



## NEW YORK ALPHA CHAPTER CORNELL UNIVERSITY

# THE CAYUGAN

### A LETTER FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE EDITOR



On behalf of the alumni, I'd like to extend congratulations to the Phi Delta Theta graduating class of 2019! We thank them for their work in preserving the chapter and we look forward to their continued participation in helping to ensure that the fraternity is not only not less, but better than it was before.

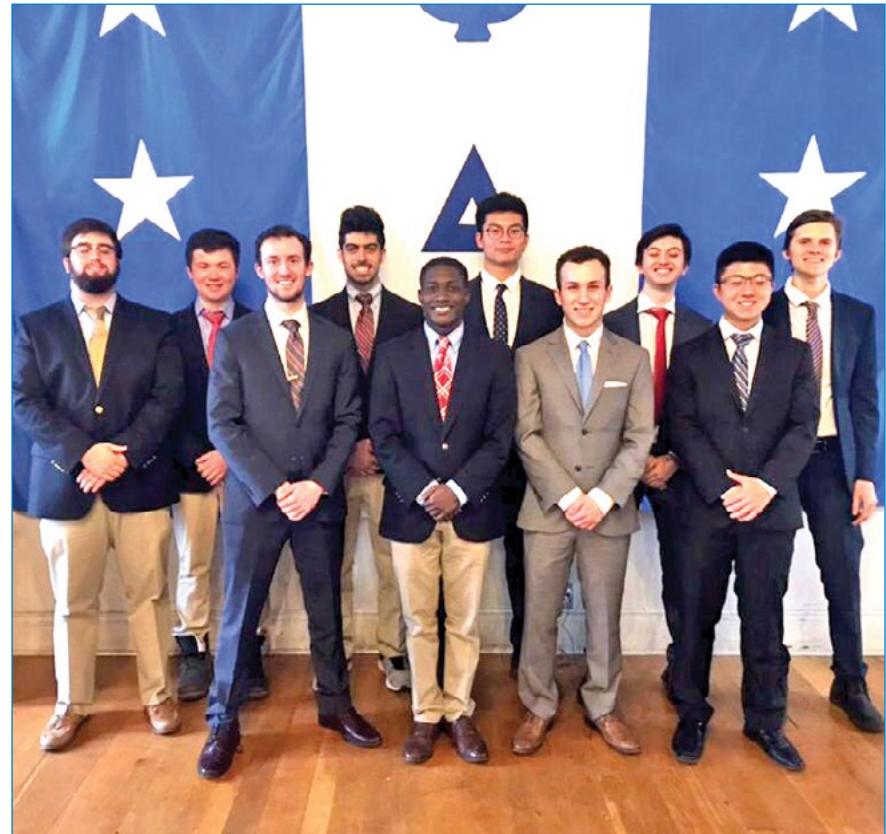
The Housing Corporation's annual reunion meeting included an update on the state of the brotherhood by current undergraduates, housing corporation capital projects and budgetary planning, New York Alpha Educational Foundation Inc. initiatives, and Chapter Advisory Board activities. While we encourage you to stop by for one of our meetings (either at Homecoming or at Reunion), we hope that whenever you find yourself in Ithaca, you stop by to see the improvements at 2 Ridgewood Road.

The Housing Corporation is working on several major initiatives, including refurbishment of the entryway to the kitchen. This has been a substantial undertaking and involves a significant commitment of time and financial resources to complete, given the planning and preservation processes required by the city.

We hope that in the past year, you have been able to explore our new website at [phideltathetacornell.org](http://phideltathetacornell.org). The site went live with a newsletter archive and donation portal, but we are still looking 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.

Thank you again and we look forward to another exciting academic year this fall.

Andrew Bridson  
Correspondence Editor, Housing Corporation  
adb96@cornell.edu



The Beta Omicron pledge class.

### PDT RECRUITMENT: STRONG PERFORMANCE IN ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Though this past year was a challenging one for Cornell Greek life—whether in terms of new, more restrictive regulations by the administration, or more unflattering *Cornell Daily Sun* headlines—PDT NYA recruitment went well.

Given the historically low number of rushees this year, the brotherhood really got a chance to meet and get to know all of the potential new members who rushed the house. We used the inclement weather to our advantage (as much as we could) in

terms of weather-appropriate house rush events and organizing winter sport-related events.

This semester we are proud to welcome 10 new members to the house, all of whom we were truly excited to extend a bid. We had previously decided to emphasize living in the house during rush and that definitely paid off: you can read more about the house numbers in the house manager update on page two.

Brandon Truong

## NYA CHAPTER PRESIDENT SEES UPSIDE TO GREEK LIFE REFORMS

This year was the first full year where Cornell President Martha Pollack's reforms were in effect. Last newsletter I introduced them, but the main ones to follow were having an in-house advisor, and no alcohol over 30 percent ABV. Every year we have had a graduate advisor live in the house, but usually it

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has been a recently graduated brother, one year removed from the rest of the fraternity. This year we will align more with the reforms, having an older live in advisor who is returning for his master's degree.

Other trends that have been seen across campus were that overall recruitment numbers were down, with around 200 fewer participants than the previous year. However, this was countered with only a slight drop in the number of them actually signing bids. This was mainly driven by the fact that freshmen were required to attend orientations the previous semester. I think this especially hurt us, because we tend to attract those who are on the fence about Greek life going into the rush process, and this year there were not as many of those students.

Finally, in the coming years, Cornell will be implementing a policy that students have to live on campus for their freshmen and sophomore years, instead of having the option to live off campus sophomore year. I believe this reform will help us both increase recruitment and in-house numbers, as

fraternities are considered on campus housing, which will hopefully make more students consider Greek life as an option to find a community rather than living in dorms.

Overall, we are at a time when the fraternity systems around the country are changing quite rapidly, but I believe we are doing a good job staying within the lines and playing by the rules, and in the end we will come out ahead. I am looking forward to more good semesters and overcoming whatever challenges may come our way. I will be replaced by Saul Bernaber as our new president and I know he has some great things planned for this fraternity.

Yours in the Bond,  
Andrew Petterson '20

## HOUSE MANAGER: CHAPTER AND HOUSE ON THE UPSWING AFTER A CHALLENGING YEAR

This year, we were off to a rough start with low in-house numbers, which is a trend we have seen in past years as well. However, I believe we are finally starting to turn around that trend.

Next year, we will have 20 undergraduate brothers in the house, with 10 coming from the most recent pledge class. In addition to the undergraduates in the house, we will have a graduate advisor living in: Peter Smet from the class of 2008.

In terms of house improvement, small improvements have been made all around the house, such as replacing old windows. In addition, Housing Corp. has been actively working with Ithaca's historical society to get repairs on the outside of the house approved, which should be made in the coming semester if all goes well.

Finally, as the weather warms up, we will be adding onto the new projector and sound system in the library to include outdoor hook-ups, so music can be enjoyed by the barbecue. We are looking forward to another great semester and to keep improving in house numbers. Everest Yan will be following in my steps as the next house manager.

Michael Zhang



## NYA TREASURER: EMPHASIZING TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD FINANCIAL PRACTICES

I plan to work closely with the accountant to ensure we are in good financial standing throughout the year and to set strong precedent for good financial practices moving forward. By working closely with our usual partners, I

plan on tracking our financial standing closely with the intent of replenishing reserve accounts without needing to cut back on planned spending for brotherhood or social activities.

Daniel Kusky

## PDT BROTHERHOOD: CREATIVITY LED TO AN EXCELLENT YEAR

This year was one of the best years for brotherhood events in living memory. In the fall, we had a brotherhood paintball event, which was an awesome way to welcome and bond with our fall pledge class. As usual, we had our sod date night in November. This is always a brotherhood favorite but this year we upped our game: one of the brothers, David Lapidus '20, donated an antique hot dog cart to the house, so we were able to enjoy iced tea and freshly grilled hot dogs in the comfort of our own home.

For the week after the date night, we organized soccer and handball tournaments on the sod.

In addition to the well-loved classics, the brotherhood came together to brainstorm creative new events. For a painting date night, brothers and dates were supplied canvases and paint and encouraged to create whatever their hearts desired. Highlights include a picture of the house, a neo-impressionist take on post-modern female sexuality,



Brothers at Slope Day.



Brotherhood barbecue at Stewart Park.

a recreation of Starry Night, and an iconic portrait of a brother. During the spring, we had a dancing date night. The fantastic Cornell Syncopators, featuring our very own Noah Li '19, played jazz music and dance instructors taught brothers and their dates several styles of dancing.

For formal, the brotherhood came together to create a truly magical *Alice in Wonderland* theme. The great hall was turned into Alice's famous tea party replete with ivy-covered walls and flowers, the dining hall was turned into the palace of the Queen of Hearts, and the Shields Room was used to recreate the classic caterpillar scene. Every brother helped out with set up and it showed just how much we can achieve together as a brotherhood.

Brandon Feng



Celebrating the first intramural bowling win.



The graduating seniors of the class of 2019.



Phi Delta Theta Providence Retreat.

# ALUMNI NEWS

**H. Clifton Ames III '62** writes, "Rita and I shared the annual Reedville Fishermen's Museum Oyster Roast this last November. A real small fishing village event. **Richard ('64)** and Marcia **Feliciano** were our guests. During the winter, we have one or two oyster roasts each month." Catch up with him at 94 Cherry Tree Lane, Reedville, VA 22539 or [clif.ames@gmail.com](mailto:clif.ames@gmail.com).

**John B. Baker '64** writes, "Living on my wife's and my ranch in northeast Oregon, Wallowa County, riding, fishing and hunting after retiring from Issaquah, Washington, in 2003. Is **Doug Young '62** still standing? Was my big brother from Rye, New York." [Editor's note: Our most recent records, from 2017, have him

*in Concord, New Hampshire.]* Get in touch with John at PO Box 187, Wallowa, OR 97885 or [johnbaker@att.net](mailto:johnbaker@att.net).

**Peter Behrle '73** wrote in December, "Living in New Jersey with my wife, Gina. Spend a lot of time with our kids Bill, 37, and Allison, 31. In the last two years, I was fortunate to reacquaint with **Steve Whitman '73** (we both have homes in Amelia Island, Florida), and **Dave ('73)** and **Dee Paddock**. Steve, our wives, and I have been celebrating New Year's Eve together. This past August, **Chip Harrison '74** joined us at Steve's lake house in Gananoque, Canada [see photo below]. I'm grateful for the time spent with him as he passed away unexpectedly in April. More Phi Delt brothers

who lost touch attended his funeral and we were able to support each other through the difficult mourning process. I am looking forward to hearing from other brothers." Get in touch with him at 280 Main St., Unit 407, Little Falls, NJ 07424 or [pbehrle11@icloud.com](mailto:pbehrle11@icloud.com).

**Christian "Chris" Dorr '85** writes, "After 34 years of full-time work, I decided to retire early (56) to enjoy full-time sports and part-time volunteering. Anyone in the Phoenix area, look me up (from October through May). YITB." Reach him at 27113 N. 130th Dr., Peoria, AZ 85383.



Steven Whitman '73, Ridgely "Chip" Harrison III '74, Peter Behrle '73, and David Paddock '73.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

**William D. Knauss '45**

*June 18, 2018*

**Robert E. Sanson '48**

*March 13, 2018*

**Peter D. Tyler '60**

*October 23, 2018*

**Roy A. Naylor '69**

*July 30, 2018*

**Ridgely "Chip" Harrison III '74**

*April 22, 2019*

**Manuel P. "Blackjack" Alvaraz '02** writes, "Erica and I took the boys and our parents to Italy last summer. We survived the long haul with our 10-month-old and I suspect wine played a large role. I still live in the Bay Area and am in my fifth year at Affirm, which feels more like 35 given the start-up dog years phenomenon. Hope everyone is happy and well." Write to him at 1418 Reliez Valley Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549 or [email@mannyalvarez.me](mailto:email@mannyalvarez.me).

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

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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.

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