

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



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

January 12, 2015

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman ('77)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

The belated holiday newsletter edition is here in print. A somewhat dismal football season was made more palatable by the DKE Tailgate Club's seventh season! This year we saw the introduction of lighting and heaters for the Miami and UVA games which given the temperatures was a welcome addition. The beat down by Miami was the low point only surpassed by not scoring against Wake Forest. However, a win over UVA in the bitter cold followed by a Military Bowl win in Annapolis over Cincinnati springs hope for next season. Don't miss out on the DKE Tailgate (and accompanying VT-Ohio State game) in Blacksburg on Monday night September 7, 2015.

The chapter had another successful rush/pledge/initiation last semester indoctrinating eight new members to the DKE brotherhood. The chapter membership level is near its highest level in the past 10 years and with another successful recruitment period this semester could exceed 50 members by the end of the year! Special congratulations go out to **Mark Lenzi** '15 as the winner of the **Dave Calhoun** scholarship for 2014. Mark pulled down a legit (some sort of biochemistry major) 3.81 GPA for the semester while living in the DKE House. Mark is a legacy of Brother **Joe Lenzi** '70, also a one-time DKE House resident, which is clear statistical evidence based on our own multivariate regression analyses proving that academic excellence and DKE House living are correlated across time and biological gene pools. Same accuracy as the IPCC has in predicting global climate change. And to think they once published a study that said the beer can kill brain cells. Mark, as one of the resident handymen also found time to rebuild the veranda doors replacing the 'vintage DKE House' plywood panels with Plexiglas window panes. During the semester we also had the front of the DKE house painted and the large column repaired, acquired a new washing machine and dreamt up some new plans for a kitchen makeover. Between the aforementioned work, and the professional landscaping service, the DKE House actually looks pretty good from the outside. The house is fully rented for next year with 11 brothers planning on residing at the property.

We have closed out the 2014 DKE Annual Giving Fund with donations in cash and in-kind from 78 alumni and friends equaling \$27,340 and yep, you guessed it, have already started the 2015 DKE Annual Giving Fund drive! The VT-DKE Alumni Association and more importantly the upgrade/upkeep of the DKE House, depends on your support. We have plans for a complete kitchen renovation drawn up and just need some \$\$ to get things rolling while at the same time paying down some of the debt. In an effort to better explain the true value of the DKE House, we have discussed various approaches and have decided the best reflection would be to report our year-end asset valuation in Uzbekistani soms ('UZS') (which narrowly beat out Zimbabwean dollars). So the DKE House is valued at over a **billion** soms!!!!!! As with any **billion som property**, the upkeep for house staff, private chefs, spa and masseuse services, chauffeurs, etc. is really quite high. But not to worry, as your trusted custodians of the billion som DKE House we have forced the chapter to forego an austerity program cutting the normal aforementioned amenities of billion dollar properties, other than paper towels and an occasional roll of toilet paper for the bathroom.

However some costs have gone up. After some 10 years of upkeep of our alumni list and being supplied mailing labels by the VT Alumni Association, they have decided to cut back and not supply printed labels anymore. Quite a bonehead move, as your VT-DKE Alumni Association was more adept in change of address upkeep than VT was. However with every dark cloud there is a silver lining. We have been addressing the newsletters to '*Brothers, Parents and Friends*' over the past several years, but to be honest, the number of parents on the mailing list was minimal (in



that VT would not authorize the inclusion of students address on the DKE mailing list). Going forward, we are now reaching out to include the active brothers/parents at their permanent address locations. So if you are a parent, and are receiving the newsletter for the first time - Welcome! In the meantime, you may have just found out by reading this that your son has joined the Sigma Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity sometime during the past several years. If for some reason you didn't know this, please relax, as your son has joined the oldest fraternity at Virginia Tech with over 700 living alumni. We have a pretty solid history of helping mold your sons into gentlemen, scholars, and jolly good fellows. Our success rate is actually over 30%! [No typo here, as we just couldn't fix many of our DKE alumni during their short duration in Blacksburg, but most of them turned out OK in the end anyway!]

This is an election year for the VT-DKE Alumni Association. If you are interested in serving as a Director please indicate as much on the enclosed card. If you are *not interested* in serving on the VT-DKE Alumni Board then we strongly suggest that you make an appropriate hush money contribution to the 2015 DKE Annual Giving Fund. Clearly the failure to return the enclosed card will be taken as a sign that you want to volunteer. We have been known, (and it is clearly not beyond our means), to nominate (and elect) DKE alumni in absentia to the Board.

Finally, our normal, award-winning Page 3 Now and Then column has taken a hiatus this time to allow for an expanded report from the active chapter (at least that is the excuse this time for not coming up with a guest columnist). Still need volunteers to write about your pledge class (year) brothers for future newsletters so sign up! We can provide a list of addresses and contact information that we have and you can make up the rest. When in town stop by *your* DKE House when you are in town and make a point of supporting your fraternity!

FFTHF, Dan Johnson

Active Chapter Report

Will Adams '15, Chapter President

The 2014 fall semester was quite eventful for Active Brothers, Pledges, and Alumni. Rush, tailgates, socials, philanthropies, DKE House repairs, and graduation, made the fall of 2014 a fun and rewarding semester. We joyously welcomed eight new brothers to the Deke family, and we sadly said our goodbyes to three brothers who can now proudly call themselves Virginia Tech Alumni. Our three fall 2014 graduates are: **Joey Loss**, **Tae Choi**, and **Rohan Elwadhi**. They are now members of the prestigious VT-DKE Alumni Association. We wish our recent graduates good luck in your future endeavors, and heed that you leave no rock unturned as you part on life's great adventure.

The month of November was quite busy for the active brotherhood as we participated in the international "Movember" philanthropy event for the second consecutive year. Movember is an international nonprofit organization that pulls together donations from mustache sporting participants in an effort to raise awareness for men's overall health, as well as prostate and testicular cancer research and treatment. The Chapter's donation goal at the beginning of the month was \$2,000. Thanks to the gracious donations of parents, friends, and alumni we were able to shatter our goal and more than double our donations from the prior year. Our Philanthropy Chair, **Ben Brisley '17**, added new donation strategies including profit sharing with local businesses to help us in raising more than \$2,800. As a result, the Sigma Alpha Chapter was the #1 DKE Chapter participating in Movember. In addition to Movember, the Dekes also participated in Pi Beta Phi's "Dodge the Arrow" philanthropy and Kappa Delta's "Fall Festival" philanthropy. The chapter also added some service work to its busy calendar. We restarted a biannual Roanoke Street Cleanup Day and spent a few hours on a Saturday afternoon cleaning up trash along Roanoke Street and the surrounding area. Additionally, we worked with the New River Family Shelter, located directly behind the DKE House, in helping them paint a fence surrounding the property.

The DKE House at 302 East Roanoke Street is still standing strong and saw some exterior and interior repairs



throughout the semester. Over the summer of 2014 an online fundraiser was started by the active chapter to help "Refurnish the DKE House." More than \$2,000 was raised along with a large donation of new matching furniture. The money was spent by the active chapter on various interior house furnishings including: barstools, a cocktail table, curtains, a living room television, and stackable chairs for chapter meetings. Additionally, through the generous donations from the parents of **Christian Daly '17** and alumni **Jim Daniel F'84** we added a pool table for brothers and guests to enjoy, a commodity that had been sorrowfully missed since 2012. Also, a donation from the parents of **Will Adams '15** added a "Miller Genuine Draft" pool table light fixture to the always improving DKE house. The two large columns and the front of the house saw a new coat of paint thanks to alumni contributions. A picture of the new paint job can be found on the VT-DKE website <http://www.vtdke.com/blog/>. The second floor veranda doors saw a remarkable refurbishment as **Mark Lenzi '15** headed an operation, with the assistance of **Daniel Rubin '17**, to install new window panes and trim. From the active brothers, we'd like to thank all that donate their time, money, and energy to Delta Kappa Epsilon and our Chapter House.

The active chapter anxiously awaits the start of the spring 2015 semester. Rush seems to always be right around the corner. To help us achieve our goal of 20 new members throughout the academic year, we ask all alumni and parents for their participation in the upcoming rush. If anyone knows a potential rushee attending Virginia Tech, interested in fraternities or not, and thinks he may be a good fit for Delta Kappa Epsilon, please feel free to send his name and contact information to our Rush Chairmen: **Garret Godshall** or **Cameron Longmire** at vtechg10@vt.edu or camel94@vt.edu respectively.

We are anxiously looking forward to the many events of the spring semester. Last year we held the first annual DKE Spring Parents Weekend. For those that attended, we hope you enjoyed your time meeting the brothers and receiving tours of our beloved home. We plan to carry on this tradition this coming spring. The active DKE Brothers would like to invite all parents, and any alumni in town, to the 2015 Spring Parents Weekend, to be held on Saturday, April 25th, which correlates along with the Virginia Tech Spring Football Game and official Virginia Tech Parents Weekend. More details to come. Hope to see everyone there on April 25th!

On behalf of the Sigma Alpha chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon,

Will Adams

Treasurer's Report

Mike Beam, Alumni Treasurer (Winter '85)

Thank you to all who donated their time, talents, and \$\$ to our 2014 DKE Annual Giving Fund. Your donations and support continue to be vital for us to maintain the 100+ year old DKE House, fund alumni social functions, and support scholarships for our Active brothers. What we did do was: paint the front exterior of the DKE house and repair the main columns; purchase a new washing machine; provide scholarships to send our active leadership to last year's national DKE conference; provide personalized DKE scrolls for the DKS to DKE ceremonies; help sponsor the DKE tailgates; and took care of all those other mundane things such as ensuring that the insurance, property taxes, maintenance inspections, pest control, lawn/yard maintenance etc. got done. This year the SA Properties LLC housing corporation has taken over direct payment of the major utilities while charging the DKE house residents each a monthly \$50 utility surcharge to cover the costs. We hope this will avoid the annual problems of making timely payments during breaks and while transitioning from one year to the next.

As another year is behind, we would like to provide a special thanks to the following brothers for their major in-kind contributions to the VT-DKE Alumni Association: **Troy Turner S'93** (tax filing preparation) alumni, **Mickey Hayes S'62** (landscaping services, tailgate spot); **Charlie Webb W'85**, (DKE tailgate club); and all of the DKE Board of Directors (**Dan Johnson S'74**, **Mike Beam W'85**; **Charlie Munn F'74**; **Jim Daniel S'82**; **Sam Rose F'08**; **Jeff Rose F'09**) for their dedication of time to make the VT-DKE Alumni Association and SA Properties LLC actually function.



A total of \$27,340 in goods and services was donated by approximately 78 brothers last year! Contrary to rumors out there, we did not use any donations to help fund Bud Foster's contract extension, however we did hear through the grapevine that the last minute added clause of "a free beer at the DKE House" was the contract term that kept him in Blacksburg.

The 2014 DKE Annual Giving Fund great, but I know we can do even better next year. We have received an anchor \$5K donation to start out the 2015 Annual Giving Fund. The rents collected from the actives living in the house continue to cover the basics (mortgage, insurance, taxes, etc.), but your donations support the major maintenance and capital improvements (and the DKE Tailgate Club). As always, your comments and donations are welcomed using the enclosed card. I hope you have a chance to make it out to the DKE House and attend a DKE Tailgate. Your support is what makes it happen! FFTHF, Mike

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED