

Housing Corporation Update



The housing corporation is actively preparing for its next meeting during Homecoming Weekend, and we look forward to welcoming many of you back to 2 Ridgewood Road!

All alumni brothers are invited to the chapter house for the housing corporation's biannual meeting on Saturday, June 11, at 10:00 a.m. The agenda includes an update on the state of the brotherhood by current undergraduates, housing corporation capital projects and budgetary planning, New York Alpha Educational Foundation, Inc., initiatives, and chapter advisory board activities.

If you are back on campus, but are unable to attend the meeting, please do stop by at another time. We are excited to share with you the progress that has been made in the past few years, and what the plans are for the future.

The housing corporation and the New York Alpha Educational Foundation, Inc., have made substantial investments in the physical condition, amenities, and educational infrastructure of the chapter house. The undergraduate brothers have put these projects to good use by raising the bar on academic performance, and recruiting the largest pledge class in recent history. The brothers have also upped their game in philanthropy, and are in contention for the most significant contribution of any chapter of Phi Delta Theta.

Thank you again for your support, and we look forward to many more exciting updates to come.

Yours in the Bond,
Andrew D. Bridson

Members Continue to Make Great Strides



As Ithaca started to shift away from the harsh winter weather, the brotherhood celebrated the beginning of another prosperous semester, marked by significant achievements in recruitment and academics. To

the credit of the leadership and hard work of the executive board, the brotherhood has made tremendous strides toward advancing the chapter within both the Greek and greater Cornell communities.

We recently finished our new member education period, welcoming 19 new members into our brotherhood. Comparing this pledge class to those in recent past, this is our largest. The success we had in receiving this large a class is all thanks to the hard work put in by our two rush chairmen, Forrest Cox and Cabot Jackman. Not only did we reach our goals in quantity, we did so in quality as well. The new members have already become very

active and integrated into our brotherhood, with three new members becoming officers upon initiation. We look forward to further integrating the new members throughout the rest of the semester.

The brotherhood has also maintained a strong GPA of 3.44, a large increase from the previous GPA of 3.31. We would like to attribute this success to the increased use in the academic database, as well as a focus on scholarship in general. Brothers continue to enjoy the new fitness center, and have been thankful to be able to take a break from studying to use the new facilities.

In addition, we are happy with our new chef, who started working in October. Chef Rob has provided tasty and healthy food on a weekly basis, and we look forward to enjoying his food for the foreseeable future.

We are extremely proud of the many accomplishments our members have achieved in recruitment and academics this year, working to truthfully embody
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The brothers before spring formal.

Undergraduate Officers

President

Zach Wahrheit

Vice President

Alex Zink

Steward

Connor Musick

House Manager

Austen Rattray

Scholarship Chairman

David Rothstein

Phikeia Educator

Lucas Richichi

Rush Chairmen

Forrest Cox

Cabot Jackman

Social Chairmen

Chris Gerazounis

Dustin Liu

David Lopez



Social Chairs Seek New Connections

The social chairmen have had an extremely productive and exciting new year. With newly inducted members of the brotherhood stepping into the roles, the socials have been able to experience the sense of leadership and community that Greek life can offer. They have taken it upon themselves to find ways to engage with other chapters, and create experiences to meet a broad range of students across campus.

Highlights of the semester so far have included the successful execution of a St. Patrick's Day community-building event. Beyond social life, the Greek experience is to further the development of our own identities, and we have found that interacting with other chapters has provided that opportunity to do so.

We hope to further connect with fellow Greeks here at Cornell University, and to build a diverse and caring community.

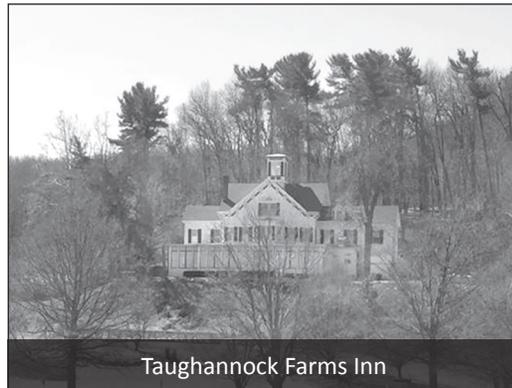
Celebrating the Bonds of Brotherhood

The fraternity grew to nearly 70 brothers this semester thanks to a very strong rush week. With so many brothers, along with renovations and additions to the weight room and Great Hall, the house is always full of people. This has also led to more brothers eating dinner at the house on a daily basis. The new brothers this semester had a short pledging period, but this meant that they were around a lot, and got used to the time commitment. This level of effort has been positively reflected in the house, because it has been kept cleaner than usual despite the increased size of the brotherhood and usage of the house. Because of their involvement, I am excited about the leadership potential of this pledge class as they move into the house and take on positions next fall.

This semester chapter and executive meetings have been well attended, with the chapter room sometimes barely fitting everyone. Most committees have meetings every other week, or as events are coming up. The brotherhood is very close, with small brotherhood events at the house every weekend.

