



Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of

Delta Kappa Epsilon

P.O. Box 18231, Richmond, Virginia 23226

January 31, 2005



Dear Alumni Brothers,

Sadly, we mourn the loss of Henry Unruh (Spring '65) who we learned passed away on January 23rd. Brother Unruh left us too early, and Brother Ed Greene asks us to join in remembering Hank by raising a glass to a good friend and a good man. Before his death, Hank and his family encouraged support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and specifically the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training, which is engaged in a long-distance bike ride to benefit the Society. If you are interested, you can find details at their website at http://www.teamintraining.org/hm_tnt or by contacting the group by telephone at (800) 955-4572.

Another year is among us. I am pleased to report our alumni association has survived its fifth year in a row now and has signs of becoming a long-term stable organization. Of course, this depends upon volunteer participation by us as alumni to manage the organization and to maintain the financial support necessary to support our existence and long-term vitality. On the first point we have a dozen alumni that have served on the board over the past two years, and several of those have served since the re-inception of the alumni organization six years ago. This consists of the five directors/officers of the Alumni Board that direct the functions of the organization and another seven member on Board Committees who participate and provide counsel in designated areas of importance to our mission. **I am thankful for the contribution of our alumni volunteers, and I'm proud to work with them as we build an alumni organization, virtually from the ashes of our demise 6 years ago!**

A couple of these individuals deserve a special note. First, Dick Anderson served two terms as our President and continues to serve on one of the Board Committees. His decision to take the helm at the very beginning was critical. He came willingly forward at an uncertain time, and we simply could not be where we are today without his leadership. Second, Tom Overton is a dedicated alumni and brother who has served on the Board for all 6 years. He simply does everything that is asked of him, and then offers to do more and to continue to serve. Tom's dedication and commitment symbolize our brotherhood. Mike Beam has served on the Board and as treasurer for almost 4 years. This is a tireless job that probably requires more time and attention than any in our organization, from the hard work of budgets, forecasting, and refinancing, to the important but more mundane task of collecting from our PO Box. Like many of us, Mike has a demanding job and a family (4 kids!). Finally, I would like to thank Jack Hutcheson. For the past 6 years, Jack has served as a special advisor to the Board and, more importantly, as the alumni adviser to the active chapter. Virginia Tech prefers that active chapters have an alumni adviser (someone employed by Virginia Tech), but it is often difficult to find someone willing to serve in this role. Jack offered without being asked, and his understanding of the Virginia Tech administration have made a significant difference, both in terms of guiding the active chapter and in advising the Board.

Now, where we are today is still very humble in many respects, and we have awesome goals and tasks in front of us. And, to accomplish these, **we simply must have new blood willing to take the reins of leadership.** Nominations for directors and officers are included in the enclosed slip and we will compile a slate and provide election forms with the next newsletter in the spring. The only restriction we would like to keep is for the Treasurer nominations to be domiciled in the Richmond area as this is where the post office box is. Now I have used the word "nomination" quite loosely in this context as it really means to volunteer some time to serve. Over the past few years, many of you have offered to serve and asked how you could help. Well, here it is! I offered and inquired how I could help 2 years ago. I'm certain I didn't know what I was in store for. Dick Anderson and Jim Daniel cornered me, by phone, and asked how willing I truly was to help. I have to say it has been a challenge, but I have enjoyed it and would recommend it to you. More importantly, **your fraternity, the one that likely played such an important and pivotal part of your youth and hopefully today, needs you to serve. Serve as a Board member, serve as a Board Committee member, or take on a special assignment of importance to our organization, but please step forward and commit to serve in some capacity. We need it and we**

can't continue without more of you stepping up! Ballots will be finalized and distributed in late-March 2005, so we would appreciate having your response indicating interest by March 18, 2005.

I mentioned the alumni organization getting stronger. In 2005, approximately 130 alumni paid dues and made contributions to the alumni organization totaling over \$18,000 in cash and services. Both of these are records for the DKE alumni association and without the continued support of everyone, simply the alumni association and quite frankly the fraternity house would not exist. With close to 700 living alumni our goal for 2005 is to increase the participation to the 150 level. As such, I ask that you please again support your fraternity in 2005 by completing the dues form below. Don't forget to indicate your interest in serving on the alumni board as indicated. We have a strong dedicated alumni as Dekes was one of the largest fraternities at Tech dating from its origin, to the late 1980's, normally having 40-50+ active brothers. After a lull in active membership over the past decade we have seen the active membership in the 30 member range over the past two years.

Late last year the board adopted a strategic plan which I will reiterate the key principles again as follows:

Alumni Strategic Overview

The purpose of our organization--the DKE Sigma Alpha chapter--is to bring together like minded "*gentlemen, scholars and jolly good fellows*" that will remain for the rest of their lives "*Friends From the Heart Forever.*"

To best execute and perpetuate this purpose, the Fraternity will *continue to operate as an "off campus" fraternity* in the Roanoke Street House.

In order for the fraternity to survive and prosper, the active component of the fraternity needs to remain vibrant, financially sound and operate within the guidelines of the University, the civil authorities and the Fraternity.

To remain vibrant and financially sound, the fraternity needs to *maintain an active membership of about 40 to 50 brothers*. At least 25% to 35% of the members should reside in the fraternity house in order to establish and maintain a core group for the organization. This is the membership guideline the fraternity has established for the active members.

This membership guideline requires the efforts for both the active and alumni members. The single most important aspect in meeting this guideline, however, is the upkeep and maintenance of the fraternity house. *Without a functionally sound and reasonably attractive House, the membership guidelines will not be met and the fraternity cannot survive in the long run.*

While the actives must maintain a well-balanced program and sense of brotherhood that will attract and retain good young men, *they must maintain the house* in a reasonable condition that both actives and alumni find acceptable.

For our part, the alumni must provide for the long term maintenance and expansion of the house. *Without our support, the house will decay, our fraternity will fail,* and we will gradually but surely lose the bonds of brotherhood.

The most frequent questions/complaints we have as Deke alumni are

- Where does the money go?
- The house is in such bad disrepair, I won't go there.

These go hand in hand with one another. A copy of our financial statements for 2004 and budget for 2005 are attached. But in a nutshell, we collect rents from the active brotherhood in the order of \$18K/year for house rents and we have disbursements for mortgage, real estate taxes and house insurance for \$13.5K/year, alumni association expenses for newsletters of \$2K/yr and finally liability insurance payments of \$11K/yr of which \$9K/yr is for the actives. Doing the math real quick, one can see that difference between income and expenses is directly related to liability insurance premiums for the actives. These premiums have increase fourfold over the past few years resulting in part of the alumni contributions going to pay for these dramatic increases. As costs are relatively fixed the two ways to get the house financially "self-supporting" are to increase the living capacity and thereby increasing the rents and secondly increasing

the active brotherhood to a more financially sustainable 50 brothers range. Overhanging both of these goals is the condition of the house.

As a case in point, I have copied below a correspondence recently received by Jim Daniel from Bill Holden class of '59':

Jim,

Been meaning to write something back to you as the 'voice of the DKE's. Appreciate the efforts which you do faithfully, carrying the VT/DKE message to alums for quite a while.

I attended my Class '59/45th anniversary reunion held 18-19 Nov, staying at Donaldson, etc. While wife rested, I walked over to the frat house Fri afternoon - my first visit back to DKE roots since 1959! Even had my pledge paddle with me with the original yellowed signature list still attached.

Seems I genuinely surprised the officers still there (all except the president) and still 'shoveling' out the final remains from the party after the romp over U of Maryland. They all stopped what they were doing (mostly packing for home) and listened to a few of my tales from the old days, initiation events (seems some the past 'events' are unknown to these young'ns), guzzle cup events, etc. They found a rather worn copy of the '59 yearbook where I pointed out that DKEs had gotten several party pictures in the book, the group photo, etc. They showed me the paddle room. Mine would have presented ~ 30 year gap to the oldest hanging there (couldn't give mine up just yet).

The house: What a great location and a classic building with the impressive columns and large porch. But a need for significant repairs seen too! It could be a showplace but that's the view from my older eyes; maybe too much to ask of the students there. Got a total tour of the place. Seems pledge duties could do some the lesser repairs & painting. Same for taking a better care (polish & shine) of the trophies and the display for them.

Nonetheless, that visit added to all the great memories from my 55-59 yrs at VPI. I think I have your earlier information about asking for \$\$ assistance to repair the house. I'll now be making a contribution.

Bill H.

Not only could the fraternity house be a showcase, but it is imperative that we make it a showcase both from a place that we alumni are proud to visit, and bring friends and family along, but also to support the recruiting efforts of the actives and increase the living accommodations and hence the rental income. As mentioned previously the alumni funded a new gas furnace (\$5K) in the spring and the reconstruction of the front porch and several porch columns (\$25K) with low maintenance TREX planking and composite columns in November. The porch work as hit a zoning issue with the town of Blacksburg and the corner of the porch remains incomplete until this issue can be resolved. Meanwhile, patch repairs were made to the roof to stop leaks. In addition to the work completed, the alumni association refinanced the property providing additional equity for the repair work.

On the bigger issue of the complete house renovation, we will obviously face some potential zoning issue with some of the work we would like to consider. We are currently looking for architectural services for the total design of complete renovation work and permitting the planned work through the town and historical review committee. While I have spoken to several alumni who are practicing architects over the past year, it is apparent that we need a local architect to undertake the services. We have budgeted \$25K for the 2005 calendar year for these services and are still looking for an appropriate firm.

We continue to try to update our mailing list. Please make sure you send any updates or news information to jadaniel@verizon.net.

FFTHF, Dan Johnson '77

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

Messages from the Actives: We have started another semester here in Blacksburg after a great fall for the university and the fraternity. Seven home football games and tailgates provided great times for the brotherhood watching the Hokies . . . off 10 victories and an ACC title. Fall rush was successful and culminated in the initiation of five new members to Delta Kappa Epsilon. Numerous house improvements were also undertaken during the fall, including new booths in the basement and fresh paint in the kitchen and downstairs bathroom. We are all looking forward to spring rush where we are trying some new recruitment methods in order to continue to grow our active brotherhood. New officers will be elected in late February and will take office on the night of our spring formals in late April. There is already a full slate signed up to live in the house for the next academic year which will provide a solid new president and treasurer. Keep an eye on our website, www.vtdke.com, for updates on the brotherhood and the addition of a database for updating alumni information. Have a good winter and spring.

FFTHF, Patrick King, Active President

ALUMNI TREASURER'S REPORT

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE SIGMA ALPHA CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON

DATA FROM SIGMA ALPHA PROPERTIES LLC INCLUDED

2004 CASH FLOW SUMMARY - Prepared by Mike Beam 12/31/2004

CASH BALANCE @ 01/01/2004		\$8,342.97
REVENUE		
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS/DUES (Alumni)	\$16,750.00	
Annual Dues (\$6150)		
Add'l Donations (\$4575)		
House Fund (\$6025)		
OMEGA DEPOSITS/RENT (Actives)	\$17,961.82	
SUBTOTAL RECEIPTS		\$34,711.82
EXPENSES & OTHER DISBURSEMENTS		
DKE HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS(Furnace)	(\$4,270.00)	
LIABILITY INSURANCE (Alumni 2004/5)	(\$1,500.00)	
LIABILITY/RISK INSURANCE (Active 2004/5)	(\$9,350.00)	
PROPERTY INSURANCE	(\$4,448.00)	
POSTAGE/MAILINGS(3)	(\$1,851.47)	
MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	(\$7,135.93)	
LEGAL/BANK FEES	(\$225.00)	
HOUSE ALUMNI TAILGATE ACTIVITIES	(\$1,015.26)	
RUSH ACTIVITIES (Active Reimbursement)	(\$399.61)	
REAL ESTATE TAXES	(\$1,741.74)	
DKE LEADERSHIP TRAINING - Actives	(\$1,375.00)	
SUBTOTAL EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS		(\$33,312.01)
VT/USC BCA GAME		
Tickets Purchased	(\$8,800.00)	
Monies Collected	\$9,130.00	
SUBTOTAL BCA GAME		\$330.00
SUBTOTAL OPERATING BALANCE		\$10,072.78
June 2004 Mortgage Refinance Proceeds		\$44,094.73
Porch/Exterior Reconstruction		(\$22,500.00)
SUBTOTAL HOUSE FUNDS		\$21,594.73
ENDING CASH BALANCE @ 12/31/2004		\$31,667.51

2005
DKE Financial Summary - Actual vs Budget

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE SIGMA ALPHA CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON
 DATA FROM SIGMA ALPHA PROPERTIES LLC INCLUDED
 2005 PROPOSED CASH FLOW SUMMARY - Prepared by Mike Beam 01/10/2005

Actual as of
06/23/2005

OPERATING CASH BALANCE @ 01/01/2005		\$10,072.78	\$10,072.78
REVENUE			
CASH CONTRIBUTIONS/DUES (Alumni)	\$14,000.00		\$11,000.00
OMEGA DEPOSITS/RENT (Actives)	\$16,500.00		\$9,116.07
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$30,500.00	\$20,116.07
EXPENSES & OTHER DISBURSEMENTS			
DKE HOUSE FUND(from 2004 donations)	(\$4,000.00)		(\$4,000.00) DONE
LIABILITY INSURANCE (Alumni 2005-2006)	(\$1,500.00)		
LIABILITY/RISK INSURANCE (Active 2004-2005)	(\$11,000.00)		
PROPERTY INSURANCE	(\$4,500.00)		(\$4,333.00) DONE
POSTAGE/MAILINGS	(\$2,400.00)		(\$1,071.87) 2 of 4
MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	(\$8,600.00)		(\$4,298.58) 6 of 12
LEGAL/BANK FEES	(\$500.00)		
TAILGATE ACTIVITIES	(\$1,000.00)		(\$673.37) USC 2004
RUSH ACTIVITIES (Active Reimbursement)	(\$800.00)		(\$432.16) 1 of 2
REAL ESTATE TAXES	(\$1,800.00)		(\$890.89) 1 of 2
DKE LEADERSHIP TRAINING - Actives	(\$1,500.00)		
TOTAL EXPENSES & DISBURSEMENTS		(\$37,600.00)	(\$15,699.87)
SUBTOTAL OPERATING BALANCE @ 12/31/2005		\$2,972.78	\$14,488.98
HOUSE RENOVATION/MAINT. CASH BALANCE @ 01/01/2005		\$21,594.73	\$21,594.73
Heater Maintenance Contract			(\$75.00)
Alumni Donation Contribution from 2004	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00 Done
Assumed renovation disbursements	(\$25,000.00)		
HOUSE RENOVATION CASH BALANCE @ 12/31/2005		\$594.73	\$25,519.73
ENDING CASH BALANCE @ 12/31/2005		\$3,567.51	\$40,008.71

DKE Financial Summary 2004 - Final

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