

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



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

May 21, 2018

Alumni Association/Chapter Update

Dan Johnson, Alumni Board Chairman (S'74)

Dear Fellow DKE/DKS Brothers, Parents and Friends:

Welcome to our belated Spring 18 Newsletter issue. Our crack editorial staff has been holding off on this issue due to never-ending 'breaking news' cycle coming out of Blacksburg. First would like to welcome back our Page 3 Now and Then column, well sorta. **Andrew Lee** was queued up to write the column (and hopefully still will for the next issue) but has instead included a special column about his two year tenure as the official VT-DKE Chapter Advisor. Andrew volunteered to take on the role in the summer of 2016 as the Chapter had finished its 5-year suspension sentence of losing recognition by VT. Under his stewardship, Andrew in just two short years has seen Dekes grow to a record size..... and managed to have Dekes get slapped with a new 10-year suspension sentence. Lots more on that below and in Andrew's column but we are going to move on to the positive stuff first.

The chapter has continued its meteoric upward growth projectile with a record 21 new members initiated this past semester. With 18 new members from the Fall semester and 21 this semester that equals 39 new members for the year. All kinds of records have broken and re-broken including the two largest pledge classes in SA Deke history. Dekes will finish the semester with just under 70 members and is expected to return in the Fall with a membership level of over 60 brothers. The larger size of the fraternity brings with it a financial stability to the chapter operations and of course an expanded social budget! Likewise the larger membership put strains on the chapter leadership and management practices. Included with this latest group of 21 members are believed to include the first VT-DKE, (**Spencer Desrochers**), who hails from Maine; and for sure the first VT-DKE, (**Jose Cabore**), ever to come from Burkina Faso. Welcome to the DKE family to all the new brothers, and by extension their families and friends. The chapter hosted its 7th Annual Parents/Alumni BBQ on April 14 and some 120 Dekes, Parents, family members, friends, and guests returned to the DKE House. A DKE Family photo is proudly displayed on our vtdke.com website.

In news of 'Dekes Done Good', Brother **Dave Calhoun '79**, whose professional career accolades are too numerous to mention, just happened to make a \$20M donation to Virginia Tech a few months ago. Dave was in Blacksburg for the announcement of his gift back in March and along with VT's VP for Advancement **Charlie Phlegar '78** stopped by the DKE House the night prior to big gift announcement to meet the brotherhood and tour the place. A quick search of the vt.edu website will find numerous articles about Dave and his generous gift. For the last types we have reproduced a VT article announcing the gift and of course Dave's affiliation with Delta Kappa Epsilon on the vtdke.com website.

On the same day of the Calhoun gift announcement with the first ever VT Giving Day, a 24-hour, giving program set up by VT. Brother **Jeff Rose**, signed up as a Hokie Giving Day ambassador to channel support for the VT Giving Day (with a goal of earmarking those donations to DKE). Sixteen alumni donations (that were earmarked to DKE) totaling just over \$3000 were received by VT on the Giving Day. Many of the DKE gifts were matched but after the fact we found out that the matching gift portion did not flow through to VT. We do hope to get better organized for next year, but nonetheless a successful start and we assume (outright claim) to have the highest participation of any organization that participate. And for a fact (fully substantiated by both our legal and accounting departments), DKE's clearly have the highest participation level and the highest average contribution level of any alumni/organization giving to VT (both earmarked to DKE and Hokie Club, and other VT area donations) in the VT



2017-2018 fiscal year. Nearly double (35.6%) of the overall VT average in participation levels and 50-fold higher average donation in excess of \$100,000/DKE donor! Do the math, (and thank Dave Calhoun)!

In more exciting news, DKE brother **Mickey Hayes** has organized a 60's (and pre-60's) Dekes mini-reunion for this summer scheduled for the July 20-22 weekend in Blacksburg. If you were a member of DKE at any time during or prior to 1969 you should have received several informative mailings by now. Incredibly, close to 50 of our elder statesmen Dekes (and a few other unstatesmanlike Dekes) have already responded and are making plans to attend. If for any reason you have not received an invitation please contact Mickey. And for those who are thinking about not coming there is still time to ditch any lame reason/excuses for not attending and change your mind. With the incredible responses to the first DKE mini-reunion, we are making plans (plans as in it worked this time let's do again) to hold "decade DKE mini reunions" in between our all years inclusive celebratory 5-year reunion intervals. So next summer it will be the 70's! If you are a 70's DKE and want to volunteer and help organize this event please indicate so on the enclosed return mailing card.

More on Mickey Hayes. Mickey has become the 4th VT-DKE alumni to reach the heralded DKE Scholarship Tier of cumulative giving to the fraternity. His support over the years includes providing out Lot4 Tailgate spot; donating in-kind landscaping services; hosting a chapter meeting each semester at his house each semester; organizing the first DKE mini-reunion and generously providing his time as well as his continued mentorship to several DKE students each year. Also he general lends out his basement as the DKE Tailgate Club storage facility each year. In recognition, the VT-DKE Alumni Association has instituted in Mickey's name the "Mickey Hayes VTAF Scholarship" consisting of a paid Hokie Club membership for each graduating senior. The first recipients of the scholarship include this year's graduating seniors: **Kevin Ulrey; Taylor Blake; Austin Raney; Andrew DeBiase; Peter Schmitz; Abdullah Faizan; Lars Pearson; Brett Krier; Ryan Chitwood; Christian Daly; Garrett Godshall; and Cameron Longmire**. Congratulations to the DKE May 2018 VT graduates! A picture of the scholarship presentation can be seen on the vtdke.com website.

Speaking of scholarships Brothers **Blake Wickham, Nick Merkle, Alex Coley, Eric Hoffman, Tyler Raney, and Ian Greear** have been awarded "Dan Johnson Leadership Scholarships" consisting of the VT-DKE Alumni Association providing paid registration fees to attend the DKE Convention to be held in Pittsburgh at the beginning of June. A great opportunity for our Sigma Alpha DKE Chapter to meet Dekes from other chapters and hopefully pick up a few ideas (and trade some lessons learned) from other chapters spanning North America.

We are also 'planning' the aspects of our 8th Annual 'Habitat for Inhumanity' event this summer. This is scheduled for the weekend of July 13-15 in Blacksburg. This is where alumni, students, parents converge on Blacksburg to undertake what is always needed upkeep, repair and replace project to keep the level of construction outpacing the level of destruction of our beloved DKE House. Last year we had 15 or so alumni and brothers participate to undertake a variety of projects that included the reconstruction the DKE House front porch corner that had been missing for a mere 40 years. Our work was so appreciated by the Town of Blacksburg, that they gave us a citation for our hard work the very next day after we finished! [Note: DKE did file an after-the-fact building permit application in November of last year and have not heard back from the town. At this point we are assuming that the work is 100% legitimate and Town has chosen to 'let bygones be bygones' on the issue.] This year we have solid commitments from over 10 alumni already and our goals are to; repair/replace all damaged interior doors; install new attic level door for HVAC access; repair and re-roof the garage; install a new exterior door at the carport along with a list of other sorely needed tasks. Of course we always 'plan' twice as much as we actually get done. Always good to mix power tools and beer together, but over course of past 8 years we have yet to kill a single participant! If you want to join in please email me, send back a note on the enclosed reply card, or just show up! All skill levels are needed (along with pickup trucks, tools and ladders) and wanted! The DKE House could use your help.

The other week I received a phone call from **Bob Dreelin** and **Bob Snyder** the self-proclaimed, legendary duo 'The Handsome Bobs' whilst on their "sailing adventure in the treacherous pirate-infested high seas of Antigua, carrying



the DKE mystique around the globe seeking adventure, rum, treasure and booty". I mention this, because these two Boobs (editor's note: not a misprint, as we checked our old college chemistry book and on page 187 when discussing chemical compounds it clearly states 'when you mix two Handsome Bobs together you end up with a pair of boobs') were both gushing over the handwritten notes, custom VT-DKE mugs and decals they both received in the mail from the VT-DKE Alumni Association last month. Pray tell, what are these rum-soaked Bobs talking about, you ask. Ask no more. Your VT-DKE Alumni Assn is giving out these benefactor mugs and decals for FREE to everyone who makes a donation to the 2018 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund. These custom designed mugs and decals are limited edition and limited supplies so are likely to appreciate in value over time. Also while using a basic design that would generally be used for coffee/tea, your DKE Alumni design team specifications and secret manufacturing process has allowed for use as a 'multi-purpose' mug, good for use with other beverages also! Yes this multi-purpose design feature means you can safely use these mugs for beer, mixed drinks, and even wine! These rare collector items are NOT sold in stores anywhere. In fact, the only way you get one is through your VT-DKE alumni association. Just fill out the enclosed card and mail back in the provided blue return envelope to get your DKE Benefactor special edition, collector item, and multi-purpose mug.

A few closing editorial comments on the chapters recent issue and now once again suspended status at Virginia Tech. You can read the details in Andrew's column below. DKE is a social fraternity; but greater care is needed in these times of zero-tolerance policies by VT. The chapter can and must do better in continuously improving and enforcing the risk management practices that are already in place. Further diligence is needed by members to protect against uncontrolled access by underage student and excessive drinking. Already as a result of recent 'lessons learned' the DKE Chapter instituted a no hard liquor policy at any DKE House party or present in the common areas of the DKE House.

On an upbeat note, the fraternity is larger than ever before, and base for this growth was established by the chapter leaders over the past years when most the growth FFTHF, Dan Johnson '77

Active Chapter Report -

Alec Bradley F'16 Chapter President

Brothers, As the 2017-2018 school year comes to an end, we look back on what an incredible year the active chapter has had. At the start of last fall, we had 37 active brothers. After the successful initiation of 21 new brothers this Spring we end the year with 68 active brothers. Thank you to everyone who came out to the Annual Alumni/Parents weekend. We hope you all had a great time, and we can't wait to see you all here again next year. A big shout out to each of the 12 Graduating Seniors. We wish you the best of luck in everything you do after graduation. Thank you all for everything you guys have done for this fraternity to help it not only survive but thrive.

As some of you may be aware the chapter has been in a battle with Virginia Tech since the middle of December over alleged allegations against our chapter and the interrogation tactics Student Conduct employed against us. On Tuesday March 20th, we lost recognition from Virginia Tech until Fall 2028, a 10-year suspension. We appealed the decision based on the grounds of it being an unfairly harsh punishment. However, we just recently received the news that our appeal has been denied, and the loss of recognition is now in effect meaning that the organization cannot use university facilities, and we are no longer a member of the IFC (along with six other fraternities at the moment). A couple of big house improvement projects were completed this semester. During the Clemson game last fall, the house was broken into and BC Moose was torn down off the wall. BC has now been repaired and placed back up. He now looks 10 years younger! The 'big bench' that was started in the backyard last spring is officially done and painted. With the alumni support managed by **Mickey Hayes** the entire back yard was regraded and replanted. The grass has steadily been growing from the pile of mud and tire ruts it was after winter finally ended. We are looking forward to having a group of brother return during for planning sessions for the upcoming year and to assist in the Habitat for Inhumanity weekend will be July 13th-15th. FFTHF, **Alec Bradley, F '16**



Special Page 3 (now 4) Column

Andrew Lee W' 87 Chapter Advisor

For those who do not know me, I am **Andrew Lee**, I pledged in Winter of 1987 and I live in Blacksburg with my family, since 2002. I am the Alumni Advisor for our DKE Chapter here at VT. I wanted to take some time to share a little bit of recent history and update you all on the status of the chapter, as of today. In May of 2016, I reached out to **Charlie Webb** and I asked him how I could get more involved in DKE since my 3 kids were getting older and I was starting to have more time to help. He suggested I reach out to **Dan Johnson**, who I had never met, and volunteer to help with the upcoming 75th Reunion. I figured I'd stuff a few envelopes and be good. Dan had other thoughts, he has an insidious way of suggesting things in such a way it is hard to say no to him, especially once I began to understand how much he has done for us over the years and how much he continues to do for us now, simply put, it is hard to say no.

So, over the course of 2 months, based on little suggestions from Dan, I designed glass wear, I designed plastic DKE logo cups and I designed ID badges for the event. I bought tons of supplies. I ordered all of this and I stuffed 150 gift bags for our Brothers who were to attend the event. My toughest task was that I ordered a commemorative gavel to present to **Theta Bowden**, which I had to protect the entire night of the event from **Karl Hess**, W '88. He wanted to do filthy things to the gavel before we presented it to Theta for some sick reason. In a short time, my offer to help organize the 75th for a few hours quickly evolved into days and weeks of effort including a supreme effort on the night of the event to protect Theta's ceremonial gavel from Karl's pants. You are welcome Theta. Imagine the worst for your beautiful ceremonial gavel and go a lot worse as you gaze upon it. Thank me when you see me.

Anyway, it was great, but then Dan started suggesting I get more involved, and before I knew it was happening I was the new local resident DKE Alumni Advisor and I had some made up ceremonial title I cannot recall placing me on the Alumni Board (I think, but I still do not know if I am). This coincided with the time that the active Brothers had just ended a 5-year suspension from the University. They had just voted to begin the recognition process with the University and they were fully recognized as of Fall of 2016. In hindsight, this was a big mistake. The Fall of 2016 and early 2017 was fine. The guys had drafted a pretty solid risk management document (in hindsight, not robust enough), and they were staying out of trouble. In May of 2017 Student Conduct reached out to us. They were investigating report of alcohol being made available to underage drinkers at the House from a young woman who had gotten into a fist fight with another young woman in the basement of the DKE House in the Spring of 2017. This did happen; we just could not confirm she drank there.

In May of 2017, I attended a hearing at Student Conduct with our current chapter president and our current chapter risk manager. In short, they pled guilty to not having enough controls in place to monitor this risk effectively. The chapter was found guilty of supplying alcohol to underage people that Spring and they were given a deferred suspension for the next 12 months along with a list of steps they needed to complete before things could return to normal. Starting in the Fall of 2017, the chapter had to undergo some alcohol education seminars. They were also required to complete something called Progressive Social Privileges. This loosely meant that they had to host various social functions starting after bid acceptance in late September, alternating some with alcohol and some without. They were required to register each event with the university and discuss each event after it occurred. The problems began when the student conduct officer assigned the DKE quit in early October. The chapter was unable to effectively register these events or discuss them. Time went by and in December, the chapter received a letter that an underaged student claimed that she had been served alcohol in the basement of the DKE house in early November. On the date she cited, the entire chapter was at a pledge retreat and the house was empty, which is how they responded. The University then changed their date and said the student must have meant the preceding night. They deferred the hearing date for this alleged incident since the Chapter's assigned Student Conduct officer had quit earlier in October. They were told that this complicated the situation.

In mid-January, 2018, the University received an anonymous letter. In part the DKE's at VT were discussed in this anonymous letter. In the letter were the most heinous and horrible allegations I have ever read directed against the



DKE's at VT, or anyone I personally knew really, except for maybe **Karl Hess** (Just kidding Karl). So, how did Student Conduct handle this anonymous letter? Student Conduct sent an email to 25 active members of DKE at 10am on January 30, 2018, and required the 25 of them to attend an investigative meeting in the Student Conduct offices at 530pm the same day, 7 hours' notice. The email demand gave no indication as to why 25 of our members were being summoned. During the meeting that day, Student Conduct threatened our Brothers with expulsion, scholarship revocation and suspension, among other things, if they were not 100% truthful. No DKE was told why they were there. They were terrified. They were then separated and they were interrogated individually. After several hours they were sent home. The next day I received an email from the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life **implying** that DKE was not responsible for the heinous acts in the anonymous letter, but that it seems that during the investigation several other items came up which they were concerned with, but no specifics were given to me.

In March the current President **Alec Bradley**, the current Risk Manager, **Josh Baker** and the managing Director of DKE International, Doug Lanpher, sat down with Student conduct and a 4-hour hearing proceeded. The University had combined charges from the November alleged underage drinking charge with other charges they crafted from the insidious investigation described above. In late March, I sat down with student conduct, our current president and our current risk manager, to hear the verdict. They found us responsible for the November underage drinking charge. From the anonymous letter investigation, they found us responsible for hazing (specifically giving 1 beer to each new pledge on bid night). They also found us responsible for Interference with the Student Conduct Process during the anonymous letter investigation. They somehow thought that the students who were dragged in on 7 hours' notice and told nothing about why they were being dragged in in some way coached each other up on what to say.

In short, they told us then that we were to be not recognized by the University for 10 years, suspension, until we could re-apply, in 2028. **Jim Daniel** helped us craft an amazing appeal in which he tore their student conduct process to pieces and correctly so. While we were under appeal, the IFC President made an appeal to DKE International in writing to revoke our charter. **Doug Lanpher** at DKE International politely told him to shove it. Then a few weeks later, the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life sent another note to Doug at DKE International with an accompanying note from a VT Student living on Roanoke Street making unfounded complaints against DKE, and asking him to reconsider his decision not to revoke our charter. Doug let me reply to that one. In a 6-page manifesto, I told him and his boss, to shove it, not so politely, and why. Shortly thereafter, our request for an appeal was denied.

As a final step in this long process, **Mickey Hayes**, **Charlie Phlegar** and **Pete Schmitz** (current active who went through the interrogation process) are meeting with the head of student conduct at Virginia Tech on June 8. Our goal here is to get a formal letter from Virginia Tech absolving DKE of all things contained within that horrible anonymous letter and to try and persuade Virginia Tech to change their investigation practices. Had one of my children gone through what these young men did in that interrogation, I would have been outraged. We are no longer making any attempt to alter the outcome of our case.

Moving forward we feel extremely confident in the future of our fraternity. We've just initiated the largest pledge class ever and we have over 60 actives coming back in the fall. As an Alumni Board we will propose that if DKE at VT ever wants to seek recognition from VT again in 2028, they will do so as an alcohol-free fraternity, and we know that will never happen! That is our fail-safe as an Alumni Organization to ensure future actives do not make the same mistake we did in 2016 when we last sought recognition. There are numerous mainstream fraternities at VT currently suspended and I think that is becoming the norm rather than the exception. If you see **Dan Johnson**, **Jim Daniel**, **Charlie Phlegar**, **Mickey Hayes** and **Chuck Bradley**, buy those guys many beers. These guys fought hard for DKE and they never gave up. We are lucky to have them. FFTHF, Andrew F. Lee, W '87

PS Theta, on second thought, you should probably never touch that gavel again, I was pretty drunk at the 75th and I couldn't control Karl the whole time.



Alumni Treasury Report -

Wesley Johnson F'08

I am happy to report that currently we have positive balances in both bank accounts and have not bounced a check in recent memory. Thanks to your all's generous support we actually have a working capital liquidity cushion in our alumni accounts to deal with costs that arise in managing a 100+ year old property. For example, we were able to pay out over \$10,000 in repairs and expenses as a result of the frozen pipes and resulting damages that happened in early January without tapping equity loans. We just received the reimbursement from our insurance provider (less the \$2500 deductible of course). We now have segregated banks accounts to deal with Sigma Alpha Properties LLC which handles all aspects as the Housing Corporation pertaining to rents and upkeep for the DKE House; and the new VT-DKE account which handles all alumni and social costs for running the alumni organization. As always, your support is greatly appreciated and I hope that you will consider making a donation to the 2018 VT-DKE Annual Giving Fund. FFTHF, Wesley Johnson

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