



**NEW YORK ALPHA CHAPTER
CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

THE CAYUGAN

A LETTER FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR



The Housing Corporation is looking forward to a busy year ahead. Our annual Homecoming meeting was held a few weeks ago, where we heard helpful updates

from the chapter about their activities in academics, social life, philanthropy, athletics, and brotherhood. We discussed ways that the board can assist the undergraduates in enabling the fraternity to enhance the undergraduate experience.

The Cornell Greek community has certainly been under some stress on campus, and the Housing Corporation stands ready to assist the brotherhood in navigating the difficult environment. Some of these challenges, such as a reduction in undergraduates pursuing Greek organizations and trends toward living outside of fraternity homes, have placed certain stressors on the chapter, the Housing Corporation, and each entity's respective finances.

However, significant needs remain. A significant expense facing the Housing Corporation is the demolition of the shed over the kitchen access stairs and the reconstruction plan. Many newsletters in recent time have identified this as one of the Housing Corporation's top priorities, but it had been delayed pending certain approvals from the City of Ithaca. The project's professional engineer recently appeared before the Ithaca Landmarks Preservation Commission, and I am pleased to report that we received approval of the plans to complete the project. A contractor will now be selected to complete the work, which is expected to be a lengthy process, but the repairs

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT IS EXCITED FOR WHAT'S AHEAD



As the summer has come to an end and the fall weather has come to chill with us, the brotherhood has started what we hope will be a prosperous and long lasting semester. We have so far had a successful recruitment and are hoping for an increase in brotherhood GPA for this semester.

We have recently given out bids to nine potential new members and eight of them signed. Given Cornell's fall recruitment policy, this represents a great sized pledge class, and building a good track record compared to the seven signed last fall. As the semester has been underway, the new members have shown exemplary

dedication and demonstrated our values as Phis. Each individual Phikeia has shown leadership skills as well as the spirit of working as a team. They have carved and handed each sorority on campus a pumpkin for the spooky holidays, a project that took a combined effort of over 24 hours, from carving each individual pumpkin to delivering it door-to-door to all 13 sororities.

We are extremely proud of our accomplishments thus far and cannot wait to see where the rest of the semester takes us. As I remain president for this fall and the spring semester, I hope to continue the growth of our chapter and our members.

Saul Bernaber
President

PHIS MEET UP IN VIRGINIA FOR "PHI PHEST 2019"

By Blake Sellers '82

Forty years may seem like a long time, but it didn't feel that way when 32 brothers got together for a '79-'84 class reunion in Lansdowne, Virginia, in mid-September of this year. In a matter of minutes, it was like we were hanging out at the house on 2 Ridgewood Ave., sharing old times and making new memories. There were a total of about 55 attendees over the course of the three-day event, including brothers/spouses attending from as far

west as California, as far east as Europe, and as far south as Puerto Rico.

The concept for this event was to create an opportunity that enabled Phis to reconnect with brothers on either side of their graduation year. Reunion Weekend is great, but it doesn't afford the opportunity to catch up with the many other bros with whom you bonded while at Cornell.

(continued on page 4)



HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY, WITH MORE IN THE WORKS



This semester has been one with many structural changes and there are plans for more. There are new lamps in the Philip H. Bartels Academic Center, which make the space look more modern and glamorous.

The New York Alpha Educational Fund has approved another generous donation,

which we are currently working out a plan to use for updating the computer lab with new chairs and office equipment. The brothers are also very ecstatic about the new TV for the Great Hall; the brothers have used it for showing films and friendly video game competitions.

There are also the lights outside front and side that have been replaced so brothers have clear vision when walking to the

backyard at night. Another thing in the middle of being repaired is a dining table whose support and leg have become loose. Lastly, the major future project is the kitchen access stairs, which have recently been approved and will start in the upcoming months.

Best,
Everest Yan
House Manager

CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR

(continued from page 1)

are necessary to address this safety need.

Many thanks are due to all of those involved in this process, including the brothers who returned for Reunion weekend and dug through old year-books, those who have contributed to the project, and to Brother Phil Bartels, who has been in continued correspondence with the professional engineer and the City of Ithaca on this project.

We will continue to provide updates on this critical refurbishment, and we thank all who have helped advance it.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about how to be involved in the affairs of the chapter or with any suggestions for how to improve the newsletter to make it more useful for alumni.

Andrew Bridson
Correspondence Editor
Housing Corporation
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SOCIAL EVENTS BRING GREEKS TOGETHER

It's been a great semester with the brothers of NY Alpha so far!! While it was a busy summer spent with friends and family, brothers were really ecstatic to come back to Cornell to catch up with each other and participate in fun social events with other Greek organizations. To kick off the semester, there is no better time to do this than Cornell's orientation week during the end of August. Oscar and I organized social mixers with the brothers of Delta Kappa Epsilon and Kappa Sigma at their houses, and it was a great time to engage with the Greek community and see everyone after summer.

On September 7, we had a tour at Catharine Valley Winery with the sisters

of Phi Sigma Sigma and it was a morning filled with laughter, group photos, and beautiful weather to hang out and chill outside.

Finally, our last big event so far was our Homecoming mixer with the brothers of Kappa Sigma. It was great to see everyone dressed in Big Red spirit and coming together in Collegetown before heading over to the big football game against Georgetown.

Stay tuned for updates on future social events, but it has been a great semester so far! We can't wait for more mixers with the Greek community as the semester progresses.



Brothers enjoying the good weather at Catherine Valley. Alumnus Zachary "Brawh" Shine joined current brothers for the afternoon!

ALUMNI & CURRENT BROTHERS BOND IN NYC & BEYOND

During the summer, current brothers who were in the New York City metropolitan area for their internships reconnected with recent alumni. Throughout the entire summer, the alumni introduced both the older brothers in the house and the younger brothers to New York City nightlife. Events included visiting a recently opened, critically acclaimed pizza parlor on the Lower East Side, and a bicycle tour through Manhattan guided by David "Alejandro" Torres, as well as a brotherhood bar crawl (for brothers of or

above the legal drinking age) through the Greenwich area. The bar list was curated by graduated brothers Austen "the Robo" Rattray and Jared "OK Computer" Frank.

During the semester, the brothers enjoyed connecting with alumni during Homecoming weekend, as well as at various networking events that Cornell or professional clubs put on for younger members. On LinkedIn, the Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha LinkedIn group has grown considerably. If any alumni use LinkedIn, please do join us to connect with current brothers!



The present and past collide as brothers and alumni descend upon Greenwich Village for a night of joyous revelry.



Brother Michaelo "Yotch Corner" D'Alessandro tries out the new portrait mode on his brand new iPhone 11 in the luscious gardens on the rooftops of NYC!

NY ALPHA CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL FALL RUSH!



After a long and arduous fall rush, eight wonderful Phikeia are joining the New York Alpha Chapter. This semester, the brotherhood reexamined the events we host during fall rush to revamp the process and align the events as much as we could with the spirit and culture of the house.

join our family and we know they will become impressive Phis.

Next semester, we have set a goal of recruiting 10 Phikeia to join the brotherhood. Initially expecting a smaller fall pledge class, after the great success we had this semester, we believe this will be easily attainable.

"...this is the highest number of fall Phikeia in recent memory and all eight individuals have a diverse set of interests and pursuits."

It certainly paid off: this is the highest number of fall Phikeia in recent memory and all eight individuals have a diverse set of interests and pursuits.

Our newest Phikeia come from every corner of the country, as well, ranging from Florida to Minnesota, and California to Long Island. We are thrilled to have them

In addition to beating our semesterly recruitment goals, we hope that this will help to increase the in-house numbers as the Phikeia spend most of their time in the house, whether it be for studying, working out, or our nightly dinners.

Reed "Robert" Rosenberg
Recruitment Chair

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE



Jack Nichols



Cole Johnston

This semester, Phi Delta Theta will be carrying out "Toss for Change," a charitable event to take place on Ho Plaza in November. In exchange for donations to charity, people can throw water balloons and eggs at the fraternity brothers. It will be a fun and humorous afternoon, all while raising money to positively impact the local Ithaca community. We have put on the event multiple years in a row now with great success. Both brothers and friends of the house are excited to participate yet again in our semesterly philanthropy events.

We also look forward to volunteering as a brotherhood with the Salvation Army this winter to raise money for food, shelter, and social services for those in need. This is the first time in a while that an event such as this has been done by the brotherhood, and the brothers are excited to give back to our local community.

In the spirit of moral rectitude, we will continue to give back to our beloved neighbors next semester through additional brotherhood volunteering events at local food pantries.

With gratitude,

Brothers in the Bond,
Jack "Afghan Honey" Nichols and
Cole "Wild Rider" Johnston
Philanthropy Co-Chairs

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org

GIVE TO THE CHAPTER

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SEE PAST EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER



Scan the link above using your smart phone to go directly to the site!

