

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



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

August 10, 2014

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman ('77)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Greetings from the VT-DKE Media Corp headquarters located somewhere in the cloud. The chapter is on the rise and after a successful 2013/2014 will enter this academic year with over 30 brothers returning to start the fall. We plan to kick off the year with the expanded VT-DKE Alumni tailgate for the W&M game and a special DKS to DKE ceremony on the Friday night for several of our more distinguished (pre-1970 graduating class) alumni as well as open house functions at the DKE House following the ceremony on Friday and the game on Saturday (OK recognizing that the DKE House being kept clean for two consecutive days while hosting functions and without any pledges to do the work may actually be a record). The ceremony on Friday will be hosted by **Mickey Hayes** at his house and we plan to recognize and thank those Delta Kappa Sigma alumni who have supported the fraternity in the last several years and formally "initiate" them into Delta Kappa Epsilon. More details are below in the space normally provided for our Page 3 column. The DKE tailgate club kicks off its 7th season at Lot 4 with our expanded Alumni Game tailgate, so we hope at least that you can stop by the tailgate even if you can't attend on Friday night. If you can attend the Friday ceremony (after all attendance is mandatory) we would appreciate if you could indicate on the card enclosed and mail it back to us or simply register on the vtdke.com website.

As a reminder we have a tailgate for every home game in Blacksburg, starting 3 hours before kickoff. The main thing you have to do is just show up! The tailgates have grown in size for each year and at the end of last season we acquired a 20x30' tailgate tent to our growing DKE Tailgate Club assets. We have the same Lot 4 location and this year the active chapter will take responsibility for setting up the tents a day in advance and removing the following day after the game, greatly assisting on the tailgate organization. The DKE Tailgate Club could always use help with tailgate supplies/organization if you are so inclined. In any case, make a point of stopping by the DKE Tailgate this year.

The VT-DKE Alumni Association is a non-profit organization that owns the DKE House in Blacksburg, via our Sigma Alpha Properties LLC Housing Corporation, on your behalf. The VT-DKE Alumni Association recently provided scholarships so that three brothers could attend the DKE Convention a few weeks ago. The group is run with 100% volunteers and occasional beer. In the past year we have had **Jeff Rose '12** step up and take over the Board Secretary position and his brother **Sam Rose '11** as a Member-at-Large Alternate Director. Jeff has/is working on the updating and revamping of the vtdke.com website. Last year **Mike Beam** stepped up to the plate and agreed to be the Board Treasurer for another two-year tour of duty. If you live in the Richmond area and can add (ok use the calculator on your smart phone) we are looking for a VT-DKE Alumni Association treasurer for which we can provide *DKE training*. You get checkbook, keys to our PO Box and resume building title as CFO of a pyramid of companies. If I am not mistaken, we use QuickBooks which means in many cases you don't even have to add. The main role of the Alumni Association is to look after the DKE House. On that note we are happy to report that the DKE House is still standing. We rent the 8 bedrooms to active members. We have set up the rent structure so that the rent covers the basic house ownership expenses such as mortgage(s), taxes, insurance and maintenance costs. Your donations are used predominately for house repairs and capital improvements, which for a 100-year old property is almost a never ending exercise. Stop by your DKE House when you are in town and make a point of supporting your fraternity!

FFTHF, Dan Johnson



Active Chapter Report

Kyle Blevins '15 and Charlie Cubberly '15, Chapter President & Treasurer

Dear Brothers,

As another carefree summer filled with summer jobs, parents, and zero school work, starts to wind down the brothers here at Sigma Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon are anxious to wind it back up at the end of August. The active chapter brotherhood is incredibly excited for another year of school and we all plan to start it off strong and finish it even stronger.

The 170th DKE Convention was held this year at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, home to our recently restarted "Iota" chapter. Our Sigma Alpha chapter sent three delegates: **Joseph Loss '14**, **William Adams '15** and **Charlie Cubberly '15** as co-recipients of the Daniel Johnson Leadership Scholarship. We all had the privilege of meeting our fellow undergraduate brothers from across North America, our national fraternity's Board of Directors, and many prominent alumni. The Convention stimulated two forms of education for us: formal and informal. During the day, seminars and lectures were held by speakers that discussed topics such as risk management and recruitment techniques, campus/fraternity safety, the expansion of DKE, and meetings with our chapter consultants. The informal education came from conversing with our Deke peers, swapping stories from chapter to chapter, discussing rituals and traditions, and imparting words of wisdom. We had the pleasure of hearing from Brother Matt Blevins (Iota-Centre '99) a marketing manager for *Jack Daniels* brand whiskey, Brother Bob Green (Eta-Virginia '69) a legendary horse breeder and race expert, and finally from keynote speaker Brother Alan Bean (Omega Chi-UT Austin '55) the 4th man to walk on the moon during the Apollo 12 mission and now a humble artist. During the awards ceremony, Sigma Alpha was a runner up for the Delta Award for Chapter Improvement. We were all very fortunate and happy to be the delegates from our proud chapter at Virginia Tech and will definitely cherish the memories will imparting the wisdom we were given.

The growth in the chapter membership we made this past year just goes to show that we are capable of anything and hope to keep our momentum going into this year and future years. We plan on bringing back 30-35 actives with goals of double digit pledges classes each semester. The brothers staying in the house/Blacksburg have been busy this summer and as part of the Habitat for Inhumanity weekend in June we supported the alumni in upgrading part of the first floor bathroom as well as making electrical and carpentry repairs. Thanks go out to Brothers **Mark Lenzi**, **Luke Stanish**, and **Corey Caulfield** for their assistance.

Also based on the generosity of the parents of **Christian Daly** we have recently acquired a house load of furniture with load of more stuff to come before we start the school year. This resulted in the wholesale removal of 6 loads of *vintage* DKE house furniture taken to the dump. Recently Brother **Evan Miller** and his father donated and installed new ceiling light fixtures in the house.

The chapter is up to date financially and has a zero balance with the DKE International for dues and risk insurance. Through the management of Treasurer **Charlie Cubberly**, elected for a second term as our chapter treasurer this year we actually went into the summer with a positive balance in our checking account. We have also started a fundraising campaign for parents to donate to the active treasury for additional house furniture and other house improvements. We are looking to obtain bars stools and chairs to allow seating for chapter meetings at the house for a growing and expanding fraternity. From the actives to parents and alumni of Sigma Alpha chapter of DKE we hope you have a wonderful rest of the summer. Join us for the open house and tailgate for the William and Mary football game August 29-30th! On behalf of the Sigma Alpha chapter, Kyle Blevins and Charlie Cubberly



DKS to DKE Ceremony – DKE Alumni Game Weekend

DKE Alumni Association Social Committee

We would like to thank everyone for their support of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity in recent years. Your support has been instrumental to keeping Dekes at Virginia Tech alive and well. As part of recognitions for some of your Delta Kappa Sigma brothers we have arranged for a ΔΚΣ to ΔΚΕ “re-initiation” ceremony and reception as part of the DKE Alumni Annual Tailgate Weekend in late-August in Blacksburg. We hope everyone will attend.

The history of Dekes at Virginia Tech dates back to the four founding members of Delta Kappa Sigma (ΔΚΣ or Deeks) in 1941. The fraternity prospered and grew in the ensuing decades despite not being sanctioned by the University. By the early 1970's, as Tech became coed and was growing exponentially, the ΔΚΣ fraternity decided to seek a national fraternity recognition and petitioned Delta Kappa Epsilon (ΔΚΕ or Dekes) for the obvious reason in that the name sounded the same. Consequently, the Sigma Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded on February 6, 1971. Rather than a new beginning for the fraternity it was more of a simple trademark change and re-branding of the oldest fraternity at Virginia Tech. Today, some 700 living alumni are now part of the VT-DKE legacy.

Your VTDKE Alumni Association owns the most historic and longest continuously occupied fraternity house in Blacksburg, located at 302 East Roanoke Street. We have owned the property, originally built in 1910, since 1967. That makes 47 years the property has been owned by your DKE fraternity. And despite being managed by 20-year-olds, occasional fires, numerous debt re-financings, a condemnation or two, as well as housing hundreds of DKE fraternity brothers and hosting over a 1000 social gatherings, the infamous DKE House is still standing! The property is the crown jewel (even in its ‘well-used’ state) of the VT Dekes and the anchor asset of all VTDKE alumni. It is an asset we all own a little piece of, and can be proud of.

Many past traditions of the fraternity including: DKE Weekend formals; the Guzzle Cup; and other ΔΚΣ/ΔΚΕ events, have devolved (or been outright banned) or replaced by others over the years. However, somewhere along the line, VT football became relevant, and in recent years a new DKE Tailgate tradition has been established. With a prime Lane Stadium location (Lot 4, Space 4-94 located in the SW corner of Lot 4), generously donated by Brother **Mickey Hayes** '64, this new tradition of the DKE tailgates has been growing and expanding over the last 6 years and has been a cornerstone for DKE alumni gatherings. The close proximity to Lane Stadium has allowed hundreds of alumni and guests experience a cross-generational blending of alumni and students. Each year, the tailgates have grown larger. Since the 40/70/100 DKE Reunion celebration in 2011, the VTDKE Alumni Association have designated one game/weekend per year for an expanded tailgate at Lot 4, as well as an open house function at the DKE House on Roanoke Street. This year we have selected the August 29-30th weekend that includes the opening VT Football game against William & Mary.

As part of the festivities, we are organizing a reception/ceremony at Mickey Hayes' private residence on Friday, August 29, 2014 between 6pm and 9pm at which time we plan to present ΔΚΕ scrolls to those ΔΚΣ alumni in attendance, followed by an open house tour of the DKE House. This presentation is a small token of our appreciation for your support to the fraternity and the scrolls will be mailed to those who are unable to attend. Saturday will have the Lot 4 tailgate at noon, the VT/W&M game which kicks off at 4:00pm, and an open house at the DKE house at 302 East Roanoke Street following the game. Similar to all DKE tailgate functions, family and friends are always welcome. We all share a brotherhood bond that spans time. The open DKE motto, “Friends from the Heart Forever” is applicable as much today as it was 50 years ago. We hope that you can make it to Blacksburg for the ceremony, tailgate, game, and open house and see some old friends. If not, remember every home game has a DKE Tailgate set up in Lot 4. Please RSVP by either returning going to the website, returning the enclosed card/envelope or emailing us at sigmaalphadke@gmail.com. A map to Mickey's house is posted on the vtdke.com website. Everyone is welcome and the event is FREE!



Treasurer's Report

Mike Beam, Alumni Treasurer (Winter '85)

Thank you to all who have already donated to our 2014 DKE Annual Giving Fund, and to those who are about to. Your donations are vital for us to maintain the 100-yr old DKE House, fund alumni social functions, and support scholarships for our Active brothers (recently allowing our Sigma Alpha DKE representatives to attend the National DKE Convention). The house is still in need of *several exterior door replacements, exterior painting, and bathroom/kitchen upgrades*. While we expect another full house of active brothers this Fall, which will allow us to continue to cover the basics (mortgage, insurance, taxes, etc.), your donations support the major maintenance and capital improvements (and the DKE Tailgate Club). I hope you have a chance to make it out to the house this Fall and catch one of the DKE Tailgates. As always, your comments and donations are welcomed using the attached card. Your support is what makes it happen! FFTHF, Mike

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED