



Brothers celebrate Christmas at the house.

Housing Corporation Update

The housing corporation is actively preparing for our 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. We look forward to many more exciting updates to come.

Yours in the Bond,
Andrew D. Bridson

Keeping House!

The brotherhood has benefited greatly from improvements made over the last year. In-house brothers are definitely enjoying the new mattresses and bed frames that were purchased in the summer of 2016. Brothers are also very appreciative of improvements made in the house wi-fi, as the house library continues to be a crucial spot for completing homework in a comfortable and timely manner. Our most current project involves restoring the house's many chandeliers to their former glory. With these updates, we hope to continue using the house as a selling point in order to recruit large pledge classes!

Nick Brennan

Chapter Builds on Strong Academics, Recruitment, and Philanthropy

As autumn drew to a close in Ithaca, the chapter reflected on its accomplishments thus far. With considerable effort from chapter officers, we built upon our already strong academics and recruitment and renewed our commitment to philanthropy.

With the completion of the library and the computer lab improvements, we have taken full advantage of all academic resources our chapter offers, and the results are apparent. The chapter earned an overall GPA of 3.52 last semester. This figure was enough to earn Phi Delta Theta the 7th best GPA out of the 36 fraternities at Cornell. Furthermore, our national organization recognized us with an award for outstanding achievement in scholarship. These achievements mark a new height in the trend of academic improvement over the past two years within the chapter.

We have also expended new efforts in committing to philanthropy. While continuing to participate in other philanthropic events, Greek or otherwise, we have begun to host our own events. This semester alone, we have three events scheduled, all of which will be sponsored by our chapter in tandem with various Cornell sororities. We look forward to the success of these events and the potential of raising funds for our national philanthropy, the ALS Foundation

After a solid recruitment effort, led by

recruitment chairs Austen Rattray and Andrew Stafford, we added three new members to the brotherhood in the fall. We met our target size for the fall class, while maintaining high standard for those to whom we extended bids. Consequently, we were confident that we would be able to meet our target class size for the spring semester, employing substantial selectivity.

Brothers continue to find the chapter house a valuable resource. Aside from the newly improved academic facilities, our efforts to maintain the house under Nicholas Brennan have proved effective in making the house a better place for brothers to congregate. Moreover, our chef, Rob, has continued to make healthy food that the brotherhood very much enjoys. After one year of employment, we can say with confidence that Rob has been a huge success for our chapter, and we look forward to his continued involvement.

We are very proud of our recent accomplishments in all facets of Greek life. However, there is no doubt that there is still room for improvement. In my next semester as president, I look forward to holding true to the three Cardinal Principles of Friendship, Sound Learning, and Moral Rectitude in order to continue the upward trend of the New York Alpha.

Paul Meisel

Phi Delt Welcomes 19 New Phikeia

A new year ushers in a new rush week for the brothers at Phi Delta Theta. Everyone was excited to get back to school early, and you could feel the energy in the house. Throughout the week, we enjoyed meeting all of our potential new members during open houses and events like paintball, snow tubing, and evening dinners.

After many hours of hard work, I am proud to announce that 19 new Phikeia

signed their bids and are now the youngest, most innocent members of the brotherhood. They come from many parts of the globe, spanning a large distance from Brooklyn to Queens. As my time as the house's recruitment and rush chair comes to a close, I would like to thank all of the brothers who worked so hard to make this rush week fun and enjoyable for the whole family.



A semi-retired real estate broker in the Boston west suburbs, **John Wilson '66** can be reached at wilsonjet1@gmail.com or 213 Meadows Edge, Acton, MA 01718.

"I've released an album as Small Drone Orchestra," announces **Don Lewis '75**. "You can hear it at smalldroneorchestra.bandcamp.com." Send congrats to him at info@wilddonlewis.com or 2401 S. Santa Fe Ave., #107, Los Angeles, CA 90058.

Phil Krebs '79 and **Doug Couleur '79** attended **Peter Shelbo's ('79)** wedding in La Jolla, California. "All looking good!" Peter adds. Catch up with him by email at peterashelbo@gmail.com or by postal mail at 1538 E. Edgemont Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85006.

From Singapore **John Lin '90** reports, "It's been a great run with Phi **Chris Conyers '91** in Singapore for the last six years, but

he is returning to the U.S." Adds "Grasshopper," "Chris was a huge contributor to the success of our company (aptly named Grasshopper) in Singapore." He urges anyone coming to Asia to let him know: grastaman@mac.com.

"I think often and fondly of my time at Phi Delta Theta," muses **John Falcone '02**, who's a practicing general/vascular/trauma surgeon in Owensboro, Kentucky. "Things are going very well. My wife, Trasey, and our three children—Gianna (5), J.D. (3), and Rosemary (2)—are really enjoying life in this beautiful town." John adds that he is always interested and available for brothers who are pre-med or who have other interests in the medical field. He concludes, "I am looking forward to catching up with my brothers with whom I have lost touch." Contact him at falcjl@gmail.com or 2019 Littlewood Dr., Owensboro, KY 42301.

Intramurals

As has become the norm for our house, we started off the year with a string of athletic successes and are currently favored to win the all-around sports championship. We outperformed our opponents immensely in both soccer and football this year, but due to a number of injuries, we were unable to perform at a high level in the playoffs.

Sand volleyball was a new addition to the intramural rotation in the fall, and we excelled at it, outscoring our opponents by an average of nine points per game. Although we haven't won a championship yet, we have shown that we're an athletic powerhouse that is a force to be reckoned with.

This semester, we hope to put a softball intramural championship under our belt and add another trophy to our fireplace. We would also like to win a basketball championship, but I believe the only way we can hone our skills enough to win basketball would be if we were to install a new basketball hoop for the house where the old one once stood. I am looking forward to the rest of the year and winning many more championships.

Paul Miller

Fall Phikeia

After a successful recruitment period in the fall, we were excited to have three new members join our fraternity: Chris De Lara, Matt Conte, and John Payne. During their new-member education process, Chris, Matt, and John proved themselves to be worthy Phis, and we are proud to call them brothers. We believe that these three young men will be able to uphold the traditions and values of Phi Delta Theta and to pass them on to future members.

William Durkin

Brothers Focus on Philanthropy

This semester, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta are focusing more on hosting impactful philanthropy events, as well as supporting the philanthropy events of other Greek organizations on campus. The brotherhood began these efforts by attending Phi Sigma Sigma's Color Run, a 5K for the sorority's national philanthropy, and a flag football tournament hosted by Pi Beta Phi. Both events occurred within the same time frame on Saturday, September 17, so a high level of planning and coordination was required for the brotherhood to support both events.

In the month of October, the Phi Delta brother's also lent a helping hand by participating in Delta Gamma's 5-on-5 basketball tournament, Anchor Slam. The brotherhood will soon be hosting various philanthropy events with other Greek organizations throughout the semester, including a bake sale with Phi Sigma Sigma, a dodge ball tournament with Delta Gamma, and an ice-skating event with Alpha Xi Delta.

As a brother and philanthropy chair of Phi Delta Theta, I strive to take any opportunity to represent my fraternity in a positive light. I firmly believe that, by hosting and attending meaningful philanthropy events, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta will make a tangible impact on Cornell's campus, as well as in the lives of people that the philanthropy events support. Phi Delta Theta made Christmas care packages for children in need of clothes, school supplies, or toys during the holiday season. By doing this and hosting events, the Phi Delta Theta chapter at Cornell University will effectively transmit what it means to be a brother and the principles that our fraternity stands for.

Nathan Ihemeremadu

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

Ralph B. Moore Jr. '48
November 23, 2016

John C. Snedeker '48
November 14, 2016

Vincent J. Pastena '61
September 8, 2016

James H. Vaughn '49
June 29, 2016

Eric L. Loberg '67
March 15, 2016

Jerome M. Jenkins '51
April 30, 2016

Hugh C. Doerschuk '44
May 30, 2016

Robert S. Brandt '54
February 21, 2016

John C. Harding '64
October 5, 2015

John H. Robinson '41
March 9, 2016

Kitchen Upgrades

The brotherhood now has consistently hot, reheated food. The presence of a new microwave has not only warmed that leftover lasagna from Tuesday; it has warmed our hearts. The newly upgraded appliance is the first of many anticipated upgrades to the kitchen facilities, as brothers have taken advantage of the "free kitchen" policy to craft fine foods on a nightly basis. In addition, with the election of a new steward in September, the kitchen appears to be cleaner on a more consistent basis.

The system for late plates has moved to the online platform Google Sheets, which has led to the significant decline of late-plate discrepancies and issues involving specific brother's dietary restrictions. Chef Rob, ever vigilant over his kitchen, appears in good health and spirits.

The time has come to rise for the good of all that is clean and to throw off the shackles of dirt and disease. We have seized the means of food production and placed them in the hands of the brothers themselves. Change is upon us, brothers! Hail the Glorious Kitchen Revolution!

Jim Cooper



Brothers gathered for Thanksgiving.

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.