

Gamma Gossip Fall '09

GAMMA'S UNDERGRADS LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR. MEET SOME OF TODAY'S DEKE BROTHERS.



DEKES IN EUROPE - Three Gamma Dekes had great experiences studying at the prestigious summer program at London School of Economics, and traveling through Europe beforehand. **James Baker** (below, left), **Ian Carow**, and **Clay Prietsch** (below, right) in Prague, described their trip as a once in a lifetime opportunity. James' favorite city? *"It's hard to name one place, but I suppose it was Munich. A nice mix of culture, history, and fun (especially Hofbrauhaus Beer Hall), and we hit it off well with many of the locals."* Ian added, *"Living in London, as opposed to just visiting, allowed us to thoroughly acquaint ourselves with the city... I may want to further my studies there after my time at Vanderbilt."* Clay echoed those sentiments, and concluded, *"As much fun as that trip was, I returned home even more appreciative of all the opportunities that we are presented with as Gamma Dekes."* James (Jacksonville FL), Clay (Alexandria VA) and Ian (Tukeberry NJ) are all juniors at VU this year.



GAMMA DEKE INVOLVED IN DIABETES RESEARCH

Mike Litt, '12, spent the summer at the University of Florida's Immunology and Pathological Sciences Lab, involved in Type One Diabetes research. Mike wrote up a summary of his work for the Gossip: *"The experience acted as a conduit to my growing interests in biology and medicine and allowed me to obtain invaluable understanding of the state of diabetes research and the burgeoning field of medical science in general. I learned that medical science has a way of providing a roller coaster of emotions where one day's problems and frustrations give way to tomorrow's excitement and curiosity. I have begun to see that the medical science being performed all over the country will ultimately lead to a profound knowledge of who we are as a species, and has the potential to overcome many of the obstacles that genetic diversity and nature itself have handed today's brightest minds. Such research is being conducted at VUMC by Alvin Powers and will hopefully lead to a more general control of hormonal deficiencies such as diabetes or hypothyroidism, and has the potential to be able to deliver life saving medications genetically to cancer and Alzheimer's patients."*

If interested, you can email Mike for more information. His email is michael.j.litt@vanderbilt.edu. Mike is a sophomore at VU this year, majoring in Neuroscience. Hometown is Jacksonville.



2009 DKE Casino Night



Class of 2011 **GAMMA DEKES Will Matheson (L)** and **Cliff Cohn (R)** have become great friends despite different backgrounds. Pledge Brothers from 2008, they have each spent time in the other's home town the past two summers. Last year Cliff, a Chicago big-city kid, visited Will at his farm in Harpersville, AL, drove around the farm on an ATV, shot skeet, and thoroughly enjoyed the great home-cooked meals offered up by Will's Mom. In Cliff's words, *"I got to truly understand the meaning of Southern hospitality."* This summer it was Will's turn to experience a new way of life, as he ventured over the Mason Dixon line for the first time. As Will tells it: *"I fell in love with Chicago the minute I got there. We went to the music festival Lollapalooza for all 3 days and I've never seen anything like it. Cliff's friends were really great and I got along great with all of them. I didn't want to leave!"* Both Cliff and Will agreed, *"It's cool hanging out with Dekes outside of school and experiencing each other's habitats. It's awesome to cross cultural lines."*

More proof that the DKE Bonds know no boundaries.

Dr. Harris D. Riley, Jr. Gamma Scholarship

Gamma Alumni Association has announced that it will award a \$500 scholarship to one Gamma undergraduate each year. The Scholarship is named after **Dr. Pete Riley**, Gamma '46, who continues to be one of our most loyal alumni. Dr. Riley's devotion to Gamma exemplifies lifetime membership, and sets an example for alumni and undergraduates alike. With this Scholarship, we hope to perpetuate his commitment to Gamma and to DKE.

We will present the first Riley Scholarship at Homecoming next month. Gamma undergraduates will be considered for their achievements in Academics, Community Service, contributions to the Gamma Chapter, and to other campus organizations.



Dr. Harris D. Riley, Jr.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the Fall 2009 Gamma Gossip

Looking Ahead to 2009-10

Greetings to all Gamma Alumni! Another school year has started and the men of Gamma are in a great position to continue growing stronger. We finished last year with over 60 active members, but due to a large graduating class we start this year with about 36.

This year we face a challenge that we'll have to overcome in order to maintain the momentum built up over the past few years. Immediately after the conclusion of Initiation last March, in an impromptu celebration, one of the newly initiated members consumed too much alcohol, and the Brothers, fearing for his safety, wisely took him to a hospital for treatment. Upon learning of this, the University held a hearing and imposed a probation lasting for 10 months, through January 2010. The Chapter submitted a very well-written appeal, not trying to deny responsibility for the incident, but documenting that the penalty was substantially more severe than what other Fraternities faced for similar (actually more serious) violations earlier in the school year. That appeal was turned down, so this Fall we are handicapped with respect to rushing and social activities.

Despite some serious disagreements with how the University handled the situation, the Chapter leadership and all the active members responded with poise and maturity under very stressful circumstances. The alumni and several parents who were involved in helping the Chapter throughout the ordeal were all impressed with way the men of Gamma handled themselves.

Now, though, looking forward, we can still say that our Chapter is really in fine shape. It's a great group of active members who are very unified and eager to get past the probation problems. They still boast a reputation as one of the leading fraternities on campus.

The members are really focused on continuing to make DKE the place to be in the VU Greek scene.

HOMECOMING -- OCTOBER 16-17

I invite all Gamma alumni to visit the DKE House at Homecoming.

There will be a reception at the DKE house on Friday evening, October 16th, and all alumni are encouraged to attend. The undergraduates love to meet their older Deke Brothers, and you'll have a great time sharing your stories with them and with your fellow Gamma Dekes.

If you need room reservations or football tickets, just drop me a line. You can reach me at dlanpher@yahoo.com or 847.899.0528. Hope to see you there.

Best Wishes to all Gamma Brothers.

In the Bonds,

Doug Lanpher '77
Gamma Alumni Association

2008-2009 DONORS

Many thanks to the following Brothers who have contributed to the Gamma DKE Alumni Association. Your support helps us keep our Chapter strong. If you gave and your name is not here, it's an editor's mistake and we apologize for the omission. Thank you for your support.

Joe Abriola, Jenkintown PA
Leighton Aiken, Dallas
Keith Anderson, Memphis
Tommy Barksdale, Nashville
Weaver Barksdale, Nashville
Patrick Bennett, Bethesda MD
David Burge, Atlanta
Gaines Campbell, Hixson TN
Robert Carnighan, Goshen KY
Jim Carvell, Dallas
Stuart Chapman, Bethesda MD
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Roger Deromedi, Lake Forest IL
Rob Eckert, Chicago
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William Riley, Meridian MS
T. Gary Fitts, Tuscaloosa, AL
James Hamilton, Nashville



Pictured above, US Air Force Capt. Thomas B. Klein (L), immediately after administering the Oath of Office to his brother, 2nd Lt. Kyle A. Klein (R), at the Academy's graduation, May 2009. It was a proud moment indeed for parents **Rich Klein** Γ '77 and his wife Nan. Capt. Klein served two deployments in the Middle East last year. The Gamma Gossip salutes the service of these two young men to their country.

Letter to Gamma Alumni from Brother Beta, Peter Brand:

An overall exciting, successful year ended in disappointment as we received a lengthy social probation from the IFC Judiciary Board in March. That being said, we are grateful to have all of our Brothers safe and healthy, and the support we received from parents and alumni was a testament to our chapter's deep roots and loyal spirit.

We have high hopes for this Fall. As part of our sentencing we will implement a comprehensive alcohol education program campus-wide, including speakers, pamphlets, games, and promotions. Since several other Fraternities and Sororities found themselves in similar situations last year, this is a good opportunity for us to collaborate with other groups around campus, as we did successfully at our KKG/DKE carnival last year (over \$2000 raised for the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund). We have continued to build a strong reputation in the Greek community and have offers of support from many groups - we already have plans to collaborate with ADPi and Theta on our education plan, as well as social events. (See separate article, right.)

I truly believe that we are beginning this semester stronger than we were before. We faced something difficult and trying but ultimately it has brought our fraternity closer together. Thanks again to all our alumni for all your support, and I hope everyone will make it down for Homecoming October 16-17.

ITB, Peter Brand

WHO ARE THESE NICE FOLKS?? (See pg. 4)



GAMMA CHAPTER'S ALCOHOL AWARENESS PROGRAM

I thought it would be good to elaborate on what exactly our plans are this semester to help overcome potentially harmful practices and show the school that we've learned from our experience. First is an alcohol education program. This entails personal presentations to freshmen about how to react in case someone you're with becomes overly intoxicated or unresponsive, and how to avoid these situations in the first place. Also, we'll host a "liquor drink game" to illustrate how much an individual is actually drinking on a given night by having them pour as much liquor into a Solo cup as they normally would drink. The last portion of our program is a promotional campaign, to be co-hosted with various sororities and student groups. We'll be having coozie giveaways (not the first time) with slogans like "Say When for a Friend" or "Maybe Your Brother Shouldn't Have Another." We've learned a lot through this ordeal, and hopefully the administration and Office of Greek Life will take note of our effort and show us the confidence that they so often did in the past. - Peter Brand

In a previous Gossip, **Sam Pearsall '45** noticed a mention of **Rex Holland, Jr's** name ('74). Sam wrote us to ask if Rex (better known as "Mystery Man") was related to the Rex Holland, Sr. that Sam knew at Gamma in the forties. Sure enough, Mystery's dad and Sam were buddies, so the two of them had a nice email exchange, with Sam telling Mystery some stories about the Gamma Chapter's activities when his dad was there. Good stuff.

Ron Henges, '54 and **Bill Ford, '53** visited the Chapter at Homecoming last year with their wives. Yep, that's them pictured with the **Commodore** on page 3. Bill and Mary Ford on the left; Anne and Ron Henges on the right. Bill's home is in Ada, Michigan; Ron lives in St. Louis.

ΔKE Fraternity Brothers and good friends from college days, and still staying in touch across the years and across the miles.



John Ross, '68 (photo at left), spends most of the year in his hometown, Savannah TN, practicing real estate and probate law, tree farming and riding mountain bikes on the family farm. John's also a member of the Tennessee Forestry Commission. But for several weeks a year, John tells us, he and his wife Harriet are able to get away to Northern Spain, to the beautiful stone house built in 1690 that Harriet purchased as a vacation home. Harriet's father was **Marion Thomas Long, Γ '41**. Here's how John describes it: *"As her husband I have the privilege of visiting her casa about twice a year along with other friends and family. It is in a farming village called Becerril del Carpio, about 80 full time residents, but in August many more people are there to stay in their vacation homes. The nearby town of Aguilar de Campoo has about 8,000 people and many fine restaurants and stores, restored monasteries and churches from the 13th Century. Also there are excellent trails in natural areas and parks nearby, canons, caves, Roman ruins and bridges, prehistoric cave paintings, and windmills. Any Brothers who are in Northern Spain or Southeast West Tennessee are welcome to come by for a visit."*

Jim Tuck, '40 visited the DKE House at Homecoming last year. Jim and **Joe Little, also Γ '40** are both residents of Richland Place in Nashville, not far from campus. Living proof that Deke friendships last a lifetime. From the Heart, Friends Forever!

At Homecoming last year, **Jim Hill '68** proudly told us a terrific story about his two youngest boys (out of 7 kids), who became Dekes at **Chi-Mississippi**. For a Deke Dad, this is about as good as it gets, so we asked Jim to put his story into writing for the Gossip: *"Since I was a DKE, I was able to participate in both of their initiation ceremonies, without their knowledge of my presence. My son, Weber, was initiated in December 2004. I had the honor of pinning him at his initiation ceremony with my Gamma DKE pin. My youngest son, Garrett, was initiated in January 2007. I also attended his initiation ceremony without his knowledge, and had the honor of also pinning him with my Gamma DKE pin. How wonderful to remember back to my great days at Gamma and to once again experience the DKE initiation ceremony through the lives of my sons. What an honor it was to pin each of them with my Gamma pin."* That's a nice story from a father whose sons are also his Brothers in ΔKE.

Chapter Eternal

The Gossip notes with sadness the passing of the following Gamma DKE Brothers:

Glenn "Dick" Henderson, Nashville
Thomas L. Cummings Jr., Nashville
Dr. James P. McGuire, Indianapolis
Dr. M. Harper Wright, Bowling Gr. KY
Dr. James J. Callaway, Nashville
Lexie Parks Weeks, Nashville
William T. Adams, Deland FL
Dr. George K. Carpenter, Nashville
Dr. Eustace H. Winn, Greenville MS
John Bush Murdock, New Orleans
Dr. James G. Seyfried, Modesto CA
Dr. James A. Gwaltney, Quincy IL
Dr. John M. Herring, San Antonio



Rob Eckert, '99, married last year in Chicago; 3 Gamma Brothers were in his wedding party. Left to right, all wearing their Deke pins, are **Mike Husband '97**, Rob, **Andrew Lach '99**, and **Brian Fissel '98**. Rob was best man at Brian's wedding in St. Louis in August.



Jim Hill with DKE sons Garrett (L) and Weber (R)



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