



REUNION WEEKEND: PORCH PARTY 2012 RECAP

Dear Brothers,

We had a great Reunion Weekend porch party on Saturday, June 9. There was solid attendance from classes ending in 2 and 7, as well as a number of other brothers who rounded out the group. Robert Goldberg '87 received the award for traveling the farthest to attend Reunion as he and his entire family came all the way from Hawaii. Don Southerland '49, Henry "Chick" VerValen '52, Bob Chase '59, and Steve Fontana '79—as annual attendees—were there to greet all the brothers from the Reunion classes, sharing stories and comparing experiences. We will withhold the names to protect the guilty, but



Brothers from the class of 1982 (left to right): Matt Tanzer, Kurt Holstein, Malcolm Bock, Charlie Murgiano, and Kevin O'Dea.

out of one of these discussions came a story of how eight brothers, using their guile and brute strength, managed to move another brother's VW from the parking lot into the living room of

the chapter house to be found the following morning.

Based on the sign-in sheet, which is not a comprehensive listing, we saw Bob Menger '57, Frank Quirk and Bill Brozowski from '62, and Tom Gillespie '67 all return to represent their classes. The largest group included eight brothers from the class of '72 returning for their 40th Reunion. Following that group, we had five members from the class of '82, who returned for their 30th Reunion.

All the brothers and their families were treated to an excellent selection of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, as well as a wide variety of beverages. As conversations developed, it was amazing how quickly the years melted away, and friendships rekindled around the room.

As a final note, I would like to suggest that those of you who graduated from class years ending in 3 and 8 should begin planning for next year's Reunion. I have already heard from a representative of one class who is asking for contact information of brothers in his graduating class. This is the kind of advance planning that you may wish to consider. In this day and age of 24/7 commitments, you cannot start planning too soon if you hope to be able to get a large group of classmates to clear their schedules, travel to a remote location—like Ithaca—and have an opportunity to take advantage of all the Reunion festivities. If you need any help with class contact information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,
Bill Miller '73

President, Gamma Chapter House Association
41 Schindler Way
Fairfield, NJ 07004
(973) 287-6704
willie53@comcast.net



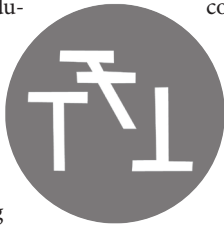
Class of 1972 brothers on the porch (left to right): Rick Krochalis, Gary Petti, Steve Sidner, John Dryden, Gene Weber, Al Arras, Frank Burke, and Dave McNeil.

INTRODUCING “A HOUSE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY” CAMPAIGN

Brothers,

As you think back to your years at Cornell, I am sure that you were always proud of our chapter house. Close your eyes and picture the beautiful, powerful, imposing structure that stood out among all the chapter houses on campus; savor the fond memories of your undergraduate years. The one flaw in this picture is the hostile environment of Upstate New York, and heavy use by an active, growing chapter has taken its toll on this fragile wooden structure. The current Gamma Chapter House Association board of directors has been trying to maintain the house through a variety of periodic improvements over the past two years as was done over the previous 18 years, but we have come to realize that we need to make some major capital improvements to preserve the building.

In 1989, a similar assessment was made; a group of very dedicated brothers came together and conducted a successful capital campaign to revitalize portions of the house. We are at the point where we need to undertake a similar effort. Following an evaluation by a professional architectural firm,



the board has identified six major capital projects that must be addressed. None of these projects could be completed on a timely basis solely utilizing the current cash flow of the association. We considered doing a series of capital campaigns over time to address each project individually, but we concluded this would be inefficient from a cost standpoint and disconcerting to the brotherhood. We decided that the best approach is to come to you only one time this generation to fix what needs to be fixed and create a “A House for the 21st Century,” of which we, as a brotherhood, can be proud.

We obtained estimates for the required renovations, and they total \$494,000. This significant amount cannot be raised without a lot of involvement from the brotherhood. I want you to know I am an old-school guy. I couldn't ask you for a dime if I hadn't put up money first, so I have given the first \$5,000 toward this renovation. This motivated four other committed Phi Sig alumni to give, and together, we have sufficient funds to more than cover the associated costs of the fundraising. Therefore, you can be assured that every dollar you

give will go directly to the capital improvements of the chapter house. Next, I would add that we have four early donors of significant amounts who have challenged others to join them with a significant gift in order to leverage the initial success of the campaign.

So, we are on our way, but we are still very much in the initial planning phase of the campaign and need your help. If you have any experience in raising funds, whether it was for your church, charity, private school, or some other cause, we would like to hear from you. I am very fortunate that the board happens to have a preponderance of business skills, legal acumen, and management capabilities that go far beyond what you would expect of a simple fraternal association, but charitable fundraising is an entirely different matter. We welcome your advice and input as we structure the final strategy of this campaign so that it best fits into the ethos of our brotherhood. We will keep you apprised of our progress, and—at the appropriate time—we will solicit you personally for your support.

Fraternally,
Bill Miller '73

President, Gamma Chapter House Association

THE GAMMA CHAPTER OF PHI SIGMA KAPPA STANDS OUT AT CORNELL WITH SUCCESSFUL EVENTS

Gamma Chapter Brothers,

As an engineering major, finishing my second year of studies, I am finding out that being the president of this fraternity can be quite a challenge, but all the more rewarding of an experience because of the challenges. This year has been one of the greatest of my life, and I am confident that the rest of the undergraduate brotherhood feels the same. If you have the chance to visit, one of the first things you will notice about the current brothers is the overall enthusiasm about being a Phi Sig that everyone has.

This is my first year living in the house, and one of the first things I noticed is that it's never quiet. Of course, we've had a chance to do our studies, but a lot of guys have found that the library is best for that sort of thing. With 26 men living in the house, there is never a dull moment in any of our lives. We began the semester with some house maintenance by repainting the main hallway and the chapter room before Rush Week. Rush Week came around, and our hard work paid off when 21 great young men signed their bids and decided to start their course in becoming a brother of the fraternity. Meanwhile, our ambition didn't stop there. The social scene of our mixers and parties moved away from the

main room to utilizing the great area downstairs. I'd be lying if I told you that we weren't inspired by the old scrapbooks from the '80s that are still up in the alumni closet on the third floor. Those guys sure look like they knew how to have a good time! We decided to put up a few TVs downstairs and even transformed the chapter room into a theater area, which has been great for showing movies during the week or a background music-video during a weekend party. All these additions have contributed to the brothers spending most of their time hanging out in the basement.

One of the biggest changes that the brothers went through this semester were the new rules that Cornell placed on the Greek system as a whole. All events that had new members (sororities and fraternities) had to be completely alcohol-free until April 1. Of course, we wanted all of our new members to be involved with most of our social events, so we had to be creative with our event themes. At first what seemed to be a daunting task ended up being a lot of fun trying many new ideas—something that Social Chairs Ryan Burkard '14 and Henry Medina '14 have always done well.

We put our philanthropy chair, Jay Edwards '14, up to a lot of work when he coordinated a

large-scale charity dinner with Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority. Not only was it a dry event with all the new members, but it raised a lot of money and awareness for AIDS. Additionally, the event helped our chapter gain awareness and respect from Cornell. Jay then coordinated the annual Winter Special Olympics trip with Pi Beta Phi. This all-day event was a great way to not only help out these athletes, but also improve relations across campus. He planned another charity dinner in Duffield Hall this past April, which raised money for building schools.

This semester has been great, and our brothers are very excited about the direction our house is going. While the changes in our Greek system may be challenging the rest of the fraternities on campus, we've been handling it much better than anyone could have expected. The brothers are finding a new sense of pride in being a member of this fraternity. A sense of pride that Cornell is starting to realize they cannot shutdown, and I am confident that it will continue for years to come. The next time you are in Ithaca, we would love for you to visit the house and meet all the current Gamma Chapter brothers.

Damn Proud,
Jon Nance '14
Undergraduate President

ALUMNI, PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS!



Henry Becker
ILR
New York City
Club baseball



Kyle Fitzgerald
Applied Econ. & Mgmt.
Dix Hills, NY
Mutual Investment
Club, orientation leader



David Makee
Applied Econ. & Mgmt.
Cleveland, OH
International Affair Society,
ski & snowboard club



Daniel Bracho
Applied Econ. & Mgmt.
Mamaroneck, NY
Red Carpet Society,
orientation leader



Alec Kane
Applied Econ. & Mgmt.
Manhattan Beach, CA
Dyson Undergrad. Council,
club water polo



Juan Cespedes
Elec & Comp. Engr.
Greenwich, CT
Intramural sports



Dylan Keefe
ILR
Fairport, NY
Mutual Investment Club,
Sports Mgmt. Club



Greg Poorman
Biology
Bronxville, NY
Project Hammer, EcoRep



Alex Espinosa
Applied Econ. & Mgmt.
Mexico City
Mgmt. consulting



Cameron Lancaster
Env. Engr.
Raleigh, NC
Nat'l Society of Black Engrs.,
Cornell Sustainable Design



Vincent Daigger
Applied Econ. & Mgmt.
Commack, NY
Mutual Investment Club,
Cornell Tradition Fellow



Tyler Kerbis
Biometry & Statistics
Old Westbury, NY
Finance



Nicholas Del Mistro
Policy Analysis
& Mgmt.
East Williston, NY
Cornell Republicans



Mark Kim
Bio. & Econ.
Tampa, FL
Intramural football,
orientation leader



Max Rothstein
Elec. & Comp. Engr.
Parkland, FL



Walter Schaefer
Mech. Engr.
Western Springs, IL
Engr. peer adviser,
orientation leader



Michael Rosenfeld
Comp. Sci.
Stamford, CT
Programming



Ben Wessner
Econ. & Psych.
Bloomfield Hills, MI
Club squash



Donovan Whitter
Applied Econ. & Mgmt.
Yonkers, NY
Business, finance



Tate Wines
ILR
Elko, NV
Absolute A Cappella



Thomas Slotkin
Biological sciences
New York, NY
Medicine

GAMMA CHAPTER SNAPSHOTS



Mike Hansen '14, Trevor Lu '14, Dan Bracho '15, Jon Nance '14, Gus Cespedes '15 enjoying the weather at the Alpha Epsilon Phi formal.



Justin Hawkins '13, John Peters '14, Alec Kane '15, Ryan White '14, Jerald Watson '14, John Grenawalt '14, and Jay Edwards '14 at the charity dinner for AIDS awareness.

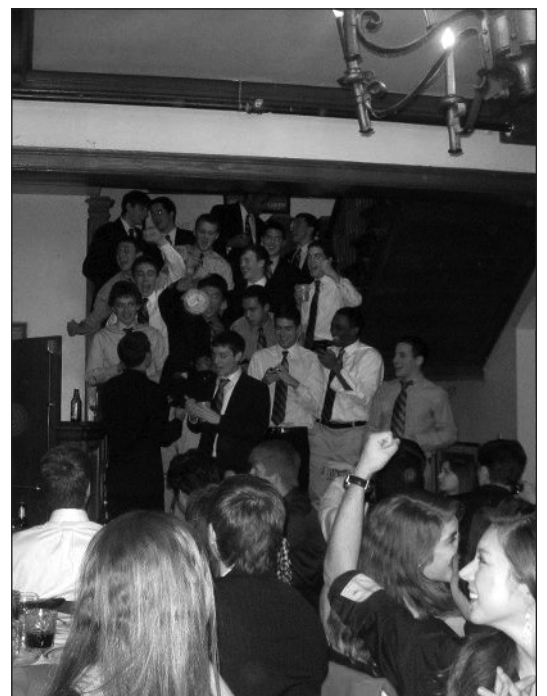
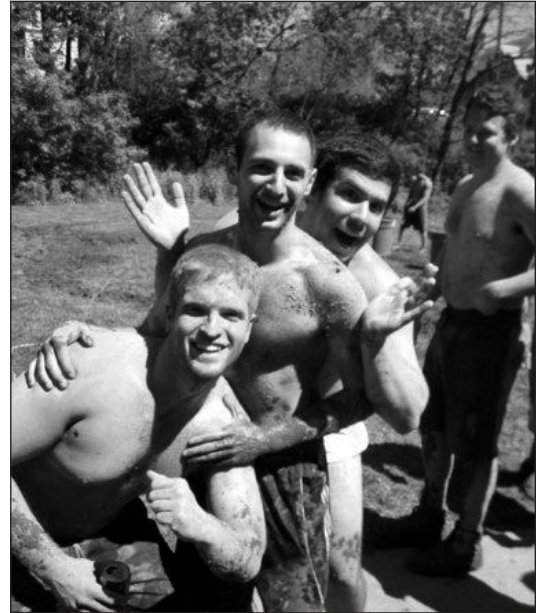


Brothers Devin Hegelein '14, Mike Hansen '14, Tyler Kerbis '15, and Nick Del Mistro '15 help out at the Special Olympics.



Top left: Mark Kim '15, Henry Becker '15, Trevor Lu '14, Ryan White '14, Matt Roland '12, Mike Mascarenhas '11, Devin Hegelein '14, Dan Bracho '15, Damon Gray '11, Jay Edwards '14, and Vin Daigger '15 pose on Slope Day!

Top right: Jon Nance '14, Dan Stanick '12, and Carlos Cancela '13 on the Mudtrack.



Bottom left: Brothers bonding during a spring Finger Lakes wine tour: Carlos Cancela '13, Dan Satnick '12, Taimur Alamgir '12, Nick Del Mistro '15, Damon Gray '11, Karl Eichorn '12, and Dylan Brannon '12.

Bottom right: The pledge class gathers on the stairs at the Valentine's Day dinner.



PHI SIG ALUMNI REPORT THEIR NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR

“My middle son Bruce and I started a vineyard on the east shore of Seneca Lake,” writes **David G. “Dave” Murray ’52**. “We prepped the land in 2008, planted 5,000 riesling vines in 2009, and 5,000 more in 2010. This fall, we harvested 18 tons from the first planting. Fox Run Winery, on the west side of Seneca, is processing the grapes. Next spring, we will start the bottling process, let them age for a year, and then bring them to the market in 2013. Be on the lookout for Boundary Breaks Vineyard!” Send congratulations to Dave and Bruce at 5 Quaker Hill Rd., Syracuse, NY 13224; dgmurray@twcny.rr.com.

Henry C. VerValen III ’52 sends greetings from 17424 Wesley Chapel Rd., Monkton, MD 21111; henkay@comcast.net.

In April, **Richard Tad Slocum ’55** wrote to us about his 2011 travel highlights: “A father/son trip-of-a-lifetime with Stephen Ambrose Tours following Easy Company of the 101st Airborne WWII Campaign’s from the Normandy Beaches through France, Belgium, and Holland to Hitler’s eagle’s nest in Austria. Visiting all the battle sights that are featured in the HBO TV series called *Band of Brothers*. The tour was lead by one of the original Easy Company members who jumped into Normandy on June 6, 1944. An unforgettable experience for my son and I.” Get more information on Tad’s trip by writing to him at 456 Kingsford Dr., Moraga, CA 94556; or by sending email to rtad.slocum@comcast.net.

John L. Haynes ’56 and his wife, Alice, are happy to announce a new member of their family—their great-grandson Liam Boyd. John and Alice are excited about their upcoming trip to Russia from St. Petersburg to Moscow by ship. Send congrats to the Haynes at 107 Tweed Pl., Chapel Hill, NC 27517; email johnhaynes.com.

James G. “Gus” Bubaris ’68 relocated to live on

the shore. Write to him at his new address—24 Fenbrook Rd., Old Saybrook, CT 06475.

Robert Daniel Ladd Jr. ’70 reported in February that his next trip to Cornell may be to Reunion 2013, which will be for his wife, Jill (Jayson ’73) Ladd. Robert works for Hewlett Packard in Herndon, Virginia, currently providing a web travel service to U.S. government agencies. Stay connected with him at 7918 Springer Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817; danladd347@aol.com.

“I’ve seen 13 brothers in the past six months,” wrote **Walter A. “Shaft” Milani ’78** in February. “I joined **Howie Seibel**, **Jeff Margolis**, **Walter Peek**, **Rick Fried**, and **Randy Scott** at their class of 1979 Reunion. Then, **Mark Rouleau ’78** flew in from Wichita, and together we joined the class of 1975—**Neil Cheperak**, **Paul Dionisio**, **Bill Longhi**, **Dave Roth**, and **Fred Fontana**—for their annual post-Thanksgiving dinner in Westchester. The next day, we also ran into **Steve Fontana ’79** who was in New York City for the BU-Cornell hockey game, which we unfortunately lost. I later caught up with noted author **Bill Quain ’74** when he came to Broadway to take his daughters to see Daniel Radcliffe in *How To Succeed in Business*. I’m currently acting in and managing the 2012 national tour of *Damn Yankees* and will be looking forward to catching up with **Andy Gabriel ’78** and **Carlton Geer ’77** in Las Vegas. Super-strong Brothers **Paul Dionisio ’75** and **Bill Longhi ’75** came to see a preview of the show in New Jersey!” Write to Walter at 553 Undercliff Ave., Apt. 8, Edgewater, NJ 07020; milanivice@msn.com.

“The kids are grown and building their own lives,” writes **Jeffrey A. Ghizzoni ’79**. “My son Douglas worked in Manhattan for five years, loved the excitement, but hated the cold. He is back in sunny Florida, working locally. My

daughter Kristin bought a house in Tampa and works for Standard Insurance. Neither one would even consider Cornell when it was time for college. It’s hard to admit, but having grown up here in Florida, my kids are true Southerners. I doubt either of them would even attempt a hike up snow-covered Libe Slope! Dawn and I are trying to work less and travel more, and we’ve had some wonderful visits to Italy over the past few years. There’s plenty of room for visitors in our now empty nest, and we’d love to see or hear from any Phi Sigs traveling through central Florida.” (419 Saint Johns Dr., Satellite Beach, FL 32937; jghizz@cfl.rr.com)

Daniel A. “Dan” Lohman ’04 works for Cubicle.com. Catch up with him by writing to 2166 Lafayette Ave., Apt. C, Saint Louis, MO 63104; or by sending email to dan@cubicle.com.

Thomas A. “Tom” McGuire ’06 and his wife, Maryann, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter on February 15, 2012. Send congratulations to the new parents at 6808 Hackberry St., Springfield, VA 22150; tmcguire84@gmail.com.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

Nick R. Vanderwall ’58
November 19, 2011

John M. Jabbs ’61
March 2, 2012

Timothy G. Petty ’85
April 27, 2012

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.