

# CAYUGAN

PHI DELTA THETA | NEW YORK ALPHA



**PHIL • ANTHROPY**  
**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON**  
**PHIL BARTELS '71**  
**STORY ON PAGE 3.**



## FROM THE EDITOR



Andrew  
Bridson

We are pleased to introduce you to our latest edition of *Cayugan*. Last fall, I wrote to you about embarking on a new mission for our newsletter, to bring an enhanced spotlight on the activities of our alumni and to delve into updates on campus in a way that makes *Cayugan* a better read and, we hope, a better project.

We heard from many of you how much you appreciated the renewed focus on our alumni. This has only been possible because of the news, stories, and photos that you have shared with us. Thank you for continuing to respond to us with content. We know that it has been a difficult year for many, and so we recognize that the events, parties, and gatherings that typically occur throughout a year were likely put on pause. We hope that everyone can safely return to normalcy and brotherhood in the future, and remember to send us updates if you see your fellow Phis over the summer.

*Cayugan* will be working on two new projects in the coming months, and I am excited to share them with you.

Our next project is to revamp our website to ensure that it is more engaging. It has been underutilized in the past, and so, if you were unaware that we maintained one, I don't fault you for that. If you have an interest in helping us with this project, please reach out to me; we'd love to have you join the team.

Additionally, we are looking to spotlight Phis in certain fields for our future issues of *Cayugan*. Our fall issue will delve into "Spotlight: Creatives," so if you are involved in creating (whether that is media, visual arts, entrepreneurship, etc.) or know a brother who you think should be featured, send me an email and let me know. We anticipate future editions that focus on medicine, finance, technology, engineering, philanthropy, and other services.

Stay well.

Andrew Bridson '11 (adb96@cornell.edu)

## SPECIAL NOTE

### FROM THE HOUSING CORPORATION PRESIDENT JON BELLANTE '06

In our last edition, I wrote to you in a special note about how the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant effects had an impact on the corporation's finances. We faced a dramatic increase in expenses at the same time that our incoming funds decreased.

I was amazed by the support that we received from all of you. As a result of your help, we were able to close nearly half of the shortfall that we faced. Thank you to all alumni, parents, and friends who helped us this year. We have many loyal donors whom we count on, and this year, we noticed an uptick in brothers who donated for the first time. It means a lot; you enabled us to support the undergraduate brothers and to maintain the house during this critical time.

On behalf of myself and the rest of the board, thank you!

## PRESIDENT: BROTHERHOOD PRESERVES ITS SOLID REPUTATION

BY EVEREST YAN



Everest  
Yan

Coming into this semester, I knew that this restricted term that was forced upon us would be a challenge for this brotherhood, but it has been one that I am proud to say the brotherhood has risen up to, exceeding even my high expectations.

Amid what has been an uncertain campus climate, our brothers have emerged as leaders in ensuring the safety and well-being of the brotherhood, an example for the Greek community.

This increased caution has not come at a cost however; I am happy to report that 10 new brothers were inducted into our chapter this past semester as the Beta Sigma pledge class.

Likewise, the pandemic has not inhibited us from maintaining our good relationships and regular communication with both GHQ and IFC; I'm certain that the admirable behavior of the brothers, in light of the pressure placed on them, has preserved the solid reputation that was transmitted unto us.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: PHIL BARTELS '71

When Cornell University recently announced that one of our own, Phil Bartels '71, had been selected as a recipient of the highest honor given to alumni volunteers, we were all thrilled—but not surprised.

Phil's influence on the Cornell community and Phi Delta Theta has been felt across generations. For those of you who were in and around the chapter nearly six decades ago, you probably remember Phil the undergraduate; some of the stories that he has told of his time on campus are well received. However, inside 2 Ridgewood Road, it is his legacy as an alumnus that casts the longest shadow.

It's hard to find one area of the house that Phil has not positively impacted. The physical items are certainly visible: a retaining wall to prevent the house from sliding off the hill, a restored piano in the Great Hall, the restoration of the Shields Room in honor of Jerry Shields, the modern wi-fi system and increased capabilities to support remote learning, and most notably, a high-tech library that bears his name. I can recall when Brother Ivan Dashkov '11 suggested naming the library in his honor, as a result of his work establishing the NYAEFI, the purchase of new tables, and the installation of new doors and windows. There was unanimous consent to do so, and we wanted to make sure that the plaque that was added came from brotherhood funds as a small indication of our gratitude.

