

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



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

April 5, 2011

## Alumni Association/Chapter Update

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

Dear fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

I am happy to report that the VT-DKE Alumni Association plans to relocate the Alumni headquarters to the Seychelles Islands. From now on we will attend to official Fraternity business between the hours of 1:15pm to 1:30pm on every third Wednesday only. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors has voted themselves huge retainers and salaries. We got tired of asking for donations to improve the DKE house so figured we would better off supporting the Board's margarita habits. That is our revised plan. If you want to be part of this plan, volunteer to serve on the alumni association and all of these future benefits will be yours!

OK we are close to setting the date for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Delta Kappa Sigma/Delta Kappa Epsilon chapter at Virginia Tech. Top choice is the weekend of November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> later this year. It's an open weekend from VT football and several weeks between home games in Blacksburg. Save the Date! We have Steering Committee set up even (well sort of) led by Charlie Webb (Spring '85); Craig (and Linda) Scimeca (Spring '80); and Mickey Hayes (and Sarah) (Spring '62). Calling on anyone who wants to pitch in to join the steering committee, but Charlie Webb insists that no more than 100 people can be on it (steering committee members have to settle for planning meetings being held in Aruba, due to the limited funding we have in place). Please take time to fill out and return the questionnaire enclosed which will be used to set date and venue from.

The active chapter was removed from double secret probation and re-recognized by VT again as a Registered Student Organization (RSO) in January at the beginning of the semester. So DKE is back to normal, kinda-sorta. The IFC however decided not to reinstate DKE as a 'member of good standing' in the IFC. So currently the chapter is legitimately, illegitimate or vice versa. From the perspective of the Board, the costs of being in the IFC in terms of fees, payments and rules far outweigh the benefits for DKE as an off-campus fraternity. Additional complications have beset the fraternity this semester and a few more side complications to the whole issue are ongoing, but life goes on. In the meantime it is business as usual for the chapter. The chapter has five pledges this semester and the house is fully rented for the next year. Growth of the chapter is still a key goal and if you know of incoming students for next year that will make good DKE candidates, please send us the contact information. The chapter has stepped up its philanthropy activities and has worked with the nearby Methodist Church on several projects.

The house is still standing (this needs to be confirmed each newsletter as this still amazes many people). Over the winter break, the wood floors in the hallways and several of rooms were refinished. Rumor has it that the new first floor guest bathroom completed in the Fall is still stocked with toilet paper and paper towels. If you haven't seen it yet it is worth a trip to the house to witness for yourself. Having the words, "clean and modern bathroom" and "DKE Fraternity House" has been an oxymoron up until now.

And we got yet another PAGE 3 Now and Then news feature for the pledge class year of 2000-2001 authored by guest columnists Pat King and Kevin Boyd. These guys actually remembered everyone from their pledge classes and have kept in touch with many of them. That in itself gentlemen, explains what it means to be a VT Deek/Deke; friendships that last a lifetime. Like our previous column, their update has expanded beyond the one page and we have devoted appropriate space to their efforts. By the way, we need more guest columnists, so volunteer for your pledge class year! Good way to reconnect and fill in your fellow brothers with what's going on.



Now for the money plea. Some of you may have already noticed, and the rest can look now, that after lots of filling out forms and the steady diligence and persistence of Roger Leibowitz, we have secured our non-profit postage status from the USPS. Has always been in the works, but we finally did it. Saves a few bucks on our newsletters, and every bit helps (cost a lot to fly to Seychelles). I would ask each of you to support the alumni association this anniversary year. Your gifts are tax-deductible and we even accept corporate matching gifts. We can even take appreciated stock now that the market had rebounded. More importantly, make a point of attending the 70<sup>th</sup> reunion this Fall. Be part of, and see what DKS/DKE means to past, present and future bothers.

FFTHF, Dan Johnson, Spring '74

## VT DKE-DKS Social Committee

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

The DKE Tailgate tradition continues! 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 past 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. 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. When you complete the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey please take a second and let us know which games you plan to attend this year. It allows us to plan and continue to grow our events.

