

# The Cornell Alpha Delt



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*Fall 2009*

## Uniting to Revitalize Our Historic Goat House

For more than a decade, the hard work and generosity of many alumni have made major improvements possible at the Phi. Inside and outside of the chapter house, projects have improved the driveway and parking, bathrooms, chimneys, and heating plant. Historical fixtures have been preserved and restored, and new social and living spaces were carved from the basement.

We've previously written that it's time to turn our attention to the Goat House and its permanent stabilization and revival. With a new fall campaign we're launching, it's time for the Cornell Star & Crescent Foundation to help make the Goat House project a reality!

Our earlier efforts focused on stabilization of the lodge and obtaining a detailed engineering and architectural analysis of the structure's needs. We also conducted a program of patch repairs to meet immediate deficiencies. However, increasing demands from city-code officials are making permanent repairs and improvements

more necessary than ever. Moreover, under a new directive, Cornell University is requiring all university-affiliated housing units and facilities to have fully compliant fire-sprinkler systems, something that will ultimately impact the Goat House and our ability to continue its use.

Our plans are first to focus on structural stabilization, ensuring that—from the access way to the foundations to the roof—the structure is sound for the next 100 years. We will then turn our attention to ensuring that utilities, drainage, and climate control are in place to support continued use of the structure, to meet modern codes, and to prevent further decay. We will then finalize the exterior aesthetics, restoring the stone

façade and stained-glass tile frieze to their rightful 1903-era glory.

Once we have stabilized the underlying structure and the exterior aesthetics, we will be poised to embark on a defining set of improvements

*(continued on page three)*



## Celebrating 140 Years on the Hill

With the dawn of a new school year, the Alpha Delta Phi maintains a strong hold on the student culture of Cornell University. After 140 years of brotherhood, the Four Pillars continue to set a high standard of excellence for the 52 brothers of the Phi. Brothers hold leadership roles in campus organizations, ranging from student government to varsity golf. We study in all seven undergraduate colleges at Cornell; the house is a place where varied interests and far-flung friends come together.

The social scene at the Phi is consistently the best on campus. "Tower Hours," "Brother Drink Nights," afterhours, and tailgates attract burgeoning numbers of freshmen looking to experience the Greek life. Sorority girls, primarily our favorites from Theta, Delta Gamma, and Kappa, continue to flock to the halls of the Phi for weekly social gatherings. To kick off the social calendar, Social Chair Cole Lupoli '12 arranged for the band, Filligar, consisting of Alpha Delts from both Hamilton and Dartmouth, to perform in front of a packed house.

The Phi maintains a strong community of service, participating in multiple charity events hosted by sororities. Philanthropy Chair Robert Morrissey '12 has begun plans for the Phi to host a "Pink Party" later in the semester to support breast cancer research. And, of course, the annual Victory Club event in the spring is under careful planning through the efforts of Andrew Lyon '10 and Max Weisz '11.

The Phi is bustling with activity as 32 undergraduate brothers live, party, and study in the house. One can always find some diversion, whether it's flinging the pigskin in the shadows of the Goat House, or barbecuing on the Tower with our esteemed chef, Scott "Scooter" Schmutzler.

The real strength of the brotherhood lies in day-to-day house life: discussing the morning papers over one of Scooter's great breakfasts, working together through problem sets over the tenth cup of coffee, or shooting the breeze at Monday Night Football. The brothers are quite different in many ways, but we take a strong interest in one another and in a house that we feel is the best on the Hill.

All in all, the brotherhood of Alpha Delta Phi is off to a great start this semester. Many would argue that the Phi is stronger than it ever has been in its 140-year history of excellence.

Xaipe,

Brendan McNamara '11, Fall 2009 Undergraduate President



*Phi Presidents, past and present at Homecoming 2009. From l. to r., Brendan McNamara '11, Pierre Estey '11, Joe Salameh '10, Chris Burt '10, and Eric Wang '08.*



## Officers and Directors Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell, Inc.

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### Directors Emeriti:

George M. Kennedy '52  
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### Retiring October 2011

Philip C. Ballard '00  
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Richard Seestedt '86  
Howard B. Schaffer '90  
Joseph Tucceri Jr. '00  
John R. Tuttle '81



*At Thank-a-Thon 2009, Alpha Delt brothers made calls to all alumni to thank them for their support. From l. to r., Brendan McNamara '11, Mike Chen '11, James Rockas '12, Philip Gatto '12, Gleb Drobkov '12, Jason Spiegel '12, Andrew Tanger '12, and Walter Ralston '12.*

## Fall 2009 Undergraduate Officers

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<b>Steward</b> .....Noah Chhibber '11 noah.chhibber@gmail.com	<b>Literary Co-Chairs</b> .....Jacob Goldstein '10 jag242@cornell.edu
<b>Historian</b> .....Andrew Lyon '10 ahl37@cornell.edu	<b>Gleb Drobkov '12</b> stasnowman08@msn.com

## Senate Bill Would Make Your Donation Tax Deductible

**O**n April 2, 2009, Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) introduced Senate Bill 781, titled "The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act."

The Act would allow taxpayers to deduct donations that they make to student organizations for infrastructure-related improvements. Similar legislation stalled in

the Finance Committee in 2003 and 2007, so interfraternity councils throughout the country are asking fraternity alumni to express their support for the bill.

Contact Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) or Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) by phone about the bill at the U. S. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121.

# Strengthening a Dialog Between Gay and Straight Brothers

When I got an e-mail asking me to write about what it was like being gay at Alpha Delta Phi, I didn't hesitate to agree, but I also began to wonder if my experience would resonate for any other gay brother or speak to any of my straight brothers. I came out as a gay man at Cornell, but it was in the mid- to late-1970s. Never did I dream when I was living at the Phi that there would be an item in the March 2009 issue of the *Cornell Alumni Magazine* about my recent marriage to my gay partner of 20 years at San Francisco City Hall officiated by a California State Assemblyman. Times have changed indeed.

