

the cayugan

new york alpha chapter of phi delta theta

Chapter is thriving, reports alumni president

Projects

Welcome to another addition of *The Cayugan*. It was a pleasure seeing some old friends and meeting some new during Homecoming. There's a lot to talk about in this issue, so I'll get started!

Over the summer, we undertook the largest single overhaul project that the chapter has seen in quite some time. We completed the replacement of the main residential plumbing system and the complete renovation of the bathrooms on the first, second, and third floors. I have to say, the before-and-after is a striking improvement, in particular with the updates to the third floor. By all accounts from the brotherhood this fall, the project was a huge success, and these bathrooms are expected to last for many years to come.

This summer, we also took the opportunity, thanks to your generous contributions to the NYAEFI, to refurbish the library floor, which had experienced water damage in some parts. Oak paneling was used to replace the damaged sections of the floor and flashing work was done to the exterior to pre-

vent water from penetrating the library floor in the future.

This fall, we will be doing general maintenance associated with the City of Ithaca certificate of compliance and some maintenance to the roof covering the residential section of the house to get us through the winter and spring. We will also be making some necessary window repairs to get us through the next couple of years. NYAEFI funds will go toward upgrading the backbone networking equipment for the chapter and upgrading the internet service to a business-class level. NYAEFI funds will also go toward replacing the tables and chairs in the library.

I'd like to take a moment here to express my sincere appreciation to all of our alumni, without whose donations none of these completed projects would have been feasible. On behalf of the alumni board and the undergraduate brothers, we thank and salute you!

In the near term, we will be requesting proposals for the backyard retaining wall project that you may remember reading about in the last couple of *Cayugans*. Our goal is to receive proposals by early January and select a contractor by the middle of February, with the intent of undertaking construction during the summer of 2010. In parallel with this effort, during the summer of 2010, we will be replacing the roof covering the residential section of the house, as it has reached end-of-life condition.

Further out on the horizon, there is absolutely no shortage of other major projects that we need to address in the next few years. Briefly, those that have been identified to date are (1) comprehensive renovation of windows; (2) replacement of wall-to-wall carpeting; (3) renovation of kitchen-level and basement bathrooms; (4) general masonry repairs on the exterior facade of the house; and (5) conversion of the Shields Room roof to a patio. You will surely hear more about these projects in future issues of *The Cayugan*.

If there's anything I've learned over the
(continued on page three)

New York Alpha: "Spectacular!"

The 2009-2010 year so far can be summed up in one word: spectacular. New York Alpha has not only met but far exceeded its goals so far this year. Our recruitment numbers are the highest they've been in years, we're currently in third place among all fraternities in the intramural sports standings, our presence on campus has increased dramatically, we have taken new initiatives in our philanthropic pursuits, and our chapter house facilities have been greatly improved. In short, our brotherhood is stronger than ever.

Knowing that recruitment is the lifeblood of any organization, we have shifted our outlook from a big-event-oriented approach during rush week to a small-event, everyday approach. Our focus is on creating meaningful relationships early, taking advantage of every opportunity to get to know potential new members, whether it be through classes, clubs, meals, or athletics. We then supplement these small events with larger events, such as intramurals, dinners, and philanthropy events. This has proven to be a very successful strategy, and it has already paid dividends. We currently have seven fall pledges, which is the highest fall Phikeia class in four years and the second highest fall class since our re-founding. We look forward to continuing our year-round recruitment strategy into the spring semester.

Athletically, we have also jumped out to a fast start. Currently, we are in third place among 49 fraternities in the all-sports intramural tournament, making the playoffs in every sport so far, the semifinals in soccer, and winning a championship in sand volleyball. As the year moves on, we expect to finish even higher than our seventh-place finish last year.

On campus, our presence has greatly increased through our participation in university-sponsored events. Our participation in
(continued on page four)



A view of one of the recently renovated bathrooms.

Alumni Board Officers

VICTOR APREA '02

President, House Corp
341 Brooktondale Road
Brooktondale, NY 14817
vaa4@cornell.edu

JAMES H. FERREIRA '84

Vice President/AIFC Representative
30 Center Lane
Delmar, NY 12054
jferreir@nycap.rr.com

JON BELLANTE '06

Treasurer
1626 N Prospect Ave., Apt. 207
Milwaukee, WI 53202
607/280-6400
jonbellante@gmail.com

JAY CHRISTENSEN '70

Secretary
1357 Wemple Lane
Schenectady, NY 12309
518/372-6790

Alumni Board Members

JOHN BAILEY '87

607/257-6085
jbailey@baileyagency.com

PHIL BARTELS '71

203/637-5190
pbartels@goodwin.com

JOHN FALCONE '02

jlf37@cornell.edu

BRADLEY T. HANPETER '80

248/839-8955
brad_hanpeter@mascohq.com

PETER E. LEE '63

415/438-7980
pel7@cornell.edu

JAMES R. ZIMMERMAN '82

607/749-4428
jamiez@dairylea.com

Chapter Board Member

EDDIE CHRISTIAN '11

Chapter President
emc228@cornell.edu

Chapter has strong awards showing

New York Alpha continued its strong award-winning tradition during the 2008-2009 academic year. In the previous year, New York Alpha won awards for best pledge program and the most improved chapter from the Cornell Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. In addition, our Housing Corp. president, Victor Aprea '02, was selected as the best chapter adviser.

From Phi Delta Theta's General Headquarters, New York Alpha won the Biggers Ritual Award, the Community Service Citation, the General Headquarters Trophy, a Gold Star (one of 23 chapters to win this award), and most notably, the William Allen White Outstanding Newsletter Award for best alumni newsletter. It was a fantastic year, and New York Alpha is aiming to improve.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the

awards committee will attempt to position the chapter for another successful year. One of the top targets on the committee's list is the Best Indoor Project Award, an award that our chapter should be in the running for due to the excellent renovation of the house's plumbing and bathrooms. Also on the committee's target list is the slate of recruitment awards. The awards committee will also strive to position the house for the Best Fraternity Award at Cornell.

It should be another exciting and fulfilling year, and the awards committee hopes that we can capitalize on our momentum.

Yours in the Bond,
Mike Beyman '10, 1819
Awards Chair

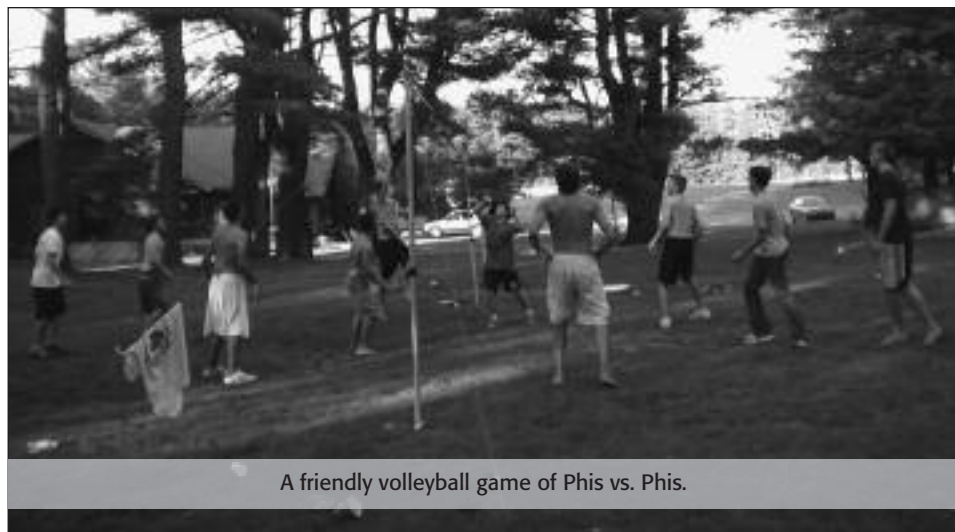
Brothers focus on academics in renovated space

The 2008-'09 academic year was one of tremendous excitement for NY Alpha. Academically, the facility upgrades, funded by the NYAEFI, have been the source of enthusiasm for many of the brothers. As a matter of fact, the newly updated library and the restored computer room provide such a great environment that it is always packed with brothers utilizing the newly available resources. Furthermore, the establishment of the digital "academic database" consisting of old notes and exams was made possible with the new scanning equipment in the library. The database is now widely used among the brotherhood, constantly updated as brothers donate their own notes and exams, and remains a great way to show potential members our dedication to Sound Learning.

This semester, we are looking to replace the furniture in the library with new tables and chairs to make the space even more conducive to study. This project, also funded by the NYAEFI, is currently ongoing and on target to be completed by the beginning of December 2009.

We are confident that, with the renovations and upgrades made possible through the generous contributions of our alumni, we will enrich the undergraduate experience for current and future brothers and see further improvement in our house GPA in the coming years.

Yours in the bond,
JR Cho '10, 1831
Vice President



A friendly volleyball game of Phis vs. Phis.

Phikeia education, firsthand

When I was elected as the Phikeia educator for fall 2009, I gave a great deal of thought to my upcoming duties. What sort of pledge class would I have? How might I imprint the values I learned during my pledge period upon the next generation of Phis? I had mixed feelings of excitement and apprehension as the school year started. A few weeks into the school year, I discovered we had a nicely sized fall class of seven young men. I considered this to be a fine size (not too big, not too small).

Finally, in early October, these seven men were inducted into the pledge process as Phikeia. This was my first chance to see how they were going to interact as a class. To my relief, they clicked instantly, and this cohesiveness has carried through the entire pledge process. Upon induction, Tommy Baber, Ivan Dashkov, Nick Fuga, Chad Rose, Michael Simms, Rob Stitt, and Jerome Thomas had just taken their first steps to becoming brothers of Phi Delta Theta.

As the semester wears on, I find myself constantly impressed with their dedication to improving themselves as Phikeia. These fine men seem truly dedicated to learning all there is to know about Phi Delta Theta. They

are working extremely hard to become better men and adhere to the Three Cardinal Principles of Friendship, Sound Learning, and Moral Rectitude in the short time allotted for fall pledging.

One of the things that has also impressed me is the enthusiasm the brotherhood has shown for helping me mold these men into Phis. I have only to ask for help, and one of my brothers will take it upon himself to do whatever he can to help me. This experience has taught me that asking for help is not only a good thing, but it is absolutely necessary at times. One man is no man, indeed.

All in all, this has been an incredible experience for me, and hopefully the same can be said for this semester's Phikeia. I know pledging Phi Delta Theta was one of the best decisions of my life, and I am trying to replicate the experience I had for the new class. Watching these men develop into leaders has been an extremely rewarding experience for the brotherhood and me.

Yours in the Bond,
Alex Smoke '11, 1848
Phikeia Educator

Chapter is thriving, cont.

(continued from page one)

years, it's that there is always something more that needs to be done to keep the house in good condition, and it's a real challenge to keep up with and on top of it all. When I go back and look at what lies ahead, the scope and price tag can easily become daunting. I have a lot of faith in the alumni of our chapter to continue their generosity to make all of this possible. We are at a crucial time when I must call upon each of us to contribute to New York Alpha; not only to prevent our chapter facilities from deteriorating, but to ensure that they are continually improving for future generations. Every little bit helps!

Highlight: By Popular Demand—Donate Online
Based on feedback at the alumni board meeting back in June during Reunion '09, there was a clear sentiment that we have fallen a bit behind the times in terms of how we collect donations. In response to this feedback, donations can now be made online securely through our website in conjunction with PayPal! Just point your web browser to:

<http://www.phideltnya.org/donate>

From there, you can choose either to make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation. You can choose to make donations monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually. You can make your donation using your credit

card directly from your bank account or using your PayPal account. Please consider that PayPal keeps \$0.30 + 2.9% of each transaction. The traditional method of donating through Stewart Howe Alumni Service will continue to be available.

