



Gamma Contact

of

Phi Sigma Kappa

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

FALL 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: NEW DIRECTORS JOIN BOARD

Dear Brothers,

The past 12 months have comprised a clear building year for the Gamma Chapter House Association. In October 2009, the association installed a new board. In the ensuing months, that board has developed a strategic focus on issues that will enhance the viability of the Gamma Chapter House as a first-class residence for our undergraduate fraternity members for years to come. At the same time, board member Mike Weiss '06 started an alumni involvement committee designed to create events and services that are specifically crafted to add value to a continued commitment by alumni members of the association.

Separately, board member Steve Hall '56 completed several years of effort to create an endowment fund structure to help subsidize capital improvements in the years ahead. Thirty-one brothers from the '40s, '50s, and '60s provided seed money for the initial phase. The brothers of the future will owe a debt of gratitude, to all those who

stepped up with contributions, for their vision. Along with our regular final list of donors, we have included a separate list of all the brothers who chose to support this new fund for the benefit of future generations of Phi Sigs.

Looking to 2010–2011, we have three new directors joining the board of the Gamma Chapter House Association. Bob Chase '59, Steve Fontana '79, and "Chick" Ver Valen '52 are all leaving the board, but will be joining a committee specifically involved in guiding some of the significant capital improvements that will be needed in the near future. They chose to move in this direction for a variety of reasons, but they all deserve our thanks for their efforts in guiding the chapter.

The three new directors provide the board with additional perspective on how to manage the association. Dan Satnick '12 is the current president of the undergraduate brotherhood. Dan has been managing the chapter since December of last year. He

speaks with authority for the undergraduate brothers and knows firsthand what areas of the house need attention.

The next new director is Kris Reichardt '06. While at Cornell, he was a member of the Greek honor society, Order of Omega, and Navy ROTC, and a staff writer for the *Daily Sun*. Upon graduation, Kris was commissioned an ensign, and after two deployments in support of the Global War on Terror and serving with NATO maritime forces, he completed a department head tour with the cyclone patrol, conducting maritime patrol and anti-piracy operations.

Upon release from active duty in June 2010, Kris returned to Ithaca to pursue a Master of Industrial and Labor Relations degree at the NYS ILR School. Having returned to Ithaca, he provides us with a perspective that combines his relatively recent graduation with day-to-day access to the house, so that he can respond to any

(continued on page five)



Work has been done over the summer to improve the condition of the roof of our chapter house at 702 University Ave.

HAPPENINGS AT THE HOUSE: FALL SEMESTER OFF TO A STRONG START

Brothers of Gamma Chapter,

Hello again from the current undergraduate brothers of the Gamma Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa! My name is Dan Satnick and I am currently in my second semester as fraternity president. I am a double major in biology and biometry in CALS.

The fall semester is off to a great start. There is a great sense of unity and camaraderie in the fraternity this year. There is especially great chemistry among the group of sophomores and juniors living in the house. We have 23 members living in the house. This means that each brother has a single and all the rooms are filled. Additionally, the house managers—Scott Bergman '13 and Joe Blau '13—have shown great initiative in improving the house. They spearheaded a house project in which the back hallway was repainted and epoxy was laid down on the floor. Additionally, the chapter room walls were sanded and stained a lighter color in order to brighten up the room. Another house improvement is the installation of a dry-erase board on the landing between the first and second floors. This has facilitated communication and increased attendance at house events.

The main room has also become more of a social gathering area. It is common to find brothers playing pool, ping-pong, or poker; doing coursework; or just having

conversations in the main room during the later hours of the day. There is also a strong academic environment in the house once again this semester. Many brothers often go to the library together after dinner. However, I assure you all that we have not forgotten how to have a good time. We held our annual "Escape" party during the first week of classes, and it was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and many of the brothers were able to meet members of the freshman class. I believe the house has a strong reputation on campus and we are headed in an excellent direction.

Our two social chairs, Jacob Christ '13 and Carlos Cancela '13, have scheduled many great mixers and events with sororities for this semester. One of the highlights was a delicious barbecue mixer. Homecoming formal was also outstanding this year. It was great to see many recent alumni back at the house. All the brothers are looking forward to the annual Oktoberfest party later in the semester, and we are sure that it will continue the trend of successful events.