The fear of being shunned and ostracized has no doubt waned in the 30 years since I left Cornell. But in the late 1970s it was profound. Cornell, like most of the Ivies, has a profoundly progressive streak and was probably more "gay friendly" than most universities. There were regular gay dances at Willard Straight Hall; the irony of which was not lost on anyone... gay dances at the Straight. But still, gay men and lesbians were the source of jokes, ridicule, and disdain on campus, and there was always a fear that the disdain could turn to violence.

How being a brother at Alpha Delta Phi weighed into my gay life at the time is a complicated story. When I rushed the Phi in my freshman year the qualities that appealed to me most were the literary tradition of the brotherhood and the camaraderie of smart men who seemed to possess a higher degree of emotional sensitivity than most. During my time living at 777 Stewart Avenue, I never outright divulged my sexual orientation to the general brotherhood other than to a couple of brothers who were also gay. But I am sure that it was no great shock to my brothers when they read that I married a man.

Coming out in the 1970s was, indeed, a complicated, difficult, and often painful process; at least it was for me. In many ways I think I let my brothers down by not being honest about who I was. I wanted to, but I was petrified of losing friendships. Oddly enough, I found ways to

ensure that I lost those friendships anyway. But in the mind of a young man coming to terms with his sexuality at a time when it was rarely accepted, finding ways of distancing myself from my friends was easier than the prospect of losing them because of my homosexuality. In essence it was not a good time for me, but that was because of me, not my brothers. Yet, as difficult as that time was, my best memories of Cornell were not about the men I dated, but rather centered around the

Phi "Rongo Runs" for an evening of inebriated camaraderie at the Rongovian Embassy, Victory Club events, Croquet on the Arts Quad on Spring Weekend and the Wednesday night dinners with guest faculty speakers.

Years later I can see that Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell paved a road for me as an activist for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community and for people living with HIV/AIDS. It was at Cornell's chapter of Alpha Delta Phi where I began to develop the leadership skills that have been important in my work as an advocate. I don't think I would have been an effective member of the board of the nation's largest LGBT advocacy organization, the Human Rights Campaign, a founder of California's state LGBT advocacy group, or a participant in meetings on Capitol Hill and at the White House successfully advocating for

the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, had it not been for the individual growth that came from being a brother at the Phi.

In the request I received from our alumni president to write this article he wrote that one of our family secrets is that we have gay brothers. Family secrets are always unhealthy and the brotherhood is indeed a family. By keeping that secret while I lived at the Phi I did myself and my brothers an injustice. I hope that my honest reflection will help open a dialogue between our gay and straight brothers and make the bonds of our brotherhood stronger.

Randy Allgaier '79

## Phi Philanthropy Raises Money to fight Malaria and Breast Cancer

Current brothers, alumni, and friends of the Phi, I am pleased to report that the philanthropic endeavors of our chapter have gotten off to a bustling start this fall. To kick things off, we worked with Cover Africa, a student-run malaria intervention organization at Cornell, to provide money for five malaria-preventing bed nets. Our house's bed nets will be distributed by a group of Cornell students traveling to Humjibre, Ghana, this winter.

On September 26, an Alpha Delt basketball team was entered in Delta Gamma's "Anchor Slam" basketball tournament. The tournament

raised money for Delta Gamma's national "Service for Sight" program, and many brothers turned out to support the event. Finally, inspired by Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our officers are in the early stages of planning a "Pink Holidays" event that will raise money for breast cancer research.

I'm proud of our brotherhood's continued commitment to service and look forward to another exciting year for Adelpic Philanthropy!

Robert Harley Morrissey '12, Fall 2009 Philanthropy Chair

## Uniting to Revitalize Our Historic Goat House

(continued from page one)

to the interior. Because of damage due to disuse in the World War II era, the lodge has been without its rightful interior for more than half of its life. With sensitivity to design of the current chapter house, the prairie-style influences of the previous structure and, coupled with a desire to create a space suitable for our most dear fraternal rites, the revived interior will be the final and most profound stage of our efforts. We anticipate a planning process of deep consultation with members of the active and alumni brotherhood to produce a space evocative of the best traditions of Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell.

In this fall's campaign, we're asking for your support to protect and preserve the Goat House for future generations of Alpha Delt. We look

forward to your support and suggestions, and hope to close out the basic tasks of stabilization in the next 12-18 months. I'll look forward to reporting back when we are ready to embark on the truly exciting historical restorations and the grand new interior.

Please feel free to contact me, or any of the directors of the Cornell Star & Crescent Foundation, for updates or to get involved in this important project!

George Doerre '04, President,  
Cornell Star & Crescent Foundation





# Spotlight on Our Newest Brother, Dave Filipiak, JH'09



The Alpha Delta Phi is happy to welcome our newest guest, David Filipiak, a Cornell graduate student who helps oversee the day-to-day functions of the Phi and counsels the undergraduate brotherhood. Some of the brothers affectionately refer to Dave as “DJ Flip,” or Alpha Delt’s “House RA” (residential advisor), but it is clear that Dave has quickly assimilated into the life and culture of the Cornell chapter of the Phi. Dave was an Alpha Delt brother at Johns Hopkins University, where the Phi is widely known for its concentration of athletes and football players. To date, he has met and hung out with practically every undergraduate brother, making time in his busy graduate student schedule to forge a personal connection with the brothers. Dave was also instrumental in smoothing our relationship with our neighboring fraternity, FIJI.

The undergraduate brothers are glad to have Dave join us, and we look forward to getting to know him better in the coming months.

Gleb Drobkov '12, Fall 2009 Literary Chair



Dave Filipiak, JH'09

DF: I've been impressed with Cornell's enormous Greek system and the Cornell chapter of Alpha Delt is right at the top. The chapter house, or should I say, mansion, is absolutely amazing and the alumni seem to be very actively involved in improving life at the Phi. I would say the biggest difference between the two chapters (Hopkins and Cornell) is diversity. Alpha Delt at Hopkins is primarily made up of football players (myself being one of them) and other athletes, whereas the Cornell chapter is more diverse and heterogeneous in terms of background, interests, and personalities. I consider diversity to be very important in a fraternity and the Cornell chapter of Alpha Delt has achieved this.

*Q: How do the brothers treat the house?*

DF: The brothers understand how fortunate they are to have such a nice chapter house and definitely do their best to keep it in good shape at all times. There are many people involved, including myself, responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the house, and our collective efforts are definitely paying off. The brothers most actively involved are Brendan McNamara, Joe DiSalvo, and Max Weisz. Ellen Reuben, our property manager, has also been a tremendous help.

*Q: How united is the brotherhood at Alpha Delt?*

DF: The brothers of Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell are very close and very supportive of each other. They are more than willing to help each other academically and they know how to have a good time together.

*Q: What did you think of the Filligar band and our first party of the year?*

DF: The first party of the year was a huge success and the performing band, Filligar, was impressive. If we can keep producing events like this, there's no doubt in my mind that we will get a quality group of pledges in the spring.

*Q: What do you think of Scooter's cooking?*

DF: Phenomenal. He does his absolute best to accommodate the requests of the brothers and his cooking is top notch. His policy is clearly safety first, and his efforts to prevent the spread of swine flu are comprehensive and effective. Scooter's fine efforts make him an integral part of life at the Phi.

*Q: Where are you from?*

DF: Wethersfield, Connecticut (just outside Hartford).

*Q: What was your major at Johns Hopkins and what are you studying at Cornell?*

DF: At Johns Hopkins I studied a combination of biomedical engineering and chemical/biomolecular engineering. At Cornell, I am working toward a master's degree in biomedical engineering. I'm also conducting biomedical research in cardiovascular engineering, including the development of bioartificial heart valves.

*Q: What do you think of Cornell?*

DF: Cornell is pretty awesome. It's definitely more laid back and aesthetically pleasing than Baltimore, Maryland, although I'm not looking forward to the brutal Ithaca winter. Being a graduate student here is obviously tough and time consuming and the atmosphere on campus is highly competitive. Nonetheless, I've found that there are plenty of opportunities to have a great time here.

*Q: How does Alpha Delt at Cornell compare to your chapter at Johns Hopkins?*

## Fall Rush: Aiming for 24 New Alpha Delt

As the nights grow longer and the campus prepares for the typical Ithaca winter, the Phi rushing process is just beginning to heat up. For the bulk of September, a moratorium was passed by the Interfraternity Council that indefinitely banned all parties and social events in the university's fraternities. Alpha Delt, however, was not deterred in the least.

The brothers of the Phi combated this minor roadblock by hosting a plethora of rush events—under the radar of the university and the IFC. These social events were quite the talk of freshmen on North Campus. After the swine flu ban was lifted, in traditional Phi fashion, a concert and open party was thrown at the house the very next night. This party bolstered the Phi's already excellent reputation and increased freshman anticipation for the Halloween Party.

As mentioned, before the ban was lifted, a series of events were held at the Phi at which the brothers were able to meet and to get to know potential rushees; we all know that January is right around the corner. The first category of these events is Monday Night Football get-togethers, in which the brothers of the Phi display their resurgent passion for athletics. It has been observed that when freshmen and transfers around campus are discussing going to “MNF,” it's apparent

they're referring to Alpha Delt's MNF party.

In addition to Monday Night Football, the brotherhood has been consistently holding invite-only events on Thursdays. These first started with university-renowned “Tower Hours,” but now have progressed to “Brother Drink Nights” as the temperature in upstate New York has plummeted. These “BDNs,” as they're more commonly referred to, are held in the living room and are strictly coat and tie for brothers. These events assist in displaying to prospective rushees a different side of our house than Monday Night Football. It shows the versatility that we brothers of the Phi have come to embody. While this is a rush event, a few of the Alpha Delt's girlfriends often manage to join in on the festivities.

Our goal this year is to obtain around 24 rushees, which will easily be met if the house continues on its current course. We members of the rush committee are looking toward the days ahead and we will continue to meet and impress new underclassmen and continue the Phi's long and excellent tradition of having phenomenal new members.

Christopher Burt '10, Chris Bevan '10, and Mathew Collins '11,  
Fall 2009 Rush Chairs

## Getting Back to Our Roots

More seniors live in the house this year than ever before. These brothers have involved themselves fully in house life, in the dining room, at social gatherings, and at brotherhood events such as “Brother Drink Night” (BDN). One senior, Past President Christopher R. Burt, has utilized his authority over the undergraduate brotherhood to institute a casual but classy dress code for brothers attending BDN. Burt said, “BDN is good opportunity for the house to gather in coat and tie and to stay connected with our Alpha Delt roots. I know a bunch of you will whine and pine over getting dressed up, but you forget this was a house built on the shoulders of *gentlemen*. As freshmen start to come around the house, people need to start thinking about the image Alpha Delt is portraying.” Brother Burt’s words were taken to heart by the brotherhood, which showed up in great numbers



*The Great Hall, living up to its name, looks great!*

## Upholding ADPhi’s Rich Social Tradition

This year the social schedule has been quite full for the Phi. The year began well with a wine tour on one of the last few nice days of summer. Beautiful girls of Alpha Phi clad in sundresses wine and dined with the brotherhood and then descended to the Triphammer gorge for swimming and further festivities.

In addition to the wine tour, there have been numerous weekly mixers, complemented by Thursday Brother Drink Nights, which provide freshmen interested in rushing the house with a good opportunity to meet and interact with the brotherhood on a more personal level.

The highlight of the year thus far, however, was our first open party, which featured the live band, Filligar, a group composed of fellow Alpha Delta Phi brothers from both Hamilton and Dartmouth.

The band sustains a great reputation on the college independent rock scene. Filigar was featured on MTV’s *The Real World and Buzzin’*, and they were crowned the “Youth Ensemble of the Year” by the Madison Area Music Awards. They undoubtedly lived up to their reputation. All in all, although the year is young, life has been unquestionably rich and mellow for those who live in Alpha Delta Phi.

Coledon Lupoli '12  
Fall 2009 Social Chair

to sit by the fireplace and enjoy highballs mixed by a beautiful sorority bartender. As a result, freshmen who were invited to the event spoke highly of Alpha Delt to their peers, and the following weekend, freshman attendance at our Tower-Hour sorority mixer greatly increased.

Such changes need to take place for the Phi to continue to be the best house on campus. The seniors who are spearheading Alpha Delt’s revival are leaving next year. Without a strong pledge class of at least 24 new members, the fraternity will suffer. Alpha Delta Phi is more than a living area or a social space. It is the backbone of each and every undergraduate brother’s Cornell experience, if he makes it so. Our successful alumni and our virtuous founders have lived their lives, as I do, in the Four Pillars of sacrifice, service, leadership, and brotherhood in the Phi. It is your duty to follow in their tradition.

## Careful Prep Sustains Our Health

The kitchen at the Alpha Delta Phi has made efforts to go green this semester. In previous years, we have bought disposable plastic cups. This practice was both expensive and wasteful. Over the course of a year, we used over 50,000 plastic cups. This year, chef Scott “Scooter” Schmutzler ordered 70 hard plastic, reusable cups. In addition to saving several hundred dollars on the food budget, the Phi is helping the environment by reusing our cups.

In addition, the Phi has also made greater efforts to recycle any cans or bottles that have come out of the kitchen. We set up a small collection station so that brothers do not always have to throw out their recyclables.

Chef Scooter has also taken steps to ensure that swine flu does not spread in the kitchen. Brothers who are sick are encouraged to stay out of the communal area and, instead, can have food delivered to their rooms. Scooter has even taken to tapping elbows instead of shaking hands. Hand sanitizer bottles have become common in the Phi, and the kitchen is no exception.

Noah Chhibber '11, Fall 2009 Steward



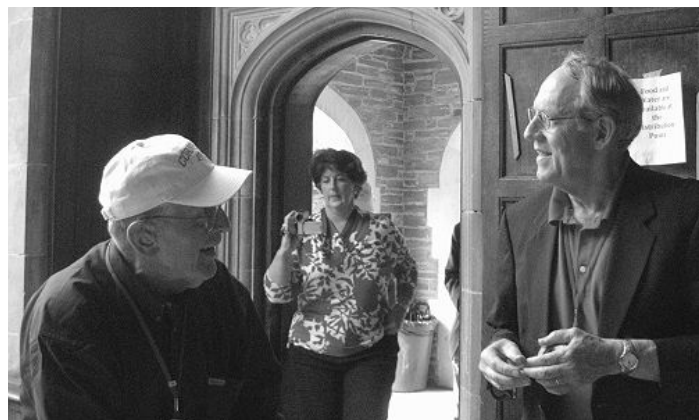
*A salute from the current brothers to all alumni of the Rotunda*



# Class of '59 Celebrates its 50th Reunion



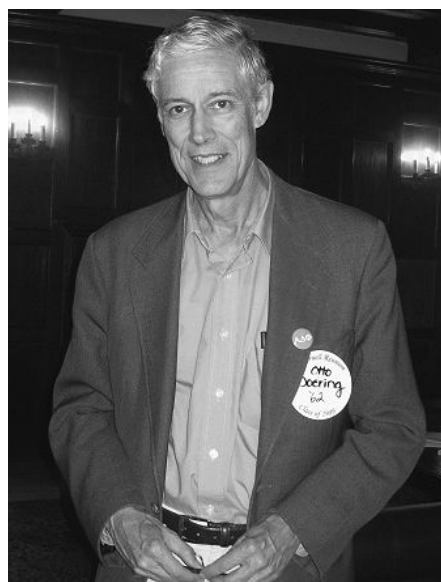
*Tony Johnson '80 serves Johnson Estates wine at Reunion.*



*Bob Hubbard '59 and Dan Hall '59*



*Howie Schaffer '90 and Tony Johnson '80*



*Otto Doering '62*



*Tom Martin '59 and his wife, Margret*



*As the Sherwoods look on, Stan Lomax '59 presents a gift from the class of '59 to the Phi.*

# Class of '59 Celebrates its 50th Reunion

**Tom Martin** and his wife, Margret, are back in Germany after a number of years in Belgium where Tom was a communications contractor to NATO. Tom led a reunion discussion on water problems.

**Dan and Ann Hall.** Ann is still consulting in the communications field. Dan's father, a pillar of the Canaan community, passed away at age 102, June 14.

**Dave and Sally Vrooman.** Dave is enjoying retirement in Canton, while Sally works with at-risk youth. One of their sons is in the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service, and is now serving in Baghdad.

**Bill and Jan Dring** are spending a majority of their time in Colorado where they are enthusiastic book group members and skiers.

**Hans and Barbara Lawaetz.** Hans is still managing substantial property and cattle, as well as heading the Virgin Island Olympic Committee, which leads to frequent travel in the Americas and a cruise every year. They have been on the Baltic Sea and Caribbean voyages.

**Bob McClellan.** After many years with IBM, Bob was an independent consultant. Music and railroading continue to be his interests.

**Stan Lomax.** "The Professor" is still teaching at University of South Carolina. He was the principal organizer for the 50th pre-reunion and a participant in the Cornell '59 Class Reunion's "Romp 'n' Stomp" session in Bailey Hall with Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary).

**Bob and Penny Nelson.** Bob and Penny are looking great (though Bob is not *seeing* so great). Bob consults for SCORE and Penny is in an equestrian program for people with disabilities.

**Cal and Ginger Carr** are still happily settled in Maine near the Hunts; they just greeted another grandchild. The couple competed in the tournament at the Hunts' last year. The Carrs made a trip recently to Key West.

**Rick Dyer** is still a lean, mean, rowing machine! Rick keeps in competition and also does some medical consultation. He had to leave Ithaca early for a daughter's wedding.

**Tom Erickson** came up by himself from Nashville because his wife, Lee, had job obligations. The crash of the auto industry resulted in the closedown of the aftermarket supplier he has been with. Tom remains optimistic and wants to work longer.

**Hank and Marianne Hubbard,** adopted by the '59ers, (which Marianne is), are enjoying a base of operations in North Carolina, and summers with their family in Michigan.

To honor the memory of **Bob Dodge**, who passed away in December (*see page eleven*), the class invited his son, Ed, Cornell MBA '09, and Ed's wife, Sabrina, as guests for dinner at The Heights Cafe & Grill.

## Reunion Traditions Honor our Legacy of Brotherhood

As many brothers are aware, each year at Reunion, the Board of Directors of the Phi hosts the Judge James E. Rice '30 and Frederick S. Johnson '43 Memorial New York State Wine and Cheese Party. The event is designed to bring together brothers, family, and friends to share stories and make new connections. This party would not be possible without the dedication of Tony Johnson '80. Each year for nearly two decades, Tony has donated wine from Johnson Estates Winery, the oldest family-owned estate winery in New York. In addition, Tony has served as host of the event. We thank him for his generosity, consistency, and the tribute to his father and the Phi.

One alumnus recalled that in the 1960s and 1970s, the Reunion cocktail party was held in honor of Silas H. Crounse, Jr., Class of 1912. According to materials in the Alpha Delta Phi Collection at Kroch Library, Mr. Crounse was married to Miss Eloise Erwin of Oak Park, Illinois. After graduation, he lived in Illinois managing a farm. In 1916, he is reported living in Madison, Wisconsin. We next learn in an Alpha Delt newsletter from June 1936, that he is living near Philadelphia and

working as a sales manager for the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company. The Crounses had three daughters and two sons.

While the names and focus of events and places change often over the decades, we pause to remember Brother Crounse and allow another generation of brothers to learn of his dedication to the Phi to which we paid tribute at so many reunions over the years.

With gratitude,  
Howie Schaffer '90



From l. to r., Patrick "Buddy" Johnson '99, Noah Chhibber '11, Jamil Karmali '08, and Vince Davis '10



Jenn Goldstone with son, Barron Williams '94, Kathryn Williams, and Tom Goldstone '94 holding his other son.



# Homecoming 2009 at The Phi



*Joe Welch '95, George Doerre '04, Doug Bond '67, and Howie Schaffer '90*



*John Tuttle '81, Howie Schaffer '90, and Kent Hubbell '67*



*Nick Wirth '10, Peter Vanetos '10, and Tony Biddle '08*



*Jenkins brothers: Chris '04, Pat '10, and Mark '09*



*Andrew Tanger '12; Andres Betancourt '12*



*George Doerre '04 and Andrew Melvin '07*



*Doug Bond '66 finds a lovely reason to stay awake during the banquet.*



*Brendan McNamara '11 and his date*



*Tom Murphy '11 and Roger Tufts '11*



*Ron Udasin '09, Eric Wang '08, and Jacob Goldstein '10*



*Alumni President Howie Schaffer '90 presents John Tuttle '81 with an Alpha Delt cap to honor John's election to the presidency of Alpha Delta Phi International. Hip Hip Hooray for John! Tom Chirurg '64 looks on.*



## Two Poems by Dylan Willoughby '92

### *Canyon Song*

Last light tumbles  
down these pilings of time  
already-dying resin  
shadowing the sandstone's  
creep, rumpling the  
crag and folds where  
rock once flowed or,  
by faulting, arose by  
thrust, or was stranded,  
an ocean's crust,  
boulders no more than  
flowing ages compacted,  
crumbling  
in the faint sun  
see now the lamped  
clast, jutting breccia  
the color of smoulder

### *Return*

drunk on red wine from Rioja  
we fell over ourselves that night  
  
later, I thought of saying farewell  
but no one knew where you'd gone  
  
and I was never much for goodbyes  
wafted by the indiscreet wind...  
  
then you returned, your wandering  
days over, like a shade  
  
you thought you would stay  
the night, but the night was  
  
so strange, so delicate,  
it stayed in us

The poems of Dylan Willoughby '92 have appeared widely in the U.S. and in the U.K. Chester Creek Press recently published a chapbook of his poems. Willoughby has received fellowships from Yaddo and The MacDowell Colony.

## Brothers Old and New Join House and Grounds Clean Up and We Pass Inspections

The Alpha Delta Phi Lodge is in great shape this fall. The house passed its first building and fire inspections, thanks to the tireless work put in by all the brothers living at the Phi this summer. We scheduled our inspections especially early this year to accommodate for early social events, including a live band concert in late September and our campus-wide famed Halloween party.

Although our fire inspection was only days after most brothers moved in, everyone worked together to get settled in early, clearing hallways of belongings, and making sure every room was fire safe. The inspector was quite pleased with how well our beautiful home met and exceeded his standards. A few weeks later, the building inspector had similar feelings and commented how well the brothers came together to clear the exterior of any debris that happened to gather.

Throughout the beginning of the year, our contracting company has been very helpful with the general maintenance and improvements on The Alpha Delta Phi. Along with necessary indoor items, they have also helped us install motion-sensing flood lights at the top rear of our Goat House. This was done to help ensure no vandalism occurs to the dominant symbol of the Cornell chapter of our brotherhood.

I would like to deeply thank the alumni for the new tables that recently arrived at the Phi. We all believe that these elegant and sturdy tables make a great addition to the Great Hall and living room areas. I would also like to thank the alumni for repairs to the solarium windows as well as various other repairs around the house. All in all, the Phi looks great, as many visiting alumni brothers have commented. This

## "Centennial Ode" by Brother Steven Vincent Benet, Y'1900

When first your chapter pledged its fate  
To Alpha Delta Phi  
The hardy undergraduate  
Still breakfasted on pie.  
The whiskers on his manly cheek  
Took quite a time to fix  
And he was versed in Ancient Greek  
In 1836.

The warring Whigs and Democrats  
With patriotic fire  
Trampled each others' beaver hats  
And called each other "liar!"  
It seems to be a habit in  
Our national politics.  
--Perhaps it didn't quite begin  
In 1836.

The country was a growing tree  
And yet some people said  
The principles of liberty  
Were absolutely dead  
And gentlemen in starched cravats  
Heaved oratoric bricks  
--For people still talked through their hats  
In 1836.

And yet, and yet, to Amherst still  
The punctual seasons came,  
October like a burning hill  
And April a green flame  
And youth was glad and friendship brave  
Despite old Euclid's tricks  
Though they wrote Essays on the Grave  
In 1836.

So let us praise, as they did then,  
The Crescent and the Star  
And all the deeds of all the men  
Who bear their fame afar  
And further rhymes that end in 'ix!  
I really dare not try  
But here's to 2036  
And Alpha Delta Phi!

*For Alpha Delta Phi  
from Steven Vincent Benet  
Yale, 1919*

opinion can be also seen in the eyes of visiting freshmen, whose expressions of awe and respect at first sight of the grand stature and excellence of our residence are commonplace. They have never been in a fraternity quite like the Alpha Delta Phi.

Joseph DiSalvo '12  
Fall 2009 House Manager



Joe DiSalvo '12 and Peter Venetos '10 attend to the grounds clean up.

# From the Archives

## The Enduring Lofty Goals of Alpha Delta Phi

*[The excerpt below is taken from a November 8, 1875, speech by Lewis Collins (Union, 1853), president of the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, before the Graduate Association of Alpha Delta Phi in New York, gathered at Delmonico's, Fifth Avenue and 14th Street, New York.]*

The Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity had its origin in a combination of circumstances almost entirely different from those attending the foundation of any other similar institution. These, in connection with the characteristics of its originators, gave an impulse and direction to their efforts, and the efforts of those who have followed them, which, even at this distance of time, are the main controlling and inspiring influences in the Fraternity. While local differences have modified to a greater or less extent the original purposes of the Founder and his associates, as the enlargement of the field rendered necessary, still the great fact remains that the Fraternity is now essentially the same as they established it, and that their lofty aims have but gained strength and permanence in the lapse of time.

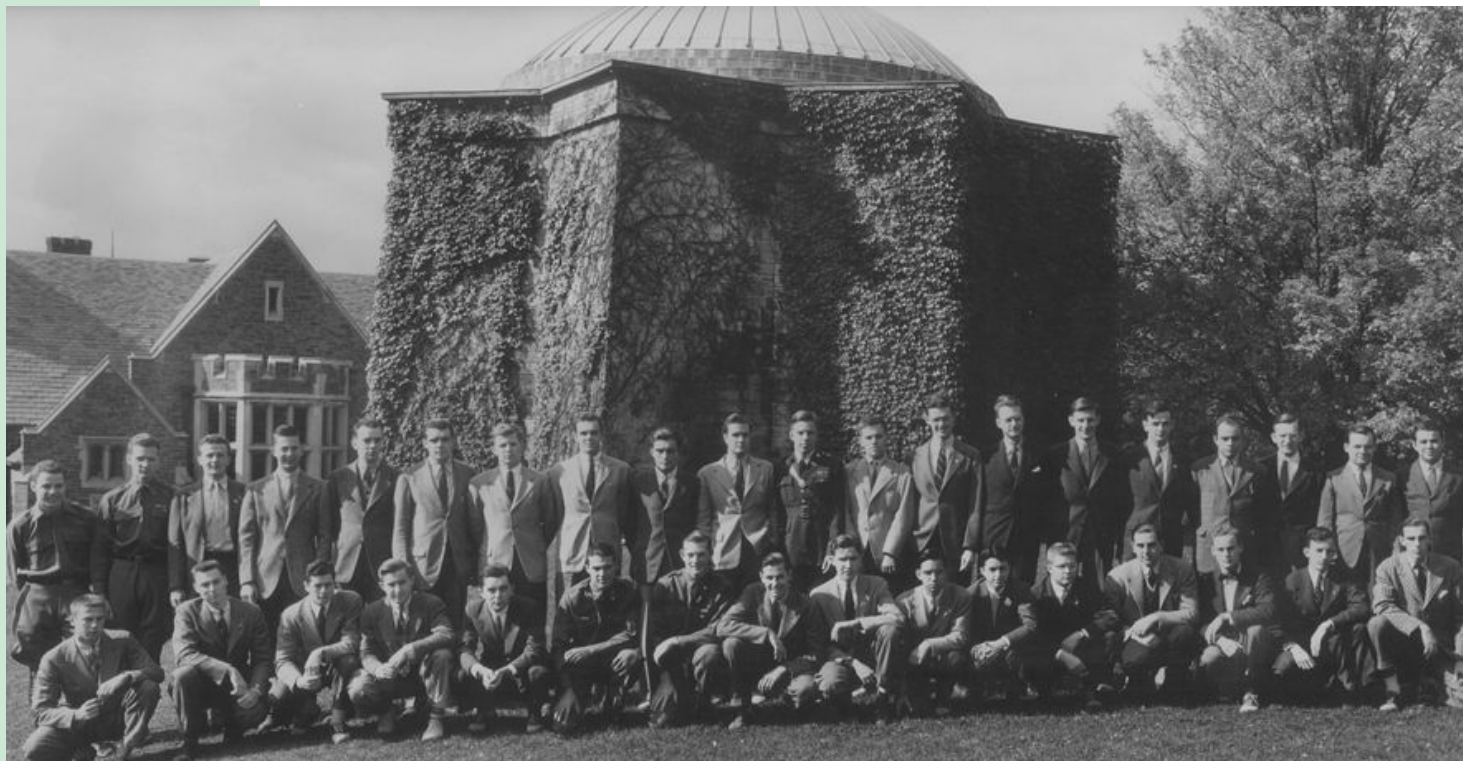
Hamilton College, the seat of the mother chapter, formerly had two flourishing literary societies. These, as sometimes happens to such institutions, came to be, instead of fields for profitable literary exercise and culture, arenas for the exhibition of feats of political ingenuity. The contests of intellect gave place to a conflict of wit and shrewdness. Forgetful of the truth that place honors not the man, but the man the place, discarding all notions of earnest endeavor in the way of self culture, and engaging eagerly in hot strife for empty honors and places stripped utterly of credit in the absence of ability, men converted the societies into wrangling grounds for their worst passions. During this state of things Samuel Eells was a student at Hamilton. He drew around himself such earnest men as remained in an endeavor to amend, at least so far as they were concerned, this disastrous state of things.

The first great intent of the founders was to supply the want of good, sound, constant, and well directed efforts at literary culture, and the second, as necessary to the accomplishment of this end, the formation of

such ties of brotherly regard as would at once destroy feelings of bitterness and animosity, all motives of selfishness, and all the modes of deceit and trickery by which vanity and presumption seek to gain unworthy ends, and finally to substitute for these powerfully disintegrating forces the strongest bonds of kindness, charity and fraternal love. Thus would be born a kindlier spirit pervading all the doings of the Society, and rendering its efforts not those of a struggling crowd of eager contestants fighting for personal triumph but of a family in whose performances each should feel an interest deeper than any personal interest could possibly be, and in whose triumphs each should feel an exultation far removed, both in kind and degree, from mere personal vanity.

The condition of things which gave birth to Alpha Delta Phi has in a measure passed away. The little band of five who met secretly in Hamilton College have now their names first upon a list of three thousand, many of which are famous and honored throughout the land. The little faintly twinkling star that then trembled and flickered in doubtful uncertainty has grown to a star of the first magnitude. The Fraternity from its humble beginning has assumed such proportions and acquired a prosperity so wide spread and apparently permanent, that it will probably outlive all of those who are now enrolled upon its lists, and extend to generations to follow the blessings of which we have been the favored recipients.

The average college student who has had no advantages, except those of the college course, commonly goes forth into the world unfitted for it. In the cloister life there is very great temptation to become narrow, bigoted and conceited. Forgetting that learning is never a worthy end, but only a means to other ends, he lifts himself upon his narrow pedestal in the exclusiveness of little greatness, and effectually repels all the sympathies and regards of men. Very many of the failures of brilliant college scholars may be traced simply to this. The Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity holds the remedy. Let one and all assist her in giving to the members not merely intellectual culture and genial kindness, not merely strength of mind, but strength of character, to make of them scholars, gentlemen, good citizens, honest men.



*Brothers in front of the Goat House in 1944, according to Bill Arthur '44.*

*This photo (and others) was donated to the Phi by Tony Johnson '80 in memory of his late father, Fred Johnson '43.*



# In Memoriam — Remembering our Alpha Delt Brothers

**Austin W. Erwin Jr. '40**, a retired New York State Supreme Court Justice, passed away on June 7, 2009, in Sun City West, Arizona. Affectionately known by his friends as "Judge," he is survived by his wife, Lorna, and son, Austin Erwin III. Austin attended Cornell and then Albany Law. Austin also had great interest in horses, having owned, shown and ridden for many years. Austin became a Livingston County Court Judge and later Justice of the Supreme Court where he served for 13 years. After retiring he moved to Arizona; retirement and a life of golf wasn't enough so he and Lorna decided to become realtors for Ken Mead Realty.

**Robert I. Dodge III '59** (B.S. Arts), a former senior government official, author, U.S. Navy veteran and Alpha Delt stalwart, died December 6, 2008, of a heart attack. Bob held senior positions at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Resolution Trust Corp., where he was an innovator in federal public housing policy. In 2004 he authored *Rewire America*, a book about tax reform based on his 30 years of government service and long interest in economics and politics. After retiring from government he worked as a consultant to the governments of China, Indonesia and Suriname. Last year he was brought back to the FDIC to help with the current financial crisis.

A resident of Stafford, Virginia, Bob was a regular presence at periodic reunions of his '59 Alpha Delt brothers and their spouses.

He is survived by five children, a sister, six grandchildren, several cousins, including David Brown '58, and former wife, Margann Franzen Green.

**Robert J. Vinton '40** of Birmingham, Mich. passed away on March 20, 2006. He was the president of Vinton Realty. The November 1936 issue of *The Cornell Alpha Delt* features Bob as a pledge and indicated his interest in golf, rifle, and baseball. See:

<http://www.adphic Cornell.org/adphicor/files/ADP-1936-4-nov.PDF>

**Robert J. Woods Jr. '44**, passed away on June 23, 2009. Bob was ADPhi house president in 1943. In recent years, he lived in Pasadena, California, and was involved with the Whittier Energy Corp. He is survived by his loving family: his wife Wife, Laura-Lee; Son, Leland; Daughter, Laure; Granddaughters, Alexandra and Lauren.

Featured in  
*The Alpha Delt*, 1942:



From l. to r., Alpha Delt's Bob Woods, Ed Miller, Peter Nevius, and Frank Whittier as seen in the 1943 Cornellian.

## NECROLOGY

We regret to report the death of these additional alumni:

**Peter V. Cornell '58**  
on February 10, 2009

**Roger Evans '74**  
on August 14, 2009

**Eric Hans van Naerssen '96** died peacefully in his sleep on March 25, 2009, after a courageous battle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

From the start, Eric lived a life of high adventure. When Eric was five, his family moved to Beijing, where Eric attended a Chinese primary school and mastered Mandarin Chinese.

Between 1982 and 1986, the van Naerssens lived in Hong Kong and Singapore and traveled extensively in Asia. Eric became a competitive gymnast. By 1988, when his family returned to the States to settle near Philadelphia, Eric had developed a deep, life-long connection to the East.

Eric graduated from high school in the suburbs of Philly and went on to earn his bachelors degree in Asian Studies from Cornell University in 1996. Soon after college, Eric returned to China to work in Shanghai's booming commercial real estate business.

Dissatisfied with corporate culture, Eric struck out on a tour of Asia and his heart. Eric and a close companion bicycled nearly 1,000 miles through the Himalayan Mountains, traveling from Chengdu, China to Lhasa, Tibet. Eric continued on to Nepal, where he took up residence at the Kopan Monastery, a Buddhist center of learning. While there, Eric studied, meditated and wrote under the tutelage of Tibetan Buddhist monks. After Kopan, Eric explored India and again, lived, for a brief time, in a Nepalese monastery.

Eric's travels ultimately led him to Portland, Oregon. Eric attended Lewis and Clark Law School, where he studied the development of the rule of law in China.

On graduating from law school in 2004, Eric served briefly as a law clerk for the Multnomah County Circuit Court before starting his own practice. Just two years removed from law school, Eric hung out his own shingle and cultivated both local and international clients. Eric's eclectic clientele ranged from local arts and media venues to massive Chinese law firms. Eric's professional accomplishments culminated in his association as "of counsel" with Swider Medeiros Haver LLP and in his seat on the Northwest China Council's board.

A man of vast imagination, Eric's passions included writing, yoga, reading science fiction, and playing Dungeons & Dragons. A deep respect for Buddhism led Eric to strive to employ compassion at every turn. He dedicated himself to listening. His gentle wisdom was a gift to everyone he touched, as was his independent thinking and sense of exploration.

Eric spent the last year of his life at turns valiantly fighting, then peacefully coming to terms with, his illness. He died having made an incalculable impact on his family, friends, and the world community. He took with him our love, respect, and admiration.

In April, Eric's family and friends paid tribute to him by hanging a prayer ring loaded with vibrantly colored fabric strips in a secluded spot in the Columbia River Gorge. Each strip of fabric hand-tied to the ring embodied a thought, wish, or prayer Eric helped make possible for his multitude of friends. Even in death, Eric continues to invite possibilities and inspire new beginnings.



Eric van Naerssen '96

Adapted from  
The Oregon Bar Journal

# News From Our Alumni

**Robert Henry Herrmann '41** reports, "I'm writing from my new 'digs' aboard a cruise ship, the *S.S. Broadmead*, which is moored in the Cockeysville, Maryland, area. I have a nice stateroom with my own furniture, pastel portraits of Leith and Wes, scenes that I painted with a palette knife, electronic gear such as TV, computer, reading machine, and microwave, and a balcony overlooking a beautiful scene of woodlands. Although my cruise ship doesn't move, I can take side trips to interesting parts of the countryside as one might do with any cruise ship. I took a side trip to Pennsylvania to visit the Amish people and have lunch in an Amish farmhouse. Another side trip is a monthly visit to the Baltimore Symphony on a bus provided by the *S.S. Broadmead*. A recent highlight was the wedding of my granddaughter, Charlotte, to Richard Ilczuk in September 2008 in the St. Paul's School chapel in Brooklandville, Maryland. For entertainment we have movies twice a week in the auditorium plus lectures and play readings by residents every month. Some of the plays are written by residents. I write essays that I read at the writers' group that meets weekly, and I attend an art class here. I am learning to paint with a palette knife. For those of us who like music we have a concert in the auditorium every Sunday afternoon. Fortunately I have no major responsibilities other than taking my many medications, measuring my blood sugar, and injecting insulin four times a day. I enjoy my *S.S. Broadmead* home and take pleasure in wishing you all the best." Find Robert at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] count VP for engineering. I'm now enjoying retirement with my wife, Georgia (Cornell KAT '47). We were planning to visit my 60th reunion this summer." Send e-mail to [REDACTED]

**Robert N. Post '51** lives at [REDACTED]. He writes, "This July, five members of the [REDACTED] gathered in Boothbay, Maine, for a delightful few days of reunion, courtesy of **Bob Entenman** and his wife, Anne. Besides Bob, there were **Jim Thomas**, Nancy and **Newt Thomas**, Ginny and **Don Read**, and Jane and **Bob Post**. They had a marvelous time touring the local sights by car and boat as well as renewing the ties that bind that started 63 years ago in the fall of '46 when they were first pledges. I don't have a picture of all of us as a group. If anyone has one, please send it to [REDACTED] *Cornell Delt* for publication." Send e-mail to Bob at [REDACTED]

**John J. Post '57** writes, "Every year for the past 40 years a group of Cornell folks gather to play a game of croquet, which is really just a time for old friends and wives to be together. Last year it was at the home of **Jim Hunt '58**, in Booth Bay Harbor. This year, the reunion was held at the home of **Mal Johnston '58** in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts. It was a soggy day this year but we play regardless of weather. Mal got home first and played 'poison' but Dan evaded [REDACTED]



From l. to r., Don Marshall '58, Bob Bryant '58, John Post '57, Mal Johnston '58, and Dan Hall '59 prepare for croquet in the rain.

[REDACTED] d to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Phil  
er (see: [www.wolfsondesign.com](http://www.wolfsondesign.com)).  
Phil is participating in Brad Pitt's philanthropy to help the people of [REDACTED]rn, safe, 'green' dwellings. Send e-mail to [REDACTED]

**Darren M. Starr '92** writes, "I've been living in London for 10 years with my beautiful wife, Katie, and our two daughters, Zofia and Olivia. It has been a long road but I have survived the credit crunch and am still running money for UBS. I hope that over the next year my hedge fund will get off the ground. If you ever see [REDACTED]nd,' please say hello." Reach Darren by e-mail at [REDACTED]

**William M. R. Kendall '02** writes, "I was glad to open up and read the latest edition of the Phi newsletter upon my arrival from work. Unfortunately, Brother **Robert Dunn '02** was omitted from being recognized as a returning alumni brother for Spring Initiation '09. He made a tremendous effort as games chair in 2000 and beyond. Thank you [REDACTED]m Michael Ridley Kendall '02." E-mail William at [REDACTED]

**Nicholas P. Kohan '03** writes, "I attended the wedding of **Jordan Tarry '02** in Nassau, Bahamas, to Angela Dunnington. Also in attendance were **Keith Greene '04**, **Beve Guijarro '03**, **M. Scott Berkowitz '03**, **Eric Willenbacher '02**, **Dan Dicapite '04**, **Drew Butler '02**, **Rob Dunn '02**, **Josh Deutsch '02**, **Julian Asano '03**, **Bill Kendall '02**, **Kevin Robinson '02**, **August Roth '01**, and **Scott Ro** [REDACTED]

## A Note From Johnny Russo

Howie:

Thank you very much for your willingness to let brothers know about the release of my new "All Original" CD. Please give my regards to all the guys and their gals from over the many years. Those Victory Club balls, the Homecoming Saturday Nights, Parents Nights, and downstairs at Ruloff's... raising hell while I softly played dinner on the upper level... a very important link to my survival as a full time performing musician in this little town. Brothers can e-mail me at [russo4414851@yahoo.com](mailto:russo4414851@yahoo.com) or see [www.watershed-arts.com/russo.html](http://www.watershed-arts.com/russo.html).

Sincerely, Johnny Russo



## The Cornell Alpha Delt

Published by the Cornell Chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity at Cornell University for its members, alumni, and friends. News contributions and photos are welcome. Please address all correspondence to the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.