Spring 2022

SouthAvenews

CORNELL CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON | EST. 1869

DU Advisor News and Updates

It's hard to believe, but out of more than 75 brothers, only about 15 seniors have lived through an entire year of their Cornell experience without pandemic restrictions. But thankfully, life on campus and at 6 South Ave. is finally returning to normal. The long days of staring at a screen and watching online lectures, eating pickup meals in isolation on throwaway paper plates, and limiting social gatherings to ten people finally seem to be behind us.

In many ways, DU has been the best place to spend two years of college life during a pandemic. While the online classes and Cornell's restrictions and elimination of most campus activities was a difficult period, the brotherhood and built-in social life at DU helped fend off the isolation felt by many other students. The new weight room in the basement, access to a well-equipped and comfortable library, and the Great Hall filled with a group of lively young men made 6 South Ave. a great place to be during a pandemic.

6 South Ave. continues to be a great place to be as we slowly return to pre-pandemic life. In between classes, the house is filled with brothers. At any given time, the brothers are laughing and joking around in the Great Hall, studying and working together in the library, or working out in the gym. Whatever the day holds for each of them, it's clear DU provides a welcoming environment to kick back, relax, and reinforce the bonds that brought them together in the first place.

Better yet, the DU circle continues to grow. Despite fewer rush candidates and a virtual rush, the brothers at DU still actively recruited and attracted a diverse and talented group of more than 30 new brothers during the current school year. With a large group of spirited young men joining an existing brotherhood anxious to get back to normal, the house is bustling with activity once again.

Scott Sheavly & Connor Flannery

Restarting Traditions On Strong Foundation

After more than two years of COVID restrictions interrupting normal campus and fraternity life, DU has started the return to normal fraternity activities and to restart our best traditions. This includes activities like regular face-to-face chapter meetings, regular DU dining, including Sunday dinners, live E-board meetings, philanthropy events, and face-to-face new-member education and onboarding.

Despite restrictions on fall and early spring recruiting, the DU brothers delivered one of our largest and most diverse classes in years (see brief bios in this newsletter). For the full 2021–2022 academic year, we recruited 30 new members and expect to have a full house starting next fall. One special tradition restarted after a two-year hiatus was a formal initiation ceremony on March 12 for our spring new members, led by Chapter President Chase Collins. I had the pleasure of attending in person, along with alumni Bob Verna and Mark Clemente (via Zoom). It was great to see the house "buzzing" with activity on an unusually warm March weekend and having the opportunity to meet face to face with new and current brothers.

Along with the entire Cornell community, we are excited to participate in live on-campus Reunion and Homecoming celebrations this year. Reunion weekend is currently scheduled for June 10–12. For those planning to attend Reunion, we will be hosting a DU reception for all years on Saturday June 11 from 4:00–6:00 pm, including appetizers, beverages, and some great company with exaggerated storytelling. I look forward to seeing a strong turnout of DU alumni: recent and fossils, including the 40th Reunion for the class of '82.

While the return to most pre-COVID activities and a strong DU recruiting class is positive news, we still face many challenges requiring continued alumni support, and change for our active brothers. We are faced with changes to support new and restrictive Cornell social

(*continued on page 6*)

SAVE THE DATES

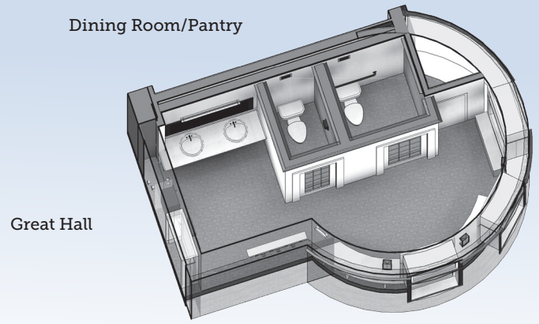
CORNELL REUNION & HOMECOMING

Reunion – June 10–12 | Homecoming – Oct 21–23

DU will be hosting a reception (beverages/appetizers) during reunion weekend on Saturday, June 11 from 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. at 6 South Ave.

Come back for some great company and storytelling.