We are currently in the process of planning a big philanthropy event for late October. The event is called "Polar Plunge" and was proposed by Scott Bergman '13. The idea is for people to donate money to Special Olympics (our national philanthropy organization) and then everyone will jump

into either Beebe Lake or Cayuga Lake in a display of support for the Special Olympics. We have very high expectations for this event and hope to make it an annual function. The brothers in the house have also participated in the IFC-sponsored "Collegietown Cleanup," in which we helped to clean up the streets of Collegetown. Additionally, we plan on helping out during "Into the Streets," which aims at improving the areas around Ithaca by planting trees and bushes.

Overall, the semester is going very well, and I expect the trend to continue. We have a great group of men, and the atmosphere in the house is excellent. Everyone is excited about improving the house and making the most out of the year. On a side note, I would like to thank the board of directors for accepting me as a member. I will serve a one-year term, and I am excited to help the house in a different capacity when my term as undergraduate president is up. I hope this issue of the *Gamma Contact* finds you all well, and please stop by the house next time you are up in Ithaca!

If you would like to contact me, you can e-mail me at dbs93@cornell.edu.

Damn Proud,
Dan Satnick '12
Undergraduate President

AN IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING RUSH PROCEDURES

Gentlemen:

As you may be aware, sweeping changes are coming to the Greek system. Dean Kent Hubble, Vice President Susan Murphy, and Assistant Dean of Students Travis Apgar have proposed three bullet points to add in to the university's recognition policy. They removed alcohol from new member recruitment and education, while examining Cornell's anti-hazing policies.

As the rush chairs of Phi Sigma Kappa, we are now looking into alternative methods of recruitment, both in the fall semester and during Rush Week itself. While the

changes are staggered, we want to make sure we assimilate ourselves to handle these impending changes. For 2009-'10, we recruited 23 new men, and hope to have a similar result this year. However, in addition to traditional recruitment methods, we have begun to brainstorm alternative and creative recruitment strategies.

We are taking philanthropy very seriously, not only creating our own events, but advocating participation in all other fraternity and sorority philanthropy events. With our letters more visible on campus, we are more likely to attract attention.

We also have a committee to brainstorm events once Rush Week does go dry. We are looking into paintball, go-carting, and other non-alcoholic events available around the time of rush week. Discussions will continue as the changes draw closer.

For more information on the policy changes, please visit <http://cornellsun.com/section/news/content/2010/08/25/university-cracks-down-drinking-greek-system>.

Fraternally,
Mike Mascarenhas '11, Ryan Engler '11,
and Christopher Boyle '11

Gamma Contact

This newsletter depends, in part, on alumni participation. Please complete your newsform today and submit it to the address below. The *Gamma Contact* is published by the Gamma Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity at Cornell University for alumni and friends. News and pictures are welcome and should be sent to Alumni Records Office, Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

ALUMNI AND ACTIVES GATHER FOR HOMECOMING 2010

Over the weekend of September 24–26, Phi Sigma Kappa hosted their annual Homecoming festivities. Alumni from years past made the trek to Ithaca to participate in reunions, the charitable golf tournament, and to attend the Homecoming formal. Many alumni came to see the chapter house and were markedly impressed by the recent renovations made throughout the house.

The annual alumni golf tournament, affectionately known as the Gannon Tournament, was one of the many highlights from the weekend. Alumni and current brothers participated in the daylong event which was eventually won by Austin Lord '08 in a close contest. (See photos on page six.)

Following the tournament, the current undergraduate brothers held the annual homecoming. Many brothers from the graduating class of '09 came back to celebrate, as well as other brothers from recent graduating classes. Brothers and their dates were impressed with both the cooking of chef Arthur Birnbaum and the poetic reading by current undergraduate president Daniel Satnick '12.

All in all, the weekend was a great success and a memorable experience for everyone. Current in-house brothers got a taste of life in Phi Sig from the years prior, and realized how much current and past brothers have in common in terms of traditions and daily life.

Damn Proud,
Matt Bonta '13



Phi Sig Brothers and their dates at the Homecoming formal.

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT ON MICHAEL FINLEY '73

Michael Finley came to Cornell from Staten Island, New York, in 1969, alongside his two good friends, John Aruny '73 and Alfonso Fressola '73. With no intention of joining a fraternity initially, the trio ended up joining Phi Sigma Kappa together. Michael graduated four years later in 1973 with a degree in mathematics, but not before living in Phi Sig's house for three years; holding the positions of rush chair, inductor, and vice president; and completing four years of Navy ROTC.

Michael was far from alone, as many brothers of Phi Sig were in Navy ROTC, though the college riots across the nation—and specifically at Cornell in the early 1970s—made it a difficult time to be in ROTC. Nevertheless, he was prepared for a job in the Navy upon graduation in 1973, as the Vietnam War was coming to a close. Michael attended minesweeper school in Charleston, South Carolina, and then continued on to Guam, where he met the Minesweeper USS Engage (MSO-433) and stayed in the Pacific for about year. Michael would continue his studies several years later at the Naval Postgraduate

School in Monterey, California, where he graduated with a Master of Science degree with distinction in operations research. He was also awarded the Chief of Naval Operations Award for Excellence in Operations Research, and was thus admitted to the Scientific Honorary Society. Michael also served on the USS Gato (SSN-615), a nuclear submarine, and two aircraft carriers. In addition, he had numerous shore assignments around the country, as well as a number of assignments in Washington, D.C.

More would come out of Michael's time in the Navy than a series of schools, ships, and shore duty. In 1977, he met his wife-to-be, Lindyll, at the Navy Ships Parts Control Center in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. They were married three years later at Carlisle Army War College. They would go on to have a son, Edward, who would follow his father's footsteps by attending Cornell University, graduating in 2008.

All in all, Michael spent around 30 years in the Navy, traveling frequently. In 1990, he was on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), which was located in the Mediterranean

Sea at the time. On August 2, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, beginning the Persian Gulf War, and the Eisenhower's proximity to the area prompted Michael's immediate involvement in Operation Desert Shield, where he was in charge of battle group logistics. His time in the Navy came to a close in 2003, when he retired having acquired the rank of two-star admiral.

Following his retirement in the Navy, Michael began working for PRTM Management Consultants. He is now a partner in the firm, and in fact, five of the 100 partners at the firm are Cornell Alumni. (They recruit at Cornell, have about 20 CU alumni in the firm, and would happily employ more—hint, hint!) Although both his time in the Navy and his work for the firm have given him the privilege to travel extensively, he currently lives in Annapolis, Maryland, which he is happy to call home. Mike stays in touch with Bill Miller '73, Jim Felley '73, Tom Scarpelli '73, Fred Brunk '73, and John Aruny '73.

Damn Proud,
Max Klefstad '13

We would like to thank the following donors for their support during the 2009-'10 fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010.

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We would like to thank the following donors for their support of the new Endowment Fund.

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ROGER NEWEL '66
RICHARD T. HOPPE '67

PHI SIG ALUMNI REPORT THEIR NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Get in touch with **Stanley Russell Thorne '42**, now retired, by writing to him at 9900 Rosamond Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134.

Reconnect with **Clifford F. Evans '54**, by writing to 40 Hunters Circle, Lebanon, NJ 08833; or e-mailing cliffevens1@comcast.net.

Recently returned from visiting his daughter in Colleyville, Texas, **Robert W. George '57** wrote, "It was our first trip to many of the states we have flown over, but never really saw. There were some wonderful sights! We are still in the throes of moving out of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where we have lived for 40 years. Moving assets between countries has been challenging and frustrating at times. I hope to make it back for alumni weekend in October 2010!" Catch up with Robert at 22 Marigold Dr., Unit 25, Bellingham, WA 98229, or b-george@comcast.net.

"My wife, Lucy, and I had a great visit with **James 'McP' McPartland '61** in Baltimore in early April," wrote **Frederick "Ted" Pease '61**. "McP and I were roommates at the house for 1959-'60 and 1960-'61. Jim is now a professor of sociology and the director of the Center for Social Organization of Schools at John Hopkins University. For those of you who remember McP, you will be happy to know that he is in good health and is as feisty as ever! He was a gracious host, showing us several of the eating and drinking haunts that he frequents, as well

as driving us around the historic Baltimore waterfront. For myself, I am enjoying my retirement from teaching at Berklee College of Music, and I remain active as a composer and jazz record producer in Boston." See what Ted has been up to by checking out his website at www.tedpease.com; writing to him at 66 Pilgrim Rd, Natick, MA 01760; or e-mailing him at ftpease@netscape.net.

G. Warren Chane Jr. '68 joined the U.S. State Department in September 2006, "I served two years as an economic officer at the embassy in London. I am currently serving as a management officer/vice-consul in Hermosillo, Mexico. My wife, Victoria, volunteers at the mission and sometimes works as a diplomatic courier." Ask Warren about his life in Mexico at chanew@earthlink.net.

Catch up with **Jeffrey P. Christian '73** by writing to him at 105 Shepards Way, Coatesville, PA 19320, or e-mail him at mail@efchristian.com.

David Roth '75 wrote to us this past April and was very excited about an upcoming reunion for the class of '75 he was intending to host at his own home. He also mentioned that he would be interested in participating in career networking, should any opportunities arise; his experience lies in automotive engineering. Ask him at his reunion event or about his career interests by writing to him at 64 Walden Ln., Groton, NY 13073, or droth3@twcny.rr.com.

Last year, **Thomas Mitchell '77** became president and CEO of the largest public utility company in Ontario, Canada. "I manage a fleet of 10 nuclear plants, 64 hydroelectric stations, and 19 thermal units. Linda and I moved to downtown Toronto!" See how Thomas and his wife enjoy their new home by writing to them at 558 Bedford Park Ave., Toronto, ON M5M 1K3, Canada, or mitchtn@adelphia.net.

Now a colon and rectal surgeon in Boston, Massachusetts, **Joel Goldberg '88** assured us that his wife, Hilary, and children, Emily and Sam, are all doing well. He and his family visit with **Eric Bobby's** ('88) family a few times per year. He also sends best wishes for a successful year to all his brothers! See how successful his own year has been by writing to him at 19 Hornsby Ln., Needham, MA 02494, or joelgmd@comcast.net.

Jeffrey "Marmaduke" Earle '92 sends his greetings! Reconnect with him at 24 Sherwood Rd., Pound Ridge, NY 10576, or jeffreyearle@hotmail.com.

Congratulations to **Joseph W. Sobota '03** and his wife, Ceci! Joseph wrote to us in April to share that he and Ceci were expecting their first child, Joseph Dorian. "I can't wait to teach him pong and anchorman!" Ask Joseph about his family by writing to 547 Onward Ave., Phoenixville, PA 19460, or joewsobota@gmail.com.

Reconnect with **Collin Weber '08** by writing to 816 N. Oakland St., Apt. 303, Arlington, VA 22203, or e-mailing cdw36@cornell.edu.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from page one)

emergencies that might develop over the school year.

Our third new director is John "Pete" Haynes. Pete is in Cornell's class of '55/'56 in electrical engineering. He went west to pursue an MSEE degree from Stanford in 1958, while working at Stanford Research Institute with Doug Engelbart—the inventor of the computer mouse.

After being Involved in several startup ventures in Silicon Valley, he joined Becton Dickinson as chief engineer of their Palo Alto labs, formed BD's monoclonal anti-

body division, and developed the first whole blood platelet analyzer. Later, he relocated back east to the Research Triangle Park area of North Carolina in 1979 to become director of BD's corporate research center. He holds more than 20 U.S. patents, and numerous foreign patents.

As we move forward with fiscal year 2010-2011, I feel that we have a very solid team in place to guide and protect the interests of the Gamma Chapter House Association.

Fraternally,
Bill Miller '73

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

Wilfrid C. Jervis '54

Ross G. Hoffman '59

Robert L. Potter '63

John T. Carr '80

SNAPSHOTS FROM HOMECOMING AND REUNION 2010



Donald Sutherland '49, Jeff Margolis '79, Mike Tiffany '75, Bob Chase '59, and Ron Obermeyer '60.



Bill Longhi '75 and his wife, Janice.



Gathering on the porch at Homecoming.



Geoff Goldberg '89, Doug Ringel '88, Joe Dobrenski '90, Mike Rosenblatt '90, and Ben Lieber '90.



Alumni prepare for the annual Gannon Golf Tournament at Reunion.



Undergraduates and alumni gearing up for the Gannon Tournament.