



Sighs of Psi



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PSI CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA ♦ FALL 2011

Psi DKEs to Be Presented 9th Lion Trophy at Homecoming

- *Annual Campaign Launched to Meet Ongoing Needs*
- *New Housemother Welcomed by Chapter*

Last April, I was on a call with someone in Tuscaloosa who laughingly told me that the National Weather Service has issued warnings that conditions strongly favored tornado development. How true that prediction was. The images from that event continue to amaze me. What is more amazing than any of those images, however, is the response of the active members of the DKE house and the UA Greek community at large.

The DKEs have been honored by the University of Alabama, Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and everyone associated with the Psi Chapter for their work. I've heard a number of jokes about the Psi motto *Areten Askomen* but the men of DKE have shown that "we practice virtue."

On top of this, the chapter was awarded the DKE Lion Trophy for the ninth time in its history. As you may know, the Lion Trophy is awarded based on four factors, community service being one. Alabama placed first in community service, third in scholarship, second in chapter improvement, and first in alumni relations.

The tornado relief effort overshadows much of what they've done, but we mustn't lose sight of the gains that have been made in the other areas. Come to the house at Homecoming and help share this honor when DKE International will present the cup and we'll be passing it around for the traditional toast.

This fall, we are excited to launch an annual giving campaign that will raise funds for the house. These funds will be used

for house corporation activities like ongoing house maintenance, scholarship funding, etc. The house is used by over 100 active members, and maintenance is never ending. We have recently refinished the floors and replaced some of the equipment in the kitchen that has worn out from five years of use. Also, a scholarship was established a number of years ago for the actives who live in the house and attain a 3.5 GPA or better. We'd like to formalize this scholarship and establish additional scholarships for Psi DKEs. Lastly, there are a myriad of incidental costs (like this newsletter) that all add up. Please watch for more information on this campaign in the near future.



Psi Chapter's new housemother, Mrs. Diane Black.

Blake Ashbee '01, who has served as the house director since Mrs. Burt's retirement, will be graduating this December. I'm sure the actives will miss Blake around the house, but we have a wonderful new housemother, Diane Cooley Black. Mrs. Black is from Birmingham, graduated from the University of Alabama (Roll Tide), and is a member of Chi Omega Sorority.

After leaving the University, she spent 30 years as a public relations professional, including 10 years as media manager with Children's Health System (now Children's of Alabama). Mrs. Diane has also had several businesses of her own. Her interest in historic preservation has garnered her statewide awards from the Alabama Historical Association and the Governor's Live-in-a-Landmark Council. Diane's daughter, son-in-law, and three granddaughters live in Homewood.

She writes of her new position, "I am very happy to be back at the University and with the greatest bunch of guys on campus! This is a great experience, and I love every minute."

In closing, I invite all DKE alumni and friends to come to Homecoming on October 8. We are planning a number of activities that Dr. Psi will be communicating to all. It is a great time to be at the University and a great time to be a Psi DKE. "Let me hear that Lion roar..."

In the Bonds,
Black Chaffe IV '83
House Corporation President
(469) 951-2031
bchaffe@theocc.com



DKE brothers and volunteers sort donations in the basement of the Chapter House during UA Greek Relief.

DKEs Form and Organize UA Greek Relief for Tornado Victims

Community Service, Scholarship, and Philanthropy Efforts Get Psi Top Honors

The events of April 27, 2011, were the most catastrophic in Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama's history. As a fraternity, we knew that in some way we must help with the relief effort. Members of Psi Chapter founded and organized a new charitable foundation, UA Greek Relief. Through it, we have raised over \$200,000 and provided relief effort for the city, with over 52,000 hot meals for victims and volunteers aiding in the relief effort. Along with the meals, hundreds of thousands of pounds of non-perishable goods were distributed throughout Tuscaloosa and the devastated surrounding areas in the weeks following the tornado.

The meals were cooked fresh, packaged, and delivered to victims, volunteers, police, fire fighters, military, and government workers. With the help of over 400 volunteers a day—all coordinated out of the DKE Chapter House—UA Greek Relief truly made a huge impact on helping in the relief effort for the city of Tuscaloosa.

Psi Chapter was honored to receive the Lion's Trophy Award for being the top DKE chapter in North America this summer. We are eagerly awaiting Homecoming weekend when DKE International will present us the award. It is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of all of our members.

Other philanthropic projects became a huge priority for us last spring. We hosted a Red Carpet party to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and local charity 100x Missions.

Selling tickets to a cookout and silent auction raised over \$2,000 for the charities. Plans are already in the works for a bigger event next year to raise even more money.

After a successful spring and summer recruitment, the fall pledge class is set. With pledge-ship beginning in just a short time, everyone is excited about the new brothers that will be initiated into the fraternity in a few months. Recruitment Chairmen **Trip Casteix '09**, **Cooper Smith '09**, and **Patrick Garstecki '10** did a fantastic job, and everyone continues to talk about the great group of guys that make up this year's pledge class.

On Friday, October 8, Homecoming weekend kicks off with the annual Psi Day Tea. Parents, alumni, and friends are welcome to the house for lunch and festivities. Later that evening, we will have the annual alumni banquet in the front yard. The following day, Psi Chapter will be presented the Lion Trophy from DKE International. Afterward, we will have the alumni Chapter meeting to update members and alumni on current events. If you have not already RSVP'd for the alumni banquet, please e-mail **Lee Pittman '14** at ldpittman@crimson.ua.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming. If you are ever in Tuscaloosa, please feel free to stop by the DKE house and catch up. I would like to thank all of the alumni for their unending support; we would not be where we are today without you.



Brothers grill food for the relief meals in our back courtyard.



Volunteers prepare meals in the DKE house during UA Greek Relief.

To donate to the Greek Relief Fund, please visit www.UAGreekRelief.com.

Recruitment Recommendations

DKE has already begun its recruitment process for the 2012 pledge class. Please plan ahead for our next recruitment and e-mail your recommendations to dkerush@gmail.com. The sooner the recruitment chairmen can begin to contact potential new members, the easier the recruitment process will go. We appreciate your input!

Scholarships Granted to Deserving Members

DKE did its share to raise the all-men's average with its overall GPA last semester. A scholarship fund was set up a few years ago to recognize those underclassmen living in the house who achieved a semester GPA of over 3.5 by awarding them \$250. Congratulations to these young men for their efforts and leadership within the Chapter.

This year's recipients are:

Robert Alexander '14
Stewart Alvis '13
Jonathan Brayman '12
Stephen Clark '14

Levi Cook '13
Patrick Garstecki '14
Forrest Hieronymus '14
Lee Pittman '14

Christian Smith '13
Burney Terry '12
Patrick Terry '14
Paul Wallace '14

WELCOME, FALL PLEDGE CLASS

Glenn Adams
Mobile, Ala.

Billy McAleer
Mobile, Ala.

Adam Block
Miami, Fla.

Matt Moor
Birmingham, Ala.

Haas Byrd
Mobile, Ala.

John Marshall Morrisette
Birmingham, Ala.

Mason Coates
Tallahassee, Fla.

Robert Mullen
Mobile, Ala.

Clayton Coleman
Mobile, Ala.

Riley Olson
Jacksonville, Fla.

Walker Cox
Birmingham, Ala.

Max Owen
Dothan, Ala.

David Crawford
Mobile, Ala.

Patrick Parnell
Mobile, Ala.

Ford Curran
Birmingham, Ala.

Alex Porter
Mobile, Ala.

Mark Dowdall
Dallas, Texas

Wallace Rippy
Mobile, Ala.

Will Fitzpatrick
Mandeville, La.

William Roe
Mobile, Ala.

Sean Godwin
Birmingham, Ala.

Bill Rosato
Malvern, Pa.

Jack Hale
Mobile, Ala.

Drew Smith
Destin, Fla.

Charlie Hartley
Birmingham, Ala.

Forest Thomas
Boulder, Colo.

Ralph Hickman
Chatanooga, Tenn.

John Tubbs
Oxford, Ala.

Sayre Kearley
Mobile, Ala.

Zachary Wessinger
Mobile, Ala.

Ross Kirk
Mandeville, La.

Brent Wheldon
Montgomery, Ala.

Richard Kirkpatrick
Mobile, Ala.

Brian Whitney
Atlanta, Ga.

Andrew Lane
Houston, Texas

Max Woerner
Foley, Ala.

Alex Loper
Atlanta, Ga.

Austin Wofford
Decatur, Ala.

Jack Marshallsea
Raleigh, N.C.

Senior Spotlight: Tom Gray '11



Tom Gray '11 is from Decatur, Alabama, and is studying mechanical engineering at UA. He is DKE's chief of staff on the executive council and one of the hardest working members in the Chapter. Tom also serves on the Interfraternity Council as a justice on the judicial board that oversees the entire fraternity judicial system. Tom currently co-ops for Hunt Refining Company and has plans of one day owning his own engineering firm. He is a model DKE, a gentleman, a scholar, and a jolly-good fellow. His hard work around the Chapter House has helped to bring Delta Kappa Epsilon back to its prominence not only on campus but also across the country.

Pennies for Pop

I visit Louis "Pop" Deshields' grave when I can. Pop has a nice marker—bronze in appearance and adorned with dogwood blooms and other mystical DKE symbols.

Sixty years of service as a houseman for a college fraternity had created an open, accessible personality in Pop. He was quick with a laugh or to share some remembrance of past years. He could be elusive or enigmatic at times and was already old and frail when he announced that it was time for my pledge picture to be taken. We ran his personal errands with him, shopping or taking him to appointments. If he got so much as a sniffle, we ran him to the doctor. Even as actives, we all dreaded the prospect of Louis dying on our watch.

Pop lived in a number of places with "relatives" who were not always looking out for his best interest, so we resolved to establish stable, comfortable living arrangements for him.

Louis Deshields qualified for a government subsidized assisted living facility in downtown Tuscaloosa since he was, technically, indigent and homeless. In order to get him in, we had to replace his birth certificate and social security card. In the process, I discovered his January 5 birthday was a guess. Louis didn't know his exact birth date. He knew his mother but talked more about relatives and other people, and I took from his comments that his childhood was itinerant and difficult. I guess his birthday never came up.

Pop's nomadic existence had created a debris field across a number of neighborhoods of Tuscaloosa, and we spent time



gathering Pop's belongings from the several different places he resided. He owned nothing more than a chifferobe, a trunk, and bags and boxes of things which we moved to the "third stoop" in the old house.

As we tried to sort the stuff out, we discovered empty Chesterfield cigarette packages, match boxes, snuff cans, tin foil pouches, and other small containers filled with pennies, nickels, dimes and several coffee cans full of Indian head nickels. This nest egg eventually amounted to about \$1,000. When told of the newly discovered wealth, Pop's reply was "Oh, dass good." He never mentioned the money again. He didn't care.

We found several of Pop's glass eyes—He kept misplacing them and getting replacements. One had a chip out of it which he told me to keep. He also gave me a pair of brass cufflinks (inscribed with the initials HYH) that some DKE had given him in the forties. I still have the cufflinks but not the glass eye.

(Continued on page 4)

Pennies for Pop

(Continued from page 3)

A month after we moved Pop into Robertson Towers, we were called with a message that Pop had started a fire. We arrived to find the panicked, elderly residents outside, some in wheelchairs. An agitated, confused and frightened Pop was being held in the manager's office accused of burning some chemical in a coffee can which had set off the alarm.

The manager took us to Pop's room with the coffee can in the middle of the floor and everything smelling like rotten eggs. Pop, she said, would have to move out for violating fire safety rules. Somehow, we had the presence of mind to ask the manager to leave us alone with Pop. Once Pop calmed down, he explained that he had been burning sulfur to ward off the "eevah spirits." We explained to him that he couldn't do that in his 8th floor apartment and took away all of his matches and sulfur.

We were able to convince the manager to give him a second chance. Pop stayed at Robertson Towers until we graduated and the next DKEs took over his care. In his last years, the servant ended up being the one served.

I returned to Pop's grave when I was leaving Tuscaloosa early one Sunday with my family. My daughter and wife went to the site with me where we discovered 38 tarnished pennies lined up along the inner edges of the marker on Pop's grave. My daughter asked me why the pennies were there. "That's mystic," I told her.

I did relate how long Pop served the DKE house, and that he was an important part of our history. She asked if I had known Pop well. "Some," I replied, "but not well enough."

In the Bonds,
John A. Nielsen '83
 johnnielsen@hotmail.com

Trip Pittman Utilizes Skills Learned at DKE to Prosper in Career and Political World

Joining Delta Kappa Epsilon was an easy decision for Alabama State Senator **Lee "Trip" Pittman '82**, who was originally from Birmingham and grew up in Crestline. His father, **Jim Pittman '59**, had been a DKE and had a great experience, and it's where Trip made many of his life-long friends.

"I'll never forget coming to the University my senior year of high school with my father. It was Homecoming and Psi Day Tea that weekend, and I got to meet a lot of my dad's friends' sons at the DKE house, such as **Turner Williams '79** and **Russ Noe '80**."

While in school, Trip credits DKE for many skills he learned that he still carries with him today. Among them are: keen memorization skills, the ability to stay in shape, and the ability to adapt to whatever came his way—whatever the weather. Also, he says the DKE house was where he truly learned to persevere as a business man and maintain diligence in the political world.

As for advice he offers to undergraduates, Trip says, "You need to have fun. Make sure you play hard and study hard. And always remember there's no such thing as a free lunch."

"If you love life, do not waste time, for that is what life is made of." And, "With DKE, it's **never over!**"

During his days in the house, Trip stepped up as a leader within the chapter. He was proud to be Dr. Psi in 1979-80 and now shares this common bond with his son, **Lee IV '14**, who is the current Dr. Psi. And serving two years as Capstone Man at the University taught him many great skills, as well. Trip was also in

ROTC while in school and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1983, spending most of his time in the Alabama National Guard, later honorably discharged in 1996.



Trip's dedication to Psi Chapter continues today, as he was a donor during the recent capital campaign to build the new DKE house. "I can't thank the house committee [enough] for all their hard work and outstanding job with the new house."

When he came back to see the new house last fall, he says it was a great experience—the house looked great, he had great interactions with a lot of the actives, and he saw many brothers he hadn't seen in a long time.

Besides spending much of his time in the Alabama State Senate, Trip is also an avid businessman. He founded Pittman Tractor Company in Daphne, Alabama, in 1988, a world-wide dealer in heavy equipment. He has also been a member of the Baldwin County United Board of Directors, Bayside Academy Board of Trustees, Baldwin County Compass Bank Board, Eastern Shore Sertoma Club, Alabama Commission on Higher Education, and is chairman of the Alabama Education Commission.

Trip and his wife, Lynn (a UofA Chi O), have three children: Reynolds, a KKG senior at Alabama; **Lee '14**; and Virginia, a junior at Bayside Academy. Their family lives in Montrose, Alabama. Trip touts that he's been a resident of Baldwin County since age 11—except for his days at the University and time in the military. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, golfing, and watching his youngest daughter play volleyball. You can contact Trip at tripsequip@aol.com.

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Archival Collection Grows Thanks to Alumni Donations

After one year of effort, we continue to grow and develop our Psi Chapter archives, largely through support of generous alumni and aided by the dedicated DKE brethren of the Historical and Archives Committee of DKE International. It is only through such support that we can achieve our goals of preserving Phi's records and rich heritage for generations to come. Don't let your DKE experience fade into oblivion by failing to contribute your artifacts and memories.

