

# CAYUGAN

## NEWSLETTER

PHI DELTA THETA | NEW YORK ALPHA

### FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR



**BY ANDREW  
BRIDSON**

It's a new year, and it's time for a new *Cayugan*. You'll notice that we refreshed the look of this year's newsletter, but that's not all—we've also revamped our content. We want to amplify material that we hope all Phis, no matter how long you've been away from the hill, will enjoy.

You'll notice new features, such as our own Greatness section. For some time, Phi Delta Theta has featured notable alumni in their national mailings. We want to use our newsletter to highlight your personal and professional success. Anybody can nominate a deserving Phi (a fellow brother, a spouse, a child), by emailing me with the name of the brother deserving recognition, graduation year, photo of the brother, and a brief description of his success. We will collect these nominations and feature as many as possible in our *Cayugan* newsletter.

In our next edition, we will roll out a section called Reflections. We invite you to submit a story or recollection from your time at 2 Ridgewood or at Cornell that you believe others would enjoy for print. We recognize that times can be particularly challenging, and so we hope that this section can bring you a smile or chuckle. If you have something to share, put it in an email to me for inclusion.

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### SPECIAL NOTE FROM HOUSING CORPORATION PRESIDENT JON BELLANTE

Before each year begins, the Housing Corporation takes great care to place the chapter in a position for success. Typically, we consider investments to repair aging items, protect the corporation's assets, ensure compliance with the many university or City of Ithaca regulations, improve the living environment for the undergraduates, and enhance the social and academic resources for our brothers. We plan carefully for many issues that could arise.

Despite that, the COVID-19 pandemic, and its resultant effects (closure of campus, refunds of rent, and a suspension of

activities—including in-person recruitment events) has had an impact on the corporation's finances.

Additionally, as the safety of the undergraduate brothers remains our top priority, the corporation is incurring greater expenses due to heightened use of professional cleaners and enhanced precautions.

I am deeply appreciative, and humbled by, the generous support that we receive from our alumni, parents, and friends. This year, we need that support more than ever.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**VIRTUAL HOUSING CORPORATION MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2020**

### PRESIDENT: CHAPTER STANDS STRONG DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES



Saul  
Bernaber

**BY SAUL BERNABER**

The past year has brought many challenging times for Greek life and the world as a whole. Through these times, New York Alpha has sought to take care of its members and its relations with General Headquarters and Housing Corp. The house has become more involved and connected with General Headquarters as calls and emails are being exchanged on a weekly basis. All six reports for the chapter

greatness checklist were submitted, along with risk management affidavits, and delegates were sent to the President Leadership Conference and registered for (now postponed) Kleberg. The cooperation and trust between General Headquarters and Housing Corp. has allowed our chapter to flourish and maintain our reputation as a respectable organization on campus.

Moreover, the climate surrounding Greek life on Cornell's campus has drastically changed and now has a negative

*(continued on page 5)*

# HOUSE MANAGER: BROTHERS LOOK FORWARD TO FALL SEMESTER



Everest Yan

**BY EVEREST YAN**

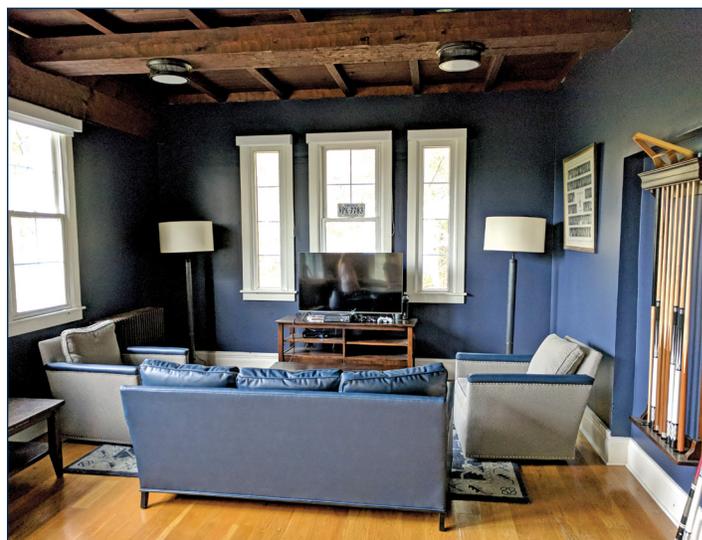
During the 2019–2020 school year, the house saw a great deal of renovation. From the piano to our back lawn, many house items have undergone or are undergoing extensive repair. The house has seen a remarkable restoration in many areas, such as the Great Hall’s wooden floor, which is currently undergoing evaluation for repair thanks to a generous gift by our Housing Corp.

