

the cayugan

new york alpha chapter of phi delta theta

Alumni President Discusses Important House Improvements

As I write this article, it's finally starting to feel like spring here in Ithaca. The outdoors is filling with colors as the vegetation decides to make its triumphant return, and we're even getting the occasional warm and sunny day. The 2010–2011 academic calendar is coming to a close with final exams in progress, and 14 of our young men are on the verge of that next big step in their lives; beginning careers in industry, entering military service, or going on to graduate studies. These gentlemen, our brothers, represent the best and brightest that Cornell has to offer. I rest assured that they will go on to make us all proud to call ourselves *Phis* as they follow their respective paths. I know and expect that these paths will periodically (and often!) lead back to 2 Ridgewood Road.

With the graduation of our seniors, the undergraduate membership will total 27 when we enter fall term, and as is generally the case, recruitment will play a vital role in the 2011–2012 academic year. We will also be bidding farewell to our current graduate educational adviser, Jeff Paley '10, as he completes his Master of Engineering. We now welcome

JR Cho '10, pursuing a Master of Health Administration, as our new graduate educational adviser for the new academic year.

As I anticipated in my *Cayugan* article this past fall, the housing corporation has been fiscally conservative in 2011, on the heels of three major projects this past summer and fall (back yard retaining wall, residential-roof replacement, and window replacements), and with the Cornell-mandated sprinkler system upgrades looming in the not-too-distant future. That being said, we have been keeping up on regular maintenance of the facilities. We were issued a conditional Certificate of Compliance from the Ithaca Building Department earlier this spring and will be rebuilding the exterior stairs along the west side of the building to complete that process. The NYAEFI has been going through a scoping and proposal assessment effort over the past several months, with plans to replace the windows and doors in the library this summer.

My top three maintenance and improvement projects beyond the imminent sprinkler system upgrades (as funds become available) are: significant repairs to the deteriorating

exterior masonry of the house; repair and replace furniture in the Great Hall and dining room; and replacement of the carpeting throughout the residential sections of the house. As I've enumerated in the past, there are many other opportunities for improvement to our facilities, however I feel that these are the most pressing needs under constraint.

I can't highlight enough that it is the generosity of our alumni donating their time, energy, and money that provides the wind to keep the good ship *Phi* sailing forward and on course. I want to extend a hearty "thank you" to all who have contributed to the housing corporation and/or NYAEFI, and I want to urge us all to keep contributing through this difficult economy. There's no time like the present to make your first donation to the chapter! Keep in mind that you can now use PayPal or a major credit card to donate at <http://phideltnya.org/donate.php>. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email me at vaa4@cornell.edu.

Yours in the Bond,
Victor Aprea '02
Alumni Board President



Phi class at winter semi-formal: Tommy Baber '12, Chad Rose '12, Rob Stitt '11, Jerome Thomas '12, and Michael Simms '11.

Thank you, Alumni, for Your Continued Support!

I am excited to report that this semester, many new improvements have been made to the house and property. In my last article, I mentioned a future project that the brotherhood was looking forward to, which involved revamping the library tables and chairs. Earlier this semester, the project was finalized when brothers and employees of Treeforms Amish Furniture installed two new oak tables and 20 new matching chairs. New programs, such as the Phikeia weekly study hours, are benefiting from this vast improvement funded by the New York Alpha Educational Foundation, Inc. (NYAEFI).

Another project funded by the NYAEFI was the wired connection upgrade. CAT-6 cables, replacing the old CAT-5 cables, now run to every residential room, as well as the house and common rooms where internet connection may be needed. Improvements were also made to the computer lab, where high-speed connection cables now run to all the computer stations. The brothers are benefiting from the improvements to navigation speed through the academic database and server.

