

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



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

March 28, 2021

## **Alumni Association/Chapter Update**

*Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (S'74)*

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

All right we got a lot of news to pass on so on with it. First of all, we hope this arrives to you within a week or so of mailing, as the USPS took 9 weeks to deliver our December 10 newsletter for anyone outside of the Richmond Postal Zone. Our editorial staff is well aware of the trauma caused by *delayed-deke-news-itis* which can have symptoms very similar to Covid. There is no known vaccine, but measured amounts of bourbon and beer have been successfully tested to improve conditions in several Deke-sanctioned medical trials (and of course approved by the CDC). Meanwhile this Covid pandemic thing continues to wreak havoc and cause a few hiccups to our best laid plans. Just this week, after exhaustive deliberations, we made the decision to postpone the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VT-DKE Reunion from July to later in the Fall. A tough decision, even for your high-priced VT-DKE Alumni Board, but we felt that: too many restrictions would still be in place; not everyone would be vaccinated or feel comfortable to attend by July; and, frankly just too many uncertainties for the Reunion Committee to navigate around and be ready for July. But we are still on for 2021! As our Plan B, we have selected the November 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> weekend as the reunion date. This of course depends on Hokie football season coming off as planned, without game schedule shifting (Nov 5<sup>th</sup> is currently scheduled as an away game against BC on a Friday night) that would throw plan B out the window. Also, our crackerjack staff still needs to secure an appropriate venue for the November event because the ballroom space of the Inn at VT is currently unavailable that weekend (and alternative home football game weekends would mean hotel rooms are essentially unavailable and cost prohibitive). Stay tuned, as we remain confident that we will be able to piece together something.

In the meantime, VT just announced that this year's Spring Game has been cancelled; so with that, goes the annual DKE Open House and BBQ for Parents/Alumni this year. Virginia, local and University restrictions have limited gatherings at the DKE House to as low as 10 persons for most of the past year; which is pretty hard to hold a party when 8 people live in the DKE House. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the limit is being moved from 10 up to 50, but all that does is provide capacity for chapter meetings and small social gatherings. Speaking of the DKE House, we are planning on the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Habitat for Inhumanity the June 25-27 weekend to undertake maintenance and upgrades to keep the DKE House in shape to hopefully survive yet another year of DKE occupancy. Last year we had a reduced Covid restricted affair, with minimal staffing for social distancing protocols. Do expect a bigger turnout and expect that many of our regular 'journeymen' craftsmen will be vaccinated, and ready to roll. We will endeavor to get another newsletter out in advance of the event.

We are all counting on the vaccines to be readily available to everyone by summer; and with that, college and fraternity life will go back to normal come Fall. That's right; the sun coming up every day in the East and setting in the West; winning Hokie football; and DKE Tailgates. In a bit of sad news to pass on, Brother **Willy White** '61 passed early in the year due to ALS. I had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Willy over the past 10 years and particularly enjoyed his infamous "Willy's scrambled eggs" every year. The chapter saw reduced active membership during the pandemic and effective recruitment of new members has also been dampened. An innovative reduced dues program has kept many members at least partially engaged with near 50 dues-paying members; and currently the chapter has seven pledges for the semester. New Chapter President, Ray Martini, S'19 pens his first chapter report later on.



Now onto some other VT-DKE Alumni Association business. This is our bi-annual election year and we are taking nominations for the DKE Board of Directors. Remember you can nominate anyone you want and failure to respond means that you could be nominated. Elections will happen in the Fall for the next 2-year term. If you want to volunteer, just add a note to the enclosed card. It's pretty easy, as you can even make up your own position! We have provided a complete list in our Page 3 column of our 155 individual donors who contributed over \$37K in support and in-kind services to the Fraternity in 2020. We thank you for your support. And speaking of support, VT announced at the beginning of the year, the 2021 Giving Day for February. With only short notice we mobilized our VT-DKE digital marketing team, and **Jeff Rose** F'08 was our official VT Giving Day ambassador. And boy did Dekes respond. Dekes *en masse* supported the 3rd Annual VT Giving Day with an incredulous 140 DKE alumni and active brothers donating in advance of, and during (130 of 140) the actual 24-hour VT Giving Day period that also earmarked their donations to DKE. We are still getting the final numbers from VT one month later, but a smashing success. We literally dominated this process with over 70% of all donations earmarked to fraternities and sororities going to Dekes. Close to 20% of our known VT-Dekes contributed in a single day! Now I have some extracted some 'selected' quotes from **Charlie Phlegar** S'75, VP of Advancement for VT (who is VT's grand poohbah for all stuff like this) during the course of the event. First, just after the first 8 hours I received the following note from Charlie; "*Dekes are crushing it. 88 donors for over \$15K. Next highest fraternity/sorority at 6 gifts. Let's push over 100 gifts. Great job!*" and then something to effect "*once Dekes hits 100 donors I will donate my entire 20/21 annual bonus, as once again we strive to make the VT Giving Day as successful as the alumni support of the VT-Dekes*". Now I can go on and on with a bunch of other Charlie's quotes, but you get the picture. And these stats only represent the level of giving to VT that was earmarked to DKE. This number is dwarfed by our VT-DKE alumni members' support of VT athletics and other university endeavors. But needless to say, the Giving Day was a highly visible and public showing of your support for VT and Dekes! In short, Dekes literally kicked ass!