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of Chapter Founding (40 years as DKE)

OK, now for the next big task of expanding our alumni social events. We are planning on a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet/Reunion the weekend of November 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>. This date is still tentative; however, it is the front runner at the moment. WE NEED YOUR HELP. We have included a survey that is short and sweet but extremely important. Our goal is to offer an event that is in the best location, full of great activities and most importantly well attended. I need your input. What gets you here? How does the football season impact your involvement? You all know the drill. Also we are looking for help in joining Steering Committee to help organize the event, please let me know if you are willing. No level of participation is too small. We have lots of tasks that I need help with.

FFTHF, Charlie

## Active Chapter Report

*Chapter President: Sam Rose (Spring '07)*

We have five pledges this semester and expect to have 25 active members returning in next year. Despite being reinstated and improved risk management practices we have received additional referral charges against the fraternity and its members. These cases are ongoing at this moment and while we believe the fraternity and its members are not responsible for the allegations, the outcomes of the proceedings against DKE remain in doubt.

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](mailto:srose89@vt.edu) or fill in name and contact information on the data card and these will be forwarded to us. 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). FFTHF, Sam Rose



## The 2000-2001 pledge classes: now and then

### *Pledge Class Year Update: Kevin Boyd (Fall '00) and Pat King (Spring '01)*

Collectively we have pieced together the whereabouts of all our pledge brothers. Not an easy task after ten years or so. We are putting a challenge on ALL of our fellow pledge brothers to make the 70<sup>th</sup> reunion this year as it also marks 10 years for us since we first march across the threshold into DKE oblivion. The pledge classes of Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 learned a lot from the seniors, which was important because the future of the fraternity was essentially left in the hands of sixteen 19-year-olds of which all but a few were barely potty trained. The ten brothers from the Fall 2000 pledge class and the six brothers from the Spring 2001 pledge class probably constituted one of the smartest years in our chapter's recent history. You may be asking how we could make this claim, or thinking that your year was smarter. Well, I feel confident making this statement because many of the brothers from 2000 and 2001 came from Charlottesville, which means that they were smart enough to choose VT over UVA (which was an especially smart choice if you ever wanted to attend a winning football game against your state rival).

FALL 2000: In Fall 2000, **Richard "Oxygen Thief" Bomgardner** and **Michael Seering** came from the prestigious Western Albemarle High School, which incidentally had produced the anything but prestigious Drew Petit in an earlier pledge class (and Will Carter). Rich was notorious for some of the worst ideas in DKE history and always had some sort of scheme brewing to make money. Apparently his stint as DKE treasurer boosted his resume enough to land him a sweet gig handling some real money in a major firm (Ernst & Young or one of those bean counting firms). Rich currently resides in San Diego, CA and recently got engaged to be married. Michael Seering was a great guy who started off quiet but blossomed into the life of the party by his senior year. Mike settled down long enough to marry Shauna, who he had met long ago at the DKE house, and they currently live in Hagerstown Maryland with their young son. **Kevin "DJ Foot" Boyd** was also from Charlottesville and took over the party and DJ duties from Chris "the Kid" Alphin. Kevin got his PhD in Toxicology at UNC after graduating, but still came up to VT every weekend for football games. Kevin recently got married and is currently temporarily residing near Derf's old hometown in Hershey, Pennsylvania, which, contrary to what they claim, is not the sweetest place on earth. **Dan Watson, Andrew McLennand, and Greg Levine** were your token Northern Virginia guys that exist in every pledge class at VT. Dan Watson loved working the door at parties and seemed destined to become a professional bouncer. However, he pulled what you could call an "anti-moody" and went from 275 pounds to 135 pounds (well not quite that far), which effectively killed his bouncing career. Dan currently resides in Northern Virginia and works for State Farm Insurance. Andrew McLennand is as mysterious to this day as he was when he first stepped foot in the DKE house. Destined to be a male model or actor, he believed he was "ridiculously good looking" and is probably off practicing his blue steel look. Greg Levine recently got engaged and is living in Cary, NC. Greg spent some time working as the whole IT department for Baseball America, and is currently working for Cisco Systems. **Drew King** was our local product and was probably best known for refusing to shower ever! (even when his girlfriend promised him certain favors if he would only bathe himself). Thus, it was only fitting that Drew moved into the DKE house, where cleanliness was not the number one priority. Drew debated dropping out of school to focus on his umpire career, but luckily stuck it out and is now living in Atlanta, Georgia working in sales for Georgia Tech. **Matt Campbell** is a great guy who came to VT from Deptford, New Jersey, where they do not let you pump your own gas. I am not sure how he made it down to VT because when asked to pump gas after a concert freshman year, he had no idea what to do. After graduation, Matt failed to make the cast of the Jersey Shore and sadly moved to Philadelphia to work for BDP International. **Marcus Malone** and **Brian Pott** were brothers from another mother, as these two guys somehow ended up at VT from Yarmouth, Maine. After getting deported from China, Marcus recently got married and is living in Jersey City, NJ. I believe he has a child on the way, and may even have converted from a Red Sox fan to a Yankees fan. After creating a lot of crap in the DKE house, Brian Pott spent his time after graduation cleaning up crap all over the US (oils spills etc. to be more specific). Brian Pott is currently living in Boston and is allegedly is interested in women (which is good to finally hear).

