

Alumni President Reports on Improvements to 2 Ridgewood Road

The summer and autumn seasons of 2010 have been eventful for our chapter. We have seen the completion of three very important structural-improvement projects. To begin with, we replaced the roof over the residential area of the house. We took the opportunity to make improvements to the insulation below the roof in an effort to prevent ice damming, and we added gutters to safeguard that section of the house from water infiltration over the next few decades. Additionally, we replaced 25 windows.

These renovations were sorely needed and are expected to result in increased energy efficiency as well as a more comfortable living space for our undergraduate members. Finally, over Homecoming Weekend, we celebrated the long-anticipated completion of the backyard retaining-wall project, with the help of special guests from GHQ. As a result, the brothers will be able to continue to enjoy the backyard for generations to come. In summary, the generosity of our alumni has enabled us to make substantial and much-needed investments into our property

at 2 Ridgewood Road.

Moving forward, we have a Cornell mandated project for which we've begun to research our options. Cornell is requiring all fraternities to install full sprinkler systems within the next two years in order to maintain university recognition. Our chapter facility has been assessed as "partially sprinkled," and we will need to upgrade our sprinkler system to become compliant with the new policy ("fully sprinkled"). To that end, we contracted a local engineering firm to produce plans and have submitted these plans as a basis for proposals from regional contractors who specialize in sprinkler systems. At the time of this writing, we have not yet received proposal submissions, but we are certain that this requirement will carry a significant price tag. We've started looking into financing options available through GHQ's Palmer Foundation, but I am confident that our alumni contributions will continue to be strong through these difficult economic times and see us through the challenges we face.

In comparison to recent years, I expect that

2011 will see the house corporation tightening its belt in order to prepare. I further expect that we will have an organized fundraising campaign surrounding the sprinkler project. There are, of course, a number of other projects that we would love to implement once we have available funds and less economic uncertainty. These projects include replacing the carpeting in all the bedrooms and hallways, replacing the furniture for the Great Hall, converting the Shields Room roof to a deck or porch, wrapping the retaining wall around the other half of the backyard, improving the landscape in the front yard ... and the list goes on.

I can't thank our alumni (aka, you!) enough for generously contributing to our chapter to ensure its continued prosperity. It is through that generosity that we are able to convert "the list" into real and practical improvements that strengthen the chapter. Thank you making our chapter's prosperity possible!

Victor Aprea '02
Alumni President

House Manager Shares News About Renovations and Dedications

I am proud to report on the several improvements to our house that have taken place over the last few months. Under the supervision of our new contractor, Bojan Petek of Petex Restoration Ltd., all of the windows in the house were inspected, and those found deficient were either repaired or replaced. The brothers are very excited to have fully operational windows that easily open on hot summer days and that keep in the warmth during the winter. The roof was also replaced in order to protect our house against the elements.

The most noticeable improvement has been the retaining wall built in the backyard. In an effort to expand the perimeter and establish a more functional area for hosting events, the yard was leveled and expanded by a substantial amount on one side. Along the yard on the side bordering Thurston Avenue is an iron crossbeam fence and wall to help prevent erosion without disturbing the

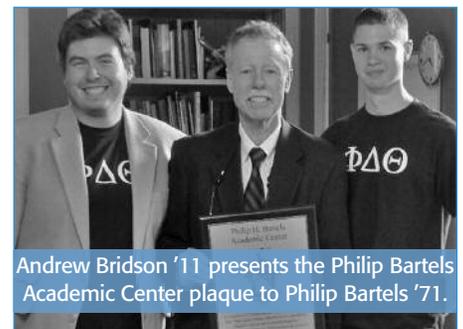
aesthetics of the property. In the near future, the fence and wall will fully encompass the perimeter of the backyard and the new grill and grilling deck we have installed.

During Homecoming Weekend this year, members of the General Council and the Education Foundation visited the property to participate in a dedication ceremony for Brother Philip Bartels '71 in recognition of his continued support of New York Alpha. As a way of thanking him, the brotherhood renamed the library area the Philip H. Bartels Academic Center. The weekend festivities—including the football game against Yale, dedication ceremony and reception, and dinner at the local country club—thrilled alumni, brothers, and other fraternity leaders.

Along with the future construction work planned for the backyard, anticipated projects include the library french doors and windows, library tables, carpeting, internet wiring, and a

house-wide sprinkler system. I speak for everyone when I say "thank you" to the alumni for your continued support and dedication to the sustainability of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha.

Yours in the Bond,
Cameron McConkey '13, 1861
House Manager



Andrew Bridson '11 presents the Philip Bartels Academic Center plaque to Philip Bartels '71.

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Chapter Board Member

ERIC VINA '12

Chapter President
ejv28@cornell.edu

Bonds of Brotherhood Remain Strong

The brotherhood has grown stronger than ever this year. As brotherhood chairmen, we are proud of its accomplishments.

We began this year by bringing the brotherhood together for a Labor Day barbecue. For many, this was the first event where everyone could gather together in a social setting. Brothers reunited with one another, sharing stories while marveling at the work being done on our beautiful new backyard.

Our weekly brotherhood movie nights have become a favorite way for many brothers to kick back. Whether it has been a comedy that brothers could laugh and talk over or a serious drama that has everyone focused on the movie, these have proved to be a great way for brothers to take a break from their studies and a wonderful chance to bond with one another.

We have several other events planned for the upcoming year, including brotherhood bowling nights—a classic favorite among the brotherhood. We will also be planning a few date nights, which will be a great opportunity for brothers to spend a lovely evening with their favorite girl. Finally, we have planned a great winter formal and will be planning an even better spring formal!

This semester, several of the younger brothers have taken it upon themselves to

design custom sweatshirts for their pledge class. We think this is a wonderful idea that demonstrates pledge-class unity and the spirit of fraternity. This has become such a popular idea that even some of the older pledge classes have adopted the design. It seems that this is a great time for everyone to be proud to be a Phi.

The most important development I have seen this semester is the way the brotherhood has bonded. As with most academic years, there have been a few internal quarrels, disagreements between groups of brothers about what is right for the house and how the house should be run. However, this year more than any other, I have seen the brotherhood truly come together to solve its issues. Disputes have been settled in ways that have made everyone happy, and people are more excited than ever to start new projects and organize fraternity events.

In short, fraternity morale seems to be at an all-time high here, and we are very happy to see it. I look forward to the rest of the year and seeing just how far we can go as a brotherhood.

Yours in the Bond,
Dylan Hull '12, 1850
Brotherhood Chair

Scholarship is a Priority Among Brothers

As a chapter at an exceptional university, scholarship has always been a top priority at Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha. We are excited to be working on a couple of new scholarship projects intended to take our academic performance to the next level. One project we have begun is scheduling academic work hours. This is a minimum of two hours per week in which brothers can work together in the library in an academic and productive environment. My goal with these hours is to emphasize the importance of academics. They have been a great success thus far.

In the near future, these work hours will also include brother-to-brother tutoring in which older brothers, who have taken more advanced classes, can help out the younger brothers in the more basic classes. We expect this to help the chapter as a whole succeed in some of the tougher undergraduate courses, such as organic chemistry and the engineering math courses. Brothers who are more involved in the humanities have agreed to help out those who struggle in this area with writing papers and essays.

Additionally, I will be working with Phikeia Educator Eddie Christian '11 to set up academic big brothers. One issue I observed in the past was that pledging is a significant

drain on time that could be used to study. In order to address this issue and to emphasize the value of education to incoming brothers, each Phikeia will be paired with a brother who is in the same major early on in the pledging process. Similar to our regular big brother process, the academic big brother will be a role model and a source of guidance for his Phikeia, but with the added benefit of being able to provide academic support. The pledging process will now also include mandatory study and homework hours to ensure that Phikeias do not fall behind in their studies. This time can also be utilized to consult with the academic big brother about any academic concerns.

