

# the cayugan

## *new york alpha chapter of phi delta theta*

### Major Updates Were Completed at 2 Ridgewood Road

Seasons greetings! I want to take this opportunity to give a quick update on some of the great work that has been accomplished since the previous *Cayugan*. The chapter was not occupied by brothers over the summer because of the amount of construction and renovation taking place. We were able to get the house "fully sprinklered" in compliance with Cornell's fraternity recognition mandate well ahead of the 2013 deadline, and we were able to achieve this without incurring additional debt, thanks in no small part to the generous donations of our alumni. Michael West '05 handled coordinating with the contractors on this project, and it went off without a hitch.

In addition to the important sprinkler project, we were able to take the opportunity of a vacant house to tackle some much-needed upkeep items. First, the carpeting throughout the residential section of

the house (hallways and bedrooms) was replaced top to bottom. Second, the walls in the bedrooms, stairwells, and hallways in the residential section were washed and repainted, and the floor boards were repaired as needed. Both of these projects were significant undertakings because of needing to relocate all the furniture from the rooms to the Great Hall for the duration of the projects, and then get it all back into the rooms upon completion. A big thank you to Mark Kendall '04 for his significant coordination efforts with respect to these two projects. I'd also like to thank the undergraduates for their collective generosity in helping make these projects possible.

Finally we've engaged with a new cleaning service in a joint-funded initiative between the undergraduates and the housing corporation to keep the 2 Ridgewood Road looking in tip-top shape. This service is meant to supplement the periodic

cleaning that the undergraduates do on a responsible and regular basis. I'm hoping this will help to address keeping the house cleanliness up to exceptional standards that we can all be proud of year round.

As always, I would like to thank everyone for continuing to support our chapter on an annual basis even through these challenging economic times. We perpetually have a backlog of items, maintenance, and enhancements that we try to address as funding permits. Our chapter house is a crucial part of our collective fraternity experience, and we all have fond memories of our time living there. It takes a great many resources to keep it running year after year. We couldn't do it without you, and your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!

Yours in the Bond,  
Victor Aprea '02

Housing Corporation President



Cameron McConkey '14, Dan Balentine '12, Kris Beall '14, AJ Calvario '14, Mark Malin '13, Eric Vina '12, and Jerome Thomas '13 pose with their matching sunglasses on.

### *Improving NY Alpha*



The New York Alpha Chapter has approached this school year with an incredible amount of passion and unity. The majority of the younger brotherhood is living in the house and has helped us attain a high-level of closeness that has led us to accomplishing a great deal in only the first few months of the school year. In addition, this year we have established a presence in Collegetown that we hope will lead to a larger spring pledge class.

One priority that the brotherhood has made this year is seeing our brotherhood continue to grow. Coming off an excellent effort this past spring with the recruitment of 13 young men who exemplify the three cardinal principles, the brotherhood has continued our recent

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## Improving NY Alpha

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success of recruitment with four outstanding individuals signing bids to become members of our chapter. This is the third-largest fall pledge class that we've had since the refounding of our chapter, and it's in large part due to our recruitment chair, Daniel Dworakowski '14. Dan's efforts throughout the beginning of this semester—including an outing to Glenwood Pines and barbecues in the backyard—is a big reason why we were successful, and we are excited to continue our successful recruiting next semester during Rush Week. Dan Balentine '12, who held numerous positions in the previous year, has continued his dedication to the fraternity by taking the role of this semester's Phikeia educator. He has been doing a great job teaching our Phikeia the great history of our fraternity and the importance of being a brother in this house.

Another facet of our fraternity that we as a brotherhood have strived to improve on is our philanthropy and community service. We understand the importance of being a contributor to the Cornell community and the city of Ithaca. Peter Smet '14 has headed this effort as this year's philanthropy chair, creating many opportunities in the first few months. So far, the major events that our brotherhood has volunteered and participated in are: "Jog for Jill" sponsored by Kappa Alpha Theta, "Into the Streets"—a community cleanup event in Ithaca, and the Race for the Cure supporting the fight against breast cancer. Brother Smet has done an amazing job as our philanthropy chair, and we look to the next philanthropy chair to continue his work.

