

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



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

December 20, 2010

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

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

Holiday Greetings fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

After a disappointing 0-2 start and rumblings to fire Beamer and the rest of the bums, the Hokies went out and won 11 games in a row and secured an Orange Bowl berth against Stanford. Meanwhile the DKE/DKS Tailgates turned it up another notch this year with catered food and lots of alumni stopping by for food, drink and catching up with the over 100+ alumni that tailgated with the Dekes/Deeks. Special kudos go out to inaugural DKE Tailgate Club members who chipped in some extra \$ to help fund the affairs and Charlie Webb (Spring '85) and Theta Bowden (Fall '70) who between them organized the catering for the entire season and drank their share of bloody mary's. Spurred on by the new tradition 20+ Dekes and their friends gathered for a tailgate at the ACC Championship in Charlotte. Hosted by the Dreelin boys (they did make a DKE sign to put on bar), a good time was had in a warm and dry location for pre-game activities at the local Holiday Inn before kicking the snot out of FSU.

On the way to the ACCCG, we stopped by the tailgate of Winn (Creasy) and Jim Register. As background, Winniferd was a DKE little sister in the late 1970's and also the little sister of DKE brother Skip Creasy (Winter '74), who was the starting tight end for Tech football. Coming from an athletic family, Winn was one of our inside ringers to help DKE dominate in intramural coed sports. The Creasys were also "townies" from Blacksburg. Some of Winn's high school classmates were Dekes Charlie Phlegar (Spring '75), Dan Frith (Spring '76), John Dreiling (Spring '76), John Boatwright (Spring '75), and John Walker (Spring '76). Now Winn, who is on the alumni mailing list, and was wondering if we were sending her the DKE newsletters just as a ploy to get her to donate. Truth is Winn, it is not a ploy, but rather a shakedown for hush money to keep the secrets of your college days locked away in the DKE archive vault. Besides if you make a donation, we can embarrass those fellow Blacksburg HS DKE classmates of yours that are now doctors, lawyers, architects, and other fatcats into at least matching your gift. A little blue envelope is enclosed just for you. And by the way Winn, you looked - "MAHVELOUS".

And we got another PAGE 3 news feature for the pledge class year of 1968-69 authored by guest columnist Charlie Lloyd (Fall '68). Despite advice of "when in doubt, just make it up", Charlie took the role seriously and reached out and contacted everyone and got real feedback from most everyone. The bio-updates are so complete that we had to dedicate extra space to the PAGE 3 column and extend it beyond the mandatory one page length for two and a half pages worth! Enjoy. By the way, we need more guest columnists, so volunteer for your pledge class year!

We also have had much conflicting feedback from our last PAGE 3 column regarding the claims made by the DKE brothers from the 84-85 year surrounding BC Moose. Now, based on the fact gathering process of our crack reporting team we have verified the following "true account" of the BC Moose acquisition. Anecdotal evidence indicates that Peyton Winfree (Fall '85) solicited 'Moose acquisition funding' from his fellow Dekes during a Friday night party getting pledges of "several hundred dollars" from the inebriated crowd. Peyton actually collects \$38.34 and fronts the rest (and still keeps at tab of who owes him the rest) and provides funding to Phil "Theta" Bowden to acquire one such moose (at least one case of Moosehead beer was involved). From this point onward, the stories started to diverge quite a bit. From what we have found out, Theta went to northern Maine, snow-shoed 40+ miles in the back country in four-foot deep snow and hunted down a moose. Many claim he actually entered Canada. Upon Theta's return to Blacksburg, at the next chapter meeting, the brothers asked the smartest brother (future lawyer it is said) "what is north of Maine?" to which the smart one declared 'British Columbia' and all then agreed



to shorten the name to BC to protect Theta against being tracked down by Canadian officials. [REF: DKE meeting minute book found in attic] To this day, BC Moose still adorns the chapter house wall. Dem's da facts.

We are working on plans for the 70th Anniversary bash for the DKS/DKE chapter at VT. It will be held in the Fall of 2011 on the weekend following a VT Thursday night football game. As soon as the schedule is set early next year we will set the agenda and venue. The 60th anniversary bash 10 years ago had a huge turnout so plan to be there. Fill out the information card and help us plan the event. Better yet, volunteer and send Charlie Webb an email. Next year also marks the 40th year of the DKE chapter and the fraternity house's 100th birthday. We expect a letter from President Obama congratulating the house for reaching 100! See our social committee report below for more details.

Finally I would like to take time to recognize some of the VT-DKE/DKS Alumni Association volunteers for their continued efforts. Starting with Roger Leibowitz, who has served as our volunteer Treasurer for the past three years and keeps the organization's finances on the up and up; Troy Turner, who prepares and files tax returns for the organization each year keeping us legit; Charlie Webb/Theta Bowden who fulfilled the roles of social chairmen and actually organized the tailgates this past year; Mickey Hayes, for his generous contribution of the Lot 4-94 parking space to enable the DKE tailgates; Jim Scanlon for maintaining the website and writing and delivering our electronic newsletters and newsblasts; and Members-at-Large Charlie Munn, Jim Daniel, and Burt Burson for their continued advice and counsel at Board meetings.

We could also not survive without the generous financial support of you, our alumni, friends and family of DKE/DKS. Your alumni organization has owned and maintained (well at least some of the time) for over 40 years, the 100-year-old DKE House on Roanoke Street; and supports the local chapter. We hope you all take time to stop by the house next time through (remember, nicest guest bathroom in town for at least the next few months) and visit some of the active members. Also hope that you take the time to return for the 70-40-100 reunion next year!

FFTHF, Dan Johnson, Spring '74

VT DKE-DKS Social Committee

Social Committee co-Chairman Charlie Webb (Spring '85)

Dear DKE/DKS Brothers,

The tradition continues! Despite a weak home schedule and an ungodly abundance of early (noon or 1pm) kickoff times, DKE tailgates were well attended and we have concluded a very successful 3rd season. Next year will be even "bigger and better" and we hope to attract more alumni who will make visiting the DKE Tailgate a part of every home game. We have a Facebook page "VT DKE Alumni Association" with photos from this season's tailgates. Those that have been able to attend some of the events this year have enjoyed food and drink provided by the VT-DKE Alumni Association Tailgate Club 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. Make a point of joining the DKE Tailgate Club for next year, or at least stopping by and saying hello.

70th Anniversary Reunion of Chapter Founding (40 years as DKE)

OK, now for the next big task of expanding our alumni social events. Fall 2011 we are planning on a 70th Anniversary Banquet/Reunion. We are going to schedule around the VT football schedule, so the exact date is not set yet. Also we are looking for help in organizing the event. Please indicate your intent to come and hopefully your willingness to help organize the event by returning the enclosed information card. Attendance is mandatory. Don't even think about not showing up!

FFTHF, Charlie



The 1968-1969 pledge classes: now and then

Pledge Class Year Update: Charlie Lloyd (Fall '68)

Charlie Lloyd (Fall '68): Graduated in '73 and attended the University of Michigan and got his MBA in 1975 and went to work for Ford Motor in Detroit. I married Kathie—the fraternity sweetheart—moved to St. Louis and then San Diego with General Dynamics. We had three boys—all now graduated from college. One in Vegas with MGM, one in San Diego with Booze Allen and one in San Jose with a small service company. Kathie and Charlie divorced in early 1990's—not always the best idea to marry the college love interest. I went to work for Lockheed Martin to run a joint venture with several Russian companies and met Tammy, who I married, and now have a 13 year old boy and 12 year old girl. Not the most practical decision, but it keeps me young. I left Lockheed Martin to be CFO and COO of a small aerospace company in San Diego and then Tammy decided she wanted to raise the family in Bishop (in the eastern Sierras). To pay the bills, they opened a toy store in Bishop and one in Mammoth—a ski resort town 40 miles from Bishop. I was running the Mammoth store and skiing 150 times a year when Tammy decided she didn't want to live in Bishop anymore. We sold the stores and moved back to San Diego. I worked for a consulting firm for several years and joined Charlotte Russe as Vice President of Finance in 2006. Charlotte Russe went private this summer and moved the headquarters to San Francisco. I'm not much of a San Francisco kind of guy, so we opted not to move and I have recently joined ViaSat as Vice President of Financial Analysis. Son Nathan is expecting my first grandchild—a boy—due in mid-December. **John Huddleston (Fall '68):** Graduated in '70 and joined the employed in the pharmaceutical world. I married my DKE sweetheart Mary and traveled the US in multiple roles with Upjohn in sales. My West Coast role as Regional Sales Director kept changing as Upjohn kept buying other companies (Searle, Pharmacia) so we seized the chance to leave Los Angeles in 1996. We moved back east to our best place ever just north of Charlotte, NC to run the Regional Managed Care Divisions. Upjohn kept buying companies and eventually we were bought by Pfizer as I turned 55. I wish that for everyone— a buyout and retirement. I fired up The Huddleston Group, an Executive Search company, in 2003 to manage the work life taper. Way too much work in the early days but the marketplace has self tapered it for me now. During those travels we created two great daughters now living in Nashville along with a gorgeous 8 year old granddaughter and another on the way. We live there half time to keep them straight and keep the honkytonks profitable. Life is good. **Ron Vergakis (Fall '68):** Graduated from Virginia Tech in Spring 1971 with BS IEOR. Married Linda Clark Vergakis my Senior year, and we recently celebrated our 40th Anniversary. We were blessed with 4 children (Brent a U of Arkansas grad now living in Aiken, SC, Taylor a Hokie now living in Charlotte, Hunter a Tar Heel now living in Charlotte, and Brock a Gamecock presently living in Salt Lake City). All right, so they weren't all Hokies, but we love them anyway. Presently have 5 ½ grandchildren with the ½ to become 6 in May! After graduating from Tech, I worked for a variety of companies looking for something that I loved. I started with U. S. Gypsum (Project Engineer), Ford Motor Company (Industrial Engineer), General Electric (Production Supervisor), and Department of Defense (Facilities Planning Specialist). All of these companies allowed me to live in Virginia Beach. I was fortunate enough to then be offered a job with Weyerhaeuser Company, where I worked for 12 years at numerous locations including Chesapeake, VA, Hot Springs, AR, Federal Way, WA, and Winston Salem, NC. My assignments included Industrial Engineering, Plant Manager, and National Sales and Marketing Manager for the Paneling Division. Next was General Manager of Sales and Marketing for all Lumber and Plywood Plants, then a Special Task force to implement Total Quality across the Company, and finally Director of Sales and Marketing for Engineered Strand Products. I then went to work for Mannington Wood Floors as VP of Manufacturing, and soon thereafter was promoted to President. At this point in my career I began to think about my own business, and returning back to “home” in Virginia Beach. I was offered an opportunity to become President of Worsham Sprinkler Company, the same one the field is named after in Lane Stadium! After 3 years there, I found a business that I felt was right for me, and Linda and I bought a business in May of 2003 located in Newport News, VA. The name of the business is United Technologies Services, Inc., and we provide equipment maintenance services both locally and nationally. We relocated the business in August of 2009 to Virginia Beach, which is where we reside. We are both looking forward to retirement in the next few years!!! We have held Tech season tickets for about 20 years now, ever since we got back to the East Coast, and frequently see