Due to these new projects, the Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha Chapter hopes to see a significant improvement in its grade point average. Our chapter is constantly looking for ways to improve its collective academic standing. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the chapter for ways to improve scholarship within the fraternity, feel free to e-mail me at jys29@cornell.edu.

Yours in the Bond,
Johnny Sa '12, 1865
Scholarship Chair

A New Focus for the New York Alpha Brotherhood

The 2010–2011 year has been going great so far. With a roster of brothers that are more dedicated than ever and a house with many new structural improvements, we are looking forward to a very successful year. While it is still early, many projects are in the works for the rest of the school year. This year, the brotherhood is focusing on recruitment, philanthropy, and increasing our presence on campus in a variety of ways.

In accordance with last year's shift in our approach to recruitment, the brotherhood is now focusing on small-scale recruitment and day-to-day interactions with prospective students. Also, each brother is a member of a recruitment team that organizes weekly recruitment events.

Our newest initiates have blossomed into outstanding brothers this semester. Almost every Chi class member holds an important of-

ficer position in the house. Many of these gentlemen are very involved in all aspects of the fraternity, whether they are attending committee meetings, participating in sports, or just enjoying the company of their brothers.

With all the house improvements this summer and throughout the fall semester, the chapter house continues to be one the nicest (and certainly the cleanest!) among fraternities here at Cornell University. Every potential we bring by is impressed with the condition of our fine house.

Every Phi knows that academia is one of our three cardinal principles. The current brothers are working hard to exemplify this; our overall GPA has increased since the fall '09 semester. The newly christened Philip H. Bartels Academic Center might be to thank for that. The library is usually occupied with brothers hard at work, and our scholarship chair,

Johnny Sa '11, organizes weekly study-hours where the brothers are encouraged to study together in the house.

The brotherhood is also focusing on sorority relations this semester. We are partnering with sororities for various philanthropy events. Recently, we had a team of brothers place first in Alpha Xi Delta's annual Twister Tournament!

Overall, great things have been happening this semester, and we expect even greater things as the year goes on. You can all bet that we are transforming the fraternity in a positive way, and every chapter-member can be proud. Our expectations are high for the future, and we are sure to achieve every goal we've set for ourselves this year.

Yours in the Bond,
Eric Viña '12, 1849
President



New York Alpha brothers with Alpha Xi Delta sisters, who sponsored the Twister Tournament this past semester.

Teaming Up With Other Greek Organizations for Philanthropy

Philanthropic work has always been an important part of my life, and I am thankful for this opportunity to share my interest with my brothers. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease), our national philanthropic cause, resonates with some of my philanthropic experience prior to coming to Cornell. I have had a lot of exposure to people with muscular dystrophy, as I volunteered at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's summer camps and local events during high school. I have seen the difficulties and triumphs people experience when dealing with neuromuscular diseases, which gives me that much more incentive to help Phi Delta Theta support research or vital services for ALS.

These thoughts—combined with my interest in celebrating the physical movement that I, myself, am blessed with and an idea from some Northwestern Phis—culminated in a preliminary plan to hold a dance-a-thon in the Great Hall. The event will feature popular music from different eras and will be co-sponsored by a sorority. We are also spon-

soring a cancer-awareness bake sale with Alpha Kappa Delta Phi, an Asian-interest sorority on campus, and later in the semester, we will be co-hosting their cancer-awareness dance! Many thanks to James Bosco '11, who did much of the legwork in getting this event off the ground. Even though we probably will not be having the dance at the house, I am excited to be able to have our brothers contribute time to philanthropic events.

Recently, we have been continuing our support of fellow Greek-sponsored philanthropy events. Continuing our dominance in competitive Twister, our lanky team was led to victory by Alex "Twister-was-invented-for-my-body" Smoke '11, with key performances by Alec Sullivan '11, Mike Mastakas '12, and Kyle Coulon '11. We also recently supported the Ithaca Advocacy Center with Alpha Chi Omega's "Alphatraz" event, which featured James Bosco '11 in the infamous "Green Man" suit. Passers-by donated money to post his "bail," and overall, it was a wonderful event. We will continue to support local community



Kyle Coulon '11 speaking at the Indigenous Day Rally.

efforts and strive to make a difference by supporting ALS nationwide.

