

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



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

March 7, 2019

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (S'74)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Lots of news to report for our Q1-2019 newsletter. Most impressive, is we are actually getting a Q1 newsletter out the door! The is always a challenge for our editorial staff, as negotiations over pay and working conditions with management seems to inevitably cause a 'work-to-rules' slowdown with militant newsroom staff. Nonetheless, we have bribed the staff with promises of expanded benefits and a 'new green deal' which is not to be confused with the Green New Deal, but rather having something to do with beer coloring and Saint Patrick's Day later this month. So on to the news. We are glad to have a Page 3 column back for this addition as **John Burgess** W'72 recounts a cross country trip in 1974 to attend the DKE Convention in Vancouver BC with three fellow Dekes. This year, DKE Fraternity celebrates its 175th anniversary since being founded on June 22, 1844 at Yale. There is a gala celebration planned for June 22nd weekend in NYC at the DKE Club (Yale Club) are a series of regional events at several major cities around the US throughout the year (including Washington DC on April 29th). For more details about attending the NYC or and of the regional events, go to dke.org to register and buy tickets. That is it for our plug of DKE International events. Now to the real VT-DKE news.

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And of course, the Board in involved with the soliciting of donations, so as to provide funds for House upkeep and alumni social activities. In that light, we are looking to have VT-DKE Giving Day on March 20 as part of the VT Giving Day. As part of the Chapter's philanthropy efforts for this year, the brothers have committed to have each member make a donation of \$25 to the VT Foundation (earmarked to DKE of course). The VT-DKE Alumni Association has also committed to match the chapter's donations with a grant back to the chapter for use by the chapter for house furnishings. We do want as many alumni to participate this year. Look for email newsblasts closer to the event, and of course VT will send you emails and reminders out of the kazoo. Remember any donation to the VT Foundation Annual Fund can be earmarked to DKE, and we *plum-dum guarantee* that the money will be put to good use! (besides, do you any idea what a keg of beer costs nowadays?)

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FFTHF, Dan Johnson '77

Active Chapter Report -

Jack Langford F'17 Chapter President

Brothers, Parents and Friends,

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Page 3 Column – Tales of 1974 Road Trip

John Burgess W'71

It was the summer of 1974 and four brothers (**John Burgess, Bob Dreelin, Tom Wilkinson, and Billy Rohrer**) set out for the Wild West adventure of their lives. The DKE National Convention was in Vancouver, Canada that year and we were about to embark on a 7000 mile road trip. Since my Z-28 was a too small for four guys, I talked a high school friend into trading cars for the trip. She had an old straight 6 Plymouth that was much better suited for the four of us. As spacious as the Plymouth was it needed a little modifying to accommodate our camping gear and luggage. I built a large wooden box to put on the roof and a rack for the trunk. We loaded up our gear, several cases of beer, a case of beans and several large jars of peanut butter and left Roanoke Street for our adventure.

The first stop, after 22 straight hours of driving, was the DKE chapter at Tulane U. After a day sailing on the Gulf with our Tulane brothers, we were off to the Alamo in Texas and then on to New Mexico. We saw the bats in Carlsbad Caverns and then we were on to Albuquerque. By then, we had been camping for over a week, in a small tent, which was testing our bond of brotherhood. Paul McCartney's Wings was playing for about the one hundredth time (just one of our selections in our box of 8-track tapes), and generally we had run out of things to talk about. The good news was we had finished the case of beans!

The Grand Canyon was even more magnificent than we could have imagined but even better, we stayed in a hotel room where we didn't have to wear our shoes to take a shower. Since we all were in pretty good shape we decided to hike down to the bottom of the canyon. There were multiple signs about dehydration and how much water each person should carry, which we thought was just for the "old folks". It didn't seem to be a problem going down; we made it in about two hours. Going back up was quite a different story. There were a few places to get water along the way, and we had to dig cups out of the trash to get a drink. Our group had separated quite a bit with the last one of us (who shall remain nameless) making it to the top about 10 hours after we started our climb up. Needless to say his last few hours of walking were under the stars. We thought about going back to look for him but decided to grab another beer instead and figured the hyenas would find him in any case. Next were Zion and the Grand Titans where we were having fun floating down the river until we saw the signs for the 20 foot high flash floods warnings!

Las Vegas meant cheap rooms that were just marginally better than the camp sites and a Burgess/Dreelin failsafe plan to beat the casinos. Of course the plan worked like magic and we won \$200,000 and bought a new van for the rest of the trip. (*editor's note: this boast is from same guy who traded a Z-28 Camaro for a Plymouth with a roof top box!*). We never did find "Peaches" who was advertised all over the billboards in town. We drank our way through California so it was a blur! Everyone told us to look for the wild nude California beaches, but we never found one until we got to Vancouver and there was one right across the street from our Hotel!! The drive up the west coast was amazing, even in a big ass Plymouth!! (*debunks the van theory*). We met some great Dekes, in Canada, at the Convention, did some more sailing, a little hell raising, and yes we even went to the sessions during the day; well maybe not all of the 8:00am ones. We hit it off especially well with the Canadian Dekes, who took us to a fishing camp in the Canadian mountains. They liked the idea of our trip so much they came to visit us the next spring at VA Tech. There were many other stories, and a few other sordid details, I don't have space to tell or shouldn't mention but let's say it was a great adventure.

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FFTHF, John Burgess



Alumni Treasury Report -

Wesley Johnson F'08

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At year end, our RLF-SA Fund account had \$179K of which \$168K is represented by those AAA rated SAP LLC promissory notes. The SAP account has \$30K in cash and along with debt of the RLF-SA notes also has \$200K debt remaining on the principal mortgage loan. The Alumni Assn account has \$14K in cash and represent the alumni controlled banking associated with the chapter entity. We are looking to undertake further renovations of the DKE House this summer and could use your support! FFTHF, Wesley Johnson

Mr. Christopher G. Gulla
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