Delta Kappa Epsilon is unique from any other house in its sense of history, as we were the first house founded on Grounds."

— George Reynolds

The Eta chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity was founded at U Va in 1852. Since its establishment, ΔKE brothers have been heavily involved in fundraising and service projects. ΔKE's major service activities include sponsoring runners in the annual Billy Hill race, participating in the Madison House Big Brother/Little Brother Olympics, and hosting a Christmas party for underprivileged children.

In addition to fundraising activities, ΔKE hosts many social events. Highlights of this year's social calendar were a Christmas party and Homecoming Weekend events, including a big band party for returning alumni.

If you visit the ΔKE house at Carr's Hill Road, ask about the cryptic 31 steps. The location of the stairs is a secret that has existed since the foundation of the U Va chapter. What exactly happened at these stairs is a secret as well. As ΔKE President George Reynolds commented, "It's a mystery to us!"
Commented fourth-year President Bo Yancey, “ΔKE is the oldest house on Grounds, with a tradition of leadership at the University and a strong and unified brotherhood.”

The Madison House Olympics served as ΔKE’s big fundraiser of the year. With the help of ΚΔ and ΑΦΑ, Delta Kappa Epsilon sponsored games and contests for young children. Some ΔKE brothers also took part in the Madison House Big Sibling program. As well, ΔKE supported IFC fund raisers like the Billy Hill Race and the Lee Mallette Lacrosse tournament. In addition to Madison House, brothers participated on the varsity swim team, the varsity crew team, and the Honor Committee.

ΔKE also worked on improving relations with alumni in an effort to strengthen ties between older and younger Dekes and to raise money. The ΔKE brothers hoped to eventually buy their house back from the Historical Renovation Corporation.

Special events and parties included a country party in the spring, a Christmas formal, Thursday night parties, and Friday morning mixers with KKT.

The John E. Polzer-Patrick Doyle Radiators Gig was another party held by the ΔKE brothers. The party came about after some brothers met members of the band at a restaurant. They convinced the Radiators to play at ΔKE for free the next night and hoped that the tradition would live on.

Creeper, a faithful and loyal friend of the brothers, enjoyed his twenty-seventh year at the fraternity. He had formally been a member of a band by the name of “Creeper and the Videles.” Another loyal friend of the ΔKE house has been Henry Scott, a.k.a. “Hank.” Yancey described the ΔKE house as “a bunch of cool guys who just like to hang out, and who aren’t that uptight.”

--Jan Stubin
No Boys Club

"The Delta Kappa Epsilon environment fosters leathery as well as overachievement," stated fourth-year President Rider Wathen. Being the first fraternity established on Grounds, the Eta chapter of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity had 38 distinguished members who devoted themselves to the commitment of brotherhood. Not only did the brothers of DKE know how to party—they patented the Friday morning mixer and the night-before-classes—began Grain Party—they were also involved in a variety of service projects throughout the community.

This year, Delta Kappa Epsilon brothers donated their time and effort to help rebuild local homes for the Charlottesville chapter of "Christmas in April." DKE also provided service to the community by hosting the Big Sibling Olympics for Madison House. This event enabled big and little siblings opportunities to bond and meet others in the program. Several brothers also drove the ice cream truck that paraded through the Charlottesville streets for eagerly waiting kids standing by the curbsides.

Two men cannot go unmentioned when speaking of the DKE House. Theodore Henderson Claudia Clark Gilbert has been the DKE house man for the past 30 years. He not only cleaned the house and did the dishes, he also provided moral support for all the brothers of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Similar attributes were contributed by the 74-year-old cook/bus driver, Henry Scott. "He not only drove a school bus in the daytime, he also talked trash and filled our bellies with greasy nourishment," said Wathen.

Wathen stressed the friendliness and overall feeling of the brotherhood when he commented, "We’re just a bunch of honest people. We look for just cool guys. DKE is no boys club."

Story—Lianne Wang
Layout—Christy Riddle
1995 Brotherhood

Delta Kappa Epsilon

Front Row: John Patett, Garrick Brown, Brendan Coleman, Brian Wilson, Mark Traplin, Power Range—Jaron and Kimberly
Second Row: Blair Kaplan, Vincent Vareso, Ben Spain, Chip Foster, Spencer Cross
Third Row: Ashley Kinney, Tom Fitzgerald, John Krege, Billy Tippens, Thomas Hansen-Wiley
Fourth Row: Gordon Heights, John Spiegel, Andy Holiday, Ben Dupoy, Spalding Nie, Jay Vere, Rush River Mike Seymour, Tommy Harbin, Matt Rigby, Eric Billy

ΔKE hosted a traditional Nightmare Before Classes grain party at the start of both semesters. ΔKE also enjoyed a morning mixer with KKI complete with chocolate chip pancakes, cheese grits, mixed drinks, champagne, and Bloody Marys.

Q: What is your favorite Rush function and why?
A: "The Brother/Rushee Dinner—our cook preaches the good word and cooks a damn good roast." —the brothers of ΔKE
Although AKE was the first fraternity at U.V.A., brothers had other reasons for pledging. Third year Spalding Nix said that his main reason for pledging was “because Dick Clark was a AKE, I think.” Duke Fox, a second year, said, “They told me all AKE needs, Duke, is ‘U.’”

Delta Kappa Epsilon’s social life included a Grain Party at the beginning of each semester and Morning Mixers with Kappa that started at noon with breakfast. Brothers also enjoyed joking around with each other. A favorite practical joke was “Mark Staples putting John Spain’s matchbox car on cinderblocks,” according to third year John Logan. The most fun Brendan Coleman had with his brothers was “those great Mad Bowl clean-up days.”

Stoking the fire to keep warm, third-year AKE Mark Staples talks to fellow brothers as they lounge in the living room. The ambience and warmth of a fire served as a stress reducer.
Unlike many fraternities, the most important parties the DKE brothers threw every year were to honor two of the men that work for them. DKE threw semi-annual parties to honor the contributions of Theodore Henderson Claudius Clark Gilbert, better known as "Creeper," and Henry "Hank" Scott. From inviting alumni, to booking the bands and arranging the caterers, all the brothers pitched in. In 1994, the brothers threw a party for Creeper, honoring his thirty years of service to the house. Secretary Brendan Coleman observed that "Creeper...has been a constant source of advice, compassion, and just good company for generations of students."

Hank has been DKE's cook for the past sixteen years. Last year, the brothers threw him a bash for his seventy-fifth birthday. According to Brendan Coleman, "We took the opportunity to show him just how grateful we are with a celebration we hope he will not soon forget." The brothers also regarded Hank as their most important philanthropic project. Every year the brothers helped Hank maintain his country home.
Fittingly, the biggest social event of the oldest fraternity chapter on Grounds, Delta Kappa Epsilon, was a celebration of longevity and consistency. That event was the annual spring "Creeper and Henry Party," so-named in honor of the house's cook and housekeeper Theodore Henderson, Claudius Clark Gilbert and Henry "Hank" Scott. 1998 marked Creeper's seventeenth year cooking at Delta Kappa Epsilon, while it was a 35-year anniversary for Henry. "We invited a whole bunch of alumni back, had a band and brought dates," said president Ashley Kinsey. "It's a really good time."

In addition to the Creeper and Henry Party, Delta Kappa Epsilon enjoyed its annual Morning Mixer with Kappa Kappa Gamma. Creeper prepared a large breakfast for the mixer, which kicked off a celebration at noon and lasted throughout the rest of the day. Members of Delta PROVED Kappa Epsilon emphasized their close bond of brotherhood as what ANOTHER made their house unique. "I joined this particular house because SUCCESS you could see how tight all the brothers are when they hang out together," said Kinsey. "The whole house just gets along."

Story by Brian Wilson, Layout by Katie Hefflin
Linking the Greek System

This year, Delta Kappa Epsilon specialized in getting people connected. As their philanthropic activity, Deke published the Greek Directory, which listed the names and phone numbers of all fraternity and sorority members. Proceeds from the sale of the directories benefited Charlottesville’s Mental Health Association. DKE also sponsored a variety of social events. The brothers welcomed students back to school at their annual Grain Party, held the first week of classes. They sponsored Halloween and Christmas parties as well, and took a tubing trip on the James River. In addition, they hosted Superfrat, an event which brought many sororities and fraternities together to see an array of popular bands. Deke held Parents’ Weekend and Alumni Weekend functions to build ties with their families and former brothers. Finally, although the house chose not to participate in fall informal rush, they scheduled many events to integrate their pledges from spring rush into their close-knit brotherhood. The brothers of DKE were also careful to stay connected with their studies. According to president and self-proclaimed dominating intellectual personality Alex Gillette, “it’s great to be in a fraternity that stresses such high academic ideals.”

Story by Allison Fletcher.