Alumni Outreach

Lately, we have been considering ways to increase alumni participation. One mechanism we are striving toward is signing up with a teleconferencing service to enable alumni to remotely dial-in to and participate in alumni board meetings. We recognize that travel to Ithaca, despite the draw of its "beautiful" weather, is not always possible. We don't want distance to be a barrier to our alumni staying connected with the chapter.

The undergraduates have also taken up the charge of starting and maintaining a complementary "Fan Page" website through Facebook, where they report on the latest news of the chapter from athletics to philanthropy. If you have a Facebook account, you can choose to "Become a Fan" of New York Alpha and attach a Phi Delt news feed to your profile. You can get to the Fan Page via the Facebook sidebar link at www.phideltnya.org or by searching Facebook for "Phi Delta Theta - NY Alpha."

We've also taken steps toward providing our alumni directory through our website. In the near future, you will be able to search our

Phi Delt sports off to a hot start

The 2009-2010 athletic season has started out extremely well for the New York Alpha Chapter. At the outset of the intramural season, Oscar Bernal '09 and Eddie Christian '11 went undefeated and took first place in the sand volleyball tournament. Alec Sullivan '11 and Kevin Coughlin '10 also went deep in the tournament before losing 22-20 in the quarterfinals.

The soccer team followed up the success of the sand volleyball teams on the pitch. The team went 4-0-1 in the regular season to tie for first place in the division. Oscar Bernal and Bryant Williams '10 led the way as Phi Delt marched through the playoffs. The team finally lost in the semifinals to the also-undefeated SAE, who went on to win the championship. The third-place finish provided a tremendous boost to the chapter's ranking in the fraternity athletic standings.

Phi Delt also had a successful flag football season behind captain Kevin Coughlin and quarterback Brandon Schumacher. During the regular season, the team lost only its opening game, finishing the season 4-1. The team unfortunately lost its momentum in the first round of the playoffs with a loss to Sigma Phi.

Other impressive athletic efforts have been provided by Will Goto '10 and Ian Kreher '10 in the No Tap bowling tournament, and Andrew Bridson '11 and Dylan Birchard '10 in the golf tournament. Phi Delt is currently in the middle of its three-on-three basketball and indoor volleyball seasons and appears to be strong contenders in both sports.

In total, the chapter is currently in third place in the fraternity athletic standings, trailing PKA and SAE by a mere eight points. With many returning players from last year's athletic teams, Phi Delta Theta athletic success is sure to continue throughout the year.

Yours in the bond,
Mike Mastakas '12, 1847
Athletic Chair

.....
alumni directory and keep your own address and contact information up-to-date online. In order to protect this information, you will need to sign up for an account on our website to access it.

Stay tuned, we're going to keep brainstorming for ways to give alumni more opportunities to get and stay involved!

Yours in the bond,
Victor Aprea '02
Alumni Board President

alumni send their news

"I have seen Brothers **Bob Wood '40** and **John Conable '38**," reports **James H. Van Arsdale III '41**. "Woody is very well and active. John is confined to a nursing home. Brother **Frank Walkley '43** died recently after a very successful career as a farmer and commissioner of agricultural for the State of New York. My family continues to grow with our first great-grandchild (daughter) celebrating her first birthday on May 24, 2009. We have five children and 12 grandchildren. The past 15 years, my wife of 61 years, Suzanne, and I have spent January-April in Jamaica. Two sons are running the dairy farm of 3,500 milk cows. Tough times with the price of milk. My brother, **Charles Van Arsdale '44**, is well and living in a retirement home in Massachusetts." Catch up with Jim at 71 Park Rd. E, #506, Castile, NY 14427.

"I recently visited Cornell and was delighted to see the remodeling/repair work in progress," writes **Michael A. Gibson '65**. "It is a beautiful structure with a lot of features worth saving, so I'm contributing to the building fund." Send snail mail to Mike at P.O. Box 22088, Houston, TX 77227; e-mail to mikegibson97@aol.com.

"I am prompted to write to inform you that **Ronald O. Johns '65**, my former Phi roommate, great friend, and best man, passed away on June 27, 2009, in Houston of heart complications," reports **John F. Herridge '65**. "He was a man of integrity and honor. As the years pass, events of perspective occur more and

more frequently. I have very fond memories of my Phi Delt experiences. I made some great friends but haven't kept up well with them over the years, so here's a little of my story. After years of business and consulting in the polymers industry, I retired eight years ago and am living in San Diego (5344 W. Falls View Dr., San Diego, CA 92115). I am now busier than ever, with too many children (11) and grandchildren (24), remodeling of my home and grounds, travel, golf, and community volunteer assignments. I have recently had leadership responsibilities in our community response to the 2007 fires and the 2008 passage of Proposition 8, the marriage definition for California. I am now spending time in our Hispanic community, assisting with education and scholarship programs and overseeing a growing congregation of Mexican immigrants. I am able to indulge my passion for golf, playing 2-3 times a week at Torrey Pines, to an index of 5, and I have a volunteer gig with NBC that allows me to work the U.S. Opens every year, inside the ropes. This year, I had Tiger the last day at Bethpage, and I will be at Pebble in 2010. My wife, Dru, is my amazing partner, and we both would love to have any Phi Deltas of old make use of our guest room. San Diego is pretty perfect, and golf at Torrey Pines is a treat. I can be reached at parguy@cox.net or 858-755-8888."

"Still picking guitar and singing," notes **Ed Tuleja '68**. "Any news from **Bill O'Neill '69**, **Rick Stephens '67**, **Jim Montanari '68**, **Bruce**

Hughes '68, anybody else who lived at the house in '65 would be welcome. I've been a resident of Tasmania since 1989. All good. Rick was my big bro. I wonder these days how many of us are still alive." Get in touch with Ed at 49 Sherriffs Rd., Meander, Tasmania 7304; edtuleja@hotmail.com.

Christian R. Dorr '85 recently accepted a position as chief HR officer at Motricity in Washington. Find out how he's doing at 605 Wilderness Peak Dr. NW, Issaquah, WA 98027; chris.dorr@motricity.com.

"I'm shifting careers yet again," reports **Emile Levisetti '87**. "Going well and loving it. Also...hold onto your skirts, ladies: I'm getting married on September 6, 2009! Brothers **Stephen McPherson '86**, **Kevin Reilly '84**, and **William St. Laurent '86** are in my wedding party. Rock on!" Send congratulations to Emile at bushwackerprods.com.

David Kroll '90, who is vice president at Alberto Culver, recently moved to 2024 W. Barry Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. Drop him an e-mail at dk_kroll@yahoo.com.

Peter Sepp '04 announces: "I recently graduated from the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine and am doing a one-year small animal internship at the Florida Veterinary Specialists and Cancer Treatment Center in Tampa Bay. In other words, I am a doctor!" Send best wishes to Pete at pseppdvm@gmail.com.

Jeremy P. Rosenweig '08 reports a new address: 109 S. Prospect Ave., #4, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

New York Alpha: "Spectacular!"

(continued from page one)

Greek Week, Homecoming, and the Interfraternity Council's Collegetown Cleanup has ensured that our status on campus will not only remain high, but increase.

Our philanthropy endeavors have taken some great strides as well. In addition to our own events, we have implemented small steps to increase the funds we raise for the ALS Association, including a spare change jar, the entire contents of which will be donated at the end of the year. Additionally, we have worked to support philanthropy events sponsored by other fraternities and sororities, including Delta Gamma's inaugural Anchor Slam basketball tournament, Alpha Xi Delta's third annual Twister Tournament, Kappa

Delta's pancake sale, and Sigma Delta Tau's late-night Collegetown bake sale.

Finally, our physical chapter house has had some major renovations. Our bathrooms have been completely redone, and our library floor has been replaced. All of these steps ensure that we are continuing to provide our brothers with a clean and safe living and learning environment.

Once again, our year has been a wonderful one so far, and there is no reason to believe that we won't go above and beyond any goals that we set for the future.

Yours in the bond,
Eddie Christian '11, 1834
President

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

Frank A. Walkley '43
June 6, 2009

Richard H. Brown '45
December 2008

Melvin L. Adams '48
October 27, 2007

Ronald O. Johns '65
June 27, 2009