

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



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

February 9, 2013

## Alumni Association/Chapter Update

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

Dear fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

2013 sounds like a lucky year. It has been a while since our last newsletter as the VT-DKE Alumni editorial staff went into a comatose condition after being forced to watch the Hokies/Rutgers, plus OT, in the Russell Athletic Bowl (a.k.a. jockstrap bowl). Be thankful that we didn't actually organize a tailgate for that game! On the football field it was a yawner of a year, but off the field another smashing success with DKE Tailgates in Lot4. We broke in a new caterer this past year and more returning DKE alumni and seemingly ever increasing crowds have cemented the tailgate as a DKE tradition. The Duke game included a flyover by none other than pilot **Mike Renard** (S'02) and fellow flight crew based in Meridian, MS (see news posting on website). The crew came out to the DKE House post game and mingled with actives, alumni, family and friends as part of the mini-DKE reunion weekend. The rescue squad was summoned along with the police, but we are happy to report that no one died; and mum is the word on any specific alumni injuries that occurred. Once again great thanks are owed to **Charlie Webb S'85** for leading the DKE Tailgate Club once again for the season and the guys from The Quarter who filled in admirably as caterers.

The active chapter initiated six new brothers in the Fall and has started off 2013 with around 35 active brothers. Including in the new group was **Connor Sterne (F'12)** son of **Ray Sterne (S'86)** adding to the growing legacy group in the fraternity. Ray and Charlie Webb made 'guest' appearances during initiation night to witness the baptisms. We are also pleased to announce that **Andrew McLaughlin (S'09)** will be awarded the inaugural **Dave Calhoun Scholarship Award** recognizing the DKE House resident with the highest GPA for the fall semester each year. A 3.73GPA for the semester while living in the house! Meanwhile, the chapter is now in its second year of a five year suspension period as a registered VT student organization. Promoting scholarship, philanthropy and maintaining a vibrant fraternity (while staying out of jail) are important building blocks for building the DKE brand to a sustainable force for when the suspension period ends, [and if DKE decides to rejoin the IFC].

The DKE house is still standing although she has taken another direct blow in 2012. One of the front porch columns was rotting and required replacement. Once the old column was removed, it exposed further water damage and wood rot to the internal bracing of the front porch roof's main bearing beam. The porch roof is currently braced up and both sides of the porch as well as the veranda have been closed for safety purposes. An engineering design (now complete) recommended replacing all four porch columns as well as construction of two footer foundations and bracing the main bearing beam by adding an external structural composite face beam. Of course, this is a whole lot more complicated than just replacing one column as originally planned for (and I dare say a tad more expensive also). Work is ongoing which means.....yep you guessed it; we could use your early and often support as part of the 2013 DKE Annual Fund. But before we beg for more money for the New Year, we would like to recognize those who contributed to the 2012 DKE Annual Fund. We had 90 individuals contribute to the 2012 DKE Annual Fund and/or DKE Tailgate Fund. This is our highest participation level in 8 years. A full list of the 2012 Fund donors has been posted on the website.

With a multi-year accumulation of donations in the tax-deductible RLF-SA Fund, the fund recently invested in a DKE House second mortgage. In true Greece/Greek fashion, we borrowed money from ourselves to pay off other debts. At least the debt service fees are paid back to the RLF-SA Fund so in the long run somehow this is all going to work out. Believe that, and we got some Greek bonds we can sell you!



So we could use your support the 2013 Annual DKE Fund. We start early every year, and as usual we have put the little envelopes and donation cards in the newsletter for your convenience. We can do on-line credit card payments (please make sure you designate the Sigma Alpha Fund) and based on your tax needs, (with the market booming; higher capital gains tax in 2013) we can even take donations of appreciated stock fully leveraging your contribution.