Along with future work to the library French doors and windows, anticipated projects include replacing the Great Hall

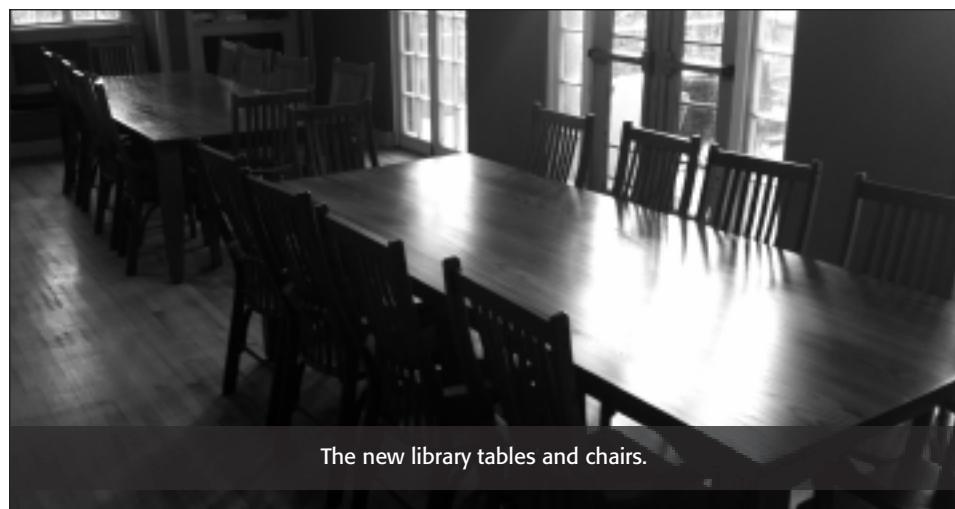
furniture, providing new carpeting for the second floor, future construction work on the backyard, and a house-wide sprinkler system.

I speak for everyone when I say "THANK YOU!" to the alumni who have helped us to make these improvements possible. It is your continued support and dedication to sustainability that continues to make our property one of the nicest on campus.

Speaking closer to the brotherhood, we are doing everything we can to ensure the

house is in top condition. We engage in weekly house cleanings with gusto so the brothers and Phikeia can enjoy clean living conditions—and it sure has paid off. Guests consistently say Phi Delta Theta is one of the nicest houses they have visited! Again, thank you all for your generosity in helping to maintain the house. GO FAR!

Yours in the Bond,
Cameron McConkey '13, 1861



The new library tables and chairs.

2010-'11 Proves to be a Successful Year for New York Alpha

The 2010–2011 year has been extremely successful. The brotherhood is stronger than ever, and much work has been completed during these last few weeks to ensure that the next academic year will be even better.

During this year's rush week, 11 fine men signed bids to become members of the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta. These men exemplify our cardinal principles of friendship, sound learning, and moral rectitude in a way that would make any Phi proud. Eddie Christian '11 has done an exemplary job as the Phikeia educator in teaching pledges the Phi Delt expectations as well as what it means to be a brother of this fraternity.

In early March, our leadership consultant, DeMarkco Butler, visited the chapter and had meetings with the executive board and general officers. With the help of DeMarkco, as well as many long meetings with brothers, we created an action plan with target areas for improvement in the chapter.

These areas were philanthropy, scholarship, visibility, accountability, and recruitment. Since then, we have made a lot of progress on improving our chapter's operations in each of these areas. Philanthropy and scholarship are the two major areas in which we want to improve through the implementation of mandatory service hours, philanthropy events (such as the sand volleyball tournament we hosted in spring 2009), mandatory study hours, and the academic big brother. In addition to these changes, brothers are making a more active effort to communicate with our national headquarters in order to foster a better relationship.

Recently, we've had three important structural improvements completed this semester: we received new library tables and chairs, a much-needed ethernet cable upgrade, and even a fantastic set of new house dryers! The library tables and chairs were custom-made at a local shop, Treeforms, and are an amazing addition to the Phil

Bartels Academic Center. The tables and chairs, along with this year's mentality of actively taking more steps to improve our house GPA, have really helped the brotherhood's scholarship. The second big improvement this semester, the ethernet cable upgrade, has helped improve the speed of our already solid internet infrastructure. The new house dryers have been working great so far. The brothers of NY Alpha would like to thank the NY Alpha Educational Foundation—and especially Phil H. Bartels '71—for its hard work and generosity.

