



**NEW YORK ALPHA CHAPTER
CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

THE CAYUGAN

A LETTER FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR



Dear Brothers:

It's hard to believe that another academic year has concluded.

It has been a busy year for the fraternity, both inside and outside of Ithaca. The undergraduate brothers continue to impress us with their ability to contribute to the Cornell community, and we applaud their efforts in philanthropy, academics, and new member education.

The housing corporation has launched a new website which can be found online at: <https://phideltathetacornell.org/>. The site went live with a newsletter archive and donation portal last fall, and we are continuing to build its content. If you have any old photos that you are willing to share with us, please send me an email at the address provided below.

Fraternities currently face a challenging environment. On May 4, 2018, Cornell University President Martha Pollack announced new reforms for Greek letter organizations. Several changes, outlined in her letter, lie ahead. The housing corporation looks forward to working with the undergraduate brothers and our alumni community to ensure that the chapter has the tools necessary to succeed.

Additionally, on behalf of the alumni, I'd like to extend congratulations to the Phi Delta Theta graduating Class of 2018. Thank you for honoring your commitment to leave the fraternity better than it was before. We look forward to welcoming you as active participants within our alumni community.

Yours In The Bonds,
Andrew Bridson
adb96@cornell.edu

PHILANTHROPY PLAYS PART IN SPRING '18 FOR PHI DELTA

It has been an extremely enjoyable year for philanthropy. At the time of writing this article, we've had a total of three events, with another on the way.

The first event we held was called "Deep Phi'd Food," which was organized alongside the sorority Phi Sig. This event took place outside the Schwartz Center in Ithaca's Collegetown and consisted of selling various fried foods, such as egg rolls, mozzarella sticks, and deep-fried Oreos. We had one team at the house deep-frying the food while another team played music and sold food. The proceeds from this event were split between the ALS Foundation and Kids in Need Foundation. Not only did this event generate money for a great cause, it was also an amazing time for all brothers who participated.

The following philanthropic event was an ice skating night hosted alongside the sorority Alpha Xi Delta. This consisted of renting out Lynah Rink before winter break, allowing for a nice break before exams. Additionally, sisters of ΑΞΔ baked various sweets that were sold at the event. All proceeds were donated to the Advocacy Center, Ithaca's domestic violence shelter. Overall, everyone had a great time, and efforts have already been made to plan future events with this sorority.

We rounded off the year with one of our most enjoyable philanthropic causes of the year: the Phi Delta Theta Toss Up. This event primarily focused on the new pledge class and created a sense of cohesiveness among the

brothers. At the event, people donated to throw various items such as pies or water balloons at a brother of their choice. They also had the ability to pour an ice bucket on him as well. This event is great because it takes place on Ho Plaza, generally on a beautiful Friday every year during Cornell Days, leading to a lot of foot traffic. Throughout the day the newest pledge class is able to hang out and have fun with one another while, most importantly, raising money for the ALS Foundation.

While these are the events that the fraternity organizes throughout the year, our community service and volunteering does not stop there. Many of our brothers are active participants in the philanthropic events hosted by the sororities we are close to. For instance, we sent more than

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Brother Graham O'Donnell '21 participates in our yearly philanthropy event to raise money for ALS.

PHILANTHROPIC PHI DELTS

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a dozen brothers to “Pizza Pie with Alpha Chi” and “Recess with Phi Sig.” Not only are we able to donate to these sororities’ respective charitable causes, but we enjoy having fun with these opportunities and look forward to planning future events with the sororities as well.

Some notable brothers that continue to be active participants in the community are Spencer Re and Adam Itzkowitz. Spencer volunteers multiple times a week with tutoring sessions. Adam Itzkowitz has been heavily involved in running an on-campus grocery store, located in Anabel Taylor Hall, that focuses on addressing on campus food insecurity. We are proud of these brothers!

— Andrew Petterson '20



Brother Owen MacDonnell '20 poses with a participant in the Pie a Phi philanthropy event.



Brother Paul Meisel gets ready for one of the many philanthropic events of the semester.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE: BROTHERHOOD WRAPS UP A GREAT YEAR

This year has been an incredibly successful year for the New York Alpha chapter of Phi Delta Theta. In a time where countless fraternities make the national news for unfortunate incidents, we have remained on track. This chapter of Phi Delta Theta remains committed to upholding the values of our founders. We have had several noteworthy developments this year that showcase our positive growth.

This year, we have added new members during both the fall and spring semesters. Under the guidance of their Phikeia educators, these new members have already become integral parts of the fraternity. Many new members have taken up important positions within the house, such as house manager, steward, and philanthropy chair. This shows such commitment to the house, is integral to both the future of the house and the brotherhood, and will hopefully continue improving them.

In terms of philanthropy, we have had several successful events to raise money for ALS research. In the fall, we did the second annual Deep Phi'd Foods alongside our good friends Phi Sigma Sigma, selling fried foods on the streets of Collegetown at night, raising over \$500. Additionally, this



Phi Delta Theta brothers meet up at Alpha Chi Omega Spring Formal.

past semester, we held another large philanthropic event on Ho Plaza that allowed passersby to throw a variety of food at some of our brothers. This was extremely successful and brought positive attention to the fraternity on campus.

Risk management has become extremely important in today's political climate, especially with the university's (somewhat negative) view of Greek Life. Fortunately our risk manager has done an excellent job of ensuring our safety during brotherhood events. We have held several seminars with various groups to educate ourselves on consent and diversity. While these topics have not been concerns among our brotherhood, it has only reinforced our

commitment to understanding culture and acceptance.

The actual brotherhood has never been tighter. Thanks to the hard work of the brotherhood chair, we have a dedicated day each week for all brothers to come together. We have had several incredible barbecues—weather permitting—sports tournaments, and outings. It really feels like each and every brother is close to one another. Additionally, we have had several notable recent alumni who have come back to meet the new members. This new committee has really helped bridge the gap between these newest members and our alumni, giving them a better opportunity to learn about our history, as well as know that there are opportunities to meet the multitude of people willing to help them.

Overall, this has been a great year for Phi Delta Theta. We have added new members, come closer together, improved our overall GPA, gotten more in shape, and stayed out of trouble. This fraternity is on the right track, and I cannot wait to see where next year continues to take us.

— Kevin Gu '18

VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

It's been a busy spring semester at Phi Delta Theta and the officers have been hard at work. As vice president, it is my position to oversee the other officers on a daily basis and support our president in any way I can. This spring, we've had a host of recruitment, brotherhood, social, and philanthropy events that reflected positively on our chapter and have had a far-reaching impact on campus and beyond.

In terms of recruitment, our chapter added new members in both the fall and spring semesters. These members have already stepped up to leadership positions in the house and remain enthusiastic and

eager to learn how to carry our chapter into the next generation. I'm looking forward to leveraging my experience in the VP position with advice from our partners at GHQ and the Cornell Alumni Board to teach our new brothers the necessary skills to succeed in their leadership roles.

Additionally, our management team has spent a great deal of time conducting short and long-term planning for the chapter. We've been working on establishing relationships with other Greek and non-Greek organizations on campus to collaborate on various philanthropy and

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2017-2018 BUDGET RECAP

During the 2017—2018 school year I proudly served as treasurer for the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Cornell University. In this role as treasurer, I worked closely with an outside accountant at Sciarabba Walker in Ithaca to manage the finances of the fraternity. Together, we used expenditures from past years combined with input from brothers to create a budget that will allow us to, at worst, break even financially for the year and, at best, have a profit that can be put into reserves and used for future house projects.

We have organized our budget into categories with brotherhood, chapter, social, and recruitment being a few examples. These categories make it significantly easier to be aware of where we stand financially at any given time.

The main change the chapter made this year monetarily was to increase our social budget. This allowed for more opportunities to mix with sororities and to host recruitment events that would give potential new members a better opportunity to learn about our chapter and visit our house. In order to make up for the increased social budget, we slightly decreased other budgets based on how much we spent categorically in prior years.

I am happy to say that it has been another great year for the New York Alpha Chapter!

— Andrew Stafford '19
Treasurer



Pledge Class Beta Iota celebrates its time at Cornell with an end-of-the-year dinner banquet.

PHIKEIA IN THE HOUSE

I had the pleasure of being the Phikeia educator for the Beta Nu class this spring. The 13 freshmen and sophomores were strangers at the beginning of the semester. By the end of our time together, however, the pledge class united, and I can proudly say that our newest brothers are excited to participate fully in the chapter.

The Phikeia Education program was heavily influenced by my time at the Educator's College at the Alpha Chapter in Oxford last summer. While there, I learned team building activities with brothers from chapters across the country. After only a few days, I knew that the ideas and lessons I learned from other Phi Delta Theta members would be appreciated and used back in Ithaca.

During the pledging period I started our weekly meetings by having everyone recite the Phikeia Oath. Throughout the following weeks we dissected the oath into the three aspects that covered our three main principles. Phikeia showcased the meaning of brotherhood, rectitude, and sound learning by learning about each other's families, organizing a philanthropy event, and helping one another with school work during weekly study hours.

This semester, we continued to have Phikeia and brothers would meet to discuss life at Cornell, summer internships, and hobbies. As elections approached, many newly initiated brothers reached out to older officers eagerly hoping to run and be a part of the next round of officers.

I am excited to hear about the great achievements Beta Nu will accomplish in the coming years!

— Austen Rattray '19



Class of 2018 Phis pose before Spring Formal

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

Raymond Duffy '46 writes: "Just received the December 2017 letter. Mail to Kingston, Massachusetts, and Naples, Florida, is not the best. Phil Bartel's letter was superb—now you have at least one from the 40s!" Contact Raymond at 22 Drew Ave., Kingston, Ma, 02364 or rduffy@comcast.net.

"My daughter, Catherine Asenath Whiteford died (cancer) December 28, 2016, and my wife, Patsy Monfrey Whiteford died (cancer) on February 10, 2017," says **Pete Whiteford '54**. "I recently visited with **Bill Bane** and plan to visit him in Seattle, Washington. I plan to have Bill and Nancy visit me in Park City, Utah, and their son and families. I am moving to Park City from Houston, Texas. I had my first granddaughter born in early 2017 in Hom-

er, Alaska (Sienna Lynn)." Pete traveled to Alaska for Christmas and says "I've every sense that the Phi's at NY Alpha look first class!" (peterwhiteford@hotmail.com; 163 Webster Ct., Park City, UT, 84060)

Robert "Bob" Agnew '63 is still working as an analytics consultant for USAA in San Antonio, Texas. Reach out to Bob at 40 Eastlake Drive, Palm Coast, FL, 32137, or raagnew1@gmail.com.

Peter Bell '86 writes: "My wife, Liz, and I moved to Basalt, Colorado, this summer. Assumed a new position as president and CEO of Ascendigo Autism Services. Open invitation to all Phi Deltas to come ski in Aspen!" Find Peter at 818 Industry Way, Carbondale, CO, 81623, or get in touch at pbell@ascendigo.org.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL PLANS

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social events. Emphasis has been placed on the importance of brotherhood bonding, with our chapter hosting exciting events like viewing parties for sporting events and backyard barbecues.

My long-term vision focuses on new ways to reach underclassmen on campus. I have been brainstorming with the rest of the brotherhood to better engage a majority of Cornell's student body. Our team is dedicated to continue Phi Delta's positive legacy on Cornell's campus and we are all looking forward to what lies ahead.

— Christopher DeLara '19



Vice President Dick Cheney with Brother Robert Dunbar (right).

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

James H. VanArsdale III '41
February 2, 2017

John D. Ten Hagen '49
May 24, 2017

A. Richard Triebel '55
June 20, 2017

William B. Moore '64
April 1, 2017

UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

President

Brandon Truong

Treasurer

Andrew Stafford

Steward

Jimmy Cooper

Social Chairman

Dustin Liu

Recruitment and Rush Chair

Austen Rattray

Brotherhood Chair

Jake Darby

Philanthropy Chair

Nathan Ithemeredu



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