

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



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

August 19, 2013

## Alumni Association/Chapter Update

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

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Here is the summer edition of the DKE newsletter (also commonly known as the non-swimsuit issue) you all have been patiently waiting for. We have the all the news that is fit to print and some unfit stuff too. Included on the last page of the letter is the official DKE Alumni Association ballot which means you have to cut apart the letter and send in the ballot. Again, the esteemed accounting firm of Dewey, Cheatem, & Howe has been retained for a fee of two cases of beer to conduct the vote(s) counting. Not too late to undertake a write-in campaign and elect yourself! The VT-DKE alumni Association is operated with 100% volunteers (actually most of our volunteers rate around the 50% level - but that is what we got to work with). Your participation is needed, wanted and appreciated! We have a full slate of the Same Ole Boys (the SOB's) running basically unopposed again and even got the Rose Gang (**Sam** and **Jeff**) to stand for member-at-large alternate directors to the executive committee.

The other candidates include: **Dan Johnson**, Chairman; **Mike Beam**, Treasurer; **Jim Scanlon**, Secretary; **Charlie Munn** and **Jim Daniel**, Members-at-Large. This crack team is standing (or crouching) for another two year term. Notwithstanding the elected Executive Board positions we have a multitude of adjunct Directorships and Board Committee Positions which just means you have to raise your hand. The Board (including the current Active Chapter President) meets by teleconference at most once per month and main focus to perpetuate the VT-DKE-DKS traditions and somehow keep the DKE House standing and solvent. Your organization has directly or indirectly owned this property at 302 East Roanoke Street since 1969 and the asset is still more or less intact! So if you want to participate, just volunteer. We could really use some fresh faces and voices on the Board.

Also in the summer edition we have the plans for the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> season of DKE Tailgates in Lot4. We are starting with a DKE Alumni gathering in Atlanta with a reserved tap table at the STATS Bar located near the Georgia Dome. This is a "no-host" event. **Dennis Dreelin** and other Atlanta area DKE's are organizing the venue and we will send out details down the road and post on the website. For the games in Blacksburg, we have decided to switch things up a bit and contract a tent setup and look for "sponsors" for the tailgates. We have selected the VT-UNC game on October 10<sup>th</sup> as the Annual DKE Alumni Reunion game with an expanded set up, tailgate catering, and post-game house function. Make your plans now! We also have openings for Tailgate sponsors; and contributions to the DKE Tailgate Club are always welcome. A concerted effort will be made this year to have and maintain a sign-in table at the tailgates. These are functions not to be missed, as the attendance at the DKE Tailgates is typically well over 100 per game. In addition, we are looking to organize gatherings for the GT game (Thursday Night in Atlanta) and the UVA game in Charlottesville.....and continue after last year's aberration, a gathering locale in Charlotte for the ACC Championship Game. Based on past experience game tickets for GT and ACC game can be had for typically a fraction of the face value.

We thought **Bob "the Turtle" Dreelin (W'71)** was going to be our guest columnist for the Page 3 Now and Then column. After numerous promises of a letter around the corner, a late note saying "put me in for the next newsletter" came too late so we put in Part 1 of what we had and expect Bob to deliver next go around. We do need others for future newsletters so please indicate your willingness on the enclosed card and our staff will contact you. Would also like to thank those who helped out on the Habitat for Inhumanity weekend (and other house projects). A special shout out to alumni **Taz Wheatley** and **Bob Snyder (W'76)** who both each put in some serious time



working on the property. In addition to getting some much needed repairs done, we installed a new water heater at the house. Other repairs included installation of a new dishwasher (well semi-new, but the sink is still full of dirty pots and pans); basement door frame replacement; painting of new porch columns; replacement of damaged bedroom door locks and handles; and repair of broken window. As usual the place is always looking for 'new furnishings' with a call for frat house quality couches and even a fridge if you got one cluttering up your garage. Let us know and we will try to arrange for transporting the stuff to Blacksburg if you are unable to. Another special thanks goes out to **Mickey Hayes (S'61)** who has donated gardening services for the property, giving the DKE House one of the few houses on Roanoke Street with a regularly trimmed lawn (and also avoiding the annual citation from the Blacksburg PC crowd looking to issue tickets for downtrodden looking properties). Make a point of visiting the DKE House and/or DKE Tailgate this year.

