

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



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

February 13, 2012

## Alumni Association/Chapter Update

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

Dear fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Another year is upon us. We have all the news that is unfit to print. First, we start off with the election of the 2011-2013 slate of your DKE Board of Directors. After a long and grueling primary season covering numerous states; super PAC's spending ungodly amounts of money; the ballots have been counted. Again the "Sucker Party" carried in a landslide beating out the disorganized "No-Name Party" once again. Thanks for everyone who actually took the time and 44 cents to submit your notes. The elected executive slate consists of incumbents (ongoing suckers) **Dan Johnson** (S'74), President; **Charlie Munn** (W'74), Member-at-Large; and **Jim Scanlon** (S'02), Secretary; joined this term by un-retired members (fooled again suckers) **Mike Beam** (S'85) Treasurer, and **Jim Daniel** (F'84) Member-at-Large. In addition we have a group of non-executive board members that, by their failure to formally resign in writing and pay the administrative withdrawal fee; are in for another two year stint as non-executive board members. This illustrious list includes: **Dick Anderson**, **Theta Bowden**, **Bert Burson**, **Sam Dibert**, **Mickey Hayes**, **Jack Hutcheson**, **Lynn Leslie**, **Charlie Lloyd**, and **Charlie Webb**.

Special thanks go out to **Roger Leibowitz** (W'76) our Treasurer for the past four years for his service. Roger has extracted himself from the board by convincing fellow pledge brother **Chuck Bradley** (W'76) to pen our Page 3 column *Now and Then* for the '75-76 pledge classes. If you make it to page 3, Chuck has promised a free Pepsi for everyone who reads it. In our last newsletter, we had a Reunion recap in lieu of our page 3 column. The newsletter editorial staff inexplicably neglected to include a recap of **Pat King's** (F'00) letter sent in from his current posting in Afghanistan recounting his stories of DKE's at the turn of the this century, which among other things, included Pat starting the fire resulting in horrific damage to the DKE House and being banished to Afghanistan for his punishment. Our apologies of not including that in the recap (and no, Pat did not personally torch the house), but if you had come to the reunion you would have heard the whole story in the first place!

DKE Tailgates completed its fourth season with more and more alumni attending. The final home game against UNC featured Creole cuisine spread of jambalaya and oysters on the half shell. Informal DKE gathering points were set up in Charlotte and New Orleans and the list of attendees at one or both locations included: **Chris Aliff**, **Mike Hall**, **Tim Hall**, **Dan Johnson**, **Dennis Dreelin**, **Eric Phillips**, **Scott Pennington**, **Ben Robeson**, **Jim McDonald**, **John Boatwright**, **Charlie Webb**, **Wes Johnson**, **Connor Jarrendt**, **Weston Lahr**, **Ryan McMahon**, **Jack Baker**, **Bob Snyder**, **Jack Fisher**, along with a multitude of spouses and friends and a few other names and faces we forgot about. The crowd in New Orleans was also joined by New Orleans natives and LSU DKE alumni **Billy Treadway** (ZZ'71) and **Rusty Barkerding** (ZZ'63). All was not lost in the trip to New Orleans, as rumor has it that **Charlie Webb** got engaged before leaving town. We are trying to confirm whether it was to his long term partner-in-crime, Barbara or that blonde we saw on Bourbon Street with all the VT beads.

Special kudos again goes out to **Charlie Webb**, **Theta Bowden** and **Mickey Hayes** for providing the organization and Lot 4 location for our tailgates. Over the course of the first four years we have had well over 200 individual DKE/DKS brothers attend a DKE tailgate! It is a great meeting point for anyone who attends a VT football game, and friends and family are always welcome. Meanwhile, the VTAF and the Hokie Club are 'reseating' Lane Stadium season tickets this spring and with that comes a unique opportunity to have other "high ladder" alumni and/or tailgating groups involving DKE/DKS members to consolidate and/or coalesce in lot 4 beyond our core base Space



4-94 location, and help to expand our growing DKE Tailgate tradition. If you are interested in coalescing tailgate groups or if simply have ladder rights to parking places that you don't need we would appreciate your donation-in-kind to the DKE Tailgate Club. Contact **Charlie Webb**, **Theta Bowden** and/or **Mickey Hayes** if you are interested coordinating your move to Lot 4. For the upcoming year, we are looking to designate one game as a DKE alumni weekend with an expanded tailgate set up pre-game and open house festivities post game. We also play Cincinnati at FedEx field in September as an opportunity to get a DKE Tailgate Club function set up there. Volunteers needed!

