

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



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

August 21, 2022

## **Alumni Association/Chapter Update**

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

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Welcome to the pre-football season DKE Newsletter. Normally we make all sorts of predictions, but the Las Vegas oddsmakers has specifically requested that we stop doing that in fear of upsetting the VT betting lines and putting entire gambling industry in flux. With a new coach, new QB, who really knows; but we look forward to a packed Lane Stadium and Hokie Football! But one prediction that you can take to the bank is that the VT-DKE Tailgates will be back for the 13<sup>th</sup> season in our usual Lot 4 Space 94 location. We have also designated the Oct 15th game against Miami as our official designated DKE Alumni game for the season with an expanded tailgate and 'organized' functions including DKE Open House during the same day/weekend. If you need tickets, we hope to organize a block of DKE tickets. Please fill out back of enclosed card indicating your desire for tickets and we will endeavor to acquire a block of seats together for everyone who responds before October 1. All tailgates start at least 3 hours in advance of kickoff, and we will also have expanded and early start tailgates for the sold-out WVU Thursday night game and the home opener against BC. Special VTDKE alumni bonus points will be available for those who show up 3 hours before the 11am kickoff against Wofford. Our newsletters are addressed to active members permanent home residences; so Parents, and Friends please consider this as an open invitation to attend any DKE tailgate or other function.

As part of the upcoming season, we have drawn winners for the VT-DKE Alumni Association 50-yard line tickets for the games. All winners are "randomly" drawn from the list of donors to the 2022 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund. The winners are **Blake Wickham (F'17)** for BC game; **Eric Millham (S'73)** for Wofford game; **Paul Surry (S'78)** for WVU; **Bob Snyder (F'73)** Miami; **Pat King (S'01)** for GT; and finally, **Billy Mason (W'79)** for the UVA game. Congrats to the winners and thank you for your support. The tickets for Eric, ("a.k.a Pigs") were part of compensatory damages agreement between the DKE Newsletter editorial board and Pigs for incorrectly stating in our previous June newsletter that the late **John Collins (S'74)** was the big brother of **Dave Calhoun (S'76)** whereas in fact Coon's big brother was the Pigs. Despite making up 80% of everything we write, this is clearly the first time in the past 20 years that our staff have made such an egregious error; and actually, been caught at it! Not wanting to be tied up in lawsuits for years, nor having to surrender our numerous Literary awards, we settled with Mr. Millham in a lengthy arbitration process, for the two Wofford tickets and this publicly humiliating in-print correction.

Over the summer the Alumni Association and the Chapter leadership developed a *DKE House Standard of Care Agreement* that is signed by each individual brother and the VT-DKE Alumni Sigma Alpha Properties LLC housing corporation and instituted this semester. See a copy on the vtdke.com website as we have posted a copy on there. Comments and suggestions are welcome. The active membership is expected to start at about 35 brothers this semester, but still remains 'top-heavy' with numerous seniors and redshirt seniors to the point where half this number is expected to matriculate over the course of this year. The chapter is instituting a new year-round recruiting process supported by the DKE International specialized consultants establish the process to get more guys interested to join Dekes. The new membership process (pledging) will remain as is (once per semester) but the goal is to always be recruiting; and raise the membership level back to the 60-80 brother level of just a few years ago.

Sad to report the passing of Brother **Floyd "Puggy" Adams ('56)** a few weeks ago. Many of you, not from Floyd's era at VT, may remember or met Floyd at the VT-DKE 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion held in 2016 and/or our first mini-