FFTHF,            Dan Johnson

## DKE Tailgate Club

*Charlie Webb, Retiring Social Chairman (Spring '85)*

We have decided to change things up this year (hopefully for the better). We are looking to contract the tent placement each week to a third party. With the tent set up provided by others, we are seeking alumni **Tailgate Sponsors** to take the lead on organizing food/drink for specific tailgates this year. Get a group of guys and take on a DKE Tailgate. We did this a few years ago, until we got lazy and started to cater everything. A separate DKE Tailgate tent with attendee register, donation box, will hopefully add to the organization this year. Our schedule for Tailgates (and Sponsors) in hand for this year include:

- August 31                    Alabama in ATLANTA [No-host location organized by **D. Dreelin** and **R. Snyder**]
- September 7                Western Carolina [DKE Active Chapter – Rush Event]
- September 21               Marshall [DKE Active Chapter, Little Sisters, Parents, and Pledges]
- October 5                    UNC [DKE Tailgate Club, **Charlie Webb** et al, DKE Alumni Annual Weekend]
- October 12                   PITT [Volunteer Sponsors in hand!]
- October 26                   DUKE [Get U into DKE game, Tailgate Sponsors wanted]
- November 16                MARYLAND [Kick'em out of the ACC Game, Tailgate Sponsors wanted]

In addition to Alabama in Atlanta we are looking to have DKE Tailgate locations/gatherings for several AWAY games including: GT Thursday Night in Atlanta (**Buzz Wainman**); BC in Boston (**Sam Rose**); and UVA in Charlottesville. And if we can get Beamer Ball back on track this year, the ACC Championship Game in Charlotte and Bowl games loom. As in years past, we will send out email reminders (eblasts) during the week prior to all games where we have something organized. As such it is important that you send in your current email address by visiting the website and using the 'update information' button. Our Lot4 tailgates are now a unique tradition of DKE Fraternity and we now average over 150 attendees per home game. Come and we are sure you will bump into familiar faces from years past (**Theta Bowden** is *always* there) and meet some others. Fill out the enclosed card and/or contact **Charlie Webb** to become a tailgate sponsor!

Charlie has been the mainstay of the DKE Tailgate Club in recent years and we are looking for tailgate sponsors to take control of tailgate in lieu of Charlie organizing the food and drink each week. Charlie will assist on planning. Tailgate sponsors get the honorary DKE Lot 4 – Space 94 parking pass and the sheer privilege of lead hosting a small gathering of 150 of your new best friends.

We do desperately need Tailgate Sponsors (both organizational hosts and financial supporters) and hope that you will become a DKE Tailgate Financial Sponsor for the 2013 Season. Donations of all sizes are welcome!



# The 1971-1972 Pledge Classes: Now and Then – Part 1!

*not Bob Dreelin (Winter '71) but really Mark Brutsche (Spring '72)*

Editor Note: **Bobby Dreelin** failed to deliver by the deadline with a late “count me in for the next newsletter” excuse, despite numerous email thrashings by the editorial staff. He did forward the following note from **Mark Brutsche** recounting the Spring '72 pledge class trip along with a few photos. For a collectible reprint and to see a couple of color photos that accompany the story below, please visit the [www.vtdke.com](http://www.vtdke.com) website.