In their statement recognizing Phil, Cornell noted the many ways that his generosity is seen across campus: the Lab of Ornithology, the men's and women's swimming and diving teams, the Paleontological Research Institution, and the Cornell Shoals Marine Laboratory. Many undergraduates' first registration

occurs in Bartels Hall. This has earned Phil the distinction as a Cornell foremost benefactor. Cornell also notes that his generosity has extended to his home community through his affiliations with the Greenwich Audubon Society and at the University of New Haven.



However, for those of us volunteers, what is most impressive about Phil is the commitment of his time. We have come to rely on his expertise in countless areas. From troubleshooting internet access problems and diving deeper into the workings of wireless access points than perhaps he did in

the pool, to representing the chapter with the local preservation committee's often-contradictory building regulations, Phil has stepped up and found solutions.

Phil is a humble, kind, practical leader, who's dependability is never in question. When Phil agrees to take something on, there is a relief from undergraduates and alumni alike, because there is a confidence not only that the project will be done but that it will be done at the highest level and with no compromises. He approaches these problems with a personal touch, and even the most mundane chore can be made better as a result of his involvement. Phil's homecoming visits to campus represented some of the greatest memories for the undergraduates, as he would host a dinner for alumni volunteers and the undergraduate chapter leadership.

Cornell's announcement notes that he is a friend and advisor to deans, directors, professors, and countless students. We are deeply honored to be able to add the title "brother" to that list.

Thank you, Phil, for all that you do, and congratulations from all of us.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS: SAFE TALKS

BY ALAN LI



Alan Li

This semester was the first semester of Phi Delt Safe Talks! Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been difficult for brothers living in and out of the house to maintain their mental health while in isolation, especially with the stress that comes with rigorous Cornell curricula. Phi Delt Safe Talks is a program that was started for brothers to talk about anything that's been troubling them in a safe, confidential environment. The program is still working to get off the ground, but we hope that this will significantly improve the mental health of the brothers of Phi Delta Theta NYA!





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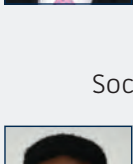


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## PHILANTHROPY: A POSITIVE IMPACT

JACK NICHOLS, TOMMY BRADFORD, & JALEN THOMAS



Jack  
Nichols



Tommy  
Bradford



Jalen  
Thomas

During the fall semester of 2020, Phi Delta Theta held several new fundraising events. The first was for the Weekend to End Homelessness, which raised \$270 to distribute basic necessities to the homeless in Los Angeles. A month later, 10 members of the brotherhood

helped build affordable housing in Ithaca with Habitat for Humanity. Then, before Thanksgiving break, we partnered with Chipotle to fundraise for the Loveland Foundation, which generated \$300 to provide free therapy sessions for Black women and girls.

This spring, we plan to expand our positive impact on Ithaca and beyond. Similar to past semesters, we're organizing a COVID-19 fundraiser with the Community Foundation of Tompkins County and Phi Sigma Sigma, and our brotherhood will be volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. Phi Delta Theta will also be fundraising for Students Helping Honduras, an on-campus organization working to alleviate extreme poverty and violence in Honduras through education and youth empowerment.



## DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: BUILDING A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE BROTHERHOOD

BY HENRY LAVACUDE-COLA



Henry  
Lavacude-Cola

This last semester, our house worked collaboratively to craft a clearly codified diversity and inclusion position into our chapter bylaws. This position and its new responsibilities, including planning events and working with other diversity and inclusion organizations on

campus, will ensure our chapter upholds its commitment to building a safe and inclusive brotherhood. I look forward to working with the rest of the brotherhood to accomplish this goal!



## HOUSE MANAGER: HOUSE SEES MANY IMPROVEMENTS

BY TOMMY BRADFORD



Tommy  
Bradford

Thanks to the brotherhood's hard work and persistence through COVID's challenges, the house has seen a lot of improvements. In fall 2020, a lot had to be adjusted to meet safety standards; for example, instead of brothers all coming to the house on one day for cleanings, we developed a new system that divides cleaning tasks throughout the week, greatly reducing the risk of infections.