SPRING 2001 -- After a very successful 10 man class from the previous semester, the chapter was aiming to build on



those gains and end the year with a big active surge after the lean and troubled years of '98 and '99 (I mean, I guess it would have been cool to have the Blacksburg SWAT team over to the house for a drink, but as it turned out they arrived in their official capacity). Regardless, in the end we were able to pull 6 fine young gentleman (okay I'm stretching a bit) across to the DKE house to end the '00-'01 school year with 16 new brothers. **Nick Kindig** was from Charlottesville and an all-around great, laid back guy. Fortunately he still speaks to me after I shaved his head and wrote on his face with permanent marker during a drunken pledge night at the house the night before his folks were coming in town for Parent's Weekend. I've also never seen a guy habitual spend so much money at various gentleman clubs. Nick currently lives in Richmond, VA and works for Capital One. He was recently married this past December to the former Sarah Michaels of Raleigh, NC. I was not able to make it but by all accounts it was a grand affair. **Kennard Moore** was also from Charlottesville, a little less laid back, but still a good guy. He was one of those that were a realist who was often confused as a pessimist.....so we got a long great. Kennard was a master at procuring our friend Billy and he often saved us at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour over the years. He now lives back in Charlottesville with his wife Lauren and their new daughter where he manages a general contracting business. **Lewis 'Trae' Harding** was the heart of the class, providing the driving force for some of the best party ideas we ever came up with over the years. During our pledge trip to Rowan College he proceeded to paint the side of his white Jeep with red Mad Dog 20/20....and it wasn't straight from the bottle. Surprisingly, he graduated on time and then proceeded to throw a grad party for the ages. Over the years he snagged one of the DKE house ladies, Miss Brooke Martin, and they were married shortly after graduation. They now live in Richmond with their two lovely daughters where Trae works in the property management business. **Brian Moody** came to us from Lynchburg, VA where he was, as he claims, a prolific high school swimmer. He truly weighed about 135 lbs the beginning of freshman year. Well, that lasted a semester or two. After hundreds of parties, road trips, spring break to Jamaica, football weekends, etc.....we were able to get that up to probably 235ish by the time graduation rolled around. That being said, he still successfully attracted a mate and was married to the former Ryan Crisman also of Lynchburg. They now reside back in Lynchburg where Brian works as a mechanical engineer in sales for a firm selling heat exchangers and pressure vessels. **Drew 'Derf' Diefenderfer** was from Harrisburg, PA and was always running his mouth about something. In the end, he will always be known for his first, and hopefully last, foray into art.....what ultimately was known as the Muppet Dance. An aerospace engineer, he was the first of our class to successfully get laid off.....getting canned by Honeywell in Phoenix. However, he must have some promising attributes because he was soon picked up by Boeing and moved to the Seattle area. Derf also married a DKE house lady, the former Miss Dana Natalie from Fairfax, VA. They now live in Roanoke, VA with their new son, Chase, where Derf works in engineering management for a crane company. **Patrick King** finally graduated and has spent the last five years bouncing around here and there, having recently landed in San Diego. I finally convinced someone to marry me in January, joining the rest of these poor bastards in the institution of marriage.