Phil and Diane Harris. We have run into many brothers at tailgates over the years, and it is always fun. **Acie Piceral Fall '68):** My wife Kathy and I have been married for 36 years and have two great kids Matt, 33 and Lyndsey, 23. Matt attends all the Tech home games with me and is a big Hokie fan. I have to calm him down sometimes at the games. Lyndsey is graduating from Longwood this spring and will be a school teacher like her mom. Kathy retired this school year after 40 years of teaching Spanish at Gretna High School. We live Chatham, Va. My work career has been in textiles (Dan River Mills) and furniture (The Lane Co); as in Lane Stadium. You'll notice that both of these have something in common. That's right! They closed their doors. Rather than continue in my closure of other industries I decided in a different direction for a career. I had wanted to be a Physical Therapist out of high school but had decided against it. My wife backed me in going back to school and I graduated in 2004 as a LPTA. I now work at Gretna Health and Rehab Center's therapy dept. It's been really rewarding. There are so many great times to remember. The memories of parties, the girls, the drinking, the parties, the drinking etc, etc, are probably as wild for every generation. But I tell everybody that the movie Animal House was the Deke house back in our day. No names will be mentioned to protect the guilty. Those were some happy days and even better memories that us old farts can look back on and smile. Told you I would keep it brief. Now if you want more d Ah, where to begin. Well, I am on my second marriage. I had two children by my first marriage - Randy and Shannon. Randy is 28 and works in Peabody, MA as the head of outdoor education. He is married and has one child, my granddaughter, Ava. Shannon is 24 and is married to a New Zealander and lives in Auckland. **John Weld (Fall '68):** Ah, where to begin. Well, I am on my second marriage. I had two children by my first marriage - Randy and Shannon. Randy is 28 and works in Peabody, MA as the head of outdoor education. He is married and has one child, my granddaughter, Ava. Shannon is 24 and is married to a New Zealander and lives in Auckland. Cathy, my current/last wife, and I met when were both working in a prosecutor's office here in New Hampshire. We have one child, Becky, who is 15 and my jock. She is the only child of mine that shared my passion as a Red Sox fan. When she was 5 she would come down in the morning and ask if the Sox won. But the special part, and what made her stand out in my mind, was her next question, "did the Yankees lose?" I couldn't have been prouder. One good thing about living in Boston College territory was the fact that I usually had bragging rights. Has Beamer been a great coach or what!!! I miss the brothers and often wish I had more contact with them. I think about those days often and can't help but smile. I didn't hit it rich financially, but I am okay with that. Let everyone know that I am alive, happy, and doing well. **Dwight Smith (Fall '68):** Let me start with - the days at Tech with the Deeks were the best days of my life. In the current climate - trying to keep up with the position I have - I often recall those days and find them refreshing - allowing me to keep fighting the fight. A little history now. After graduating from Tech, I attended UVA in the doctoral program in math. What a downer - I was often asked by the yahoo's - "Where did you park your tractor?" I finished all the class work and was spending the summer in Argonne National Lab under the supervision of Brian Smith, no relation, searching for a thesis topic. Well to cut the story short - I ran into a postdoc from University of Munich that had mentored me when I was a co-op at Oak Ridge National Lab as a physic student at Tech, his wife had left him, and he was still trying to find a permanent research position, this was the point at which I said - enough! I decided to get my Masters and find a real job. I ended up working for IBM in Vermont, semiconductor development and manufacturing, for 13 years. With two children, Heather and Nicole, the winters became a little too brutal to stay. So, after my assignment with the site general manager, a grooming position, I was asked what I wanted, and I replied "Transfer to the Raleigh IBM site", which was accomplished in 1988. At that point I moved into software, and remained with IBM till 2001, when IBM sold the product I was involved with to a company on the west coast, Genesys, now a division in Alcatel-Lucent, one of the profitable divisions. A little over a year ago, I was offered a position in San Francisco, so I moved. In the position there I report to the VP of Development - and I have been working harder than any time in my life! Truth be told, I am also really enjoying the work! That is about it - anyone in the SFO area - please let me know. **Jerry Bryant (Winter '68):** Jerry did not respond to my repeated requests for data so here goes. Jerry graduated in 1973 in something that I can't remember and moved back to Roanoke, where he married his sweetheart Breda. Why she agreed to marry Jerry - we will never know. They had a couple of kids - who I think turned out well in spite of their father. Jerry started a house building business - which I think is still going in spite of the recession. Acie pointed out that he had not aged at all. I always though Jerry looked old when were in college so I can only assume he struck a deal with the Devil to not age. It has been reported to me



that he can be obnoxious, loud and opinionated in his old age, so he obviously hasn't changed a bit. **Dan James (Spring '69):** I worked for 7 years for the Fairfax County (VA) Park Authority after graduation, during which time I married Carolyn, my college sweetheart. For about 6-8 years I played on a competitive softball team traveling all around the Mid-Atlantic region most summer weekends playing in tournaments. In 1979, I began a 31 year career as a wildlife biologist with the Federal Government, working 14 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the last 17 with the U.S. Geological Survey. Carolyn and I divorced in 1985 (truth be told, she dumped me for a younger man!) and, after finishing graduate school at George Mason University in 1988 (took him 10 years but what's the hurry?), I moved to Minneapolis where he served as the national coordinator for bald eagle recovery efforts. Two years later I returned to the Northern Virginia area and, despite my self-promise never to get involved with a woman with children (why risk having to raise a child as obnoxious as I was?), married Patti and helped in the upbringing of her two daughters. After the kids split, Patti and I moved to a country home in the Blue Ridge Mountains just east of Front Royal, Virginia, where we have lived for the past 10 years. In December, 2010, I will retire from the Government and am looking forward to taking my hobbies (hunting, fishing, bird watching, etc.) much more. **Buck Barksdale (Spring '69):** Buck did not respond to requests for data so here goes. Buck was Lee Barksdale's cousin, but somehow got in the frat on his own merits. He was one of the nicest country boys that you can imagine. I am not sure where he is living—I think still in Virginia. The worst thing I can say about Buck is that he didn't respond to my requests for material for this newsletter. Maybe it's because he has been a worthless piece of shit for the last 40 years and is embarrassed to write about it. Or maybe he has been more successful and living a life of luxury in the south of France is just embarrassed to talk about it—but I doubt it.

Active Chapter Report

Chapter President: Sam Rose (Spring '07)

Fellow Dekes,

I am pleased to announce that DKE is once again a recognized student organization after serving one year as a VT non-recognized fraternity. Unfortunately our underground fall pledge class of 6 quit en masse during the pledge process and we remain with 23 active brothers going into the new semester. With recognized status we can now actively recruit potential new members. We are also interested in receiving any referral from alumni, family or friend that you think would enjoy the DKE experience. Please send me an email at srose89@vt.edu or fill in name and contact information on the data card and these will be forwarded to us.

We expanded our philanthropy outreach this past semester with our participation in the Roanoke Street Cleanup which is an organized clean up of the greater Roanoke Street area, the unofficial Fraternity Row, of Blacksburg. As part of the cleanup process we held a neighborhood "Open House" inviting any and all interested neighbors and townsfolk to see the inside of the DKE house. It was a positive experience for our guests and all our brothers. Earlier in the semester we worked with the nearby Methodist Church to refurbish the church playground by re-mulching the entire playground.

We also repainted the interior of the house this past fall. Coupled with the completion of the new Guest bathroom on the first floor, the house residents are committed to improvement of the regular cleaning and maintenance of the property. The house is fully rented this year and we have commitments to fully rent all the rooms for next year lined up already. I was pleased to meet many alumni at the DKE tailgates and visitors to the house over the course of the fall semester. Our doors are always open, (the front door combo is DEKE (3353) for those rare occurrences when nobody wakes up before noon) and we are proud to show off the house. We also have a new pay phone for incoming calls. The DKE House phone number is (540) 552-DEKE (3353). We also had a visit from Brother Doug Lanpher, the DKE International President. It was Brother Lanpher's second visit to Blacksburg in the past two years and the DKE International is very supportive of our continued efforts to expand and improve our fraternity.



A word from our Treasurer

Alumni Treasurer: Roger Leibowitz (Winter '76)

Greetings. Many thanks to our supporters for the 2010 DKE fund so far this year. We have received donations from 80 alumni, parents and friends so far this year and want to push the number to 100! Your generous donations have allowed for the construction of the new first floor guest bathroom and floor refinishing work to take place. If you haven't yet made a contribution, you can still hurry and make a 2010 tax-deductible contribution effective for this calendar year! Special thanks go out to our most loyal supporters, the TEN-YEAR-CLUB members, who have recorded a donation in at least 10 of the 12 years that we have some resemblance of donation records. Year-end financial statements and donor list summaries will be prepared in early in 2010. In meantime, we have some cash on hand but have yet to make a dent in our credit line.

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