AND, we have expanded our VT-DKE donor appreciation/recognition program for 2021. Beyond the personal acknowledgments; beyond the recognition gifts; beyond the Premium Pass table at DKE Tailgates; and beyond all that other stuff you get; the VT-DKE Alumni Assn has purchased a pair of 50-yd line tickets for the VT Football games this season; that we will randomly allot game by game to 7 lucky donors. Any person with a donation of \$50 or more, made before August 15, 2021 will be eligible to win. Tough to beat that! Of course, you got to donate to win, and *for your convenience* we have included our customary donor card and our pre-addressed return envelope.

We would hope that you take the time to complete the back of the enclosed information card. Obviously if you got this newsletter we have you on the 'official' DKE mailing list, but if you didn't receive emails about the Giving Day and previous DKE Tailgates email notices, that means we need your updated email address. We actually received online donations from a couple of alumni who weren't on our mailing list. This is likely the first newsletter they have received in years, and you can only imagine the angst they must have felt; missing out on our critically-acclaimed, award-winning, DKE Newsletters. We don't want others to undergo the same stress. As part of that, we have updated our Missing Records under the Alumni tab on our vtdke.com website and hope that you can take the time to look at and see if you recognize some of your brothers that could be suffering from near fatal *no-deke-news-itis* symptoms. We are also looking for: initial indications of attendance for the 80<sup>th</sup> VT-DKE Anniversary Reunion planned for November; nominations for the DKE Board; Page 3 columnists; and even any news that you like to share about yourself or others! You can even do all this stuff online at vtdke.com and save a stamp.

In even more DKE House news, I am sad to report that the DKE Hokie Bird that has graced the front of the DKE House for the past 5 years had his tail feathers defrocked by vandals last month. That's about 4 years and 51 weeks longer than I expected but still shocking. Unfortunately the event was not captured by our security cameras. We have posted a generous \$18.44 reward for the safe return of the plumage. No questions asked. In the meantime, we got one naked-assed Hokie Bird mooning all the traffic on East Roanoke Street. Look forward to see everyone back in Blacksburg, and the rebirth of DKE Tailgates. Keep your plans open to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of VT-DKE chapter this Fall. We will make it happen. Stay safe and Go Hokies! FFTHF, Dan Johnson '77



## Page 3 – A Special Thanks to our 2020 Donors

Below is the official list of our 2020 donors from A to Z. We thank you all kindly. Don't see your name on the list? That means one of two things; either we screwed up; or somehow you mistakenly forgot to donate last year. Hmm

Rick Abraham	Floyd Adams	Mike Aliff	Leif Allison	Dick Anderson
Robbie Andrews	Jack Baker	Jerry Ballengee	Martin Bannon	Rob Barrie
Josh Baylor	Tim Belliveau	John Belluci	Barry Bishop	Russell Blackwell
Kyle Blevins	Roger Bolick	Josh Bolcar	Theta Bowden	Jeff Bowman
Alec Bradley	Chuck Bradley	Jack Branche	John Burgess	Jose Cabore
Dave Calhoun	Greg Carneal	Kyle Carskadden	Mason Carter	Richard Christian
Jong Chung	David Church	Thomas Clark	Christina Cochrane	Hunter Cochrane
Alex Coley	John Collins	Matt Corban	John Crawford	Steve Cronemeyer
Jack Cullen	Ryan Cusick	Joe Czul	Jim Day	Matt deJager
Spencer Desorchers	Ralph DiGiovanni	Bob Dreelin	Bill Driskill	Zach Dubose
Ralph English	Carter Frazier	Aaron Gatreau	RJ Giarusso	Mark Giebel
Steve Gillespie	Gabe Giudice	Ian Greear	Ed Greene	Andrew Gregory
Ian Gruver	Rob Hahn	Alessandro Harris	Caleb Hash	Dave Haskins
Marshall Hayden	Mickey Hayes	Evan Hellmig	Ethan Hess	Ed Hickman
Will Hillhouse	John Hinkle	John Hoffman	David Holliday	Inki Hong
Jack Hutcheson	Julian Iarussi	Daniel Johnson	Tyler Johnson	Wesley Johnson
Pat King	Chris Koehler	Weston Lahr	Jack Langford	Andrew Lee
Keith Loehlein	Ray Martini	Billy Mason	Dave Mason	Hank Mattox
Sean McMahon	Steve McNair	Nick Merkle	Mike Miller	Josh Monahan
Scott Moore	Dave Myers	Mason Ning	Ajay Nischal	Kevin O'Meara
JT Otwell	Betty Overbey	Ed Owens	B Passan	Scott Pennington
Nick Pezzuti	Cliff Phillips	Kenneth Poore	Doug Prundl	Kyle Prundl
RLF-SA Fund	Tyler Raney	Tom Rash	Kyle Reardon	Paul Rinaldi
Dagner Rivero	Ben Robison	Jeff Rose	Jake Sabol	Sirio Sanna
Ferdinando Sansone	Conor Schaeur	Charles Schwartz	Wayne Settle	George Sisson
Jack Snediker	Bob Snyder	Matt Spazkowski	Jason Spooner	Bob Sullivan
Bryan Tucker	Troy Turner	Scott Van Voorhees	Harold Wainman	Josh Waller
Pete Waller	Jacob Weaver	Zach Weaver	Charlie Webb	Willy White
Blake Wickham	Scott Wilcox	Tom Wilkinson '74	Tom Wilkinson '81	Stephen Williamson
Drew Wine	Marshall Wineholt	Peyton Winfree	Sands Woody	J. Michael Wright
Stephen Yee	Michael Zanetti	Sean Zechman	Dave Zentmyer	Andrew Zych

## Active Chapter Report -

*Ray Martini F'19 - Chapter President*

Brothers,

Hello to all. I hail from New Jersey and study Mechanical Engineering here at Virginia Tech (and from home). I am spending a great deal of my time at home with family this semester. And sadly, just this past week, my mother lost her battle to cancer and passed away. I was just a year ago that the DKE Chapter held a "Brothers for a Cure" fund raising program selling T-shirts and raised \$700 for a charity of Mom's choosing. At that time her prospects were good. I am grateful for the support of my DKE Brothers in these tough times. For everyone, it has been a long 12 months of Covid restrictions which have hampered all aspects of college and fraternity life in Blacksburg. However, I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and foresee a path back to normal at VT by the Fall. Our active membership is at 50 brothers and we have 7 pledges starting out this semester. We're always looking for new membership candidates; so if you have any references please email me at [rmartini831@gmail.com](mailto:rmartini831@gmail.com). FFTHF, Ray



# Alumni Treasury Report -

Wesley Johnson F'08

The 2021 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund is moving along with a record participation level (number of donors) at this stage in the year and we look forward to topping our 2019 record. 149 individuals have contributed over \$27K to this year's fund as of March 25, 2021. Our Alumni Assn operating account currently has \$30k cash balance but we are still pending the Giving Day remittances of over \$15k. The SAP Housing account has \$38k cash balance thanks to a "Covid relief" payment of \$20k transferred from the Alumni Assn in 2020. Our RLF account holds roughly \$170k of assets including \$159k of those AAA-rated DKE promissory notes and some \$20k in cash which is used to fund scholarships to the DKE chapter and members. Our goals for 2021 are: support the DKE chapter; support capital and maintenance projects at the DKE House; sponsor VT-DKE alumni activities - the 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion in November and return of DKE tailgates; and maybe even pay down debt. Please show your support with a tax-deductible donation to the 2021 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund and get recognized from VT also. Thanks!

FFTHF, Wesley Johnson

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