Yours in the Bond,
Kyle Coulon '11, 1842
Philanthropy Chair

Undergraduate Chapter Officers

ERIC VINA '12

President

Major: Computational Biology
Hometown: Somerset, NJ

MICHAEL MASTAKAS '12

Vice President

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Nutley, NJ

TOMMY BABER '12

Treasurer

Major: Hotel Administration
Hometown: Millstone Township, NJ

DANIEL BALENTINE '12

Secretary

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Sierra Madre, CA

ANDREW BRIDSON '11

Recruitment Chairman

Major: Industrial and Labor Relations
Hometown: Hanover, MA

MICHAEL MASTAKAS '12

Recruitment Chairman

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Nutley, NJ

EDDIE CHRISTIAN '11

Phikeia Educator

Major: Industrial and Labor Relations
Hometown: Lake Ronkonkoma, NY

CAMERON MCCONKEY '13

House Manager

Major: Biology
Hometown: Uniontown, PA

MARK MALIN '13

Historian

Major: Psychology
Hometown: Shaker Heights, OH

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. Please direct all communications to Phi Delta Theta, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

New York Alpha Athletes Take the Lead



The 2010–2011 athletic season has started out extremely well for Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha. At the outset, Phi Delta Theta swept the sand-volleyball tournament, taking first place (Alec Sullivan '11 and Thomas Burton '13), second place (Eddie Christian '11 and Paul Valle '10), and third place (Ed Pyszczyński '13 and Michael Mastakas '12). With three brothers on the men's club volleyball team, Phi Delt looks to continue dominating in the indoor volleyball season as well. Both of our very strong teams crushed their opponents in their first two games of the season, winning by more than 10 points for both games.

The soccer team has shown similar resiliency on the field this season. The team went 3-2 to tie for third place in the division. Captain and sweeper Michael McGuire '11 has kept the defense solid as the team heads into

the playoffs, looking to surpass the success of last year's third-place finish.

We have put forth impressive athletic efforts in disc-golf doubles, with Paul Valle '10 and Daniel Balentine '12 taking third place. Eddie Christian '11 and Ed Pyszczyński '13 also took third place in the tennis-doubles tournament. Furthermore, Phi Delt flag football is currently battling for a playoff spot, with quarterback Paul Valle '10 and safety Brian Scott '10 leading the way. Phi Delta Theta is presently in the middle of our 3v3 basketball and squash seasons, and appears to be a strong contender in both sports.

In total, the chapter is currently in first place in the fraternity athletic standings by a definitive 10 points. With a few key players returning from last year's athletic teams and a sense of brotherhood pride on the line, Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha's athletic success is sure to continue throughout the year.

Yours in the Bond,
Daniel Balentine '12, 1864
Athletic Chair

NEW YORK ALPHA IN ACTION!



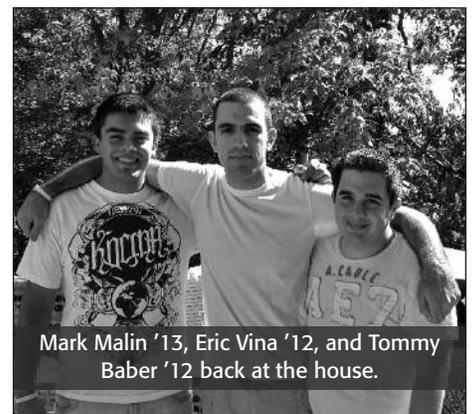
Mike Mastakas '12, Ed Pyszczyński '13, Edward Christian '11, Paul Valle '10, Alex Sullivan '11, and Thomas Burton '13 sweep the tournament.



