

the cayugan

new york alpha chapter of phi delta theta

President Shares House and Brotherhood Reports

With the 2013-2014 academic year behind us, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the status of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha.

In a climate of high scrutiny, the chapter has taken a moment to chart their course for the next several years to come. This planning has resulted in a brotherhood-wide commitment to the values of Phi Delta Theta (friendship, sound learning, rectitude), a reaffirmation of the chapter's adherence to GHQ's policies, including alcohol-free housing and a continuation of a robust Phikeia program that meets the regulations of Cornell.

With these commitments in place, I believe that NY Alpha is poised to continue to thrive at Cornell. Looking at the results this past academic year, I without a doubt am bullish on our future. The brothers recruited 20 new members, increased their brotherhood GPA, and also sponsored two Iron Phi's who raised significant donations for philanthropic causes. The members today are as

motivated and passionate as I've seen in years, and I'm excited to see how next academic year unfolds.

From a physical structure standpoint, the membership has stepped up their care for the house and it's clearly visible to guests. The Housing Corporation is also coming to the table and accelerating physical improvements. Over the next six to nine months, we will see the completion of our library restoration, replacement of the Great Hall furniture, and improved access/usage of the backyard via trail ways and outdoor furniture. We are also starting the planning stages of the front-entry stairway to the kitchen; it is quickly reaching the point of safety hazard. The goal is to complete this major project during the summer of 2015, but with the stringent standards of the Ithaca Historical Society and Preservation Board, there are no guarantees.

As we move forward with these projects, it is with a fresh slate of Housing Corporation board members. At our Reunion Weekend 2014 meeting, we

conducted elections and the following brothers have assumed leadership roles:

- President: Jon Bellante '06
- Vice President: Mark Kendall '04
- Treasurer: Mike West '05
- Secretary: Pat Kervin '06
- Executive Member-At-Large: Stan Kolbe '76

Yours in the Bond,
Jon Bellante '06
1745



A Successful Spring Recruitment Caps Off Another Great Year at New York Alpha



As the semester draws to a close, the brotherhood celebrates another successful year, marked by significant achievements in recruitment, academics, and philanthropy. To the credit of the leadership and hard work of the executive board, the brotherhood has

made tremendous strides toward advancing our chapter within the Greek community and in the greater Cornell community.

Through an emphasis on year-round recruitment and strong Rush Week programming, our chapter initiated an impressive 17 new members this spring, capping off a recruitment year that increased the total brotherhood size to 66 active members. Sporting members from each of Cornell's seven colleges, the brotherhood today represents a unique cross-section of the Cornell campus, composed of brothers with a wide diversity of interests and backgrounds.

The brotherhood has also seen substantial improvements in academic performance, earning a cumulative semester GPA of 3.37. This value represents a 7-percent

improvement over the previous year's academic performance. Through the generous support of the New York Alpha Education Fund, Inc., the chapter as also enjoyed several note-worthy physical improvements to the Bartels Academic Center, transforming the library into a hub for study and brotherhood meetings.

Lastly, this semester was marked by a historic achievement on the philanthropy front when one of our newest members, Zachary Warheit '17, became New York Alpha's first Iron Phi. To achieve this award, Zachary raised more than \$1,000 to be donated to

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the ALS Association, which conducts research in pursuit of treating Lou Gehrig's disease. Additionally, as a the second component of his Iron Phi award, Zachary will also be representing New York Alpha in the 2014 Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce Bridge Run later this month. Currently, Evan de Luna '16 is in the process of raising money for his Iron Phi award. He hopes to achieve his goal of raising \$1,000 to be donated to the ALS Association by the end of this academic year.

We are extremely proud of the many accomplishments our members have achieved in recruitment, academics, and philanthropy this year, working to truthfully embody our cardinal principals of friendship, sound learning, and moral rectitude. As a graduating senior, I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to lead such an exemplary group of men this year. I look forward to the many accomplishments to come out of New York Alpha in the near future.

Oliver Beacham '14
President

Rush Recap From Our Phikeia Educator

After a very busy Rush Week and pledging process, NY Alpha was able to initiate 17 new members this spring. Even though Cornell reduced the pledging process to just four short weeks, the new pledge class of Beta Epsilon was able to establish very close bonds to their fellow Phikeia along with the brotherhood as a whole. The brothers are very excited about the influx of new members as the large number of freshmen recruited means that Phi Delta Theta will have a strong future moving forward. I will admit from the brotherhood perspective that there were some worries going into Rush Week, but after seeing the success of the recruitment process these have subsided. The recent pledge class of Beta Epsilon marks the third spring semester that was able to recruit more than 15 new members. Additionally, all the new members come from diverse backgrounds and are highly dedicated to the forward movement of this organization on campus. After being able to guide them throughout the pledging process, I firmly believe the house is in good hands and that they will uphold the last line of the Phikeia Oath.

New Brother Bios!



My name is Josh Guy, and I'm a freshman in the College of Engineering. In addition to my membership in Phi Delta Theta, I participate in a variety of activities on campus. I'm a member of the Meinig Family Cornell National Scholars, a leadership-based scholars program. Additionally I participate actively in Cru, a Christian organization on campus, of which I serve on the leadership and worship teams as well as an Acapella group called Most High. I'm also a member of AISES, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and the Cornell Barbell Club (weightlifting). I hail from a suburb of Columbus—Hilliard, Ohio—and have a variety of interests including hunting, singing, and riding my motorcycle. I'm incredibly proud to be a newly inducted brother and member of the Beta Epsilon pledge class and am looking forward to the time I'll be spending here in Ithaca as a member of New York Alpha!



My name is Rittik Rao, and I am studying economics and math in the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell. I pledged Phi Delta Theta this spring, joining the Beta Epsilon class. A Canadian who moved south to the U.S., I enjoy boating, camping, horseback riding,

cooking, listening to country music, and playing badminton. I love the more wild side of tourism, from swimming with piranhas to exploring volcanoes. A sophomore transfer from Vanderbilt University, I love the opportunities and learning environment of Cornell, a perfect combination of academic stimulation and social life. I am really excited to be part of Phi Delta Theta, and look forward to the next two and a half years, and then a lifetime, of brotherhood.



Hello, my name is Kenneth Sang, and I am a freshman and brother in Phi Delta Theta. I am from Woodbury, New York, but was born in Queens. I am deeply interested in finance and general business, as I am studying applied economics and management and Cornell University with concentrations in finance and strategy. In my spare time, I enjoy going to the gym, practicing martial arts, watching movies, eating good food, and listening to electric dance music (go Hardwell!). I also love to read novels and watch a variety of sports. Many of my friends consider me an extrovert because I rarely forget names and am able to hold a conversation with nearly any willing participant, but I have my quiet moments too. If I were to improve an aspect of myself, I would spend more time with my family and expand my knowledge in finance/mathematics.



Eric Vina, Alumnus; Mark Malin, Alumnus; Alex Rodriguez '14; Nicholas Vasko '14; and Jordan Spataro '14

Brothers Proudly Represent NY Alpha on the Field

Brotherhood participation in sports was rampant this year, and Phi Delta Theta has continued its recent strong run in sports by starting this year off with a bang. Alex Rodriguez '14 and Dan Dworakowski '14 took the intramural sand volleyball championship without even 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 their fans magical performances on a weekly basis. The team is firmly entrenched in the soccer playoffs at the moment, preparing for their second-round matchup.

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 this semester, the chapter will participate in indoor volleyball, three-on-three 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, basketball) is in the middle of both his sports seasons. We wish them luck as they proudly represent our chapter and school.

The Physical State of 2 Ridgewood

As typical for a house of our stature, it is of utmost importance and priority that we pass all inspections throughout the year. Most recently, we had to make sure that our house preserved and met the requirements for our alarm system designated by the City of Ithaca. We successfully passed this test without any complications. Additionally, we focused on making some improvements to the facility.

