

Lion Trophy Application

2014-2015



Sigma Alpha – *Virginia Tech*



To our Brothers: The Judges and Staff of Delta Kappa Epsilon,

Three years ago, the Sigma Alpha Chapter made its first application for the Lion's Trophy. Since then, there have been a few fumbles, yet clear and deliberate growth and improvement of the Chapter. In the time since our last application our chapter's focus has been to change and mold ourselves into the more progressive Greek culture we face at Virginia Tech.

In the years prior to 2011, the Sigma Alpha Chapter failed to meet the new standards and expectations of Virginia Tech's IFC and additionally continued to fracture our relationships with campus through our unruly behavior. In the spring of 2011, we received the heavy hit of a five year ban from the Virginia Tech campus. The following year sparked a firestorm of change throughout the Sigma Alpha Chapter which ended in the Chapter's first application for the Lion's Trophy.

Three years later, the Sigma Alpha Dekes once again find comfort and pride in applying for the Lion's Trophy. Two preceding years of Chapter improvements gave us a fresh slate, a driven and determined brotherhood, and ultimately an incredible set of circumstances to allow us to perform at the highest level yet.

In the Bonds,

Sigma Alpha

Delta Kappa Epsilon

Virginia Polytechnic and State University



Introduction

Sigma Alpha History

The Sigma Alpha Chapter roots date back to 1941, when the Delta Kappa Sigma fraternity was founded at Virginia Tech by 4 students. This makes the DKS-DKE fraternity, the oldest continually operating fraternity at Virginia Tech with a rich and proud history. Delta Kappa Sigma (known as “DEEKS”) petitioned and became a DKE chapter on April 22, 1971. The fraternity was also the first fraternity at Virginia Tech to purchase a house. In 1967 the DKS members acquired the property at 302 East Roanoke Street which remains the DKE House to this day. This house is located in the historic district of Blacksburg. The DKE house is 100 years old and also represents the longest continuously used fraternity property in the Virginia Tech area. DKS/DKE was a founding member of the IFC at Virginia Tech. Likewise, we have an alumni group with over 700 living alumni, and our alumni organization is actively involved with the chapter. Our best days are still ahead of us.



Chapter Operations

Alumni Relations

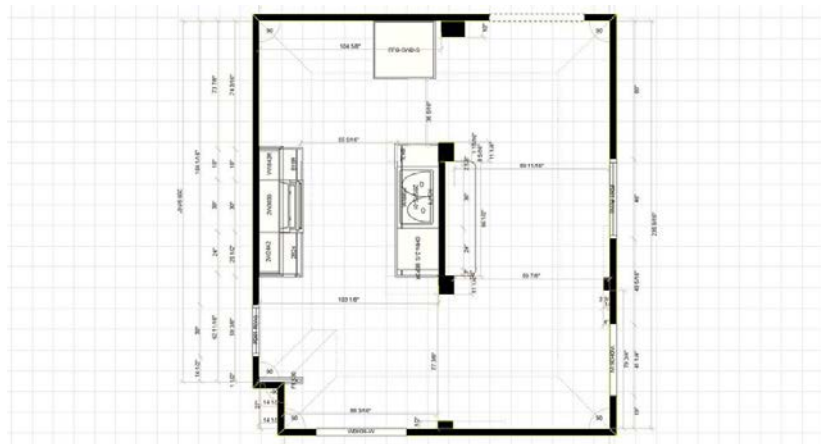
The fall of 2014 kicked off with the premier alumni events, the beloved football tailgates held within earshot of the Virginia Tech football stadium. Tailgates have grown exponentially over the past years especially due to the prime parking spot that is donated to the Chapter by alumni Mickey Hayes '64. In 2014, **the alumni association invested in a large 20'x40' tent** in which the Chapter now takes responsibility for and sets up for tailgates. The added tent space also allows us to have a **guest sign-in booth** which now keeps track of all brothers, alumni, parents, and guests at the tailgates. We have recorded **several hundred different alumni and guests attended at least one tailgate this year**. Food provided by the alumni and tailgate themes such as our "South Beach" for our game against Miami provide a spectacular time for alumni and brothers. The purchase of a **gas generator** will aid in the future lighting of night game tailgates and save the Chapter the rental cost endured this past season. The purchase of the generator and the new tent came from efforts from existing DKE Tailgate Club run by our alumni. The new sign-in booth and donation box is now directly able to help fund the DKE Tailgate Club and lead to the further growth of the tailgates. Whether or not the Virginia Tech Hokies are having a good season, the DKE tailgates are always something to look forward to for brothers and alumni alike.

The majority of Virginia Tech's alumni basis revolves around our Hokie Football Team. With that in mind, the Chapter continued its **second annual Parents and Alumni Weekend** coinciding with the Virginia Tech Spring Football Game. Poor weather greatly affected the turn out to the game, but not to the DKE House. Dozens of parents and multiple alumni crammed into the house to avoid the cold and rain to watch the game on the new 55" TV. Food and Drinks were enjoyed by all and it has proven to be an excellent time for Brothers to introduce their families to DKE and to show off their new house projects and additions.

In the fall of 2013, local DKS alumni Mickey Hayes made his first guest appearance during a weekly chapter meeting to provide inspiring words of perseverance and to share his beloved experience as a DEEK. This past fall, Mickey Hayes and **over 50 other active Delta Kappa Sigma alumni were presented pins and scrolls** and officially initiated into DKE. This initiation ceremony

took place on a football gameday weekend at Mickey Hayes' home in Blacksburg. The ceremony was attended in mass by the active chapter, and was a fantastic outreach for the "Old DEEKS" who have always been considered Dekes by us. The active chapter has been able to keep in regular contact with Mickey and have been able to hold a chapter meeting at his house once a semester. Food and drinks courtesy of Mickey made the two meetings quite the event. Mickey Hayes' esteemed standing in the Virginia Tech community and his interesting stories make it a valuable experience for the brotherhood. In addition, we think Mickey really enjoys seeing our progress and success as a growing Chapter.

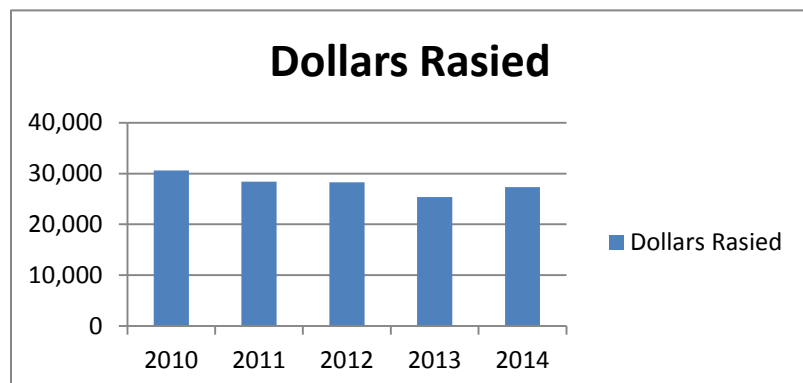
Our Sigma Alpha alumni also continue to take pride in the DKE House. The yearly "Habitat for Inhumanity" alumni work weekend was a success last summer. The installation of a new hot water heater and updates to the first floor bathroom were accomplished by alumni volunteers. This summer's "Habitat for Inhumanity" is scheduled for June 6th and 7th. The focus will be on aiding the current renovation of the house's kitchen. Currently, the DKE House **kitchen is undergoing a major renovation** because of the support of our alumni. New tile, light fixtures, appliances, countertops and a more functional layout will help bring our kitchen into the current century.



The Plans of our New Kitchen Renovation

The Chapter's Executive Board keeps in regular contact with the Alumni Board via **monthly or bi-monthly conference calls**. The active Chapter has continued to write a semester summary for the triannual newsletter that is sent out to over 700 living DKS/DKE alumni. Additionally the newsletter was sent to the parents of the active Chapter, thus continuing the involvement of our own parents. This spring the Chapter made significant steps to fill in the gaps of our alumni database. The Chapter found 123 alumni names missing from our database. The additional names bring our living alumni base up to **790 members**. The Chapter is now taking steps to update the current addresses of the newly found names.

Our 700+ living alumni are quite generous in their gifts back to DKE. We have, what we think, the highest and most consistent level of giving of any fraternity at Tech. This past year we had



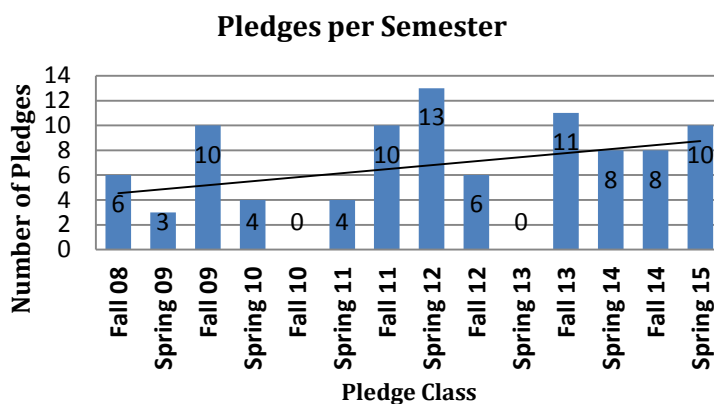
\$26,300 donated to the DKE alumni association. These donations help us maintain and renovate the Chapter House and aid events for the brothers and alumni. This year the alumni instituted a third annual scholarship: **The Peyton**

Winfree '88 Scholarship. The annual scholarship was in the form of a \$500 donation to chapter in support for the Chapter's Movember team. A targeted award will be established after further discussions with the Alumni and Brother Winfree.

Our Sigma Alpha alumni have continued to do us proud. During the Virginia Tech Commencement, Dave Calhoun '79 was presented the **Distinguished Alumni Award**. He was greeted by the 2015 DKE grads with a DKE Cheer upon the announcement and taking stage. We are also pleased to announce that Brother Charlie Phlegar '78 has been appointed **Vice President for Advancement** at Virginia Tech. This is essentially the lead position for overseeing alumni relations, development and university relations. The Chapter looks forward to reaching out to Brother Phlegar as he returns home to Blacksburg this summer.

Recruitment

This year has been another successful year of recruitment for the Sigma Alpha Dekes. Years of ebb and flow recruitment cycles have plagued our Chapter. Some years with a very successful recruitment would almost double the size of the fraternity. Other years would fall very short and bring in fewer brothers



than the number of brothers graduating. The year of 2013-14 was an extremely successful recruitment and brought in 11 new brothers in the fall and 8 new brothers in the spring. This past year we had an equally astounding year and brought in 8 new brothers in the fall and 10 new brothers in the spring. In the fall of 2014 we started with 34 active brothers. In the summer of 2015 we now have **43 active brothers after having 9 brothers graduate** this past year.

Over the past two years, recruitment hasn't started at the beginning of the fall semester. It actually starts a month or two before when the Rush Chairmen send **interest letters** to over 200 randomly selected incoming freshmen. The letters help introduce them to DKE and also help to put them in a mindset which would allow them to even consider joining a fraternity in the first place. The Rush Chairmen, Cameron Longmire '17 and Garrett Godshall '17, created an excellent rush schedule which brought prospective members to the house to fun and entertaining events such as our Monday Night Football Taco Event.



Gentlemen,

Congratulations on your decision to attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. It is a fine University and we hope you will be proud to be a part of the academic community here. There is, however, much more to being a college student than simply attending class and taking examinations. To make your college experience more rewarding and enjoyable, there are many organizations, activities, and worthwhile projects in which you are able to get involved.

One of the most important decisions that you will make as a freshman is whether to join a fraternity. Many current and former students of Virginia Tech have found their fraternity membership to be their most rewarding experience outside the classroom. Fraternity membership provides the opportunity for academic assistance, leadership and organizational development, both planned and informal, social activities, intramural competition, and small group living. Most importantly, all of these experiences result in lifelong friendships that make your college days some of the most exciting and memorable of your life.

The Sigma Alpha chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon is part of a prestigious national fraternity with chapters at leading colleges and universities internationally. Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded in 1844 at Yale University and our chapter here at Virginia Tech was chartered in 1971 and was a founding member of the Virginia Tech Interfraternity Council. If you are interested in being a leader, creating lifelong friends and connections, and joining a fraternity with a rich history, then I urge you give Delta Kappa Epsilon "DKE" some consideration.

DKE offers many opportunities for personal and professional development on the international and local level. Qualifications for membership include being a gentleman, a scholar, and a jolly good fellow. If you feel that you fulfill these things, and are interested in being part of a fraternity, we suggest you consider Delta Kappa Epsilon in your Rush experience.

Being a freshman at Virginia Tech will change your life and you will need to adjust to your new environment. We know from our experience that you and your parents must have many questions about the school and everything it offers a young man, including membership in a fraternity. We would like to make the adjustment to your new life as easy and enjoyable as possible and, for this reason, we are available to answer any questions you may have about Greek life or membership in Delta Kappa Epsilon. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the chapter President or Rush Chairmen.

Sincerely,

Evan Miller
Rush Chairman
(484) 453-7639
Emil289@vt.edu

Joseph Less
President
(703) 209-1505
Jless92@vt.edu

Our Rush Interest Letter

In the fall, 15 bids were handed out and 12 were accepted. Of the 12 bids accepted only 8 ended up finishing the pledge process. In the spring we handed out 10 bids and all ten bids were accepted. All ten pledges made it through the pledge process and became brothers. Of the 18 pledges this past year, many of them were involved in other extracurricular activities aside from DKE. There were multiple Eagle Scouts, multiple Ultimate Frisbee Team Members, an Army ROTC pledge, and several pledges who worked a full or part time job. JT Doran '17 managed to work a full time job at Buffalo Wild Wings, take 15 credits, and still pledge DKE in the fall of 2014.

Our bidding process begins after a two week formal rush period. The last event, **Closed Rush**, is a formal information session which attendance is typically mandatory to receive a bid. During Closed Rush formal questionnaires are filled out by prospective members. After the event the voting process for bids begins. Each prospective member must obtain a **two-thirds vote** to be given a bid

Campus Information

The fraternity and sorority community currently encompasses more than 4,000 students which represents just about **19 percent** of the undergraduate population. DKE was a founding member of the Virginia Tech IFC back in the early 1970's, but due to our suspension from Campus we are no longer able to be a part of the IFC. Currently the IFC is made up of **29 social fraternities**. Due to our lack of affiliation with the IFC we are unable to gather any information pertaining to the performance of other Greek organizations at the school.

New Member Education

The pledge process occurs over **approximately 8.5 weeks**. During the fall semester pledging is over before Thanksgiving Break, and during the spring it ended about three weeks before finals. Pledge class meetings are held weekly directly after the chapter meeting. Their meeting was run by the Pledge Master, Bret Fortin '16. He informs them of events in the coming week and also **discusses and advices on topics** such as their pledge book cover or the pledge party theme. Bret was able to connect with both pledge classes and was able to be seen as their liaison between the pledges and the rest of the brotherhood. The Pledge Master was also the proctor of the **mandatory study hours** that were held twice a week in the library classroom.

The Big/Little Brother program was changed for this year. In the past, the big brother was assigned at the night of bid acceptance. This year, we delayed the reveal of the big brothers. Delaying the reveal created a whole new event of **Big Brother Night** which was a much more memorable and rewarding experience. From week two of pledging onward, the new members have their Big Brothers to rely on and help guide them through the pledge process.



We set out this year to revamp the pledge process. So this year we added a few things. This year, in addition to having the pledges interview each brother, the brother would now teach the pledges something valuable to them. For instance: how to tie a Windsor Knot. Additionally the history section of the Sigma Alpha pledge manual had not been updated since 2005. The history section of the pledge manual contains information ranging from intramural athletic achievements,

chapter house improvements, and any other pertinent history worth teaching to new members. We updated the information in it to the best of our knowledge so that future pledges will see the progress in recent years. In analyzing our current process even further we noticed a crucial piece about DKE was never taught to pledges. **The Objects of DKE** were never taught to pledges until this past year. We quickly made sure that all pledges and current brothers learned and memorized The Objects.

There were three pledge class officers this past year. The first is the **Pledge Class President** who serves as the liaison between the pledge class and the Pledge Master. He is responsible for organizing the pledges to arrive on time for each mandatory pledge event. The **Pledge Class Treasurer** is responsible to recording the purchases of the pledge class and spreading out the cost of required purchases for the pledge class. For example: Johnny buys ten \$10 wooden paddles at the store. The Treasurer would make sure everyone reimburses Johnny for his expense. The **Pledge Class Secretary** is responsible for taking meeting minutes at every pledge meeting and sending them out to the other pledges via email.

This year there was a total of 22 bids accepted and 18 new brothers were initiated. The reasons why there were 4 dropped pledges varied from parental academic pressure, time management, and Greek Life not being a good fit for them.

Every year we continue to say that the pledges will have to complete a pledge project by the end of the pledge process. Every year it tends to be put off and disregarded and eventually forgotten about until it's too late. This spring however we were on top of it. During our semesterly **House Appreciation Day** we had the pledges complete their project. The pledges **repainted the basement ceiling white**. Mold, mildew and other stains marred the white floor joists that supported the first floor. The pledges spent over 5 hours repainting the ceiling and walls white. This made a huge difference to the atmosphere of the basement.

Risk Management

The **Member at Large** is the executive member responsible for our Chapter's Risk Management. Ben Brisley '17 was the Member at Large this past year. He effectively organized brothers to work shifts to help safely manage a party or social event. The Vice President also aids in the Risk Management Process by creating a **"Designated Sober Driver"** list. The list provides the days and number of drivers needed corresponding with DKE events or any day Thursday-Saturday.

The least senior brothers sign up to drive based on what day or event suits them best. A free designated driver supplied by the fraternity has drastically cut down on any drunk driving or drunk walking. Having a “DD” has cut down on the Risk the Chapter takes, but also has spurred the off-campus brotherhood to come to the house more often. We all agree that having one DD shift per semester is an asset and also an incentive to stay active.

Due to the exceptional work of Member at Large, Ben Brisley '17, the Sigma Alpha Dekes have **avoided any citations or violations this year**. This is one of the first years in memory that the Chapter has not had a noise violation of some sorts. During our open parties we have continued to check College Identifications. We no longer allowed anyone in with a backpack that may contain liquor or be used to steal personal property. We also continued to mark underage guests with X's on their hands.

In 2013-2014 President Joey Loss attempted at setting up the Chapter's first Judicial Board system. Ultimately due to wavering support, the Judicial Board failed. This past year President Will Adams **created a new Judicial Board that has proven its function over the past semester**. The new Judicial Board featured a much more active and direct system of trying a case. In our new system, the Judicial Board acts prior to the executive and chapter meeting so that swift action is able to be taken. Additionally it relieves the executive council from wasting their time deliberating on punishments and puts their time to a more productive use.

The Judicial Board was really put to the test at the end of the semester. A newly initiated brother Ryan Grady attended a Chi Omega sorority formal. He ended up getting very drunk at the formal, but continued afterward to an apartment party with his date. Ryan didn't pay much attention to his date because his level of drunkenness. His date, Paige, then started flirting and having other relations with another guy Alex. The night ended when Ryan beat up Alex and then preceded to text Paige an extremely nasty message about her and how she was never welcome at the DKE house again. This situation was very difficult for the board because it involved an act of violence and additionally hurt our reputation with a sorority. What also made this difficult for the Judicial Board is that 3 or the 5 Judicial Board Members were highly biased in the case due to their friendships with either Paige or Alex. The Judicial Board members were replaced with experienced alternates so that a fair judgement was made. The issue of Ryan Grady really divided the brotherhood on the matter. There were people demanding expulsion and others demanding he have a second chance. Due to the severity of this example the entire brotherhood was invited to the trial to make comments. Typically a trial is to be limited at 30 minutes for the sake of sanity, but this was a special

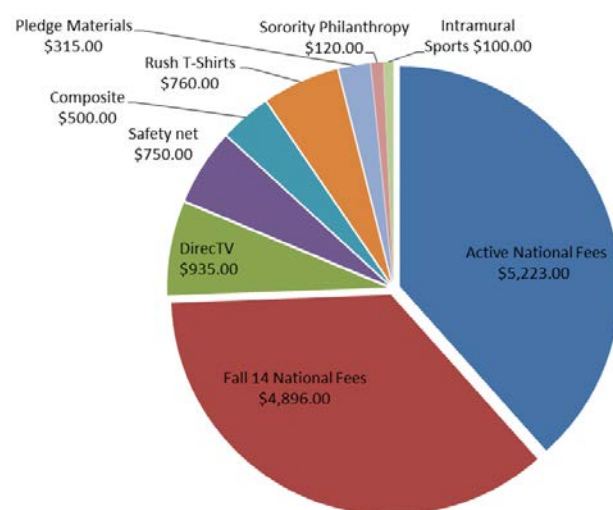
circumstance. After over an hour of witnesses and opinions, the Judicial Board retreated into private to make a decision. The Judicial Board debated for over an hour and then came to a decision. The decision was to suspend Ryan for next semester (Fall '15). This includes all DKE events, parties, rituals, socials, tailgates, etc. Ryan is invited to chapter meeting each week as a non-voting member. This was to allow him to stay in touch with the on goings of the fraternity and to keep him in close contact with the brotherhood. Additionally Ryan will sign up for the VT alcohol class which consists of a few sessions and online surveys. After the fall semester, Ryan will be on a probationary period. He will have full privileges as a brother; however, punishments for certain crimes may be more severe, and any incident of this variety will result in a much harsher penalty. Lastly, Ryan is banned from all Chi Omega events until we see fit. All in all some people thought the punishment was too harsh, others thought it wasn't harsh enough, but **the general consensus was that a fair punishment was given.**

Financial Management

The Sigma Alpha Chapter came into this year with the largest budget in memory. Dues were raised to \$500 per semester to help accommodate for the rise in international risk management and insurance costs. **Our spring budget was \$20,100.** Of that past semester's dues, over 97% has been collected. Our financial status with DKE International is exceptional and we plan to receive the \$1400 refund of our billing fee. The initiation fees of the spring '15 pledge class are in our bank account and are waiting to be withdrawn. DEKEPay is an option for brothers paying their dues.

Only two brothers so far have chosen to pay this way because of the extra percentage fee that goes along with it. The budget to the right shows the anticipated budget for the spring. The numbers drastically varied over the course of the semester.

In addition to our regular budget a summer fundraiser started by Evan Miller '16 gave us **\$2100 of extra** house



Spring '15 Anticipated Budget

improvement funds. This money was spent on house improvement projects and assets. The fundraiser was able to buy the chapter new barstools and bar table, 30 new chapter room chairs, a 55” flat screen TV, a 32” flat screen TV, and new light fixtures for the chapter room. This fundraiser focused on targeting parental donations.

Any donation of \$250 would be remembered by the name of the contributor on a plaque in the chapter room. This year there were over **eight donations over \$250.** The plaque is a new addition to our chapter room and will continue to be filled out for years to come as the **yearly Active Chapter Fundraiser** continues.



The Active Chapter Fundraiser's Gofundme.com Page





Philanthropy and Service

Philanthropy and community service was a strong initiative this past year. The theme, in a sense, this year was to let our positive interactions with nonmembers flourish into something beneficial to us all. We always knew we were great, fun-loving, genuine guys but had always struggled with getting people to see past our outer shell as to who and what we really are. Through personal interactions and philanthropy events this goal was achieved.

Sigma Alpha participated in more other organizations' philanthropies this academic year than the previous three combined. Also, we recorded more service hours this past year than any of the other previous three years. In the 2014-2015 school year Sigma Alpha participated in the Kappa Delta Fall Festival benefitting the Children's Hospital of Richmond, Pi Beta Phi's Dodge the Arrow (Illiteracy), Alpha Delta Pi's Preppy Olympics (Ronald McDonald Foundation), and the Kappa Kappa Gamma Hit the Fleur (again for Illiteracy). Across the board we raised roughly \$400 for these organizations. Mainly however we improved relations with many on-campus organizations, relationships that had been nonexistent. These types of improved organizations relations again led us to host more one-on-one sorority social events than the previous three years.

These past two semesters we restarted a tradition of serving our neighborhood. **The Roanoke Street Cleanup** was participated in full force with over 75% brother participation. Roanoke Street and its neighboring streets are where six fraternities with off campus houses call home along with many other students. This event is in place so Sigma Alpha can produce a positive impact on the community and change our interaction with those directly surrounding us.

Additionally, Sigma Alpha helped out the local New River Valley Shelter for Battered Women. One of these shelters is located directly behind the DKE house, a mere 30 feet. This year we reached out to see if they needed any help with any large scale projects. We set out on a two day, ten hour project giving the property a face lift. Brothers pressure washed and painted the property's white picket fence, as well as trimmed back bushes and overgrowth.

Relay for Life at Virginia Tech is the largest school organized Relay event in the country and DKE remained an avid supporter of the fight against cancer. Two years ago we revamped the Relay for Life campaign and changed our main fundraising tool from a baked goods sell, which only raised a few hundred dollars, to a "Color for Life" event. During the Relay event we set up a booth to sell

tie dye t-shirts. This event raised over \$700 for Relay for Life through the efforts of the entire brotherhood.

Our largest and most proud philanthropic effort was achieved through Movember. In 2013 Sigma Alpha set out to raise at least \$1,000 in our first sole philanthropy. By the end of Movember we gathered \$1201 in donations for Movember and were a top three DKE Chapter contributor. In 2014 we raised the bar and set our goal at \$2,000 in donations for Movember. We shattered that goal through the unrelenting efforts of our brotherhood and Philanthropy Chair Ben Brisley, an emerging leader in the fraternity. Ben brought a new fundraising tactic to add to our arsenal. During the month of November, Ben established four different “profit share nights” with local Blacksburg businesses, one for each week. During the profit sharing night a local restaurant would graciously donate a predetermined percentage of their profits to our Movember cause. Through the hard work of the brotherhood and innovative ideas of Ben, the Sigma Alpha Chapter raised \$2,841 for Movember and can now proudly call themselves the largest donating DKE Chapter. Movember will be a name stay for Sigma Alpha and we look forward to defending our title in 2015.



The Sigma Alpha Chapter took major steps in creating our own Philanthropy this year. Shrimpfest for MS is our Philanthropy scheduled to take place in the fall of 2015. Philanthropy Chair Ben Brisley '17 took major steps in creating and securing this event. Shrimpfest for MS is a shrimp boil and live music festival held at the DKE house. All proceeds of the event will be donated to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This event has been hashed out to the smallest detail. We have already secured donations for over 80% of the food. Shrimpfest for MS will pave the way for the future philanthropies of DKE and strengthen our application back into the IFC in 2016



Scholarship

To begin this section it should be noted that because of Sigma Alpha's lack of affiliation with Virginia Tech currently, member GPAs and fraternity averages are not provided to the chapter. Also, due to the absence of school affiliation we previously had no minimum GPA requirement for members. The school sets a 2.5 minimum GPA for all Greek Life members and allows chapters to set stricter standards if they so choose. We plan to reapply for IFC membership in a year's time, Spring 2016, following the commencement of our five year suspension.

Academic standards were put at an all-time high standard this past year. Previously there was no "minimum GPA requirement" for a brother to be active. There were no incentives or repercussions for excelling or falling below what should be expected. As fraternity men we should hold ourselves to high standards in many aspects of fraternal life, but especially academic excellence. Much of what we set out to accomplish this year focused on the structure, administration, and management of the chapter. One of these focuses dealt with minimum requirements for active member, more of which will be discussed throughout the application. President Will Adams proposed to set a GPA minimum standard of 2.5 per semester in alignment with Virginia Tech's Greek Life requirement, with plans to increase the minimum requirement in the future. Through some hashing of the details it was passed by the general brotherhood.

Through due diligence Evan Miller collected nearly every brothers' Fall 2014 semester GPAs and calculated a fraternity GPA. This task will continued to be handled by the Vice President until the school provides us GPAs. Sigma Alpha's average GPA was a 2.89 for Fall 2014, which we believe to be just below the Virginia Tech undergraduate average and middle of the row for Virginia Tech IFC fraternities. We are in the process of accumulating the spring 2015 semester GPAs. The main reason behind us establishing an average fraternity GPA, beyond comparing to other fraternities, was to create a basis to build off of in the coming semesters. The plan is to show improvement in brothers' GPAs throughout the subsequent three semesters until IFC reapplication by means of incentive and repercussion systems.

If at the end of the semester a brother has below a 2.5 GPA, he will be required to attend study hours with the pledges twice per week for two hours each session. This requirement must be fulfilled for the entirety of the semester until his next semester's GPA is above a 2.5. If the brother can successfully show after midterms that he will have well above the GPA requirement then he can

appeal to the Executive Council for pardon for the remaining of the semester. Any absences from study hours will be handled by the Judicial Board. There is not an academic incentive program beyond chapter scholarships in place currently but there are plans to implement a reduction of dues system for brothers who go above and beyond in the coming semester.

Another main proponent of enacting this requirement now, instead of later, was to build the foundation for recognition now as opposed to next year. The GPA requirement will come in a year's time, so why not institute it sooner rather than later. We have room to make mistakes, learn, and grow now with the school's eye at a distance. We believed it better to take one step back now and potentially two steps forward in the future. Once we're back on campus, a false step could result in five steps back. Laying the groundwork has been our biggest task and goal the past two years and it will continue next year. This requirement will hopefully push brothers to be better than what they are and to what they aspire to be.

There are three scholarships, each \$500, within the fraternity offered to brothers. After an alumni reaches off \$25,000 in donations to the chapter and/or Sigma Alpha Alumni Association a scholarship is created in his name. There is one academic scholarship which is the Dave Calhoun Academic Scholarship awarded to the brother living in the DKE House with the highest fall semester GPA. The scholarship was created to commend brothers who can pursue academic excellence while living in a rambunctious environment like the DKE House. Dave Calhoun, for whom the scholarship is named after, is one of Sigma Alpha's most prominent alumni and gracious donors. This prestigious scholarship was awarded to Mark Lenzi this past year. Mark sported a 3.81 GPA as a senior double major in Chemistry and Biochemistry.



Leadership

Due to the Sigma Alpha Chapter suspension from campus we find ourselves amiss for being able to lead and impact on campus. Although that has not stopped our Chapter or our members from involving ourselves in other groups, clubs, teams, and philanthropy events. Our brothers are involved in the VT Club Lacrosse Team, the VT Rugby Team, VT Ultimate Frisbee Team, the VT Car Club, the Virginia Tech Hybrid Electric Vehicle Team, the Virginia Tech Motorcycle Club, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and many more. Additionally, incoming Brother Beta, Evan Miller '16, was recently elected treasurer of the Virginia Tech ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects). Approximately half of the brotherhood is involved in another organization aside from DKE, and this number keeps expanding. We continually encourage people to expand their horizons past their major and DKE.

The Sigma Alpha Chapter has taken major steps this year to become a leader/partner with International. President Will Adams '16 has accepted the offer to intern for DKE International this summer in Ann Arbor. Charles Cubberly '15 has also accepted the job of chapter consultant. Both brothers will begin their work for International this June. Over the past years we have continually sent representative from the Sigma Alpha Chapter to the International Convention and the Leadership Summit. In 2013, Joey Loss '14, Kyle Blevins '16, and Evan Miller '16 attended the first DKE Leadership Summit. In 2014, Joey Loss '14, Charles Cubberly '15, and Will Adams '16 attended the 2014 Convention at Centre College. This year we have three accepted representative to the 2015 DKE Leadership Summit: Evan Miller '16, Will Adams '16, and Ben Brisley '17. The Sigma Alpha Chapter has additionally shown its leadership Internationally in our outstanding performance in the Movember Philanthropy.

5/28/2015

DKE works to regain university recognition - Collegiate Times : News

DKE works to regain university recognition

Lewis Millholland, news reporter | Posted: Thursday, September 11, 2014 8:46 pm

Three and half years ago, Delta Kappa Epsilon ceased to be a recognized fraternity at Tech. The suspension will be lifted in spring 2016, at which point the university will reevaluate their relationship with the organization.

"DKE lost their recognition in 2011 as a result of actions stemming from several incidents related to alcohol use and risk management," said Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Byron Hughes.

The Greek organization has used the 5-year suspension as an opportunity to redefine itself.



Fraternity remodels their house and image

An Article Posted in the Collegiate Times about DKE

This year was an unusually slow year for visits from other chapters. Although the Rowan Dekes did manage to make their annual stop by the DKE house on the way back from Spring Break. We did manage to make time for a pledge trip to the Rho Beta Chapter in the fall. All in all a busy year with multiple weekend trips caused the cancelation of at least one Chapter visiting us this year.

Administrative practices were fine-tuned and improved this year. Significant improvements included a change in Executive Council position terms, upgraded leadership transition period, created incentive programs, and ample chapter planning with the help of Byron Hughes, the Director of Greek Life at Virginia Tech.

Previously the Brother Beta shouldered most of the work load around the chapter. Whether it was setting up for tailgates or scheduling social events and philanthropies, nothing seemed to happen unless the president did it himself. Handling all the activities of the chapter is an impossible and borderline insanity driving task. Improved delegation of chapter duties and assumption of executive member role responsibilities proved essential in maintaining more fluid chapter management.

The increased responsibility from chapter officers led to the Philanthropy Chair position changing from a presidentially appointed position to an elected nonvoting Executive Council Member. With an increase in philanthropy participation with other organizations and growing magnitude of Movember, it seemed necessary to add the Philanthropy Chair position to the Executive Council. This change will hopefully continue to bring talent to the position and serve as a stepping stone for members who plan to pursue further leadership roles in the fraternity.

A main administrative issue brought to light this year was the serving terms of Executive positions. Previously Executive members served an academic year term from May to May. We were one of the few fraternities with academic year terms at Virginia Tech. Most others held terms for a calendar year. Switching terms from academic year to calendar year, serving December to December, provided many incentives and few, if any, disadvantages. This change allows for a period of a whole spring semester for new leaders to be mentored by past position holders. With previous Executive Council members still close by, new leaders have access to ample guidance, mentorship, and assistance as they take on new responsibilities. The change does provide a transition semester in fall of 2015 as elected members will only serve a one semester term. As a young, emerging fraternity this is seen as a positive as new leaders have a chance to learn and prove themselves for potential reelection for the next term.

This past semester changes to the transition period in which new officials begin to assume their role. Typically one meeting is held with both old and new officials so that new position holders can learn their responsibilities. This year the transitions period was extended to two weeks. During the first meeting previous officials would provide new ones with an overview of their duties. At the subsequent Executive Council meeting the new officials would return with questions and concerns they add. Further, the previous officials would provide explanation as to why he believes the new official will excel in his job and improvements that he should make. This extensive transition period should result in improved Executive Council output.

An incentive program was created this past year to boost participation, attendance, and chapter morale throughout the year. As people respond better to praise rather than punishment we felt it key to reward members for going above and beyond rather than solely punish the ones who don't do what is expected. Simple gifts, such as DKE koozies, were given to members at unsuspecting times to praise them for their hard work. Movember participants gathering over \$100 in donations were awarded a koozie. Other occasions such as first brothers to a house cleanup, arriving to a General Chapter Meeting early, or going above and beyond what is expected deemed necessary times to receive the small reward. This program will hopefully continue to keep brothers on their toes and working hard.

Meeting with the Office of Greek Life Director Byron Hughes was an initiative started by past Brother Beta Joey Loss in 2013. This directive was continued this year as Sigma Alpha continues to build rapport with the Greek Life Office and works back towards on campus recognition in the spring of 2016. Meetings with Byron Hughes detailed various school affiliation constraints concerning philanthropy and recruitment. Mr. Hughes provided the chapter with many tools and "food for thought" regarding recruiting the right men. The main point drawn detailed how to build a fraternity through recruitment rather than just recruit men, as recruitment is the life blood of a fraternity. Sigma Alpha looks to maintain and build on the relationship we have with the school as a disregard for the importance of this relationship ultimately led to our five year suspension.



Four short years ago I couldn't imagine our Chapter's progress would lead us to this point. Now, at this point I cannot imagine what the next four years will bring. I look towards the younger Dekes with jealousy, jealous of the time they have left and jealous of their most certain success. My only redemption is the ability to look back on my four years and see the pride and conviction that myself and others brought to this Chapter and to our Fraternity.

We attest to the truthfulness of this application.

Will Adams

Will Adams
Brother Beta

Evan J. Miller

Evan Miller
Brother Sigma