As my term as president of NY Alpha comes to an end, there has been a lot of time for reflection. It has truly been the most unique and rewarding experience of my life. I have never been more confident of our ability as a chapter to succeed, and I'm extremely excited to see Phi Delta Theta become a leading fraternity at Cornell University in the near future.

Yours in the Bond,
Eric Viña '12, 1849
President



Phi Delt Would not be the Same Without Candice Crowthers

Every year at Phi Delta Theta, we constantly hear about the incoming brothers, those who have graduated, and those who rise to take on new responsibilities as officers. However, there is another person who I would challenge anyone to say isn't just as vital to the house as the brothers. That person, of course, is Chef Candice Crowthers. Candice, along with her daughter, Moira (now 4 years old), and their newest addition, Gannon, are here Sunday to Thursday every week, preparing meals and desserts that far surpass any dining hall in quality and diversity.

Not only here to cook meals, many brothers spend hours in the kitchen each week chatting, asking advice, and just hanging out with Candice. Personally, my first stop in the house after class is the kitchen. There's something about her that makes this house a very homey and comfortable place to unwind and talk about the day. Whether it's getting a preview of the night's dessert, or asking for her sagely opinions and advice, the brothers truly appreciate everything she does for the house.

As you may have heard, Gannon was born on January 15, 2011, 8 pounds 5 ounces, "the exact same as Moira weighed," Candice mused. Gannon is a traditional Irish name, as

“I can say that Candice’s involvement in the house has been a defining characteristic of my experience at Phi Delta Theta ...”

both Candice and Mike are of strong Irish heritage. Little did Candice know that her little one would share a similar name with the main antagonist in the Legend of Zelda video game series Ganon. Mike claims that this is not the reason he preferred this name, but I find this strongly suspicious.

Candice was on maternity leave for seven weeks at the beginning of this semester. "I was very anxious to come back," she said. "I would have come back after five weeks if I could have." Unfortunately, Gannon had come down with meningitis, forcing them to spend a week in the hospital. Thankfully, he is perfectly healthy now!

As was the case when Moira was born, Gannon's father stepped in and cooked for Phi Delt, along with his other two houses AEPI and TKE. "It was a big boost to my ego for the brothers to be so happy when I returned," Candice said. "I wanted Mike to do a better job

than last time ... but not such a good job that I wouldn't be missed!" Needless to say, the brothers awaited her return with bated breath, counting down the days until Phi Delta Theta's meal plans would return to glory.

I also discovered that Candice has a Facebook page! "I do miss people when they leave and would love to hear from them and see how they're doing. I'm just technologically 10 years behind," she commented.

I can say that Candice's involvement in the house has been a defining characteristic of my experience at Phi Delta Theta, and I hope that the new brothers take the time to really get to know her for the amazing person that she is.

Moira was available for comment and when asked which house she preferred—TKE with Mike or Phi Delta Theta with Candice—she emphatically replied, "Phi Delt because I just really like it here." She also suggested that we buy more movies such as her favorite, *Finding Nemo*, so she can watch it while her mommy cooks. Moira stated that she enjoys pepperoni pizza and has renamed her new brother "Spiderman."

Yours in the Bond,
Jeff Paley '10, 1815

What it Means to be a Brother in the Bond

The brotherhood of New York Alpha has continued to become more united in the "bond" this year, and this unity has expanded to welcome brothers from all chapters. As last year's representative at General Convention, I forged bonds with brothers from across the country, and I am proud to see New York Alpha doing the same.

This semester, new brotherhood events have been greatly welcomed by the brothers. We started the semester with a Class Warfare Night, a friendly competitive night between the pledge classes. We competed in popular games such as foosball, pool, Risk, the ever-popular Super Smash Brothers video game, and more. My own illustrious Phi class proudly won the event. After the great success of "Class Warfare Night," the brotherhood will also be holding a Super Smash Brothers tournament.

The new event the brotherhood is most looking forward to is the Senior Roast. Each senior's lineage will lead a roast in his honor, and then he will be allowed a rebuttal. The night will end with the presentation of senior gifts.

