determine, the big loss is that DKE will not be allowed to build and enter a float in the homecoming parade this coming year. [Ok, so we never built a float before]. Despite all this, we believe it is in the best interest of the fraternity to be reinstated as a student organization at the appropriate time. The current situation is certainly far different from the infamous Kenyon incident of some 20 years ago. Unlike that situation, the DKE International Fraternity is standing behind us and continues to recognize the chapter.

Meanwhile, the active chapter continues to carry on business as usual and initiated 8 new members that returned to school bringing the current active membership to 27 members. The following new brothers are:

Kevin Buchanan	Christopher Hotaling	Connor Jarrendt	Joshua Kreib
David Marshall (legacy)	Steve Mattoon	Timothy Sweet	Matt Wilson

"We have just completed the rush for the spring and have a pledge class of six great guys. We expect to graduate only five brothers and hope to return in the fall with an active brotherhood of close to 30 members. We look forward to having alumni drop by the house at anytime. The door is always open." FFTHF, Mike Konyha (F '06)

New Alumni Board Elected (and making a mess already)

OK, enough with the sad and bad stuff. We did hold an election last fall for the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and the unopposed nominated slate was again voted in. The new executive slate includes returning hands Roger Leibowitz (W '76), Tom Overton (S '85), and Burt Burson (W '79) (what were they thinking??). One time executive directors Dan Johnson (S '74) and Charlie Munn (W '74) also rejoined the fold by unpopular demand. We've even held a few monthly board meetings already. During the first meeting, Tom Overton ceded his executive board and secretary position and young Jim Scanlon (S '02) was voted to fill the role on the board. Several other members were reappointed to board committee and advisor positions. Lynn Leslie (W '88) and Jack Hutcheson (F '69) were ceremoniously and unanimously reappointed to the Chapter and Faculty Advisors roles respectively.

The board would like to thank the older Jim Scanlon (W '76) and Jim Daniel (F '84) for their participation on the executive board and stewardship over the past two years of serving on the executive committee. Both of these gentlemen have agreed to carry on as non-executive at large directors, and Jim Daniel has dusted off his old Perry Mason videos to spearhead our response to the University regarding the suspension. Check out www.vtdke.com for the complete list of the 2009-2011 board members. You may be surprised to find out that even several of you were appointed or otherwise volunteered by your fellow alumni and hold a position on this illustrious organization

On the heels of a very successful second season of DKE Alumni Tailgates came the suggestion from Charlie Webb (F '85) to form a more organized Social/Tailgate Committee for 2010. Enthralled with the idea, the board immediately appointed Charlie Webb to chair the new committee. Inebriated with our newfound power we proceeded to add Theta Bowden as a co-chair of the Committee, figuring this was a just reward for being the caretaker of the tailgate gear (we are up to 3 tents now!). Theta is also reportedly still looking after last season's stock of two PBR six packs remaining from the last game. Thanks to Charlie for stepping up to the plate and Theta for finding himself stuck in the batter's box anyway.

Again, it's pretty easy to serve on the board in a non-executive member-at-large capacity. All you've got to do is get your name on the Board e-mail listserv (e-mail Jim Scanlon at jtscanlon@gmail.com) and call in during a board meeting or two. Any and all help is welcomed.



Alumni Tailgate Recap and Plans for 2010 season

We had incredible turnout for the second season of tailgates. The Alumni Board would like to thank all those who attended. We've posted photos on our website, and if you can find it, Buzz Wainman's hosting tales from the Nebraska game. We saw over 150 individual DKE/DKS brothers and well over 500 friends and family, greatly surpassing last season's turnout. A special thanks to the "hosts" who organized and/or provided for the tailgates: Bob Snyder (W '73) - Alabama/Atlanta; Active Chapter Brotherhood (Mike Konyha (F '06)-Pres) - Marshall; Bob Dreelin (W '72)/Buzz Wainman (W '75) - Nebraska; Theta Bowden (F '70) - Miami; Peyton Winfree (F '85)/Charlie Webb (W '85) - Boston College; Dan Johnson (S '74) - UNC; and Burt Burson (W '79) for NC State.