We are also looking for additional Board member volunteers. 2013 is also an election year for the VT-DKE Alumni Association Board of Directors. We hold these elections bi-annually in off years so voting is not overly influenced by down-ticket congressional elections. Need some new blood and always room for more members. Recent graduates, and past two active Presidents, Jeff Rose and Sam Rose, didn't even wait for the election and have joined the board as non-executive directors providing a valuable connection to the younger active chapter members. Just think.... this is an impressive addition to anyone's resume as it combines charitable service, executive board experience and beer drinking all in the same job description! Simply indicate your interest to serve on the Board for the next term on the information card and we will get you nominated and on the formal ballot at the end of the year.

We are making plans for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Habitat for Inhumanity alumni-student-parent program to provide some much needed upkeep and repairs to the DKE House. This will coincide with the Spring Game and the fraternity is always looking for donated furniture, tools, etc. More details to follow. And make plans early to get to Atlanta for the VT-Alabama football game. We will get something organized for this event. Of course "making plans" and "will get something organized" are really desperate calls for volunteers to join the DKE board and have someone to actually organize this stuff. Speaking of volunteers, we do need some guest columnists for our Now and Then Page 3 column which you all will notice is unfortunately missing from the newsletter. We can always use some news about alumni and DKE History and it doesn't even have to be true!

The chapter is currently undertaking rush for the Spring semester. References and recommendations are always welcomed. Your VT-DKE Alumni Association, as indicated by the turnout to the tailgates, reunions, impromptu visits to the house, steady stream of legacy members and your financial support, is one of the strongest VT fraternity alumni groups. This is a tribute to all of you. Thank you! FFTHF, Dan Johnson, (Spring '74)

## Active Chapter Report

*Kevin Buchannon, Chapter President (Fall '09)*

As we look forward to the start of another semester, we will have approximately 35 active brothers, including the 6 new members from the Fall 2012 pledge class who were recently initiated: **William Adams, David Pham, Cole Samuels, Stephen Skrip, Luke Stanish, and Connor Sterne** (son of Spring '86 Deke, **Ray Sterne**). Spring rush begins in early February this year, and we hope to have another full pledge class of gentlemen, scholars, and jolly good fellows. If you know someone who will be or are currently attending Virginia Tech who you think may be interested in membership in DKE, please contact our Rush Chairman, Matt Wilson, at [mcw9191@vt.edu](mailto:mcw9191@vt.edu) and we will contact him and invite him out personally.

Over the past semester, we participated in several philanthropy events hosted by various organizations, competed in a variety of intramural sports, enjoyed another football and tailgate season (despite the occasional lackluster performance on the field), and maintained our busy social calendar, all while managing to stay out of any trouble. Additionally, this Spring we intend to participate in other philanthropy events, including the Run for Ryan, (which we have co-sponsored for the past two years). Please feel free to drop by the house at any time. The front door combination is 3353 (DEKE), and the house pay phone number is (540) 552-3353. Although since the pay phone is rarely used and no one may answer it, coming by in person is usually the best option.

FFTHF, Kevin



## Treasurer's Report

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

First, A Big THANK YOU to all who made donations to our fraternity during 2012. We had 90 donors (including 15 first time donors!) contribute over \$28,000 in cash and services to the DKE Annual Giving Fund during 2012 (of which \$23,000 of which went into our Rampant Lion Foundation Sigma Alpha Fund). We believe we can strive to get the number of donors up over 100 for the 2013 Annual DKE Giving Fund. Your voluntary dues/contribution of even just \$50 goes a long way to supporting our enterprise.

We were successful in securing a \$60,000 investment loan from the Rampant Lion Foundation-Sigma Alpha Fund, allowing us to pay off some accrued debt/advances from the past two years and leaving approximately \$12,000 left over to help fund upcoming house repairs needed (i.e. Porch columns), and other expenses as we head in to 2013.

