

CAYUGAN

PHI DELTA THETA | NEW YORK ALPHA

A portrait of a young man with short brown hair and a light beard, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a blue and white checkered button-down shirt. The background is a light gray wall.

Doing the Greatest Good

———— Cameron McConkey '15 ————



FROM THE EDITOR



Andrew
Bridson '11

In our issue last spring, we used the cover of our Cayuga newsletter to highlight the incredible work of our own **Phil Bartels '71**. Through his impressive, hands-on philanthropy,

brother Bartels has used his time and resources to improve the world around him. We are pleased to say that this spring, during the Cornell Alumni Leadership Conference on campus, his work was recognized by the Cornell community and he was given his Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award. The award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary service to Cornell through long-term volunteer activity.

I am pleased to say that our current spring issue honors another one of our alumni, **Cameron McConkey '15**, for his efforts to make the world a better place. I hope you will enjoy the article (page 3) that details how brother McConkey's creativity and determination helped launch a program to improve the situation of at-risk youths.

We know that many of you are also doing inspiring work. We hope that you will write to us and let us know, so that you too may be featured in future issues.

In their articles, the current undergraduate brothers describe how they have faced a difficult year in a changed world. The housing corporation is proud of how well they have done, and the board looks forward to ensuring that they have the support necessary to succeed in the future.

Continued on Page 4

FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER PRESIDENT **LOGAN SCHUH '22**



Logan
Schuh '22

Hello brothers and alumni,

I hope this letter finds you well. I will leave the details to the recruitment chairmen, but it is my great pleasure to announce the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta took in a record-breaking number of new members this academic year. Unfortunately, rush was virtual again this spring, but despite this fact, we managed to take in a large number of Phikeia, who we formally inducted on February 11, 2022.

This is a very exciting time for the brotherhood; personally, I think this has the potential to transform our house into one of the largest Greek life organizations on campus. It is very satisfying to see such immediate results of our hard work. I want to give a shoutout to our recruitment chairmen Jude Martini, Manas Gogula, and Alex Dempsey; it was due to their tireless efforts that we were able to recruit so many good young men to our fraternity.

I am also very pleased with the general state of the brotherhood. Attendance during chapter meetings and events has been at an all-time high. I genuinely believe that this brotherhood is more active than ever. Because of this, I also believe that the brotherhood is closer than ever before, which is probably part of the reason we did so well during rush. Putting myself in the shoes of a prospective new member, I would want to be a part of such an interconnected and brotherly fraternity. I am proud to be a Phi, and even more proud to be the president of such an outstanding chapter.

Yours in the bond,
Logan Schuh '22

The Cayugan is pleased to profile **Cameron McConkey** and his exceptional work helping to improve the lives of some of Philadelphia's most vulnerable and in-need young adults.

Cameron has been working at the Youth Health Empowerment Project (Y-HEP) Adolescent and Young Adult Health Center of Philadelphia FIGHT since September 2019. Having been recently promoted to director of LGBTQ+ health initiatives for Philadelphia FIGHT, Cameron advances policy and programming to promote LGBTQ+ health and social equity. Cameron began this work as a Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow focused on expanding access to healthcare for young Philadelphians.

Cameron has been at the forefront of pioneering new and more effective ways to help youth in need. Foundations and other charitable organizations recently began embracing models of grantmaking that prioritize the financial empowerment of under-resourced communities. Cameron saw this as an opportunity and began the Trans Youth Resilience Fund. Through Cameron's work and outreach, and the generosity of private donors (including many brothers of Phi Delta Theta), Cameron has raised nearly \$30,000.

The fund provides direct financial assistance to young transgender and gender diverse individuals who have out-of-pocket expenses related to their health, safety, and wellness. Cameron says that young transgender people experience significant barriers to financial empowerment, including family rejection, employment discrimination, housing insecurity, and healthcare delivery, and insurance systems that do not support the health and wellness needs of transgender people. This fund is one way he can support his



Caption

patients in addressing their health and wellness priorities as they define them.

"Transgender people are three times more likely to be unemployed and twice as likely to be living in poverty than the general population," says McConkey. "It is estimated that one in five transgender people are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity; economic justice for transgender and gender diverse people is healthcare [and] they cannot be detangled."

Cameron graduated from Cornell University in 2015 with a degree in biological sciences and from Drexel University in 2019 with a master's degree in public health. He lives in Philadelphia with his partner, Hashem Hraky, and their two cats, Cornelia and August. He is an avid biker and enjoys any opportunity to explore new food and music.



Caption

For additional information about the fund or to consider donating, you are welcome to view the organization's dedicated website at

www.Fight.org/programs/trans-youth-resilience-fund

BROTHERHOOD UPDATE



Despite the difficulties of having events during the pandemic, the brotherhood chairs are proud to say that the brothers have still managed to foster friendship and camaraderie. In December, brothers and their dates gathered at the house for some jolly good fun at our annual Christmas formal. Complete with a banquet, a

chocolate fountain, and a 14-foot Christmas tree, the formal was quite a hit, even scoring a few Zoom guests who could not be there in person. Brothers have also gathered nearly weekly for poker nights, pool tournaments, and Smash competitions. We transformed the Great Hall into a theater to entertain a lively Super Bowl

watch party in February. As the weather warms up and the virus retreats, we look forward to organizing hiking trips in the Ithaca area, excursions to the lakeside at Stewart Park, bonfires out behind the house, and other outdoor events.

SPORTS



Eli
Gordon '22

The brotherhood has been eager to participate in intramural sports since their return. In the fall of 2021, we secured a silver medal in the 4 v. 4 sand volleyball league due to pro-server David Pinker, stellar communicator Naveen Sharma, the experience and quickness of Jude Martini, and Aidan Sisk. We are excited to continue to exemplify the

athletic greatness of Phi Delta Theta this semester by coming together to participate in bowling during the first half of the semester, and then channeling our inner Detlef Schrempfs to lead us to victory in 5 v. 5 basketball during the second half of the semester. Outside of intramurals, brothers have also demonstrated immense school spirit by attending a number of Big Red Hockey games at the most historic and intimate rink in college hockey in Lynah Rink, including those against Princeton, Harvard, and Colgate. There was also a great turnout for the annual Red Hot Hockey game at Madison Square Garden where

current brothers enjoyed reuniting with recent graduates of the fraternity while witnessing the Big Red dismantle the Boston University Terriers by a score of 6 to 4. Lastly, some brothers attended a record-breaking performance by the Cornell Basketball team when they absolutely embarrassed D-3 opponent Keuka College in the fall, and we are going to carry that same energy into Newman Arena for this Wednesday's game against the last-place Columbia University Lions. Go Big Red!

Yours in the Bond,
Eli Gordon '22

BROTHERHOOD: TUSHAR AND CULLEN



Cullen
O'Hara '23



Tushar
Khan '22

Dear brothers and NYA alumni,

Despite the difficulties of having events during the pandemic, the brotherhood chairs are proud to affirm that the brothers of the Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha have managed to foster friendship and camaraderie. In December, brothers and their dates gathered at the house for some jolly good fun at our annual Christmas formal. Complete with a banquet, a chocolate fountain, and a 14-foot Christmas tree (hand-cut), the formal was quite a hit, even scoring a few Zoom guests who

could not be there in person. Brothers have also gathered nearly weekly for poker nights, pool tournaments, and Smash competitions. We transformed the Great Hall into a theater to entertain a lively Super Bowl watch party in February. As the weather warms up and the virus retreats, we look forward to organizing hiking trips in the Ithaca area, excursions to the lakeside at Stewart Park, bonfires out behind the house, and other outdoor events. We are also excitedly planning for our spring formal, to be hosted at the end of the semester.

Yours in the bond,
Cullen O'Hara '23 and
Tushar Khan '22



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Drew
Ware '22

gone above and beyond in setting and reaching realistic fitness milestones in the newly renovated Phi Delt gym.

In the previous academic year, we received an extremely generous donation to modernize our gym. We received an assault bike and a new treadmill to accompany our rowing machine for

The brothers of New York Alpha in the 2021–2022 academic year have been “getting their pump on” both physically and mentally. The current brotherhood has

cardio. In addition to the pre-existing cable machine and free weights, we also graciously got rubberized plates and a deadlifting platform to increase our brothers’ safety. Brother **Lucca “Huey Lewis” Guimaraes '22** starts almost every morning in the gym doing stomach crunches.