A few noted (or un-notable depending on your perspective) first time tailgate attendees this season included Jim McDonald (W '74), Dave Marshall (S '76) [whose son Dave joined DKE in the fall], Fred Simmons (W '76), John Torpey (F '88), Roger Bolick (W '74), Eric Millham (S '73) and Scott Pennington (F '76). Believe us, there were loads more whom we logged in guest books each week, which are likely still in the back of Theta's car.

The upcoming season kicks off with VT vs Boise State at FedEx Field in Maryland. We have put in several calls to Dan Snyder, owner of the Redskins, requesting 300 tickets and 50 parking places for the tailgate. We are awaiting his response. In the meantime, it does not look like block seating a la the VT-USC game a few years back is practical. However we do plan to organize a tailgate somewhere in the stadium parking lot. Sign up for our e-mail newsletter and we'll keep you posted. Meanwhile back in Blacksburg we are looking to secure the rights to Lot 4 Space 94 again for the coming year. (Thanks to Mickey Hayes (S '62)!) Details on tailgates will follow in coming newsletters.

DKE House improvements continue in kitchen

When we last checked, the DKE House was still standing. Some minor kitchen renovations were undertaken in 2009 with a new stovetop and exhaust fan, several cabinets replaced and oven installed. Structural floor repairs, electrical rewiring, and wall reframing were also done. The active brotherhood laid a new linoleum floor at the start of the school year. Later in the year a new commercial washer and dryer were purchased for the house. Repairs to the heater were also undertaken, as well as finally fixing a persistent plumbing leak on the third floor. Next on the list of things to be done are the installation of a Female/Guest bathroom on the first floor and renovations the existing first floor bathroom. Design is complete and approved by the town - we're just awaiting funding.

Finances and Treasurer's Report

In 2009 we had 74 individuals make voluntary dues contributions as well as capital contributions totaling \$22,015. In addition it is noted and recognized that several of our tailgate hosts donated the cost of food and drink supplies. Check out the full list of all 2009 contributors on www.vtdke.com. While this was an increase in the number of donors from 2008 it is still below the average over the past 11 years. **Many thanks to all those who contributed.**

At the beginning of 2010 the Alumni Association had \$12,828 split between the operating account and the Rampant Lion Foundation - Sigma Alpha Fund account. We have been unable to reduce our fully drawn \$75K line of credit loan due to an under-filled house. A key focus for this fall is to ensure that the house is fully rented, allowing rent to support house operating expenses (mortgage, taxes, insurance). We want to utilize your capital contributions solely for alumni organization expenses and to undertake improvements and reduce the credit loan.

In short our budget for the year is to allocate \$6,000 for Alumni Association operating expenses and social expenses. We will need to support house operating costs until August due to empty rooms. At that point we expect rents to cover house expenses. We hope to end the year with sufficient funding to renovate the first floor bathrooms as well as partially pay down the line of credit loan. **Remember all donations made out the Rampant Lion Foundation - Sigma Alpha Fund are tax deductible!** FFTHF, Roger Leibowitz (W '76), Treasurer



Summary and Chairman's Report

I would like to thank all those that attended the tailgates, stopped by the house, and particularly those that supported the fraternity financially. This past year we had 7 new first time donors, 10 new members of the TEN-YEAR-CLUB, as well as 1 additional Re-Founding Father tier donor. We start a new year and a new decade with high hopes of the fraternity and the alumni organization growing in size and financial stability. I ask that you take a few moments and fill out the information card and return it along with any stories you may want to share with your alumni. If we don't get any facts, we will just have to make them up again. Also we ask for your tax-deductible financial support for the coming year. Our "voluntary" contribution dues are just \$50/year which goes to support the core costs of the alumni organization operation (newsletters, taxes, social tailgates, and beer). All additional contributions are used to support the capital infrastructure, namely the DKE House.

We look forward to YOUR participation in the fraternity. Most of time it means just showing up. How hard can that be? Stop by the house at 302 E. Roanoke Street, the longest, continuously owned fraternity house in Blacksburg, owned by the alumni of DKE/DKS, the oldest continuous fraternity at Virginia Tech.

FFTHF, Daniel Johnson VT-DKE Alumni Association

**Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of
Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
P.O. Box 18231
Richmond, VA 23226**