reunion for 50's/60's decades in 2018. I met Floyd 20 years when I found out he was my next-door neighbor. He became and was a dear friend, and I will miss him. It was one of those "it's a small world" occurrences, on how I met him. When I moved back to US in 2002 after 8 years in Canada, I received a DKE Newsletter penned by **Dick Anderson (W'64)** and **Jim Daniel (F'84)** the co-presidents of the recently formed VT-DKE Alumni Association. In that newsletter was an information card, like the one enclosed to this day; asking for contact info updates; donations; requesting volunteer help; and, offering to mail out an alumni director for a VT-DKE Alumni directory. Back then I mailed in a donation, checked the box that I would volunteer, and Jim Daniel followed through with an alumni directory printout which back in the day was supplied by VT Alumni office. Upon scanning the directory, I found Floyd Adams' address as being across the street and went over and introduced myself. A 20-year bond and friendship ensued. Our directory now is a google docs file. If you get this newsletter, you (or your son in the case of Parents) are on our active list of some 750 brothers spanning 7 decades of Dekes. If you get our email newsblasts (for tailgates and special events) then we also have a current email. If you are getting one and not the other go to vtdke.com and fill out the address update form. We have on the vtdke.com a master list under the alumni tab which is our best record as to list of Dekes by quarter/semester when they joined with our pre-70's records incomplete due to lack of history. Good thing to check out and see if your name and your fellow pledge brothers are correctly listed. If you want a copy of the most current VT-DKE Alumni Directory, we would be glad to send you an email copy of our currently listing. We have included that request option on the enclosed info card. And we would be a lot gladder if you also sent in donation along with it!

Our directory also includes the deceased list along with the lost/foreign address/unknown list. With a no forwarding address return from the post office, you are switched from the active list to the Sheet 9 list consisting of lost, unknown, and foreign address. You can get back from Sheet 9 list unless you end up on the deceased. I highly recommend staying off the deceased list. Our lost and foreign address list (Sheet 9) has well over 100 brothers MIA, and we could use some help tracking them down. (Jack H.????). In a recent discovery of a long-lost (special thanks to **Scott Pennington (F'76)** and **Ike Harrison (W'77)** who tracked him down) Brother **Tracy Thomas (F'79)** address was located after being on the MIA list for over 20 years. Tracy is currently working in the license plate manufacturing business while serving 15 years in a federal penitentiary in Florida after Tracy was convicted of a series of financial fraud infractions several years ago. (hey, I am just reporting the news here).

This summer we had one of our largest alumni turnouts ever for our 12<sup>th</sup> straight annual Habitat for Inhumanity weekend in late June. Special thanks to participating Dekes: **Will Adams (F'12)**; **Charlie Amacker (F'21)**; **Kyle Blevins (S'12)**; **Charlie Cubberly (F'14)**; **Jack Cullen (W'75)**; **Bob Dreelin (W'72)**; **Dennis Dreelin (W'75)**; **Jack Fisher (W'74)**; **Garrett Godshall (F'13)**; **Dan Johnson (S'74)**; **Matt Kelly (S'16)**; **Mark Lenzi (S'12)**; **Evan Miller (S'12)**; **Kevin O'Meara (F'19)**; **Tyler Seguire (F'13)**; **Matt Sherry (F'21)**; **Bob Snyder (F'73)**; **Blake Wickham (F'17)**; **Matt Willson (F'20)** and **Mike Wright (F'74)** and apologies for those we forgot to list. The task of upgrades and repairs are too numerous to list, so you must stop by the DKE House to check it out. Special credos to first timers Bob and Dennis Dreelin, 'the dumpster boys', who were assigned (as punishment for delivering breakfast/coffee 90 minutes late) to trash duty and spent much of the day on Saturday hauling truckloads of garbage to the dump. And of course, special mention to both Matt Kelly and Jack Fisher who conveniently showed up just for pizza and beers. In addition to the Habitat weekend crew, special thanks go out to master carpenter Mike Wright who made a handful of trips to Blacksburg with me prior to, and after the weekend to undertake ongoing repairs (and to finish the stairway handrail job assigned to him during Habitat. In addition to our volunteer workforce, we hired several DKE students led by Matt Sherry to undertake ongoing repairs, painting, cleaning throughout the summer.

