

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



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

April 9, 2013

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (Spring '74)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Hello again. The VT-DKE active chapter has elected new officers for the upcoming year and we are organizing our third Annual 'Habitat for Inhumanity' on April 20th for students, parents and alumni to try to put a little shine back in the grand dame at 302 E. Roanoke Street. The porch column repairs have progressed and remaining work is limited to final trim work and clean up. We plan to do the painting during the April 20th weekend. Take a look at the www.vtdke.com site to check out some of the porch repair progress photos of the work. We are looking for some skilled volunteers for the Habitat for Inhumanity weekend as well as any donations of frat house suitable furniture/supplies that any of you are looking to dispose of. Couches, bar stools and toilets all have a very short lives in the DKE House environment and replacements are always needed. We also need some volunteers to assist in leading projects/repairs. I think we have got **Charlie Webb** to lead the food and drink at the house and the VT Football Spring Game is at 3pm that day so call it a tailgate at the DKE House prior to the game. Volunteer if you can but please drop by the house in any case if you are in town for the weekend. See below for more details.

After a six-month hiatus, the award-winning Page 3 Now and Then column has returned with a feature on the 73-74 year penned up by **Bob Snyder (F'73)** and **Dan Johnson (S'74)**. And just to show you that someone reads these things, we recently got a note (accompanying a donation) from **Jim Day (F'61)** pointing out that we had the wrong pledge class year for **Mickey Hayes (S'62)** incorrectly labeled a S'60 on the last paragraph of the last newsletter. Thanks for pointing out that error Jim. Our Chief Editor has taken the guilty reporter out back and given him the 40 lashes for his sloppy work.

The active chapter has elected new officers this year and has a VT Varsity football player pledging this semester which I believe the first one in close to 40 years. Despite this achievement, the recruiting and pledging process has been below par this year with just six new brothers recruited over the course of the semester. The recruitment process goes from hot to cold and we can always use Alumni recommendations and kin to bolster the chapter for years to come. Please provide names of any VT students who you may know that we can contact about the benefits of DKE. The enclosed cards are a perfect way to submit any names and we can ensure that the chapter contacts them. You can always throw in a few bucks too!

We are now looking to elect new Board of Directors this year. This letter serves as the last call for nominations before we put together several competing slates to go through the primaries and into the fall election. Please volunteer as we are always in need for help. Easy way to volunteer and being an officer on a non-profit organization is always a worthy achievement. It's never too early for tailgate planning either. We are looking to organize something for the Alabama game in Atlanta as well as get the DKE Tailgate Club organized for the fall. Our alumni social chair extraordinaire, **Charlie Webb**, is looking to pass on the baton this fall. We are looking to try a few things differently such as leasing larger tents as well as concentrating the catering efforts to a single alumni weekend game this year.

Look forward to seeing at least some of you during the spring game weekend.

Dan Johnson



Active Chapter Report

Kevin Buchanan, Chapter President (Fall '09)

As my last newsletter column before graduating, I would like to thank all my DKE brothers and alumni for a terrific four years. I am looking forward to returning next year as part of the alumni group. We recently held elections for new officers and am pleased to report the following DKE officers for the 2013-2014 year who will formally take up their positions later this month. Officers include: **Joey Loss**, President; **Kyle Blevins**, Vice President; **Charlie Cubberly**, Treasurer; **Joey Scanlon**, Secretary; **Rohan Elwahdi**, Member-at-Large; **Tae Choi**, Pledgemaster; **Brendan Murphy**, Social Chairman, **Evan Miller**, Rush Chairman. 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. FFTHF, Kevin

Habitat for Inhumanity Day – April 20, 2013

Dan Johnson, House Committee Chairman (Spring '74)

We have lined up several tasks to be undertaken on the DKE House and are looking for volunteers to lead some of the tasks. Materials, equipment, and support labor will be provided but we are in need of task leaders to ensure the work gets done. The list includes: hot water heater replacement; fence gate installation; main column wood epoxy repair work; room 2D door replacement; BR doors reinforcement place installation; guest bathroom stall repairs; cellar door repairs and curtain box installment. This is in addition to the normal cleaning, painting, and dump runs of collective junk. Any help is appreciated. Some tools are available but we appreciate anyone that can bring their own tools to use (as well as any painting supplies such as brushes and exterior white paint you may want to donate to the cause).

