

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



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

July 18, 2011

## **VT DKE-DKS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (40-70-100) Reunion Weekend**

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

If you're on our e-mail list you already know this (Not on the list? Visit [www.vtdke.com/update-records/](http://www.vtdke.com/update-records/) to join), but we're thrilled to announce plans to celebrate 3 VT DKE milestones: 40 years since our chartering as DKE's Sigma Alpha chapter, 70 years since the founding of Delta Kappa Sigma, and 100 years since the construction of our house.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Fri-Sat September 30-October 1, the same weekend as the VT-Clemson game!**

**SCHEDULE:** Below is our tentative weekend agenda, which we're building out further by the day. (Up to date details are posted at our new reunion website, <http://reunion.vtdke.com> Check in often as we confirm more plans!)

- **Thursday - September 29th**
  - 8pm Informal Reception hosted by Charlie Webb for early arrivals (walking distance from hotel).
- **Friday - September 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - Day - Optional Golf (depending on interest)
  - 6pm-Midnight - Reunion Reception & Banquet at Hotel Roanoke (hotel block available, see below)
- **Saturday - October 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - Early - Optional bus transport to Blacksburg from Hotel Roanoke
  - 3-4 hours prior to kickoff - The Biggest DKE Tailgate Ever (catered) - Lot 4 Space 94
  - VT-Clemson football game (tickets not provided) - Kickoff time TBD
  - Post-game to late - Catered Cookout and Keg Party - DKE House 302 E. Roanoke St.
  - 10pm - Optional bus return from DKE House to Hotel Roanoke

**HOTEL:** We have secured a hotel block at the Hotel Roanoke, site of the Friday banquet festivities. Availability is first come-first serve, so please book your rooms NOW. Rooms are available for \$179/night (single), \$189/night (double). Reservations can be made by individual call-in **no later than Tuesday, August 30** by calling the hotel directly at (540) 985-5900 or toll free at (866) 594-4722 (between the hours of 8:00a-5:00p M-F) and asking for the Delta Kappa Epsilon room block. To guarantee your reservation, a credit card or first night's deposit is required.

**REGISTRATION:** We have several convenient ways for you to register for the event. We kindly request you register online at <http://reunion.vtdke.com>. You can pay via credit card or by mailing in a check after registering, but **PLEASE** help us by registering online! In a pinch, we've also included a paper registration form with this newsletter for the severely technologically challenged. Just mail it in with your payment. But if you can, **register online!**

**MORE VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED.** We need help from volunteer alumni to help further organize and manage the event. Please let me know at [cwebb@benefitsgroup.net](mailto:cwebb@benefitsgroup.net) if you are willing to join our Steering Committee. No level of participation is too small! FFTHF, Charlie Webb, Spring '85

## **Alumni Association/Chapter Update**

*Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (Spring '74)*

Dear fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends: Lots going on, so you have to read the whole newsletter this time. We did receive numerous responses to our questionnaire regarding the DKE/DKS Reunion plans. We actually



read them and based on the vast majority of responses selected the Clemson football game weekend as you just read above. While several of the respondents didn't have any preference; a few were more vocal in their desires to pick a football weekend and have part of the event in Blacksburg. To quote one response: *"how come you idiots want to pick a non-football weekend? Did you lose all your brain cells?"* Well, surprisingly we found a few surviving ones and reversed earlier thinking. Kudos to **Charlie Webb** and **Mickey Hayes** for getting the core planning started!

Speaking of volunteering, we once again are in the biennial election year for your infamous Alumni Association Board of Directors. Primary season is now and self-nomination historically has been the winning strategy to get elected. All nominations will be placed on the ballot in our next newsletter. We are looking to replace/renew/revitalize our board. **Roger Leibowitz**, our chief embezzlement officer, is looking to pass on the Alumni Treasurer role, so we do need a Richmond-based alum to step into those shoes. Please return the enclosed card with your self-nominations. Even better, nominate someone else!

