

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



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

August 29, 2018

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (S'74)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Another season of VT football is already here. Hopefully by time you get this the Hokies will have started off the season with a victory over FSU. With Hokie Football comes another season of the legendary DKE Tailgates. We are gearing up for our 11th season of tailgates in Lot 4. We have seven home games this season. We are set up three hours before kickoff and have food and drink for all ages! Please make a point of coming or dropping by as the tailgates are excellent opportunities to visit with DKE Alumni and meet the current brotherhood! We have selected the VT-BC game on November 3rd as the designated DKE Alumni game with an expanded DKE Tailgate and Open House festivities at the DKE House (pre or post game timing of Open House to depend on kickoff time). The university has piggy-backed on our DKE Alumni game selection and made this overall VT Homecoming Game so make plans now. We will look to acquire group seating for Dekes for those of you who need tickets. If you have plans to come and want/need tickets for group seating please make a note on the enclosed card and return it to us. We will follow up with email notices as we get closer to that game regarding tickets and prices.

With Notre Dame, Miami and the Thursday night GT games, all promise to be larger tailgates in their own rights with our expanded tents set up along with expanded food and drink options. We also have UVA game this year on Friday after Thanksgiving with promise of enclosed heated tents and warm beverages. With the students on break this tailgate is predominately an alumni gathering. Make a point of coming to a DKE Tailgate this season! Look for our email newsblasts reminders before each game. If you aren't receiving emails, it means we don't have a current email address for you, or it is going into your junk mail folder. Go to vtdke.com and update your address. When you are there take a look at the Master List of alumni page of Dekes by pledge class. We still have big gaps in our record keeping and it starts with getting and maintaining a list of every brother that joined DKE/DKS.

Special thanks go out to **Steve Anderson F'67** who actually found his old pledge book and provided us with an accurate listing of his pledge class brothers. Steve was one of some 50 Dekes from the 1960's who attended a mini-DKE reunion this summer in Blacksburg. **Mickey Hayes S'62** led the organization of the event and we have compiled a summary of the event in our Page 3 Column below. The 60's reunion was such a success we are going to organize a 1970's mini reunion for next summer. Additional decade themed mini-reunions will be attempted in years between the reoccurring 5-year cycles of milestone reunions. Looking for volunteers from the 70's (anyone who was a DKE at VT for one semester in the 1970's) to help out **John Burgess F'72** who has already volunteered to spearhead the 70's reunion committee (and you thought we would actually forget that offer John!).

John was part of the group of some 15-20 DKE Alumni and Active Brothers participating in the 8th Annual 'Habitat for Inhumanity' weekend in Blacksburg in July. John was joined by fellow DKE Alums **Jack Cullen W'75; Dan Johnson S'74; Wes Johnson F'08; Mark Lenzi F'10; Evan Miller F'11; Austin Raney F'14; Pete Schmitz S'15; Bob Snyder F'73; Mike Wright F'74;** and several DKE actives including **Ian Greear S'18, Jack Langford S'17, Andrew Saba F'15, and Tyler Seguire F'13;** among others. Thanks to **Mickey and Sarah Hayes** for hosting the crew for grub and beers on Friday evening and providing food for crew on Saturday; and Jack Cullen for providing beds for the older geezers amongst us. Proud to say that everyone came out of weekend with same number of fingers they started with, and we managed to: reroof the garage including repairs to eaves and brickwork; replace/install 3 interior doors on attic level; painted the dance floor in basement; patch/waterproof basement walls; polyurethane



wood floors; replace lighting fixtures; along with other repair tasks, landscaping, cleaning and junk removal in advance of the mini-reunion. We even got a legitimate building permit for the garage re-roofing job which for posterity we have left mounted on the garage door. Thanks to everyone who participated this year.

The Sigma Alpha DKE Chapter heads into the 2018-19 academic with the largest ever brotherhood of 62 dues-paying members to start the year. With this larger group, it means the fraternity active leadership and organization must also adapt to the needs of managing a larger group. This means: establishing and managing budgets; building a reserve account for unexpected costs; effectively dealing with a large and diverse group of brothers; and maintaining academic standards. Combined with our newly unrecognized status (well new for this year, but a pretty regular occurrence for the chapter) and a growing animosity against Greek organizations by VT, and many college campuses nationwide; our fraternity needs to develop and implement plans and practices that allow them to operate and grow in "today's marketplace" for fraternities. We are confident that this current group of young men will meet the challenges in the coming year and DKE will continue its upward trend and thrive. The chapter will have a budget in excess of \$70,000 this year (excluding DKE House room rental operations undertaken by the Sigma Alpha Properties LLC Housing Corporation) which can provide financial stability for the chapter, *if managed properly*. We have continued with some 'spirited' dialogue concerning the University's treatment of DKE and its members that resulted in the chapter's current suspension. While we don't expect this will change any aspects of VT's decision to suspend DKE for 10 years, we are hopeful that some realization by the University that changes are needed in regards to their Student Conduct processes. We still are working on a plan for another face to face meeting/workshop where we can further express our concerns and hopefully be a catalyst for VT to change its practices for the better. We are looking for a time and venue where we will lock **Jim Daniel F'84** and **Andrew Lee W'87** in a room with the VT Student Conduct officials for two hours and then open the door and see who is left standing! One of the best ways to show the DKE fortitude is to make a donation to VT earmarked to DKE. We are one of the leading, if not the leading fraternal organization, at VT raising money for VT Foundation. The donations are credited to the University and passed through to DKE. As part of the VT gift recognition process, the Office of Student Affairs normally sends electronic and written notes thanking donors for the gifts to their Department. Continued giving, earmarked to Delta Kappa Epsilon, is a surefire way to let them know we are around for the long run. [Editor Note: I think this is the best excuse I have made up yet for donations to VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund]. For your convenience, a donation card and return envelope are enclosed. And don't forget about the VT-DKE coffee mugs for all 2018 donors to the Fund and it gets you "Priority Pass" access to the top-shelf table at DKE tailgates this season!

Here is some breaking news! Our chapter has nominated **Mickey Fitzgerald** to become an honorary DKE of the Sigma Alpha chapter. Mickey Fitzgerald, is a '81 graduate, played on the VT football team, and had a USFL and NFL career. Mickey donated the custom Hokie Bike to DKE in 2016 as part of plan to raise money for the VT Athletic Fund. DKE undertook selling raffle tickets and raising over \$25,000 of which half went to VTAF and the other half to the active chapter. The nomination was unanimously approved by the DKE International Board of Directors at their last meeting. We plan to have a scroll/pin initiation/presentation for Mickey at one of the DKE Tailgates this season. Stay tuned for more details, and welcome to the fraternity Brother Fitzgerald! On the other side of breaking news, with a heavy heart we are sad to announce the passing of **Tom Lawall, F'76** in the past week. Tom was one of the "good ones" as a brother and great friend to many. An email chain in recent weeks amongst some Dekes, of Tom's perilous/deteriorating health status and eventual passing, one can easily see the heartfelt love and fond memories of everyone who knew him. The DKE Mystic Circle received another VT-DKE.

As usual, glad to report that the DKE House survived the summer and is still standing. The house rooms are fully rented out for the 18-19 year. We are in the process of replacing the carport door with an appropriate 'DKE grade' replacement. We continue to make improvements and upgrades and these can only be done with your support. Get involved, it is easy. Attend tailgates; drop-in and visit the DKE House; come to the reunions; join the Alumni board; call up your local DKE Brothers in your hometown and organize a gathering for a beer or two; volunteer to write a page 3 column for the award winning DKE Newsletter; support your fraternity! FFTHF, Dan Johnson '77



Page 3 Column – Deeks-Dekes 60's Reunion Recap

A special reunion of the 1960's era Dekes was held in July at The Inn at Virginia Tech. More than 50 Brothers who were active Dekes during the 1960's attended, along with their wives in many cases. A grand time was had by all. The Sixties Reunion was the 'brain-child' of **Mickey Hayes S '62** who lives in 'retirement' in Blacksburg. Now for the many of you know Mickey, when he gets latched onto an idea, there is no stopping him. For lack of a better description Mickey "put it all together"; wrote letters and emails and called many of the DKE Brothers from the 1960's, got them to come, and essentially "ran the entire event" from start to finish. He started with the VT-DKE Alumni Association contact list for 166 DKE Brothers who may have been active in the 1960's. More than a third of the people on the list attended! A great turnout.

Mickey, who is very active in the DKE Chapter, had helped out on the Fraternity's recent 70th (2011) and 75th (2016) Reunions both of which were well attended, but in his mind short on attendees from his 1960's group. This sparked an idea of a special reunion for the 60's guys; maybe a bunch of the 60's guys would come. And they did, from far and wide! The group gathered on Friday afternoon July 20 at an open bar reception in the Living Room and Memorabilia Hall of the Holtzman Alumni Center, which is attached to the Inn at Virginia Tech. Guys (and gals) comingled, hugged and rejoiced at seeing one another, with lots of the reunion being between guys who had not seen one another since the 1960's. Mickey will tell you that there six of his DKE brothers that he had not seen since graduating in 1964. Located in the Memorabilia Hall was a Class Ring from 1928 and matching ringlet donated by Brother **Floyd Adams '56**. It was the first time Floyd had seen the display since donating his father's ring (and mother's matching ringlet) some 10 years ago! Also Matt Winston, University Vice President and Executive of the Alumni Association stopped by the opening reception and gave a rousing welcome. After cocktails and hors d'oeuvres the group of over 100 attendees adjourned to Preston's Restaurant at the Inn for a Dutch treat dinner, breaking into smaller table groupings and further rekindling friendships. After that, the adjacent hotel bar rocked into the night until closing, while long-lasting memories were revisited and rehashed.

On Saturday, Mickey had organized five optional bus tours arranged using a single 36-passenger Virginia Tech transit bus. There were two morning full campus tours, the route covering "everything on campus" and hosted by two fine VT Alumni Association tour guides. The morning tours jogged off campus too, for a 20 minute stop at the infamous DKE House located at 302 East Roanoke Street. Many of the attendees had never seen the DKE House even though Dekes have owned the property for 50 years since 1968. A lunch banquet and memorabilia display at the Inn was set up for all attendees. For the afternoon, reunion attendees could opt for one of three VT facilities tours: the Goodwin Engineering Building, its robotics lab and affiliated Ware lab; or, the Moss Arts Center and its CUBE virtual reality immersion lab; or the VT Athletics Facilities. The Goodwin and Moss Arts tours each had guides from the facilities staff, and Mickey himself led the Athletics Facilities tour, as he is very active on the VT Athletic Fund and personally knows many of the staff and coaches. Saturday was a great day for re-bonding with the University and to showcase many of the remarkable things that have occurred in all the many years since the days when the attendees were students. One of the most remarkable things was that Mickey coordinated the entire tour program with a single bus! Talk about organization.

On Saturday evening, the Grand Reunion Reception and Banquet was held in the Latham Ballroom at the Inn. In preparation, guys brought even more memorabilia down for the display including photos, composites, pledge books, paddles, and a host of other DKE paraphernalia. As the group reconvened Saturday evening, with served hors d'oeuvres and open bar, things got rolling again, to be sure. Everybody had been 'reminded' to have some stories to tell after dinner, and getting properly 'lubricated' for that was well underway by the time dinner was served from various food stations around the ballroom. Good food was there, and good drinks flowed. Then Mickey 'called the meeting to order'. After a short set of introductory and welcoming comments, he got the storytelling started with a couple of his own, sorta exposing some 'exploits' he and some of his fellow brothers in the group had enjoyed. Then the mic got passed for than an hour of as the stories and roars of laughter rocked the



room. It was a very special hour and just about everyone spoke, or were the subject of some of recounted tales told. **Pete Schmitz F'13**, one of the active brothers in attendance that was 'hired' to help out with the reunion was so taken by the 'Tales of the Sixties' he began to write down notes so he could share with the chapter later.

Needless to say, Saturday was all-around a very special day for this very special group of Deeks/Dekes. Friday was special seeing one another again, Saturday fun-filled and educational; Saturday night never to be matched or repeated again. A bunch of guys "rounding third" in life, together again, having a ball. On Sunday, a casual drop-in brunch was served at the DKE House and lots of couples stopped by say a final good-bye on their way out of town. It was a perfect ending for this very special event. Thank you Mickey Hayes from all of the Sixties guys, we will never forget this. Check out vtdke.com for photos of event.

50-60's DKE Attendees: **Floyd Adams; Mickey Allen; Dick Anderson; Steve Anderson; Jerry Augst; Mike Bannon; Lee Barksdale; George Baylor; Marvin Beck; Benny Bell; Jerry Blanks; Jeff Bowman; Jim Butler; Jim Day; Bill Driskill; Dan Duvall; Ralph English; Forest Eudaily; Phil Harris; Mickey Hayes; Dave Holiday; John Huddleston; Dan James; Jim Jordan; Vince Kohlbecker; Charlie Lloyd; Ralf Mast; Hank Mattox; Denny O'Neill; Ed Owens; John Pully; Tom Rash; Ben Robison; Bob Roop; Bucky Shell; Jim Stone; Jim Turner; Phil Underwood; Billy Vineyard; Will Webb; John Weld; Fred Whipple and Sands Woody.** (and apologies for any missed names)

Other DKE Attendees: **Theta Bowden; Dan Johnson; Jack Langford; Andrew Lee; Pete Schmitz; and Charlie Webb.**

Active Chapter Report -

Alec Bradley F'16 Chapter President

Brothers, Parents and Friends,

Summer has officially come to a close and Fall 2018 is now in full swing. With 62 active brothers returning to Virginia Tech this Fall our spirits couldn't be higher following the recent suspension. Rush begins Monday September 3, 2018. Our planned events include a cookout at the house before the VT vs. FSU football game, a wing night at the house, formal interviews, and poker night. Our goal is to keep the momentum going from the past two semesters and bring in another large pledge class of right around 15. If you know of anyone attending VT who may have an interest in joining DKE please let me know directly by email at aabradley5@gmail.com and we will ensure that he is invited out to the DKE House.

Over the summer active brothers: **Alex Coley F'17; Blake Wickham F'17; Eric Hoffmann F'17; Nick Merkle F'17, Tyler Raney F'17 and Ian Greear S'18** attended the 174th DKE International Convention in Pittsburgh. There they met DKE Brothers from across all of North America. While at the convention they learned that we will be receiving a rebate check somewhere in the ballpark of \$3000 from DKE International due to our large percentage of membership growth during the 2017-2018 school year. This is a DKE International program to encourage growth of DKE within the current roster of chapters across North America.

This Fall we have a packed social schedule which includes socials with Zeta Tau Alpha, Pi Beta Phi, and Kappa Kappa Gamma sororities, as well as keeping the Wine Wednesday tradition alive. Over the weekend of October 19-21 active brothers will be attending Fall formals down in Gatlinburg Tennessee. We will be staying at the Stairway to Heaven cabin located high atop the Gatlinburg Falls Hidden Valley Resort.

Football season is once again upon us. The active chapter will be setting up the tailgate in our now traditional Lot 4 Space 94 spot. In addition to setting up the tents the day before; and taking down the tailgate post game and the following day; the chapter is responsible for the proper set up of food and drink and manning the registration sign-in table. We can't wait to see everyone there! Go Hokies.

FFTHF, Alec Bradley F'16



Alumni Treasury Report -

Wesley Johnson F'08

The VT-DKE Alumni Association and associated Sigma Alpha Properties LLC Housing Corporation represents the two organizations associated with the alumni. The chapter operates as a stand-alone financial entity operated by the actives. A brief status of the financial operations, of each of our groups is as follows.

The VT-DKE Alumni Association (legally known as the Alumni Association of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon) banking has been financially restructured since May of 2017 to account solely for the alumni activities. The major (and only) source of cash income for this account, are the donations of our esteemed alumni. So far this year we have had 75 individuals donate approximately \$27,750 in total cash and in-kind donations. The majority of this is via our 2018 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund efforts of which over \$24,000 in cash donations via the VT Foundation earmarked for DKE have been made. The donations amounts received this year are some 72% of last year's total in terms of \$ and individual donors; so we remain on pace to match/exceed last year's totals with four months still left in the year. So if you haven't received a DKE mug in the mail this year, there is still time to get one! Make a donation, get a mug. It's that simple. Donation cards and return envelopes are enclosed for you convenience. The major expenses of the VT-DKE Alumni Assn include: VT Foundation, of which a 7% fee on all donations via the VT Foundation earmarked to DKE are kept by VT; newsletters and other alumni communications; DKE Tailgates and other VT-DKE Alumni social activities; common area DKE House rent transfers/subsidies to our SAP Housing Corporation amounting to \$5,500 per semester; organization overheads in terms of PO Box, corporation fees, etc.; and a reserve for unexpected organizational expenses. As of 7/31/18 we had about \$20,000 in this account with the Fall tailgate and rent transfer payments ahead of us. The VT-DKE Alumni Assn also indirectly has control over the Deke Foundation (Rampant Lion Foundation) - Sigma Alpha Fund held in trust at the DKE Foundation. The RLF-Sigma Alpha Fund current has \$179,000 in total assets, but before one gets too excited, \$170,000 of this amount is represented by five separate promissory notes (second mortgages secured by the DKE House) issued to our own SAP Housing Corp., so while an asset to VT-DKE it is also an offsetting liability of the SAP Housing Corp. The interest portion received on the Notes (each note was issued for 25-year term at 3% interest) is what is represented in the cash account and is used to fund the 'named' DKE scholarships we distribute each year.

The Sigma Alpha Properties LLC is our housing corporation and holds the title to the DKE House. All housing related income and expenses are managed by the VT-DKE Alumni. Revenues are from renting each of the eight (8) rooms on 12-month leases. Rents are market based and vary depending on the size/location of the rooms. Individual leases are signed. The chapter is responsible to ensure that all eight rooms are rented at rates ranging from \$375/month for Room 1A ('the pit') to \$450/month for three largest rooms (2A, 2B and 2C). Several of the rooms are larger and are considered potential double occupancy rooms and as such we consider max capacity of 12 people living in the house as the standard (under the 16 max permitted by the Town of Blacksburg). Each resident also pays a \$50/month utility surcharge to cover cost of all utilities (except TV). The chapter is responsible for paying any utility surcharge shortage if less than 12 people are living in the house. This year all rooms are single tenant rooms so therefore the chapter is responsible for the \$200/month [(12-8)*\$50] difference. In addition, we have recently instituted a common area rental fee which we currently subsidize/transfer from the VT-DKE Alumni Assn account. From this revenue stream, the housing expenses are paid. In addition to outstanding \$170,000 principal of the five second mortgage notes mentioned above, the property is secured by a primary mortgage with an outstanding principal balance of \$202,000. The total of \$370,000 is more than the tax assessed value of the property. In addition to debt repayment expenses, there are taxes, insurance, utilities, and 'normal' repairs and services, etc. We current have \$27,300 or working capital in the SAP LLC account. The DKE chapter holds several parties per week, and hundreds of guests, which take a toll on the DKE House and hence normal repairs are quite extensive. We use alumni support donations to continue to make major upgrades and improvements almost every year.

The third organization is the active chapter operations. The VT-DKE Alumni Assn does not get involved with the day-to-day financial operations of the chapter. Our inputs are mainly on an advisory basis through interactions



at our monthly board meetings to ensure that the chapter is meeting its external financial obligations. A strong and solvent chapter is vital to us all. The Alumni Assn also provides tax return preparation services for the chapter. In that light, we thank Brother **Troy Turner S'93** who has done the tax returns for all of the VT-DKE organizations for the past 17 years as an in-kind donation. We would really be lost without him.

We do depend on all of you to support the fraternity. As always, your support is greatly appreciated and I hope that you will consider making a donation to the 2018 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund.

FFTHF, Wesley Johnson

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