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



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

July 28, 2015

#### **Alumni Association/Chapter Update**

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (S'74)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Lots of news for a summer edition. After an exhaustive primary season filled with numerous debates and illegal PAC contributions, we have a slate of directors for the 2015-2017 VT-DKE Alumni Association Board of Directors election. A ballot is actually enclosed and we ask that you exercise your vested proxy rights and vote. We elect a five member Executive Board of Directors every two years to lead and direct the VT-DKE Alumni Association and accompanying Sigma Alpha Properties LLC Housing Corporation. The executive board is joined by the active chapter president. You will notice that the ballot includes a write-in slot for any of the Executive Director positions. Also we have a ballot slot for non-Executive Board members; which simply means that you get all the glory and none of the responsibilities! We have a group of non-Executive Directors including Charlie Webb W'85, Theta Bowden F'70, Bob Snyder F'73, Jim Daniel F'84, Charlie Lloyd F'68, Lynn Leslie W'88, Jack Hutcheson F'69, Mark Lenzi '15 to name a few...that have sorta agreed to serve on ad-hoc board committees such as the Social Committee (DKE Tailgate Club), House Committee, Strategic Planning Committee etc. With our 75th year anniversary celebration happening in 2016 we could use the help to get this going. Everyone is welcome (we invite everyone on the mailing list and those that aren't, to volunteer) and encourage anyone to attend the board meetings.

Now as you can see, we have some new blood on the ballot. Special recognition goes out to **Mike Beam** W'85, the outgoing Treasurer who is re-retiring from the Board after a Grover Cleveland-ish second set of two, 2-year terms as our Board Treasurer. For those who didn't get through freshman calculus a second/two/2 is the same as 2-cubed or eight years as our Treasurer! We all owe Mike a debt of gratitude for his service. Not to let him escape too easily, Mike has agreed to mentor **Wesley Johnson '12** as he steps into the role. Another Director 'retiring' after multiple years of service is **Jim Daniel**, our board legal whiz. Jim was instrumental in assisting with our university issues several years back. Jim has agreed to become a non-executive director which means he still is on speed dial for legal issues. **Sam Rose** '11, who has been acting as an 'Alternate Executive Director', has agreed to step up as a nominee for the Executive Director Member-At –Large position. **Jeff Rose** '12 and yours truly are once again re-standing for election. Please take the time to fill out and return the ballot and contact info. We are now the keepers of our own alumni database and as such would like to ensure that we have phone and email addresses. We won't call you, but we would like to have folks on our email list (optional) for our equally infamous "DKE Newsblasts". This is mainly used as reminders for our upcoming tailgates and other organized alumni functions/news.

Speaking of news, let's start with the sad stuff first. Regret to report the passing of both **Chip Mara** '86 and **Ned Heller** '75 in the past few months. Our page 3 column is a memory tribute to Ned Heller, the most civil of Civil Engineers. As we tackle the DKE House kitchen renovation this summer, we do so in memory of Ned who was instrumental in building the original kitchen in the DKE House. As such, we are earmarking any capital contributions made in response to this newsletter to the 'Ned Heller Memorial Kitchen'. More on Page 3 below.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Habitat for Inhumanity weekend on June 6-7 was spent on kitchen demolition work. Four alumni and 8 active brothers participated. We are pretty good at demolishing stuff; and through some blood, sweat and beers accomplished quite a bit. We have gutted the kitchen/laundry area and are looking to restore it to "DKE House construction standards". As the contractor quotes were exorbitant, we have decided to 'self-perform' much of the work. Special thanks go out to Brothers **Mark Lenzi** '15 and **Kyle Blevins** '16 and the rest of the guys living

in Blacksburg this summer, who have dedicated a significant amount of time on the project so far. We could use any of you who want to volunteer to help as we organize work days regularly. If interested give me a call! We received a load of donated ceramic floor tiling from Eric Miller, the father of active President **Evan Miller**. We finished the subfloor repairs ourselves and other prep work done for tile installation. The tile subcontractor is setting the new tile floor in place now. Despite an occasional mixing of power tools and beers, so far no one has died or even been seriously hurt. The goal is to have kitchen and laundry room 'functional' (water and appliances in place) by early August and defer other work until our funding catches up with our fiscal appetites.

And now, on to some recent amazing news about our DKE alumni. First in the "simply amazing" category, is Brother Dave "Coon" Calhoun S'76 who was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 VT Commencement in May. This only reaches the simply amazing category, as we come to admire, respect and expect Dave's numerous achievements in the business world and his work for VT. Dave was the featured VT commencement speaker back in 2008; co-chaired the successful \$1-Billion Capital Campaign for Virginia Tech in 2012-2013; and continues to serve on the VT Foundation Board of Directors as well as the Pamplin College Advisory Board. Of course Dave's roots of success can be traced back to his days at DKE, where as Bar Chairman he actually turned a profit. His cumulative financial support for the fraternity over the years has funded the Dave Calhoun Academic Scholarship being awarded each year to the DKE House resident with the highest GPA in the Fall semester.

Moving on the "really amazing" news category is news of Brother Charlie Phlegar S'75 being appointed to the Vice President of Advancement at Virginia Tech starting in August. This is a new position created and from all aspects Charlie is now responsible for just about everything at Virginia Tech. We put the announcement up on the VTDKE website so you can read what his duties are. A fantastic achievement and well deserved. The Town of Blacksburg is getting back one of its prodigal sons. As our esteemed Faculty Advisor, Jack Hutcheson put it: "I can't believe that pimply kid from Blacksburg High School who I trained in his first job washing windows at Argabrites Men's Store and introduced to the DKE Fraternity is now my boss" [editor note - about five layers removed Jack). We welcome Charlie, Karen and family back to town and look forward to years of preferential treatment for all DKE alumni.

And finally in the "truly unbelievable amazing" category is that the last of Scanlon second generation have graduated from Virginia Tech. Had a call from proud papa Brother Jim "Dustball" Scanlon W'76 that the last of the tribe had finally graduated. All were Dekes: lil' Jim T. Scanlon '05, daughter Kelly (married to John Broadbent F'03); Jack Scanlon '09; and finally this year both Danny Scanlon '15 and Joey Scanlon '15. Danny was on the extended 'Uncle Ed' plan namesaked after Brother Eddie "Dirtball" Scanlon W'75 VT career. We have confirmed that lil' Jim and Eddie did not attend class together despite rumors to contrary. We trust our other information is correct because Joey has been seen taking a course this summer to clear up a small technicality regarding his graduation status. A proud achievement and I am sure a sense of relief for Jim and Susan. We even hear the Scanlon townhouse in Blacksburg has been sold, home to not only the Scanlon clan but countless other Dekes over the past 14 years.

We are looking forward to another great Fall football season with DKE Tailgates in Lot 4 Space 94 now a tradition in its own right. The first game on Labor Day Monday night against defending champion Ohio State is guaranteed to sell out. We have pegged the NC State game on Friday Oct 9 as the annual DKE Alumni Reunion game with an expanded catered food spread and Open House. Every game is preceded by a DKE tailgate so make plans to attend them to see old friends. Our generous parking spot benefactor, **Mickey Hayes** S'61 is concocting up some plans to permanently preserve the location for the fraternity as well as expand the DKE footprint with other alumni in adjacent spots in Lot 4 for future years.

We have rented the house out completely with 11 residents planning on residing at the property for next academic year. The active chapter is expected to return to school with about 40 active dues-paying members and is at the largest size it has been in several decades. We have an excellent group of young men that have worked hard to strengthen the chapter. We always welcome any recommendations of sons, relatives, neighbors or friends that may be interest in the DKE experience.

FFTHF, Dan Johnson

#### Ned Heller - A Deke Extraordinaire

Dan Johnson - Spring '74

In May we got word through the DKE grapevine that **Ned Heller** had passed away on April 28, 2015 due to heart failure resulting from complications while undergoing treatment for some sort of blood disorder. It had been a dozen + years or so since I last saw Ned and I think it was at a DKE Reunion of all things. I got to know Ned from my time in Blacksburg as a DKE, numerous fraternity functions, living in DKE House while Ned as a graduate led the construction of the DKE Kitchen, and finally a one month post-graduation trip with Ned and two other Dekes after which Ned just kept going west. So my fond recollections are from a time in the late 1970's when many of us also knew and were close friends with Ned.

Where to start.....well ...Ned was from the Towson/Baltimore area, and graduated in 1975 with a Civil Engineering degree. Being a couple class years ahead of me, Ned was already one of the fraternity leaders when I joined Dekes. He also came from a family contracting business which meant he was a skilled carpenter/tradesman, and obviously was the go to guy when it came to construction and reconstruction projects at the DKE House. Also Ned was an albino. Actually a twin albino, with his brother Ted, also a VT student. The only way you could tell them apart was that Ned always had a DKE shirt or windbreaker on. Ned had white-white blonde hair and one of two colors of skin. Normally his skin was pure white; and when he went outside in the sun, it turned pink/red. He had all the other attributes of a Deke and in addition to being a gentleman, scholar and jolly good fellow he was also a Guzzle cup team member; intramural football, softball, and every other imaginable sport participant; etc. His virtuous honesty was infectious; and he always had a caring, but can-do attitude.

After doing some sort of work for the family business for a year after graduation, Ned came to Blacksburg and was 'contracted' by the fraternity to build the DKE kitchen. (I think we actually paid him \$200/month plus beer). He pulled up in a pale blue converted 1968 Ford van and parked in the driveway. He slept in the van and took turns with the 13 house residents sharing the one bathroom/shower which also doubled as the kitchen sink for everyone. The entire DKE fraternity was rostered on as carpenter helpers and laborers and over a couple of months period the old first floor DKE bar area was gutted and converted into a kitchen/dining area. If we had a plan, it was in Ned's head and somehow it got done. We knocked out walls, installed windows, built counters and cabinets and re-wired everything and changed the plumbing and somehow it worked. I think the total budget/cost was under \$2000 including the numerous kegs of beer (they only cost \$20/keg back then!) which was pretty good given the scope of the work done by Ned and his band of Dekes. As we are once again working to totally rebuild the kitchen, I can only think back to those times in the Fall of 1976 and the close friendship I, and many of us, developed with Ned working as one of Ned's crew. What a treat looking back, learning how to organize a group of semi-sober college kids and actually get something done. Talk about the ultimate Habitat for Inhumanity project!

Come the Spring of 1977, I along with **John 'Smiles' Hill** F'74 and **Roger 'Fly' Bolick** W'74 joined Ned in the same old blue van for a road trip. Three Civil Engineers and one 'uncivil sort' headed out. We first headed South. I don't think we got 100 miles or so before the van broke down. The starter motor went and given our limited funds we figured we could go on without one. The van had a three-on-the-tree manual transmission, so we had to push start the van to get it going. If we had to stop, we would back in or park on a hill to ease the starting pushing efforts. Needless to say that process didn't last long and we got the sucker fixed.

On our trip, we invented the daily designated driver rule before it existed. We bummed supplies, food and cooler ice in true DKE fashion. We dined at all you can eat smorgasbords when we got to Florida stuffing ourselves at 3pm "early-bird" dining times for our one meal a day. We would show up at DKE houses on college campuses where available and pop in on the occasional DKE brother or family if we could find them. After one night of sleeping in the van in the Florida heat, we made pacts never to sleep four in the van again, as there simply wasn't enough room. I guess we had a plan, but I can't remember it. We went down to Key West, then turned around and went up to

Montreal, Canada. In Hartford, Connecticut we were staying at Trinity College DKE House. We drove downtown that night with the windows rolled down and ended up at some honky-tonk bar where the music was rocking and were introduced to Yukon Jack snakebites. All of sudden Ned got slipped some sort of mickey in his drink and his legs went rubbery and collapsed. Looking back, I can't recall how we got him out of the joint, or if we just propped him up in the corner somewhere, but somehow we got out alive. It was a bonding experience for the four of us and we became even better friends. After a month or so, Roger and I dropped off the tour and Smiles and Ned headed west. I think Smiles dropped off somewhere in about Denver and took the bus back and Ned carried on staying/living in LA or San Diego selling vacuum cleaners or something for several months, before coming back east.

When online searching for his obituary notices, I came across some of the remembrances posted by Ned's family and friends. Amongst them were notes from Dekes; **Mason Malmouth**, **Bill Vasaly** S'72, **Wayne Settle** W'71, **Mike Davis** W'72, amongst others. Devoted friend and brother; we lost one of the really good ones!

I am sure others have fond memories of their friendship with Ned. If you would like to share these with the VT-DKE Alumni group we would be glad to post on website and/or publish in our future newsletters. You can even volunteer to write a Page 3 Now and Then column!

On a side note, when we received a note of Ned's passing, one brother, **Buzz Wainman** W'75, recommended that we somehow memorialize Ned's contributions to the fraternity and the DKE House (actually a good idea Buzz). In a somewhat ironic twist of fate, we are once again undertaking the complete demolition and reconstruction of the DKE House kitchen. Work is under way and in true Ned Heller fashion, the work is being undertaken mostly by alumni and brothers, and we hope to have it functional by the start of school. We are earmarking all contributions to the 2015 DKE Annual Giving Fund associated with this newsletter to support the "Ned Heller Memorial Kitchen" project and will look to have a dedication ceremony in Ned's name later in the Fall.

### **Active Chapter Report**

Evan Miller '15, Chapter President

At this point in summer I can imagine all the actives are itching to get back to Blacksburg. A busy spring led to a much needed summer break for some of us. Others are still keeping the party alive in Blacksburg for the summer whether it is working summer jobs and/or taking classes.

This past Spring was quite busy. A weekend formals trip to Myrtle Beach was a success and hopefully paved the way for many more trips there. The 2nd Annual Spring Game Parents Weekend was a total washout due to rain, but the actives, alumni, and parents alike filled the house to watch the game. Food, drinks, and great times were had by all, so make sure to come back next year.

This Spring we also participated in the largest collegiate Relay for Life along with ADPi's Preppy Olympics, thus furthering our involvement in campus. We welcomed 10 new brothers of the Spring '15 pledge class. Unfortunately we also had to say our goodbyes to our graduating friends. The Sigma Alpha Chapter had six graduates this past spring: Cory Caulfield, Charlie Cubberly, Rob Hahn, Joey Scanlon, Mark Lenzi, and Brendan Murphy. These fine gentlemen now have the honor of being a part of the Sigma Alpha Alumni Association. After initiating 10 new brothers and saying our goodbyes to six, the Sigma Alpha Chapter looks to start the Fall of 2015 with around 40 active brothers!

For most of the Actives, the summer has been spent relaxing on vacation, or working hard at their summer jobs or internships. For **Kyle Blevins** '16, **Mark Lenzi** '15, **Garrett Godshall** '17, and **Tyler Seguine** '17, and other brother living in town, their summer has been filled with hard work at the DKE House. The DKE House Kitchen's Renovation is well underway in hopes to be ready by fall! Kyle, Mark, and Tyler have been instrumental in

undertaking the seemingly never-ending and tireless efforts to update our dilapidated kitchen. **Dan Johnson** '77 and **Wes Johnson** '12 have put in numerous trips to Blacksburg to say the least to help carry out the renovation work and we have seen a lot of progress so far. If you are inclined to help out in any way, feel free to contact us. We surely would appreciate any help (construction, donated supplies/appliances, etc) as we strive to get the job done.

Recently, the Sigma Alpha Dekes have become more and more involved in DKE International. Dan Johnson now serves on DKE International's Board of Directors. Graduating senior Charlie Cubberly '15 accepted a job as a chapter consultant. Outgoing chapter president, Will Adams '16 also accepted a position as a DKE International intern this summer. Will and Charlie's residence at the headquarters in Ann Arbor, Michigan, continues to establish the Sigma Alpha Chapter's presence internationally. In August, DKE International will be holding its Second Leadership Summit in Austin, Texas. The Sigma Alpha Chapter is proud to have five delegates accepted to represent our chapter at the Summit. We believe that your Sigma Alpha Chapter has had the most delegates accepted over any other chapter.

This upcoming school year is quickly approaching and the actives are already planning ahead. Fall Recruitment is a vital part of success as a chapter and we are already starting early. The Dekes plan to be back at school early to volunteer for Virginia Tech's Hokie Helpers. The actives will help move in freshmen as a service to our Virginia Tech Community and also use it to help get to know potential freshmen Rushes. If you happen to know of any incoming freshmen gentlemen, scholars, and jolly good fellows, please send them our way. Or, feel free to reach out to our Rush Chairman, Will Adams (willa4@vt.edu), and suggest the names of incoming freshmen you know.

Fall Rush, football games, tailgates, parties, socials and philanthropies and more will soon fill up everyone's schedule. So, feel free to come back to Blacksburg and join in on the fun. It is always a pleasure seeing old faces and meeting new ones.

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

Evan Miller

#### Treasurer's Report

Mike Beam, Alumni Treasurer (Winter '85)

I would like to thank all who have responded and contributed to our 2015 DKE Annual Giving Fund. So far this year, we have received \$15,030 from 52 brothers and families in cash donations, allowing us to execute our third investment note from RLF-SA Fund. Our board financial committee has once again agreed to issue this AAA rated promissory note to the RLF-SA Fund as we continue to borrow from ourselves.

With this investment loan, we: reduced our equity line demand loan debt from \$60K to \$36K; are funding kitchen remodeling for the DKE house and other improvements; and are maintaining funding/plans for the upcoming tailgate season. Meanwhile, the cost of maintaining our 100-yr old DKE House remains a cash sucking machine (no change here!). We once again expect another full house of active brothers this fall, which will allow us to continue to cover the basics (mortgage, insurance, taxes, etc).

I am stepping down as Treasurer this year and would like to at least have some money in the till so the next guy has some extra cash to play with. Your donations support the major maintenance and capital improvements (and the DKE Tailgate Club), as well as support for the Actives (including scholarships!). If you haven't noticed, the active brotherhood continues to thrive. I encourage you to come out to the house this Fall, it has never looked better, and see how your donations are being put to use. Take a minute to fill out the little blue card and throw in a check (remember, no donation is too small, or too BIG). You can also donate on-line via our vtdke.com website (please be sure to select **Sigma Alpha Fund** for Type of Donation). Your support is what makes it happen ..... Viva la DKE!

FFTHF, Mike



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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