

the cayugan

new york alpha chapter of phi delta theta

Chapter Prospers and Adapts While Campus Changes

I'd like to welcome you to the spring 2013 issue of *The Cayugan*.

The undergraduates have done a great job writing articles that clearly demonstrate our chapter's commitment to the fraternity's principles of friendship, sound learning, and moral rectitude. As an alumnus, it's great to see how they have upheld some of the cherished traditions of years past and continue to grow and adapt in an ever-changing Greek system at Cornell.

Greek life at Cornell has faced some serious challenges in the wake of some real tragedies in recent years. These challenges have manifested themselves in the form of more stringent administrative controls and disciplinary actions this past year than the fraternity system has been subject to as far back as I can remember. A number of chapters were even suspended. I'm proud to say that our undergraduates have responded to the current climate with admirable



responsibility and a positive attitude.

Our brothers' tenacity in weathering the storm has yielded one of the largest pledge classes our chapter has seen in many years, with 17 new members joining us this term. This is really exciting news and shows great promise for the future of NY Alpha. I'm expecting great strides to come from our new initiates over the course of the next few years!

In facilities, 2 Ridgewood Road is doing well. We had to react to some issues with our steam heating system in the last term, effectively gutting the subsystem feeding the bedroom hallway off the kitchen. It would be great for us to get into a position where we can be more proactive about dealing with deferred maintenance of this sort before it becomes an imminent problem.

We have a growing backlog of such items, running the gamut from minor to major work on the horizon. For example, a looming issue is that we are probably going to need to tear down the structure surrounding the kitchen entrance and rebuild it. We'd also like to renovate the alumni bathroom.

The stucco masonry needs patching and repairs in several crumbling places around the exterior. These are merely the things we need to do. This list is complemented by another list of things we want to do. For example, we have wanted for some time to build a safe and functioning porch over the Shields room, overlooking the backyard.

In short, our chapter house is perpetually in need of work to keep it in shape, and investment to keep making it an attractive and competitive residence option for our brothers. This is especially important as the university continues to invest extensively in alternative housing options to the Greek system. The message here couldn't be simpler. Please donate to the housing corporation! Your generous donations are the resources we need to stay ahead of the curve, and make our chapter a campus leader. On behalf of the alumni board, thank you for your support!

Yours in the Bond,
Victor Aprea '02
Alumni Board President



Ian Purnell '14, Mark Malin '13, Kelvin Lin '13, Nate Bromberg '14, and A.J. Calvario '14 enjoy the beautiful sun during a relaxing spring break trip to Puerto Rico.



Most of the brotherhood in a group shot at our wonderful winter formal.

NY Alpha Initiates 17 New Brothers

I am excited to announce that on Sunday, March 3, 2013, the NY Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta initiated 17 Phikeia into the fraternity, marking another growing year for the brotherhood. It is my pleasure to introduce the newly elected brothers of the Beta Gamma class: Adam Garland '15, Alexander Zink '16, Benjamin White '16, Evan De Luna '16, Evan Gao '16, Forrest Cox '16, George Economou '15, Ian Cloutier '16, Jimmy Fera '16, Krist Tase '16, Logan Lin '16, Lucas Rachichi '16, Ming Zhu '16, Nick Joynson '16, Richard Branciforte '15, Spencer Velarde '16, and Worthing Cabot Jackman '16.

This year was challenging for the Phikeia as they had to go through an eight-week initiation in only six-weeks due to Cornell's recent pledging policy change. Certain aspects of pledging are being continued still, such as the pledge house project, philanthropy event, and athletic event against the brothers. Beta Gamma gave its full commitment to learning the way our fraternity operates, while getting acquainted and interviewing all of the brothers. A large emphasis was placed on learning the history of Phi Delta Theta at a chapter and international level. The new members proved their knowledge of the material by averaging a 91 percent on the final exam.

Before pledging officially began, the Phikeia took the initiative to sit down and meet one another. This was important in their becoming close friends; thus far, it has aided in their ability to work together to complete tasks. Outside of NY Alpha, the new pledge class has a strong involvement in other on-campus groups such as WVBR, snowboarding club, Hawaiian club, beverage club, an improv-comedy group, and a hip-hop dance group, to name a few. There is no doubt that their involvements and leadership responsibilities will help Phi Delta Theta continue to grow at Cornell.

It was a pleasure to work with such a hardworking group of young men. Their initiation day brought the NY Alpha Chapter to 57 brothers, and I have full faith that our new brothers will continue to work and lead Phi Delta Theta to new heights in the upcoming years. Please join me once more in welcoming and congratulating the newest Beta Gamma class of Phi Delta Theta NYA.

Yours in the Bond,
Thomas Burton '13, 1863

Surviving and Growing in the Changing Cornell Greek Climate

This semester we, as a house, have been focusing on surviving and growing in the changing Cornell Greek climate. During this semester specifically, Cornell has taken significant actions in implementing its "end pledging as we know it" campaign. Consequently, we have been forced to adapt in order to survive.

In order to adapt to the changing climate, we have redefined positions and reoriented our recruitment strategies to ensure our survival as a house and take advantage of the changing Greek climate to help us better our recruitment.

One of the keys to adapting has been expanding the role of the risk management chair, empowering the chair to take a more active roll in mitigating risks during events. Furthermore, the current chair has taken on the role of reading, understanding, and staying up to date with the campus rules so that the executive board can be informed when making decisions regarding managing risk. We have also sought out the risk manager's opinion before and during events with issues regarding risk to keep us from getting into disciplinary trouble on campus and jeopardizing our recognition from the university.

Our reoriented recruitment strategy is two-fold; we are taking on stricter risk management procedures during Rush and refocusing our recruitment efforts to the fall semester.

By appointing a new risk management

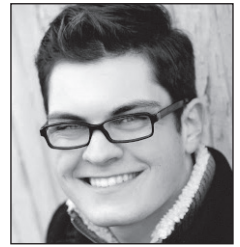
chair, we have been able to better control the risks our house is exposed to during Rush events. In order to achieve this, our risk manager has taken time to learn and under-

stand the OFSIL rules regarding recruitment and the Rush period, and officers have run all event plans past the risk management chair before hosting Rush events.

Due to tightened regulation and enforcement during Rush, the executive board, in cooperation with the recruitment chair, also decided to re-emphasize fall recruitment of potential rushees. Our recruitment chair worked on a detailed plan to target potential new members when they are accepted to Cornell by building relationships through hosting newly admitted students in the spring, acting as orientation group leaders to target potential members when they come to campus in the fall, and throughout the fall semester by building strong relationships with members of the freshman class.

By adapting to the changing climate of the Greek system at Cornell, I believe we will be able to prosper through our recruitment efforts and continue to have a bright future as a house.

Nick Vasko '14
President



Newly initiated brothers Krist Tase '16, Nick Joynson '16, Cabot Jackman '16, Richard Branciforte '15, George Economou '16, Evan De Luna '16, Spencer Velarde '16, Forrest Cox '16, and Ian Ramos-Cloutier '16 take a study break to pose for a picture in our computer room.

House Manager: Learning New Responsibilities in Fraternity Life

When I ran for house manager last semester, I knew that it would be one of the biggest challenges in my life so far. Being in charge of maintaining the house and keeping it in good condition while also making sure regular operations run smoothly was definitely an enormous responsibility. I was proud and honored that my brothers believed in me and had no doubts that I'd be able to succeed in this position.

The first few weeks were extremely rough. Not only was organizing the weekly cleaning of such a big house difficult to manage, but we experienced some problems with our heating system as our pipes were too old and could not keep up with one of the coldest winters we've had in years. The fact that Daniel Balentine '12 left Cornell that semester upon graduation didn't help. However, we

had to move forward and undertake the project of fixing the heating system. Despite losing one of our key mentors, and thanks to the generous contribution and insightful advice of Jon Bellante '06 and Victor Aprea '02, we were able to finish this project at the end of February. There is a new heating system that works for one side of the house, which is more efficient on energy and more effective technologically than the older existing system.

Throughout the spring, we've been trying to improve the situation in the front yard. Brother Justin Kontur '14 has already drafted a possible budget, and we are waiting for the authorization of Brother Jared to undertake the project. The past two months have definitely been a great experience for me in the sense that I learned how to be a leader of men and

how to manage people. I also learned things that are fundamental in fraternity life such as interacting with alumni, communicating with contractors, and taking care of administrative responsibilities. In addition to being given the opportunity to be involved with the house, I have become a more responsible person.

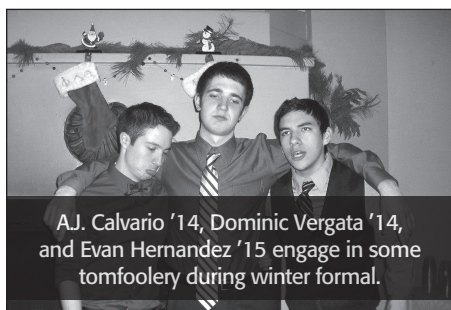
Ben Dalusma '15
House Manager

Phi Delt Excels in Philanthropy

One of my goals upon being elected philanthropy chair was to provide the brotherhood with a number of community service and philanthropic opportunities throughout the semester in addition to the main event sponsored by the fraternity. I believe that philanthropy is very important to the fraternity as it is one of the few things that separates a fraternity from a group of friends living together in a house. Thus, I am working to encourage increased brotherhood involvement in our philanthropy events, as well as other events on campus and in the Ithaca community.

This semester a number of our brothers participated in Relay for Life, which was sponsored by Cornell in Barton Hall with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life is an overnight community fundraising walk in which teams camp out around a track and take turns walking laps. Phi Delt's Relay for Life team raised nearly \$500 for the American Cancer Society. Additionally, some brothers spent their spring break in Mon County, West Virginia, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, where they helped construct a home for an underprivileged family. NY Alpha also sponsored a hole at Phi Sigma Sigma's philanthropy golf tournament, which was April 20, to benefit the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation.

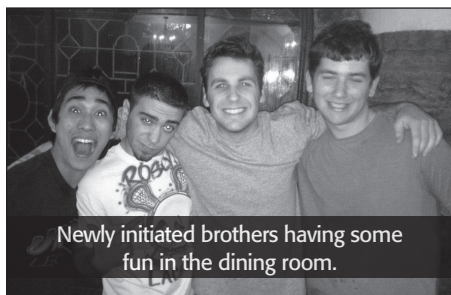
Finally, our big philanthropy event of the semester—Phi Delt Philanthropy Fiesta—was held on April 19. At this event, the brotherhood sold tacos and snow cones on the Arts Quad with all proceeds going to ALS. In addition to these events, I plan to organize a brotherhood-wide Habitat for Humanity build before the end of term.



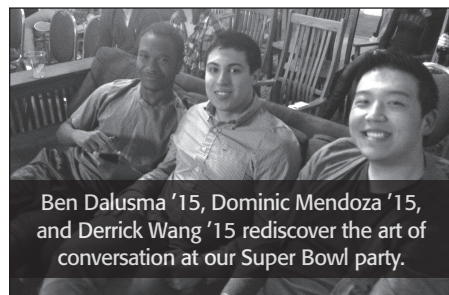
AJ. Calvario '14, Dominic Vergata '14, and Evan Hernandez '15 engage in some tomfoolery during winter formal.



Brothers enjoy some bonding time.



Newly initiated brothers having some fun in the dining room.



Ben Dalusma '15, Dominic Mendoza '15, and Derrick Wang '15 rediscover the art of conversation at our Super Bowl party.

Brothers Continue to Shine in Academics

With the addition of an outstanding new Beta Gamma class, scholarship at NY Alpha has continued to excel. Our new members have demonstrated exemplary academic performance thus far and show great potential for the future. It is our expectation that this tradition of scholarship will continue for years and inspire even greater progress in future classes. Successful scholarship in the brotherhood continues to be due to individual ability and cooperation between brothers. Numerous brothers have been inducted into campus honor societies in recognition of their achievements. Many brothers are enrolled in classes together, and it is a common

sight to see groups gathered together in the library working on shared assignments. It is also common to overhear older brothers in the house mentoring newer ones on shared classes. Furthermore, the purchase of new computers for the chapter's computer lab has provided an improved study environment and resources for academic pursuits. As our brotherhood has grown, it has grown in scholastic ability and achievement as well, and we are confident that this trend will continue in future semesters.

Jesse Reynolds '15
Scholarship Chairman

Jared Goldman '14
Treasurer/Philanthropy

alumni send their news

"My wife, Helen, and I have been happily residing at Concordia at Sumner for nine years," reports **Jerome M. Jenkins '51**. "I've slowed down a bit because of Parkinson's and macular degeneration." Reconnect with Jerome at 1031 Edgemere Ct., #2, Copley, OH 44321; jjenkins@summerhome.com.

Joseph Hinsey IV '53 was a partner of White & Case for many years (1957–1987), and he was later a professor at Harvard Business School until 1998, when he officially retired. Catch up with Joe by writing to 1010 Waltham St., Apt. H-299, Lexington, MA 02421.

Ridgely W. Harrison III '74 can be reached via email at ridgelyh@yahoo.com.

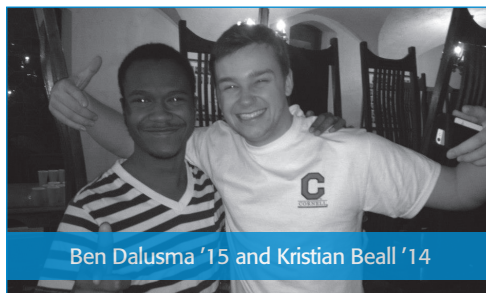
Participation in Athletics Is at an All-Time High

Phi Delta Theta has once again been successful in athletics. After a strong showing in the fall semester, our brotherhood returned in the spring semester with the same high level of athletic play. Our basketball team led by Thomas Burton '13, Dan Dworakowski '14, and Dominic Mendoza '15 finished with a 4-1 regular-season record and obtained the seventh seed for playoffs before ultimately falling short.

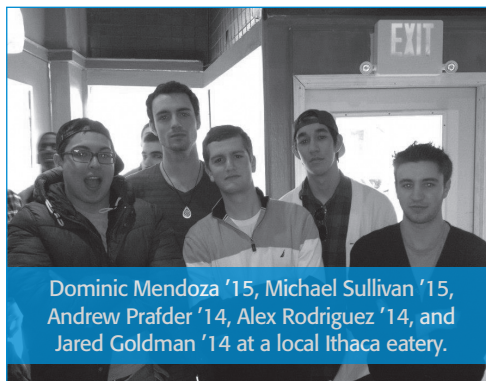
Brotherhood participation in bowling was at an all-time high as no fewer than 12 brothers enjoyed themselves at Helen Newman Lanes at least once this semester. Lucas Richichi '16 also put up a strong showing in table tennis, making it to the quarterfinals of the annual tournament. The brotherhood hopes to finish another strong year in intramurals in tennis, softball, horseshoes, badminton, and kickball once the weather improves. We hope that a strong finish gives us momentum for next year.

Dan Dworakowski '14
Athletic Chairman

"I had dinner in D.C. with **Rick Burdett '77** and **John Burliano '77**," reports **Stanley E. Kolbe Jr. '76**. "Also attended a Cornell-versus-Michigan hockey game in New York City. **John Donnelly '77** was also there to cheer on Big Red to a 5-1 win. Trying to get a group of 1976–1978 Phi Delts for 2013 Homecoming." Anyone interested in attending Homecoming, email Stan at skolbejr@verizon.net.



Ben Dalusma '15 and Kristian Beall '14



Dominic Mendoza '15, Michael Sullivan '15, Andrew Prafder '14, Alex Rodriguez '14, and Jared Goldman '14 at a local Ithaca eatery.

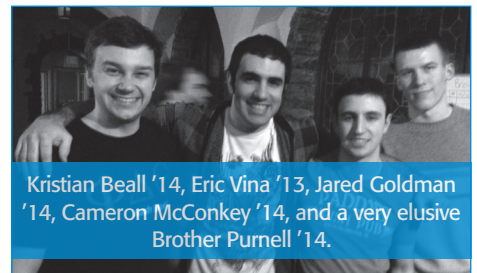
DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

Kent Dirlam '39
November 14, 2012

Albert C. Bean '43
January 25, 2013

Philip C. Collins '44
September 26, 2012



Kristian Beall '14, Eric Vina '13, Jared Goldman '14, Cameron McConkey '14, and a very elusive Brother Purnell '14.



Evan De Luna '16, Alex Zink '16, and Krist Tase '16 playing games in the Shields room.



Brothers spending time together in the TV room.

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