A cohort of brothers has begun sparring with one another as a form of cross-training. Brother Jude Martini comments that “a well-trained body makes for a healthy mind.” Locking in friendly combat with brothers Everest “Facepulls” Yan and Naveen Sharma is a weekly occurrence.

Yours in the Bond,
Drew Ware '22



FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 2

We also want to thank **Jon Bellante '06** for his dedication and years of service to the housing corporation. He has been an excellent leader through challenging times, and we are all indebted to him for the guidance, support, and direction that he has given to the brothers and alumni of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha. Please stay tuned for the next edition of The Cayugan, which will more comprehensively profile Jon’s time as president.

And as always, please continue to send in your submissions of news, photos, highlights, and celebrations.

Stay well,
Andrew Bridson '11
adb96@cornell.edu

GREATNESS: ARI EVANS '09

Ari Evans '09 is an entrepreneur and creator in the music, entertainment, and technology industries. He is the founder and chief executive officer of Maestro, the global leader in interactive live experiences. Maestro is an all-in-one interactive video platform and live streaming solution to convert passive audiences into active customers. Its easy-to-use platform unlocks the full potential of live streaming and on-demand content through two-way communication, personalized experiences, and measurable business insights and has been used in a variety of capacities including ticketed concerts, live shopping experiences, broadcasts, and much more.

In his role, brother Evans leads the strategic direction of Maestro's platform and oversees its portfolio of brands and creators, including Fortnite, Apple,



Ari Evans '09

Microsoft, Pandora, Coachella, and VidCon. His work has allowed him to utilize his product to help some of the world's best-known artists, including Billie Eilish and Twenty One Pilots, and has improved the experience of The Grammys.

Brother Evans has been a serial creator. Prior to founding Maestro

in 2015, some highlights of his work include serving as founder and CEO of LessThan3 (a virtual venue platform that would ultimately become the blueprint for Maestro), developer team lead for Ultra Music Festival, and product manager for the social game company Zynga. He began his career as a business and technology analyst at Goldman Sachs. Brother Evans received his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and his master's degree in management science and engineering from Stanford University.

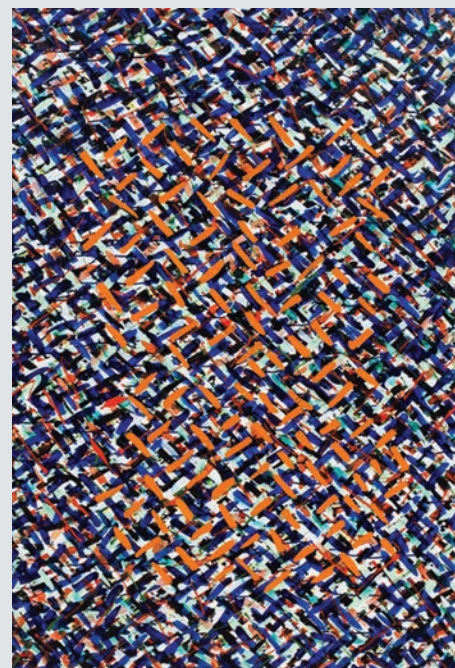


Read more about **Ari Evans** at

**[www.saasmag.com/
how-ari-evans-maestro-is-changing-the-streaming-game](http://www.saasmag.com/how-ari-evans-maestro-is-changing-the-streaming-game)**



Art of Don "Wild Don" Lewis '75



Caption



Caption

GREATNESS: “WILD” DON LEWIS ’75

“Wild Don” Lewis ’75 has been involved in creative projects from his Los Angeles studio since leaving Cornell in 1978. Brother Lewis uses his studio to pursue his multiple passions in photography, art, and music. While we have been able to print some of his paintings, it is highly worth checking out the rest of his work at saatchiart.com/donlewis.

In music, his album “Lost in Largesse” is available at smalldroneorchestra.bandcamp.com/releases, and another track, “Falloff,” is on a Silent Records compilation, accessible at silentrecords.bandcamp.com/track/falloff.

Brother Lewis has been extensively involved with photography. Most notably, he shot the back cover photo for the Melvins “Houdini” album in 1993. Don was a staff photographer for the *Los Angeles Times* and the *LA Weekly* from 1991 to 2007.