Turret Restroom Update



One year ago, we wrote to you about a new restroom planned just off the Great Hall. This unisex and ADA-compliant restroom would commandeer the southwest turret, where the spiral stair used to be. Cornell put the project out to bid and we had a decision to make in the second quarter of 2021. The low bid was higher than our architects had projected. That is not uncommon, given the excessive demand for construction projects at Cornell. That we remained in COVID-world did not help.

Cornell had earlier withdrawn $35,000 from our DU gift account for this project. We assumed this transfer was a down payment for a restroom that we told Cornell we were committed to undertake. Indeed, we are required by Cornell (and federal law) to create a proper ADA restroom as part of our overall capital improvements. We soon learned the $35,000 was not a down payment but instead set aside for soft costs over and above the construction costs. We were close, but we did not actually have sufficient funds to satisfy Cornell's contracts office. We hit pause.

The rendering (above) is the same as shown to you in the last newsletter. Check out the architects' 3D renderings on the next page. We remain committed to building this much-needed amenity for DU. We hope to do so as soon as possible. It is only with your continued payment of pledges and potential new gifts that we can make this a reality. As always, we appreciate your support.

Duane Phillips '78
Treasurer & VP Capital Planning

It's Grand! It's a Steinway!

6 South Avenue was graced with a Steinway grand piano for many decades. We still own it, though it was removed from the house in 2017 at the inception of our renovations. It has been properly stored in a facility in Canandaigua, New York, for almost five years now. Sadly, in the age of Spotify, there is no demand for the Steinway to return to Ithaca. We would very much like to find a new home for this piece of DU history. Be forewarned that the honest-to-goodness musician would require a full restoration of the piano at a cost of approximately $25,000. Call or email me if you have any affinity for our DU Steinway piano. If there are no takers, it might well be donated or perhaps even scrapped. Reach Duane at duane.phillips@me.com or 925-788-5258.

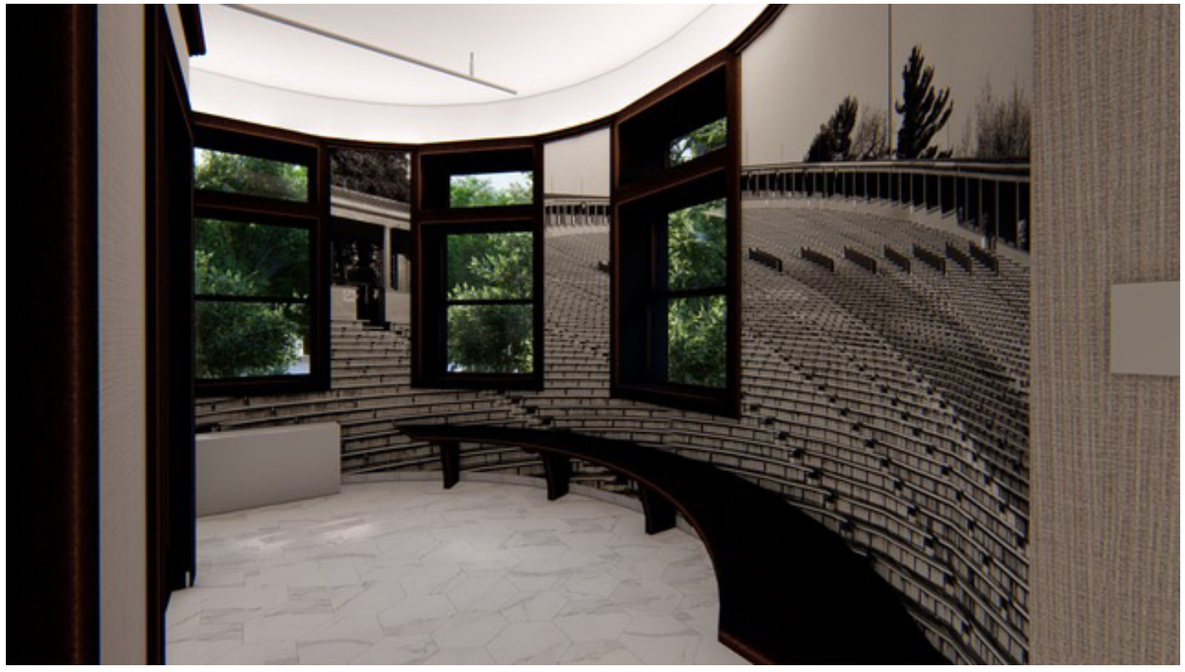
Chapter President — State of the House Update

Our semester had a rocky start with the news that rush would once again be virtual. The house does much better with rush in person. However, despite this setback, the Cornell chapter had an amazing rush, and we were able to secure 14 great new members, bringing our total new members to 30. The chapter now has close to 80 active members. The house will be quite full next year, to say the least!

It has been a steep learning curve transitioning back to in-person leadership, but the work has been rewarding, and there has been less pushback from the brotherhood as restrictions are lifted. One aspect of the house I am trying to improve as president is our involvement in philanthropy events. Now that we are able to easily register philanthropy events, I have asked our philanthropy chair, Bryce Mitchel, to schedule even more events. Some of these upcoming events include a highway cleanup, Relay for Life, and a DU clam bake. I have also encouraged individual brothers to go out and to volunteer on their own time.

Overall, the brotherhood is beginning to look like it did when I joined, something I am very proud of. COVID took a toll on everyone mentally and physically, so it is nice to see the house once again bustling with brothers eating lunch together, hanging out on the back deck, and helping one another out in the library. This spring starts the new beginning of post-COVID DU, and spirits have never been higher.

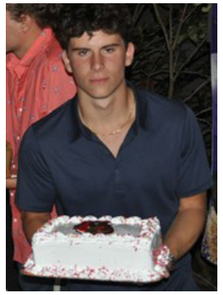
Chase Collins '23



View from entry, showing turret windows, mural, and bench.

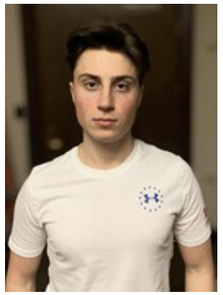
View from entry, showing sinks and stalls.

New Member Intros



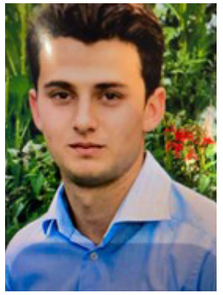
Hello alumni. My name is Sean Benko, and I am an engineering student from New Rochelle, New York. I played soccer, hockey, lacrosse, and boxing in high school. I'm looking forward to meeting you!

My name is Gordie Hill, and I am from Chevy Chase, Maryland. I am currently in the arts and science school as an economics major and am considering transferring to Dyson. I enjoy skiing and watching hockey.

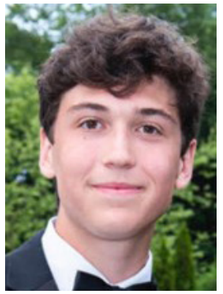


My name is Maximilian Madej. I'm from Oneonta, New York, and I'm studying engineering, although I am undecided as to which kind. I enjoy soccer and skiing and try to do them as much as possible. I am also on the Cornell Santos Soccer Club team.

My name is Charles Snajdr, and I'm a freshman from Brooklyn, New York. In high school, I played football and lacrosse. At Cornell, I'm on the pre-med track, majoring in human biology, health, and society (in human ecology). I also play on the Cornell Sprint football team as a quarterback.

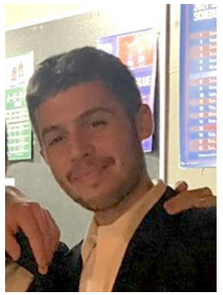


What's up guys. My name is Jack Weiss. I grew up in Rye, New York, and I went to Rye Country Day for 13 years and then took a PG year at Taft to play baseball. Realistically, I am a division III baseball player, so when I deemed Cornell too difficult to pass up, I chose club baseball and frat life. Besides playing baseball, I love pickup sports, watching and betting on sports, playing poker, playing Madden 2K, golfing, playing paddle tennis, watching movies, grilling, skiing, and socializing. At Cornell, I am in the sports business society, sports analytics club, and the poker association.



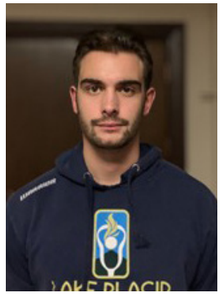
My name is Chris Ciulla, and I'm a freshman from Larchmont, New York. I major in global development in CALS, and I am pursuing a Dyson minor in food and agribusiness. I enjoy sports and physical recreation, yet I appreciate music, art, and literature. In fact, playing guitar is a passion of mine. I'm a huge music fan and listen to a variety of genres.

My name is Elliot Kinder, and I am a freshman studying engineering. I am from San Francisco, California. I enjoy sports, such as football and lacrosse, along with sailing.

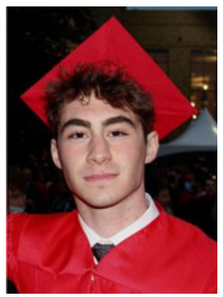


My name is Jaden Tauber, and I'm from Monroe, New York. I'm a freshman majoring in biology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with the intention of pursuing medicine in the future. In my spare time, I like to work out, play lacrosse, and listen to music.

New Member Intros

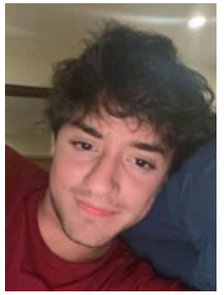


My name is Cody Capalongo. I am a freshman studying computer science, with a minor in business. I am from Ithaca, New York, and enjoy playing lacrosse as well as skiing.

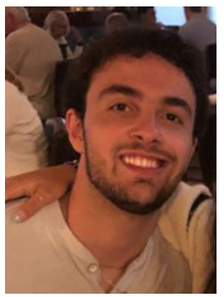


Hi. My name is Peter Minneci, and I am studying biological sciences with a planned concentration in nutrition in the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University. I intend on applying to medical school and pursuing a career in orthopedic surgery. In my free time, I enjoy outdoor activities, including big-mountain skiing, hiking, swimming, and cliff jumping.

Hi alumni. My name is Elijah Biddlecom. I am a freshman from Buffalo, New York (huge Bills fan), and I am currently studying industrial and labor relations at Cornell. I am also on the Sprint football team here and played soccer, baseball, and basketball in high school. I was originally going to play baseball in college, but I underwent Tommy John surgery. I have a huge passion for event planning, sports, investing, and entrepreneurship (I have my own start-up, involved with paying college athletes) and could talk for hours about music genres. Very excited to someday meet all of you!



My name is Giancarlo Restrepo and I'm from Tampa, Florida. I'm currently majoring in performing media arts and American studies. In my free time, I love to watch movies, listen to music, and relax with the guys.



My name is Matthew Greco, and I'm from Westchester, New York. This is my first semester at Cornell as a spring sophomore transfer from Villanova. Here at Cornell, I'm majoring in ILR. I'm a huge fan of all New York sports, specifically the Jets, Knicks, Rangers, and Yankees.

My name is Dylan Hale, and I am a sophomore in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. I am from New York City and am a quarterback on the Cornell football team. I am also the assistant director of radio for the ILR Sports Business Society, and I have a personal sports podcast with a former teammate. I am very interested in studying business, and I will likely declare a finance concentration in Dyson after this academic year. In terms of my professional career, I am currently undecided but am thinking of either working in investment banking and/or private equity or in the sports industry, whether it be sports business or broadcasting.

Alumni News

Howard Picking III '60: Adelle and I are still vertical and might try out skiing. We missed out last year due to COVID. Adelle lost her other ACL working around the house (both knees now). As for me, I'll be getting a new hip in June. Still damn lucky, as my friend and local surgeon said to me approximately 20 years ago. While outlining a few of my major surgeries for melanoma (and I kept pushing him to get going) he said, "Skip, we physicians are in the business to extend life, not make you immortal." I thought he was being light-hearted.

