

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



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

April 15, 2014

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (Spring '74)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Welcome to the Spring 2014 Easter Edition of the award-winning DKE Alumni newsletter. We have all the news that is unfit to print; a schedule of a few upcoming events that you must attend; Page 3 column by **Sam Rose/Jason Spooner S'08** for the 2007-2008 pledge class year; a new and improved strategic planning initiative (whatever that is); chapter report from the actives in Blacksburg; and some other stuff we just make up on the way. First of all, a short note of thanks from **Chuck Bradley (W '76)**, which barely missed the timing of the last newsletter.

Gentlemen: FFTHF - Friends from the Heart Forever; I never really gave much thought to that "closing" but recently I experienced the truth of those words. I want to thank all of you for your kind notes, messages and calls after the loss of my wife. I heard from so many of you; some I talk with regularly; but many I had not spoken with in years. Each message gave me a great memory and put a smile on my face during a very tough time. Thanks so much for thinking of the Bradley family. The kids and I are doing well. I hope to see many of you at a Hokie game this fall. FFTHF Chuck Bradley

Only problem is that we are still searching for the 'Gentlemen' (as in more than one!) amongst us, that Chuck was referring to; even though it is in the DKE motto. The Active Chapter brothers are planning a Parents/Alumni function for the Spring Game day/weekend which is like next weekend (April 26th). More details follow below; but a good opportunity/excuse to stop by the house, if you are in town. The chapter after initiating 11 new members last semester has 8 pledges now going through the process to become brothers.

We have also scheduled the now 4th annual "Habitat for Inhumanity" weekend for June 7-8th this summer. The idea is to get a few hardy alumni to work with some like-minded active brothers and provide some TLC maintenance and upgrades to the DKE House. A few of us have already committed to head to Blacksburg to mix beer with power tools, painting and other home improvement tasks. The house is also in need of any 'slightly used' furniture and any other donations in kind that you may have. Please drop us a response if you are willing to help out.

We have our Page 3 'Now and Then' column, penned by **Sam Rose (F '07)**. Always looking for guest columnists, so if you want to make up some stories about the year you joined DKE/DKS, we will print any tales. Better to be written by, than written about, so please volunteer for our next column. Recently heard from several of our recent Page3 columnists, **Bob Dreelin** (never did finish that column Bob!) and **Bob Snyder** while consorting on Bob D's boat in the BVI's (British Virgin Islands). We do note the Bobbsey twins' lack of British ancestry. Bob S. has joined the DKE Alumni Board and is taking on the preparation of a new and improved "Strategic Plan" for the Fraternity including chapter, alumni organization, and the DKE House management. Bob claims he has all kinds of experience, and has some sort of plan to get input from interested stakeholder (active members, alumni, etc.) and come up with a new plan by the end of the year. This should be an improvement on our current strategic plan of: 'stay out of jail; keep the beer cold; and don't burn down the house'. Thanks in advance for Bob taking on the role.

On the financial front, we borrowed another \$30K from our RLF-SA Fund (or from a different perspective we invested another \$30K in the DKE Sigma Alpha Properties LLC housing corporation). We used the funds to pay our accounts payable from our past tailgate club expenses as well as paid down the demand loan by \$16K to a remaining outstanding balance \$60K. Finally, please support the DKE 2014 Annual Fund. FFTHF, Dan Johnson



Active Chapter Report

Joey Loss, Chapter President (Fall '10)

Dear Brothers,

Parents and Alumni Appreciation Weekend – April 26, 2014

The Virginia Tech spring football game is fast approaching and the brothers of the active chapter would like to invite all alumni and their families to enjoy the football game along with food and cheer at the house. It is a rare occasion that the entire chapter gets to gather in one place for a day of jolly good fellowship and we want to be sure to pour all we can into making it memorable for everyone in attendance this April 26th.

There will be barbequed food and beer at the house before the game and catered food and drinks for after. It is our hope that we manage to attract a far greater crowd to stop by house when in town for the VT Football Spring Game. The chapter has had a great leap this year in membership and reputation through the hard efforts of the active brothers. We would like to showcase and share these successes with those who contributed to the foundation on which we continue to build.

For those haven't yet heard, the brothers have done a great deal of work to improve the appearance of the house over the course of this academic year. Brothers **Joey Loss**, '14 **Mark Lenzi** '15, **Ryan McMahon** '13, **Evan Miller** '16, **David Marshall** '13 teamed up with DKE Sweethearts (Little Sisters) **Casey Davis**, **Kendra Woodley** and **Mariah Smith** over Thanksgiving and Winter breaks to refinish all of the floors and paint all of the walls in the house. We also repainted the basement and received a two-keg tap/cooler system as a gift from the Alumni Association for the basement bar. The results are incredible, and living in the house is an entirely different experience.

We've gathered/compiled historical scrapbooks from across many eras and an array of Deke articles from the glory days of Delta Kappa Epsilon and Delta Kappa Sigma dating from 1959-1990 to share with interested people who visit the DKE House. Vice President and President-Elect **Kyle Blevins** '16 managed to find these articles on the web one night while procrastinating on his studies. The general chapter agrees that nothing better has ever come from a Deke's procrastination. These golden articles create a timeline of Deke history with clippings about weekend parties, various philanthropies, pranks, and updates on the high and low points of our relationships with various Roanoke Street fraternities over the years. We are looking to combine with the archive of DKE scrapbooks and other material currently stored with local Alumni. Our aim is to establish a digital history record on the VTDKE.com website in the near future.

