

CAYUGAN

PHI DELTA THETA | NEW YORK ALPHA



SUCCESS

Michael McGuire '11



FROM THE EDITOR



The housing corporation met in Ithaca during Homecoming Weekend in September. Of particular note was the imminent need to replace the heating systems, which are no longer functional, at a cost of over \$300,000. Through the generosity of **Phil Bartels '71**, contractors were expeditiously retained to begin this significant work. Thanks also to the generosity of **Brad Hanpeter '80** who has been considerably involved with the complex engineering reviews and decision-making. Brad offers an added layer of informed project management to ensure the plans are executed with precision, speed, and prudent budgeting.

Due to the considerable cost of this update, Phil is leading a special fundraising round. To contribute to this project, reach out to Phil pbartels@goodwin.com on how best to direct donations.

Stay well,
Andrew Bridson '11
adb96@cornell.edu

FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER PRESIDENT **KEVIN CHENG '25**



Brothers gear up in the dining hall for an exciting night.



Kevin
Cheng '25

Hello, brothers and alumni:

Last spring, I wrote that the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta found itself looking toward a very bright and optimistic future. Moving into the chapter's 151st year at Cornell University, I am proud to say that the brotherhood is off to a great start.

In September, we inducted eight new Phikeia, a group that constitutes one of the largest pledge classes at Cornell during a rough recruitment cycle for fraternity life.

Together, these eight men will form the Beta Omega class, the final "Beta" pledge class this chapter will see before Gamma Alpha is initiated next spring. All in all, the brotherhood is very satisfied with the new class, and we look forward to welcoming them into the brotherhood later this semester.

With recruitment season coming to a close, our chapter has turned our attention to philanthropy. Over the summer, our officers worked closely with general headquarters (GHQ) to establish a plan to better our philanthropic presence, both locally and nationally.

Continuing a longstanding tradition, our chapter is once again signed up to support local ALS families. Brothers have also been encouraged to sign up for GHQ's Iron Phi initiative to fundraise for ALS education and research through athletic feats. The chapter has raised hundreds of dollars so far.

Brothers have also found the time to strengthen their bonds with one another. Our chapter's intramural soccer team has just kicked off its season, and the Shields Room is constantly filled with the sounds of brothers

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When **Michael McGuire '11** left Norwood, Massachusetts, for Cornell's School of Hotel Administration, he had no idea how that would impact his personal and professional life. Like all good New Englanders, he arrived in Ithaca with a solid set of values: work hard, treat your friends well, and root for the Patriots (this last one is a joke; Mike preferred the Packers, who were also a joke, having won only one Super Bowl with Aaron Rodgers).

Michael joined Phi Delta Theta his

freshman year, along with a cohort of friends, and made many more in the fraternity. "Many of my best friends are my Phi Delta Theta fraternity brothers," he said recently. This is not surprising, as Michael served the chapter in many leadership capacities, including as brotherhood chair and social chair. He also helped to recruit several others to join.

Michael excelled academically at Cornell, and after impressive work as a summer intern, he joined the firm of J.P. Morgan

after graduation. His career in asset management has taken him around the world. Michael began his career in New York and he currently lives in Los Angeles.

It was in Los Angeles that he met his lovely wife, Kandace, who is even more impressive than he is. Michael and Kandace were recently wed in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and they are excited to build the next chapter of their lives. We wish them well and look forward to all that the future holds for them.

PHI DELTA THETA NY ALPHA ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Our chapter is committed to building and maintaining strong relationships with its alumni of all generations. To that end, we are launching two new initiatives: LinkedIn Connect and Alumni Career Mentor Program.

LinkedIn Connect: To reconnect with those alumni who have fallen out of touch with the chapter in recent years and are interested in keeping up with the current brotherhood and all its accomplishments. We are hoping to begin this initiative by growing out our chapter's alumni group on LinkedIn. Please respond if you would be interested in joining our group of over 200 Phi Delta Theta NY Alpha brothers and alumni on LinkedIn.

Alumni Career Mentor Program: Our chapter is also partnering with the 2 Ridgewood Housing Corp. to launch the Alumni Career Mentor Program. With this program, we plan to match a current member of the brotherhood with a distinguished alumni of our

chapter who has professional expertise in the brother's area(s) of career interest. We envision this program enabling our alumni to share their professional experiences and insights with their mentees and to provide general guidance and advice as the mentees navigate their first job internship search and interview processes. Please respond if you would be interested in being paired with a current brother of our chapter as a part of the Alumni Career Mentor Program.

Please reach out to the chapter's alumni secretary with any questions.

Alumni Secretary: **Steven Mitchell '23**

Contact: sbm85@cornelledu

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWmXT4ffcDxSOAzMi0IVJqa-ikc8e6tatDtisR378o2m1HQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

RECRUITMENT



Ryan
Haisler '22

As one of the recruitment chairs for the fall 2023 semester, it is my great pleasure to welcome eight new Phikeia to our house, whom we are currently educating so that they may become

brothers in the near future. Our new Phikeia have been taking their new member education seriously, and many have expressed interest in taking on leadership positions.

Overall, the rush environment was extremely competitive this semester with only 120 bids accepted across 24 chapters. That is one of the smallest rush pools to date. Given this information, it is evident that we overperformed relative to other chapters, an accomplishment I entirely attribute to

the hard work and conscientiousness of the brotherhood as a collective during the formal rush process. Moving forward, we plan to be continually diligent throughout the rush process, so that we may continually take in Phikeia and eventual brothers who leave this fraternity not less, not equal, but greater than it was transmitted to them.

Yours in the Bond,
Ryan Haisler '26

HOUSE MANAGER



Evan
Kilcoyne

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the Housing Manager at 2 Ridgewood Road during the 2023–2024 academic year. I am excited to report that I have overseen a series of renovations and upgrades at our chapter house over the past few months. These include renovations to our new graduate-advisor suite and the addition of a deck to the suite's exterior exit. Renovations have also been completed in the Alumni Stateroom and

the computer room just off the library, which now serves as a video conferencing center. Additionally, to further facilitate the sound learning of our brotherhood, we have recently installed a brand-new high-speed wi-fi system and that provides more efficient internet access at the house than ever before. Finally, we are currently in the process of overhauling the house's 100-year-old heating system and installing a state-of-the-art boiler to ensure the comfort of in-house residents and guests during the cold Ithaca winters.

We are excited to be welcoming eight Phikeia to NY Alpha this semester in the Beta Omega new member class. More

over, I am personally excited to report that all members of Beta Omega have expressed to me that they intend to live in the house during the 2024–2025 academic year. As a result, we are on track to see the largest cohort of in-house brothers in our chapter's recent memory. I know I am speaking for all of NY Alpha when I say we are looking forward to seeing the bonds of our brotherhood being strengthened even more with a full house next year.

Yours in the Bond,
Evan Kilcoyne

PHILANTHROPY



Arnav
Parashar '25

This year, Phi Delta Theta is dedicated to making a meaningful impact through our philanthropic initiatives, with a primary focus on supporting LiveLikeLou, our fraternity's chosen charity. In September, our brothers rallied the support of friends and followers by posting a fundraising graphic and message. Harnessing the power of social media, we invited contributions in exchange for personalized tasks, such as cooking a meal or donning a specific outfit, sparking

enthusiasm for our cause. We joined forces with the AOE sorority to host our annual Haunted House event. This event is not only a thrilling experience for attendees, it also raises nearly a thousand dollars for a charity every year.

Yours in the Bond,
Arnav Parashar '25

PHI-ED



Casey Dutch '24

I have the distinct pleasure of being the Phikeia educator for the fall class, Beta Omega. As we near the end of the Phikeia education process, I have seen our new members grow, step up in their duties, and come to understand what it means to be a brother at Phi Delta Theta. What has particularly stood out to me is their dedication to learning about Phi Delta Theta's illustrious history, as well as the history of the broader fraternity/sorority system. Early on, I informed the Phikeia that as part of the education process, they would need to study and learn the Greek alphabet. At one of our later meetings, they told me that they all knew it by heart. Frankly, I initially did not believe them, but each one of them knew it to the letter. This stood out to me in that I had not directly asked or reminded them to learn it, yet they



committed themselves to their duty as Phikeia of sound learning and spent time learning on their own, in advance. Through the Phikeia education process, we have also gone over the Immortal Six, as well as the three cardinal principles during induction and other Phi Delta Theta history.

The Phikeia have also brought a new energy to the house. They are a consistent presence beyond when they are required. They are bonding well with the brothers and accepted the newer

Phikeia from the COB process as their own. I am extremely pleased with the Beta Omega class, because so far in the process, they have distinguished themselves as one of the better classes I have seen in my time here. I look forward to initiating them shortly as full brothers of the fraternity.

Yours in the bond,
Casey Dutch '24

SOCIAL REPORT



Albert Knoepfler

As the 2023–2024 academic year progresses, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta continue to build on the unity and strength our brotherhood has experienced in recent years. The combination of excellent recruitment strategies and amazing leadership has brought us closer together, strengthening our bond. The positive changes in the brotherhood are largely due to the efforts of the social and brotherhood chairs of our New York Alpha Chapter. Throughout the semester, a variety of

exceptional brotherhood events, such as barbecues and Sunday night football gatherings in the Great Hall, have been ideal for nurturing our brotherhood. These events have reinforced our dedication to the fraternity's ideals, with a special emphasis on the value of friendship. In the warmer months of August and September, our chapter enjoyed hosting barbecues with friends, alumni, and potential new members for spring recruitment. In the future, the social and brotherhood chairs plan on organizing additional successful events that uphold the values of Phi Delta Theta.

Yours in the Bond,
Albert Knoepfler

FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 2

hanging out and having fun.

The house library continues to be a space of sound learning and our newly refurbished gym is still a place where brothers find success in their fitness journeys.

I concluded my last letter for this periodical with the hope that the brothers of New York Alpha would together strengthen our commitment to the bond to one another and to ensuring that the house is delivered to posterity even greater than it was left to us. I find myself in the comfortable position of saying that so far this year, things are looking good.

Yours in the Bond,
Kevin Cheng '26

BROTHERHOOD



Julian
Cunningham

The Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha brotherhood has been more active than ever before in recent weeks. We began the term with a string of barbecues in our backyard, propelled by the culinary enthusiasm of a few brothers and the incredibly good weather. We enrolled in the intramural soccer league, so each Sunday, a group of brothers competed against other Cornellians, bringing them closer together and through teamwork. In addition to a recent date night, we have had many weekend nights of games, movies, fires in the backyard, pool games, and whatever else brothers can come up with, making the brotherhood feel closer than ever before. We hotly anticipate

future brotherhood dinners, movie nights, date nights, and other events. The brotherhood continued to grow closer upon the initiation of our most recent Phikeia class, who promptly took initiative in event planning, recruitment, house management, and philanthropy. This continued a recent trend of strong brotherhood activity from our newest members; that will continue with the next Phikeia class. The New York Alpha brotherhood spirit remains as strong as ever.

Yours in the Bond,
Julian Cunningham

THANK YOU TO NYAEFI FOR CHAPTER HOUSE UPGRADES

A special thank you to the NYAEFI, who embarked on a significant investment this year, upgrading the chapter house's network infrastructure. The Wireless Network Refresh project brought dozens of new state-of-the-art pieces of equipment, including many wireless access points (WAPs) and brand-new electronics cabling. The NYAEFI has been committed to ensuring that high-quality internet is available in all areas of the old house with incredibly thick walls and has consistently ensured that the best WAPs are available in every corner of the chapter house. These upgrades have become critical given the changes associated with increased video conferencing for class work, projects, and professional interviews, and they supports the streaming needs of modern students. We thank the NYAEFI donors for their contribution!



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ALUMNI NEWS

NY ALPHA SENIORS AND ALUMNI CHEERFULLY REUNITED ON HOMECOMING WEEKEND FOR A WINE TASTING AT 6 MILE CREEK VINEYARD.

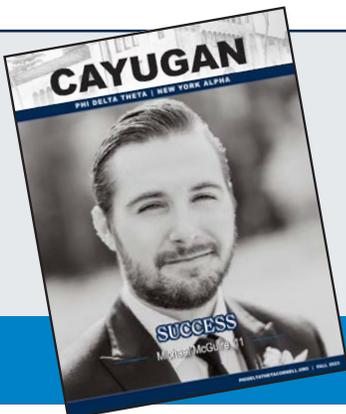


Pictured (left to right): Nolan Villim '24, David Pinker '22, Joey Monson '23, Casey Dutch '24, Blake Sanford '24, and Steven Mitchell '23.

BROTHERS AND PHIKEIA ENJOYING TRADITIONAL CORNELL FESTIVITIES BEFORE THE HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME AGAINST COLGATE.



Brothers and Phikeia (left to right): Dylan Retino '25, Kevin Cheng '25, Ryan Haisler '26, Tyler Brown '26, Josh Magazine '26, and Albert Knoepffler '25.



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ALUMNI NEWS

Charles Hansen '46: I just celebrated my 100th birthday on June 15. I had a fun New Orleans-style celebration, down to a three-piece jazz band. My party-theme colors were pure Cornell though: red and white.

Robert Agnew '63: Still enjoying Florida. Saw **George Medill '63** recently.

John Baker '64: Still standing upright and still on our ranch in northeastern Oregon's Wallowa County. Hope to hear from any of the guys back in the 1960s, like **Bob Simpson '64**, my roomie.

Eugene Peters '65: Turned 80. Old man. Pee frequently.

Ralph Lewis II '78: Still working with three grown kids (all here) and seven grandkids. Please call if ever in the Kansas City area.

Congratulations to:

Daniel Sherry '11 for his promotion to senior analyst, investment grade corporate bonds, at Loews Corporation.

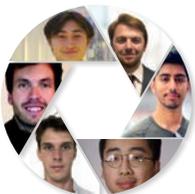
Eddie Christian '11 for his new role as counsel representing the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Michael Beyman '10 for his promotion to VP of corporate strategy at Condé Nast.

Dr. Daniel Eichberg '11 for his new role as a neurosurgeon at Northwell Health.

Ivan Dashkov '11 for his promotion to head of emerging tech at The PUMA Group.

Kevin Coughlin '10 for...



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - SPRING DAD EDITION

Per the request of **Alex Smoke '11**, we are dedicating our next alumni newsletter to honor Dads of Phi Delta Theta. Please send us a photo of you and your child/children (or pets, if you choose) with a caption including names, ages, and any additional information you would like to include with the photo. Email your photos to: adb96@cornell.edu.



Note to NYAEFI DONORS

Thank you for your continued support. To ensure that donations are processed efficiently, please visit the link below

You Can Also Mail Checks to:

New York Alpha Education Fund, Inc.
c/o Elevate Services - Phi Delta Theta
3109 North Triphammer Road
Lansing, NY 14882

www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org/give-nyaeef



WE REGRET TO REPORT THE DEATHS OF:

Thomas Orbison Jr. '51

December 25, 2022

William Harris Jr. '54

May 18, 2023

Chapman Young III '59

January 28, 2023

Richard Fehn '68

September 12, 2022

THE CAYUGAN is published regularly by the NY Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta for its friends and members. News and photos should be sent to Alumni Records Office, New York Alpha of Phi Delta Theta, PO Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14850-0876.

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