Support Our Brothers: Call for DUes

As we close out the Cornell 2021–2022 school year, our senior DUs look forward to celebrating their graduation this upcoming Memorial Day weekend. Two weeks later, many of us will be attending our Reunion in person at Cornell this June. It will be a time to cherish our friends, to relive old memories, and to show off all the improvements that have been made to the house over the past few years. These improvements could not have been made without your resources and financial support. Not only have improvements been made to the house, but we have also added a chapter advisor, Scott Sheavly, and have a live-in residence advisor, Connor Flannery (Cornell law student).

If you have not paid your annual alumni dues for the 2021–2022 year, please send them in this fiscal year. Thank you to all who have contributed. Our annual dues fund everything we do each year. The list is long and includes alumni events such as reunions, homecoming, recruiting dinners and functions, the SouthAvenews, website operation and maintenance, preservation of DU memorabilia and history, and the necessary accounting and insurance expenses. The crux is that alumni support is continuous, and as such, the need for these funds is continuous.

You can pay your DUes online through our secure server at www.cornelldu.org. Just follow the link to DUES.

We would be thrilled if you choose to top up your DUes with any additional amount. Your financial support only enhances our ability to support the chapter, hold events at the house, and maintain our alumni bonds. Please remember what DU has given you, especially the friendships that have lasted a lifetime.

If you have any questions, give me a call at 425-466-5563, or send me an email at mmerila33@gmail.com.

Fraternally,
Mark Merila '82
Alumni Dues Chair
Cornell Delta Upsilon Association

SouthAvenews

This newsletter is published by the Delta Upsilon Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. Alumni news and pictures should be sent to alumni@cornelldu.org, or Alumni Records Office, Cornell Delta Upsilon Association, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

In Memoriam

Robert A. Butler '57
July 16, 2021

Warren E. Sundstrom '61
April 26, 2018

Edward A. Weideman '66
October 14, 2020

Robert C. Enichen '70
November 21, 2021

William (Bill) Sussman '80
April 22, 2021

Philanthropy Highlights – DU Brothers Giving Back

Our current brothers remain active and visible, with a variety of activities over the past few months. Undergraduate VP of Philanthropy Bryce Mitchell has done an excellent job organizing several events with undergrads and donating funds for special and needy causes.

- DU and Alpha Phi Sorority worked with Meest Express Shipping from NYC to send over 550 pounds of medical supplies to Ukraine shortly after the invasion started.
- The March Madness basketball poll funds are being donated to GlobalGiving and Feed a Hungry Child, Ukraine.
- DU participated in the Cayuga Lake Polar Plunge for the Ithaca chapter of the Special Olympics.
- DU is participating in the Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society on April 23.
- DU and Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority have a volleyball match scheduled for April 29, and the donations will go to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).
- Lastly, DU is scheduled with the Ithaca Green Trailer Program, cleaning the Ithaca city streets in early May.
- Jack Rifkin, the DU president in the fall semester, is the IFC philanthropy coordinator university-wide for Cornell.
- Special thanks to Cal Fastuca '78 for his continued commitment to advising and supporting our brothers in their Philanthropy work.

Restarting Traditions

(*continued from page 1*)

policies that were announced pre-COVID, with developing plans to support the DU International substance-free guidelines, with a new Cornell student code of conduct, and with reduced bursar support for Greek houses. Our foundation remains strong, with a growing brotherhood, supportive alumni, and a house that provides a great place for young men to live, study, and play. That said, we still need help from a broader base of our alumni. Specifically, this includes:

Donations–please consider paying your DU alumni dues, and sign up for autorenewal at our DU website: cornelldu.org.

Coming Together–please plan a return visit to Ithaca for either Reunion or Homecoming weekend or both. It's time to catch up with your DU brothers and to share some stories in the Great Hall at 6 South Ave.

Help Needed–consider volunteering some of your time and talent as part of our Cornell DU alumni board (CDUA). We are currently looking for a vice president, an assistant treasurer, a communications leader, and a Homecoming event coordinator. All fun, no pay.

Special thank you to Duane Phillips '78, who continues to serve DU active brothers and alumni as our treasurer and house operations czar. He is the glue that holds our DU alumni efforts together and has been very generous with his time, talent, and treasure for almost 15 years.

All the best… hope to see you in Ithaca,

Bob Straka '82
CDUA President