## Financial Status Update

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

We have run the books for 2010 and the ink is still black (just need to get rid of the negative signs now). We have had a full house since last August and the prognosis looks good for filling the house for the 2011-12 academic year. In 2010 we collected \$28,350 in rental income. This year's rental income budget is \$34,000 with the house rooms fully rented for the entire year. A full house provides us with sufficient rental income to cover the mortgage, demand loan interest, taxes, insurance, and 'normal' ongoing maintenance and fees associated with our 100-year old house and more importantly avoids the need for alumni contributions to support house operating expenses.

We continue to make significant capital improvements to the property and 2010 was no exception. Led by the new Guest bathroom we invested close to \$30,000 in capital improvements and major maintenance over the course of 2010. Our goal for 2011 is to build up sufficient cash reserves in the Sigma Alpha Fund to issue a \$50K mortgage note to ourselves in order to make a significant payment against the revolving credit loan. FFTHF, Roger



**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DKE/DKS Alumni Reunion Questionnaire**

1. Name
2. Email Address
3. Would you plan to attend? (circle one)      YES      NO      Maybe
  - a. If maybe or no, what are major considerations and what could we do to help get you here?
4. In consideration of Blacksburg area venue and hotel availabilities, the event is tentatively planned for a NON-Football game weekend, how does that impact your decision? Do you regularly attend games?
5. How important is location and what locations would you suggest? Basically, is Blacksburg the place it needs to be? Is seeing the house important? Going out to old haunts? Would Roanoke be the same for part of the weekend? Would a regional resort such as The Greenbrier, Homestead, Primland, or Mountain Lake be preferred? (A resort location could consider a VT football weekend, with bussing to game/tailgate on Saturday) Please elaborate on this!! Our goal is to have an event that you (and your family) will plan to attend.
6. What activities/amenities are important? Golf, Spa, Open House, Banquet, daycare, airport pickup, ETC.
7. What about costs? Are costs a significant factor in deciding whether you would attend or not? We would like to target the \$100 per person range for the core Reunion activities (excluding accommodations and optional activities). Is this reasonable?
8. 2011 DKE TAILGATE CLUB PLANNING - Which game or games do you plan to attend this year? Season ticket holder?
9. 2011 DKE TAILGATE CLUB PLANNING - Have you been to a DKE tailgate function in the past couple of years? Suggestions?

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE PROVIDED BY MAY 1ST. THANK YOU!



# Report on the 2010 Annual Fund

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

Last year we received contributions/dues for the 2010 Annual Fund topped \$30,000 with over 80 alumni, friend, parents and even students making contributions to the RLF - Sigma Alpha Fund, DKE Tailgate Club, and the Fraternity in general. We now have 24 members of the 10-YEAR-CLUB signifying at least one contribution in ten separate years since 1999 (year that we started keeping some sort of records). We also have six re-Founding Father Tier members including: Jerry Ballangee (Fall '60); Dave Calhoun (Spring 76); Dan Johnson (Spring '74); Will Passan (Spring '87); Jim Scanlon (Winter '76) and Peyton Winfree (Fall '85). A special thanks to these alumni is in order and there is still plenty of time to reach this status before the 70<sup>th</sup> reunion date. A special note of thanks goes out to Parents of students Andrew McLaughlin, Matt Murray, and Colin Reef who all made contributions over the past year. Thank you all and on to 2011!

**Alumni Association of the Sigma Alpha  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED