

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



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

September 7, 2010

## Alumni Association/Chapter Update

*Chairman's Letter: Dan Johnson (Spring '74)*

Greetings fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Another VT football season has arrived. This goes out immediately before the expected exciting win over those blue smurfs from Boise State and with VT solidly ranked in the top 5 of the country. With VT football, comes another year of the growing tradition of DKE/DKS tailgates in our now familiar spot in LOT4-Space94. For the geographically challenged we have even thrown in a map on the next page. All tailgates start at least 3 hours before game time. We were looking to include the Boise State game at FedEx field to start the season but for some unknown reason Dan Snyder refused to meet our demands for a suitable location.

Now that everyone is aware of the tailgates, here's the rest of news. We have our second PAGE 3 column featuring the pledge class year of 1984-1985 co-authored by Jim Daniel and Charlie Webb. They "claim" that this was the pledge class year that "saved" the Sigma Alpha chapter. Now since these claims are coming from the same group that built a wooden urinal trough adding an overriding urine stench to the normal DKE House stale beer aromas for years after, who can doubt their claims?

We also have included the parents of the active members on the mailing list for the first time in memory. Welcome, and if you all are attending any football games please consider this as an open invitation on behalf of the DKE/DKS Alumni Association to join the tailgates (with or without your sons!) The fraternity currently has several legacy members (sons, nephews and brothers of the Johnson, Marshall, Rose and Scanlon families) which simply goes to show that alumni and relatives are often an effective avenue for recruitment (either that or we have terribly led our relatives astray!). To this end, if you have sons, relatives, sons of neighbors/friends, and any other VT student that you desire (either rightly or wrongly) to share some of the same DKE/DKS experiences you had, simply provide us with their name and contact information and we will endeavor to ensure that their recruitment happens.

We have also continued the never-ending efforts to upgrade and maintain the now 100-year old DKE fraternity house. We have 9 young men living in the house this year, representing the highest residency level in some 20 years. A strong nucleus of brothers living in the house is key to the fraternity, both financially and in centering the focus of the chapter activities on our unique property. With your support, we continue the seemingly never ending process to refurbish and upgrade the facilities. In the past two months we have replaced several interior doors that were damaged by vandalism during the summer break, as well as installed a new metal frame and solid core door on the first floor "pit room" bedroom. We received a building permit from the Town of Blacksburg and began work on new bathroom facilities on the first floor this summer. A two-stall bathroom is located in the combined areas that were once the hallway leading to the kitchen and the urinal trough room (and the old pay phone closet before that). Upon completion in September, the facilities will provide for appropriate facilities for guests for, let's face it, the first time ever, at the fraternity house. The actives have even promised to keep it stocked with toilet paper.

We continue to try to install a renewed sense of pride and ownership by those living and using OUR fraternity house. An improved DKE house and a strong active chapter are vital to the sustainability of DKE/DKS Alumni Association. We all want to make the house an asset that: students will want to live in; guests will speak highly of; and alumni will be proud to visit. As always we need and rely upon your support to make this happen.



# VT DKE-DKS Tailgate Club

*Tailgate Club-Social Co-Chairman Charlie Webb (Spring '85)*

Dear Brother Dekes,

I know we are all very excited about this football season and the Hokies run for the National Championship. To be totally frank, little else is being discussed out here in southwest Virginia.

I am writing to you to discuss a wonderful new tradition, DKE tailgates at home games. Because of an extremely generous donation by Brother Mickey Hayes, we have had the good fortune of a reserved spot in the corner of lot 4 right by Lane Stadium. Those that have been able to attend some of the events have enjoyed food and drink provided by the Alumni Association and contributions made by generous alumni while catching up with their classmates and families. The events have gotten bigger and better each year and have laid the foundation for the years to come. As with any great tradition it is built around the relationships of those that participate and their commitment to the event. Having said that I am going to ask you for several favors today:



1) Not only plan to attend DKE tailgates this year, but reach out to the brothers that you keep in contact with and ask them to attend as well. We'd like to have some special weeks where concentrated efforts are made to have large groups of classmates attend in the same week. Seeing old friends and their families, catching up and retelling the tall tales of our past is what makes these events so special.

2) Consider joining the VT DKE DKS Tailgate Club. Okay really, you knew this was coming didn't you? To assure the continued success of the event, grow participation in the alumni association and to build opportunities for DKE alumni to socialize, we are launching this new idea. Members will make an annual tax deductible contribution of \$350 to the fraternity to join this club. This is open to all members of the alumni association that have paid their annual dues and are in good standing (and anyone else who wants to help out). Our goal is to get 20 members the

first year and we are off to a great start. Members of the tailgate club will receive a VT DKE DKS Tailgate Club Polo. Sorry I haven't gotten a prototype to show you yet, I do have a day job, but I promise it will be nice. We will have a banner displayed at tailgates recognizing the members (brothers can collectively contribute in the name a fallen brother as a memorial if they'd like). That is the basic idea going forward but we first need to get a core membership together. All alumni are invited to the events that will be held at all home games. The events will be professionally catered and beverages for all ages will be provided. Please email me @ [cwebb@benefitsgroup.net](mailto:cwebb@benefitsgroup.net) with your commitment and contact info. Any surplus in future years will be used to support and maintain the overall activities of the alumni association tailgates (upgrade the scotch) and the house corporation. Again, please strongly consider becoming a charter member of this organization that we can all enjoy for years to come. I appreciate you taking time to consider this and I hope to see you at some games. LETS GO HOKIES!!!  
FFTHF, Charlie



## The 1984-85 pledge classes: now and then

### *Pledge Class Year Update: Jim Daniel (Fall '84) and Charlie Webb(Spring '85)*

DKE Historians all know that this was the year and the members that saved Dekes. FALL 1984 – Putting Sigma Alpha DKE back on the map for the 1984-85 year (e.g., regrowing our base) began with an inauspicious start. There were big plans drawn up for rush, rousing recruitment efforts, and well-intended execution. Then, there were 2. **Drew Wine** was, or is, depending upon your definition, one of the most laid-back dudes you ever met. Heck, you had to be laid back to pledge DKE as a 3<sup>rd</sup> year sophomore, and to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> go at pledging after bailing the previous effort in the 10<sup>th</sup> week because he didn't know his songs. A former Tech JV basketball player (back when they had JV in college), he was also a standout handball player. Ok, some of you are asking how actually do you become a standout handball player, and, I'd have to say, that's a legitimate question. The answer is, I don't really know and you caught me, in that order. Today, Drew lives in King George VA and owns his own Motorola wireless business. **Jim Daniel**, or "Jum" to his friends, was/is, as the name suggests, a little larger than your average guy. In fact, his head was exactly "double" that of Ed Buckaloo. However his size and strength served him well as an rugby player during and after his time at VT. Jim mw lives in Ashburn VA, one of those candy suburbs of DC. WINTER 1985 – Talk about an eclectic group. **Mike Beam, Dan Coley, Russ McKinnon, and Chris Scott** came together, sort of, in the winter of 1985. **Dan** transferred to VT that year from Colby and brought with him his vision of DKE, but even more importantly, a car that those of us who pledged Spring 85 could destroy on a pledge trip to Sewanee. Never before in Deke history had so many pastels and madras shorts been assembled in one group. It has often been said that this was as close to having a "boy band" that the fraternity ever got. Russ and Mike were conjoined twins at birth in Richmond, or so we were told when they rushed DKE. Or maybe it was room-mates, I can't remember which. Anyway, they clearly weren't afraid of the rumors, because they lived together for the next few years while at VT. I think Russ is still boasting about holding the most successful party ever at the Sigma Alpha house. After the strain endured by the house as witnessed over the succeeding decades, I'm not sure that the financial analysis is complete on what it means to have a "successful" house party. Russ is also famous for attending any, and all, Foxridge apartment parties, bringing his own 6-pack, even if he consumed 12. Shortly, after Mike and Russ were separated, Mike married his high school sweetheart and was, it seemed to us, married through college and still today. **Chris** ran roughshod at the DKE house as an active, but went missing sometime before graduation. Word has it that he uncovered a huge "cow tipping" conspiracy and is in hiding as the Government's main witness. SPRING 1985 – Today, the Spring '85 pledge class of 4 masquerades as serious-minded professionals. But, it wasn't so long ago that they left their first rush opportunity at the DKE house and spent several hours bonding together. During those formative times, they proceeded to amass the largest haul of unused (I stress, unused) toilet paper. To that point, in the Sigma Alpha history, this was the largest non-monetary donation ever made to the DKE house on Roanoke Street. Some say it was 300 rolls; maybe it was 400 rolls. Heck, it's the thought that counts. Today, **Paul Gates, Tom Overton, Bill Riester and Charlie Webb** have more "important" accomplishments to boast about. Paul is a senior manager at Computer Sciences Corporation. Tom is an engineer with Verizon in NY, and Bill is a professional with Progressive. Charlie is an executive with the Benefits Group, but spends his real time organizing Alumni tailgates and working on his golf handicap (last reported somewhere in the mid-20's).

RECAP – Some of the facts herein are actually accurate. In any case, we wouldn't cite this article with absolute authority, with the sole exception of Jum's head size. Most of this collection of guys from the 1984-85 pledge year, and a couple others that came before and after, are responsible: for stories still whispered in the house today; for a Kitchen renovation that has long-since gone by the wayside; and constructing a wooden urinal in the old phone booth. It's fair to ask whether constructing a wooden urinal is a proud accomplishment, but I must point out and I swear (and I am lawyer now so it must be true) there were 10+ applications of lacquer so that the odors wouldn't permeate the wood. Our "84-85 boys" not only were the driving spirit of our fine fraternity house at that time, they are responsible for the addition of "BC" Moose to the house who proudly on the walls of the DKE house today. Go "BC" and Go Dekes!



## And lastly, a word from our Treasurer.....

*Alumni Treasurer: Roger Leibowitz (Winter '76)*

We keep sticking these blue envelopes and donation cards in with the newsletters in hope that you remember and support the fraternity. All deductions made out the RLF-Sigma Alpha Fund are tax deductible. If you make (or have made) a donation by credit card via the website, please make sure you check the Sigma Alpha Fund - Virginia Tech designation. We believe several of you all have made donations to the DKE International Fraternity that were otherwise intended for our chapter. This was likely the case if the donation was made by a credit card. We regularly update the website with current year donors. If you have made a donation and are not recognized on the list please let me know immediately and we will rectify the problem. If you are not on the 2010 list and have made your donation for this year yet, please make use of the blue envelope enclosed!

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