

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



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

August 19, 2012

## Alumni Association/Chapter Update

*Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman*

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Well another summer is heading toward an end and that can only mean another season of Hokie football! Our Social Committee leaders have been hard at work organizing upcoming season for the DKE Tailgate Club and the 5th season in our now familiar Lot 4 location. We have a new caterer lined up, and additional tent and tables to handle the growing crowds. We do plan to have an expanded Tailgate/Open House (71<sup>st</sup> Reunion!) for the Duke game. Pre-registration and a token DKE Tailgate Club entry fee is planned to help defray the cost of food and liquor. However, just join the DKE Tailgate Club for the 2012 season and your entry is free!!!! And just to let you know **Charlie Lloyd** (Fall '69) has joined the tailgate club for the season and is coming all the way from California and will be in attendance at the Bowling Green game. He asked for the plug (only cost him a DKE Tailgate Club donation!), so that all his fellow DKS-DKE brothers that know and liked him would show up to see him. And figuring that we don't want Charlie to drink alone, all of those who didn't know him or don't like him can also come. Please read below for a special report from our Social Committee chairman in lieu of our typical Page 3 column (that's right, we lacked a guest columnist prior to the print deadline, so turn in the card and volunteer to write a column!).

The active chapter initiated 12 new members and currently expects to begin the Fall semester with 38 members. The DKE House rooms are fully rented for the upcoming year, and the grand ole dame at 302 E Roanoke Street is looking to survive its 45<sup>th</sup> year as the DKE House. Thanks to outgoing President **Jeff Rose**, the chapter submitted what is believed to be the first ever VT-DKE application for the DKE Lion Trophy which is awarded to the best all-around DKE chapter by the DKE International Fraternity. The application is sort of like the Olympic gymnastics with each fraternity rated in four separate areas: Scholarship; Philanthropy; Alumni Relations; and Year-on-Year Most Improvement. As a newcomer to the process (think Jamaican bobsledding team) we are pleased to announce that your Sigma Alpha Chapter (yep that is us) won the Gold Medal for Most Improved Chapter and the Bronze Medal for Alumni Relations in our first competition ever! Quite an accomplishment, and not bad for a chapter currently not recognized by the University! The entire application has been uploaded to our [www.vtdke.com](http://www.vtdke.com) website and provides an excellent summary as to the goings-on of the fraternity over the past year or so. Current President, **Kevin Buchanan**, attended the bi-annual DKE Convention in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in July under a leadership scholarship covering registration and travel expenses provided by your VT-DKE Alumni Association. Please see Kevin's Actives report below for a recap of the convention and news from the actives.

On the sad news front, we regret to inform you all of the passing of **Jim Dymock** (Spring '53), in May after a long battle with cancer. Jim was the General Manager of Davidsons Charwood Shop on Main Street. He employed many a Deke in the store (the guys that actually dressed up in Blacksburg), as well as sold many of us our first business suit to use for their job interviews. Many a DKE-DKS pledge ventured into Davidsons to acquire Jim's signature in their pledge book and he will be missed as one of the oral historians of DKS-DKE.

Our second annual "Habitat for Inhumanity" day in April was mostly washed out. Nonetheless, we got a half a day's worth of work in before it turned into BBQ at the house. A torrential thunderstorm restricted outdoor activities and even resulted in the VT Football Spring Game being cancelled. With the rain, the work was limited to a few hours and restricted to some cleanup/landscaping and installation of a replacement kitchen oven. It turned out to be quite a nice turnout considering the weather and the initial intent of work being accomplished. Special



thanks go out to **Charlie Webb** who organized the food and beverages. In May, the parents of the graduating Brothers and Little Sisters (**Cases, Johnsons, Laughlins, Mayers, Nielsons, Reefs, Roses, Spooners, and Sweets**) hosted a graduation party affair at the house. For some unknown reason, I don't recall anything from late Saturday night but am happy to report **Wesley Johnson** (F'08) did graduate. Many thanks go out to all the parents and family members who participated with decorations, food, liquor and cleaning of the house for the celebrations.

Speaking of the DKE House, she needs your support. Ongoing maintenance and upkeep seem to keep the coffers bare. We face a structural issue with one of the front porch columns (one the smaller ones) as the rotting base of the column has caused a noticeable sag in the porch roof which also supports the veranda. We hope to tackle the repairs this fall replacing the column (and possibly the other three to make a match) with composite fiberglass columns. The work will involve new foundation bases for the porch and temporary jacking/supports to re-level the porch roof. Your continued support could help make this happen. We also need 'volunteers' to pen the Page 3 column. All you have to do is make up some stuff about the brothers you pledged with as to what they are doing Now and Then. Please fill out the enclosed card and our crackerjack editorial staff will be in contact with you. In the meantime, make a point of visiting the DKE House and one of the tailgates this fall when you are in town. Again we do thank you for your support or your fraternity. Go Dekes! Go Hokies!

FTHE, Dan Johnson

## Active Chapter Report

*Kevin Buchanan (F '09), Chapter President*

I am pleased to announce the chapter has won the Most Improved Chapter award from DKE International, along with third place in Chapter Alumni Relations. I attended the biannual DKE Convention hosted by the Psi chapter (Alabama) held in Tuscaloosa. The convention was attended by about 100 undergraduate representatives as well as numerous alumni from across North America. The DKE international fraternity has been rapidly expanding, and 2 of the 8 current colony chapters are nearby at Hampden-Sydney along with fellow ACC School NC State.

We are looking forward to building on our recruiting success from last year. In recent years we have had several legacies including brothers and sons of Dekes join our hallowed halls. If your son, nephew, brother, or neighbors are attending VT this Fall, please let us know and we will make sure we get him to DKE Rush event. Put his name on the enclosed card and it will be forwarded to us or otherwise just email me at kevinb8@vt.edu and we will contact him and invite him our personally to find out about Dekes. We currently have five son-of-a-DKE brothers (**Bret Fortin, Mark Lenzi, Dave Marshall, Danny and Joey Scanlon**) forming an important core of our fraternity.

Our goals for this year are simple: (1) led by **Matt Wilson**, (Rush Chairman) build on our recruitment success by matching or exceeding last year's program; (2) led by **Joey Loss** (Treasurer) fiscal stability of our chapter budget by planning of all expenditures and timely collection of chapter dues and pursuing fund raising activities; (3) serve another year of our suspension by keeping out of trouble (**Chris Hotaling**, Risk Management) and expand our philanthropy activities and develop a "know your neighbors" to improve our neighbor relationships; (4) participate in university and intramural activities exercising our rights as students; (5) maintain the DKE House property; and (6) enjoy ourselves in the process. Please drop by the house at any time (preferably when someone is awake). The front door combination is 3353 (DEKE) and the pay phone number is (540) 552-3353 (DEKE). Since we rarely hear or use the phone, dropping by in person is always the best option. Looking forward to making 2012-13 a great year to be a DKE!

FFTHE, Kevin Buchanan

## Now and Now: DKE Tailgate Club – 2012 Version

*Theta Bowden, Social Committee Chairman*

Another football season is upon us and we are happy to say that our tailgating just keeps getting bigger and better! As always, you may find our tailgate in Lot 4, Space 94, and we make every attempt to be up and available at



least 3 hours before kick-off, though that's sometimes a little tough for noon games.

For the first game, which has every indication of being the biggest game of the year, we expect a huge crowd for Georgia Tech. There will be 30-40 actives, dozens of little sisters and friends, and undoubtedly hordes of potential Dekes looking to see what Deke tailgating dominance is all about. Throw in another 50-80 alumni, guests and friends and we've got the makings of a good time had by all. As an added enticement, **Charlie Webb** has arranged a new and upscale caterer, The Quarter (from Roanoke); to handle all of our culinary needs this season.

If you're coming to the game on Labor Day, we encourage you to come early and enjoy a cold beverage, meet some current Dekes and fellow alums you may not have seen in years, and partake of some outstanding food. It really is a good time and we'd love to see you. We have even added a new tent to our collection along with a few new tables. If you can't come to the first games, keep in mind that there are some other outstanding games later in the year, including Austin Peay (whom we've been trying to schedule for years), Bowling Green (which will be attended by none other than Charlie Lloyd, flying in from San Diego), Duke (Homecoming, DKE Alumni Day with post game open house reception at the DKE House), Florida State and Virginia. Also, events are being arranged (as in defined parking lot DKE Tailgate meeting location) for the huge FedEx Field game with Cincinnati.

In closing, I should mention that our tailgating activities have played a substantial role in the greatly improved health of the active chapter. While these young men have demonstrated outstanding leadership and overall effort, the continuing presence and participation of alumni has had a demonstrable impact on the chapter and on potential rushees. Of course, I hardly need point out that the tailgating costs have increased substantially as we have greater and greater numbers of people attending. So, I would encourage everyone to pony up some contributions toward continuing this tradition, which is the most-attended series of alumni events every year. We have multiple ways in which you can support the DKE Tailgate Club for the 2012 season:

- Join the DKE Tailgate Club for 2012 (token \$350 donation which gets you priority access to the Bloody Mary's, DKE T-shirt, and other perks too numerous to mention)
- Attend the DKE Alumni Day (VT Homecoming vs. Duke) tailgate and open house (details to follow)
- Make a contribution to the DKE Annual Fund (tax-deductible!)
- Slip a few greenbacks or drop a check into the DKE Tailgate Club donation box available at the tailgate.
- Sponsor some tailgate supplies or bring some extra beer, mixers, liquor to donate to the festivities
- Most Importantly - ATTEND! !!!!! Remember: Lot 4, Space 94 !!!!!

That's all folks, See you in September, Theta

## Treasurer's Report

*Mike Beam, Alumni Treasurer*

I will keep this report brief. Our operating account balance stands at approximately \$2000. We expect rent from our active tenants in the house to continue to cover the basic expenses for the remainder of the year (mortgage, taxes, insurance, pest control, etc.). Our restricted RLF-SA fund now has a balance in excess of \$50,000 thanks to your past donations.

In true Federal Reserve Bank form, the Alumni Board is in the final stages of issuing an interest bearing Promissory Note to our RLF-SA Fund effectively having our adjunct Foundation invest in our Sigma Alpha Properties LLC. The \$50,000 will be used to pay off over \$40,000 in accrued working capital advances and provide an added cushion in our operating account for ongoing maintenance and repairs. Note payments will accrue back our RLF-SA account



## *Treasurer's Report (continued)*

and coupled with your ongoing donations we look to repeat this process until such time we can effectively retire/replace our existing demand Loan (\$75,000) and later replace the principal mortgage with one issued by the RLF-SA Fund. Longer term our Foundation will own the DKE House mortgage and we can self-finance ongoing capital repairs and improvements. Confused? Welcome to the club. Wait, there is even more.... once the chapter completes its suspension period with VT, we hope to register our foundation with the VT Foundations so that any donations to VT can be earmarked to the RLF-SA Fund! Sounds impossible, but evidently this is what the German Club has been doing for decades! And I bet you all thought it was from them guys selling football programs. Of course all this depends on your continued support. Please take the time to fill out the enclosed card and support *your* fraternity's 2012 DKE Annual Giving with a tax-deductible donation to RLF-SA Fund. Remember you can also volunteer to serve on the DKE Alumni Board! Most of all visit a tailgate, stop by the house, or look up somebody you haven't seen in years. FFTHF, **Mike Beam**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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