

# AL MNII



VIRGINIA TECH SPE

Virginia Kappa AVC, PO Box 522, Kensington, MD 20895

February 16, 2015

## **Sig Ep Board of Directors Approves Plan to Recolonize Virginia Kappa**

*By Ed Bishop '74, SigEp District Governor*

(Richmond, Virginia; December 8, 2014) At their end of the year meeting the first weekend in December, the SigEp National Board of Directors approved the Virginia Kappa AVC Re-colonization Committee's Proposal for Recolonization of our Brotherhood. Re-colonization begins as a Virginia Tech Sigma Epsilon Chapter (SEC), with re-chartering of VA Kappa occurring once the SEC has completed SigEp HQ chartering requirements. The Board approved a Fall 2015 Virginia Tech SEC's return to campus. In reviewing / approving the proposal, I was told by a HQ staff member that the Board was "impressed" by the VA Kappa proposal. The Re-colonization Committee's proposal was supported strongly by Virginia Tech's office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, led by Byron Hughes, and is subject to final approval by Virginia Tech and the IFC in the coming spring semester. This is a normal process for any Greek organization to be formally accepted at Virginia Tech. Final approval by the University will be announced as soon as it is obtained.



*The 'Burning Heart'  
of the Virginia Kappa  
Chapter of Sigma Phi  
Epsilon is poised for  
return to the Virginia  
Tech campus*

## Upcoming Events

By Joe Catalano '84, and Steve Herbert '76

Firmly scheduled – **black**                      ‘Opportunities’ - grey.                      ‘OYO’ or ‘TBD’ = ‘on your own’, or ‘not yet planned’

Unless noted as ‘open’, assume that attendance is, for practical reasons, limited by what the host can offer.

*Thanks, Brother Hosts, for stepping up...*

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Register to Attend<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>deadline</u>
<b>Casino Night and ACC Championship: Dinner, Libations, Brotherhood Waterford at Fair Oaks, Fairfax</b>	<b>14 March (Sat) 6:30 – 11:30</b>	<b>Joe Catalano</b>	<a href="#">Click to Register</a> \$70 per person Includes venue, food, Casino. Cash bar.	<b>28 Feb</b>
<b>Spring Game-HH in Roanoke(24th) Tour of New VT Athletics Practice Facility (25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>25 April 2015</b>	<b>Joe Catalano Todd Lewers Steve Herbert</b>	<b>Open Attendance</b>	
<b>NOVA Sig Ep Golf Tournament Sport, Dinner, Libations, Brotherhood Chantilly CC</b>	<b>7 May(Thurs) 1:00 PM – (Shotgun Start) Dinner</b>	<b>Kevin Rearden Joe Catalano</b>	<a href="#">Click to Register</a> \$100 per person Golf + Dinner \$30:00 Dinner only Libations included	<b>23 April</b>
<b>VA Beach Sig Ep Open Sport, Dinner, Libations, Brotherhood Princess Anne CC</b>	<b>13 June 1:10PM (tee) – Dinner (6:00PM)</b>	<b>Chris Swan Rick Fletcher</b>	<a href="#">Click to Register</a> \$135 per person Golf + Dinner \$35:00 Dinner only Cash bar	<b>30 May</b>
<b>Ohio State (Lane)</b>	<b>September 7, 2015</b>	<b>TBD</b>		
<b>Furman (Lane)</b>	<b>September 12, 2015</b>	<b>TBD</b>		

You can also register for events by sending a check payable to:

VA Kappa Sig Ep AVC, C/O Joe Catalano, 6602 Rock Crystal Drive, Clifton, VA 20124.

<sup>1</sup> The blue Registration buttons invoke an ‘Eventbrite’ registrar web link that will dispense tickets and collect fees via credit card or Paypal. A fee is charged by Eventbrite. If an event is cancelled, ticket costs, but not the fees, are refunded.

## Let's Get Started – Robust AVC Programming

By Dave Barrow '77

Concurrent with the SigEp National Board of Directors' and the hoped for approval by VA Tech, of VA Kappa's re-colonization request, the AVC is reorganizing to help VA Kappa succeed with distinction. As you know, the AVC's primary role had been to serve as landlord for '402', while supporting and mentoring the undergraduate chapter in their spare time.....

Rent revenue funded operating expenses (property taxes, insurance, etc.). Funds left over were used for minor repairs, improvements or the occasional alumni event. 'Crisis repairs' were funded more often than not by the generosity of a handful of unsung alumni, supplemented by refinancing activity when there was no 'White Knight' to step forward.

Now that we have established residence on-campus we're planning a more sustainable model for the AVC that will include, serve and contact the broad spectrum of our alumni base. We aim to make the program something we can all be proud of.

Following the successful model of [Tennessee Alpha's AVC](#), we intend that financing Virginia Kappa's AVC will be accomplished by a Volunteer Alumni Dues program. Dues (voluntary contributions) will go into the AVC's general fund, from where they will be used to help under-write AVC sponsored communications, brotherhood events, and operations<sup>2</sup>,

The 2015 budget as approved by Sig Ep HQ is below. Yearly dues are suggested at a \$40 per individual (higher amounts are welcome). 'Soft launch' of this effort has year to date has collected \$900 from 18 dedicated alumni. Our Volunteer and Alumni Liaison chair, Joe Catalano, has set 400 as the initial participation goal for 2015. Joe, Kevin Rearden, Chris Swan and Rick Fletcher are showing us how to 'give back' in the form of a robust calendar of events, preceding this article.

Brothers from the 70's and 80's may remember Doug Carneal challenging us all on Sunday nights "Time to get a mitt and get in the game". Time to channel our 'inner Carneals', and 'get in the game'. Please contribute by clicking the "VAD Dues" button below, to connect with our PayPal account, [or](#) by sending a check made to

**Virginia Kappa AVC, PO Box 522, Kensington, MD 20895**

**VAD Dues**

### AVC 2015 Budget (approved)

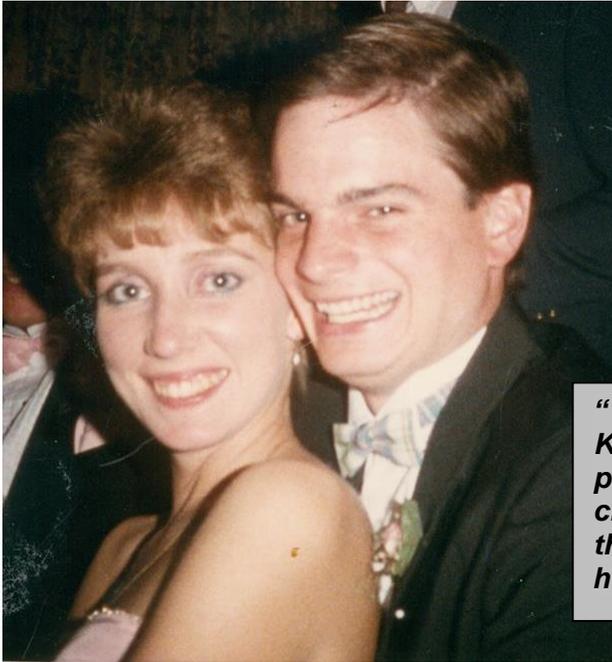
Expenses (AVC Operations)		Accounts (1/1/2015)	
Insurance (Corporate and Property)	\$ 2,500.00	Bank Accounts (AVC Operations)	\$ 3,071.00
Events (Banquet, Games, etc.)	\$ 1,500.00	Current Liabilities (AVC Operations)	\$ -
Training and Conferences	\$ 4,500.00		
Communications (Franking, Website)	\$ 5,150.00		
Replacement Capex (Furnishings / Ritual Equip.)	\$ 500.00		
Total	\$ 14,150.00	Sig Ep Education Foundation Accounts	\$ 23,000.00
Income Total	\$ 16,000.00		
Dues (\$40 x 400 member goal)	\$ 16,000.00		

<sup>2</sup> VAD contributions will not be used to supplement the housing account at Virginia Tech Foundation – as such, dues may not qualify as a charitable donation. The account with VTF remains open for contribution, however (see 'note' below). As always, get tax counsel or Google "Dewey, Cheatham and Howe".

Note: Fulfillments against Pledges within the joint capital campaign with Virginia Tech Foundation reflect an excellent showing of commitment. We will follow up at a later date with more information on capital fundraising. For now we thank the diligent alumni who have kept up with their generous pledges, and also those that have increased their pledges.

## Memoriam – Ed Carson

By Dave Barrow '77



We lost Brother **Ed Carson**, '86 in 2013. Many '80's era brothers were close with Ed and stayed close to him as he battled cancer. We bring you the photo below of Ed and **Tammy Oakes Todd**, '87, (Delta Gamma, Virginia Kappa Goldenheart) furnished courtesy of Tammy and others. Rest in Peace brother Carson.

**“ . . . Ed loved Sig Ep and Va Kappa, especially his Spring '83 pledge brothers. He remained close and devoted to many of them, and they to him, right until he passed away.”**

## Back to the Future

By Joe Catalano '84, - Alumni & Volunteer Liaison

Happy New Year Brothers of VA Kappa!! I hope the year is off to a great start for you and your loved ones. VA Kappa is definitely off to a great start with the news that Sig Ep HQ has accepted our application for re-colonization for the fall semester of 2015. Recently, I was going through some boxes that I have carried around with me since graduation from Virginia Tech and found the attached letter from Brother John Hill, VA Kappa President in 1983. I have read and reread this letter many times with fond memories of this time in my life and that of VA Kappa. And as I thought about that time in the fraternities' life I came to the conclusion that we are passing through a similar time albeit that in 2015 the stakes are much higher. In the early '80's our relationship was not the best with Sig Ep HQ. "We are VA Kappa and we're the best and nobody is going to tell us different or how to run our fraternity." The reality was that we had not won a Buchanan Cup in many years, risk management was becoming the phrase of the day, and we knew we could do better. Our Exec team lead by John Hill wanted to move VA Kappa in that direction and let all of Sig Ep know that VA Kappa is and always will be one of the best. The goal was to win a Buchanan Cup.

We engaged Sig Ep HQ, let them know we wanted to be a Buchanan Cup chapter, learned what was going to be required, and then developed a plan to achieve the goal. To the best of my recollection John Hill, Jeff LeHew, and me (please let me know if I have missed someone) hand delivered our Buchanan Cup application to Sig Ep HQ in Richmond and then waited for the decision. As you see from the letter VA Kappa was successful in achieving our goal. This is very similar to the re-colonization approval process we just completed. Led by Bill Thomas, Todd Lewers, and Ed Bishop - the re-colonization committee engaged Sig Ep HQ, let them know we wanted VA Kappa back on campus, learned the rules of the game, and developed a plan to achieve the goal. A Sigma Epsilon Colony will be a reality fall of 2015! But as Brother Hill's letter points out - winning a Buchanan Cup was only the beginning. And now in 2015 - Sig Ep HQ approval to re-colonize VA Kappa is only the beginning. As alumni brothers will be able to give of our Time, Talent, and Treasure. Two brothers from Sig Ep HQ will be on campus within the next two months to begin the process of organizing our Sigma Epsilon Colony. Brother Herb Sening will be reaching out to all alumni brothers to build a Prospect Referral List. Fund raising efforts are being restarted to meet our commitments to the new house and the AVC budget. Brotherhood events are being organized and scheduled. (see calendar in this newsletter). If you have an idea for a brotherhood event please let me know. There are and will be many opportunities to volunteer, educate yourself, and engage.

The Greek world continues to change and evolve witness Dartmouth College's decision to eliminate pledging all together this past week. I urge you to read and reread Brother Hill's letter and, yes, we can enjoy our recent "achievement". But it will take "all of us" to make VA Kappa the best once again.

## Sigma Phi Epsilon

VIRGINIA KAPPA CHAPTER  
402 Clay Street, S.E.  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

August 17, 1983

Dear Brothers:

Well, the 38th Grand Chapter Conclave of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity is over and I'm proud to announce that Virginia Kappa has been awarded the Buchanan Cup--given, as everyone is aware, to only the most outstanding Sig Ep Chapters in the nation and the most coveted award in the Fraternity. Our recent trip to Chicago once again reaffirmed how fortunate we are to be a part of the greatest national fraternity in the United States, and we should all take great pride in Virginia Kappa's recognition as one of Sigma Phi Epsilon's finest chapters.

Not only was our chapter honored with the Buchanan Cup award, but I was elected to serve the next two years as one of the three student members of the National Board of Directors of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, the governing body of our national fraternity. As I see it, this can only help to foster increased awareness on the national level of Virginia Kappa. With these recent achievements, I hope that everyone will be even more enthusiastic than before to return for another successful year. We have been rewarded for our past successes, but with an ever-increasing competitiveness amongst all fraternities, we must not rest on our laurels but must go out and continue our tradition of unsurpassed excellence. This Fall, that entails such things as:

- Winning the Best Homecoming Float award and getting Robin elected Queen
- Winning the Canned Food Drive
- Winning the Miller Can Drive
- Winning the Intramural Football Championship
- Directing the Card Section
- Having the Best Happy Hours

and much more.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to come back a couple of days early this September to help kick off our best Rush ever by participating in Fall Move-In. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to meet some of the new freshmen and to get some early exposure for Sigma Phi Epsilon. I believe the freshmen will be moving into their dorms on Saturday, 09/17, and Sunday, 09/18, so try to be in Blacksburg by then.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and congratulations on this achievement--it took all of us!

Fraternally yours,

  
John H. Hill, Jr.  
President

JHH:tmh