And for all the junk the DKE House throws out, the place could use ongoing replacement junk. DKE House quality common space furniture such as couches, tables, chairs, are always appreciated. And if you got a pinball machine, keg dispensing system, large screen TV's and other items you don't want or need, the impoverished DKE House makes for a great disposal location. Oversized coolers for the DKE Tailgate Club, and Even those ugly bar stools you have hidden in your attic would serve the DKE bar well. Ladders, yard tools, and even household supplies such as trash can liners, paper towels, cleaning supplies etc. Please contact Dan Johnson at danieldjohnson@comast.net if you plan to be there and to what extent you can help out. We will put together a task list and alumni/parents/students assigned to each task prior to the date and circulate to all volunteers planning to be there. THANKS IN ADVANCE! - Dan

Call for New Board Nominations – DKE Tailgate Club

As with any organization we could always use some new volunteers to help the alumni organization run and grow. Of critical importance are the Social Committee and the accompanying DKE Tailgate Committee who are looking for volunteers to help set up and arrange for the tailgates. Our tailgates have grown exponentially over the past several years growing beyond the few individuals that do most of the heavy lifting to set up and organize the tailgates. It has been a great venue for meeting alumni and we are constantly seeking more DKE alumni season ticket holders (and friends) to join up with DKE Tailgate Club efforts. We now average over 150 attendees to our tailgates, but still a fraction of what it can still become! Fill out the information card on what you are willing to do and we pin the sheriff's star on your chest.



The 1973-1974 Pledge Classes: Now and Then

Bob Snyder (Fall '73) and Dan Johnson (Spring '74)

Doing double-duty. In addition to agreeing (at least that is what DJ tells me) to dusting off my plumbing skills to install a new water heater as part of the Habitat for Inhumanity weekend later this month, I have been roped into scribing this column. Was actually up in Blacksburg for the first Habitat for Inhumanity in the summer of 2011 and was personally responsible for all the real work that got done that year. I am living in Atlanta having recently retired after a 30-year career with UPS. In my capacity I was responsible for every late and misdirected package ever delivered. Had a couple of marriages and a couple of kids in the meantime (eldest son is at Univ. of Alabama), and am currently doing some consulting work and working on the "Invent the Future" kind of stuff. In past few years after a rather long hiatus, I have had the opportunity to re-engage with several VT-DKE alumni attending the 70th Reunion in 2011, as well as few football games in Atlanta, Charlotte, and even Clemson in the past couple of years. Reflecting on my time as a student in Blacksburg, brings back a few memories, many of concerning acts of lewdness and rudeness. While I am sure none of actually involved me personally, the same cannot be said of my fellow pledge brothers and other DKE brothers who were initiated during the 1973-1974 academic year.

In the day, we had three quarters of pledging and freshmen were ineligible to pledge in the Fall Quarter. All-in-all we had 21 Dekes initiated during the year even though a few of them transferred or left VT at the end of the year not to return. The DKE house saw the shifting of the DKE bar to the basement that year and our legendary Friday night parties made it a 30 minute trip from the front door to the basement bar. We had live bands on regular occasions, Myrtle Beach; DKE Weekend, and even though we regularly opted out of standing in the rain to collect canned food, we did do our share of philanthropy though the DKE 'slave sale' at Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, VA. No one died and even more amazing, to the best of my knowledge, none of us are dead yet.