Last newsletter we spoke of the chapter escaping double secret probation as a VT registered student organization. This was short lived. In an about-face, the University revoked the reinstatement and as a result of additional violations has further suspended DKE for a period of five years. The chapter appealed the decision, even engaging attorney Eric Frith (**Dan Frith's** actual brother) to assist and represent the chapter/members. The cases against the chapter were highly circumstantial, and the chapter and all individual members were actually found NOT RESPONSIBLE of Involvement in University Violations. However the Office of Student Conduct did find the organization (but not any members) RESPONSIBLE for violations regarding alcoholic beverages, relating to claims that underage students were drinking while at the fraternity house. The chapter's appeal letter and subsequent university response make for interesting reading and are available upon request to [jadaniel@verizon.net](mailto:jadaniel@verizon.net). Special thanks go out to Brother **Jim Daniel** who spearheaded the Alumni Association legal support during this process. So, what does this mean for the chapter you may ask? Well, as an off-campus fraternity that owns its own property, it *does* mean that the university has no perceived or otherwise jurisdiction over the fraternity. But that is no excuse for not further improving the chapter's Risk Management policies. Perseverance of the chapter and growth of fraternity brotherhood are and remain key goals, and we can still thrive under this scenario. It is important to note that DKE International Fraternity has stood behind the chapter and continues to recognize us.

I can't let a newsletter pass without mentioning the DKE House. Along with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our fraternity, the DKE House turns 100 years old from its original construction date. The grand old dame has been the home of DKE since 1967, in which 44 years as a fraternity house has caused some wear and tear. We have refinished the floors over the past year, and have several ongoing requirements we are trying to address this summer. We are organizing the first annual parent/alumni/brother "Habitat for Inhumanity" weekend this summer (Aug 13/14) to tackle some of the needed upkeep and maintenance projects. At the top of the list is the replacement of the porch and veranda doors, yard fencing, and kitchen upgrades. We not only need your **financial support** but could also use any trade skills that you may have. A few of us (un)Civil Engineers (**Dan Johnson** and **Bob Snyder**) have agreed to lend the event some sort of basic planning. A merry old time in Blacksburg is promised, and with collective work effort we can tackle some of these projects to get the house in condition for the reunion weekend. If you are able to help out please send me an email at [danieljohnson@comcast.net](mailto:danieljohnson@comcast.net). We hope to make this an annual event.

As usual we depend on your support. This is our first organized reunion in 10 years (and to think we used to organize an *annual* DKE Weekend in days past!). We expect a large turnout. With a little organization we could target an annual get-together at a designated football game/tailgate and build to 5 year major reunion cycles that are inclusive of an offsite venue. In the meantime, 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 (still waiting for one of those). But most importantly, make a point of attending the 40-70-100<sup>th</sup> reunion this fall. Please **register early** as success is related to turnout. Be part of, and see what DKS/DKE means to past, present and future brothers. FFTHF, Dan Johnson, Spring '74



## The 1979-1980 pledge classes: Now and Then

*Craig Scimeca (Spring '80)*

Of the three pledge classes this year, the Fall 1979 class wins with responses from 4 members out of 7. These are the guys that DON'T want us to write about our memories of them!! You just have to guess what parts are true (at least self-reported truths). Here we go.

**FALL '79 - George Bilyeau** graduated in 1982. As a CPA he is now the manager of Cash and Receivables with ManTech International Corporation in Fairfax, VA. (Another government contractor!) He is divorced with no children. He said something about that being par for the course. Speaking of "par" George loves to go out and hit the little white ball. Anyone who is NoVa area and up for a game, give George a call. **Steve Fuller** (Fulls) graduated sometime in the 80's. Steve met his wife Sue in Clemson and got married in 1985. (Figure he has to be a sure attendee for the 70<sup>th</sup> reunion since VT is playing Clemson. Wear orange Fulls!). They have 2 kids, Sammy (USC/Clemson) and Miranda (College of Charleston). He has lived in Greenville, SC since he graduated and he works for Atlantic Packaging. He reports "hooking up" (his terminology, not mine) with Babs and Smitty for the Thursday Night Georgia Tech game this past fall. Apparently, they were politely "asked" to leave Big Al's around 2:30am that night after DKE tailgating, rolling with "The Chief" and other brothers! (reportedly they found Fulls in the bathroom the next morning). **Andy Harris** is married and has a 10 year old son. About a decade ago he formed his own company called Spotlight Sports Marketing. He travels each week to wherever the PGA Tour is holding a tournament. He works with the tour players and attempts to coax them into using products that he represents or promotes. HOW COOL IS THAT JOB! Tiger Woods Trojans anyone? Andy lives in Williamsburg. **Mike Smith (Smitty)** lives in Atlanta and is divorced and has 2 kids, Nick (11) and Kennedy (11). We have figured that they must be some sort of twins. He has his own company called "The Financial Partners". **Mitch Babashan - (Babs)** has his own insurance company called Insurance First, Inc. in Urbana, MD which is somewhere up by Frederick making it a DC suburb. Not to be confused with Urbanna, VA home of the annual Urbanna Oyster Festival. **Bob Taylor** was last reported as being somewhere in Atlanta - be on the lookout as he may not know where he is!! **Tracy Thomas** - a two-term DKE president has gone missing. We don't even have his mailing address. Figure he must be in the witness-protection program, but now that Whitey Bulger is under custody, Tracy may surface again.