One notable brotherhood event every spring is watching the Super Bowl in the

Great Hall. Our very large TV is placed at the back of the hall underneath the large flag. We then arrange the couches and chairs in rows, with the couches at the back propped up on cinderblocks, making it feel like a small theater. Chef Rob prepares great appetizers, and we order pizza and wings. As a senior brother I have watched so many Super Bowls with this setup that I cannot imagine watching a Super Bowl any other way.



Taughannock Farms Inn

A second spring brotherhood event, which we do every year, is to rent out Taughannock Farms Inn on Cayuga Lake for our spring formal. I have heard from alumni that we have done this for about 20

years, and for good reason. The inn is very beautiful, and is tucked into the wooded hillside, isolated from the more developed areas near Ithaca and Trumansburg. It also has a wonderful view of the lake and Taughannock Falls State Park. We hold this event just before final exam week, with the inn providing a three-course meal for the brotherhood and their dates, followed by dancing. It is a great time and truly a memorable experience, which also greatly relieves stress before final exams.

Alex Zink

Steward: Dish Duty No Dream

The kitchen has been in a great state this semester, despite our former steward, Kevin, stepping down earlier this year. The brothers have been very pleased with the cooking from our new chef Rob—he has made great dinners every week, especially for our major events. We were thrilled when Rob cooked our big Thanksgiving dinner and winter formal meals. Plus, the kitchen has been as clean as ever thanks to the newly initiated brothers taking dish duty very seriously. Food has been kept in stock throughout the entire semester, and so far there have been no problems with brothers being upset about the current state of the kitchen.

And now a fictional tale from the fall semester, where the situation was very, very different...

To be honest, the kitchen has been a bummer for the past couple of months. There is a massive, sentient spider named Stan that enforces dish duty. He traps people in his web if they fail to do their dish duty. As I am writing this, Stan has trapped me in a cocoon, and I believe I am losing circulation. Spider Stan will only let me go once the kitchen is clean. Sometimes, spider Stan comes into my bedroom at night and stares at me with his bright yellow eyes. He rubs his spidery legs all over my back, and tells me that he will put me in a cocoon if dish duty doesn't get done. On other occasions, spider Stan assumes a voice in my head, and tells me to do horrible things to those who don't do dish duty. Please help me escape spider Stan.

Connor Musick

Rush Nets Largest Pledge Class in Recent Years

Spring 2016 brought with it an exciting and busy rush week. Many brothers worked tirelessly to make rush successful this year, and their efforts were not in vain: 19 new members signed bids, the largest pledge class for New York Alpha in recent years.

Several key factors allowed this to happen, the first of which was a strong, well-organized fall recruitment period. Brothers worked individually around campus to recruit from their clubs and organizations, inviting potential recruits to weekly events, such as Monday night football, as well as larger events, like Thanksgiving dinner. As a result of these efforts, we entered rush week with a great list of target recruits.

During rush week itself, we decided to organize our recruits on Chapterbuilder, online fraternity/sorority recruitment software. Doing so provided us with an online forum where brothers could

comment on and discuss potentials. Using Chapterbuilder's services also provided us with a centralized phone number, which was used to contact potentials about events, ensuring none got lost in the mayhem of assign-

and a night at Sumo Sushi, capping the week off with a bus trip to Turning Stone Casino.

A big change this year was a bylaw revision to streamline the bid voting process. Brothers' eligibility to vote was determined by their rush week participation—if they attended less than two-thirds of official rush events, they could lose the right to vote. This ensured that every voting brother actually knew the potential new members they were voting on, reduced the number of voting abstentions, and cut down on repetitive discussion about potential new members during voting.

We are extremely proud of all the work our active members put into rush week this year. If this kind of participation continues into the future, there is no doubt that our chapter will continue to grow with increasingly larger pledge classes of quality college men.



New member pledge class.

ing contacts to brothers.

We returned to several classic recruitment events, such as snow tubing, skeet shooting,

Welcoming 19 New Members

As the spring 2016 Phikeia Educator, I was lucky to have such an incredible pledge class this year. We had a total of 19 new members join, a mix of freshmen and sophomores, with all sorts of diverse backgrounds and majors. I believe that 19 is the most we have ever had, or at least in the past decade, and they made my job easy because they approached each day with great enthusiasm, and were willing to learn about the brotherhood and fraternity as a whole.

It was tough, because this year Cornell gave us an unprecedentedly short pledging period, and this meant that the Phikeia would be busy almost every day. We took

this into account, and tried to come up with a schedule that was challenging, but at the same time manageable, and, ultimately, fun for them. The Phikeia responded to the challenge, and made sure that they were keeping up with their studies and managing their time effectively so they could experience the pledging process more fully.

Though it was short, we surprisingly saw no drop off in the number of brothers who we interviewed and got to know, and there was no attrition throughout the whole process, which can sometimes be a problem. At the end of their pledging, I believe that the Phikeia were able to take away many valuable

lessons. They made friendships transcending both time and place. They developed mental and physical discipline, which is highly useful at Cornell, and I believe it has helped them evolve into holistic, well-rounded individuals.

Now, they are prepared to excel on Cornell's campus and beyond. It is our hope that our new brothers view the NY Alpha Chapter as their home—a place where they can be themselves and seek advice from each other or the older guys. We are very proud of them.

Lucas Richichi

Chapter GPA and Academics Rise

This past semester has been academically successful for Phi Delta Theta NYA. I am happy to announce that, as a chapter, we greatly improved our GPA from last spring to this fall. We rose from 3.31 to 3.44, improving to 17th place in the Greek community. I would like to attribute this success to the increased use in the academic database, as well as to a focus on scholarship in general. We will strive to continue this improvement during this current semester.

The value on scholarship has been firmly

implanted in our newly initiated brothers as well. Every day, older and younger members alike pack the library to help each other with homework and study for tests. It is a great atmosphere that is conducive to sound learning. I am confident that the newest members are following after the older ones, and refocusing their efforts on academics as the semester reaches its halfway point. With this in mind, I believe that our chapter GPA will continue to rise.

David Rothstein

Members Make Great Strides

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our cardinal principles of friendship, sound learning, and moral rectitude. While my days of serving as president are winding down, I am pleased with the status of the brotherhood, and I am more than confident that the next president will continue to lead our chapter in the right direction.

Zach Warheit

Jerome "Jerry" Jenkins '51 is in a skilled nursing/therapy center at Concordia at Sumner in Copley, Ohio. His wife Helen lives in a villa across the road and visits every day to help him walk and exercise. His 90th birthday was in August. Send him wishes at 1031 Edgemere Ct., #2, Copley, OH 44321; or jjenkin@summerhome.com.

Thomas F. Shaxson '55 is now retired, "but I remain interested in soils (which I studied in 1954-'55 on the ag campus while hosted by Phi Delt—happy memories.) I have lost contact with my contemporary at 2RR, **John Osler '58**. Could you please let me know his address (snail mail and email). I would like to make contact again." Help him out at Winterborne Kingston, Greensbridge, Sackville St., Dorset DT11 9BJ, United Kingdom; or francisshaxson@btinternet.com.

Craig T. "Sparky" Standen '87 is "about ad-

justed to life on the East Coast after moving to Wayne, Pennsylvania, from Oak Park, Illinois, in mid-2014. Sorry to leave a great group of Phis in Chicago, but am excited to reconnect with old friends out here and in the New York City-area. Late-notice rally in mid-October planned by **Eric Hage '86** in Cooperstown for a big group of '80s Phis was overcome by events (read: weather), but a reschedule is possibly in the works. When it happens, it will be a newsworthy event as we will unseal a vintage cassette version of 'Sparky Bartunes II Revisited.' Phis between 1984 to 1988 or 1989, you know the quality of those mix tapes. Current bros—keep up the good work!" Catch up with Sparky at 116 Pine Tree Rd., Wayne, PA 19087; or cstanden@sbcglobal.net.

George B. Atkinson III '90 writes, "Caught up with **Anders Tomson '89** recently in Albany. Enjoyed having **Rob Kelly '90** sit in for

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

James R. Meehl '48
November 26, 2015

Ralph I. Coryell Jr. '49
December 6, 2015

Joe E. Guyer '49
May 16, 2010

Michael C. Aiduk '52
June 7, 2015

a set with my band at a gig in Chicago. Rob still plays a great slide trombone! Drop him a note at 623 W Belden Ave., Chicago, IL 60614; or george.atkinson@kornferry.com.

House Improvements Continue



This time last year I would have been bundled up by the fire in the Shield's Room, hoping for the eternal winter to end. This spring, however, Ithaca's weather gods have been kind to the students of Cornell, and the brothers of the New York Alpha Chapter, and I have had the pleasure of organizing early spring cleanings.

The house remains in a state of consistent cleanliness, and we are thinking of improving the quality of life by purchasing new speakers for what the brothers call the Poker Landing. Our new pledge class learned the values of keeping the house clean, and attendance at weekly house cleanings has been at a record high.

Before winter break, and before 2016 had begun, I worked closely with Robin Daghita of

the Student Management Corporation to pass our annual occupancy inspection. Although we failed to pass the assessment of the house on the first try, Robin and I coordinated to fix all the outstanding issues the inspector noticed on his walkthrough.

The main problems were doors that did not to shut with their own weight, a leaky fire extinguishing pipe, and updating our permits for renovations and the boiler. While the inspector was pickier the second time in regard to certain violations, we fixed them in the moment and he allowed us to focus solely on the issues from his prior visit. The next permit we have to renew is our annual fire permit, and I will work closely with the next house manager to ensure this visit goes even smoother than the building inspection.



Since my term as house manager will have ended by the time this newsletter is printed, I will take these last few sentences to reflect on my year in the house and how it has improved since I moved in. The new gym and laundry room were an integral part of the rush tour—they certainly impressed many potential new members. The brothers helped make the house spotless for rush week, which also helped the rush process. Finally, the new library flooring and shelving add a new, clean, and smart look to a room that is used regularly by many in the fraternity. I believe we have left the house greater than we when we arrived. As a house manager, that is all I can ask for.

Austen Rattray
House Manager

More news next time...

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.