He has also shared with us that he photographed life at PhiDelt in 1973–74, and has been working on putting together a book on that period. We can’t wait to see it.

A collection of
“Wild” Don Lewis’ photographs can be found at
WildDonLewis.photoshelter.com



Caption



Caption



Caption



Caption

HOUSE MANAGER



Mark
Ku '23

As the house manager this year of Phi Delta Theta, I'm extremely proud of the culture of tolerance and brotherhood we were able to foster within our house. It's always a fun sight to see brothers socializing around our gaming consoles, congregating around the pool table, and exercising together in the gym. In terms of improving our housing experience, we are looking forward to renovating our back porch in order to enhance

our backyard gatherings and outdoor barbecue sessions. Phi Delta Theta also has had strict COVID-19 compliance rules with sanitizing supplies, paper towels, latex gloves, and extra masks situated around our social hotspots around the house in order to protect the safety of our brothers.

Yours in the Bond,
Mark Ku '23



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- ▶ Give to the Chapter
- ▶ Find Contact Information

Scan QR code ▶
using your
Smart Phone
to go directly
to the site!



www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org

PHILANTHROPY: MAX, JALEN



Max
Miller '23



Jalen
Thomas '23

The fall semester of 2021 included a return to in-person philanthropy events on campus. With this new opportunity, we were able to create a haunted house for students on campus to enjoy during the season of Halloween. The haunted house ended up raising \$738 that was put toward the Kids In Need Foundation.

Continuing into the spring semester, we look forward to putting forth more events that the campus can participate in, while also keeping in

mind regulations around COVID-19. In this regard, we plan to continue working with Habitat for Humanity, as well as reaching out to The Live-LikeLou Foundation. Phi Delta Theta will strive to aid the communities surrounding us, and at the same time deliver enriching experiences to the students of the Cornell campus.

With Gratitude,
Max Miller '23 and
Jalen Thomas '23



**DOWNLOAD
THE LATEST
ISSUE OF
THE CAYUGAN**

Scan QR code ▶
using your Smart Phone
to go directly to our
current and past issues
of the Cayugan



www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org/newsletters

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to Brother **Ivan Dashkov '11** on his promotion to creative director at Puma!



Ivan Dashkov '11



Congratulations to Brother **Daniel Eichberg '11**, who not only is a successful brain surgeon but is now also an author, having published *"The Business of Brain Tumors: A Handbook for Building a Patient-Centric Practice with Optimal Outcomes,"* which quickly became one of the top 30 best-selling books in neurosurgery. His book is available on Amazon and at other local booksellers. Perhaps one day, he will be successful at using an elevator (pictured left).

Brother **Matthew Carrier '11**, vice president, Innovation Policy & Research at American Hotel & Lodging Association, returned to campus for Hotel Ezra Cornell. Matt stopped by the Chapter House and remarked at how well kept it was, despite the dining room being recently employed in an arts and crafts event. He noted that it was nice to return to campus, though he was disappointed with his stroll down College Ave. to see that many of the familiar eateries and bars had been replaced by less social options.

Congratulations to Brother **AJ Calvario '14**, on his promotion and relocation to Canada. AJ says he is disappointed that it has caused him to miss a few events, such as a fraternity brother's birthday celebration this spring, but that Canada offers new opportunities to try new winter sports, like skiing.



DECEASED

We regret to report the death of:

Kirk Beckert '74

December 13, 2020

James Brown '56

January 5, 2021

Philip Capin '78

January 18, 2020

Garrison Davidson '58

December 24, 2017

George Hancher '60

April 11, 2021

Donald Whyte '53

November 25, 2020



Note to NYAEFI DONORS

Thank you for your continued support. To ensure that donations are processed efficiently, please visit the link below

You Can Also Mail Checks to:

New York Alpha Education Fund, Inc.
c/o Elevate Services - Phi Delta Theta
3109 North Triphammer Road
Lansing, NY 14882

www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org/give-nyaeef

THE CAYUGAN is published regularly by the NY Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta for its friends and members. News and photos should be sent to Alumni Records Office, New York Alpha of Phi Delta Theta, PO Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14850-0876.

Please visit www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org to make an online gift.

Alumni communication services provided by **Elevate** | programs@elevateims.com | 607-533-9200 | [@elevateims](https://www.elevateims.com)