

A Time of Change Brings Unity, Determination, and Optimism



This season's *Cayugan* contains a variety of articles that will give us a glimpse into the affairs of the undergraduate brotherhood. In my review of these articles, I felt a theme of unity, determination, and optimism. When membership numbers are on the small side, I am always inspired by how the chapter seems to come together when it matters. Currently, I would characterize the chapter as starting a period of growth at this point in our history. Having recently graduated a sizable senior class, the chapter found itself needing to focus on recruitment, and impressively initiated six new members this fall, bringing our undergraduate membership to 33. I look forward to seeing continued momentum carried into spring recruitment.

This year also finds the Cornell Greek system, as a whole, going through a variety of changes precipitated by a tragic student death this past spring semester. This resulted in some immediate restrictions on how recruitment is conducted, and it will ultimately lead to fundamental changes in what we think of pledging on campus and our Phikeia education process. As the details of these changes become more clear, we will be sure to keep you informed in the next edition of the *Cayugan* but, for the time being, I wanted to assure you that both our undergraduates and alumni board are actively engaged with the Cornell administration to

sensibly help shape the outcome.

At this year's Homecoming, we held alumni board elections, and I'm pleased to announce Mark Kendall '04 as the new vice president, and the new members at large: Jeff Paley '10, Kevin Coughlin '10, Michael West '05, Tim Dressel '07, and Oscar Bernal '09. I'm confident that the board will benefit from the energy and fresh ideas of its new members!

With regard to 2 Ridgewood Road, there's been a fair amount of work done on the library thanks to the New York Alpha Educational Fund. Separately, the housing corporation has been addressing general maintenance and upkeep in coordination with the undergraduates. Our flexibility to execute projects continues to be conservative as our economy begins to show signs of healing. We are committed to replacing the residential carpeting in the summer of 2012. The biggest endeavor we are preparing for is a Cornell-mandated upgrade to our

sprinkler system. We are in the process of accepting a bid and tentatively plan to execute the project in the summer of 2012.

I'd like to thank everyone who has recently made contributions to the chapter. In these difficult times, it's comforting to know that our alumni are among the most supportive in Cornell's Greek system. As a chapter, we are well-positioned to face the challenges before us. We will continue to improve our facility, and provide an exemplary fraternity experience and tradition for our membership. As always, I would encourage any and all alumni to pay a visit to 2 Ridgewood Road as your travels bring you near Ithaca. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to send me an email at vaa4@cornell.edu. Have a happy and healthy holiday season!

Yours in the Bond,
Victor Aprea '02
Housing Corporation President



Phi Delt brothers hard at work in our library.

New York Alpha Strives to Improve the Brotherhood Every Year

The brothers of New York Alpha Chapter have approached this 2011–2012 school year with an incredible amount of passion and unity. The majority of the brotherhood is living in the house, and this has helped us attain a high level of closeness, which has led us to accomplishing a great deal in only the first few months of the school year.

One priority that the brotherhood has made this year is seeing our brotherhood continue to grow. Coming off an excellent effort this past spring with the recruitment of 11 young men who exemplify the three cardinal principles, the brotherhood has continued our recent success of recruitment with six outstanding individuals signing bids to become members of our chapter. This is the second-largest fall pledge class that we've had since the chapter's refounding. This is due, in large part, to our recruitment chair, Daniel Balentine '12. Dan's efforts throughout the beginning of the semester—including a dodgeball tournament at the house and barbecues in the backyard—are a huge reason why we were successful, and we are

excited to continue our success next semester during Rush Week. Eric Víña '12, who was president this past year, has continued his dedication to the fraternity by taking on the role of this semester's Phikeia educator. He has been doing a great job teaching our Phikeia the history of our fraternity and the importance of being a brother in this house.

Another facet of our fraternity that we, as a brotherhood, have strived to improve upon is our philanthropy. We understand the importance of being not only a contributor to the Cornell community, but to the city of Ithaca as well. Karan Javaji '14 has accepted this challenge as this year's philanthropy chair, creating many opportunities in the first few months to help our community. So far, the major events that our brotherhood has volunteered and participated in are: "Autism Speaks"—a philanthropic event sponsored by APO (the service fraternity at Cornell); "Into the Streets"—a community cleanup event in Ithaca; and the 5k run supporting the fight against breast cancer. Karan has done an amazing job as our philanthropy chair, and we look to him to be a major figure in our fraternity for years to come.

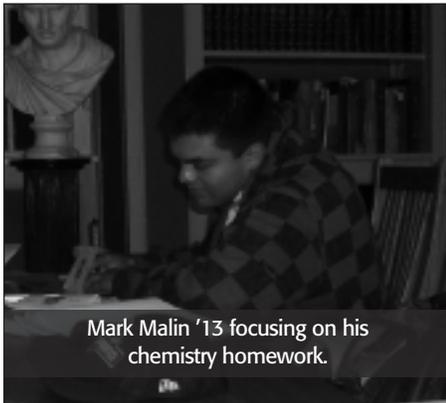
On another note, this year has brought many challenges not only to our fraternity, but to the entire Greek community here at Cornell. Due to the irresponsible mistakes of a small number of fraternities and the tragic death of a fraternity brother at SAE this past spring, Cornell has set forth a number of policies to make sure that such

a tragic event never happens again. While these policies have made it slightly more difficult to recruit freshmen for our spring classes, we support Cornell's hard stance against the hazing of pledges. We take pride in the fact that our Phikeia education process is not only completely safe for our pledges but is also, in my opinion, the best experience of joining this house.

Every brother in our chapter wishes that they could go through pledging again, and the majority of the brotherhood is present for every pledge event so they can experience it one more time. For this reason, we, along with general headquarters, have approached President Skorton and the Cornell administration with ideas and possible solutions for a new pledging process that is not only safe for pledges, but will best prepare them to become good, productive members of their chapters.

We hope that, in the next year, progress will be made to improve pledging for the entire Greek system and show the entire community that being part of a fraternity is more than what you see in movies (such as *Animal House* and *Old School*). It is about establishing strong friendships that will last a lifetime—becoming strong, independent men, and contributing to the school and community of which we are a part.

Yours in the Bond,
Mark Malin '13
President



Mark Malin '13 focusing on his chemistry homework.

Home Again at the New York Alpha House

As I returned to Ithaca from a one-year hiatus, I was ambivalent. On one hand, I was excited to bring new and fresh perspectives to the fraternity, but at the same time, I could not help but wonder how different the house may have become. After all, those whom I had grown especially close to had graduated, and the Phikeia whom I helped recruit during my senior year would be in key leadership positions.

It was within mere minutes of my re-arrival at the New York Alpha house that the undergraduate brothers made me feel at home again. At that point, I knew that the 2011–2012 academic year would be a great one. Indeed, the year has been one of great excitement for the brothers of

New York Alpha. As a matter of fact, we have observed unprecedented success on numerous fronts.

The year began on an excellent note, with the brothers enjoying the result of the house renovations that took place during the summer of 2011, including a revamped study space in the library, as well as an expanded academic database courtesy of NYAEFI's generosity. Throughout the semester, our intramural sports teams continued to perform exceptionally. In November, we initiated a six-man fall pledge class, and we look forward to continuing the success in recruitment through Rush Week next semester. Many exciting brotherhood events, such as movie night, bowling night, and

dinner outings, also kept the brothers busy.

As always, academics continue to be a focal point of the chapter. Brothers are taking full advantage of the new computer room, as well as the academic database. Our search for a faculty adviser, who will serve an advisory role with regards to academic matters, is ongoing.

The brothers of NY Alpha are confident that we will be able to bring the semester to a successful close, and carry over the momentum of our achievements this year into the future.

Yours in the Bond,
J.R. Cho '10
Graduate Adviser

Philanthropy: We Do What Ought to be Done

“To do what ought to be done but would not have been done unless I did it, I thought to be my duty.”

-Robert Morrison

Every Phi proudly stands behind these powerful words and yet, we often give little thought to its implication in our everyday ventures. It may seem clichéd to point this out, but I believe it is crucial that we recognize the significance of Robert Morrison’s statement. It is what inspires philanthropy at our chapter. In today’s busy world, we often place self before service. This gives rise to a self-centered attitude, which contradicts our fraternal values. That is why we have placed an immense weight on our service activities. A new perspective that we have taken this year is to collaborate with many different non-Greek organizations to make an impactful contribution.

Over the summer, on June 6, we organized our first philanthropy event of the year. In association with the Cornell South Asia Program and Asha for Education, we brought Amukta Mahapatra, a famous educationist from India, to speak. She gave an inspiring public talk on the plight of education in India and offered innovative solutions—such as activity-based learning models—to educate poor and underprivileged children in India.

Most of the attendees were teachers and representatives from nonprofits. Donations were collected at the door, and all the proceeds went toward the education of underprivileged children in India.