We would like to thank those that supported our 2011 DKE Annual Giving Fund. We had 71 alumni and friends contribute \$27,584 to the fraternity in funds and services in kind. We now have 31 members of the TEN-YEAR club and are pleased to announce that **Dave Calhoun** (S'76) and **Dan Johnson** (S'74) have both reached the Scholarship Tier in of cumulative giving to the Sigma Alpha Chapter. An updated list of donors and tier level giving has been posted on our website at vtdke.com. On a more somber note, we are sad to hear of the passing of **Cliff Lilly** (W'54) in 2011. Brother Lilly was an ardent supporter of the fraternity and will be missed.

In other news, your DKE house is still standing (something that must be confirmed on a regular basis). Significant capital and major maintenance improvements done to the house over the past year included: the remainder of the wood flooring refinishing; installation of new yard fence; basement electrical and wood paneling improvements; tree removal; landscaping; and new kitchen windows installation. We have also received commitments for renting all the rooms for the next academic year. A fully rented house provides sufficient income to cover mortgage, taxes, insurance and regular maintenance activities on the property without alumni subsidies. Unfortunately in 2011, we had \$9,050 in unbudgeted legal expenses and our social spending on the reunion/tailgates was \$7,500 above reunion attendance fees and tailgate club donations, eating up most of our excess capital donations received for the year. As such here we are again on the *new and improved* 2012 Annual DKE Fund/dues request. As usual we have included a donation card and the *new and improved white* return envelopes for your convenience.

The chapter initiated 10 new members and is currently undertaking rush for the spring semester. References and recommendations are always welcomed. Our alumni association, as indicated by the turnout to the tailgates and the 70<sup>th</sup> DKE-DKS Reunion and our financial support remains one of the strongest associated with a VT fraternity. This is a tribute to all of you. Thank you! FFTHF, Dan Johnson, (Spring '74)

## Active Chapter Report

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

We are pleased to announce we have initiated 10 new members recently and are determined to build on the number for this semester. We currently have 33 active members. In order to provide greater continuity in leadership from year to year, we have decided to move the chapter elections to February to allow incoming and outgoing officers to overlap for several months prior to graduation. We believe the overlap will allow for chapter operations to be maintained at a consistent level through the summer period and into the next year.

This semester are planning several philanthropy programs with the neighboring church and plan on participating in the annual Roanoke Street Cleanup program where we also hold an open house to the public. It is important that we keep a positive reputation with the local community given our non-recognized status. The DKE International representative made a visit to Blacksburg in January to provide the Chapter in recruiting ideas and techniques as well as provide training on DKE United, an online chapter management system supplied by DKE International. The brotherhood is getting stronger despite our non-recognized status. We had our fall formal in early December and maintain a steady DKE social party calendar. We have instituted strict risk-management policies to combat underage drinking of alcohol. All parties are managed from an entry standpoint and to maintain noise levels. The house is always open to alumni. The actives thoroughly appreciate the growing relationship with the alumni and the reunion and tailgates have provided excellent networking opportunities to meet alumni. Stop by the house at any time. Somewhere on the property we have a cold one waiting for you. FFTHF, Jeff Rose (Fall '08)



## The 1975-1976 pledge classes: Now and Then

*Roger Leibowitz and Chuck Bradley (Winter '76)*

Let me start by saying I can't believe Lebo roped me into writing this as I am very comfortable letting a small group of other guys do the entire work keeping the alumni association going. After the Sugar Bowl giveaway I was perfectly happy to no longer have any affiliation with VA Tech. I work closely with many Michigan alums exacerbating the pain. But time heals.... Out of 14 pledges in 76; 4 responded to our request for information, so I am going to spend the vast majority of this article talking about myself ( My favorite topic - yep some things don't change over the years ). The 75-76 pledge classes were overwhelmingly made up of National Merit Scholars, All State caliber athletes and guys who thought there only chance of ever getting a college woman to talk to them was going to be by getting into DKE ..... You can guess which one of the three is accurate. During this Deke era a man could spend a full month at the house and use only 8 words - Rude, Abuse, Dib , Dib-Not, Beer Me, Jhit and Dukes (terms of dislike and displeasure). Members of the 75-76 pledge classes actively embraced all the DKE traditions - Myrtle Beach, DKE weekend, Virginia Intermont Charity Fund Raiser (yea), Pledge Trips, Basketball in Boxers and the DKE study of Railroad engineering. I won't go into any of the details of the above. Suffice to say the DKE Friday night Parties were the stuff of legend - double digit Kegs and packed! Just out of school **Roger Bolick** gave me great advice - "In the real world, when guys start talking about what they did at their fraternity houses; even though our stories are far better, just smile and nod your head but don't tell them anything - for what we did was not only immoral but illegal" [Ed. Note - statute of limitations are up Chuck, but we do want to discuss the claim made below of being childless until the age of 41]