The most visible and notable improvement to the house is the replacement of the doors in our academic center/library. After working with the historical society for some time, we renovated the doors and transformed them into large windows intended to keep the external temperature from breaching the house. This transformation occurred at the outer doors, and we still await the renovation of the middle door.

Our most current and ongoing project that we hope to get underway is the renovation of our gym/exercise room. Due to danger from the broken mirror, we recently tore down one of the mirrors in

the gym and are working to replace it soon. In addition, we hope to renew our gym equipment soon, as it is old and outdated, and replace it with more modern exercise machines.

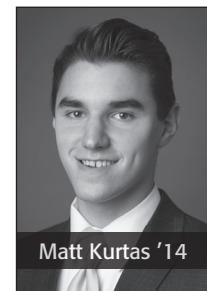
As far as the rest of the house is concerned, we continue to hold up the profound image and esteemed conditions to which 2 Ridgewood is accustomed. We hope to improve our standard of living everyday and offer up a place where alumni may continue to return and feel a sense of pride and nostalgia while also keeping in compliance with Cornell and the City of Ithaca. We look forward to closing out the end of the academic year and laying down the tracks for fall Rush and a new group of Phis excited to live in next year.

Brendon-Sage Quvus '16
House Manager



Bringing Back Iron Phi Program

What a year it's been for philanthropy for the New York Alpha Chapter. We've participated with our Greek brothers, sisters, and alumni at events like the Delta Gamma Walk for Sight, the Alpha Xi Delta Chill by the Grill, and the Cornell Relay for Life—among others. The benefits of our efforts have included Service for Sight, Autism Speaks, and the Cornell and Ithaca communities.



Matt Kurtas '14

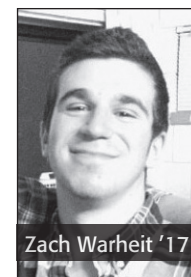
To supplement our activism, we've revived our Iron Phi program to raise our first two Iron Phis in the past three years. Evan De Luna '16 and Zachary Warheit '17 are more than halfway to their \$1,000 individual fundraising

goals, and are still seeking donations on their webpages at <http://goo.gl/K0kNJc> (Evan) and <http://goo.gl/BNfVTm> (Zach). Evan and Zach ran the Greater Binghamton's Half-Marathon Bridge Run on May 4, 2014—way to go, men! They are truly exemplifying Morrison's Philosophy: to do what ought to be done, but would not be done, unless they did it. If you have any recommendations for ways we might serve our community and a cause you stand for or you just want to reach out to the chapter, feel free to email me at mak334@cornell.edu; we'd love to hear from you!

Matthew Adam Kurtas '14

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.



Zach Warheit '17

alumni send their news

From “across the pond” **T. Francis Shaxson '56** writes, “Congratulations on the positive changes and progress at the house that I have read about from time to time in the newsletters.” He continues, “I spent a most interesting and useful year at the Phi Delt house on Ridgewood Road, to which I had been invited after completing my undergraduate degree in the U.K. It enabled me to study agronomy and soil conservation on the Ag campus at Cornell during a whole year, 1955-'56.” Email him at francisshaxson@btinternet.com. (Greensbridge, Sackville St., Winterborne Kingston, Dorset DT11 9BJ, United Kingdom)

“Ranch life is spectacular,” declares **Beverly Edwards '65**, who provided this entertaining synopsis of his post-Cornell experience: “I spent 45 years in Houston working as an engineer and project manager for international offshore oil and gas production projects. I worked all over the planet and was shot at, held hostage for ransom about a dozen times, put on trial as a CIA agent in Africa, and threatened by the Russian Mafia. It was a lot of fun.” After retiring in 2011, Bev began managing his three ranches in eastern Oklahoma and the Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas. He still does project consulting in Africa and serves as manager of Christ Episcopal Church in Mena, Arkansas. Get back in touch by writing him at either bev.edwards43@gmail.com or 2905 Highway 88 West, Oden, AR 71961.

