



**NEW YORK ALPHA CHAPTER
CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

THE CAYUGAN

A LETTER FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR



Greetings from Ithaca!

The housing corporation welcomes the undergraduate brothers back to campus, and wishes them well as they kick off a new academic year.

We are pleased with the progress that the chapter has made in the areas of academics, social life, philanthropy, and athletics. The continued strong growth of the brotherhood is a product of their hard work.

Alumni and undergraduates met during the housing corporation's annual Homecoming weekend meeting on September 21 and 22. During the meeting, we identified and prioritized projects for the coming years as well as received updates from the New York Alpha Educational Foundation, Inc., and from the chapter advisory board.

We are always looking for new ways to engage our alumni. Young alumni who wish to remain involved with Phi Delta Theta are encouraged to consider joining the chapter advisory board to provide mentoring to the existing brotherhood as they navigate the complexities of Greek life on campus. The housing corporation is a great way for alumni to meaningfully contribute to the maintenance of 2 Ridgewood Road

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New York Alpha welcomes its newest brothers, the Beta Xi class.

NYA THRIVES AT CORNELL IN CHANGING CAMPUS CLIMATE

This year has been a great year for Phi Delta Theta, despite the changing climate on campus. This semester we welcomed seven new brothers—which is the most we have had in my time in the fraternity, and for years before. This has set a great stage for the spring; all our new members have been actively trying to recruit their friends, and we have now set a goal of 20 people. Along

with this goal we have decided to push living in the house much more during the recruitment process, and hopefully have a greater idea of who would live in the house well before their education process. You can read more about the house and increasing the numbers in the house manage update on page 2.

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PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS STAY STRONG AT PHI DELTA THETA

Last year we kicked off our spring semester philanthropy events with our annual "Toss Up," event, where brothers volunteered to have eggs and pies

thrown at them in the name of ALS research. This event not only raised \$300 for ALS research, but we also were able to educate people on ALS and the overall Phi Delta Theta philanthropy mission.

After such a successful semester last year, I have been excited to plan philanthropy events for the fall semester. This year, Phi Delta Theta is partnering with a new charity, Live Like Lou. Live Like Lou was started by a Phi who was diagnosed with ALS. His mission was "to leave ALS better than we found it." It is with that same mission in mind that I hope to plan out events for the semester.

At the time of writing this article, we

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Brothers volunteering at the YMCA during the "Into the Streets" service event.

HOUSE UPDATE: BROTHERS TAKE INITIATIVE, SET NEW GOALS

The house has been looking great. We started off the year with 16 brothers living in the house, with an additional brother joining us a couple weeks in. Due to the low numbers, everyone currently has a single room, which they have been loving. Brothers bought a dart board for the shields room, making it a great place for us to hang out and relax after a hard day's work.

The stairs right outside the kitchen are currently being renovated and we are looking to get the stairway up from the

lower lot fixed as well. Thanks to a very generous donation from Mr. Bartels '71, we were able to get a new projector installed in our library, turning it into an excellent place for presentations and general schoolwork. Brothers are currently discussing the idea of taking the initiative to spearhead their own projects in order to help improve the house. Hopefully, the house becomes more uniquely Phi as brothers turn these ideas into reality.

Once again, we have the same the same

goal as previous years: increasing in-house numbers. Last year, by offering a slight discount to older brothers, we were able to get more upperclassmen to live in. This year we have set a goal to have 10 people to sign leases before the spring semester, which should be easily attainable with seven fall Phikeia. With a large pledge class in the spring, hopefully we should be looking at a full house before long.

Michael Zhang
House Manager

NYA CHAPTER REMAINS ON BUDGET IN 2018

The 2018 year has been successful financially year for the NYA Chapter of Phi Delta Theta. This year we are proud to have seven Phikeia for the fall semester. Last year, we finished on-budget and added numerous improvements to the fraternity house, including our dining hall and bathrooms, which have made the house even better. We also began a major construction project to fix one of the walkways to the kitchen.

It has been a pleasure serving with this year's executive board. They continue to exemplify great leadership qualities when leading the house. Going into next semester, our financial goals are to fill the house to maximum capacity and recruit a pledge class of at least 16. Having a large pledge class gives us enormous flexibility to hold more events for next year.

The NYA Chapter of Phi Delta Theta is in fantastic financial standing and I am positive we will have a great year in the remainder of 2018 and going into 2019.

Brandt Thrower
Treasurer

You can help us retain the current financial standing by making a donation to the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta. See the enclosed gift form or visit www.phideltathetacornell.org!

CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR

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and to ensure that all brothers have a welcoming place to call home. The NYAEFI supports the academic mission of the brotherhood by providing the tools necessary to excel in the rigorous Cornell coursework.

Additionally, we continue to build content for our website: <https://phideltathetacornell.org/>. This will improve delivery of *The Cayugan*, allow alumni to easily update their information, and help everyone stay more connected with the activities within the chapter. If you have any pictures from

your time at Cornell or from activities off campus that you'd like to share with us, please send me an email at the address provided below.

As always, if you are in town, please be sure to stop by the fraternity house and see all the exciting improvements that have been made over the years.

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

Yours in the Bond,
Andrew D. Bridson
adb96@cornell.edu

NYA THRIVES

(continued from page 1)

The changing climate at Cornell has been something of a challenge for all fraternities, but I can say that New York Alpha is well ahead of the curve. The first major change relates to initiatives put in place by Cornell President Martha Pollack, which have addressed hard liquor in chapter houses, live-in advisors, and officers living in the house. The most interesting change of the three was the requirement that at least four upper-class officers have to live in the house, and the position of president and vice president have to be held by juniors or seniors.

Additionally, we have had difficulty with people living in the house for several years, due to a trend where more people

are moving into Collegetown, and a lot more sophomores have been coming out for recruitment rather than freshmen. Just recently, Sigma Alpha Mu moved houses because Cornell is planning on building more dorms on North Campus, which would require students to live on campus their freshman and sophomore years. However, in this new requirement, chapter houses will be included in the Cornell-affiliated housing, meaning it should be easier for us to keep in-house numbers high in the future.

I am extremely excited to continue working on our future goals, and looking forward to a great spring semester!

Andrew Petterson
Chapter President



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*This honor roll reflects gifts received between July 1, 2017, and November 7, 2018.
This list does not include donors to the NYAEFI. Those are acknowledged separately.*

PHIKEA EDUCATOR AIDS NEW MEMBERS WITH GREEK LIFE ASSIMILATION

This fall, I have the opportunity to be the Phikeia educator here at New York Alpha. We were fortunate enough to pick up seven new Phikeia who are doing a great job integrating into the brotherhood, especially the newly initiated brothers of Beta Nu.

While the new members are clearly driven to scholastic and career excellence, they have each demonstrated a bright dedication to the fraternity and the brotherhood into which they are

being welcomed. Within the pledging process, we are making a specific effort to emphasize taking responsibility both in the context of the fraternity and its operations, but also in their positions in classes and jobs.

Additionally, the Phikeia have been tasked with personally reaching out to members of the initiated brotherhood in attempts to kindle new relationships or deepen the connections that brought them to Phi Delta Theta in the

first place. Through one-on-one conversations with brothers, the hope is that the Phikeia will learn how the values of the fraternity are being lived out.

It continues to be a great pleasure guiding the integration of the Phikeia into the fraternity. I am beyond excited to see what Beta Xi will accomplish and what great Phis they will become.

Jonathan Ho
Beta Lambda 1986

ALUMNI NEWS

Raymond Meagher '57 is still living in Millbrook, New York, after 44 years. "Hoping my 14-year-old grandson will want to go to Cornell," Ray says. "He would be the fourth generation!" (PO Box 1109, Millbrook, NY 12545)

"Check out lowcountryoystertrail.org," says **Larry Hughes '65**. The site is a tourism and economic development initiative for the South Carolina low-country. "This is a project of The Hughes Group to generate a revenue stream for marine ecosystem research," he explains. To the rest of the Phis, Larry says: "My wife, Judith, and I enjoyed the latest newsletter. We're proud of your academic and community outreach progress and success." (ljhughes2@gmail.com)

John Wilson '66 is currently retired and would love to hear from other Phis. Reach out to John at wilsonjet1@gmail.com, or 3481 Mead-

owbriar Lane, Baldwinsville, NY 13027.

"Like many of my colleagues, I am retired," updates **Steve Kirk '71**. "One exception is **Pete Brink '71**, who continues to build his empire. I am keeping busy by serving on a few non-profit boards, including being on the board of trustees of Cleveland State University. Those who know me will find it hard to believe that I am chair of the academic affairs committee." Steve continues, saying, "I also serve on several corporate boards, including being chairman of Valvoline, Inc. (NYSE). Most of my time, however, is devoted to tennis, golf, and cycling. I do the Cleveland Triathlon every year as part of a now-geriatric relay team." Get in touch with Steve at sfk7440@yahoo.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

Jaime S. Carrion '52

March 24, 2018

David H. Marshall '55

April 17, 2018

Thomas E. Peterson '53

May 21, 2018

Richard W. Sharp '73

November 17, 2015

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:
www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org

GIVE TO THE CHAPTER
FIND CONTACT INFORMATION
SEE PAST EDITIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER



Scan the link above using your smart phone to go directly to the site!

PHILANTHROPY AT PHI DELT

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had two events planned on behalf of the Live Like Lou charity. The first was our annual "Deep Phi'd Foods," alongside the

sorority Phi Sigma Sigma. During this event, we sold deep fried foods in the heart of Collegetown for students looking for a quick bite after going about their Halloween activities. Our second

event is another annual favorite, the ice skating night. During this event we hope to escape from the cold of Ithaca with some hot chocolate and ice skating! We will rent out Lynah Rink and sell tickets to skate throughout the night while continuing to raise money for Live Like Lou.

Stay tuned to everything that happens this semester by liking Phi Delta Theta NYA on Facebook!



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 news form.



Brother Andrew Petterson with the United States ambassador at the Fourth of July party, during his internship in Botswana.