ALUMNI NEWS

"I still remember with great fondness my four years at Cornell and all my Phi brothers," reminisces **Mike Horner '58**. Mike's grandson graduated from Miami University of Ohio in Oxford this past May. "I'm sorry to report that he was not a member of Phi Delta Theta. However, I did have a chance to visit our Phi headquarters and was treated/greeted very well. After some 60 years it was very nice to visit the place where our great fraternity was founded." Mike makes his home at 334 S. Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105. Email him at mhorner4@earthlink.net.

John Baker '64 reports that he has retired to a ranch in the northeast corner of Oregon, adding, "We like to see people who've never been to this beautiful part of the country." He asks, "Where's my big brother **Doug Young '62** and roomie **Bob Simpson '64** from Tulsa?" [Checking the NYA database, we show

Doug at 25 NE Village Rd., Concord, NH 03301. Bob appears still to be in Tulsa at 7108 S. Sleepy Hollow Dr. (74136). We do have an email for Bob: rcsimpson1@cox.net. Best of luck, John, and please pass along updates if you learn of any.] Write to John at johnbaker@att.net or PO Box 187, Wallowa, OR 97885.

Late this past summer, **Ferris Gorra '64** wrote, "I retired for the second or third time after selling my practice, Aspetuck Animal Hospital, to my son Michael, Cornell vet '87." He reports that he's now enjoying helping out at two local animal shelters. "Doc" continues, "One of my nine grandchildren starts Cornell School of Human Ecology this fall. I hope to stop by the house now that I will be visiting my granddaughter in the coning years." He adds, "**Rodger Weismann '64** and I won our flight in my golf club's Member-Guest. Hello to all my brothers of the '60s. YITB." Catch

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

Spear P. Johnson '45
June 17, 2019

William J. Bain Jr. '52
June 8, 2019

up with Ferris at ferrisgg@yahoo.com or 53 Carlson Ridge, New Milford, CT 06776.

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 to best reach you! Please take a few moments to fill out and return the enclosed news form.

"PHI PHEST 2019"

(continued from page 1)

With this background in mind, the idea for Phi Phest 2019 was born!

Planning for the event began in early 2019 with some initial calls and emails to determine the potential level of interest in holding an off-campus multi-year Phi Delta Theta reunion. The initial responses showed a lot of enthusiasm for the idea, so the detailed planning began. By early spring, we had settled on a date, location, and venue. The D.C. area turned out to be a great location as it was driving distance for many brothers while also being very close to a major airport.

With fantastic weather throughout the weekend, things got started on Thursday evening with a gathering at the hotel's main bar/grill. Almost half of the group arrived for the initial evening, and the stories began to

flow. On Friday, the resort offered multiple recreation opportunities. By Friday night, the remaining attendees arrived, and the group descended on a restaurant in downtown Leesburg, which was booked exclusively for our group. The Friday evening event was planned and sponsored by **Lester Knight '80**, whose generosity has enabled our group to make a substantial donation to the House Corporation's Education Fund. After more recreation events on Saturday, we ended the weekend with a traditional "Phi Phormal" that included cocktails, dinner, a great slide show (700-plus photos from not only our time at Cornell but weddings, family vacations together, and Cornell reunions), dancing, and fantastic music from the '80s. **John Lobosco '80** also unveiled an original poster from the 1980 "Run to the Olympics," an event that most brothers would agree was truly epic (and caused this brother to switch majors and almost enabled his entry into the "Squares Club!").

Brothers in attendance included: 1979-'80: **Bob Brindley, Brad Hanpeter, Bruce Haupt, Doug Heyward '79, John Lobosco, Charles Perry, Jim Patterson, Jose Rossi, Dave Schrage, Alex Schwartz, Hank Slingerland**; 1981: **Glenn Russo, Jim Hauslein, Lachlan Carmichael**; 1982: **Bruce Barlow, Mike Cuccurullo, Tom Felderman, Mike Gutierrez, Tom Logan, Chris Lynch, Sal Sassano**; 1983: **Tom Post, Don Gulbrandsen, Kent Wood**; 1984: **Roberto Rossi, Doug Belden, and Greg Miller**.

Many thanks go out to **Glenn Russo '81, Doug Belden '84, Brad Hanpeter '80, Jamie Zimmerman '82, Mike Cuccurullo '82, Lester Knight '80, and Mike Gutierrez '82** for all their help in planning and organizing various aspects of the weekend's festivities. We all had a great time and there is already talk about the next one!