The global head of real estate and facilities for Pearson publishing company, **James W. Montanari '68** can be reached at james.montanari@pearson.com. Pearson PLC is a British multinational publishing and education company headquartered in London. It is the largest education company and the largest book publisher in the world. He works in New York City and lives at 445 W 19th St., Apt. 7A, New York, NY 10011.

“I’m living in the shadow of the Bok Tower Gardens Singing Tower on the Florida Ridge, the highest point in peninsular Florida,” writes **John B. Huff '71**. “Playing lots of golf and lots of guitar. A big ‘hello’ to all my Phi Delt friends.” John adds that he recently saw **Brad Jencks '71** in Sarasota. Brad is the manager of the Ritz-Carlton there. Make note of John’s new address: 130 Masterpiece Rd., Lake Wales, FL 33898. Catch up with him by email at texaswedged22@gmail.com.

Stanley E. Kolbe Jr. '76 reports that he shared the Cornell versus BU hockey game in Madison Square Garden last year with **Brian Dunn '77**, **John Donnelly '78**, and **Tom Asher '79**. “While Red lost 3-2, we had a great time.” Stan adds that **Chris Carney '79** has been very helpful advising his daughter (DG, Hotel '15) in her Boston job hunt. In addition, the brothers from 1976-1980 pulled together to mourn the passing of “two special brothers,” **Kirk Seitz '77** and **Kendall Reed '79**. Get in touch with Stan by email at sek86@cornell.edu or postal mail

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of:

James C. Henry Jr. '49
November 25, 2013

at 215 E St., SE, Washington, DC 20003. Stan continues as director of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA), an international association of union contractors headquartered in D.C., with more than 100 chapters throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, and Brazil.

Congratulations to **Peter H. Bell '86**, who started a new job as president and CEO of Eden Autism Services in Princeton, New Jersey, in February. When he wrote he was looking forward to celebrating his 50th birthday with **Brian Parmelee**, **Tim Smith**, and **Keith Olson** (all '86) on the slopes in Vail/Beaver Creek, Colorado. In addition, he had plans to “catch some blues and Southern cooking” in New Orleans with **Gregg Kaufman '87**. Find out more by emailing him at phbell15@yahoo.com or sending postal mail to 16 Woodmere Way, Pennington, NJ 08534.

Sky D. Fogal '09 wrote in before embarking on a winter trip to Southeast Asia—specifically Angkor Wat, a temple complex in Cambodia and the largest religious monument in the world. Find out more about his month-long trip by contacting him at sdf25@cornell.edu or 369 Bear Creek Lake Dr., Jim Thorpe, PA 18229.

NY Alpha Remains Focused on Academic Excellence

I am happy to report that our academic ranking among peer fraternities at Cornell has taken a great leap forward. In fall 2012, we came in at 35th place with a GPA of 3.188—the addition of Beta Gamma class in spring 2013 caused us to increase our house’s GPA to 3.329, putting us in 18th place. Although this improvement is a step in the right direction, it is my hope that this semester we can continue to rise. At 2 Ridgewood, brothers make use of our excellent academic resources. The library offers a peaceful environment for Phi to collaborate on assignments or study for that big prelim. This semester, the implementation of study hours on Sunday through Thursday nights has resulted in an increased number of brothers using the house library as opposed to libraries on campus. Furthermore, our in-house computing center offers

brothers 24/7 access to a wealth of academic resources. I have made an effort this semester to collect as many class resources as possible from brothers so as to grow our academic database. 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, and 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. It is common to overhear dinner conversations about MCATs, LSATs, and business school interviews as our older

Phis look to their academic future beyond Cornell. Many brothers hold teaching assistant positions 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. We even have a brother who is currently spending his junior year studying at Oxford in England.

New York Alpha’s 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 1908
Scholarship and Awards Chair