Many events are scheduled to take advantage of the upcoming nice weather and our new backyard. The first event will be Crazy Eichberg's Shrimp Barbecue, which is spearheaded by brother Daniel Eichberg '11 as a shrimp barbecue featuring recipes from his native Maryland. This will be the first of weekly brotherhood barbecues. Each brother has the option of sponsoring a barbecue by making his own specialty dish.

As the semester comes to a close, the brothers are anticipating another great spring formal at Taughannock Farms. This capstone event will be a great way to end the semester.

New York Alpha has entertained and hosted many visiting Phis. Brothers from the recently refounded New York Kappa visited the chapter in the beginning of the year. These brothers (as well as many others) have been welcomed with open arms. They have attended dinners, social events, pledge events, and brotherhood events with us. Phi Delta Theta's leadership consultant, DeMarkco Butler, fell in love with the brothers

of New York Alpha because of our efforts to welcome brothers from all chapters as our own. Brothers have also reached out to other chapters. During spring break, many of our juniors visited New York Eta, and other brothers visited a Phi Delta Theta interest group at Northeastern. Also, as brotherhood chairman, I have been in contact with New York Beta and Zeta about a brotherhood trip to one of those chapters.

This new devotion to brothers of all chapters paired with continued brotherhood unity has shown that the brothers of New York Alpha are not just a group of friends, but truly a family. It is certainly a refreshing change to see this amazing level of interaction with other chapters, and reminds me what it means to be a brother in the "bond." As a senior, I am proud of the direction New York Alpha is taking, and I will greatly miss the respect and care we show to one another.

Yours in the Bond,
Ivan Dashkov '11, 1859
Brotherhood Chairman

The Academic Big Brother Program

As the snow piled on for the "spring" session, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha prepared for the new academic semester. Much of the focus for the scholarship chair was on the incoming pledge class. Due to the hard work of the semester's pledge master, Eddie Christian '11, New York Alpha was finally able to implement the idea of the academic big brother.

First conceived during the fall semester, the idea is to provide Phikeia with an additional resource, one that is academically focused. Each Phikeia was matched up with a brother who was compatible in major and intellectual interest. Similar to the existing big brother program, Phikeia are free to utilize academic brothers as mentors and role models in order to ease their transition into Greek life at Cornell University. To supplement this big brother initiative, Phikeia have also been required to attend study hours each week using the recently dedicated Phil Bartels Academic Center. With this scholarship program, Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha seeks to combat the preconceived notion that joining a fraternity in college has a tendency to be detrimental to academic performance.

In addition to the Phikeia-related program, New York Alpha has also worked to support the existing brotherhood in its academic pursuits by providing supplies for the computer room as well as partial reimbursements for purchasing class resources that multiple brothers need to use. Not only does this provide a small relief to the wallets of various brothers, but it is our hope that sharing such resources will also encourage better study habits through group study sessions. In my time as scholarship chair, I've done my best to ensure the brotherhood exemplifies our cardinal principle of sound learning, and the brothers have also done a fantastic job of putting forth their best efforts.

Yours in the Bond,
John Sa '12, 1865



Psi Class Ushers in New Era of New York Alpha

On Sunday, April 17, 2011, the New York Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta initiated 11 Phikeia into the fraternity. It is my pleasure to introduce: AJ Calvario '14, Alex Rodriguez '14, Andrew Prafder '14, Chris Boyer '14, Daniel Dworakowski '14, Dom Vergata '14, Karan Javaji '14, Kelvin Lin '14, Kris Beall '14, Nate Bromberg '14, and Sam Tavener '14, as the newest brothers at NYA who will represent a new and exciting chapter in New York Alpha's history.

With a strong and unified focus during rush week, the brothers recruited the largest spring class in three years. The Phikeia come from all over the country—and the globe—with members from California to New York to India. They are athletes, scholars, and men of high philanthropic pursuits. In addition to learning about the fraternity and the usual pledging events, this year's Phikeia have also gone above and beyond the call of duty, fully representing our cardinal principles.

They have participated in numerous brotherhood social and athletic events, and planned an entire day of athletic contests between

themselves and the brothers—embodiment of friendship. They have committed to maintaining a high grade point average throughout the semester and have utilized the new Phil Bartels Academic Center to its fullest potential. The Phikeia have been spending countless hours completing work and studying for exams—demonstrating their commitment to sound learning. Finally, at the time of this writing, they are in the process of planning a benefit concert on campus, to be held under the Phi Delta Theta banner. If it turns out to be as successful as its potential would indicate, it could become a staple event for years to come—inspiring the ideals of moral rectitude.

It has been my pleasure educating these promising young men in Phi Delta Theta's history and traditions over the course of this semester. Please join me once again in welcoming Psi Class, a class who we are all confident will usher in an unprecedented era of success in Phi Delta Theta New York Alpha history!

Yours in the Bond,
Eddie Christian '11, 1834

An Impressive Intramural Season for NYA

At the time of this writing, Phi Delta Theta's athletics have yet to let up on a truly amazing intramural season. As of early April, Phi Delt currently stands in second place in the fraternity all-sport standings, trailing TEP by a mere 20 points. Nevertheless, with only a few sports left, Phi Delt is poised to make a comeback and strive for the championship.

After sweeping the sand volleyball tournament in early fall, Phi Delt continued its dominance of the sport in the indoor volleyball season. The A-team—consisting of Paul Valle '10, Eddie Christian '11, Kyle Coulon '11, Alec Sullivan '11, and Michael Mastakas '12—finished second after losing a hard-fought battle against TEP in the finals. The B-team—consisting of Daniel Balentine '12, Cameron McConkey '13, Thomas Burton '13, and Ed Pyszczynski '13—ended up taking third place after losing to the same TEP team in the semi-finals. However, overall, it was a very successful intramural volleyball year, and we look forward to seeing many more in the future with our sophomores leading the way. Other impressive athletic efforts have been provided by Michael McGuire '11, who took third place in squash.

Phi Delt basketball also had an impressive intramural season, taking first place in our division. Once in the playoffs—led by Thomas Burton '13,

Kyle Coulon '11, and Dan Dworakowski '14—our team reached the quarter-finals, but lost a tough game to the eventual champions, Sigma Pi. The bowling team showed similar resiliency at Helen Newman lanes. Led by Nicholas Fuga '12 and AJ Calvario '13, the team narrowly missed the divisional championship. We ended up taking third and suffered a tough first-round playoff exit, losing by a mere 16 pins. However, with all members returning next year, Phi Delt bowling will be a powerhouse in the coming year.

The final weeks of the intramural year look promising with five teams signed up for horseshoes, looking to repeat last year's second-and-third-place finish. Furthermore, we have four teams signed up for badminton doubles looking to cause a riot in the tournament. Lastly, Mark Malin '13 and Brian Scott '10—great friends off the field and all-stars on the field—are looking to lead our softball team to a stellar season and bounce back from last year's early playoff exit.

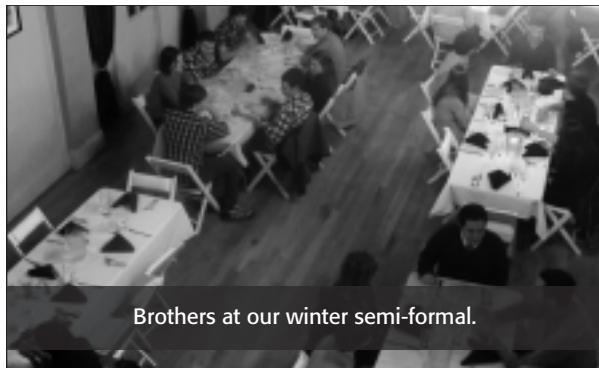
Overall, as athletic chair, I look forward to a strong end to our season, and am proud of what Phi Delt has been able to accomplish on the field as a brotherhood. SPORTS!

Yours in the Bond,
Daniel Balentine '12, 1864

NEW YORK ALPHA IN ACTION!



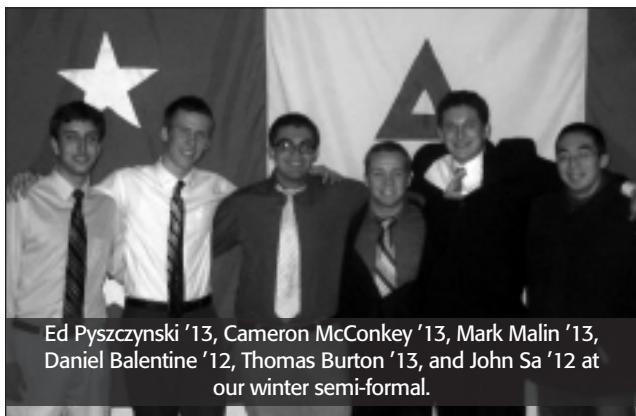
Andrew Bridson '11 and Ed Pyszczynski '13 looking fresh.



Brothers at our winter semi-formal.



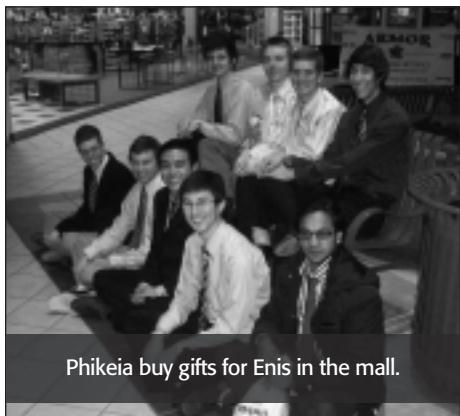
Brothers compete in the volleyball intramurals.



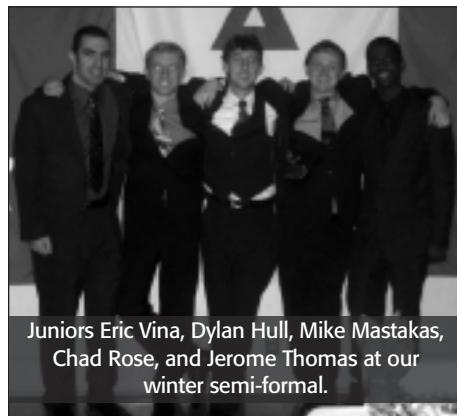
Ed Pyszczynski '13, Cameron McConkey '13, Mark Malin '13, Daniel Balentine '12, Thomas Burton '13, and John Sa '12 at our winter semi-formal.



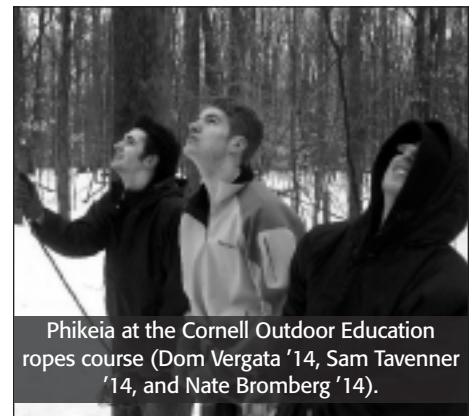
Phikeia enjoying their Olive Garden meal for Enis (Kris Beall '14, Alex Rodriguez '14, Dom Vergata '14, Andrew Prafdar '14, and Daniel Dworakowski '14).



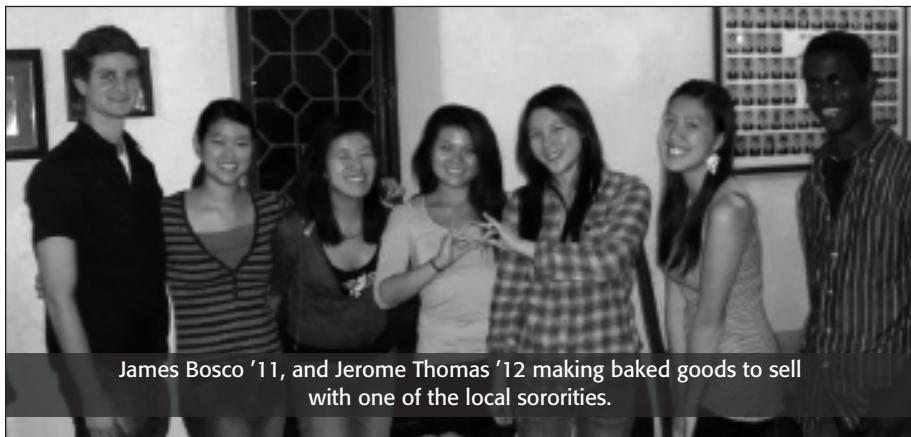
Phikeia buy gifts for Enis in the mall.



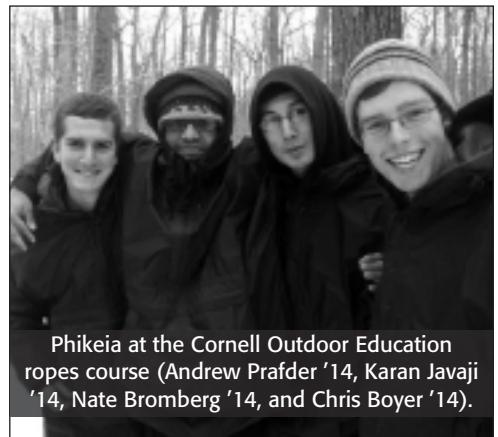
Juniors Eric Vina, Dylan Hull, Mike Mastakas, Chad Rose, and Jerome Thomas at our winter semi-formal.



Phikeia at the Cornell Outdoor Education ropes course (Dom Vergata '14, Sam Tavener '14, and Nate Bromberg '14).



James Bosco '11, and Jerome Thomas '12 making baked goods to sell with one of the local sororities.



Phikeia at the Cornell Outdoor Education ropes course (Andrew Prafdar '14, Karan Javaji '14, Nate Bromberg '14, and Chris Boyer '14).

alumni send their news

In 2008, **Thomas E. "Tom" Orbison '51** climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. In 2009, he was diagnosed with diabetes. In 2010, Tom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and had planned a trip to Madagascar. This year, he went to Ski Park City and Tahoe, and plans to make a "fall-color loop" to Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts. Tom wrote, "Just to let you know I'm alive and ill." He has five kids, 10 grandkids, and five-plus great grandkids. Reconnect with Tom by sending postal mail to 820 Grandview Rd., Hortonville, WI 54944; or by sending email to jean.orbison@yahoo.com.

George F. Medill '63 has a new address!

Catch up with him at 6 Painted Bunting, Amelia Island, FL 32034; gmedill@gmail.com.

Brothers can send email to **William A. Burston '63** at his new email address, burstonw@verizon.net.

William E. O'Neill '69 is now receiving email at woneill1@rochester.rr.com.

Get in touch with **Nicholas Cavallaro '05** by sending email to his new address: nicholas.p.cavallaro@gmail.com.

Keep in touch with **Sky Fogal '09** by sending email to him at skyf@skirmish.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of the following alumni:

William F. Booker '34
November 9, 2010

George S. Scoville '42
February 12, 2011

Stanley T. Druckenmiller '47
*notified September 2010

Robert N. Jacobs '50
February 8, 2011

William P. Hoffman '52
January 17, 2011

Richard C. Mitchell '53
*notified September 2010

Donald W. White '53
September 1, 2010



Eric Vina '12, Dylan Hull '12, Mark Malin '13, Dan Balentine '12, Chad Rose '12, Michael Simms '11, and Jerome Thomas '12 enjoy a fine meal at Olive Garden.



Brothers compete in the volleyball intramurals.



Rush week laser tag in the Great Hall.



Phikeia at the Cornell Outdoor Education ropes course.

No news is *not* good 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 best to reach you! Please take a few moments to fill out and return the enclosed news form.

Visit us online!

Our website, www.phideltnya.org, is for both current brothers and alumni. Help build our history section, view photos and bio info on the current members, and learn more about our philanthropy efforts online.

the cayugan

Published regularly by the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. Alumni news and pictures are always welcome. Please direct all communications to Alumni Records Office, Phi Delta Theta, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.