Let's start with **Fall '73** which was my pledge class. There were eight of us. All sophomores or at least we pretended to be as we were all in our second year at Tech. You should have seen the hair we had. This group was instrumental in preparing the new basement and bar with the signature mirrored walls and barn wood trim. Midnight commando raids to acquire the mirrors from the demolition salvage remodeling at Kroger and destroying some unsuspecting farmer's old outhouse provided the supplies we "needed". In alphabetical order the Fall class had **Jim Carver**, **Bill Clarke**, **Bob Claybrook**, **Glen Haynes**, **Rick Hall**, **Gerald Sandridge**, **Bob Snyder**, and **Bob Sullivan**. Most of us were labeled with nicknames but I can only remember a few. **Jim Carver** left VT after that year joining the Army and jumping out of planes from what I hear. After leaving the army, Jim and family now live in Tidewater VA area. Close enough to Blacksburg Jim so now the pressure is on for you to hit a DKE Tailgate and/or drop by the DKE house after 40 years! **Bill Clarke** was the silent curly-haired, country-boy type from Bumpass, VA. A fitting locale name for any DKE! Our records indicate that Bill currently resides in Bumpass so time for Bill to bump off his ass and get down to Blacksburg. **Bob Claybrook** was one of the three Bobs in the pledge class and along with **Bob 'Pudman' Sullivan** and me, shared a two-bedroom townhouse at Sturbridge Square. Claybrook and I worked as waiters at Greek's Cellar. I knew that when I read on the women's bathroom stall at Greeks: "Bob Snyder is the biggest asshole in the world", I knew I had impressed someone! With that we were all capable of answering yes to the "is Bob There?" phone calls. If memory serves me correct the DKE House garage was one of Claybrook's favorite spots during DKE parties. Bob did pre-med at VT and is a successful dentist living in NoVA area. We know this as he serves as the dentist for the Scanlon clan (at least until they ran out of teeth). He also met his wife the former **Peggy Super**, a DKE Little Sister while at VT so something good came out of his time there. **Glen Haynes** was another country boy from the Ivy, Virginia area. Glen is now a successful Veterinarian doctor somewhere in Georgia. How to treat animals with high levels of mind-numbing prescription drugs is probably something learned from his days at Dekes. Of course while at Tech, Glen dated Boopsie his high school sweetheart who later went on to become the star in the Doonesbury comic. (Only other Boopsie that I know!). **Rick 'Ribeye' Hall** was the athlete of the group. I think the Ribeye came from his outstanding employee of the month award at the local Longhorn Steakhouse restaurant. Rick was from nearby Doglick (commonly known as Roanoke) and was the



star Flickerball player for the DKE intramural team. This wasn't too hard as no one else could really play the game let alone understand the rules. Ribeye had Peter Frampton hair and reportedly it took him 3 hours to prepare. At parties I would often tell Ribeye I was going to hit on a particular pretty young coed – to that, he would *ALWAYS* reply: “too late, I’m already working her....” Rick now resides in College Station, TX where he looks after the athletic facilities for Texas A&M University, which I think makes him responsible for the getting Johnny Manziel the Heisman Trophy this past year. Rick recently hung up his sneakers from refereeing NCAA college basketball. He is also the faculty advisor for the local DKE chapter at Texas A&M which was started up a few years ago. Do as I say, not what I did. Of course at the reunion Rick was the only one that weighed the same and had all his hair, albeit neatly cropped and coifed, among those of us who returned. **Gerald Sandridge**, was the biggest of the Fall '73 DKE pledges and went on to become Pledgemaster, scaring future Dekes of all ages and sizes. **Pudman Sullivan** was the rock star. As the lead singer of the infamous rock band *STRIKE* along his mustache, long hair, and flowing clothes, Bob had his own groupie following. Rumor has it that their latest CD is available for free download through iTunes as soon as some can configure how to convert the 8-track tape over to CD. When *STRIKE* played in the DKE basement – we often tuned the stereo beach music up to overpower the new-age sounds of *STRIKE*. Bob is currently an investment advisor with Morgan Stanley in Richmond and by last account has given 8374 presentations on “how to rollover your IRA”. Pudman has the notorious distinction of being the first Little Sister Chairman. Somehow he resisted the vast majority of the brotherhood wanting Little Sisters to adopt French Maid uniforms at our parties. Last word we have is that Bob is looking to lead a *STRIKE* reunion tour with the DKE House as the lead venue.

The Winter 74 pledge class saw another 8 men initiated into the DKE ranks after a pledge trip to Wake Forest University. In alphabetical order the pledge class included: **Roger Bolick**, **Richard Brzeski**, **Randy Colthorpe**, **Skip Creasy**, **Jack Fisher**, **Jim McDonald**, **Ed Tubbs**, and **Rich Widner**. The pledge class included two VT football players (Creasy and Widner) and your other normal collection of misfits. Lead misfit was of course **Roger “the Fly” Bolick**. Now Roger started out as an engineering student and soon thereafter shifted to become a Business Marketing major. On the social scene, Roger was a production man at heart, combining the two. Quantity over quality was his stated objective. And produce he did. Roger also had a Chevelle SS that was the envy of many including **Rich Widner** and the two of them traded car titles with Roger getting Rich's neon orange GTO in exchange. I think it was some sort of ploy to trade off back seat histories where both could claim, “I don't know what you mean. It couldn't have been me, I don't even own a car like that”. After graduating Roger joined **Ned Heller (S'72)**, **John Hill (F'74)**, and **Dan Johnson** for a road trip of the ages in Ned's blue van. Roger currently lives in Austin TX juggling women and ex-wives as usual. Last we heard of Rich, he was in Cape Coral FL. **Richard Brzeski** transferred from VT after his freshman year to attend pre-med and eventually medical school at VCU. We assume he accomplished this as of last word he was some sort of doctor in the Hampton VA area. **Randy “Doughboy” Colthorpe** was a skateboarding, surfing dude from Virginia Beach. Randy is now a corporate pilot for Northern-Southern Railroad. Flying Gulfstream/Lear jets around has to be a great job even if most of the flights are to West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky coal towns. Any of you Dekes that are looking to buy some private jets on your own and are need of pilot to do a few test runs give Randy a call. **Skip Creasy**, was the tight end for the VT football time and the son of a former VT football player. Skip resides in Connecticut and we only get smattering reports as to his well-being from his sister **Winn** (DKE Little Sister) at the ACC Championship game in Charlotte. Skip, time to spend more time in Blacksburg and get some alumni football player block seating tickets for your 54 DKE family brothers! **Jack ‘Fish’ Fisher**, claims he is now retired (as if he ever really worked) from the money management business. Jack was the most infamous DKE Bar Chairman running the DKE house parties over the course of the summer one year as the premier establishment in Blacksburg. How he turned \$2 all you could drink into profitable events is an amazing attribute still to this day. Little known at the time was how he could discretely fill up a solo cup half full of water and top it off with a beer “head”. Not one to waste, he would simply convince unsuspecting coeds (and everyone else) it was just a keg of “light beer”. Jack and wife Ann (another DKE Little Sister) currently reside in Arlington. **Jim McDonald** now lives in Phoenix AZ. His eldest son attended VT on a baseball scholarship a few years back and his youngest boy plays for University of Arizona on a baseball scholarship. Jimmy works telling everyone that nuclear power is safe and providing spin on how Arizona Public



Service power rates really aren't that high. **Ed 'Pledge' Tubbs** went into the railroad business upon graduation with CSX and by last account is still riding the rails somewhere in the Southeast. Of course Ed will always be known for somehow hitting a horse in his baby blue Camero while driving his date back to Radford in Halloween costume outfits after a party at the DKE House. Neither horse nor car fared well but it makes for a good story.

