Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded at Yale University in 1844. The Epsilon Tau Alpha chapter, the first fraternity at the University of Virginia, was established on November 26, 1852. The brothers sponsor an annual Christmas party for underprivileged children, continuing a 25 year tradition.
Yes, the brothers of Delta Kappa Epsilon take part in community service projects, and yes, they are proud of their fraternity brothers involved in student activities and varsity athletics.

However, when alumni returned to Charlottesville in 1977 for DKE's 125th Anniversary Celebration, these things are not what they remembered about the DKE house. They remembered the big party weekends, the rolls to the girls' schools, or simply the times they sat around the porch and drank beer and bourbon in the spring sun.

They remembered locking arms and doing the traditional "DKE march." Most of all, they remembered their fraternity brothers and all the experiences they were able to share together. Ever since the Eta Chapter was founded in 1852 as the first fraternity at the University, this is what the DKE house has represented. DKE is a house steeped in tradition, and the strongest of these traditions are good times and good friends.
Dekes are found throughout the University in nearly every facet of student involvement. This broad base and leadership has long been the hallmark of Deke. Deke also supports a strong alumni program that integrates past with present and reflects the unity and enthusiasm of the brotherhood. Noted for the sawdust, the seventh step, and the march, Deke is rich in tradition, but always novel. 129 years after its founding, Deke is proud to have played a part in University history and proud to have been first.

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON

Eta 1852

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Every fraternity has its unique torture during fall week. For deke pledges living with the house goat, Woody, for a week is especially disgusting.

Two Deke brothers, Clay Beane and John Simpson, relax at the BIE house after a tough day in classes.

Starting off with the most successful rush in the last twenty years, the Eta chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon was the house chosen by 18 rushers, bringing the size of the brotherhood to 58 in 1983. These new pledges added to the proud reputation of diversity that Deke has.

Starting in 1952 as the first house on Grounds, Deke has a long history of community service which includes an annual Christmas party for the underprivileged children in Charlottesville. For this event, a brother dresses up as Santa Claus and distributes gifts to all the children. This is followed by a touch football game with the brothers.

In the last few years, the Deke house has been the recipient of many contributions from proud alumni. This money has been put towards a new floor in the chapter and dining room, a new ceiling in the basement, and new furniture in the chapter room. This helps the brothers when they host one of their many mixers. As one third-year brother so simply stated, "It's great to be a Deke."

— Neal Elkin

A Long History

Delta Kappa Epsilon has a longer history here at the University than any other fraternity. Deke has the distinction of being the first fraternity on Grounds; it was established in 1852 and has been going strong ever since. Each year at Homecomings a large number of alumni brothers return to celebrate this big weekend. Their return is indicative of their loyalty to the house and the good times they had while living there.

The Deke brothers feel that their house is not simply a social organization. They perform several philanthropic deeds for the C'ville community, one of which is an annual Christmas party for underprivileged children in the area. One lucky brother gets the pleasure of dressing as Santa Claus and distributing gifts. Aside from service, Dekes pride themselves on their intramural performance; athletics are a big part of the house. The brothers have also recently decided to join the limited partnership program with the University to renovate their historic house on Carr's Hill Road.

The Deke house is a tight fraternity in that the brothers make a concerted effort to get to know every other brother. In this manner the brothers overcome their diverse backgrounds and interests.

Three good friends, Frank Otenasek, B.K. Downing and Garret Horsely thoroughly enjoy themselves at one of Deke's band parties.

At any Deke party, Frank Bynum and Bill Fart can be found having a great time while drinking their usual beverage.

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1852

Deke
Deke

Delta Kappa Epsilon has a long history at the University, claiming the honor of being the first fraternity on Grounds. Dating back to 1852, the Dekes reside in their newly renovated house on Carr's Hill Road, completed in the fall in conjunction with the University's joint partnership program.

The diverse background of the brothers is demonstrated through the many philanthropic projects in which they are involved. Every December the group gives a Christmas party for underprivileged children from the Charlottesville area. The Brothers are involved with the elderly as well as the youth of the community. A few Dekes play guitar and sing at a local retirement home to entertain the residents.

Not solely involved with community projects, the Dekes enjoy several social functions throughout the year. One major event is their annual roll to Mardi Gras (from which, it is rumored, only about half the brothers return). Each spring, the brothers pitch in for a Las Vegas party and trip to the city. The Dekes are also active IM participants in soccer and basketball.

Through the years Delta Kappa Epsilon has prided itself on the diversity of its activities as well as its members, but basically they're all at DKE for one reason. According to brother Robert Walleborn, "We didn't come here to break any plumbing. We just came here to wreak a little havoc."

— Jennifer Myatt

Chip Fitzgerald and Margaret Jones get 'hitched' at the Las Vegas party.

Socializing at their champagne mixer with Phi Mu, John Morris and Jim Taylor discuss Chris Moore's two-fisted drinking.
Once A Traditional Southern Fraternity . . .

Delta Kappa Epsilon, the oldest fraternity on Grounds, has expanded from a traditional southern fraternity to include several brothers from states above the Mason-Dixon line. Although older alumni remember sipping bourbon on the front porch, the current members enjoy their well-known Thursday night parties. Fourth-year brother Dudley Ware claimed that “this southern tradition is now characterized by a variety of personalities.” Deke President Coley Spink also claimed that “Deke is a unique mixture of scholastic, social, and athletic leaders.

These Dekes remain active within the University community through their annual Christmas party for underprivileged children and a Drug Education Campaign, while placing many brothers on the Inter-Fraternity Council Judicial Board. The fraternity’s most recent activity was the construction of a basketball court and the creation of a memorial fund in memory of David P. Carmack, a 1983 graduate and an outstanding member of the Deke house, tragically killed in an automobile accident last April.

On the social side, Deke kept busy with a semi-formal Christmas party, a Las Vegas party, a country party, a champagne mixer, and Foxfield.

The most outstanding characteristic of Deke is the closeness of the brotherhood. It is a unique group of individuals who pride themselves on possessing one similarity: an eternal bond. This bond has allowed Deke to flourish for 135 years, and it provides the fraternity strength to grow in the future.

—Nisha K. Gupta

It’s not just dinner time as Deke brothers Hagood Tingle and Doug Downing strut around the kitchen with their cook Harry.
Deke’s Tradition of Excellence

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A Band of Brothers founded on November 26th, 1852, the Eta chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon which has the distinction of being the first house on Grounds. Deke takes pride in its tradition of leadership and service to the University community and revels in the society of its Thursday night gatherings. As one Deke stated over twenty years ago, “There are 31 steps to the Deke House...You gotta love it.”

Each year, Deke’s efforts during rush yield high returns. This year, a particularly successful rush gained seventeen pledges for the house out of twenty bids that were given out. President Jim Taylor commented, “Having another strong rush, particularly when it was so competitive, set the tone for the year.”

While Dekes participate in many University activities, they also reach beyond the immediate University community through service projects. These include the Hollins Restoration Fund, Big Brother/Big Sister Fall Olympics, and the Polzer Memorial Christmas Party for underprivileged children. Deke brother David Campbell explained, “This year we have placed additional emphasis on service and have enjoyed working with people outside of the house.”

Dekes participate in intramurals but try not to get all worked up about them. Taylor spoke of Deke’s attitude. “When we make it to the games, we tend to be very competitive in intramural sports.”

Above all, in an era of excessive restraint and burgeoning administrative policy, the house strives to enhance the quality of student life at the University espoused by its founder.

Second-year brother Jim Neale concocts a drink at Deke’s coat-and-tie mixer with Phi Mu, which took place on the last night of rush.

Robert Ainge, Mary Murdock, Michael Leggat, and Kim Knight celebrate the end of both midterms and rush. The Dekes continued the celebration through Bid Night, as 17 out of 20 bids were accepted.

Front Row: Robert Wallenbrock, Tyler Marchaller, Dan Scesner; Second Row: Jim Taylor, Dave Benedict, Steve Utter, Barrett Kellerman, Chris McNeil, Jim Neale, Dave Turner, Mike Playmert, John Morris, Henry Soud; Third Row: Andrew Deowring, Dan Hatcher, John Fitzgerald, David Hopkins, Marc Berkley, Mike Leggat, Dave St. Germain, Phil Pearson, King Tower, Billy Hamilton; Mike Levet, Crippler; Fourth Row: Derek Shilling, Pat O’Hara, Tommy Ervin, Mike Berdysh, Alex Williams, Scott Taylor; Back Row: Russ Berkley, Phil Lavnet, Stewey Levy, George Benjamin, Terry Darby, Kevin Lindstrom, Taylor Cole, Charles Lunsford, Greg Hanes, Mike Shaver, Mike Williams; Not Pictured: Wadell Shields, Chris Eoff, Chris Turani, Patrick Huey, James Ionuz, Alton Bava.
Year of Foundation: 1844
Virginia Chapter: Eta, 1852.
Chapter Activities: Big Sibling program including Fall Olympics, Christmas party for underprivileged children, Red Cross blood drives, Intramural football, soccer, basketball, softball, frisbee, horseshoes, and lacrosse.
Chapter Traditions: Leadership and service to the University.
Favorite Chapter Parties: Thursday night parties, New York party, semiformal Christmas party, Mint Julep mixers, Rude Christmas party, champagne mixer with Phi Mu.
Years' Goal: To establish the first fraternity faculty advising group and intensify an already strong commitment to extracurriculars.
House Distinctions: Oldest fraternity at UVa, 31 steps to the Deke house (good luck), Carr's Hill location.

Front Row: Mark Knebel, T.J. Wallace, Simon Bolivar, Steve Owen; Second Row: Sean Taylor, Charles Lunsford, Marty Kenzie, Robert Angle; Third Row: Bo Yancy, Michael Derdeyn, Alex Milliam, Patrick Doyle, Jim Neale; Fourth Row: Derek Sifton, Tyler Marthaler, Andrew Downing, Pat O'Malley; Fifth Row: Irving M. Johnson, David Staats, Philip Pearson; Sixth Row: King Tower, Dan Snyder, Mike Leggat; Seventh Row: Terry Darling, Dave Trenchen, John Holmer; Back Row: John FizerGerald, John Harper, Matt Derdeyn, Aleco Bravo.

It's just another Wednesday night for DeKE brothers, as they take in their daily dose of Busch beer and ESPN before studying. For other brothers, a Wednesday night is a good time for an exhilarating game of outdoor fight-to-the-finish Lazertag.