Let's start with **Fall '75** pledge class. Short but sweet because there was just one pledge (The fraternity was off to a great start). We have no idea where **John Demmon** is - but hope he is still driving that lemon yellow Mach Mustang with that always present smile. (I won't comment on why John was always smiling).

Following the massive Fall pledge class of one, panic mode set in and the fraternity rush program for the Winter '76 was simple; if a prospect showed up to the house for any reason, we gave him a bid. With that demanding entrance criteria, two boatloads of bids were handed out and the result was my pledge class of **Winter '76** ended up with 8 pledges - A lot of the actives got pretty excited about the big class until the old adage of quantity vs. quality became apparent. We found Deke in a wide variety of ways. **Jim Scanlon** (The Dust Ball) was our pledge class President and the younger sibling of DKE Brother Eddie (The Dirt Ball). Jim led the pledge class ably and was known for sleeping in a hammock during hell week. Jimmy was of a higher moral caliber than most and despite trying to corrupt him when we were roommates; he actually began to go to class in his Sophomore year (after taking a few months off to learn to juggle). Jim married the lovely Susan soon after graduation; and they proceeded to have a boat load of kids! Susan, I still feel bad about the injuries at the bachelor party. Four sons and a son-in-law as DKE's at Tech is a record probably never to be broken. Jim and the gang live in Northern Virginia where he started and built a highly successful engineering and survey company and still works tirelessly for the fraternity. **Greg Carneal** - Carneal was one of the Fredericksburg contingency who actually thought it would be cool to join a fraternity that legendary neer-do-wells from his home town like **Bolick** (W'74), **Hinkle** (F'74), **Munn** (F'74) and **Cullen** (W'75) were from. Greg is divorced and retired from the insurance business and loving life in Fredericksburg. He maintains that rumors of him still going over to Mary Washington mixers to chase coeds are unfounded. He gets up to a few Hokie games a year. **Chris Aliff** - Aliff was a legacy DKE from Brother Mike. Chris informed us, at least weekly for 5 years, that his brother Mike donated the basement bar. Aliff was an army vet and was about 44 when he pledged. He was always able to date woman far out of his league (true of many DKE's). He had the cool maroon BMW that we were arrested in many times. Aliff, not Goldman Sachs, is directly responsible for the mortgage meltdown. He is living in Charlotte, doing great and semi-retired doing a little consulting. **Dennis Bichner** - Dennis left us way too soon; passing away some 15 years ago. Nicknamed "Sparky", Dennis spent 5 years in Blacksburg primarily focused on re-wiring the DKE House. He had those great silk shirts



and polyester pants and was equally as good at dancing to that Saturday night fever stuff as **Doc Marshall**. I spent years trying to get him into Davidson's for real clothes but never happened. We love you Dennis! **Fred Simmons** - Fred was our Jersey guy and had the best Fro of anyone in the house. He was a very capable flag football running back/linebacker for DKE and had a great rapport with the Jersey Shore type northern ladies. After being arrested with Demmon in a small NC town on the way to Myrtle Beach, he was scared straight into beginning studying in his chosen major of Geology (what happens to northern boys in a small southern jail cell with no bail money stays). Fred is divorced with 4 kids, resides in Houston and has a 30-plus year career in the oil and gas business. **Dave Sherwood** - Sherwood pledged as a junior when he finally got his GPA up high enough. (can't believe he improved his grades *after* joining Dekes and graduated). Sherwood drove the big blue bomb and often put all 8 of us in his car. He was the happiest guy I have ever known unless the topic was Managerial Accounting. I knew Dave for many years and have no idea what year he was in school or how old he was. His trips to Chilhowie were the stuff of great legend. He had to leave his native Bristol after one of our trips to Virginia Intermont, never to return. Dave where are you? We heard you are living in Carolina and working as golf pro. As you and I lost every year early in IFC golf, I do not believe it. **Roger Leibowitz** - Rog was my high school bud and was off to join some accounting fraternity when I drug him to a rush party. He met **Rick Abraham** (S '75) and then figured it was OK to be there. I saw Roger speak to his first college coed at that party. He said "Hi, I'm Roger" and she said "get the hell away from me you geek freshman". He quickly realized a legendary blue jacket with the DKE letters was his ticket to college bliss. Despite his MBA and CPA, he maintains that his time as Treasurer of DKE was his true financial foundation. Rog was a serious student and like all of those guys of our era (and there were a surprisingly high number) he had to hide this or else be castigated. Roger is CFO of an investment firm that has been written off for dead on numerous occasions; he has single handedly kept it alive by violating all generally accepted accounting rules and ignoring Sarbanes Oxley legislation. He lives in Richmond with his lovely wife Kim and two sons. He works tirelessly for the alumni association but does not get up to Blacksburg nearly enough for a guy that lives in Richmond. **Chuck Bradley** - I started my DKE career when my sister took me to a Friday night party during orientation weekend. The brothers I met told me orientation was a waste and to drink heavy and blow orientation off. I embarrassingly now, but joyfully then, embraced that philosophy for the next 5 years. No need to go into my antics in College. I did further a trend of DKE's working at Davidsons and making no money; but had the greatest array of plaid madras pants in history (Johnson told me if I did not put that in, he would). I have had a great career at PepsiCo over the last 27 years. On a few occasions living in Austin TX with Bolick and Chicago with Abraham, we reenacted the DKE experience for a few years longer. I am now married with thirteen year old twins (yes got married at 39 and two kids at 41 as I thought DKE's were supposed to go out and booze every Friday night as opposed to getting married). We live in the burbs outside of Chicago and my Hobbies are watching my waistline and handicap grow, yelling at my kids and the Hokies on TV, (God bless ESPN Game Plan and Full Court) and trying to get off **Jack Baker's** email list before Human Resources looks into it.

The big winter class was followed by a stellar **Spring '76** class. **Dave Calhoun** - Not much more can be said about Dave "Coon" Calhoun. He is our only legit shot of getting a Sigma Alpha in that little blue book of famous Dekes. Dave ran a number of businesses at GE before ending up as Vice Chair; was on the cover of Fortune as the most highly recruited executive in America; and now is CEO of Neilson Co. These guys are wired into every TV set and store register in America so Dave actually knows exactly what each of you bastards are watching and consuming. In his spare time he: delivered the commencement address at our beloved alma mater; plays in the Pebble Beach Pro-Am every year; and just led the Capital Campaign that raised over \$1 billion for VT. All that said; any DKE will tell you that he was best known as a great athlete and could dunk a basketball despite being shy of 6 feet. Of all his many sporting accomplishments, we believe he secretly would say his greatest was senior year when he led us to victory over SigEps in hoops. Dave, I do know you were the guy that continued to put the note in my room to pay that last \$30 of dues I owed. - Ok you were right. **Steve Gadinis** - Steve had the easy smile and the quiet confidence of all those DKE's from Hopewell (are there others?). He also had the best haircut of all the guys that had the Surfer look (**Ike Harrison**, I know that pisses you off). We can't let you know specifically where Steve is because he is an FBI Agent working on serious stuff (no not an FBI agent like you guys say you are when you are talking to



