

New York Alpha Appoints Interim President

For the last several years, Vic Aprea '02 has served as president of our housing corporation. At our Homecoming 2013 meeting, Vic announced his decision to step down as president and focus on other personal priorities. After the meeting, I stepped forward to serve as interim president until our next meeting at Reunion 2014. I would like to thank Vic for the countless hours he has spent working with active and alumni brothers—and his tireless efforts working on the house—to make the NY Alpha Chapter of the successful chapter it is today.

Another academic year at Cornell is well underway, and the brothers of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha are progressing toward another successful year. The changing climate toward the Greek system has caused the active brothers to navigate new rules and expectations. Two of these major changes have impacted socials and pledging.

From a social standpoint, Phi Delta Theta has taken a leadership role through its implementation of alcohol-free housing

during the refounding at Cornell in 2000. Having 13 years under our belts in managing a thriving social life within the context of responsible decision-making has allowed the chapter to continue recruiting top brothers even with the new rules facing the community as a whole.

As for pledging, or rather “recruitment,” there are more dramatic changes taking place. While the chapter has taken pride in being a hazing-free environment for many years, new rules are now limiting the duration of the recruitment period. The Phikeia period has been reduced to only four weeks compared to the eight to 10 of prior years. This has provided an opportunity for the brothers to evaluate the program and focus on the core elements that lead to being successful members of the brotherhood. This spring’s recruitment class will be the first to go through the modified program, and I am excited to see the results!

Finally, the housing corporation has continued investing heavily in our facilities to ensure that we have the best house on

campus. Over the last year, we’ve worked on the installation of several core systems including sprinklers and heating and water management systems. As we look to the future, some major capital investments are on the horizon. These include furniture for the common areas of the house and a rebuild of the kitchen access stairs. We are currently in the process of putting plans in place to make these improvements, but more work is ahead.

All in all, I am thrilled with the quality of the undergraduate brotherhood and physical house. I look forward to continuing to support the chapter for years to come and meeting more alumni along this journey. If any alumni have an interest in participating more in the fraternity, please reach out to me directly. We’re always looking for fresh perspective to help the chapter achieve success.

Yours in the Bond,
Jon Bellante '06
jonbellante@gmail.com
(607) 280-6400

Our Chapter Rises Through Academic Rankings at Cornell

I am happy to report that our academic ranking among peer fraternities at Cornell has taken a great leap forward. In the fall of 2012, we came in 35th-place with a GPA of 3.188, the addition of Beta Gamma class in the spring of 2013 allowed us to increase our house GPA to 3.329 and move to 18th place. It is my hope that this semester we can continue to rise. At the house, brothers make use of our excellent academic resources. The library offers a peaceful environment for Phis to collaborate on assignments or study. This semester, the implementation of study hours Sunday through Thursday has resulted in more brothers using the



house library. Furthermore, our in-house computing center offers brothers access to a wealth of academic resources. The amazing study spaces and physical resources we have here at the house would not be possible if it weren’t for the generous contributions of our alumni. Thank you for your continued support of our house; I hope that our continued academic excellence will make you proud!

Outside of the house, brothers excel personally and strive to bring their own excellence to Cornell, Ithaca, and the world. We currently have brothers in six of Cornell’s undergraduate colleges and two of Cornell’s graduate schools. Many

brothers hold positions as teaching assistants on campus, while others work on engineering project teams. One of our members takes time to help tutor writing at elementary schools in Ithaca. Many members of Beta Gamma class, mostly current sophomores, look forward to opportunities studying abroad in the coming year.

Our academic prospects look bright. With continued focus on academic excellence and sound learning, we will be able to distinguish ourselves as one of Cornell’s top academic fraternities going forward.

W. Cabot Jackman '16
Scholarship and Awards Chair

Surviving and Growing in the Changing Greek Climate

This semester we, as a house, have made great strides in increasing our general campus involvement. Initiated by a push from our executive board to develop stronger campus-wide relations, our chapter has made a conscious effort to improve our standing with both the Cornell University administration and our fellow Greek organizations. Through increased communication between our chapter and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, we have worked hard to develop a much stronger rapport with the Cornell officials in charge of regulating Greek life on campus.



In the coming weeks, our chapter also

plans to play host to the Cornell Vice-President for Student and Academic Services Susan H. Murphy for a dinner at our chapter house. This will be a great opportunity to showcase everything our house has to offer to the Cornell community, and we look forward to a successful event.

In regards to inter-fraternity relationships, through an increase emphasis on IFC involvement, our chapter has worked hard to develop a presence on certain IFC task force teams and committees. Our own Krist Tase '16 (current risk management chair and IFC representative), plans to run for the judicial vice-president position in the coming IFC elections, and we are excited by the possibility of a positive result.

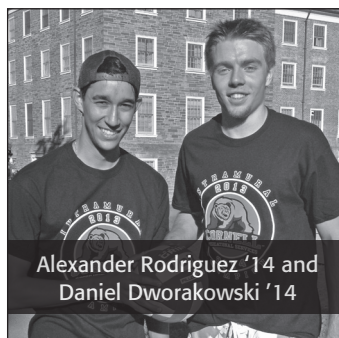
On the philanthropy front, one area we have emphasized has been increasing our efforts to include other Greek organizations in our philanthropy events. By branching out and working with other fraternities and sororities, we hope to not only increase our general exposure on campus, but also foster stronger relationships within the overall Greek community. Reflecting on the events of this last semester, I am extremely optimistic for the future of our chapter and its position on campus. I believe our chapter is poised for an excellent recruitment period in the spring, and I am excited by the bright future ahead of us.

Oliver Beacham '14
House President

Phi Delta Athletes Outshine the Competition This Semester

Phi Delta Theta has continued its recent strong run in sports, beginning this year with a bang. Brothers Alex Rodriguez '14 and Dan Dworakowski '14 took the intramural sand volleyball championship without losing a single set. The chapter's soccer team is still continuing its storybook season: Led by captain Harry Supnick '14 and midfielders Lucas Richichi '16 and Ian Purnell '14, the team provides its fans magical performances on a weekly basis. The team is firmly entrenched in the soccer playoffs at the moment, preparing for the second-round match-up. Peter Berkowitz '14, Dominic Mendoza '15, and Dworakowski were part of the dazzling display on the gridiron that the chapter's flag football team exhibited all season. Unfortunately, due to a few close calls,

the team narrowly missed the playoffs, but hopes to come back stronger next year. Evan Hernandez '15 and Spencer Velarde '16 dusted off their rackets and represented our chapter in tennis, Chris Boyer '14 and Rodriguez tore it up on the local greens in golf, and a large sum of brothers participated in what is arguably the quirkiest of sports, disc golf. Coming up, the chapter will participate in indoor volleyball, 3-on-3 basketball, no-tap bowling, ultimate Frisbee and dodgeball. We are proud to represent our chapter with all our current accomplishments and hope to



continue our successes in our future athletic endeavors.

We would like to also congratulate our athletes who participate in events outside of intramurals. Varsity athlete Dominic Mendoza (sprint football) just finished his second season, and club athlete Dan Dworakowski (volleyball

and basketball) is in the middle of both his sports seasons. We wish them luck as they proudly represent our chapter and school.

Daniel Dworakowski '14
Athletic Chair

House Manager Reports on Recent Improvement Projects

Since the beginning the year, the most important aspects of the physical state of the house were our inspections. We successfully passed both our building and our fire inspection in the month of October and are set for the year. However we also tackled some other important projects for the house.

The renovation of the crypt is one of the main projects. The area in the basement flooded during the summer (2013), and this damage necessitated repairs that also presented the opportunity to make improvements. We will be modernizing the room soon. In addition to the renovation, the con-

tractors will be adding a pipe to prevent future flooding. New carpeting and plumbing will make the room habitable again, allowing us to accommodate the new brothers we expect to add to the house roster next semester.

Another main project is the renovation of the poker lounge. This area will be transformed into an informal living room for the residents of the second floor. We are adding a couch, new tables, and other features. The project should be completed by the end of the semester. It also worth mentioning that the project was initiated by our newest class.

Finally a project that we take a lot of pride

on is the renovation of the alumni room. We have been able to bring the alumni room up to hotel standards by remodelling and adding bathing items that will be needed by our visiting alumni. We have received a lot of positive feedback on the room and hope to improve as much as we can over the next year.

We are preparing our spring Rush. We're expecting a large class and hope that the new members will all be able to live in the house next year!

Benjamin Dalusma '15
House Manger

Brothers Support Sorority Fundraisers and Iron Phis



What an exciting semester it's been so far, and what an honor it's been to serve this chapter as philanthropy chair! We've already rallied with two houses of our Greek sisters in support of their

causes, and we have plans to launch two Iron Phi events throughout this year. In addition to supporting our fellow Greeks, the house continues to engage in select service trips on and off campus: Read on friends!

Delta Gamma: Our brothers met with alumni and our sister house, Delta Gamma, to rally for the Delta Gamma Walk for Sight at the Cornell Plantations on September 22, 2013. We had a great time walking/running the 5K track and seeing proud Cornell DG Father and Phi Delt New York Alpha alumnus Stan Kolbe '76.

Alpha Xi Delta: The brothers of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha represented our house by wearing lettered gear and participating in the Alpha Xi Delta AmaX-Ing Challenge 5K run on October 6, 2013.

Iron Phi: After a short application

process, the philanthropy committee selected Brother Evan de Luna, a marathon runner from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, to represent our house as the fall Iron Phi designee. While he doesn't have to hold his event in the fall, he begins training this semester and will have full access to the financial and other resources of the committee to assist him in his endeavors. Evan's end-goal will be to raise a minimum of \$1,000 toward a charitable contribution to the ALS Association, and he will be merited with the title "Iron Phi" for his commitment to service and brotherhood in the process. Our house intends to raise two Iron Phis this year; applications for a spring Iron Phi will be released during the next semester (to enable newly inducted members from Beta Delta class to apply).

Service Trips: We will participate in "Cornell Into the Streets," a weekend of philanthropy and service during which more than 1,200 on-campus

students race into Ithaca's streets to serve the public! Our service assignment has yet to be determined, but we are proud to be a part of this long-standing Cornell tradition, and we will be planning our own service trips in the Tompkins County area by the close of the semester (details are still in the works).

We hope that you'll continue to support the house and of course our national philanthropy, the ALS Association, as the year continues. Stay true and blue!

Matthew Kurtas '14
Philanthropy Chair



Delta Gamma's Walk for Sight with NYA alumnus Stan Kolbe '76, whose daughter is in Delta Gamma at Cornell.

We've Welcomed New Members to Phi Delta Theta at Cornell



PAUL MILLER '16

I am from San Antonio, Texas. I am a sophomore in the class of 2016 studying mechanical engineering. In my spare time, I like to play any kind of sports, go hiking, cook food, listen

to music, play poker, watch TV, play video games, and go long boarding. I also like to travel to new and exotic places and just take in the scenery. I really like animals and have a one-year-old border collie that I miss when I'm away at college. I like going to school in New York since it's far away from home and allows me to get away from the scorching hot weather of Texas. Cornell is an amazing place, and I'm so grateful that I get to go to school with some of the best and brightest in the world. I am extremely excited to be a new member of Phi Delta Theta and can't wait for all the new experiences I will have as a brother.



PATRICK ROESCHEL '16

I pledged Phi Delta Theta this fall and am part of the Beta Delta class. I am from Croton-on-Hudson, New York, which is located about one hour north of New York City. I am a sophomore majoring in operations research engineering and minoring in computer science. Upon graduation, I hope to work in the business or consulting industry.

In my free time, I enjoy hiking, camping, and biking. I try to take advantage of the beautiful Ithaca state parks and trails as much as possible. On campus, I lead pre-orientation backpacking trips for freshmen (known as "Outdoor Odyssey") and serve as the president of Energy Corps at Cornell University—our mission is to combine business and sustainability by implementing cost-effective energy efficient upgrades across campus.

BRENDON-SAGE QUVUS '17
I am a pre-med sophomore, from Palm



City, Florida, enrolled in the Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences; I am pursuing a concurrent degree in chemistry and material sciences in the College of Engineering and a minor in biomedical engineering. Next semester, I hope to engage in cancer-related research for biomedical engineering. As such, I intend to graduate in 2017, continue on to medical school, and become a reconstructive surgeon.

During my time at Cornell, I have become involved with a few diverse organizations outside of my fraternity. I was involved in Cornell Ultimate Frisbee (Shake) and Cornell Jazz from my first year. I recently joined the College of Arts and Sciences Pre-Health Association (CAS-PHA) and the Ivy Council. My hobbies generally include sports, such as Frisbee and golf, musical performance (instrumental and vocal), and art, but I am also interested in public speaking, world travel, and foreign languages.

alumni send their news

Get in touch with **Jose E. Rossi '30** by writing to D-37 Ridewood Drive, Urb Torrimar, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00966.