Thanks to our work, in fall 2020, we had zero COVID cases in the house. And, although we have been following new safety guidelines, brothers have still been able to hang out, playing pool and video games—and Dylan Mack has been making a lot of use of the piano we refurbished in spring 2020! If we put in the same effort for spring 2021, I believe we will have another safe and enjoyable semester.

In terms of house improvements, we have refinished and reinforced the dining-hall tables. We are also in the process of getting new, fire-proof curtains for the Great Hall, which a lot of brothers are looking forward to. Inspections have also gone well—Logan Schuh has been a great help,

assisting with different inspections, as well as doing quick fixes around the house.

Starting in fall 2021, the house will be hosting around 20 brothers (depending on how spring rush goes). Fingers crossed: enough of us will be safely vaccinated by then, and the brotherhood will be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner together in a newly decorated Great Hall.

I'm proud of what the brotherhood has accomplished despite the tough circumstances, and I believe we're on track for a great future.



### *The Chapter Advisory Board welcomes the addition of Andrew Petterson and Cole Johnston.*

If you are a recent alumnus and are interested in joining us, reach out to Dan Dworakowski for more information: [dd426@cornell.edu](mailto:dd426@cornell.edu).

## GREATNESS



### PETER BELL '86

Congratulations to Brother Peter Bell, whose work as an advocate and business executive earned him recognition in Phi Delta Theta's national publication, *The Scroll*. Peter has had a significant impact, improving the lives of others through various roles in the nonprofit and public-service areas.

Peter served as president and CEO of Cure Autism Now, one of the country's first

autism advocacy organizations, from 2004 to 2007. He championed the passage of federal legislation, including the Combating Autism Act. He then served as executive vice president of Autism Speaks, and then president and CEO of Eden Autism. He has been president and CEO of Ascendigo since May 2017. The vision of Ascendigo is to build upon a proven model that allows individuals with autism to thrive, reaching their potential within the communities where they live, work, and play, regardless of their challenges. Peter uses the education

he received from Cornell's School of Hotel Administration and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern in combination with the personal connection of being a parent to a child with autism.

President Barack Obama recognized Peter's talents and appointed him to the Presidential Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Peter's public service also includes founding and chairing the consumer advisory committee of the International Society for Autism Research and serving as the vice

*Continued on next page.*



chair of the Autism Research Program at the Department of Defense.



## **MICHAEL BEYMAN '10**

Mike Beyman was nominated for greatness based upon his professional success and commitments to giving back to the community. Both as a business leader and a Cornell volunteer, Mike works to deliver positive impacts on organizations.

Currently, Mike is the senior director of strategy and operations for Conde Nast Entertainment, where he leads development of long-range planning, strategic opportunity development, IP monetization, and operational improvement for Conde Nast's digital-video, audio, television, and film production team. Previously, Mike was a consultant with McKinsey and Company, where he primarily focused

Peter's fraternity brothers also note their gratitude for his organization of a

on media transformation and innovation.

Earlier in his career, he was a field producer for CNBC Business News, producing award winning documentaries on topics of economic interest, including on prisons housing white-collar criminals, cannabis in Colorado one year after legalization, and the treasure hunt at Costco Wholesale. While at CNBC, Mike's work was nominated for an Emmy. Many of his fraternity brothers reflect fondly of his time at CNBC, where he was always willing to provide a tour of the studios at 30 Rock and to treat students to a meal in the employee commissary.

Mike remains a committed Cornell alumni volunteer. In addition to his support and mentorship of brothers, he serves on the board of the student radio station WVBR, where, as a student, he was news director,

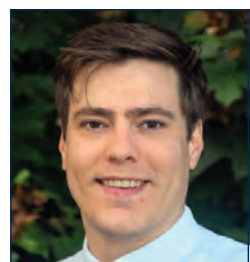
Colorado ski trip for several Phis from the classes of 1984–1986.

oversaw weekend talk programming, and served as the station's outreach to the Cornell and Ithaca communities.

After graduating from Cornell with an economics degree in 2010, Mike received his MBA from Columbia Business School in 2017. Mike lives in Connecticut with his husband, Josh, who is pursuing a master's degree in social work while actively counseling young people to help better their community. Mike and Josh are devoted parents to their mini Australian shepard, Pepper.



Michael Beyman with his husband, Josh.



## **IAN KREHER '10**

Ian Kreher has been a faculty member at Spring-side Chestnut Hill Academy, an elite Philadelphia preparatory school, since 2014. He teaches mathematics to the school's top students, including courses such as multivariable calculus and linear algebra. He also serves as a mentor in the school's business and entrepreneurship program. Unlike most traditional high schools, students at SCH are given a full semester to pursue a passion project, and Ian works with the

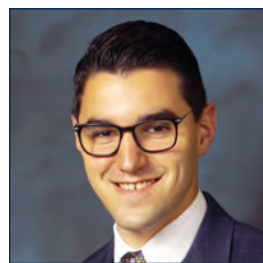
students who wish to develop and launch small businesses based around products or services that they design themselves.

In addition to these teaching duties, Ian is also the faculty mentor to the school's investment club. The students under his tutelage manage a portion of the school's endowment. "The idea came from my students, and it has been almost entirely student run ever since the program received board approval. It's extremely rewarding to see students use the market fundamentals that I teach them in order to be stewards of the endowment that

allows SCH to continue to operate independently," he said of the program.

Teaching through a pandemic has not been easy. Fortunately his school had equipped all students with a laptop and was able to smoothly transition into virtual learning. In the 2020 –2021 school year, they were able to bring all students back to campus with social distancing and other safety measures in place.

Ian lives in South Philadelphia with his wife, Genna, and two cats. He spends his free time gaming and touring craft breweries across the country.



## **MATTHEW KURTAS '14**

Brother Matthew Kurtas, certified sommelier, certified club manager, New York Alpha #1886, and Iron Phi #355, was tested in the waters of crisis

before the pandemic began in early 2020 as a business leader in the Pittsburgh area.

Kurtas, the general manager/chief operating officer of greater Pittsburgh's Edgeworth Club, took the job at a young 25 years old, using the knowledge he

learned of board relations and Roberts Rules from Phi Delta Theta, plus the lifetime of wisdom from his also-club-manager-father Michael T. Kurtas Jr., CCM, CCE. Kurtas's prior employment included learning and leadership at the prestigious

*Continued on next page.*

# GREATNESS *CONTINUED*

Union League Club of Philadelphia, the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club of Maine, and the exclusive Loxahatchee Club of Jupiter, Florida, founded 1985.

In a recent tests as a young leader in his current post, Kurtas took the job soon after a historic loss and claim related to a 330-year-old oak tree falling onto the building in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. He was hired as a change agent to rectify the club's budget, to improve the services of the club, and to develop a long-term capital plan for sustainability. Shortly into his term, after cleaning up the "oak tree incident" of 2017, Kurtas responded to a building crisis, where the ornate plaster ceiling in the rotunda lobby collapsed two stories to the marble floors below. Luckily, no one was hurt. Engaging crisis-management tactics, Kurtas oversaw \$560,000 in insurance disbursements, a communication and construction schedule, and restoration of the historic space

with marginal interruptions to operations and at no cost to his members. All this, just as the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the country in early 2020. Kurtas guided the club through multiple shutdowns and interruptions related to COVID-19 and remains the GM at the club to date.

In his time at Cornell University, Brother Kurtas devoted much of his studies to the business practices of private clubs and food and beverage operations at the School of Hotel Administration, as well as the practice of winemaking in the Finger Lakes Region at the Cornell School of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He has spoken to student groups and professionals about raising the bar, figuratively, when it comes to programming a proper wine list. In his volunteer commitments, Brother Kurtas is a member of the Pittsburgh Club Management Association of America, and he has five years of committee service to the national organization, the Club Management Association

of America, through which he is certified as a CCM. Kurtas continues to serve in his third year as a director on the board of directors for the International Wine Society of Club Managers. He is a member of the Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals and is currently pursuing his Certified Hospitality Accounts Executive designation. He uses his certified sommelier status through the Court of Master Sommeliers to help others find their passion for the world of beverage, particularly wine. While Kurtas enjoys volunteerism and certification, he notes most certificates are simply licenses to learn, giving yourself permission to fall in love with a topic over and over again.