**WINTER 1980 - Charlie Feeney** was famous as the "Mixologist" of Hairly Buffalo Punch - a highly marketable skill in the real world as this is truly a job that takes a lot of talent as I recall; following the science of: finding a semi-clean plastic garbage can and lining with hole-less trash bag liner (most important step); put in everything liquid that has resemblance of alcohol into trash can; throw in some fruit and non-alcoholic fillers; HB Punch is done. Charlie now lives in Severna Park, MD and works as a CFO ("financial mixologist") at Capital Gazette Communications in Annapolis. He is married and has 2 daughters. **Tom Wilkinson** - must be in the Army somewhere. We don't have any real evidence, (since no one can really tell) but figure Tom must have been mastermind behind capturing Osama Bin Laden. **Ken Tucker** - Reportedly a Medical Doctor in Frederick, MD which would make him a legal prescriber of drugs. **Danny Rumble** - Reported to still be with Ferguson Enterprises in Jacksonville, Florida. Ferguson sells toilets, so Danny must be completely full of (shh)it by now.

**SPRING 1980 - Craig Scimeca (Momma)** went on to dental school at MCV graduating 1989. Married Linda Stewart (DKE Little Sister) is 1989 and they have 2 boys. Craig's son Ryan is attending Virginia Tech and son Jonathan will arrive at VT in the fall. Both boys play lacrosse and hope to play club lax at VT. Craig has spent his time since VT practicing family dentistry and enjoying furthering his education in dentistry. He has also enjoyed coaching the boys in soccer and basketball. Now that he and Linda are soon to be empty nesters you can invite them to come and visit!!! Disappointedly, Linda reports that Craig only turns into "Momma" on occasions that involve crowded parties!! But he can still cook!! **David Church** lives in Chicago and is happily married (2<sup>nd</sup> time around so must be happy) since 1996. He has 3 children 20, 11, and 9. He is a stay at home Dad since 1999 (12 years? Come on Dave! Where can we sign up for that gig?), and is active in his kids' school, church and golf courses. Sounds like fun to us!



**Mark Giebel** is reportedly somewhere around NoVa. Bilyeau is looking for golf partner Mark, so give him a call. Otherwise, Mark must be saving his news update for the reunion this fall. **Lance Seabolt (Valancy)** – now known simply as Lance, lives in Kingsport, TN. His wife is a schoolteacher in Kingsport City and his daughter is in the Architecture program at UT. His son Sean is going to be the backup quarterback at Carson-Newman University next year! Sean had a great year at Dobyns-Bennett High School and ran for over 1,000 yards setting records at his school. Lance enjoys officiating High School football, basketball, baseball and softball. His day job is working for Canon Integrated Business Solutions as a Salesman. He previously worked for Marriott for 17 years and the start up of the Tennessee Lottery for 4 years! So stop yelling at the ref at your kids' games – it could be Lance! **Chip Smith** and **Dale Vandergriff** we couldn't track down, but we are still looking for them, as are likely numerous law enforcement agencies from counties and states across the country.

And that's all the news that's unfit to print. See everyone at the 70<sup>th</sup>! FFTHF, Craig Scimeca, Spring '80

## Active Chapter Report

*Jeff Rose, Active Chapter President (Fall '08)*

We are pleased to announce the active chapter leadership for 2011-2012. The officers are: **Jeff Rose**, President; **Wesley Johnson**, VP; **Tim Sweet**, Treasurer; **Steve Mattoon**, Member-at-Large Risk Mgr; **Florian Mayer**, Rush Chairman; **Colin Reef**, Pledgemaster; and **Dave Marshall**, House Manager. Despite our status as a non-registered student organization, our goal is to build the fraternity membership and upgrade/maintain the DKE house to a standard that residents, alumni and yes even our mothers would be proud of. We are tackling a few improvements over the summer, including replacement of the yard fencing along Penn Street, new front door, as well as a thorough upgrade/cleaning of the property.