Our next big initiative was on the morning of October 15, where we helped the Cancer Resource Center with their annual 5k run/walk-a-thon. It was a great feeling to wake up at 7:00 on a Saturday morning and station ourselves along the track, to encourage and help the runners and walkers. The event as a whole was a massive success, pulling in more than 700 people.

While our previous initiatives were targeted at the Ithaca community, on October 22, we worked with Autism Speaks and AZD to hold a dance-a-thon. Although we did not get the participation that we expected, it was a great learning experience, and we generated about \$1,000 that went to benefit Autism Speaks. In continued efforts, our alumni secretary has suggested a phone-a-thon effort to raise more funds. We hope to involve alumni and will keep you posted.

At the time of this writing, on October 29, the brothers will be participating in “Into the Streets,” a Cornell-wide day of community service, where we are looking forward to working with the Cayuga Nature Center. In the future, we

also have plans of bringing F. Story Musgrave—a famous Phi who has expressed interest in coming to Cornell to give a talk and, in the process, raise money for the ALS Association.

You may be wondering how we have managed to involve ourselves in so many service projects in so little time. It is the brotherhood that drives these. Personally, I’m truly motivated and inspired when brothers come up to me and ask me to organize a service project, supporting a cause that is close to their hearts. In the truest spirit of Phi Delta Theta, we do what ought to be done.

Yours in the Bond,
Karan Javaji '14
Philanthropy Chairman



Thomas Burton '13 and Chris Boyer '14 having fun together at the cancer run.

Another Great Semester of Brotherhood Bonding

This has been a great semester for the New York Alpha brotherhood, and we have done many things together as a fraternity this school year. Back in September, the brotherhood gathered after a barbecue mixer in the evening to see a screening of *Lion King 3D*, an event that brought us together with feelings of nostalgia as we reminisced about our childhood with Disney. The following weekend, the brotherhood

paid a visit to the Apple Harvest Festival, which was great. Even the cold and wet weather couldn’t stop us from enjoying caramel apples, apple doughnuts, cider, and of course, blooming onions.

We have also greatly enjoyed dinners and brunches as a whole. We’ve gone to eat together at the Glenwood Pines, Boatyard Grill, and State Street Diner. We hope to drive up to Syracuse in the near future in order to visit the amazing Dinosaur Bar-B-Que.

The house has also enjoyed visits from a wide variety of alumni. The most memorable event was Homecoming, where there were as many alumni in the house as there were actives. The upper-classmen had a great time catching up with the brothers

and recent graduates. The newer additions to the house, such as my very own Psi class, were thrilled to be able to meet so many different generations of Phi Deltas.

In addition to the more formal brotherhood events, many trends have been sweeping the house. When the weather is nice, it’s hard to find a time when there aren’t brothers around the house playing Kan-Jam or croquet. As for video games, *League of Legends*, *Castle Crashers*, and *Rock Band/Guitar Hero* have taken the house by storm, while the staples of *Halo* and *Super Smash Brothers* are still going strong.

As we turn toward the future, we look forward to many more fun events that will help us bond as a fraternity, and we anticipate that our winter semiformal will be amazing as always. All in all, it’s a good time to be a Phi Delt here at New York Alpha.

Yours in the Bond,
Kelvin Lin '14
Brotherhood Chairman



Mike Mastakas '12 and Ed Pyszczynski '13 competing in the beach volleyball tournament.

2011–2012 Undergraduate Officers

PRESIDENT: Mark Malin '13

VICE PRESIDENT: Thomas Burton '13

TREASURER and RUSH CHAIR:
Cameron McConkey '13

SECRETARY: Andrew Calvario '14

RECRUITMENT CHAIR:
Daniel Balentine '12

ALUMNI RELATIONS CHAIR:
Nathaniel Bromberg '14

WARDEN and PHIKEIA EDUCATOR:
Eric Vina '12

ATHLETIC CHAIR:
Daniel Dworakowski '14

BROTHERHOOD CHAIR:
Kelvin Lin '14

CHAPLAIN: Andrew Praefder '14

HOUSE MANAGER and
TECHNOLOGY CHAIR:
Charles Rose '12

PHILANTHROPY CHAIR:
Karan Javaji '14

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR:
Dom Vergata '14

SOCIAL CHAIR: Kristian Beall '14

STEWARD: Nicholas Fuga '12



PHI DELTA THETA
Become the greatest version of yourself

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.

More Than Maintenance

This year has been extremely eventful here at New York Alpha. The house at 2 Ridgewood Road has seen numerous improvement and upkeep projects completed over the past 12 months—from exterior stair repairs to replacement carpets in the basement rooms, as well as new door handles and deadbolts all around. Not all of the work has been this mundane; a great deal of focus has been placed on making the chapter house a more comfortable, pleasant, and productive place to live and study.

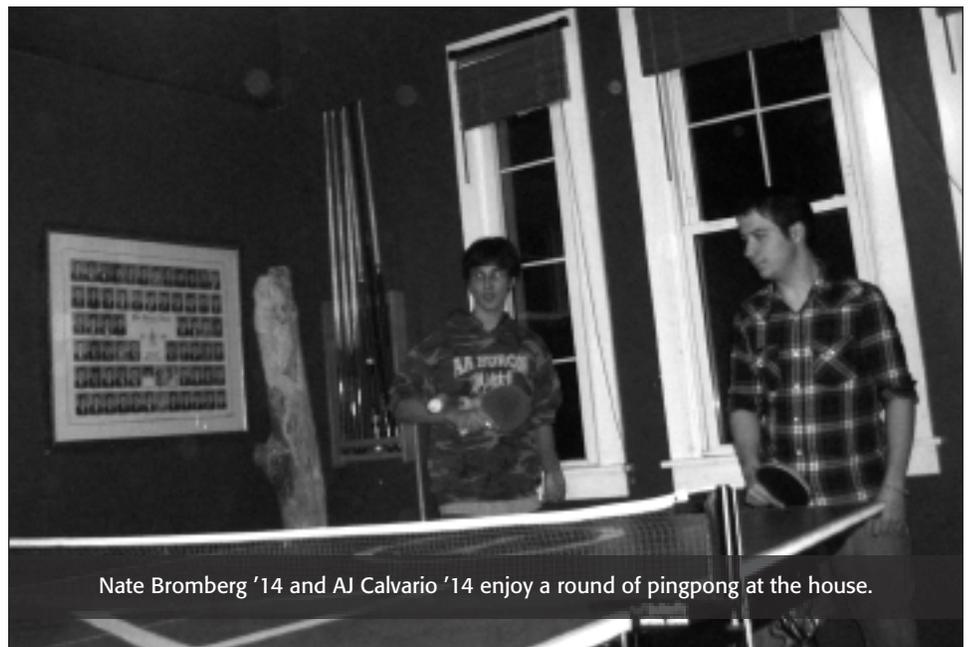
The primary driving force behind these impressive improvements is the NYAEFI, which has been incredibly proactive in its pursuit of improving the academic facilities of the chapter. The computer lab computers have been refurbished and outfitted with a full complement of academic software (which should eliminate the necessity of going to campus for that purpose), and the room has been made significantly more comfortable with the purchase of brand-new computer chairs. The network infrastructure of the building has been further augmented with the installation of a higher-end firewall and improved network hardware, in addition to a large capacity upgrade for the chapter's networked storage. The academic database has more than tripled in size, and continues to grow as brothers add material as it becomes available to them in their classes.

The library itself has certainly not gone untouched, either. The electrical outlets all around it have been expanded to four plugs, instead of two, and a total of 16 new

outlets have been installed below the tables to alleviate the rat's nest of laptop cords that had become such an issue when brothers were studying in there the previous year. Last, but certainly not least, contractors are currently finishing up the replacement of the library's windows, adding a great deal of life to the space, while helping to improve the energy efficiency of the building.

In the coming weeks and months, there are even more exciting projects in store. I am working with the NYAEFI to install a projector in the library to help with presentations and group projects, as well as chapter functions such as committee meetings and possibly video conference calls. Petex Restoration is helping with jumping through the hoops of the Ithaca Landmarks Committee and associated organizations for obtaining approval for a major upgrade to the library doors and façade that should help with traffic flow, heat retention, and practical usability. The carpets in the rest of the residential areas of the house will also be replaced in the coming summer, and the replacement of the furniture in the great hall continues to be a possible item for the coming year. I'd like to send out a big "thank you" to all of the generous alumni who make our continued progress possible. Here's to another successful year at Phi Delt!

Yours in the Bond,
Chad Rose '13
House Manager



Nate Bromberg '14 and AJ Calvario '14 enjoy a round of pingpong at the house.