To top things off, Matthew celebrates the 11-year anniversary of good health and recovery from brain surgery and a stroke this November of 2021! Kurtas resides in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, with his incredibly supportive wife, Alexis Marie Burns, and their sassy miniature Schnauzer, Ruby.



We would like to thank Norma Leary of Jamestown, Pennsylvania, for sending along a collection of photographs from her uncle, Brother Victor Hugo Erhart 1911. The collection that Norma shared with us ranges in date from 1907 through 1913 and are primarily composite photos of individual brothers. Each one is signed with "Yours in the Bond" and the nickname. We have republished a selection of the best maintained photographs here for your enjoyment.





# ALUMNI NEWS

**Clifton Ames '62** stays in contact with his fellow brothers via telephone. He reports on his recent contacts with **Larry Dunlap '62**, **Jay Keller '62**, **Jim Moore '62**, and **Richard Feliciano '64**: "All are healthy." Drop Clif a line to find how he's doing: [clif.ames@gmail.com](mailto:clif.ames@gmail.com); 94 Cherry Tree Ln., Reedville, VA 22539.

**Peter Behrle '72** moved to Amelia Island in late 2019. He reports that he spends time in the pool and on the golf course with **Steve Whitman '73**, who also lives on the island. He also gets frequent visits from **Dave Paddock '73** and his wife, Dee. "We all stay in touch with our old Cornell buddy, Gayle My Rita, who lives in Los Angeles." Stay in touch with Peter at [pbehrle11@icloud.com](mailto:pbehrle11@icloud.com) or at 280 Main St., Apt. 407, Little Falls, NJ 07424.

**Brad Hanpeter '80** writes: "Despite the pandemic, I had a fortuitous opportunity to safely spend a sunny September weekend with **Jose Rossi '80**, and **Bob Parry '80** aboard Bob's 42-foot trawler, *Robes*, which plies the waters of Lake Erie out of a home port in Sandusky, Ohio. It was simply awesome to be able to break away and spend some high-quality time on the water with these two fine gentlemen. Jose, who runs multiple construction companies doing business in Puerto Rico and the eastern US, happened to be visiting in Cincinnati (where I believe he also had a chance to see **Jim Patterson '80**). Captain Bob, of course, continues with his pediatric surgical practice in Akron. I drove down from my home in Farmington Hills, Michigan,



where I have a management-consulting practice, serving manufacturing and construction-related clients. Looking forward to safer times in 2021!" Reconnect with Brad at [brad\\_hanpeter@yahoo.com](mailto:brad_hanpeter@yahoo.com) or at 28011 Old Colony Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334.



In case you missed it, **John Lobosco '80** was recently featured in *The Wall Street Journal* to show off his COVID beard. John is a lawyer in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and used the pandemic restrictions as an opportunity to grow out his hair and rock his first long beard. John was quoted as saying, "Some people have said I look intellectual, like Hemingway; others are confusing me with the Unabomber." A photo of the new look is included. For those interested in reading the August 2020 article, see [www.wsj.com/articles/covid-lockdown-coronavirus-pandemic-gray-hair-dye-hairdresser-salon-beard-silver-roots-11597855742](http://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-lockdown-coronavirus-pandemic-gray-hair-dye-hairdresser-salon-beard-silver-roots-11597855742). You can also ask John how the beard is coming: [lobosco@maine.rr.com](mailto:lobosco@maine.rr.com); 21 Fessenden Rd., Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107.

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Paley '10**, who started a new job at Carollo Engineers Inc. Find out how he's enjoying the new work: [jeffrey.paley@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.paley@gmail.com); 7910 Graylock Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45243.



## DECEASED

We regret to report the deaths of:

**L. Peter Brink III '71**

February 27, 2019

**Watson G. Clark III '52**

October 30, 2020

**Lawrence H. Hughes '65**

June 17, 2020

**Frank W. Lynch Jr. '27**

January 1, 1977

**Douglas M. Matheson '59**

April 14, 2020



Brother **Dan Eichberg '11** enjoys holiday decorations on the National Mall.

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

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