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce that the chapter house will be hosting 20 brothers for the next school year. We are very excited about the high number of brothers living in the house, because we all call this place on campus our main home.



The refurbished and newly tuned piano, courtesy of the NYAEFI, graces the Great Hall.

Whether brothers are making food in the kitchen or playing Nintendo Switch in the Great Hall, the energy in the house has been lively



An empty Shields Room.

and exciting for all. Additionally, many brothers have reorganized the Shield’s Room and we invested in new pool equipment, such as new cues and a rack to keep the balls tidy. While the coronavirus pandemic cut our semester short, the brotherhood can’t wait to be back in the house for future semesters.

## PHILANTHROPY RESPONDS TO COVID-19

**BY JACK NICHOLS, COLE JOHNSTON, AND TOMMY BRADFORD**

During April, Phi Delta Theta’s Philanthropy Committee organized a social media fundraiser alongside Phi Sigma Sigma for the Community Foundation of Tompkins County’s COVID-19 Relief Fund. We raised a total of \$1,926, which was donated to a diverse group of local charities, coordinating a rapid response to the

coronavirus pandemic in Ithaca.

Whether or not we find ourselves back on campus soon, Phi Delta Theta will find another meaningful way in the fall to give back to Ithaca—the community that makes Cornell such an exceptional place to study.



Jack Nichols



Cole Johnston



Tommy Bradford



Cornell University in the fall.

# SOCIAL: PASSING THE TORCH AFTER A SHORT, BUT SWEET, SPRING



Oscar So



Dylan Wietfeldt

**BY OSCAR SO AND DYLAN WIETFELDT**

While the coronavirus pandemic negatively impacted all Greek organizations on campus, Phi Delt was lucky enough to be able to host a few social events before the semester became remote in March. One of the first events that we hosted was a speed dating-themed mixer in January with the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma, which was a wholesome and rewarding experience. Every five minutes, brothers and sisters would rotate to new people in the room where they got to talk and play board and card games. It was a really well organized event that allowed brothers to meet the new members of Phi Sig and reconnect with older sorority members.

In March, Phi Delt co-hosted a mixer with Delta Delta Delta at Plum Tree Restaurant in Collegetown. This is one of the brotherhood's favorite events, because it has been a tradition



Brothers take a photo before Winter Formal 2019.



Brothers pose for a photo after Winter Formal in 2019.

for quite a few semesters where we get together once a semester with Tri Delt. It was really nice to catch up with everyone and unwind from prelims and schoolwork in a casual environment.



Brothers enjoy a winter ski trip.

While we hoped to be able to have more events as the weather got warmer, the brotherhood was grateful to participate in some fun events before the seniors graduated. Our time as co-social chairmen may be up, but we know that the position will be in good hands with future brothers.

## CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR

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Of course, we will continue to have updates from the undergraduate brotherhood and from the Housing Corporation. Preparations are underway for our fall Housing Corporation meeting. Normally, we invite you to join us in person, but our meeting this year will

be entirely virtual. Please reach out to me if you'd like the information to join us on our call this year on October 10, 2020.

Thank you for all of your help. If you have additional feedback on ways we can improve the *Cayugan* newsletter, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Stay well.

**INTERESTED IN CORNELL'S COVID PROTOCOLS?**

**VISIT  
COVID.CORNELL.EDU**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE STEPS UP TO FIGHT RACISM



Henry Lavacude-Cola

## BY HENRY LAVACUDE-COLA

In the midst of a difficult period for our nation, the brothers of the New York Alpha Chapter have taken steps to support the Black community on Cornell's campus. As a brotherhood, we are now part of Cornell Students for Black Lives, a broad coalition of 180-plus student organizations intended to "amplify Black voices on campus and promote activism and education to fight explicit and implicit racism."

Through collaboration with our executive board, philanthropy chairmen, D&I

chairmen, and our brotherhood, we assisted Cornell Students for Black Lives in raising funds for groups working to fight discrimination on a local and national scale. We are proud of the small part we played to support our fellow Cornellians, and look forward to engaging in more efforts to build an empathetic and inclusive brotherhood.

As we move into the fall semester, I am excited to be working with Exec. and the brotherhood to continue to expand the diversity & inclusion position. Through new diversity-related activities and events, we will be taking steps to support our fellow Phis and strengthen and expand our diverse brotherhood.



**WE ALL MUST DO OUR PART. PHI DELTA THETA IS COMMITTED TO SELECTING MEN BASED ON THE QUALITY OF THEIR CHARACTER. WE VALUE DIVERSITY.**

# BROTHERHOOD REFLECTS ON PRE-PANDEMIC EVENTS ON CAMPUS



Kaushik Ravikumar

## BY KAUSHIK RAVIKUMAR AND JAMES D'IMPERIO

Despite not being on campus for the whole semester, brothers were still able to enjoy some events as a brotherhood, the aspect that makes Phi Delta Theta the place that it is.

In February, we had a Super Bowl party in our Great Hall with sorority sweethearts and other close friends to enjoy the most thrilling football game of the year. Brothers enjoyed some pizza and wings as they watched the game and caught up with everyone in the room.



James D'Imperio

As the weather got warmer, we were able to host a few barbeques and bonfires at the back of the ship with the brotherhood. Music was played while burgers, hot dogs, and s'mores were enjoyed. Brothers love these outdoor events because it signals the transition from Ithaca's brutal winter to the nicer spring weather, along with heading to the end of the semester.

We can't wait to be back with the brotherhood to reconnect with everyone and to continue to have fun events at the house once we are able to do so.



Brothers enjoying a win by the Big Red Hockey team at Lynah Rink.

**KEEP UP WITH THE BROTHERHOOD**  
[PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org](http://PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org)



## RUSH UPDATE: NY ALPHA WELCOMES 20 NEW BROTHERS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR



Reed  
Rosenberg



Cole  
Johnston

### BY REED ROSENBERG AND COLE JOHNSTON

Spring 2020 recruitment was the most successful one in recent memory—we recruited a total of 11 new warriors for the pin we love the most. We acquired nine from the regular recruitment week, which is the most we've recruited in that time since the 2016-2017 academic year. Furthermore, we achieved this higher

number of recruits despite lower numbers of registered rushees and newly implemented changes to the recruitment process from the administration.

In total, our New York Alpha Chapter has welcomed a total of 20 new brothers this academic year. We are proud to say that our new brothers embody our values and have upheld our three cardinal principles throughout a particularly difficult semester. The brotherhood is confident they will continue to be outstanding members on Cornell's campus and will lead others during these trying times.

## PRESIDENT

*(continued from page 1)*

connotation due to poor judgement by fraternities around the nation. Consequently, less people have been participating in the rush process, making it more difficult than ever before to recruit a large pledge class.

In spite of that, our reputation on campus has stayed strong as a welcoming and inclusive house that cultivates brotherhood and supports academic endeavors. Such characteristics have allowed us to recruit around 20

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS TAKE CENTER STAGE IN FRIENDLY COMPETITION



CJ  
Henchey

### BY CONNOR JOSEPH "CJ" HENCHEY

This past spring semester, the brothers of NY Alpha reached new fitness milestones and made a conscious effort to emphasize the importance of physical and mental wellness throughout the brotherhood.

Chief among the new fitness milestones was the third NYA's Strongest Brother competition, an amateur powerlifting meet where active brothers maxed out their bench-press, squat, and deadlift in hopes of winning the ultimate prize—the title of strongest brother and its accompanying bragging rights. Brother Alan "Mini Fridge" Li, who held the coveted title since the spring of 2019, was finally dethroned by James "Golden Boy" D'Imperio, who out-performed Alan's total weight moved of 765 lbs. with a stunning 815 lbs.

"My goal of beating Alan and being the strongest brother was a great source of motivation," James said as he recuperated from competing. "I guess now I have to aim for a higher goal. I think I'll make Arnold Schwarzenegger look like a joke next."

In addition to friendly competition, brothers organized daily group workouts in the house's gym to work toward fitness goals, motivate one another, and improve brotherhood morale. Brothers Graham O'Donnell and Drew Ware were routinely heard pumping iron between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. most weekdays in pursuit of "sick Slope Day six-packs."

"We're lucky to have this gym and each other," Graham said. "Living with my gym buddies makes me accountable for their efforts, and they do the same for me. You can't find that anywhere else."



Alan "Mini Fridge" Li squatting  
275 lbs. with ease.

members for the last two years, even with the changing climate and smaller rush pools. Our reputation has attracted older students, who perhaps once rushed but didn't join or never rushed at all and gave Phi Delta Theta a shot after learning of the positive reputation of our house.

I am very excited for the future of our chapter and I'm glad for the brotherhood to be back on campus. Our leadership is in great hands and this should allow us to continue to be a respectable and inclusive house on campus.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org](http://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!

# GREATNESS

## ROBERT PARRY '80



Dr. Robert Parry '80 is making an extraordinary difference in the lives of children and their parents. He is a pediatric surgeon at Akron's Children's Hospital and has been recognized for his efforts to go above and beyond to care for his patients. Dr. Parry is known for creating cartoon characters on his patients' bandages, which makes a huge

difference for the kids. His kindness has been recognized in many national publications, including CNN. Phi Delta Theta recognized Dr. Parry in the national Road to Greatness segment, which can be accessed on its Facebook page. Check out the videos of Dr. Parry's work and commitment to his patients on the YouTube page for Akron's Children's Hospital.

## SERGE AGBRE '09



Serge Agbre '09 is deserving of recognition for his success as an energy and natural resources attorney. Serge has been repeatedly recognized as a Super Lawyer by Thompson Reuters, and has authored or co-authored more than 40 publications concerning developments in the energy industry. Serge is recognized as an expert

and has published material on pipeline infrastructure, LNG projects, electric power and renewables, and FERC enforcement trends. He has been asked to co-host webinars and panels on these topics. His practice includes negotiating, reviewing, and drafting contracts for energy transactions involving standardized

master agreements and customized bilateral agreements.

Serge's intellect and legal acumen were recognized early on, as he developed extensive experience in matters before FERC and CFTC. He has successfully represented entities in enforcement matters, rate proceedings, certificate proceedings, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) matters connected to gas infrastructure projects, as well as reliability standard and enforcement matters.

Serge lives in Washington, D.C., where he plays in a competitive skee ball league and hosts a brunch club with other Washington-area luminaries.

## AUSTEN RATTRAY '18



Since graduating in 2018 with degrees in economics and government, Austen Rattray has been excelling as a merchandise planner for GAP Inc. "The best part about working for the GAP is definitely the clothes," Austen finds. Despite being so young, Austen has already accumulated a great deal of responsibility and is on the road to greatness.

A natural bon vivant, his hobbies include snorkeling, deep sea fishing, volleyball, and taking walks in New York City, in the autumn especially. Austen also has an extensive hat collection, and when he's not working or exploring, you can find him enjoying a night out on the town with one of his customary fedoras.

Austen lives in New York City with fellow Phi Delt brothers Jared Frank and Connor Shannon.

## MATT CARRIER '11



The hotel industry is one of the hardest hit sectors of our economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, we have one of our own working to keep hotels afloat and to protect the livelihoods of millions of hotel workers. Matt Carrier '11 serves as the vice president of innovation policy and research for the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

Matt has a deep well of hotel experience to draw on. As a graduate of the School of Hotel Administration, Matt joined AHLA after nearly a decade across the hotel distribution and revenue strategy space. He most recently oversaw price guarantee and

rate parity programs at Marriott. Prior to joining Marriott, Matt served in a variety of senior roles at hospitality technology start-up Kalibri Labs, where he managed hotel industry client relationships and educational efforts.

Matt is a pioneer in the hotel industry's technology and distribution policy space. With family roots in the hotel and lodging industry, he is committed to advancing the hotel industry through technology and data.

Matt lives in Virginia with his wife, Haley, and their dog. Matt is an avid cyclist and enjoys giving back to the local Cornell community through other leadership roles.

We also received a nomination for Kevin Coughlin, who will be featured in our next edition.

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CAB



**BY DAN DWORAKOWSKI '14 | CHAIRMAN,  
CHAPTER ADVISORY BOARD**

Dan  
Dworakowski

The Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) was created nearly a decade ago to allow recent alumni to stay engaged with the chapter by serving as a resource to undergraduate brothers. CAB members serve as informal advisors, helping the undergraduates navigate some of the routine (and not so routine) challenges that may arise in the day-to-day operations of the chapter.

It is a great way for recent alumni to engage with their friends and contribute to the success of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha—particularly for those who, by virtue of being new to a career or participating in graduate education, are not in a position to contribute financially or serve the Housing Corporation or NYAEFI.

CAB members typically are able to maintain a strong connection with the undergraduates by frequent contact and occasional visits to Ithaca. As we are all aware, the 2020–2021 academic year will bring new challenges in many regards. For CAB, the most difficult challenge toward supporting our current undergraduate brothers is remaining remote. For the past few years, the biggest value add of CAB has been visiting the chapter in Ithaca, getting

to know the brothers in person, and being able to help them in ways that cannot be done virtually.

Preparing to support the brotherhood in a larger capacity this year, the CAB is looking for new ways to effectively help, as well as maintain the personal aspect that our in-person visits provided.

The CAB is also looking to bring in any recent graduates (typically, those who have graduated within the last four years) who may be interested in remaining up to date with the chapter and the brotherhood in an advisory role. If you would like to join the CAB or learn more about what it would entail, please reach out to me at [dd426@cornell.edu](mailto:dd426@cornell.edu).

I wish everyone and their families a happy and healthy semester.

### RECENT ALUMNUS WONDERING HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

Reach out to Dan Dworakowski at  
[dd426@cornell.edu](mailto:dd426@cornell.edu)  
for more information about the  
Chapter Advisory Board.

## 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 news form.

**Peter “Pete” Whiteford '54** writes, “I’m sorry to say that a great brother, **Bill Bain '52**, passed away this year. He was a very successful architect in Seattle, Washington. I’m happy to see that **Bob Petersen '52** is still with us. He was why I joined Phi Delt. After 62 years in Houston, Texas, I have moved to Park City, Utah. My wife and all my old friends in Houston are gone.” (163 Webster Ct., Park City, UT 84060; [petewhiteford@hotmail.com](mailto:petewhiteford@hotmail.com))

**Les Johnson '59** writes, “Fully retired and living in Colorado with my Elmira College bride of 58 years.” (9748 Sunset Hill Pl., Lone Tree, CO 80124; [les6160@aol.com](mailto:les6160@aol.com))



**Peter Bell '86** and brothers in Aspen. (Details on page 8.)

“I retired in 2015, but continue to supervise the research of several Ph.D. students,” writes **William S. “Bill” Duff '60**. “We split our time between a home in Ft. Collins, Colorado, and our lakeside home in northern Wisconsin.” (1404 Lindenwood Dr., Ft. Collins, CO 80524; [bill@colostate.edu](mailto:bill@colostate.edu))

**Steve Kirk '71** sends this note: “Still mourning the loss of **Peter Brink '71** earlier this year. Pete, **Dave Topka '71**, and I roomed together in the house (the checkered door) for three years and have been close ever since. Pete rowed on the '71 NCAA winning Big Red crew.

*(continued on page 8)*

# ALUMNI NEWS (continued from page 7)

Most of my time is devoted to nonprofit/volunteer activities, including the board of Cleveland State University, but I also serve on several corporate boards, including Valvoline Inc. (NYSE), where I am chairman of the board. But I still have plenty of time for tennis, golf, and my triathlon relay team—we do the Cleveland Tri (I do the bike leg). Lots to drink after the race!” (7440 Waterfall Trl., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022; stevekir8@gmail.com)

**Peter “Student” Bell ’86** hosted a great reunion with 21 NYA Phi Delt in Aspen Snowmass February 27-March 2, just before COVID hit. “The attendees included **Doug ‘Beldo’ Belden ’84, Todd ‘Berlie’ Berlinghof ’85, Steve ‘Sped’ Byers ’85, Greg ‘GX’ DeStefano ’86, Jim ‘Falves’ Falvey ’85, Scott ‘Scooter’ Fowkes ’85, Steve ‘Souvlaki’ Georgaklis ’86, Alex ‘Hobart’ Hanson ’87, Perry ‘Poo’ Kamel ’87, Sam ‘GSammy’ Kamel ’85, Emile ‘Lunch’ Levisetti ’87, Erik ‘Irv’ O’Neill ’87, Brian ‘BQ’ Parmelee ’86, Kevin ‘Reills’ Reilly ’84, Peter ‘Funny’ Rogers ’86, Tim ‘Madog’ Smith ’86, Craig ‘Bartones’ Standen ’87, Will ‘Willie’ St. Laurent ’86, Dan ‘Mel’ Tomson ’87, and Kent ‘Cayager’ Cruger ’88.**” (P.O. Box 1495, Basalt, CO 81621; phbell15@yahoo.com)

**Peter Rogers ’86** writes, “My son, Chris, graduated from Cornell ILR in May 2019 and is working/living in New York City. My daughter, Avery, is a junior, also ILR. I met up with **Eric Hage ’86** in Sun Valley in March for a couple days of skiing. I can be reached at [progers717@aol.com](mailto:progers717@aol.com).”

**Manuel P. “Blackjack” Alvarez ’02** became a Sacramento resident last summer, “after the governor appointed me bank commissioner. I had a fun ride at Affirm Inc., but I’m looking forward to doing good work in this new capacity. Still have only two kids. Please send me suggestions for a painless vasectomy.” (P.O. Box 255748, Sacramento, CA 95865; [email@mannyalvarez.me](mailto:email@mannyalvarez.me))

**Robert A. “Rob” Chu ’04** writes, “In March, I took on a new position as a legal counsel at

AmeriHealth Caritas, a Medicaid-managed care organization based in Philadelphia. In May, our daughter, Grace, turned one. She is busy walking and playing and seems to be enjoying the fact that I am working from home.” (1333 Prospect Hill Rd., Villanova, PA 19085; [robert.a.chu@gmail.com](mailto:robert.a.chu@gmail.com))



Congratulations to **Eddie Christian ’11** (former chapter president) on his recent engagement!

**Seth Peyla ’15** writes, “I hope that you and the rest of the Phi Delt New York Alpha brotherhood and your/their families are as well as can be during these challenging times. I’m here to report some goods news—as of next year, several NYA alumni will have caught the business school bug. This upcoming academic year (2020-2021), five NY Alpha alumni will be attending many of the country’s premier business schools. Some pride for NYA!” ([sgp58@cornell.edu](mailto:sgp58@cornell.edu))

#### **Ben Dalusma ’15**

*The MIT Sloan School of Management*

#### **Jordan Spataro ’14**

*Harvard Business School*

#### **Spencer Velarde ’16**

*The University of Chicago  
Booth School of Business*

## DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

#### **Charles L. VanArsdale ’44**

*February 15, 2020*

#### **Walter H. Phillips ’47**

*September 17, 2019*

#### **Thomas A. Duncan ’48**

*May 12, 2019*

#### **Russell D. Sprague ’50**

*January 10, 2020*

#### **William D. Kovacs ’60**

*March 19, 2020*

#### **Ralph Alan Miller ’70**

*February 15, 2020*

#### **Peter L.L. Brink III ’71**

*February 27, 2019*

#### **Rittik Rao ’16**

*The Wharton School of  
the University of Pennsylvania*

#### **Seth Peyla ’15**

*The Kellogg School of Management  
at Northwestern University*



Dr. **Daniel Eichberg ’11** makes a masked return to the parking lot at 2 Ridgewood Road. Dr. Eichberg and his wife, also a medical doctor, have admirably served their Florida community these challenging times.

**THE CAYUGAN** is published regularly by the NY Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta for its friends and members. News and photos should be sent to: Alumni Records Office, New York Alpha of Phi Delta Theta, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

Please visit [www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org](http://www.PhiDeltaThetaCornell.org) to make an online gift.

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