We are also interested in from alumni, family or friend that you think would enjoy the DKE experience. Please send me an email at [jeff1@vt.edu](mailto:jeff1@vt.edu) or fill in name and contact information on the data card and these will be forwarded to us. We have several brothers living in the house over the summer, so please drop in at your convenience. 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. The DKE House phone number is (540) 552-DEKE (3353). FFTHF, Jeff Rose, Spring '07

## Alumni Board Nominations – Volunteers Needed

*Jim Scanlon, Alumni Board Secretary (Spring '02)*

I joined the Alumni Board after graduating in 2005. Whether motivated by interest, legacy or the unrealized promise of free bourbon, it's been my pleasure to help the fraternity in the six years since, and I've been surrounded by even more dedicated volunteers. But it's a big job, and much of the weight is carried by very few. **Brothers, we need help.**

The Alumni Board represents all of you and carries the torch in advising our actives (through thick and thin), maintaining our house and organizing opportunities to keep you guys connected with each other. By doing so, we prolong the life of our fraternity and make sure it's around for our own sons to enjoy. I'd like to ask you consider volunteering, whether on a committee (reunion, tailgates, communications, house, active mentoring, or other) or in an elected role on the Board itself. Most of what we do is organize to make things happen. The commitment is manageable: we meet via conference call one weekday evening a month for about an hour, coordinate in the meantime using an email listserv and each of us volunteer outside that in different ways. But we need more help. Our Board has a lot of things it *could do and should do*, and all we need are a few of you to step up and help. Many hands make light work. Please send me an email at [jtsanlon@gmail.com](mailto:jtsanlon@gmail.com) to nominate yourself for a role on the board or one of the committees. Thank you, and let's make our 7<sup>th</sup> decade our best. FFTHF, Jim Scanlon, Spring '02



## 70th Anniversary Registration Form

PLEASE, if at all possible, REGISTER ONLINE at <http://reunion.vtdke.com/> -- you can still pay by check by mail but you'll help us out a lot by submitting your registration online! All fields with a \* below are required.

### ΔKE / ΔKΣ Brother Info

\* First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Nickname (real life): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Address, City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone (for text alerts during the reunion): \_\_\_\_\_

Present Occupation (what do you do now?): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Pledge Class: \_\_\_\_\_ \* Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternity nickname (if you had one!): \_\_\_\_\_

\* List fraternity offices held: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Names of your pledge brothers: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reunion Info

\* Number of **Adult** tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Full Weekend \$125ea    Fri only \$70ea    Sat only \$70ea

Number of **Child** tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Full Weekend \$35ea    Fri only \$20ea    Sat only \$20ea

Number of **Optional Bus Transport** tickets, \$35 per person adult or child: \_\_\_\_\_

Round-trip group service between Hotel Roanoke and Blacksburg on Sat (FIRST COME FIRST SERVED)

\* First and Last Names of ALL GUESTS (please indicate Adult or Child.): \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to arrive Thurs 29 Sep/attend possible alumni gathering that night? Circle one:    Yes    No

Are you interested in a possible DKE/DKS golf outing to be held morning of Fri 30 Sep? Circle one:    Yes    No

Please make check payable to: Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon and mail check with this form to: DKE/DKS 40-70-100 Reunion, P.O. Box 18231, Richmond, VA 23226

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM - instructions in newsletter. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!!!**



# Financial Status Update

*Roger Leibowitz, Alumni Board Treasurer (Winter '76)*

We have secured leases for the 2011-2012 school year, filling the house. We continue to put excess cash (even non-excess cash) into house maintenance projects. We had unanticipated legal costs this year after engaging a local attorney to represent the chapter (and members) against university charges this past semester. While we were effectively cash neutral the past 12 months, this isn't saying much given our debt load.

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 continue with needed repairs and at same time build up sufficient cash reserves in the Sigma Alpha Fund to issue a \$50K second mortgage note to ourselves in order to make a significant payment against the revolving credit loan. FFTHF, Roger Leibowitz, Winter '76

**Alumni Association of the Sigma Alpha  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED