

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

I would be interested in hearing how you believe this school year went for Joe. For a fraternity living together under one roof for the first time, we on the “house corporation” believe the men did an exceptional job pulling together.

This school year was the fifth in what promises to be a long history for the Delta Psi chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon (Deke) at Indiana University. Founded in 1844 at Yale University, Deke’s history and alumni base are impressive. Joe probably has told you that Presidents Hayes, Roosevelt, Ford, Bush and Bush are just five of thousands of accomplished Deke alumni in all walks of life.

The chapter at I.U. is one of DKE’s youngest, and in five years it has grown to nearly 35 members, with nearly 35 alumni. This 2005 – 06 school year promises to be one of its strongest. Building upon the lessons learned last year, and leveraging your active involvement, mine, and that of all the parents and alumni, the chapter will do well. It is important that parents and alumni work hand-in-hand to make the fraternity experience one that adds increasing value to the student members. Let’s work together to make sure Joe’s fraternity experience is one that helps prepare him for success after graduation and throughout life.

The “house corporation” exists to aid the chapter, to help it look long term, to grow, and to provide an added value to each brother’s college experience. This letter provides an overview of chapter operations. It is broken into sections with headings, with the hope that it’s easier to follow what has occurred with the chapter this year and the direction that will be taken this fall. A table of contents relating specifically to this letter, leading to Internet links with additional information, can be found at [www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm](http://www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm)

The DePauw Deke Realty Association (DDRA) is the “house corporation.” It is an Indiana nonprofit corporation with roots in the Deke chapter at DePauw University (1866 – 1996), and it is the holder of the three-year lease with Sigma Phi Epsilon, the owner of the current fraternity house. The DDRA is led by a volunteer board of Deke alumni from both DePauw and Indiana universities. As men graduate from the I.U. chapter, members are elected to this board so that in the future I.U. Deke alumni will work with the I.U. Dekes. One of our goals is for that to occur in a chapter house owned by Deke. Reaching that goal requires the chapter to grow significantly—in terms of leadership, membership, scholarship, campus, parent and alumni involvement. See [www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm](http://www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm)

Delta Kappa Epsilon is based upon the ideals of friendship, citizenship and learning. DKE expects respect for others and involvement in the life of the chapter and the community. DKE nurtures character and confidence through involvement in leadership opportunities. College is a time to attempt new and different things, a time to stretch and to be stretched. The fraternity provides an environment in which to observe leadership styles--both good and bad, try various styles in leading others, and to succeed and fail safely before honing personal styles graduates will use throughout their lives. See [www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm](http://www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm)

### **COMMITMENT TO THE FRATERNITY, MEMBERSHIP, AND FINANCES**

The DDRA is responsible for maintaining the fraternity house. It works with the chapter treasurer to create a budget, and it has oversight in paying the chapter’s expenses from each brother’s “housebill.” Room contracts are signed by semester or academic year, and annual housebills are spread over five or ten monthly installments, respectively. Parents are required to co-sign the contract because the expectation is for you to be a partner in maintaining and strengthening the chapter.

The DDRA operates on a break-even budget each year. When the house is not well occupied, it strains the ability to maintain and improve the overall fraternity experience. We believe the fraternity experience is a “value add” to the college experience, and alumni and parents must work together in reinforcing the importance of brotherhood and commitment. One of the chapter’s commitments to each brother is to promote scholarship, campus involvement, and leadership—those things that engage each member in the life of the university.

One of the commitments each brother must make to the chapter, especially one this young, is to actively engage in recruiting new members. Recruitment, or “rush,” is led by a team of brothers, but success only comes when each member follows their lead. The chapter stumbled this year in rush. Please stress with your son the positive leadership lessons that are learned from active followership.

The DDRA is responsible for the maintenance of the physical plant and works with a variety of chapter members to ensure its upkeep and improvement. The DDRA holds a three-year lease on the house at 815 N. Jordan Avenue--the current Deke chapter house. It provided the \$50,000 deposit on the lease, which carries annual payments of \$80,000 for the 04-05 school year, \$180,000 for 05-06, and \$280,000 for 06-07. The stair-step payments should parallel the stair-step growth of the chapter, with the growing rent divided by a growing membership.

The DDRA intends to be a full partner in providing a permanent house for the chapter beginning in 2007 - 08. Given the still-small number, and youth, of alumni from I.U., it is necessary to call upon the financial resources of older Dekes from the nearby chapters at DePauw and the University of Illinois. Those men will support the I.U. chapter, but it is important that the chapter demonstrate it can support itself. The choice of some brothers to live out of the house this fall has created a more than \$25,000 financial strain, and it sends the wrong message to alumni being asked to contribute toward a permanent home for Deke at I.U. For the chapter to have a long-term future, your son must understand the importance of his financial commitment to the fraternity. Your help in stressing with him the lesson of shared responsibility, and the importance of living in the chapter house in order to get the most from the fraternity experience, is helpful. See [www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm](http://www.GoDeke.org/parents.htm)

## **CHAPTER OPERATIONS**

The chapter governs itself. From intramural sports, to social events, to food service, the chapter elects members to serve in leadership positions and to assure that operations run efficiently. The expectation is that every member will make a positive contribution to DKE, and your son will maximize the value of his membership by taking advantage of every leadership opportunity.

### **Scholarship**

In addition to dozens of leadership opportunities, your son has several scholarship opportunities available to him. Last year, the Ruby Cup Foundation (an educational arm of the DDRA) awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to chapter members. Building on the chapter's need for increased scholarship, we are considering discounted rent for brothers with good, and improving, grades. Occupancy in the house will dictate whether this plan can begin this fall.

### **Policies on Alcohol and Drugs**

The DDRA, Deke International, and I.U. are clear in the mandate that no illegal substances be brought into the chapter and that no alcohol be consumed by brothers under the age of 21. Several I.U. programs assist students with questions, dependencies or issues related to drugs or alcohol, and Deke will aid brothers in discretely availing themselves of the appropriate program. We encourage you to discuss the fraternity's mandate regarding illegal substances, and I.U.'s programs, with your son.

Having fun is a key part of the fraternity experience. The chapter maintains a “social budget” that is separate from housebills, and the chapter plans and hosts its own social activities. The DDRA has no involvement or responsibility in planning or managing chapter social events, except those involving parents and alumni. Greek social events are subject to oversight by the Interfraternity Council (IFC), a coalition council of fraternities on the I.U. campus; and the chapter's executive board of officers, and especially the risk manager, has a clear understanding of how to host social functions responsibly.

### **Personal Responsibility**

The DDRA is obligated to protect the investment the chapter and alumni have made in the chapter house. Damage from the first year in the house is still being assessed. A successful fraternity house is cleaned and maintained by the entire chapter. It is a cooperative effort to maintain the house, and each brother has a responsibility to do his fair share. If members break things, they fix them or pay for the cost of repair. The brothers are expected to not tolerate others damaging or disrespecting common areas. Brothers clean up after themselves, and at times, for others. This seems obvious, but given the cleaning the house required after the brothers moved out, it needs to be emphasized.

The expense of unclaimed damage and undue wear is covered equally by the \$1,000 damage deposit paid by all members at the time of signing the lease. Our desire is to fully refund the deposit upon the graduation of your son. Speak with him about treating the fraternity house with the care he treats your home, and about the importance of identifying those who don't share that same care.

## **THE 2005 - 06 SCHOOL YEAR**

As you know, the chapter will share the house during the fall semester with members of Kappa Sigma fraternity. DKE's smaller than expected recruitment, coupled with the decision of some brothers to not honor their leases for this fall, created this financial need. We expect that the experience in inter-fraternity support will benefit the Deke chapter and help it visualize the potential of its future. The Kappa Sigma fraternity sought a one-semester lease because it will complete construction on a new fraternity house by January. It's a model the DDRA would like to follow for the Deke chapter.

The "share" arrangement benefits Deke in several ways. It allows the chapter to retain its house, which is an ideal campus location; it will retain a full plan of meals prepared by Susan Miller, who will return this fall as cook; it will be aided by Sara Jahansouz, an experienced live-in advisor educated in student affairs and responsible for oversight of I.U.'s Interfraternity Council; the fraternity letters will remain on the house; and the chapter will again be in the driver's seat regarding its future of living as one fraternity in that house the following year. For that to occur, membership recruitment this fall, and a return to the concept of all brothers living in the house next fall, must occur.

DKE's first year of living together was an unqualified success. The chapter did a remarkable job of working through the issues that come with life under one roof. Sharing that roof this fall will reinforce the importance of electing good leaders and following their lead. Thank you for your help in stressing to your son the importance of electing strong leaders and the importance of being a proactive follower.

The DDRA shares the chapter's goal of Deke being the most desirable fraternity at I.U., and of Delta Psi being the most accomplished chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon. With your involvement, both goals are possible. Below are some expectations of the chapter, and we ask for your help in providing the mentoring and guidance required to accomplish them. If you or your son find these inconsistent with what you believe is appropriate, then please talk with him regarding his continued membership. Some of the basic fraternal functions:

- 1) Invest in academic success. Attend class, study, and be accountable for your individual and the chapter GPA.
- 2) Attend weekly chapter meetings.
- 3) Actively support elected officers. The lessons of followership are essential to good leadership.
- 4) Eat meals with the chapter.
- 5) Participate in community service activities, individually and with the chapter.
- 6) Understand, follow and promote the rules and guidance provided by the chapter officers, Deke International, and I.U.
- 7) Pursue a balanced social agenda that meets IFC, Deke International and chapter guidelines.
- 8) Treat the facility with respect and stewardship.
- 9) Group living is at the heart of a fraternity's purpose. Live in the chapter house.

## **PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

John Geary, father of Mike Geary '08 and a Deke alumnus from the University of Illinois, has agreed to chair the Deke Parents Association this year and to help focus parent involvement in the life of the chapter. He needs your thoughts, suggestions, and especially your participation, for the effort to be successful. Be vocal. Tell him what you would like to see happen, and he will try his best to see it through. His email address is [johngeary@GoDeke.org](mailto:johngeary@GoDeke.org).

**To kick things off, on Saturday, August 20, the Deke Parents Association will host a day for parents to prepare their son's room, and the house in general, for the school year. A cook-out and other events designed for parents to meet each other, are planned.** I and other DDRA members will be at the house, and we would enjoy the opportunity to meet you and to discuss how we can work together to develop added value to your son's Deke membership. If you would like to share ideas or provide other input before then, please contact me at [david@GoDeke.org](mailto:david@GoDeke.org).

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Please place the following dates on your calendar:

- **June 1, 2005:** Damage deposit was due. This year's deposit was the same as last: \$1,000. Brothers moving into the house for the first time should have paid the full deposit. Returning brothers must "fund up" their balance to equal \$1,000. The amount and date due will be explained in a separate letter to returning brothers and their parents, one that will itemize necessary cleaning and repair costs following the end of school. Deposits should be sent to the DDRA Treasurer (see below).
- **August 1, 2005:** First month's rent due. Checks (payable to "Deke Realty Association") should be mailed to: Jeff Shively, DDRA Treasurer; P.O. Box 813; Greencastle, IN 46135.
- **August 20, 2005:** First date to move into the chapter house. **The Deke Parents Association will sponsor a barbecue for parents and friends during your son's move-in.** Members of the DDRA look forward to meeting you. For security purposes, no early move-ins prior to this date are available.
- **November 4 - 6, 2005:** I.U. Parents Weekend. The Deke Parents Association will plan an event to coincide with I.U.'s weekend programming.

Please note: Your son's ability to move into the house is conditioned upon a signed room contract, along with timely payment of the damage deposit and first month's rent. Monthly payments are due on the first of every month through May 1, 2006 (December 1, 2005 for first-semester contracts).

I can't stress enough that you parents and we alumni are on the same team. Joe has everything to gain when we pull together to see him and the chapter be successful and competitive. As older adults, our obligation is to make sure each member of the chapter gets as much as possible from his Deke experience—especially the lessons that come from leadership, cooperation, and participation.

The chapter will be much more successful when you, we and the men of the chapter join together. The goal is a solid group supporting Joe and the rest of the chapter by providing a facility in which to grow in size, tradition and brotherhood while also providing opportunities that come with managing a growing chapter and living together as a brotherhood in one house.

The DDRA board members, and the Deke Parents Association, look forward to working with you to make Joe's Deke experience the best it can be. Join with us. Let John Geary know how you're willing to become involved.

Sincerely,

DEPAUW DEKE REALTY ASSOCIATION, INC.

David McArthur '92, chair