"We're in Jamaica from January to April most years, doing less walking on the beach and no tennis, but still enjoying 'family swim' twice daily," writes **James H. Van Arsdale III '41**. "My granddaughter is in the Peace Corps, and my grandson is now getting his master's degree in the auto industry. I was sad to miss my 60th Reunion and to lose brothers **Frank Walkley '43**, **John Conable '38**, and **I. Robert Wood '40**." (P.O. Box 506, Castile, NY 14427)

Russell D. Sprague '50 sends his compliments to **Victor A. Aprea '02** for writing an "excellent" letter to alumni in July 2013. "Hope all continues to go well for you and the other Phi Deltas!" (121 Dates Rd., Lansing MY 14882)

We received the following update for **J. "Jerry" Jenkins '51**: "A veteran of WWII, Jerry will be 88 this August (2013). With his wife, Helen (Cornell '49), he is living in a wonderful continuing care retirement community." (1031 Edgemere Ct., #2 Copley, OH 44321)

"Life continues to be good—carrying on the wonderful experience with Phi Deltas, Michigan summers, and Florida winters with Clare (54 years!) and friends," writes **Charles Rodes '54**. Write to 15 E. Beach Rd., Frankfort, MI 49635.

"I spend winters on Wilmington Islands, Georgia—8 miles east of Savannah," writes A. **Richard Triebel '55**. "Would welcome contact from close classmates!" (842 Saddlewood Dr., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137)

"In May, I was in Atlanta visiting one son's family, another son, and my friend, Rita," writes **H. Clifton Ames III '62**. "We were joined for a great dinner by Midge and Bob Leventry." (94 Cherry Tree Ln., Reedville, VA 22539.)

"It was good to see **Richard Feliciano '64**, **John Harding '63**, **Thomas Heltzel '63**, **Richard Olson '62**, **Peter Lee '63**, and **Richard Bradley '63** at Reunion," writes **Robert A. "Bob" Agnew '63**. "Thanks to the current brothers and 1983 grads for hosting us. House looks good!" (351 Town Place Cir., # 401, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089; or raagnew@comcast.net.)

Brothers can get in touch with **Robert C. Simpson '64** by writing to 7108 S. Sleepy Hollow Dr., Tulsa, OK 74136.

"I came out of retirement to manage a technology incubation located in my hometown of Bluffton," writes **Lawrence H. "Larry" Hughes '65**. "I was instrumental in developing the partnership with Clemson University that brought the incubator here. My wife, Judith, and I enjoy travelling by cruise ship several times a year; in April we took a seven-day trip from Rome to Venice. Best wishes to all the brothers of New York Alpha. If you are in the Savannah, Georgia, or Hilton Head, South Carolina, area, get in touch!" (10 Sweet Pond Ct., Bluffton, SC 29910; ljhughes2@gmail.com.)

Catch up with **John E. Wilson Jr. '66**, a real estate broker, by writing to 213 Meadows Edge, Acton, MA 01718, or emailing john@johnwilson.com.

Write to **John L. Wheeler '72** at 7211 S. Vine St., Centennial, CO 80122; or email john.wheeler@judicial.state.co.us.

R. W. "Chip" Harrison III '74 sends his greetings from Tupper Lake. Write to 630 Panther Ledge, Tupper Lake, NY 12986.

"Saw **Brian Dunn '77** on Capitol Hill, and also **Ralph Lewis '78**," writes **Stanley E. Kolbe Jr. '76**. Contact Stanley at 215 E. St. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003; or at skolbejr@verizon.net.

Bruce Haupt '80 can be reached at 3630 Peachtree Rd., Unit #2905, Atlanta, GA 30326.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

D. Wayne Fleming '45

April 29, 2013

John B. Fiery '54

March 21, 2013

Eugene Holman Jr. '55

March 4, 2013

Peter E. Loberg '64

April 20, 2013

Peter G. Duffy '66

March 4, 2013

Dennis L. McCroskrey '67

March 28, 2013

George M. McClure '71

July 7, 2013

Kirk W. Seitz '77

March 15, 2013

Kendall S. Reed '79

June 30, 2013

Reconnect with **Gregory J. DeStefano '86**, president of GDS Companies, by writing to 2406 Central Street, Suite 112, Evanston, IL 60201; or emailing him at gdstefano@gdscompanies.com.

John L. Falcone '02 shared his exciting news with us: He completed his residency training in general surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He will be moving with this wife, Trasey; daughter, Gianna (2); and son, J.D. (6 months) to Owensboro, Kentucky. He will be a general surgeon there. He would love to hear from any brothers to catch up or for advice in the medical field. Please email him at fakjl@gmail.com.

Connect with **Robert A. Chu '04**, an associate attorney at Cozen O'Connor, by writing to 2101 Market St., Unit 2507, Philadelphia, PA 19103; or emailing rac47@cornell.edu.

the cayugan

Published regularly by the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. Alumni news and pictures are always welcome; share your own or send updates for your brothers. Please direct all communications to Alumni Records Office, Phi Delta Theta, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.