some woman at the bar) but a real FBI Agent. I feel safer with Steve in that role than any of the rest of you. **Dave Marshal** - Dave "Frosty" Marshall was the true prep guy in the house, a Charlottesville and Episcopal kid. How he landed on the DKE doorstep, I'm not sure. Frosty had that slow cadence of speech and great laugh; you could never tell if he was high or not. We hear he married Charlie Stevens sister (hopefully she does not look like Charlie) and lives happily in Hooville. Dave and Alice are the proud parents of another DKE legacy, named Dave Marshall (go figure that one out) who is a current resident of the DKE house. **Keith Loehlein** - Keith "Ernie" Loehlein was the smoothest dude of the '76 class. He drove a gold colored used US Mail truck, and an invitation for a ride in this vehicle was coveted by brothers and coeds alike given the expanse of the baggage section. As the truck was relatively basic transportation if you rode; you also had a job.... brake, clutch, steering etc. Ernie changed the dynamic of the house, by moving afternoon parties from the veranda over to the roof top outside his window. The green bikini from one of those afternoon parties is forever stamped in our minds. He once fired a shotgun in the house which seemed like a good idea to all of us at the time. Not sure where Ernie is now, but trust life is good. **Keith Wood** - Keith "KC" Wood was Coon's roomie and they were a force to be reckoned with. All guys dream of living at the beach and leading the Jimmy Buffet life; and KC actually does it. Soon after graduation he moved down to the Outer Banks, NC and ran the windsurfing operation for Kitty Hawk Kites. He was once the number one windsurfer in the world, but that pales in comparison to what he was best known for at the DKE house. (I still ain't sayin) DKE's came from all over the US each summer to see KC (or actually to view the summer staff he had hired). He is still down in the OBX with his lovely wife (yes, one of his summer staffers) and daughter and I suspect always up for a beer when you are down on vacation. I have a lot of great KC stories - 1980 Peach Bowl, Flat Tire, the women..... As I do on many of the above, but this is a somewhat of a family article and I know paybacks are hell.

The 1975-1976 year was a great start for all of us at VT and a proud period for the Sigma Alpha chapter of DKE. What didn't kill us, actually did make us stronger. By the way fellow pledge brothers, let us know where the hell you are and how you are doing! FFTHF, Chuck

## Treasurer's Report

*Mike Beam, Alumni Treasurer (Winter '85)*

In my first report as our new treasurer, I am here to report that the state of our fraternity is strong (well, in Deke terms that is). Roger has transitioned the role to me, handing over the books and the shoe box (actually, we have grown to two shoeboxes now). As Roger reported last time, our finances now are managed in Quickbooks, causing me to wonder if I was really qualified for the position of Treasurer. When I asked that question, I was asked if I could count. I got to two, was stopped and told, "your hired".

Well, since this is a treasurer's report, here are a few numbers to chew on. We ended 2011 with approximately \$6800 in our operating account. We are currently working, and well on our way, to securing leases for the 2012-2013 school year, keeping the house fully rented, ensuring we can cover our yearly base financial obligations for the house. Since the last report, we have settled all remaining reunion expenses. Speaking of the reunion, we ended up taking a loss of just over \$5000 on our big event from the fall. While, of course, the plan was to self-fund the reunion event, I would not let this loss diminish its success, as has been noted, there was a great turnout, and a great time had by all. I consider this an investment in keeping the DKE/DKS spirit alive and growing. We currently have about \$42,000 in our restricted RLF-SA fund account. If you recall from the last report, we want to accumulate at least \$50,000 before accessing these funds via a second mortgage to ourselves to begin paying down our unsecured debt (which has grown in the past year) and continue to upgrade and preserve our treasured DKE house on Roanoke Street. We now have two alumni that have reached the *Scholarship Endowment* tier for accumulated giving in excess of \$25,000. *Congratulations and Thank You to Dan Johnson & Dave Calhoun!* A big thank you to all who donated during the last year, and a plea to all to return that new and improved *white* envelope, that we have enclosed for your convenience, with your 2012 *tax deductible* donation. No donation is too small (or too big) to help us keep the aforementioned DKE/DKS spirit alive and well. FFTHF, Mike



# April 21<sup>st</sup> – Habitat for Inhumanity – Spring Game

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

We are planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Habitat for Inhumanity” DKE-DKS alumni gathering schedule this spring. Since last year we only had five alumni show up we have decided to schedule on April 21st with a BBQ and coincide with the VT football spring game. BBQ and Spring Game tailgate at DKE House and/or our Lot 4 location, with free beer. Throw in some DKE House improvement projects, with more free beer. **Bob Snyder** ('F73) has agreed to lead the house construction team up. Scope and complexity of tasks we take on will depend on the turnout, but there is always a chunk of work to do. Also, it represents an excellent opportunity to clean out your house and donate any Frat house worthy junk furniture you've been sitting on including, couches, bar stools, big screen tv's, garden equipment, paint supplies and anything else that is just collecting dust are welcome. Get reacquainted and plan on attending. Volunteer. Did we mention there will be free beer!

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