

{Greek Reunions}

JMU's first fraternity celebrates 65 years

Sigma Delta Rho/Tau Kappa Epsilon brothers reunite

BY ELDON J. LAYMAN ('60)

Greek life at JMU has a long-standing tradition, and last year members of Sigma Delta Rho/Tau Kappa Epsilon's returned to campus to celebrate with a 65th anniversary reunion. Sigma Delta Rho/Tau Kappa Epsilon was the first fraternity chartered at Madison College. Organized in 1947, the fraternity welcomed an influx of veterans who enrolled at Madison College after World War II under the GI Bill of Rights. The affiliation of Sigma Delta Rho with Tau Kappa Epsilon took place in 1969.

The idea of organizing a reunion for this group was sparked when three SDR brothers met at the 2011 Blue-stone Society Induction Ceremony. Stephanie Whitson ('06), JMU assistant director of alumni relations, and Steve Smith ('71, '75M), associate vice president of constituent relations suggested we form a committee to plan the reunion. The committee included Ed Broyles ('58), Eldon Layman ('60), William Wright ('60), Elwood Whitmore ('69), Mike Way ('70), Ed Price ('71), Kevin McWhinney ('75), David Thompson ('76) and Walter Curt ('84). They were joined by current TKE members Richard Harriott ('13) and Gerard Horan ('13).

The months of preparation and planning paid off, as 59 brothers and 20 guests came together to celebrate and reconnect. Brothers enjoyed a Friday campus bus tour revealing the many changes throughout campus. Everyone enjoyed lunch in D-Hall and a tour of the new Forbes Center of the Performing Arts. Walter Curt ('84) hosted a pig roast at his estate east of Harrisonburg.

Saturday featured a golf match at Lakeview and/or a tour of Bridgeforth Stadium with lunch in the Club Room. Dinner fea-



(Top): Sigma Delta Rho/Tau Kappa Epsilon brothers enjoy the pig roast and blue grass band at the home of Walter Curt ('84). (Left): Some of the 59 fraternity brothers celebrating Madison's first fraternity include (seated, l-r) Richard Fogle ('60) and Eldon Layman ('60). Standing, l-r: Ed Broyles ('58), William Wright ('60), Ed Turner ('60) and Ken Monger ('59).

tured awards and music in the Highlands Room of the Festival Conference Center. The Gabby Haze Band, comprised of TKE members Dan Layman ('71), Carl Bailey ('72) and Dave Magnone ('72), along with Bob Yetzer, entertained.

On Sunday the current TKE members hosted a farewell reception at their frat house on South Main Street to bring the reunion to an appropriate close. The Sigma Delta Rho/Tau Kappa Epsilon brothers had a wonderful weekend both reuniting and getting to know other members. They are anticipating a celebration of their 70th anniversary in 2017. Any SDR/TKE brother who has ideas or suggestions for activities for the celebration should email Stephanie Whitson at whitsoh@jmu.edu. **■**

Madison Events

AUGUST 21
Class of 2017 Orientation
www.jmu.edu/orientation

AUGUST 21
Alumni Association Legacy Picnic
www.jmu.edu/alumni

AUGUST 31
Football Opening Game
www.JMUSports.com

OCTOBER 5
Family Weekend
www.jmu.edu/parents

OCTOBER 19
MetroDukes Crabfest
www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar

OCT. 28 - NOV. 2
Homecoming
www.jmu.edu/alumni

NOVEMBER 16
Marching Royal Dukes Alumni Weekend
www.jmu.edu/alumni

www.jmu.edu/alumni/calendar
www.jmu.edu/JMUArts
www.JMUSports.com

For more information on events, please call the JMU alumni office toll free 1-(888) JMU-ALUM