Overall, I am very pleased with the growth of the brotherhood in the past couple of years and look forward to the future for the New York Alpha Chapter. We are working on ways to improve our status and involvement with extracurricular activities on campus. We have currently improved our academic status by 15 rankings due to the academic success of the brotherhood, and special thanks to the generosity of Brother Bartels '71 to the house library. As we climb the ladders in many aspects, our main focus is to take the fraternity to even greater heights and more alumni involvement.

Yours in the Bond,  
Alex Rodriguez '14, 1871  
President



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## Major Renovations at the Chapter House

This year, our house at 2 Ridgewood Road has seen truly remarkable changes. Under the direction of the housing corporation (and with the assistance of the undergraduate brothers), this summer we had a complete remodeling of all bedrooms and hallways—including repainting, new carpets, and replacement doors—and the installation of a code-compliant sprinkler system throughout the entire house. Returning for the start of the school year, brothers were unanimous in their appreciation for all of the improvements and the addition of a permanent barbecue (graciously donated by the brothers of Kappa class).

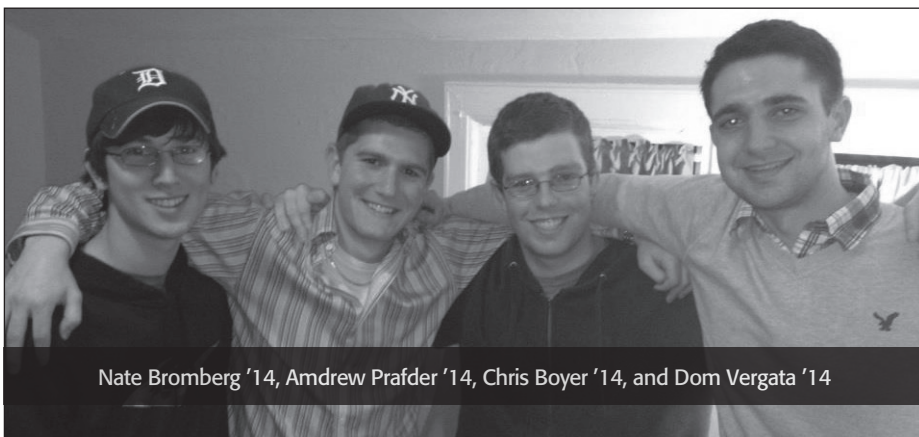
Looking forward, New York Alpha is dedicated to continuing these strings of improvements. Thanks to the initiative of brothers Nick Vasko '15 and Alex Rodriguez '14, we are currently laying the groundwork for the installation of a stone sign at the corner of Ridgewood Road and Thurston Avenue. This stately addition will go above and beyond to give a lasting impression for any

visitor to our house.

However, we're not stopping there. During winter break, workers will once again return to repaint the Great Hall, install desk lamps in the library, and rework the computer room with the addition of a closet and improved lighting.

This year has shown the incredible success that emanates from an active and engaged housing corporation and an undergraduate brotherhood united in the goal to make the Phi Delt experience better for every subsequent generation of brothers. With that in mind, we'd like to thank alumni, the housing corporation, and New York Alpha Educational Fund for all of their hardwork and dedication this past year. We look forward to continuing to work with them in the future to make New York Alpha the best it can be.

Yours in the Bond,  
Daniel Balentine '12, 1864  
House Manager



## NY Alpha is Looking for a Faculty Adviser

The year began on an excellent note with the brothers enjoying the result of major facility renovations—affecting aesthetic, safety, and academic elements of the house—that took place during the summer. In early October, we inducted a four-person fall Phikeia class, and look forward to helping the Phikeia develop throughout the pledge process, culminating in their initiation later on in the semester. Many exciting brotherhood events such as movie nights, dinner outings, athletic events, and other social gatherings also kept the brothers busy.

As always, academics continue to be a focal point of the chapter's success. Thanks to the generosity of NYAEFI, a second major upgrade to the computer-room facilities

is underway, with emphasis on upgrading computer equipment and improving lighting conditions. We fully expect that brothers will continue taking advantage of the new-and-improved computer room, as well as the academic database. Our search for a faculty adviser, who will serve an advisory role with regards to academic matters, is ongoing, but we are pursuing a few promising leads.

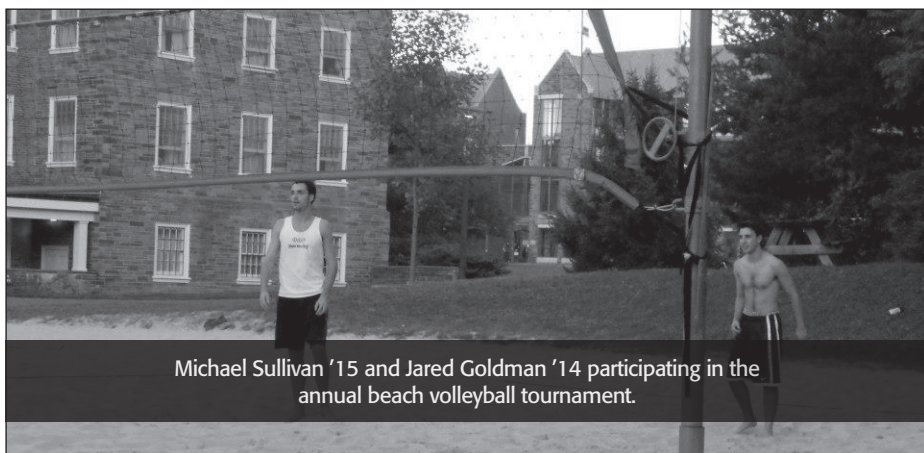
The brothers of NY Alpha are confident that we will be able to bring the semester to a successful close, and carry over the momentum of our achievements this year into the future.

Yours in the Bond,  
J.R. Cho '10, 1831  
Graduate Adviser





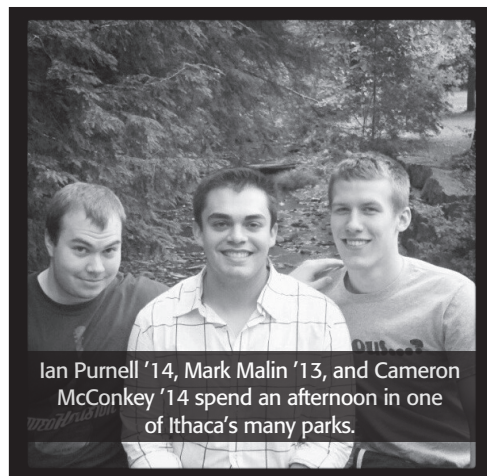
Ed Pysczynski '13 contemplating this week's food engineering problem set.



Michael Sullivan '15 and Jared Goldman '14 participating in the annual beach volleyball tournament.



Thomas Burton '14 and Peter Smet '14 this past summer at the Phi Delta Theta General Convention in Washington, D.C.



Ian Purnell '14, Mark Malin '13, and Cameron McConkey '14 spend an afternoon in one of Ithaca's many parks.



Matthew Weiner '14, Ed Pysczynski '13, Seth Peyla '15, Ian Purnell '14, AJ Calverio '14, Thomas Burton '13, Mike Mastakas '12, and Oliver Beacham '14 enjoy a barbecue in Collegetown.



## Phi Delts Improve in Academics

These past few semesters have been quite an academic success for our brotherhood. Along with the addition of 13 new brothers this past spring, our chapter was beyond successful in improving our academic ranking from 34th to 15th among all fraternities on campus. With such a strong start leading us into the 2012–2013 academic year, we hope this momentum will carry us to even better standings in the future.

Additionally, we have begun to make our house's academic database portable through an online Dropbox account. This way, our brothers can access old exams and lecture notes as study materials anywhere with internet access. This is particularly useful for brothers who don't live in the house, and it will certainly prove beneficial over mid-semester breaks when most brothers are away from Cornell entirely.

What's more, brothers are enrolled in many courses with one another to promote learning, despite the fact that we embody a diverse range of majors across the university's seven colleges. We've also continued our presence on campus through participation in academic research and working as course TAs. With such strides in progress, we share high hopes that we can uphold these standards for many semesters to come.

Yours in the Bond,  
Dominic Vergata '14, 1874  
Scholarship Chair



## Chapter Strives for 100-Percent Participation in Philanthropy Events This Year!



As men of principle and philanthropy, giving back to our community is of utmost importance to our chapter. As Phi and Cornell men, we strive to be the first and foremost in philanthropy on campus.

This semester, we collaborated with other fraternities and sororities to raise money for lung cancer research. Jog for Jill, an organization focused on raising money for lung cancer research, organized a 5K run to benefit one of our fellow Cornellians. Ingrid Nunez was diagnosed with lung cancer, and the Greek community rallied around her to run and raise money to help those also afflicted with lung cancer. Phi Delta Theta had a strong showing and was more than happy to contribute to this

great cause.

In terms of our own philanthropy, we are in the process of setting up volunteer opportunities at a local used-clothing center and a cancer research center. Our goal is to get 100-percent brotherhood participation at several points throughout the semester. We are also working on organizing an event to raise money for the ALS Upstate New York Chapter. We want to continue our success from the previous semester and try to raise even more funds for ALS research.

We are very excited about the potential ideas we have right now, and rest assured, we will organize a fun, safe, and lucrative philanthropy event!

Yours in the Bond,  
Peter C. Smet '14, 1879  
Philanthropy Chair

## New York Alpha Continues to Focus on Brotherhood Bonding

With the addition of 19 new brothers in the previous year's two pledge classes (fall 2011 and spring 2012), New York Alpha has renewed its commitment to creating a lasting, eternal brotherhood by re-emphasizing our focus on brotherhood and camaraderie during our limited time here in Ithaca.

So far this semester, New York Alpha has continued its weekly movie nights—screening a variety of films that highlight the diverse backgrounds and tastes of our growing brotherhood. While it always proves difficult to find a time or movie that suits everyone, there's always excited chatter on what movie to watch next.

Taking advantage of the fall weather and beautiful surroundings here in Ithaca, New York, the brotherhood hosted a cookout and hike through Robert H. Treman State Park—only a few miles from our house at 2 Ridgewood Road—which was well-attended and enjoyed by all. Marveling at the countless waterfalls and

natural beauty of the area, brothers were able to leave the ever-connected world of Cornell's campus (there's no 3G service in the woods!) and enjoy one another's company in this natural setting.

Looking forward to the rest of the semester, we're well on our way to planning our winter formal in December. This annual event serves as a culmination of the fall semester and a great final gathering of all brothers before everyone heads home for break.

All in all, this semester has shown how the true bond of brotherhood can overcome any petty bickering or personal disagreements that arise from time to time. The strength of the brotherhood is strong and improving. With this hope, I look forward to my remaining years as a brother of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha.

Yours in the Bond,  
Ian Purnell '14, 1881  
Brotherhood Chair

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. Please direct all communications to Alumni Records Office, Phi Delta Theta, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.*

# Phi Delts Are on the Road to Victory!

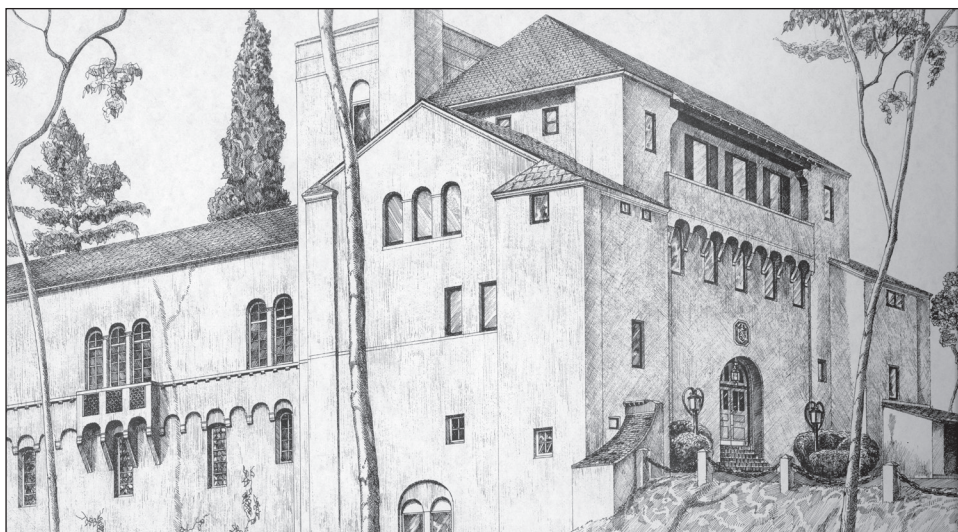
Phi Delta Theta has had a successful athletic year so far. After finishing fourth in the all-sports championship the previous year, we are looking to win it all this year. Participation in sports has been the largest in the past three years.

This year, we fielded two football teams—both of which made the quarterfinals—led by Dominic Mendoza '15, Daniel Dworakowski '14, and Peter Berkowitz '14. Beach volleyball was the most successful sport as we took second, third, and fourth behind Dworakowski, Thomas Burton '13, and Edward Pyszczyński '13. We had our first win in two years in outdoor soccer behind co-captains Ian Purnell '14 and Harrison Supnick '14. Four brothers represented Phi Delta Theta

in golf: Christopher Boyer '14, Kristian Beall '14, Alexander Rodriguez '14, and Pyszczyński. Pyszczyński and Kelvin Lin '14 represented the house for tennis doubles. Seth Peyla '15 and Dworakowski placed third in fraternity disc-golf doubles.

Currently, we are fielding two teams each in three-on-three basketball, no-tap bowling, and volleyball. We have high hopes in volleyball as we are the defending fraternity champions. We hope to continue our winning ways en route to our first fraternity all-sports championship.

Yours in the Bond,  
Daniel Dworakowski '14, 1873  
Athletic Chair



## Our Four Phikeia Learn the Three Cardinal Principles of Phi Delt

*Friendship, sound learning, and moral rectitude ...*

We are pleased to announce the addition of four new Phikeia, who are well on their way to becoming brothers as part of Beta-Beta pledge class. We'd like to introduce Phikeia Calvin DeCarlo '14 (ILR), Evan Hernandez '15 (hotel), Alex Fulmer '15 (hotel), and Kevin Lebron '15 (ILR).

While the fall semester education process is shorter than the spring, the newly inducted Phikeia are quickly getting to know one another as they learn the history of our fraternity and acquire an understanding of the true meaning of brotherhood.

Through a series of events—including the recently complete "Sorority Serenades"—the

Phikeia have formed close bonds among themselves and with the undergraduate brotherhood. Looking forward to the rest of the semester, the pledge class plans on refurbishing the back porch as their class contribution to the house.

As the education process finishes up, we are confident that the new Phikeia will demonstrate the three cardinal principles that have united all Phis throughout our storied history: friendship, sound learning, and moral rectitude. We look forward to the day when they will be welcomed as brothers.

Yours in the Bond,  
Daniel Balentine '12, 1864  
Phikeia Educator

## Fall 2012 Undergraduate Officers

**President & IFC Representative:**  
Alexander Rodriguez '14

**Vice President:**  
Kelvin Lin '14

**Treasurer:**  
A. J. Calvario '14

**Secretary:**  
Matthew Weiner '14

**Steward:**  
Nathaniel Bromberg '14

**House Manager:**  
Daniel Balentine '12

**Rush Chairman & Phikeia Educator:**  
Cameron McConkey '13

**Recruitment & Athletic Chairman:**  
Daniel Dworakowski '14

**Philanthropy & Social Chairman:**  
Peter Smet '14

**Brotherhood Chairman,  
Chaplain, & Chorister:**  
Ian Purnell '14

**Alumni Relations & Awards Chairman:**  
Chris Boyer '14

**Warden, Scholarship  
Chairman, & Historian:**  
Dominic Vergata '14

**Technology Chairman:**  
Eric Vina '12

**Risk Management Chairman:**  
Oliver Beacham '14

## Visit us online!

Our website, [www.phideltnya.org](http://www.phideltnya.org), is for both current brothers and alumni. Help build our history section, view photos and bios of on the current members, and learn more about our philanthropy efforts online.



## alumni send their news

**James Van Arsdale III '41** wrote, "Haven't taken many trips this past year, and I watch TV, probably too much. I enjoyed the U.S. Open and Olympics this past summer. My wife, Suzanne, takes too good care of me, and we have three great-grandchildren!" Reconnect with Jim by writing to 71 Park Rd. E, P.O. Box 506, Castile, NY 14427; or by sending email to sznnvnars@aol.com.

"My adopted son Robert King is painting my vacation house in West Islip on the Great South Bay, Long Island," reports **Dunbar S. G. King '44**. "I am looking for a buyer for 'sea wing,' a beautiful 27-foot o'day cruiser. It's a sloop and has an Australian wing reel. It's perfect for the bay and sleeps six!" Get in touch with Dunbar for more information at 175 Linn Dr., Verona, NJ 07044; updej@aol.com.

**Thomas G. Wyman '44** is 89-years-old, in reasonable health, and retired! He has other residencies in Vero Beach, Florida, and Sun Valley, Idaho. Tom was delighted to see **Charles Van Arsdale '44**, **Dunbar King '44**, and **Philip Collins '44** are still with us. He remembers them well, but has only been in contact with Collins since graduating. Catch up with Thomas at 11470 Wye Heights Rd., Easton, MD 21601; tgwyman@aol.com.

"Been retired for 22 years," reports **John Bourne '47**. "But I keep busy in politics and theater. I'm an original member of New York City's oldest self-supporting community theater. I was honored this past June with a gala weekend at which time the theater name was changed to the John Bourne Theater. Also, in July, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of my family home in Kennebunk, Maine!" Send congratulations to John at 234 Baltic St., Brooklyn, NY 11201; jondan234@gmail.com.

**H. Clifton Ames III '62** wrote, "Thank you for having the house open and in good shape for our 50th Reunion. We had a great time and enjoyed meeting some of you!" Contact Clifton by sending postal mail to 94 Cherry Tree Ln., Reedville, VA 22539; or by sending email to macames@rrwifi.com.

**Donald K. "Don" Lewis '75** is tearing

down and rebuilding his loft near downtown Los Angeles. You can see his work at wilddonlewis.com, wilddonlewis.com/painting, and soundcloud.com/small-drone-orchestra. He still has all the pictures he took of life at Phi Delt from 1972-1973, and plans to put them together in some form to present to the brotherhood. Get in touch with Don if you want to see it when it's ready (info@wilddonlewis.com).

"My daughter Katie entered the hotel school at Cornell this fall, so I will be up to the Phi house more in the coming years," wrote **Stanley E. Kolbe Jr. '76**. "I was in Ithaca this past May and spent time at the house. I had a tour for my daughter with Matt Kurtas, who did a super job explaining the hotel school and more. Also I was briefed by Brother **Nick Vasko '15**, and he was great to help us out with insider information. My older daughter graduated from Brown this past May and is on to law school after a year on Capital Hill." Keep in touch with Stanley at 215 E. St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003; skolbejr@verizon.net.

"Stacy and I had a nice visit with **G. Sammy Kamel '85**; his wife, Karen; and their boys this past August in Newport Beach, California," reported **Stephen A. Byers '85**. (5656 Fawnbrook Ln., Dublin, OH 43017)

**Peter H. Bell '86** had a nice visit with **Tim Smith '86** and his family on their way to Washington, D.C. Tim and his wife, Kathy, live in Wellesley, Massachusetts, with their three children Brendan, Katie, and Christian. Peter ran into **Brian Parmelee '86** at a hotel in San Diego last spring. He also enjoyed a visit from **Gregg Kaufman '87** for the opening ceremonies of the Olympics this summer. Stay connected to Peter by writing to 16 Woodmere Way, Pennington, NJ 08534; or by sending email to pbell@autismspeaks.org.

**Emile B. Levisetti '87** has been traveling a lot for work to New York City; Sea Island, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and Toronto. He would love to connect with Phis in any of those areas or in L.A.; drop him a line at 592 En-trada Dr., Santa Monica, CA 90402.

### DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

**Robert M. Johnson '40**

June 26, 2012

**Robert James Roshirt '43**

July 20, 2012

**Richard N. Blomberg '46**

May 21, 2012

**James J. Redden '47**

April 18, 2009

**Grant C. Woodard '48**

April 6, 2012

**Thomas V. Bryant Jr. '50**

March 4, 2012

**Joseph A. Rice '56**

March 28, 2012

**William N. Trimble '58**

June 12, 2012

**Robert W. Bigley '67**

August 12, 2012



**Neil Armstrong** (Indiana Theta) died on August 25, 2012. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from Purdue University in 1955. On July 21, 1969, 14 years after he graduated, Neil became the first Phi Delt to walk on the moon.