Recruitment Building Strong Foundation in Fall 2011

This year, the Cornell administration instituted a "quarter" system that mandated fraternities to have no contact with freshmen until after fall break. Instead of dwelling on the strictness of the policy, we refocused our recruiting efforts to specifically target sophomores and upperclassmen. With this past spring's pledge class (Psi) totaling 11 brothers, we had a large network of friends to pursue.

During orientation week, our minds were consistently focused on recruitment. Brothers would be wearing letters daily, going to play ultimate frisbee on Rawlings Green, or going to Noyes to play basketball with the upperclassmen. Eventually, we began having social functions at the house so that as Psi class friends returned to Ithaca, they would have a place to hang out and relax. A barbecue at the house capped off the week, where potentials were able to eat delicious hamburgers and hot dogs while playing Kan-Jam.

As the semester progressed, we increased the frequency of our recruitment events. In mid-September, we combined brotherhood and recruitment, and invited several potentials to join us at the Glenwood Pines; we had an amazing time. As IFC instituted several recruitment weekends, we had the opportunity to hold fall smokers to get to know our potentials better, and for them to see the brothers in a different setting. Furthermore, we continued

having other social functions at the house that were huge recruitment successes, especially for the Omega class.

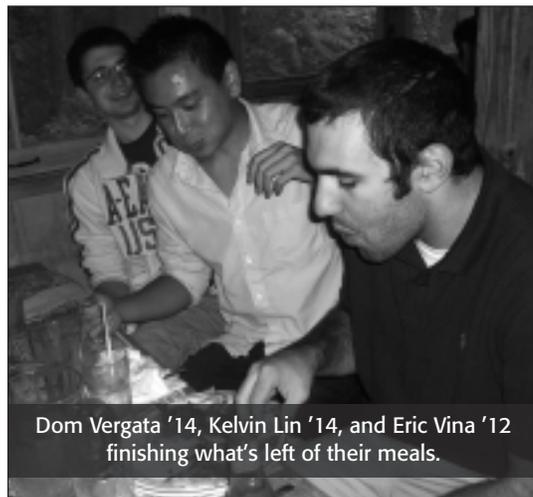
Near the end of September, we felt comfortable handing out bids to 12 deserving potentials. From that pool, six signed. This was the largest fall pledge class since the Phi class, which had seven in 2009. Furthermore, several of those who were not able to sign due to finances and schoolwork, have come back to us saying they're strongly considering joining in the spring.

As fall break came to a close, our focus shifted to freshman recruitment. During one of the recruitment weekends, we held a hugely successful dodgeball tournament in our house. Believe it or not, once all the furniture and pictures are cleared out, the great hall is an amazing indoor dodgeball

court. More than 20 freshman men showed up and stayed the whole time. Our freshman network continued to grow as we held regular *Monday Night Football* parties at our house with delicious appetizers prepared by our chef, Candice.

At the time of this writing, our final major recruitment event of the semester is coming up with Thanksgiving dinner on November 20. We have a myriad of potentials who confirmed their attendance and are looking forward to continuing our recruitment efforts as we prepare for Rush Week. Our rush chair, Cameron McConkey '13, along with the help of his committee and I, have put a lot of work into Rush

(continued on page six)



Dom Vergata '14, Kelvin Lin '14, and Eric Vina '12 finishing what's left of their meals.



Dan Balentine '12 setting out to complete the Pinesburger Challenge.

Phi Delta Theta Welcomes the Omega Class

This semester, we are very proud to have initiated the Omega class, which consists of six new brothers, to the New York Alpha Chapter: Peter Smet '14, Alexander Thompson '14, Matthew Weiner '14, Oliver Beecham '14, Ian Purnell '14, and Trevor Allain '13. These brothers will be fantastic new additions to our brotherhood.

Throughout the pledging process, I have enjoyed leading the Omega class and watching them grow not only individually, but also as a class. We have instilled the fraternity's values and our three cardinal principles in the class, and we have seen how they have embraced these values. This semester, they have participated in all of our philanthropy events, they frequently

take advantage of studying in our beautiful library, and they have become close with the entire brotherhood.

As time went on, we saw every one of them slowly open up as they got to know the brothers better. It has been incredibly rewarding seeing the pledges come to the house more and more frequently as they assimilated into the brotherhood, and how they have grown closer as a pledge class. As with many pledge classes, very few of the pledges knew one another at the beginning of the process. Now, I can confidently say that they have become the closest of friends.

However, what was perhaps the most rewarding aspect of being the Pikeia educator this semester was hearing what the Omega class had to say once they were

initiated. Some of them said that they initially had doubts about the Greek system as a whole and were hesitant to join; but after pledging, they realized that joining Phi Delta Theta had been one of the best decisions of their lives. Moments such as these make all the hard work that the brotherhood puts into recruitment and pledging worth it.

I am very much looking forward to watching the Omega class develop now as brothers of our great fraternity. I know that they are ready to take on a greater role in our chapter and lead it to great success.

Yours in the Bond,
Eric Vina '12
Pikeia Educator

alumni send their news

"My wife, Suzanne, and I, as usual, enjoyed January–April 2011 in Jamaica," writes **James H. VanArsdale III '41**. "The weather, flowers, and shrubbery were beautiful, and the water temperature, in the sea and pool, was 80 degrees! We have gone yearly for more than 15 years and plan to continue. I missed Cornell Reunion this past June. I'm aging, but am enjoying a large family and many friends. I will miss **Bob Wood '45** and **John Conable '38**, also Cornell Law School." Reconnect with Jim at 71 Park Rd. E, Apt. 506, Castile, NY 14427; sznnvnars@aol.com.

Wendel F. Kent '49 has a new email address: wendelkent@aol.com.

Brothers can get in contact with **Edwin A. Schneider '49** via his new email address: eas7@zoominternet.net.

Alan E. Hatfield '85 is now employed with VP Asset Management in Greenwich, Connecticut! Send congratulations to him at 13435 Gull Ct., Apple Valley, MN 55124; alan.hatfield@gmail.com.

Nicholas P. Cavallaro '05 has a new address. Write to Nick at 12 W. 104th St., Apt. 1R, New York, NY 10025.

"I am livin' it up in Oregon (a.k.a. the Beaver State), on my way to a master's degree in teaching in June 2010," writes **Andrew "Grizzly" Coffin '07**. "I have been snowboarding a lot on Mount Hood during the winter and also giving lessons as an instructor at Mount Hood Meadows." Get in touch with Andrew at 26070 S.W. Canyon Creek Rd., Apt. 303, Wilsonville, OR 97070; apccool@gmail.com.

No news is
not good news

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

Phi Delt Sets Sights on the Championship

All fraternities are encouraged to participate in the all-sports championship that Cornell's intramural sports holds every year. Sports are a great way to bond as brothers and work together. They are also a great way to represent and show pride for your own brotherhood. The athletic chairman's job is to encourage all brothers to play sports and to make sure all of the sporting events are organized.

In recent years, Phi Delta Theta has had a very successful track record in athletics. In the past two years, Phi Delt has come in second place in the all-sports championship. This year, our goal is to win first place. Signing up for every sport is necessary, as participation points are given to every fraternity that shows up to every one of their games. So far, Phi Delt has been represented in every sport but one, which is better than almost every other house on campus.

New York Alpha has also had successes early on in some of the sports we have been involved in. Two teams finished in the top four for sand volleyball—including the

champions, Thomas Burton '13 and Alec Sullivan '12. Edward Pyszczynski '13 and Kelvin Lin '14 narrowly missed out on a top-four finish in tennis doubles. Thomas and Edward also finished fourth in disc golf. Phi Delt's flag football team finished divisional play with a 4-0-1 record, and the team has high hopes for the playoffs.

At the time of this writing, bowling doubles and indoor volleyball are both under way and at least one team in both sports is expected to do very well. Phi Delt's indoor volleyball team should be considered a favorite, as three members from the men's club volleyball team are brothers. Phi Delt is currently ranked second in the all-sports standings, and with some of the more successful teams getting underway, the chances look good for our chapter to bring home its first all-sports championship.

Yours in the Bond,
Dan Dworakowski '14
Athletic Chairman

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

David D. Dugan '37
August 10, 2011

I. Robert Wood '40
April 1, 2011

George S. Scoville '42
February 12, 2011

Stacy C. Mosser '44
May 17, 2011

Richard S. Archibald '48
June 21, 2011

Robert N. Jacobs '50
February 8, 2011

William P. Hoffman '52
January 17, 2011

Recruitment Building Strong Foundation in Fall 2011

(continued from page five)

Week organization, as all our events are planned. Much effort was put into recruitment from the beginning of this semester, and we are ecstatic to have seen the positive results. However, by no means, are we finished ...

Yours in the Bond,
Daniel Balentine '12
Recruitment Chairman

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 Alumni Records Office, Phi Delta Theta, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.