The Spring '74 pledge class was led by legacy **Big John Collins**, whose older brother **Herb Collins (F'70)** meant that the pledge class knew all the angles of pledging requirements going in. The pledge class consisted of John Collins, **Eddie Irby**, **Dan Johnson**, **Chet Natale** and **Bob Richeson**. Since VT was on the quarter system and most all other colleges were out for the summer, we ended up doing our pledge trip to Virginia Beach in mid-May. We let Eddie Irby do the driving of **Chet Natale's** Plymouth as he lived in the area. That lasted until Eddie missed the turn in Richmond and took the I-95 turnoff. New Jersey native Chet took over and proceeded to reverse back down the interstate ramp at 50 miles per hour until the course was corrected. Eddie "Oh Man, I ain't believin that" Irby was the star golfer of the pledge class and teamed with John Collins to win the IFC golf championship. Of course other Irby stories include his infamous bet that he could drink a gallon of milk in 15 minutes. With the odds going up the betting was fast and furious on the likelihood of success (or most notably failure). After an ambitious start, Eddie was unable to finish and end up puking all over the driveway. Of course Eddie had to double down on the bet. with this time with a full size bottle of Tabasco. The outcome was the same - only different! **John Collins** went into the Martinsville family furniture box business after graduation. If you bought a piece of furniture prior the Chinese making everything, the internal packing material was probably made by the Collins. John still lives in Martinsville, but sadly we report that he lost his long time wife and former DKE sweetheart **Laura Tramel Collins**, two years ago to a stroke. **Bob Richeson** joined Dekes in the Spring only to leave VT over the summer and we have lost trace of him. **Chet Natale** was a New Jersey lad who openly embraced the disco era despite the utter distaste of the rest of the DKE fraternity (the 95% who couldn't dance). We have lost track of Chet, but suspect he has taken up ballroom dancing by now. We still miss that lime green leisure suit.... **Dan 'Malibu' Johnson** lives in Richmond and serves as the VT-DKE Alumni Chairman. He is still married to **Paula Morris Johnson** after 30+ years and their son, **Wesley Johnson (F'08)** is a VT-DKE, graduated now and is looking for work!

These eclectic groups of men were leaders and participants of the DKE chapter that accomplished many great feats while at Tech. However our greatest impact was raising the quality and quantity of coeds attending DKE parties! Numbers of intramural sports championships, numerous DKE house construction projects that last to this day (and a few more that didn't), guzzle cup champions (keeping to this day, the trophy after we were cheated out of the tournament), consumers of copious amounts of drink, beach parties in February, etc. etc. And of course who can forget **Bob Snyder's** smashing of the SigEp record for raw egg consumption in their house by swallowing 18 raw eggs and one gold fish before regurgitating the entire contents all over the their kitchen. And his redhead date didn't want to make out after that. Still can't get Bob to name the participants in activities behind the Bob Snyder Memorial Phone Booth as he claims he is taking that story to his grave! If you believe that any information about you or others provided in this Now and Then column is untrue, false or outright lies, you are absolutely correct! Drop us a line as to what you've been doing and, *if we believe you*, we will provide updates and corrections the next time! FFTHF, Bob

Treasurer's Report

Mike Beam, Alumni Treasurer (Winter '85)

Thank you to your response to our first newsletter. We have 31 donors contribute over \$9,000 in cash and services to the 2013 DKE Annual Giving Fund so far this year. 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. The porch column repair/replacement project is projected to cost close to \$14,000 when all said and done. We were successful in securing a \$60K investment loan from our RLF-SA Fund in November.



In addition to value of the investment, the cash balance in the RLF-SA Fund is around \$12,500. However these funds are restricted to educational uses only. We would like to aggregate another \$50,000 in the fund prior to next investment cycle. A key goal is to pay down the \$75K demand loan, thereby saving on interest charges as well as for the 'next' major capital investment in the house. We do have \$7,000 in our operating account but face the final installment on the porch column repair as well as insurance/tax bills. We are in still in though with a substantial (\$230K) mortgage note on the house, the \$60K RLF loan 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 please support your fraternity. Once again we have provided an enclosed envelope and donation/information card to send in your tax deductible contribution. If you have interest in becoming the alumni treasurer, and/or have any questions regarding the effort required or the organization's accounts please don't hesitate to ask me. FFTHF, Mike

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