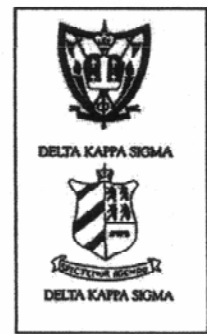




Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of
Delta Kappa Epsilon
P.O. Box 18231, Richmond, Virginia 23226



July 17, 2004

Dear Alumni Brothers,

Sadly, we mourn the loss of Morrison Myers who we learned passed away earlier this year. Brother Morrison was one of the 4 founding brothers of our local chapter. Those of you who knew him or simply have a great story to share, please pass along to Jim Daniel (jadaniel@verizon.net). We want to share them in the next newsletter.

I cannot stress enough our appreciation and gratitude for those that have been loyal in their dues and financial support to the fraternity. We have been able to hang on and survive due in large part to a group of dedicated alumni that have rallied to support the fraternity. Our crown jewel remains the DKE house on East Roanoke Street. Given the continuing sagas of on-campus fraternities being regulated more strictly than dormitories, we are fortunate to have an off-campus location.

Our ultimate goal is to have long-term financial stability. Our current goals include restoration of the value to our capital asset base (the house) and ensuring that the active chapter is financially sound and capable of absorbing the operating costs of the fraternity. Still, our alumni contributions have fallen short of our hopes to fund an aggressive house repair program. To date a 104 alumni brothers have paid dues and made contributions totaling \$10,000 which represents the equivalent of our average annual operating expenses. Included in the alumni treasury report are our operating costs from last year and budget for this year (including the capital restoration and improvement projects). Please consider these objectives and goals and the worthiness of your alumni organization in sending in your voluntary dues (just \$50/year). If you haven't paid dues or made a contribution for 2004 yet, now is a good as time as ever.

As a step in that process, the house was refinanced this summer at a lower rate mortgage and additional equity obtained to help fund the needed repairs. The major program of converting the attic into living space and coinciding with the roof replacement has been delayed until appropriate designs and permits can be completed and permits obtained. We plan to start some of the smaller projects that don't require permits this Fall. **Alumni still thinking about making that donation to have the refurbished basement bar named after them...the first 5 figure donation wins.** Planned projects include:

- Re-roof house and convert attic into living spaces with proper egress, HVAC, dormer windows, attic level bathroom and shower facilities, and upgraded electrical and insulation work.
- Replace and restore front porch to original configuration with a maintenance-free Trex porch including the replacement of 2 small columns
- Paint all wood portions of the house exterior.
- Replace the 15 original large windows and the four smaller bathroom and kitchen windows with modern thermally efficient windows that 'never need painting'.
- Bathroom upgrade on first and second floors
- Kitchen Floor and plumbing
- Basement booths, paneling and bar refurbishment [donate 10K and the bar naming rights are yours]

These are the major structural repair backlog that we face and the sum is on the order of \$50,000. With the refinancing we are funded to start the work, but our goal is to ensure that repairs and upgrades are done to a level and standard to outlast the discerning fraternity student for the next 20 years. Not an easy task.

As part of the dues and donation submittal slip we have the customary address information update request. **Please send all of this information.** Our alumni list is provided by the university and includes only those that graduated and actually designated the Dekes/Deeks as an organization. The list is incomplete and contains numerous errors. With most of our active brotherhood having internet access, email communication is not only quick and efficient, but also helps reduce the cost of the \$500-800 of printing and postage costs associated with each newsletter to over 600 DKE alumni - so please

pass along those current e-mail addresses. And, be sure to include the names of the brothers in your respective pledge class. From your responses, we hope to compile an accurate and complete DKE/DKS alumni list that can be made available to other alumni upon request. (No spam mailing other than the occasional newsletter dribble). We also want to know and share with others in our newsletters, the who, what, and where of some of our alumni. So, pass along your stories and anecdotes to get the ball rolling.

The end of the Vick#2 era has just ended before it even started as Tech begins its inaugural season in the ACC. The start of the season is a little more than a month away with Tech playing USC in the BCA game on August 28th at FedEx Field in the metro DC area. We have purchased two blocks of tickets (182 seats in total) for DKEs. Some 140 of these tickets have been purchased by actives and alumni and we still have another 40 or so available. It appears the game will be a sellout, so if you are still looking for tickets please email Mike Beam before August 10th (MikeDebBeam@aol.com). First come, first served. The tickets are \$50 each and located in sections 139 and 109 both within the first 20 rows. For out of town guests we are consolidating at the Marriott Fairview Park hotel in Falls Church, Virginia. The rates quoted by Marriott for "Hokie Tailgaters" is just \$69/night so make your reservations immediately. We have also planned a DKE pregame reunion from 1pm to 5pm on the day of the game at Grevey's Bar and Grill - just a few blocks away from the Marriott, and also in Falls Church, Virginia. This will be cash bar with appropriate pregame food provided by the alumni association. You don't even have to be going to the game in person to attend the pregame party. Jim Scanlon is organizing the details and if you plan on attending please email Jim (jhs Scanlon@aol.com) as soon as possible. We expect over 140 people who bought tickets to attend the pregame so don't miss out.

With the start of Tech's inaugural season in the ACC, there may be other opportunities to get together on the road, as there are DKE chapters at UNC, Duke, Wake Forest, and UVA as well as regular road games in Atlanta, Raleigh-Durham, Winston-Salem and the Metro DC areas. Alumni in those areas interested in organizing a DKE get-together should let us know so we can pass along details to the alumni group as a whole, or work with us to identify Dekes/Deeks in your area.

The actives remain a critical part of our organization, socially, financially and otherwise. Actives have always been and are our lifeblood. As such, we need to help ensure a stable and successful active brotherhood. So, give us your "cousins, sons, nephews, or neighbors attending or planning to attend Virginia Tech." Tell them about the fraternity. (OK, lie to them about the fraternity until after they join). Or, just send information about them to Mike Seering, Pledgemaster (mseering@vt.edu), so our active guys can take the initiative to inform them about the fraternity and rush opportunities.

As in past years, brother Dick Anderson has once again generously donated a pair of season tickets to the alumni organization and for those who made dues payments by July 15th were entered into a drawing for a pair of home game Hokie tickets. The following are the dates of the Virginia Tech home football games and the alumni brothers who were selected at random from dues paying members to receive a pair of tickets to the games indicated:

VT Opponent	Date	Tailgate	Alumni Ticket Winner (1 pair)
Southern California	August 28, 2004	Yes - Greveys Bar - Falls Church VA	No Tickets
Western Michigan	September 11, 2004	No	Willy White
Duke	September 18, 2004	No	Steve Cronemeyer
NC State	September 25, 2004	Yes (3 hours before game-time)	Bert Burson
West Virginia	October 2, 2004	Yes (3 hours before game-time)	Russ McKinnon
Florida A&M	October 16, 2004	No	Robert Reamy
Maryland	November 18, 2004	No	Cliff Lilly
Virginia	November 27, 2004	Yes (3 hours before game-time)	Bill Driskill

If you are just now learning that you won tickets, please send an e-mail to Jim Daniel (jadaniel@verizon.net) verifying your home address, and we'll send them along to you. We have alternate winners if tickets are not claimed. A reminder: Those of you attending events at the house are responsible for proper behavior. Our actions, as alumni, reflect both positively and negatively on the active chapter. Have a good time, enjoy yourselves, retell your "war" stories, but please respect the house and the community. **We will hold alumni and actives responsible for their actions.**

P.S. Please complete the enclosed card and return in the accompanying envelope (Official Address for Returns: Alumni of the Sigma Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, P.O. Box 18231, Richmond, VA 23226)

Messages from the Actives: The active chapter is finishing up the year with 37 actives. The composite is looking a lot fuller than it was two years ago. Six guys have graduated: Kevin Boyd Fall '00 (biochemistry), Trae Harding Spring '01 (Residential Prop. Mgmt.), Dan Watson Fall '00 (Sociology), Mike Renard Spring '02 (Business Info Tech), Brian Pott Fall '00 (Industrial Sys Eng), and Billy Rush Spring '02 (Psychology)). Boyd is headed to UNC-Chapel Hill for a doctoral program in Biochem/Toxicology. Renard will be commissioned in the Navy & heading to FL to begin flight training. Trae is moving to Atlanta with his fiancée to work in the real estate. Dan, Pott, and Billy are as of yet unemployed but looking for opportunities. Let us know if you have entry-level opportunities in their disciplines. And, with these departures and 14 actives scheduled to graduate in the coming year, we're already gearing up for rush in the Fall.

Thanks to the alumni for buying the new furnace. It works great and made a big difference back in the winter - the whole house actually got warm much quicker. Having the radiator system maintained helped a lot as radiators that didn't heat before now are working fine. We'll compare the bills next year to the past year and see how much more efficient it is. April 17th was annual spring appreciation day. Among other things we made drywall repairs, repainted the downstairs interior trim and walls, power-washed the basement and driveway, painted the veranda, replaced plaster damaged by leaks, cleaned the house thoroughly, and did smaller maintenance items and yardwork. We rebuilt the horseshoe pits and fixed the basketball hoop. So, it was natural that a 2-on-2 basketball tournament following with drinks on the veranda.

We held formals on May 1st, beginning with a Kentucky Derby party at the house and then to the formal dinner and dance. Everyone had a great time. You can view photos at <http://community.webshots.com/user/jtscanlon>, and also check out the new DKE Sigma Alpha website at www.dke.com. Next year we want to restart the DKE Weekend tradition. As we plan these events, we'll get information to alumni so that they can schedule attending well in advance.

We have new officers for the coming year. They are: President Pat King (paking@vt.edu), Vice President Jim Scanlon (jscanlon@vt.edu), Secretary Brian Hoffman, Treasurer Rich Bomgardner, Member at Large Dave Greyslock, Rush Chair John Broadbent, Pledgemaster Mike Seering, and Social Chair Adam Lackey. Pat and Jim are headed to the 160th Anniversary DKE Convention in New Orleans at the end of July. Should be a blast. Hopefully we'll learn a few things along the way. We're looking forward to the tailgate and football game vs. USC at FedEx Field in August. Go Hokies! Finally, the actives passed a new constitution and bylaws for the chapter on April 18. We haven't had a constitution or bylaws for a long time, and we hope this will help provide some organization and stability to the leadership and operations of the chapter. **FFTHF, Pat King, Active President, and Jim Scanlon, Active Secretary**

Alumni Treasurer's Report: Financial Update as of July 17th, 2004:

Our two primary sources of income are Alumni donations/dues and Active Rent/Dues administered by Omega Financial.

- As of 7/17/04 we collected \$10,946.28 from Omega. We appear to be on track to hit our budgeted goal of \$16,000.00.
- As of 7/17/04 we have collected \$9725.00 from Alumni donations/dues. We still need \$3275 to hit our budgeted amount of \$13,000.00.

Remember that this is just to make sure we meet our financial commitments and operating costs for the year. We need more donations above and beyond this amount to add significantly to the house renovation fund.

As a result of the recent mortgage refinance, we have \$44,094.73 set aside for upcoming house repairs.

In addition to normal operating costs, other disbursements of note include:

- \$4270 paid to replace the boiler/furnace in the house this year
- \$1375 paid to send 2 active officers (J. Scanlon & P. King) for the upcoming DKE National Convention & Leadership Training, and
- Funding will be provided to support upcoming rush & tailgate activities, as well as our increasing liability/insurance premiums.

Thank you for your continued financial support, both this year and in the future.

FFTHF, Mike Beam '85', Alumni Treasurer