We would however like to thank Mark for providing the story which is reprinted verbatim below. Hope to see some of you guys at the DKE Tailgates this Fall

For our Pledge Trip, The Spring '72 pledge class (**Mark Brutsche, John Loesch, Bill Vassily, Gary Vineyard, and Pete Waller**) was sent to Gambier, Ohio to visit the DKE Lambda Chapter at Kenyon College. As with all pledge trips, we were ordered to bring back mementos and pictures of us doing goofy and marginally legal things. Not to be outdone by all the stories of previous pledge classes' exploits, and since we figured that there probably wouldn't be a photo of one of us having sex with a dog, we decided that we needed to bring back some pretty great stuff. We actually scored more than a couple of unique items, but the coup-de-grace was a plaque, a replica of the DKE Fraternity pin, that we managed to separate from the door pictured below.

Now, I don't think that we really ever thought of it as stealing, because it was our understanding that visiting pledges were expected to procure items of interest from the chapters they visited. So, when we headed to the Blacksburg DKE house with that plaque, we were pretty pleased with ourselves. We would be the first pledge class to ever be looked upon with awe by the brothers. We were the pledge class that was bringing back the most incredible pledge trip booty in the history of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. You can imagine our confusion when we our little surprise turned out not to be a surprise at all. The brothers were waiting for us... and the plaque. It was quite a welcome. I don't think I have ever heard so many different and colorful ways to call a body “stupid” in my entire life. You see, little did we know that the pin replica was a 100+ year old gift, presented to the Kenyon College Dekes by the Mother Chapter when they became the Lambda Chapter, in 1852.

Needless to say, when they discovered that their treasured plaque was missing, the Lambda Chapter Dekes were not amused. The threats of lawsuits and legal action actually made it back to Blacksburg before we did. It was a little dicey for a while, but **Charlie Lloyd** was able to smooth things over, as long as we sent back the plaque. To add to escapade, **Bill Markley** actually knocked the plaque off the coffee table and broke it, so we had to glue before we sent it back... but that's a different story.

VISIT [WWW.VTDKE.COM](http://WWW.VTDKE.COM) to see the photos. Website is always in need of visitors. We don't update very often but nonetheless it does represent a repository and archive for the alumni association.



# Active Chapter Report

*Joey Loss, Chapter President (Fall '10)*

Dear Brothers,

After attending the inaugural DKE Leadership Summit hosted by the Kappa chapter at Miami University of Ohio this past weekend the leaders of the Sigma Alpha chapter are ablaze with excitement for the upcoming year. With me were Vice President **Kyle Blevins (F'11)** and Rush Chairman **Evan Miller (F'11)**. The summit lasted August 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> and was an incredible experience. Highlights included lessons on the topic of being a gentleman, scholastic and business advice from some of the highly successful alumni in attendance from across the continent, and as to be expected by any group of Dekes with an open bar in range – an abundance of jolly good fellowship. The experience left the three of us with cherished memories, strong new connections to other chapter leaders across the country, and extremely high hopes for the upcoming year.

Speaking of the upcoming year, rush preparation is under way. Formal rush invitation letters are beginning to hit the mailboxes of former and new prospective members of the fraternity. We ended the 2012-2013 academic year on a good note with an incredible fraternity formal weekend at a mansion in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, we initiated nine new beautiful fraternity little sisters. As a result of these events the Miami, Ohio leadership conference, morale is as high as I have ever seen for the Sigma Alpha boys since my membership began in May of 2011.

In other news, the Delta Kappa Epsilon alumni board has established a relationship with the USO to create a national philanthropy for all interested chapters of the fraternity. Ironically, Philanthropy Chair **William Adams (S'12)**, already had been working for several months before the announcement with cadet Brothers **Ryan McMahon (F'11)** and **Garrett Lally (S'12)** to create a service-based philanthropy for next year, so we are all thrilled to continue our philanthropy plans with DKE International by our side. We are confident that we will be able to work with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets through brothers **McMahon** and **Lally** to create a very successful and meaningful philanthropy in the name of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

In planning and organizing for the upcoming year, I see again and again how much the alumni commitment to our chapter keeps us alive. I'd like to thank each and every one of the alumni for all of the support that you give our organization. Without your donations and efforts, none of our tailgates, rush events, rituals, or any of what we do would be possible. Our lives have been so enriched by our membership to Delta Kappa Epsilon, and I look forward to someday being able to give back to future members just as you have so graciously given to us. The fall is by far the most eventful and crucial time of the year for the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and I could not be more excited to go to battle with the brothers currently by my side. I think this year holds great promise for the Sigma Alpha chapter, and I look forward to reporting on our progress as we turn our current visions into realities.

