



## NEW YORK ALPHA CHAPTER CORNELL UNIVERSITY

### Housing Corporation Update



The Housing Corporation would like to welcome the undergraduate brothers back to campus, and wish 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 are reminded that Cornell's Homecoming Weekend will take place on October 21-22. Alumni are invited to attend the Housing Corporation's meeting at the fraternity on Saturday, October 21 at 9:00. For those unable to make it to Ithaca, but still interested in participating via conference line, please email me and we can arrange that for you.

If you are in town, but find yourself double-booked (or sleeping in) during the meeting, please be sure to stop by the fraternity house and see all the exciting improvements that have been made in the previous years.

The Housing Corporation's fall meeting is important in identifying and prioritizing projects for this and future years. One improvement that we are excited to roll out is a new chapter website. Our Phase One site with the newsletter archive and donation portal are available now! Eventually, this will improve delivery of *The Cayugan*, allow alumni to easily update their information, and help everyone stay more connected with the activities of the chapter. We are looking for content, so if you have any old pictures or items that you are willing to scan and share with us, please send me an email at the email address provided below.

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

Yours in the Bond,  
Andrew D. Bridson

Visit our new website:



For more information on Homecoming, the Housing Corporation meeting, and the new chapter website, please contact Andrew at:

[adb96@cornell.edu](mailto:adb96@cornell.edu)

## THE CAYUGAN

### Chapter Strengthens Presence On Campus and Beyond

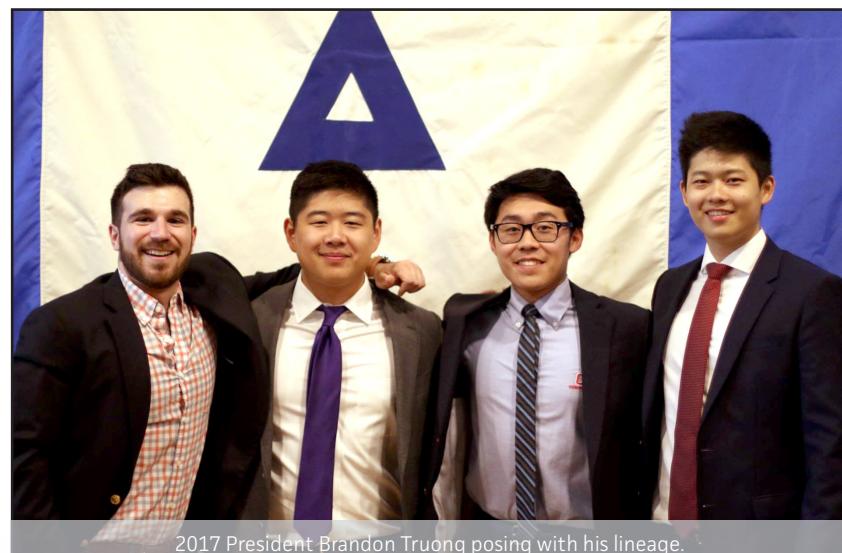
The 2016-2017 academic year has been an exciting and meaningful time filled with great events ranging from philanthropy to brotherhood to effective relationship-building. Nationally, we have received awards for excellence in scholarship as well as an excellence in ritual knowledge. During the fall and spring of 2016, we recruited and initiated 22 strong members who make continual contributions toward the greater good of the brotherhood. As a whole, our brotherhood has grown stronger in terms of bonds with one another and positive presence on campus.

This new presence is due to the numerous philanthropy events that we had during the course of the year, such as an ice skating philanthropy event co-hosted with Alpha Xi Delta as well as a jazz concert called "Phi at the Nines," both of which benefited ALS research. In total, our brotherhood has raised almost \$1,700 for ALS research and \$2,300 from all our philanthropy events. The ball does not stop there, as we have many more events planned for this current academic school year.

In terms of brotherhood events, we have been utilizing our new fire pit by having cook-outs in the backyard as a regular activity. These bonfires have enabled our brothers to relax and bond more with each other. In addition, we have had a few date nights: most notably, the picnic date night. For this event, we covered the Great Hall in sod—with tarp underneath, of course—and laid picnic blankets for brothers and their dates. More events are detailed in Jake Darby's article, which provides much more insight.

This past year has been a great one as it sets the tone for years to come. It is a clear indication that the house is up and coming. And as president, I hope to lead the brotherhood in perpetuating this great momentum with more philanthropy and brotherhood events. The newly elected officers, such as the brotherhood chair, the social chairs, and the philanthropy chair are all highly motivated to continue this trend in organizing and executing great and fun events.

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2017 President Brandon Truong posing with his lineage.

## 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 Ihemeremadu

## Chapter Strengthens Presence

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In terms of recruitment, we plan to initiate five brothers this fall and twenty brothers in the spring. In order to attract and foster new active members, we have great rush week events planned, and we are actively brainstorming ideas to improve old events that we have done in the past.

Finally, the house itself will be undergoing some exciting renovations. The Shields room has been renovated with new paint, new window blinds, a new pool table, a new television, and new furniture. There are a few projects planned for the house, including the remodeling of the foyer, where there will be new tiles added. Additionally, there will be new speakers for the library, as well as new lounge furniture.

All in all, these events and projects have not only made me excited, but also the entire brotherhood as well. I look forward to an amazing year full of great memories.

— Brandon Truong, 2017-18 President



Brothers enjoying college football in the renovated Shields room.

## New York Alpha Sees a Groundbreaking Year

The 2016-2017 academic year was a strong one for the New York Alpha. Surpassing our target of 20 new members for the year, the chapter inducted 22 new brothers. With another fruitful recruitment effort, the chapter has turned its focus to other areas that held opportunity for improvement. One such area—philanthropy—received a special emphasis. The chapter held three events over the course of the year, generating nearly \$2,000 in proceeds donated to the ALS Foundation.

In light of recent updates to the fraternity house, brothers have been enjoying the revised living space and new resources that Phi Delta Theta now has at Cornell. The completely renovated second-floor landing and Shields room have become the focal points for leisure. Brothers have also taken full advantage of the extensive support from the NYAEFI, spending more time in the library within the fraternity house to study quietly and work collaboratively. In turn, the fraternity's GPA statistics were stronger this year than any in recent memory. As a chapter we are committed to continuing to build upon our recent achievements. I am confident that New York Alpha will continue to grow and flourish in the next academic year.

— Paul Meisel, 2016-17 President

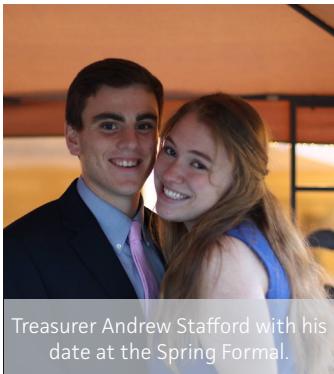
## A Growing Social Network



The brothers of Phi Delta Theta have had an exciting year of social activities. This year included a variety of new and old traditions from a Nerf gun war to a tour of Cayuga Lake. A large focus of our activities have been around breaking silos on campus and forming a stronger connection with a wide array of sororities and fraternities. This year included three-way events with a nearby fraternity. We have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know our fellow peers in our alcohol-free house while pursuing opportunities outside of the house such as wine tours for senior brothers. We look forward to continuing these trends to plan more events in years to come!

— Dustin Liu, Social Chairman

## Preparing for a Strong Financial Future



Treasurer Andrew Stafford with his date at the Spring Formal.

My name is Andrew Stafford and I am proud to serve as treasurer for the New York Alpha Chapter for the 2017-2018 school year. In my role as treasurer, I have worked closely with our outside accountant at Sciarabba Walker in managing the finances of the fraternity. Using expenditures from past years and input from brothers as guides, I created a budget that will allow us to at least financially break even for the year, and at best have a profit that can be put into reserves and used for future house projects. We have or-

ganized our budget by category, with brotherhood, chapter, social, and recruitment being some examples. These categories make it significantly easier to be aware of where we stand financially at any given time.

In terms of changes to budgets, the main change the chapter made was increasing our social budget to allow for more opportunity to mix with sororities and to host events that give freshmen a better opportunity to be made aware of and have a fun experience at our house. In order to make up for the increase in our social budget, we decreased other budgets slightly based on how much we spent in those categories in prior years. While we still have a cushion in each category, our overall budget is a little leaner to make sure we get the most out of the year as we possibly can. I look forward to another great year for the New York Alpha Chapter!

— Andrew Stafford, Treasurer

## Building Brotherhood through Bonding

This past year saw an increase in overall brotherhood activities. With the construction of the new fire pit in spring 2016, we were able to make activities such as brotherhood bonfires and cookouts regular occurrences during the academic year. These bonfires allowed for brothers to kick back and relax with their fellow brothers after a long day of academic rigor.

In addition, this year saw the continuance of our now annual lawn date night event, in which the brotherhood constructs a lawn of authentic turf sod within the great hall of the house

and then holds a picnic-themed date night for brothers and their dates. Following that, we held our annual Thanksgiving dinner in which we invited potential new members to share in a dinner with the brotherhood. We also held our winter formal and our Ridgemas event, in which the brotherhood does a good-natured roast of the senior class, which is then followed by a brotherhood-wide white elephant gift exchange game to end the fall semester.

Once we returned from our holiday break, it wasn't long before we held our brother-

hood Super Bowl watching party. Throughout the spring semester we hold various date night events and smaller brotherhood activities such as movie nights and various sports tournaments. This year, once May came around, we held our spring formal event in which we celebrated another year of making fond memories over a night of fine dining and dancing. Ultimately the 2016-2017 year was another great one for the brothers of Phi Delta Theta.



2017 Cornell intramural bowling champions.

— Jake Darby, Brotherhood Chair

## Feeding Our Phi Delt

As steward, I was responsible for communicating and negotiating menus and dietary restrictions as well as developing, coordinating, and managing the fraternity kitchen and staff.

When I inherited the position early in my fall semester, I immediately transferred our late plate schedule to a shared Google document, which allowed brothers to set which days they would be late and allowed effective communication between the brothers and the chef. I also created a chart for brothers to write any allergic or religious concerns with the food items that were prepared for them. A disciplinary system, which included warnings, make-up cleanings, and other deterrents, improved the daily cleanliness of our kitchen facilities. Efforts were also made to educate brothers on healthier eating choices and to provide brothers with healthier options.

In the spring semester, a meeting was held to discuss brothers' level of satisfaction with the current menu and some minor changes were made based on input from that discussion. Our kitchen equipment was also improved with the addition of a new and more powerful microwave, which allowed for effective re-heating of food. It was also a joy to work with Rob, our lovable fraternity chef. No one else could make feeding over 80 active brothers look that easy.

Throughout my time as steward of New York Alpha Chapter, there was a high level of satisfaction in the meals and services provided as well as the quality of the dining experience. I can say with confidence that stewardship was one of the most fulfilling work experiences I have ever had.

— Jimmy Cooper, Steward

# 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.

Online submissions for alumni news will be available when our full site launches next year.

"My god, it's my 60th reunion," declared **Raymond Meagher '57** when he wrote in May. "Don't know if I can return for it because it's my wife's Vassar reunion. Both my roommates (**Rod MacMillan '57 and Sam Bookbinder '57**) are deceased. I would like to see the campus and old Phi Delt again." Write Raymond for an update at P.O. Box 1109, Millbrook, NY 12545.

Thanks to **Marlin "Pete" Kenee**, who pledged New York Alpha in 1962, for taking us up on our "tell your story" suggestion with the following fun recap: "Left Cornell after two years in May 1963. Transferred to Millersville State College in Pennsylvania in January 1964. Graduated in May 1966 (by then it was Millersville University). Got my master's degree in 1970. Worked in public education (high-school English teacher for

11 years, high-school administrator for 19 years). Retired in 1996. Opened, then ran, an upholstery shop with my youngest daughter, Aly, until 2002. Wife Linda, to whom I've been married for 52 years, has a B.S. and M.S. from Shippensburg University. She has been a lifelong educator." Pete's son, David, has a private practice in endodontics. His daughter Jen practices pediatrics, while Aly teaches English and is a district-wide coordinator for computer-assisted instruction. Swap stories with Pete at peliken@comcast.net or 1924 Karyl Lane, York, PA 17404.

"My nephew, Michael Hoffman, has pledged," writes **John LoBosco '80**. "I'll see if he can get our '80 composite moved from the laundry room to the Great Hall!" Catch up with him at lobosco@maine.rr.com or 21 Fessenden Rd., Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

**Gerald E. Sauders '43**  
April 16, 2017

**Joseph A. Prior '62**  
March 28, 2017

**Wendel F. Kent '49**  
January 27, 2017

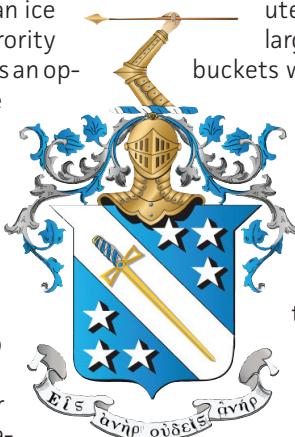
**Edward A. Tucker '64**  
December 16, 2016

**Erwin Henry Leiphart '64**  
May 21, 2016

## Philanthropy Remains Priority

The past school year has been incredible as far as philanthropy pursuits are concerned. In the fall, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta teamed up with the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma for a deep-fried Oreo sale in collegetown. Not only was the event a huge success, but it led to greater bonds between the houses involved. Toward the beginning of December, Phi Delta Theta co-hosted an ice skating philanthropy event at Lynah Rink with the sorority Alpha Xi Delta. The event provided many of the visitors an opportunity to visit the skating rink as well as a chance to unwind while studying for final exams. The money raised from both of these events went toward ALS research, Autism Speaks (Alpha Xi Delta's national philanthropy organization), and the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation, which promotes college readiness for underrepresented youths.

Like the fall semester, Phi Delta Theta hosted two successful philanthropy events this spring. However, neither event was conducted with the help of another organization. Both of the following events were organized solely by the brothers of Phi Delta Theta to raise money for ALS research. First, the brothers hosted "Phi at the Nines," a jazz concert that took place at the Nines in collegetown. The event occurred on a Thursday night after spring break and presented live music from two jazz ensembles, Cornell Jazz Voices and the Original Cornell Syncopators. Due to the amazing live performances, enthusiasm from the brothers and other event-goers, and the cooperation of the Nines staff, "Phi at the Nines" gained many positive reviews and will potentially become an annual



philanthropy event for the fraternity. Lastly, during Cornell Days, the brothers hosted a "Toss Up" fundraiser on Ho Plaza. For the event, people walking through campus had the opportunity to buy and toss water balloons, eggs, and shaving cream pies at a number of brothers who volunteered for the event. We also paid tribute to the ice bucket challenge which led to ALS gaining a large amount of attention. In doing so, we decorated large buckets with Phi Delt's Greek letters and allowed event-goers to pour a bucket of ice water over their brother of choice. Additionally, Phi Delt's "Toss Up" fundraiser stands out because it was entirely planned and run by the newest pledge class. This marked the first time in the recent history of the house that the newest members of the fraternity planned and led a full-fledged philanthropy event. Not only did their efforts help them improve their leadership and communication skills, the "Toss Up" raised the most money for ALS research when compared with the three other events that occurred throughout the year.

After counting the event profits and donations, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta were able to raise \$1,649.63 for ALS research alone and \$2,290.13 for all philanthropy events. Philanthropy pursuits for the Cornell chapter have in one year exceeded the earnings from past philanthropy events. Many of the brothers have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with other Greek organizations, raise money for great causes, and truly show the Cornell and greater Ithaca communities what it means to be a brother of Phi Delta Theta.

— Nathan Ihemeremadu, Philanthropy Chair