Despite all of this good news, we also remain flush with debt, with a substantial note on the house and an unsecured \$75K demand loan. Monthly rent from the Actives continue to cover the monthly mortgage, insurance, taxes, etc., but your continued support is critical to help build up our capital reserves in the RLF-SA Fund, fund necessary house repairs, and our growing tailgate & social functions. So we can avoid our own "fiscal cliff" (had to find a way to get that phrase in here somehow), please use the enclosed envelope to send in your tax deductible contribution to help us get off to a great start in 2013. FFTHF, Mike

## Now and Then – A call for columnists

In lieu of our award-winning **Now and Then** column we have decided bore you to death and fill the space with a narrative description of the DKE Alumni Association budget process. If that doesn't scare up some columnists for the next newsletter, we are going to add in numbers next time! Lucky we are too cheap for color ink so you and extra pages for all the financial notes and off balance sheet items. On a cash flow basis we have broken things down into simple INS and OUTS splits between House Operations (Rents versus Expenses), Alumni Organization Operations (Donations versus Business/Social/Capital Projects).

**House Operations INS** - We rent eight individual rooms to the residents using formal leases and guarantees provided by parents. The rooms are rented for 12 month leases and rent for \$400 per month for the three larger rooms and \$350 per month for the other 5 rooms. Several of the rooms can hold more than one tenant, however the house has had 9 residents over the past several years. Security deposits are collected. Having a fully rented property is critical to the house economics. Multiply all that stuff out and we collect \$35,400 per year in rents (the INS). The OUTS add up pretty quick. Mortgage, Second Mortgage and Demand Loan payments total \$26,700 (albeit we hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mortgage in the RLF-SA Fund). Then comes Insurance (\$3,700); Real Estate Taxes (\$2,800); Annual Service/Maintenance for HVAC, Pest Control, Fire Sprinkler System, etc (\$1,200) and the of course the unscheduled repairs for plumbing, appliances, etc (say \$1,000). Now if you running a total on your abacus you can see that what comes IN goes OUT on pretty much same basis with little room to spare. Any deadbeat tenants and/or abnormally high repair costs put the house operations in the red and alumni Capital funds must be used to cover the shortfall.

**Alumni Operations** - The INS are predominately donations received. The DKE Annual Giving Fund and DKE Tailgate Club donations; second mortgage payments; and donations/services in kind make up the INS of the VT-DKE Alumni Association. Your cash donations as well as in-kind services such as tax preparation (**Troy Turner S'93**); donated tailgate club supplies (including tents, tables, parking spot, and even casual donors who bring extra food/liquor; lawn maintenance (**Mickey Hayes S'60**) and the Board operations (website maintenance, treasury functions, newsletter mailing, and other organizational aspects of running the alumni association). Thanks to your generosity we average slightly over \$20,000 per year in cash contributions in addition to the in-kind services that make things happen. Have a look at the website to see a list of all the donors that make the organization survive from year to year.



The Alumni Association OUTS are as follows: Operations (\$3,000) mainly for printing and postage, but also fees, licenses, website, banking charges, PO Box rental etc. (and kept low by a 100% volunteer board); Social (\$5000) mainly for tailgate club costs including catering, food, liquor etc., reunions (e.g. 70 years of DKE/DKS reunion); Scholarships (\$1000), with the balance going into the biggest OUT called the DKE House.

It is hard to believe sometimes, but we have spent close to \$350,000 in capital improvement to the DKE House in the past eight years. Since 2005 the house improvements included: new gas boiler; porch; new roof; six skylights; all new windows; eaves and gutters; new metal roofs; attic renovation with 3 new rooms and bathroom; new HVAC, sprinkler system, attic access stairs, second floor bathroom remodeled, new first floor guest bathroom: floor refinishing; painting; wood paneling; new fence; tree removal; landscaping and the list goes on. Amazingly after all this work, the place still looks like a dump! But despite that it remains the pride and joy of all Dekes and the envy of others. This year we need front porch column and roof beam replacement as well as repairs to the two large columns. We got needs for more OUTS and could use some INS. The End.

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