In the bonds,

Joey Loss



## Treasurer's Report

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

Thank you to your response to our last newsletter and ongoing support. We now have 50+ donors who have contributed over \$16,000 in cash and services to the 2013 DKE Annual Giving Fund and operating account so far this year. We still believe we can reach our goal to get the number of individual donors over 100 for the 2013 Annual DKE Giving Fund. That means we need your support. Your voluntary dues/contribution of even just \$50 goes a long way to supporting our fledging enterprise.

The porch column repair/replacement project is now completed ... that is great news! The close to \$14,000 tab has sucked all remaining cash reserves from our operating account .... that is the sobering news! So once again we find ourselves in a precarious cash position in regards to our operating account to pay for seemingly the never-ending list of upkeep and repairs. As a reminder, we were successful in securing a \$60K investment loan from our RLF-SA Fund late last year, however much of that was used to pay for the porch and pay off cash advances provided by a Director.

Excluding the current balance of the RLF-SA loan to value of the investment, the 'real' cash balance in the RLF-SA Fund is around \$17,000. However, as per our tax exempt RLF-Sigma Alpha Fund; these funds are restricted to educational uses only. The funds are used for the two scholarships we have in place as well as providing an investment source for DKE House debt (when funds are sufficient to warrant). We would like to aggregate another \$50,000 in the fund prior to the next investment cycle. Just \$25,000 of cumulative giving gets you in the DKE Scholarship Tier giving level. Even if your academic record at VT was sketchy, funding a scholarship would surely meet the first leg of the DKE tripod of being a scholar, gentlemen and a jolly good fellow.

A key goal of the alumni board is to pay down the \$75K demand loan, thereby saving on interest charges as well as providing some capital for the 'next' major repair investment in the house. We have \$3,000 in our operating account, which will keep the lights on for the remainder of this year, barely. We are still up to alligators in debt with a substantial (\$230K) first mortgage note on the house, the \$60K RLF loan (which is essentially both an investment and debt), and the previously mentioned unsecured \$75K demand loan. The base house operational income consisting of monthly rents from the tenants are used to cover the monthly mortgage, insurance, taxes, etc., but leaves little room for 'abnormal' repairs. And given the age of the DKE House and normal use and abuse it takes....abnormal repairs have been the norm in the past few years. As such the your continued support is critical to help build up our capital reserves in the RLF-SA Fund, fund necessary house repairs, cover the scant overheads of the alumni association and our growing tailgate & social functions. So please support your fraternity, with a donation, tailgate sponsorship, service-in-kind, or specified use (e.g. the estimated cost for the DKE Tailgate tent rental is \$225 per game). We do appreciate any additional non-deductible contributions to the "DKE Tailgate Fund" are also welcomed. We will even put a "sponsored by" sign on the tent for you!

Once again we have conveniently provided an enclosed envelope and donation/information slip to send in your tax deductible contribution along with your ballot. Speaking of ballots, we are looking for a Richmond based alumni to become the alumni treasurer. By standing for re-election, I have re-upped for the next two years, but never too soon to work on a replacement. 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



# DKE ALUMNI BOARD ELECTION - OFFICIAL BALLOT

Our simple ballot here. Please cutout, circle all candidates voting FOR and return in the enclosed envelope.

- FOR SOB party: **Daniel Johnson, Mike Beam, Jim Scanlon, Charlie Munn, Jim Daniel, Sam Rose, Jeff Rose**
- FOR Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

A pretty simple ballot and all write candidates get elected to something! Please volunteer, as all are welcome (and needed). Non-executive board members (all write-ins and special appointees) get executive bathroom privileges at the DKE House!

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Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity  
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