

the cayugan

new york alpha chapter of phi delta theta

Spring 2012 Undergraduate Officers

President & IFC Representative:

Alexander Rodriguez '14

Vice President:

Kelvin Lin '14

Treasurer:

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Secretary:

Matthew Weiner '14

Steward:

Nathaniel Bromberg '14

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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:

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Technology Chairman:

Eric Vina '12

Risk Management Chairman:

Oliver Beacham '14

Alumni, Thank You for Your Constant Guidance and Support

It has been a very busy semester at 2 Ridgewood Road. We've been working through an especially challenging inspection cycle with the Ithaca Building Department, which I'm pleased to say is wrapping up as I write this article. With the 2011–2012 academic year coming to a close, we bid farewell to a great group of graduating seniors and wish them the best in their future endeavors. At the same time, we welcome the 13 new members who joined the fraternity this spring. I'm happy to say that next year we will have 24 members living in the chapter house.

Three noteworthy projects are taking place this summer. The first and foremost is the sprinkler-system update mandated by Cornell, so that all Greek housing will be fully covered by 2013 (our house was assessed as partially covered). Many thanks to Michael West '05 and Jon Bellante '06 for their leadership in this project. Second, the carpets throughout the residential areas of the house will be replaced. This project was partially started this past summer and will be completed this summer after Reunion. Last, but certainly not least, the Kappa pledge class (who principally graduated in 2007) generously donated a new brick barbecue to the recently renovated backyard.

As usual, there is no shortage of work to do in the foreseeable future to keep the chapter property maintained and in great condition; we are continually looking for ways to improve the property. In the forthcoming year, we will need to address the cracking and crumbling issues with a number of exterior sections of the house—the kitchen entrance needing most attention.

On a personal note, this will be my 10th Reunion Weekend. Looking back on my last decade with Phi Delta Theta, I have countless fond memories. To this day, many of my closest friends are still the brothers with

whom I shared my time at Cornell. Several brothers I have spoken with about the fraternity over the years share that same sentiment. The bond that we share is something

» Thanks to you, the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Cornell University, with its proud traditions and rich history, will always be a place to which you can come home «

we must remember to not take for granted. It brings me great pride to be able to share news about the prosperity of our chapter. We continue to set a high standard for other Phi Delta Theta chapters and the Greek community at large.

After reading the articles written by the undergraduates in this issue, I am truly humbled at the appreciation that has been so earnestly expressed toward the housing corporation, but the thanks really belongs to the brotherhood at large. I say it time and again, but none of what we do would be possible without the generous support of our alumni who volunteer their time, resources, and guidance to the undergraduate chapter. Thanks to you, the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Cornell University, with its proud traditions and rich history, will always be a place to which you can come home.

Yours in the Bond,
Victor Aprea '02, 1691
Alumni Board President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

REUNION WEEKEND

June 7–10, 2012

*Reunite with Phi Delta brothers,
new and old at 2 Ridgewood Road!*

HOMEcoming WEEKEND

September 21–23, 2012

We hope to see you in Ithaca soon!

New York Alpha Continues to Strive for Greatness

New York Alpha reaches new heights as the 2011–2012 school year comes to a close. In this past year, the brotherhood has grown larger and stronger as a whole. Being the main voice for the brothers, I would say we are all focusing to close this year strong and looking forward to a new exciting academic year with a full house and new voices.

During the spring Rush Week, 13 aspiring young men signed bids to become members of the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Cornell University. These fine men embody our cardinal principles and the mutual respect we have for every brother in our chapter. Brother Cameron McConkey '13 did an amazing job as the Phikeia educator instilling within the pledges what it means to become a Phi. With this spring pledge class and the six from the fall, the house has grown by 19 in a matter of a year.

In early March, our leadership consultant, Mr. Andrew Cole, visited the chapter and inspired us to become the greatest version of ourselves. Mr. Cole worked with the executive board and general officers to

create plans that would improve our chapter on in the following areas: philanthropy, scholarship, sorority relations, image, and recruitment. For example, since his visit, we have already hosted an ALS barbecue on the school quad and succeeded in expanding the brotherhood's campus involvement. In addition to what we are doing here in our chapter, we are trying to have better communication with our national headquarters and a closer relationship with our alumni. Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement, and we plan to continue to push ourselves to new heights.

This semester, we've had some structural improvements completed on the house. At the start of Rush Week, we were lucky enough to receive newly upholstered couches that look amazing. In addition to new furniture, we got a new flat-screen TV that makes everything look super sharp. The couches and TV create a great atmosphere for brotherhood movie nights, and they act as a great tool to get friends and potentials to come to the house. These donations from the housing corporation

made it possible to host a highly successful Super Bowl party where the entire Great Hall was filled to capacity. Also, with the running spirit in the brotherhood of getting in shape, the gym has received new life. The pledges, for their project, have repainted the gym and, with the help of the housing corporation, installed new weight equipment. The brothers of New York Alpha would like to thank the housing corporation for its great communication of our needs and its hard work.

As I am halfway through my term as president of New York Alpha and my time at Cornell, there has been a lot of time to reflect on what I've done and hope to accomplish. It's been an interesting road from attending PLC in St. Louis to making my first executive decisions. However, I have no regrets in my term, and I am extremely confident that the house is moving in the right direction, and we will continue to become the greatest version of ourselves.

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

Upgrades to the House Are Made Possible by Alumni Support

I am excited to report that many new improvements have been made to the house through the continued dedication of Phi Delta Theta brothers and alumni. As I took over as house manager, I decided to include "mini-projects" to our weekly house cleanings. These projects have greatly increased productivity as the goal becomes much larger. The new "mini-projects" included: the use of an actual coat closet in our foyer, an organized shed, and a clean Great Hall balcony.

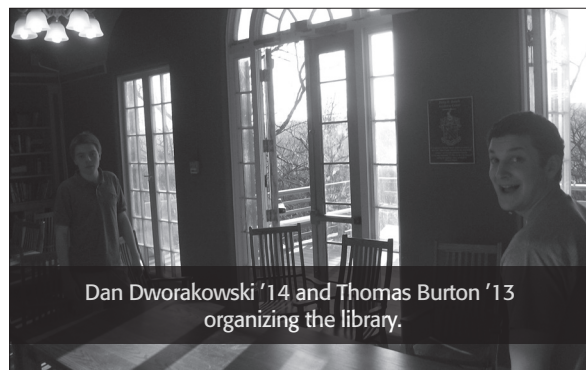
Furthermore, the pledges have done an amazing job with their pledge project of refurbishing the weight room. They washed mats, painted, and replaced machines for a much more spacious and efficient area. Overall, the house still remains in top condition.

In my previous article as recruitment chair, I mentioned how we were excited for Rush Week and the potentially large pledge class we could bring in. However, one aspect of the house that slightly concerned me was the state of our couches. I brought this to the attention of our housing corporation, headed by President Victor Aprea '02 and Treasurer Jon Belante '06, and they were fully on-board with helping to raise

the quality of the house. Not only did they have our couches refurbished and pay for replacement cushions, but the housing corporation also refurbished the Great Hall tables, and dining-room tables and chairs. Furthermore, as our TV of five years randomly shorted out the day before Rush Week began, our amazing housing corporation purchased a new 60-inch LED TV. Lastly, as the weather is currently warming up here in Ithaca, the housing corporation also purchased an amazing Webber Grill for us; it was already put to use in our philanthropy event on the Ag Quad!

I want to thank our Phi Delta Theta Housing Corporation for all of the support it has provided our chapter this semester. The refurbished furniture and new TV have resulted in much more brotherhood

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Dan Dworakowski '14 and Thomas Burton '13
organizing the library.



Phi Deltas fill the Great Hall to watch the Super Bowl
on the new 60-inch flat-screen TV.

2012 Was the Most Successful Spring Rush in Years!

I am happy to report that this year marked the most successful spring rush for Phi Delta Theta in quite a few years. Given the most recent and abrupt changes (shortened Rush Week with an entirely new schedule), the brotherhood was able to adapt and excel under the new guidelines. That being said, the new changes were difficult for every house on campus. With such an established model for Rush Week, many houses—Phi Delta Theta included—came into rush with historical data and planning. The university and Interfraternity Council were unable to predict how the new changes would affect recruitment numbers as a whole, as well as for individual

fraternities. Thankfully, the Greek system and Phi Delta Theta grew as a result of President Skorton's initiative. At the end of it all, the brotherhood had received 13 signed bids for spring pledging.

The Phikeia education process began the last week in January. Traditional elements of brotherhood interviews, weekly meetings, event planning, and house improvements were retained. Through these experiences, the Phikeia were not only able to get acquainted with the house and brotherhood, but were also able to bond as a class and help improve the community. As Phikeia educator, one of my favorite events was taking a short road trip for a miniature golf outing, an event

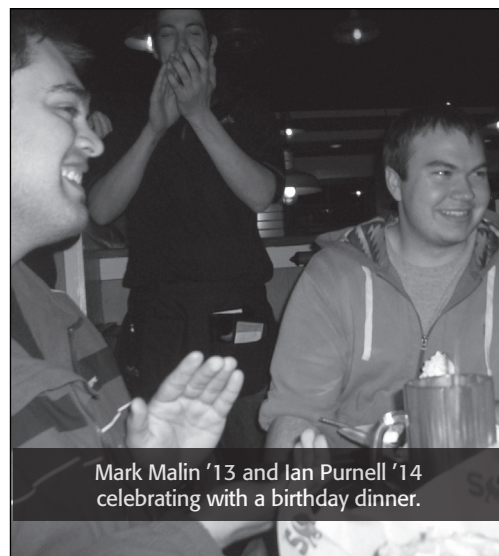
planned entirely by the Beta Alpha Class (and yes, we are finally at double-letter pledge classes). Not only did this provide a great venue for brotherhood-Phikeia bonding, but it also taught the new members vital skills in event management that are applicable to officer positions in the house and outside organizations.

Overall, I could not have been happier with this semester's recruitment cycle. The new addition of Phikeia only strengthens our house's recruiting capabilities and on-campus position.

Yours in the Bond,
Cameron McConkey '13, 1861
Rush Chairman and Phikeia Educator



Peter Berkowitz '14, Justin Kontur '14, Mike Mastakas '12, Max Bernstein '15, and Dan Balentine '12 take some time off to watch a hockey match.



Mark Malin '13 and Ian Purnell '14 celebrating with a birthday dinner.

New and Old Events Strengthen the Bonds of Brotherhood

This spring has been a great time to be a brother at New York Alpha. This semester, we have hosted several Phis and alumni, and a few brothers made a trip to Colgate University, among other highlights. We have had successful turnouts for all of our brotherhood events and have many more events to come.

We started off the year with our annual Super Bowl party. We converted the Great Hall to stadium seating, and we were able to fit the brotherhood and all of our guests comfortably. We ordered wings, and Chef Candice made some delicious side dishes. Everyone enjoyed the food, and most of the brothers had a great time watching the Giants win (we had a few Patriots fans). Another benefit of the event was that it helped us bring in potential members.

Our next major event was Date Night. We had a great turnout, with every brother

bringing a lovely date. Candice was wonderful, helping out with desserts again. We had a huge spread of delectable chocolates and cookies that everyone enjoyed immensely. The event was a great way for brothers to enjoy Valentine's Day with their dates.

Right before spring break, our leadership consultant came from general headquarters. He was very impressed with the brotherhood as a whole and loved our house. We took him to Ithaca's renowned burger restaurant, The Pines. Before he left, he proclaimed that New York Alpha was one of his favorite chapters that he had visited, a great tribute to our brotherhood. We also hosted some brothers from New York Eta, once again strengthening our bond with other chapters. We had a great time with them, and they showed us some of their traditions. We plan on visiting them again next semester, and we hope to

reach out to other chapters during the summer and fall semester.

As the year comes to a close, we plan on taking advantage of the beautiful weather that we've had as much as we can. We have a new grill with which we hope to host barbecues on the weekend. I know a lot of the brotherhood and members of the Alpha Beta Class are interested in grilling, so it should lead to more successful events. We have also continued the tradition of having weekly movie nights, showing a variety of movies. Another event that all of the brothers are looking forward to is our spring formal, which will be held again at Taughannock Farms Inn. This should be a great way to finish off our semester.

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

New York Alpha Remains Strong in Intramural Sports

It's been a very successful year for Phi Delt sports. With only a few sports remaining, we are holding steady in second place. Although first place seems out of reach, as Sigma Pi is leading all teams by at least 25 points, we had a very successful year nonetheless.

The fall semester started off strong, with Thomas Burton '13 and Alec Sullivan '11 placing first in sand volleyball. Mike Mastakas '12 and Ed Pyszcynski '13 placed fourth in the tournament, as well. The flag-football team, led by Dan Dworakowski '14, had its first winning season in a few years, and nearly made the semifinals, losing a close game in the quarterfinals. A.J. Calvario '14 and Dan Balentine '12 came out of nowhere to win second place in No-Tap bowling, although they entered as the secondary Phi Delt team. The most successful team this year was the first-place fraternity-champion indoor volleyball team. Led by two of the chapter's three club volleyball players, Thomas Burton '13 and Ed Pyszcynski '13, the team annihilated all contenders in its path—which made up for its shorthanded loss to TEP in the first week—by absolutely crushing them in the finals in straight sets.

This semester, the chapter has had strong showings overall, although not as many playoff wins to show for it yet. Phi Delt's primary bowling team was poised to have a top-three finish, but unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, had to go into playoffs missing its two best players, and ended up losing in the first round. Kelvin Lin '14 and Dominic Vergata '14 came in fourth in doubles badminton, nearly beating the second-place team in a three-set thriller in the semifinals. Currently, the Phi Delt softball team is putting on a strong showing in its division and will definitely make the playoffs. Both of our chapter's horse-shoes teams are undefeated, and Kelvin Lin '14 is in the quarterfinals of the singles tennis tournament.

We are looking to finish strong in yet another great year of intramural sports. We hope our momentum will continue into next year, where we only look to get better with the addition of our new pledge class.

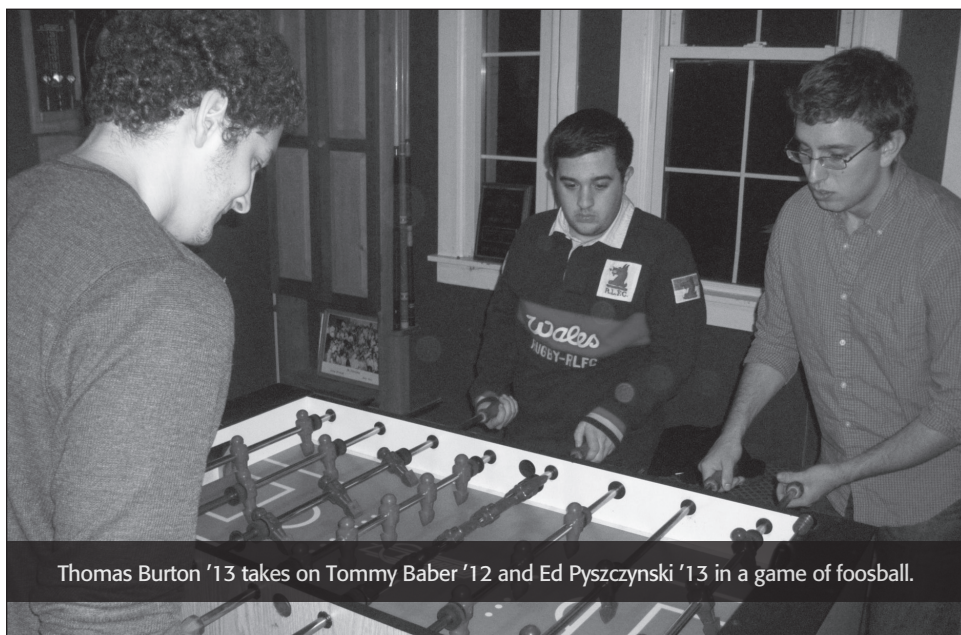
Yours in the Bond,
Daniel Dworakowski '14, 1873
Athletic Chairman



Brothers pose for a picture in the gym.



Kelvin Lin '14 and Dom Vergata '14 competing in an intramural badminton tournament.



Thomas Burton '13 takes on Tommy Baber '12 and Ed Pyszcynski '13 in a game of foosball.

Phi Delt's Pride Themselves in Giving Back to the Community

As a fraternity, philanthropy and service to our community is of utmost importance. There exists a special relationship between the fraternity, university, and community. One of the key tenets of this relationship is philanthropy. We as a fraternity take pride in giving back and helping those in need.

We recently held a great philanthropy event that raised several hundred dollars. On Friday, April 20, we had a barbecue on the Ag Quad to raise money for the ALS Chapter of Upstate New York. We coined the event "Bow Ties, Blazers, and Phi Delt's Big Barbecue"—a lot of alliteration, I know. For \$5, patrons received a plate of food, as well as a chance to play croquet and KanJam (the house's favorite Frisbee game) with the brothers. We marketed the event as more upscale,



Brothers on the Ag Quad promoting our philanthropy event to benefit the fight against ALS.

because everyone can respect a group of handsome young men dressed in bow ties and blazers. We successfully reeled in

passersby with our charisma and good-natured banter. Oh, and the smell of delicious barbecue probably helped a little, too.

In addition to our main philanthropy event, the Phikeia are holding a bake sale with Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority to benefit its national charity. We also have a few brotherhood service events planned. We would like to build with the Habitat for Humanity Chapter of Ithaca. Habitat for Humanity does excellent work at the national and local levels, and it would be a rewarding experience to help build a house for someone.

There are many great service and philanthropy events coming up, and as Phis, we relish at the opportunity to give back to our community and help our national charity.

Yours in the Bond,
Peter Smet '14, 1879
Philanthropy Chairman

Visit us online!

Our website, www.phideltnya.org, is for both current brothers and alumni. Help build our history section, view photos and bio info on the current members, and learn more about our philanthropy efforts online.



Brothers pose for a picture at our philanthropy event, "Bow Ties, Blazers, and Phi Delt's Big Barbecue."

alumni send their news

Raymond E. Meagher Jr. '57 wrote to say he was very impressed with the fall issue of *The Cayugan*, and he wished us good luck with our recruitment program! Reconnect with Raymond by writing to P.O. Box 1109, Millbrook, NY 12545.

"I am enjoying life in the Midwest, now in my 21st year with the same company," reports

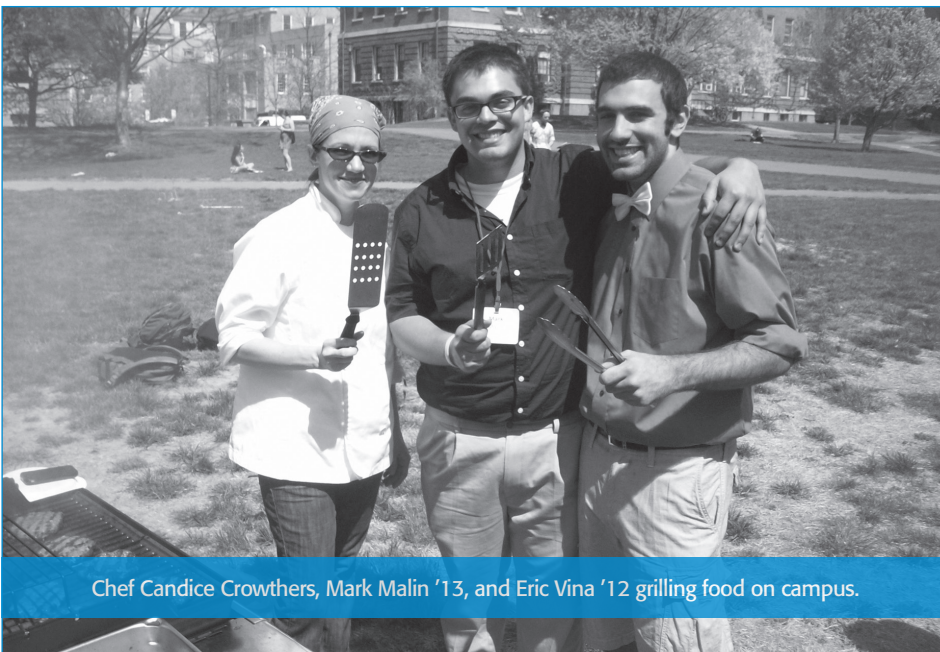
John L. "Cheeseman" Cayer '90. "I have a global marketing position so I've been fortunate to travel and live in great places such as Japan. Back home in Milwaukee, I'm also fortunate to be near Brother **Dan Sidner '90** and his great restaurant, Maxie's Southern Comfort." Catch up with "Cheeseman" at 10826 N. Ravine Ct., Mequon, WI 53092; jcayer2@gmail.com.

More news next time

The strength of this newsletter depends, in part, on alumni news. Keep your brothers up-to-date on what's happening in your life and how best to reach you! Please take a few moments to fill out and return the enclosed newsform.



AJ. Calvario '14 and Ian Purnell '14 play KanJam at the park.



Chef Candice Crowthers, Mark Malin '13, and Eric Vina '12 grilling food on campus.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

Harold S. Wood '44

January 7, 2012

Eugene L. Dean '51

July 5, 2011

Thomas F. Bull '51

November 21, 2011

Robert B. Moses '55

April 7, 2011

House Upgrades

(continued from page two)

time in the Great Hall. The Great Hall always seems more crowded as any movie or sports game becomes an immediate brotherhood event. These improvements to the house, however could only have been accomplished with the help of our extraordinary alumni. It is your continued support and dedication to sustainability that continues to make our property one of the nicest on campus.

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



PHI DELTA THETA

Become the greatest version of yourself

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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.