Recent additions to our archives since the last *Sighs of Psi* include the following:

- Seven DKE photo albums received this summer from **David Cooper '67**, which were thankfully rescued, along with all the other old DKE records which form the core of our archives, by **Larry Howell '92** prior to the demolition of the old DKE house in 2006.
- The entire Psi community owes an eternal debt of gratitude to Brother Howell for his foresight at that time. His efforts included renting a boom crane and, with his brother, **Hinton Howell '96**, removing the original DKE letters from the front of the old house and having them sandblasted and installed on the new house, where they remain today.
- A 1951 DKE pledge manual, with "coffee stains and all," donated by **Randall Clark '61**.
- A bound volume of DKE *Quarterly*'s from 1895 to 1896 and a 1926 General Catalogue of DKE, donated by **Black Chaffe '83**.
- Several *Sighs of Psi* and other DKE correspondence from the 1970s, from **Sam Adams '79** and **David Brady '80**.
- Original correspondence and documents from the 1981-1982 successful efforts of **Mark "Oscar" Gamble '82** and others to have a historic marker erected in front of the old DKE house, donated by **Lee Hurley '82**.
- Fifty-one DKE *Quarterly*'s from the 1950s-90s, donated by an unidentified alumnus who delivered them to the DKE house on the day of a football game last fall. (The person receiving this donation forgot to note the name of the donor, so I would appreciate the donor contacting me at sfavrot@cox.net so he can be given proper thanks and credit.)
- Historic American Buildings survey of the old DKE house, which contains a wealth of information on the old house, and copies of a number of old and newer DKE photos and documents, from **Larry Howell '92**.
- A Mobile infirmary doctor's scrub shirt "liberated" in 1980 from **Medford Roe '83** by **Lin Moore '82**. Brother Moore's unique and eclectic collection of DKE artifacts thus continues to yield such precious treasures (see spring 2011 *Sighs of Psi*).

David Cooper '67 reports that his DKE pledge class and two others from his time at the University held a reunion at the DKE house this past May. We were able to send these gentlemen the DKE Minute Book from their day to aid in their recollection and enjoyment.

Brother Cooper states, "Our 'pledge class reunion and memorial for lost brothers' went exceptionally well. We also had our own Chapter meeting in the new Chapter room complete with readings from the historic minute

book. Laughter and tears both were enjoyed by 20 60-plus-year-old pledge brothers culminating with the Mystic Circle.

We had lunch in the Deke house and invited SGA President **James Fowler '11** and one of the founders of UA Greek Relief, **Patrick Morris '12** to speak to us. We had a tour of the football athletic facility, led by Coach Mal Moore, and later a dinner at North River Yacht Club with University President Robert Witt speaking to us on how DKEs were the leaders on campus. It was an amazing two days."

We encourage other pledge classes to hold similar events, and we pledge the full support of the History and Archives Committee in helping maximize your experience. Finally, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to all who have assisted our efforts, particularly the members of the committee: **Black Chaffe '83**, **John McNeil '79**, **Larry Howell '92**, and **David Cooper '67**. Thanks also to **Lin Moore '82** for sending local press reports on the Greek Relief efforts and Psi's winning of the Lion's Trophy, and to **Alex Fleming '08** for repeated assistance. Finally, I'd like to thank **Grant Burnyeat**, **Bill Fogle**, and **Doug Lanpher** of DKE International for their ongoing support.

DKE Goes to War: In the next *Sighs of Psi*, we will observe the Sesquicentennial of the War of Northern Aggression by examining the roles of our Psi brethren who answered the call of duty.

Keep those donations coming!

In the bonds,
Semmes Favrot '82
 Alumni Historian
 sfavrot@cox.net
 (504) 491-4511

P.S. Korean War Plaque: Brother Cooper also reports that during his time at the University (1963-1967), there was a plaque dedicated to DKEs who served in the Korean War, which was located adjacent to the fireplace in the DKE house. It had disappeared by the time I arrived there in the late '70s. Does anyone know what happened to it? We sure would like to get it back.

Memories of Being a DKE

Name: _____ Grad Yr: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Favorite DKE memory: _____

Send form to: **T. Semmes Favrot '82** • 1904 Palmer Ave,
 New Orleans, LA 74018 • Or sfavrot@cox.net

Psi Day Tea and Banquet Homecoming October 8

All alumni, family, and friends are encouraged to join us for this annual tradition. Following the Psi Day Tea, the Psi Banquet will be held. This will be an opportunity for the alumni to come engage in conversation and songs of brotherhood in our sacred halls of Psi, and to celebrate our 9th Lion Trophy with a special presentation by DKE International.

We hope you and your families will then join us for game day and all University Homecoming festivities as The Tide takes on Vanderbilt.

Book your rooms early at
Hilton Garden Inn
800 Hollywood Blvd.,
Tuscaloosa
(205) 722-0360



Sighs of Psi

Delta Kappa Epsilon House Corporation

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MYSTIC CIRCLE

Hon. John W. Coleman Sr. '43 entered Mystic Circle June 27, 2010, in Northport, Ala. He grew up in Eutaw, Ala., and was a lawyer and judge for many years in Talladega. His older brother, **Charles Coleman '41**, was also a Deke, as well as his son, **John '72**.

Roberts B. Scott '50 entered Mystic Circle February 1, 2011. He lived in Birmingham, Ala., and is survived by his wife, Lee.

Harry T. Howard III '52 entered Mystic Circle July 11, 2011. He was a resident of Metairie, La.

Marshall Adams '11 entered Mystic Circle August 31, 2010. He was from Pensacola, Fla.

Let Us Hear From You!

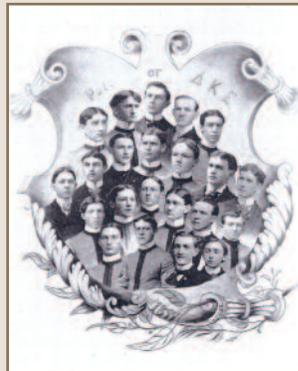
We always enjoy knowing what our alumni are doing in their lives. So how about letting us hear from you so your brothers can catch up on your news? Take a moment to write us and bring us up to date. You don't need a special form; just jot down a few words about yourself and send it to: Delta Kappa Epsilon, House Corporation, P.O. Box 1789, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

Or submit your news at www.uadke.org!

ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending The University of Alabama, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

From the Psi Archives

This photo of Psi Chapter was published in the 1899 *Corolla*. While older group photos of the Chapter exist, this is the earliest known photo in composite format, and it can thus be said to be the first "DKE Composite." Some of you may remember that an original print of this composite once hung in the treasurer's room at the old DKE house, but it has since disappeared. Does anyone know what happened to it? We sure would like to get it back.



Notice the military uniforms on the men in the photo, which result from the fact that the University was a military institution from 1860 to 1903. Problems with student behavior on campus and in town (sound familiar?) became increasingly troublesome in the latter half of the 1850s. Tuscaloosa citizens had come to regard University students as "drunkards, gamblers and ruffians," and on more than one occasion, students and townspeople had fired on each other with pistols. To address these problems and the growing tensions between North and South, the Alabama legislature ordered all students placed under military discipline in 1860. The military uniforms in some old DKE photos have sometimes caused these photos to be mis-identified as photos of DKEs from the Civil War period in Confederate uniforms. However, all uniforms in DKE photos we've seen are from the post-war period, and Psi Chapter was inactive during the Civil War due to the ban on fraternities by the University which began in 1856.

Nevertheless, a number of Psi DKEs fought in the war, and if anyone has any authentic photos of any of them in uniform, we'd like to see those, too. We'll have more on Psi DKEs in the Civil War in the next *Sighs of Psi*.