Second-place team Paul Valle '10 and Eddie Christian '10 warm up before their game.



Third-place team Mike Mastakas '12 and Ed Pyszczyński '13 serve. Champions Alec Sullivan '11 and Thomas Burton '13 play behind them.



Mark Malin '13, Eric Vina '12, and Tommy Baber '12 back at the house.

Reflections From our New York Alpha Graduate Advisor

At first, writing a *Cayuga* article seemed more of a chore than anything—being a graduate advisor is more work than I imagined! However, as I sit here on the second floor of Mann Library watching undergraduates frantically work, my opinion begins to change.

I realize that, even though Cornell may not be the most hospitable campus at times, and course work may pile up, Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha will always be a port in the storm. Within its walls lies a brotherhood more supportive and caring than I could have ever imagined. It has given me so much, shaped me into who I am today, and provided me with some of the best experiences of my life. It's not my duty to write this article; it's a privilege.

As a freshman, no one could ever picture me joining a fraternity, myself included. I was a bit of a shut-in, with a long-distance girlfriend and a strict sleep schedule. As the first semester dragged on, I became more and more overwhelmed by college life. I was homesick. I was lonely. I strongly considered transferring back to Cincinnati. My parents and

I agreed that I should stick out the year and make that decision afterwards.

Everything changed over winter break. I signed up to go on a Cornell ski club trip out to Breckenridge, and I didn't know anyone else participating. That's where I met Ari Evans '08 and Jason Evans '08. We "clicked" before we even arrived at the condos. I learned that there was a group of young men who shared my views and interests and who broke the mold of the fraternity stereotype that I held in my head. My trepidation over continuing at Cornell became excitement as I made plans to return early to campus in order to engage with the Phi Deltas.

Returning for Rush Week sealed the deal between the Phi Deltas and me. I got along with every single brother there and signed my bid the moment Mitch Thompson '08 handed it to me. Throughout the pledge process, Cornell seemed to shrink. What used to be an ocean of assignments and strange faces turned into a house filled with guys whom I considered to be my closest friends. Needless to say, I actually began to enjoy college, and

any thought I had of transferring from Cornell vanished.

Joining Phi Delt has been, without a doubt, the best non-academic decision I have made during my time on the hill. New York Alpha took me in, surrounded me with friendship, and provided opportunities I could never have accessed on my own. Following officers and leading as one myself, I have learned how to get along with and work side by side with a variety of different people. Sure, there have been rough patches, but they always worked themselves out for the better.

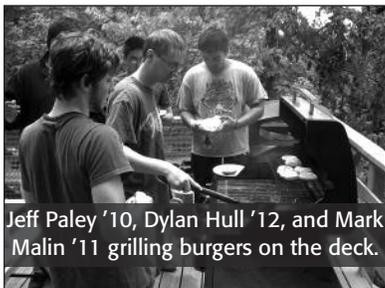
Even after my days on the hill are done, I will always be a New York Alpha Phi. Although the brothers will change, I will always have a place that I can return to and relive all of the great memories I have created during these past five years. I am, and always will be, proud to be a Phi.

Yours in the Bond,
Jeff Paley '10, 1815
Graduate Advisor

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI AND ACTIVES BONDING



Alex Smoke '11, Jerome Thomas '12, and Andrew Bridson '11 on the deck.



Jeff Paley '10, Dylan Hull '12, and Mark Malin '11 grilling burgers on the deck.



The brotherhood breaking in the new grill together out on the deck.



Alumni and actives together at the 2010 Homecoming tailgate.



Alumni and actives together in front of the Phi Delta Theta flag.



The crowd at the 2010 Cornell Homecoming game, including New York Alpha brothers.



Thomas Burton '13 and Mike Mastakas '12 getting the Homecoming crowd pumped up.

alumni send their news

Reconnect with **James H. Van Arsdale III '41**, now retired from the Bank of Castile, by writing to 71 Park Rd. E., Apt. 506, Castile, NY 14427; or e-mail sznnvnars@aol.com.

Robert H. Houck '45 writes, "The Army sent me to the University of New Hampshire where, after a year, I transferred my Cornell credits and received a BME degree. After the war, I could have come back to Cornell for a master's degree, needing only a few credits, but my employer told me it wouldn't add to my resume and that I would start in their 'mail room,' like all new employees." Write to him at 1105 Forest Rd., Lakewood, OH 44107; or e-mail grbbnbobo@aol.com.

Still working for Gorseline Real Estate, **Carl Foss '50** writes, "I'm selling commercial real estate, pretty much full time. I started a not-for-profit organization in 1992, which has since built a 16-mile hiking and biking trail across Monroe County. My son and grandchildren are also Cornell graduates; my son, **Douglas Foss**, is a Cornell Phi Delta '76!" Write to 41 Parrish Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14422; or carlfoss27@yahoo.com.

Harry Clifton Ames III '62 writes, "Larry Dunlap '64 and Richard Feliciano '64 visited me here on the Chesapeake for a small three-day reunion. We spent the time swapping lies, eating crabs, and reviewing old memories. All families, including wives, ex-wives, girlfriends, kids, and grandkids, are doing well. I hasten to say: Remembering our parents did not escape us. I have seen **Jay Keller '62** in the last year." Catch up with him at 94 Cherry Tree Ln., Reedville, VA 22539; or macames@rrwifi.com.

Write to **E. Henry Leiphart III '64** at his new address, 105 St. Andrews, St. Simons Island, GA 31522; or e-mail tleiphart@bellsouth.net.

"I have made several recent visits to Cornell," writes **Michael A. Gibson '65**, "to help with

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.

student mentoring in the chemical engineering school. While there, I visited the house and was glad to see much-needed building repairs were under way." Write to P.O. Box 22088, Houston, TX, 77227; or e-mail him at mikegibson97@aol.com.

James A. Searle Jr. '70 sends his greetings from 32 Country Rd., Village of Golf, FL 33436. E-mail him at jasearle@comcast.net.

Reconnect with **Alan Hatfield '85** by writing to 13435 Gull Ct., Apple Valley, MN 55129; or e-mail alan.hatfield@gmail.com.

Find **Gregg S. Kaufman '87** at his new address, 7 Littlebrook Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540; or e-mail him at gregg_kaufman@ml.com.

Keep in touch with **Richard D. Morse Jr. '88** by writing to 109 Foxtail Run, Florence, AL 35634; or rick@netdirectmerchants.com.

Check out some of **Daniel King Duane's ('89)** work; he is a journalist and the author of several books. In the last year, he has written for *Men's Journal*, and he often writes about extreme sports, food, and wine. Write to him at 245 Ellsworth St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

Now working for Goldman Sachs, **Jordan Wallens '94** is the vice president of asset management and sales. Write to him at 2431 N. Catalina St., Los Angeles, CA 90027; or e-mail jordan.wallens@gmail.com.

Catch up with **David Arnold '03** by writing to 4491 Hanover Park Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32224; or e-mail dsa22@comcast.net.

Stephen M. Davis '08 completed his second year of law school at Georgetown. This past

summer, he was working for the Supreme Court Institute as a summer intern. Write to 1935 Cherokee Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37919; or e-mail stmdavis11@gmail.com.

Stay connected with **Kevin Coughlin '10**, now at 89 South Highwood Ave., Glen Rock, NJ 07452. You can send e-mail to him at kcoughlin56@gmail.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

Robert C. Ray '40
September 28, 2009

John C. Bellows '41
February 27, 2010

Richard H. Denny '44
April 8, 2010

John H. Updegrove '45
August 21, 2010

Richard C. Mitchell '53

Donald W. White '53
September 1, 2010

Robert H. Huntington Jr. '59
July 26, 2010

David M. Rempe '60
February 8, 2010

Paul J. Sadowski '78
May 28, 2010



Philip Bartels '71 with family and friends at the dedication ceremony of the Philip Bartels Academic Center.