We hope to make this Spring Game gathering the start of a tradition for the Virginia Tech DKE/DKS brothers, families and parents. The union of men in fraternity bears monumental meaning in itself; but a far greater meaning emerges when we can share it with our families. We hope to see you and your loved ones at the house this April 26.

On behalf of the active chapter,

Joseph K. Loss
President
Delta Kappa Epsilon
Virginia Tech



Now and Then – Pledge Class Year 2007-2008

Sam Rose and Jason Spooner (Spring 08)

Our pledge year was an odd one; in that the year after 13 of us got in (3 in the fall and 10 in the spring) a majority of the people either dropped off the face of the earth, or couldn't stay with the fraternity for long. We did our best to piece together our year, which was tough to remember after seven years and a leprechaun themed pledge party that was most likely all of our first multi-day hangovers. Our year was the year of Vawter (the dorm), 9 out of 13 people who pledged lived there, and most of whom probably never noticed the smell in the basement... because they lived in Vawter.

Fall '07: Fall '07 had a small pledge class of 3, but probably just as much if not more swagger than the spring class. **Mike "ayo girl" Simenauer** was a brother who truly embodied the movie Animal House. If there were shenanigans going on at the Deke house, Simenauer was most likely behind them. Even though he was only there for a short time he probably set the record for most pole slides and lone soldiers drank in a year. Mike currently lives in Miami and spends most of his time DJ'ing events (most recently an Ultra after party) and producing his own music. **Florian "Flo" "Euro-wonder" Mayer** was known for acting in Flo-motion, which is somewhere between two and ten times normal people time. Besides being a German/Biochem major and having the most bro dad ever, he owned a dog named Slater, which had no shame in crapping in every crevasse of the house. Currently, Flo lives in Iowa and is working for Cargill. **Coleman Knabe** was cool for a VT marching band guy, but did not stay around Deke for long after freshman year. Coleman is still living in Blacksburg (we think) and probably doing some engineering job.

Spring '08: Spring '08 was a pledge class of 13 initially that then slimmed down to 10, with only around 5 brothers remaining truly active after initiation. **Alex Maier** often channeled his inner designer and rearranged his room/apartment every 5 days to perfect the feng shui. While a computer science major at VT he probably contributed to several D grades of brothers with his self-made computer games. Alex lives in Maryland and just got engaged to his college girlfriend Jenna, he's currently busy looking for houses and planning the wedding. **Alex "Dro" Drozdetski** could drink vodka as well as any Russian and would tutor his pledge brothers in math. For as much as he talked about zany theoretical physics it is no surprise he is now in the middle of his PhD in the subject at Virginia Tech and hopes to finish up soon. **Jake Rutstein** was a master of parlor games who drove a blue mustang that saved us in many pledging situations. Jake currently lives in northern Virginia and is probably playing online poker right now.

Gabe Williams practically lived at the house during pledging and could talk your ear off for an hour before you realized it. To the best of our knowledge Gabe lives in northern Virginia as well. **Tony Palumbo** had another car that was a workhorse during pledging, and was a member of the Vawter contingent. He suffered a broken collarbone on the second play of the first and only 'Brothers versus Pledges' full contact football game, which had all of us sore for weeks. Tony currently lives in Pennsylvania and works at ARM EnerTech Associates doing mechanical and electrical engineering. **Cam Percia**, **Trey Wood**, and **Chris Barrett**, all strayed from the fraternity soon after initiation but we can only assume they are continuing on as gentlemen, scholars, and jolly good fellows.

Jason "Mastershake" Spooner is probably best known for his Halloween attire, the more notable ones being solo-cup and ball cancer costumes. His spontaneous "1 keg plus entire freshman dorm parties" became known as "Spooner parties". Jason now lives in Boston with **Sam Rose**, who works for the Broad Institute and blacked out in the Deke house with surprising regularity. Sam plans to start his PhD in genetics this fall in New York City and is an active member of the VT-DKE Alumni Board along with his brother Jeff. We hope to see you all at the tailgate!

FFTHF,

Sam Rose



Treasurer's Report

Mike Beam, Alumni Treasurer (Winter '85)

We would like to thank all who have responded early and contributed to our 2014 DKE Annual Giving Fund. We recently executed our second note which effective means that we are borrowing or investing in ourselves. With our esteemed BBB rating, AAA credit standing, and a 6-pack bribe we got the deal done. Meanwhile to cost of maintaining our 100-yr old DKE House remains a cash sucking machine. The house is in need of several exterior door replacements, exterior painting, bathroom/kitchen upgrades, etc. Your donations support the major maintenance and capital improvements. As usual we have included a response card for your convenience. We listen, and actually read all the comments submitted. Take a few moments and fill out the enclosed card; volunteer to write a Page 3 column; join the VT-DKE Board; help out at the Habitat for Inhumanity Weekend; or make a donation. Your support is what makes it happen! FFTHF, Mike Beam

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