



Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of  
**Delta Kappa Epsilon**  
P.O. Box 18231, Richmond, Virginia 23226



December 14, 2006

Dear Alumni Brothers,

Greetings from your industrious alumni association. Another successful football year is mostly behind us. We are organizing a DKE Alumni get together or at least an attempt of one for the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl in Atlanta. We'll call it a time and meeting place to get together, see a few people and organize whatever you like to. So the place is the Intercontinental Hotel in Buckhead at 7:00-8:00pm on Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> and for those who can't make it then we have a second time set for 11:00-12:00am on Saturday. It will be an opportunity to see the plans for the renovations and hopefully some pictures of what we have accomplished so far on the house project. We hope to take the opportunity to formally kick off our capital campaign for funding the house improvements. For this to be successful, we need lots of help and are looking for volunteers to assist us in the fund raising efforts. Ideally, we would like lots of representation and if you are able and willing, please contact Charlie Lloyd, the designated (he actually volunteered!) campaign chairman with your help. Charlie can be reached at [CharlieLloyd@cox.net](mailto:CharlieLloyd@cox.net).

While I am on the subject of volunteerism, your VT-DKE-DKS Alumni Board is always in need of new and invigorating blood to bring fresh ideas and fresh enthusiasm to our organization and fraternity. You will notice in the enclosed due/donation slip that we are asking for self nominations for the next board election to take place in mid-2007. Our organization has been operating semi-effectively for the past seven years and continuation of the organization depends on your participation. The only requirement we ask is that anyone interested in the Treasurer role [actual "doer" role] be in the Richmond area.

Our major accomplishments over the past seven years include: the legal organization of the alumni association and Sigma Alpha Properties LLC as the entities to own and manage the assets of the properties; contracting of Omega as the active financial manager of dues and rents from the active members; organizing the 60 year reunion in 2001 and 230 tickets for the USC-VT football game in 2004 in Washington DC; the refinancing of the house mortgage in 2004 to better terms; establishment of the tax-deductible Rampant Lion - Sigma Alpha Fund; and the initial undertaking of major house improvements and reconstruction efforts. Of course this has been done all along with semi-successful attempts of regular communication newsletters, fledging attempts of establishing tailgating get-togethers, and efforts to maintain an active voluntary alumni dues program to support the organization. Not bad for an organization that didn't even exist in any formal manner seven years ago.

This is in contrast to entrusting the ownership, management and upkeep of a \$500,000 property solely to the active membership and having the alumni come together and respond only in times of crises. Somehow this set-up got us by for some 30 years, and since we were all part of the 'active brotherhood management team' in years past, it is amazing feat. Who can forget some of the 'wise' decisions that we all made, such as when my dear departed friend, Brother Dana Lewis, who at 6'-5", 275 pounds, chainsaw in hand, decided to declare himself and arborist and personally landscape the trees in the front of the house, or the wisdom behind the actives building a urinal trough out of wood in the late 1980's in the old phone booth closet. The list is endless. Unfortunately over the years of all of our combined 'smart' decisions when we were 18 and knew everything,, a few thousand less than considerate party guests over the years, and the financial duress caused by increasing costs and decreasing revenues (low membership levels), we have left ourselves with quite a hole out of which to dig ourselves.

Nonetheless we keep digging. I am glad to report that our roof has been satisfactorily replaced as of the earlier this year and in December defective work on the eaves was redone. Siding work, gutters and downspouts, metal roofing replacement are still scheduled to get done by year end. No longer does water leak in and through the house. Most of the windows have been replaced. No longer does the mix and match of plexi-glass panels and leaking sashes allow the cold wind to blow straight in. The windows also come with a lifetime guarantee for replacement should they be accidentally or otherwise broken. The first window had a very short life as an accidental brick was thrown by a vandal. This has been replaced under the guarantee. The rotten front porch was replaced, so there is no longer anyone standing on the porch 'at their own risk'. A few years ago the gas boiler furnace was replaced, so reliable heat and lower gas consumption was achieved. Exterior painting should be completed by year end also. We are making strides but we have a long way to go.

The next step is interior renovations starting with the second and attic levels. We have completed the design drawings for these levels but hit a barrier with the town zoning regarding 'adding legal bedrooms' on the attic level. Our appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals was fruitless and despite what we believe is a sound position going further on the appeal process will likely be time consuming and expensive with uncertain results [more lawyers, guns and money]. We still plan on the renovation work and plan to resubmit an appropriate building permit application and have received verbal direction from the town (something we obviously thought we had in place in writing prior to submitting the permit application previously) that our plans will be approved as 'study rooms'. The result of this permitting is that our planned cost of design and permitting work with Reynolds Architects has been much higher and taken longer than we originally planned. However our target remains to undertake renovations next summer for increased house residency for the Fall 2007 term. Timing of any significant interior renovation work will be highly dependent on the success of our capital campaign mentioned above.

Meanwhile, the on-going operations of our fraternity and alumni association depend on volunteers and financial support from active alumni and friends. With the establishment of the Rampant Lion Fund – Sigma Alpha your contributions are now tax deductible and even eligible for corporate matching programs with most corporations. Tax deductible receipt acknowledgements will be provided with any RLF-SA contribution. We can accept gifts in the

form of stock donations and even credit cards through the national DKE administration of the fund. Furthermore, all donations are eligible for corporate matching programs and we are proud to include Verizon as our first corporate sponsor (via matching of gifts from Brothers Tom Overton and Steve Cronemeyer). We again ask/plead/beg for all of your continued support with voluntary dues and contributions and if it somehow slipped your memory for financial support in 2006 we will still accept your gift with gratitude. A summary of our 2006 financial expenses is presented in the Charlie Munn's financial report below.

In regards to the active chapter, Elliott Fouts, from Marietta, Georgia is the current President is living at the house but has taken the semester off from school. We initiated five new brothers and the active chapter now stands at 27 active members. All five bedrooms in the house are rented and we appreciate the patience that these residents show as we try to make improvements to the basic living conditions of the house.

### **DKE Blood - New and Old:**

Your active chapter is always looking for a few good men, as the saying goes. If you have sons, nephews or other relatives, neighbors, or any other young men that are attending or will be attending Virginia Tech this year or next, we encourage you to commend them to DKE. They'll have no problem finding the house - close but far enough away from campus. We can also use new blood, in the alumni sense. I strongly encourage you to consider becoming more involved in your alumni organization. You'll be surprised at how much you enjoy it and how it helps you re-connect with lost brothers and forge relationships with those from different eras of VT DKE. Please contact us to see how you may participate in serving the alumni association.

We continue to try to update our mailing list. Please make sure you send any updates or news information to [jadaniel@verizon.net](mailto:jadaniel@verizon.net).

FFTHF,  
Dan Johnson '77

**Official Address: Alumni of the ΣA Chapter of DKE Fraternity, P.O. Box 18231, Richmond, VA 23226**

### **Messages from the Active Chapter President – Sigma Alpha Chapter**

Short note here, as we head home for the Holidays! We have initiated the pledge class of Fall 2006. The new brothers are Phillip Ferdinand, Timothy Hall, Mike Konya, Patrick Mellonas, and Robert Perry. We think we will have a pledge group of equal size or more in the spring. Our current size is 27 brothers. More, importantly, the majority of them are sophomores and freshmen, which gives us good room to grow in the coming years.

FFTHF, Elliott Fouts (Fall 2003)

**Treasurer's Report:**

Ah the holiday season! Since we now all know Santa is not real (you do... know that... don't you?), excuses abound to overdrink, overeat, and otherwise act inappropriately. I do have one regret about my time at Tech that always hits me during holiday season: Where were all these inflatable holiday lawn ornaments when I was in school??? I mean, the possibilities: Frosty gets capped in a drive by shooting; Santa catches a shiv right up the ole chimney; Rudolph's head over the Deke House mantle. You get the picture. OK, down to business:

**Recognizing RLF-SAF Giving Third Quarter**

\$ 1,000 +	\$ 100 - \$ 249	\$ 50 - 99
Johnson, Dan	Rinaldi, Paul	Boatwright, John
Day, Jim	Coffee, Christopher	Huntington, Raymond
	Augst, Jerry	Bishop, Barry
\$ 250 - \$ 999	Garrett, Neal	Dreclin, Bob
Loehlein, Keith	Passan, William	Moore, Kennard
Munn, Charles	Phillips, Clifford	Leibowitz, Roger
Lilly, Cliff	James, Daniel	Waller, Peter
Overton, Tom	Malcolm, David	Warnick, Dusty
Collins, Lee	Gadinis, Steve	Wainman, Buzz
Anderson, Dick	Driskill, Bill	Leibowitz, Roger
Webb, Charles	Scimeca, Craig	
Ballengee, Jerry	Gordon, Erik	
	White, Willy	
	Cronemeyer, Steve	

If I missed anyone, my apologies, but look for your name in the next newsletter for fourth quarter giving (assuming I win back your money I lost previously in Texas Hold 'Em). Anyway, to those above we raise a beer in your honor, chug it, and place it upside down on our heads while yelling "Dekes"!

Or, as we don't want to bother the neighbors, we will just say a quiet thank you and offer you an intimate evening with another holiday inflatable I've seen just crying out to be stolen: "Mrs. Claus", (She's a Ho-Ho-Ho if you catch my drift).

Sorry, I couldn't resist. I would like to remind you that is within your power to end these corny jokes and rantings:

1. Give more money to RLF-SAF. The more brothers who give, the less space I have available to fill with this tripe.
2. Volunteer to take over as Treasurer sometime in 2007. My sentence is nearly up and I'm looking forward to parole.

You can also:

**Consider Giving Stock**

As a result of strong market gains this year, countless alumni have been calling, deluging the Treasurer office's with requests about giving stock to the Rampant Lion Foundation - Sigma Alpha Fund (RLF-SAF). OK, OK, by "countless" I mean we haven't had any calls YET... but I've been THINKING about my phone ringing off the hook.

Gifts of stock are readily accepted by the RLF-SAF. Giving stock to us is almost always a more tax-wise way to make a charitable contribution by offering the following two-fold tax savings on stock held for more than one year:

1. The donor avoids paying any capital gains tax on the increase of value of the stock, and
2. The donor receives an income tax deduction for the full current market value of the stock at the time of its gift.
3. Bonus third benefit: WE WILL CALL YOU and ASK YOU FOR MONEY, since you have already donated! You avoid "taxation by solicitation" this way.

Example: If you purchased stock more than one year ago for \$100 that has appreciated to a current market value of \$1,000, an outright gift of the stock to Sigma Alpha would result in a charitable contribution deduction of \$1,000. In addition, there is no capital gains tax on the \$900 of appreciation.

Stock must have been owned for more than a year in order to take advantage of the two-fold tax savings. Any number of shares of stock may be gifted to the RLF-SAF. (Disclosure Notice: In case you are wondering, I don't know anything about this really; this whole section was a cut and paste job.)

For tax and other questions on the RLF-SAF, please contact national Dekes at: (800) 560-3353

FFTHF!

Charlie Munn, Fall '74