Hope that everyone gets chance to be back in Blacksburg this Fall. We have alumni functions for: DKE tailgates/football; Parent's weekend; Open Houses; and do not forget the DKE 80's decade mini-reunion for the summer of 2023. The DKE House is always open to alumni (just not the upper floors!) and we are always in need of new member references. The Hokies are undefeated so far and W's under their belt to start the season and to liven up the DKE Tailgates! Thanks for your support and participation. FFTHF, Dan Johnson '77



## Page 3 Column – Chapter Update

### Chapter Update

*David Alexander, Chapter President (S'19)*

As our summer hiatus from Blacksburg ends, the Deke House welcomes back roughly 35 active Brothers for the upcoming year. The Brothers are coming back to house in spectacular condition thanks to the efforts led by **Matt Sherry** (F'21) sponsored (paid) by the VT-DKE Alumni Assn along with several other brothers. That work combined with the Habitat for Humanity project result in numerous repairs and improvements getting done over the summer. The main staircase and second floor landing have all new banisters and railings; and all holes were patched and painted, the entire first floor got a new coat of paint, including the chapter room which got a total repainting that included lighter colors. The kitchen received lots of attention, including total repainting, new counter stools, and a top to bottom cleaning. The alumni also purchased several booth seating and accompanying tables. I will not list out everything and anything that was accomplished over the summer; but be sure to visit the DKE House a walk around tour next time you are in town.

With the unpredictable Fall weather in sight, we are also in store for an unpredictable Hokie football season. Though our team may have its ups and downs throughout the season, the chapter can assure you that we will be tailgating at our usual spot near Lane Stadium for every home game. The first tailgate will be September 10<sup>th</sup> against Boston College, and we encourage alumni, family, and friends to come out.

Our chapter's foremost goal of this semester is for successful new member recruitment. We hope to generate double-digit sized pledge classes and grow the fraternity in size.....and maintain the growth. We have partnered up with the national firm, Phired Up, as part of a program with DKE International, to assist/guide us in our efforts to revamp our recruiting process. In a fleeting time, we have seen potential improvements. The standard VT rush period won't start until September, and we have already had several informal gatherings of roughly 15 potential new members in the Deke House socializing with the brothers! Alongside our new "always be recruiting" prior to the formal VT rush period, we have generated a schedule that we think will be more appealing to the younger crowd; and offers higher levels of engagement between the potential new members and Brothers, rather than just throwing the biggest parties. The model promoted by Phired Up is year-round recruitment process to generate prospects; and a systematic approach to mover potential members from prospect to bid. When the recruit is committed to DKE and vice-versa then students can receive bids for the next pledging cycle (we will still have only one pledge class per semester). We think this will also help as guys with early bid acceptances can also aid in the recruiting. While this model deviates greatly from past ways, we think when fully implemented over the next several years we will all look back in amazement (hopefully!). Any potential new members will always be welcome at the DKE House, and we may even hold designated rush events throughout the semester, and our new recruitment program allows us to better organize leads, assign lead brother to each lead; and systematically moves up towards a bid level or drops them off the list.

Generating the potential new DKE Brothers prospect list is an ongoing and never-ending process. With that being said, we can use DKE Alumni help! If any of you know of any at VT this year or in the future, please let us know. Feel free to contact me through the [davidalexandedke@gmail.com](mailto:davidalexandedke@gmail.com) or (443)-480-0072 so the chapter can contact the individual! Overall, the brothers are ecstatic to get the semester underway and we hope to see you all at the upcoming tailgates!

David Alexander, Brother Beta

The new *DKE House Standards of Care Agreement* between each brother and the Sigma Alpha Properties Housing Corporation, as well as the Chapter as a whole and SAP acts a 'lease' between the chapter and the members. A copy can be found on our [vtdke.com](http://vtdke.com) website.



# Alumni Treasury Report -

Wesley Johnson F'08

The 2022 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund continues to move forward. Year to date we have 167 individual contributors donating a tad over \$48k in cash and in-kind services. We thank everyone for their continued support. As of today, VT-DKE Alumni Assn operating account currently has \$32k cash balance. The SAP Housing account currently has \$47k cash balance. Rising DKE House expenses associated with utilities and insurance will necessitate an increase in rents for the 2023-2024 lease term from the current \$6000-\$6600/year/room rates to a \$6500-\$7000 level. We are also looking to shorten the rental period from 12 months to 10 months with special discounted summer leases for those wanting to live in DKE House during the summer. This will allow for better control of the utilities (e.g. close off attic level and shut down AC in summertime); allow for any renovation work on rooms and provide for cleaning before new tenants arrive. As always, please show your support with a tax-deductible donation via VT to the 2022 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund. Thanks!

FFTHF, Wesley Johnson '12

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