



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



February 6, 2006

Dear Alumni Brothers,

As another Hokie football season has come and gone, the Hokies have officially ended the Vick Era and who knows what holds for the next year. As ACC basketball opponents are a far cry above playing Providence and Seton Hall - VT sports now has two seasons in Blacksburg. We didn't send out a newsletter in December as we were too busy canceling the New Year's bash on Miami Beach. Looking back over the football season, our plans for some away tailgates, while good in intention, never seemed to materialize but I would like to thank Billy Rohrer and Jack Cullen for at least volunteering to host some pre-game tailgates in Raleigh and Charlottesville even if no one did show up. One of days we will get a little momentum and materialize a DKE tailgate for road games.

This past season I had an opportunity to get back for several games in Blacksburg including the Ohio and UNC wins and the Miami shellacking. Who would of thought that tickets in Blacksburg could be scalped for \$175 each that Rick Abraham and I paid for! For the Miami game I caught up with the old "townie crowd" for lunch at Mike's Grill thanks to some emailing organizing efforts of Charlie Phlegar. In addition, to Charlie, there were other former townies John Boatwright, Dan Frith, and John Dreiling as well as Christiansburg (all those burgs are interrelated in some form or manner) native Rick Abraham. Also bumped into Billy Rohrer, Dwight Pinkett, Lee Collins and a few others I can't remember at the moment. A few weeks later I received an email from Bob Snyder and we met up at the UNC game (tickets down to \$25 each by this time as National Championship hopes were liquidated by Miami), toured the house, and went to the game. I hadn't seen Bob for several (like over 10) years. It is amazing, how easy it is for anyone to email nowadays and ask for the email address for someone they haven't seen in years and get together. And for those that regularly meet and get together it is just as simple to connect with a few more people and invite them to a tailgate next time you are in town. And when in doubt, the fraternity house is still standing and makes for a great meeting place for anyone who is not in Lot 1 or 2! Amazingly there wasn't even an available parking place in town near the house at 1pm for the Miami game played later that night.

So if you are looking for a brother, email me at danieldjohnson@comcast.net and I will assist where possible. If you want to actually FIND a brother, I strongly suggest you email Jim Daniel at jadaniel@verizon.net, as Jim is our unofficial keeper of records and mailing lists.

In early December, the active fraternity initiated 13 new brothers into the fraternity. As they entered the fall with just 17 active dues paying members, the rush and successful pledging process couldn't have come at a more critical time. All new brothers are Freshmen, and as such should hopefully provide the impetus to grow the active brotherhood into the 50 member size required for sustainable finances for the actives.

In the meantime, your alumni association and your contributions are critical to the ongoing operations of the fraternity as we continue to support the fraternity with operating funds for alumni tailgates and liability insurance. Financially in 2005 our annual dues and contributor levels took a small dip from the previous year. Total contributors dipped from 127 to 105 and the contribution funds received were \$3,550 below the

previous record year of \$16,750. Nonetheless, I would like to thank each of you that did contribute last year and encourage all of you to help assist your fraternity by paying the voluntary dues and contributing in 2006.

We have enclosed envelopes and 2006 contribution/dues forms with the newsletter for your convenience. A summary of the final 2005 actual and the planned 2006 budget is included in Charlie Munn's Treasurer's report below. I would like to again thank Charlie for stepping up to the task, as the position remains the one volunteer alumni position that actually has to do something to ensure mortgage/taxes/etc are paid in a timely fashion.

I would also like to thank Jim Scanlon, Class of 05, who graduated in December for being a great assistance to our local affairs and a regular contact in addition to the active Presidents over the past few years. Jim has volunteered to join the Alumni Board as an at-large Director and assist in our ongoing efforts to enhance the fraternity. This biggest challenges are to restore the active membership to stable levels, and on the part of the Alumni Association to repair and refurbish the DKE house to a suitable standard.

I am pleased to inform you that work continues on this front. In 2004 we replaced the gas furnace and rebuilt the front porch (almost entirely) and in 2005 contracted for additional work to be done. A local architect (Glenn Reynolds of Reynolds Architects) has been retained for design and permitting assistance and initial exterior work has already started, been stopped, and restarted. In 2005, we had the diseased and half-dead large Dutch Maple tree as well as the large fir tree in the front cut down. We also contracted for roof replacement, window replacement and soffit/eaves/gutters/downspouts repair and replacement to take place. Part way through the roofing replacement work our contractor was ordered to stop work by the Town of Blacksburg as unbeknownst to us (and every other person) we required a building permit and as part of that process a review of the Historic District Review Board of the work. We have since compiled a package and in early January, myself accompanied by Charlie Munn and Theta Bowden made our presentation to this HDRB and subsequently our contractors received the building permits. (This is the short version of the story). The main house roof work has been largely completed and includes the replacement/installation of six roof windows and skylights as part of a plan to refurbish the third floor (attic level) into livable rooms with proper access and safety issues addressed. Work on the soffit and eaves should start soon followed by the carport and front porch roofs and most of the main windows on the house. Most of this work has been financed and contracted through Home Depot and comes with the warranties that one would expect (even warranty on the windows against "accidental breakage").

Our goals remain aggressive and we hope to tackle additional work during the summer months. Brother Charlie Lloyd has volunteered to head up a separate capital fund program with the assistance of several other of your alumni brother volunteers. Look for more information in the coming months.

As you all can figure out by now, your DKE alumni organization runs with volunteers and is supported by voluntary dues and contributions. We are grateful for all of those who provide both their time and money to make things work and we continue to strive to reach a long term sustainable financial and organizational level. All of this depends on the brothers of Delta Kappa Epsilon and Delta Kappa Sigma to make it happen. Thanks and I look forward to hearing and seeing you in the coming year and when in town please stop by the house and meet the brothers.

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 Fall, 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.

Please make sure you send any updates or news information to 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 Actives: I am proud to let you all know that this past Fall we initiated 13 new brothers into the Sigma Alpha chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. As I am sure everyone has been aware, this semester was crucial for the future of our chapter. Having started the semester with only 17 actives, we now have 30. This puts us in a far more comfortable financial situation and is a trend I hope to maintain. All 13 of the new brothers are freshmen and will help ensure the future of our great fraternity. I stay confident that we can continue this growth, helping us ultimately achieve our membership goal of numbers in the 40's or even 50's in the future. The success from this past semester supports my initial concern that in the past, we were attracting guys who were not the best matches for DKE. Now that we are attracting the right guys again, we are achieving the numbers we were looking to get.

Also in the past, we have had a lot of problems with guys falling out throughout the semester. This semester we started with 14, and only had one pledge drop. The pledge that ended up dropping did so in the first week because he was going to school and working 40 hours a week, so he simply did not have the time. That left 13 pledges, basically from the start, who all made it through. We have not had a pledge class of this size, or where such a high percentage made it through, since Fall '03 when my pledge class got all 8 through. I hope the success from this past semester puts some minds at ease concerning the future of our fraternity. While this is a great boost for our fraternity, the job certainly is not done, and I assure you all that we will be working hard to ensure that this success becomes the standard instead of the exception.

On February 1, we began pledging five new guys. While this number is not as high as I had hoped, it is still better than spring pledge classes of the past, and all five guys are certainly DKE material. Our plan of growth is to bring in large pledge classes in the fall to help us grow, and decent-sized pledge classes in the spring to minimize losses due to graduation. Therefore, although we would have liked far more pledges this semester, we are still following our plans for growth. I am sure many of you are aware that the spring semester is routinely the harder semester to bring in large pledge classes, and I feel confident with this plan of attack, DKE can be to our target numbers within a couple years.

On the note of losses due to graduation, the actives would like to say goodbye to Jim Scanlon who graduated in December. He has done more for this fraternity in his time here than many are aware; maybe even himself. And while far too often tasks such as fixing doors and walls, replacing bars and booths, and ensuring the continual preservation of our house seemed to go unrecognized, they certainly were not. Jim has been pivotal in alumni relations and helping with the alumni-sponsored house renovations. Nothing makes me happier than to hear he will continue to be involved with the alumni board. The actives would all like to say thank you and best of luck, Jim.

I apologize for the long report, but this is an exciting time here at DKE, and I cannot write an update without talking about the ongoing renovations of the house. While we hit some bumps in the road concerning the town, all appears to be back on track and moving full force again. The roof is almost through completion with two skylights waiting to be put in and some final flashing still remaining. We are also looking forward to new windows and gutters throughout the entire house. There has been talk of renovations ever since I joined three years ago, so to finally see things moving is very exciting. Therefore, I would like finish by taking this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and contributions. The actives and the alumni board are doing everything we can to ensure the future of DKE at VT and the preservation of the house we all love.

Fall 2005 Initiated Pledge Class:	Scott Ackman	V.J. Singh Bajwa	Chris Gandolfo	
Spiro Gkikas	Joseph Goodrich	Nick Liaskos	Terry McCauley	David Myers
Cameron Sasser	John Scanlon	Michael Stanton	Daniel Stewart	Jeremy Vidito
Fall 2005 DKE Graduates:	James Tanner Scanlon			

Friends From The Heart Forever,

John Broadbent, President, Delta Kappa Epsilon - ΣΑ Chapter

Treasurer's Report: Oh man...I am SO sorry...I'm embarrassed to say that I simply can't find the fraternity books and records... I've been looking all day and.... HEY... Whaddya know? Here they are under this pile of beer cans! Good news! We have money... well... some, anyway. Ok, I've got some figures here for you, but if they don't add up, its not my fault, it's this calculator I bought at the "Going Out of Business" Sale over at Enron. You know guys, the hardest thing about being Treasurer of something – besides hiding your embezzlement of course – is presenting the numbers without a) Making it look like we're doing SWELL and you don't need to donate anything anytime soon, or b) We are going DOWN the swirly hole like last night's Long Island Teas and White Russians topped off by a midnight run to White Castle.

	TOTALS 2005
Cash on Hand at Start	\$ 31,667.51
Income from Donations	\$ 13,200.00
Income from Rents/Misc	\$ 19,498.21
Total Revenue	\$ 32,698.21
General Operating Expenses	\$ 25,761.69
House Renovations	\$ 5,314.22
Total Expenses	\$ 31,075.91
Cash on Hand at End	\$ 33,289.81

Neither is quite true in our case. Thanks to the refi we did a year or so ago, we have some cash on hand for renovations and if you look at just 2005 results it almost looks like we "made" money. You can stop laughing now. What these numbers aren't saying – they haven't had enough to drink yet, then they'll start talking - is that although our closing cash on hand appears to be higher than at the start, *we have already incurred about \$35-40K in renovations and related expenses that will hit us early in 2006.* This is for work already done or in progress. Dan Johnson and I toured the house last month and let me tell you that the amount of work the house needs is incredible. They haven't even repaired the hole in the wall from the party in 1980 where I thought I was headbutting the Wooly Goat... boy, sure wish they had stud finders back then. Yes, a lot has been done on the house, but so much more is needed and soon. This year will see a kickoff of our ONE-TIME capital campaign for MAJOR house renovations; this will be above and beyond what we need on an ongoing basis. We still need your support EACH YEAR as dues-paying members who might kick in a little bit extra towards our many other costs that keep climbing like maintenance and insurance (would you be surprised to learn that insuring a frat house is just a teensy weensy bit more than, say, your house?). We definitely need to get basic participation from more brothers and a little more sugar from the ones that do give. In the last half of 2005, the following brothers padded their basic \$50 dues with an extra donation:

Dustin Warnick, F93	Stephen Yee, S93	Charlie Lloyd	Eric Fortin, F81
Bert Burson, W79	Daniel James, W69	Steve Gadinis, S76	Bruce Beam
Russell McKinnon	Anthony Harris, F79	Randy Colthorpe,	Dave Holliday, F67
Gerald Augst	John Hinkle, F74		

Thank you guys! Hopefully your pledge bros will see this and say, "That #?@\$&*#\$ wouldn't even spot me a beer when we were in school and now he's making me look bad. I'll throw in a few Benjamins to get even!" Now THAT is what we are looking for! For you guys who stay in contact with your bros, please LEAN on them to participate, at least as dues paying (\$50) members. I mean, what's \$50, not even a lap dance at the Gold Club anymore. Hey, did I mention that when they were cleaning out the attic, they found pictures.... LOTS of pictures... of you! What kind of weird cigarette is that you're holding? And that hairstyle, do you REALLY want that out and available for Googling? Just kidding, no one has EVER cleaned out that attic, but remember, renovations are underway...anything's possible! Please help us out if you can.

FFTHF!

Charlie Munn, Fall '74