OMICRON ORACLE

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Cleaning the Gorge—Omicron Zeta Gives Back > SEE STORY, PG. 18; PICTURED AT FAR LEFT: STEVEN ROBERTSON '12 AND RAVI GARCIA '14

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Henry McNulty '69, Editor

elcome to the all-new, electronic *Omicron Oracle*—the biggest change in our fraternity's newsletter in 90 years.

This new *Oracle* has all the familiar features: alumni news and photos, a report from the current High Alpha about what's going on with the active chapter, a list of house officers, and more. But it also contains lots of material of interest to Cornell Lambda Chis that can't be found anywhere else—not in a Cornell publication, nor in anything from Lambda Chi Alpha:

• An "inside Cornell" report from Trustee Steve Ashley '62,

Omicron Oracle					
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A NEW HOME: INDUCED OF THE COMMUTELY INDUCED OF THE COMMUTELY INDUC	<text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text>	OUTCOMENTS TABLE ON THE ADDRESS TABLE OF THE ADDRES			

The Oracle in 1938

with a unique and vital perspective on university matters;

• A report from Ralph Wilhelm '67, chair of the Cornell Fraternity-Sorority Advisory Council, on the many important issues facing Greek life on the hill;

• Travel suggestions from world traveler Alan Fridkin '65;

• Advice on planting and shrubs from internationally acclaimed horticulturalist Wayne Mezitt '64;

• And cooking and wine tips from seasoned foodie Sandy Gilbert '62. Thanks

to all of them for their exclusive contributions to the Oracle.

Planning this exciting new publication has taken months, and is the result of much hard work by the Omicron Zeta Communication Committee: John Zelenka '03 (chair), Brett Ainsworth '92, Kosta Elefter '10, Jon Emanuele '03, Sandy Gilbert '62, Alumni President Mo Jardaneh '09, Peter O'Brien '08, High Rho Eddie Reynolds '12, and myself. We were aided by others: High Pi Jeff Barber '08, Mike Filiatrault '95, former Alumni President Doug Levens '92, High Alpha Steve Robertson '12, and Ralph Wilhelm '67. Thanks to all of them for the hours of work they devoted to making the new *Oracle* a reality.

In editing this new communication vehicle, I am most indebted to my unindicted co-conspirator, Sandy Gilbert. It was Sandy's pioneering Omicron '50s and '60s newsletter that showed us all what a new *Oracle* could be in the digital age. Sandy was the one who recruited our alumni columnists. It was he who instituted a "decade agent" system for soliciting news from graduates—an effort which, as you will see, has resulted in much more alumni news than ever before. And it is Sandy (a former staffer at *Time* and *Smithsonian* magazines, by the way) who contributed many excellent ideas and helped push the editorial process forward. Thanks, Sandy!

As an Omicron Zeta alumnus, you can play a part, too. Please send us your own news; the email address is OmicronOracle@ gmail.com.

Sandy Gilbert '62 has collected alumni news from his era; Sandy Gordon '94 is the scribe for the 1990s. We're still looking for alumni who can collect alumni news from the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 2000s. If that's you, let me know—and your name doesn't have to be Sandy!

Finally, if you know of brothers who don't have access to this newsletter because we don't have their email addresses, please send those to us. And don't be shy about telling us what you like, and don't like, about this new publication. It's your newsletter; we just make it happen.

Enjoy! 💸

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INSIDE CORNELL

Ranking Stats: How Do We Fare?

By CU Trustee Stephen Ashley '62

ach spring, U.S. News and World Report produces a list of "America's Best Colleges." This ranking list is widely discussed—everything from the *Today* show to faculty lounges to the cocktail circuits. Its methodologies are debated and criticized by academics, its findings little understood by perspective students and their parents, and its



impact on college selection, philanthropy, and possibly hiring—no doubt greater than should be.

At least several times a year, the question of rankings comes up in one of Cornell's trustee committee meetings. "Do rankings matter?", is usually the interrogatory. If the respondent is a university administrator, the answer will be "Yes, but ..." There will then follow a discussion of the narrowness of *U.S. News and World Report* ranking

Stephen Ashley

categories, the weightings given each category, and what is not considered. The chart below gives *U.S. News and World Report's* categories and the weighting they assign to each.

A CLOSER LOOK AT USN&WR

Cornell ranked 15th overall

Factor	Weighting	CU Rank
Peer assessment	22.5%	8th
Faculty resources	20%	16th
Retention	20%	15th
Student selectivity	15%	20th
Financial resources	10%	18th
Alumni giving	5%	20th
Grad. rate performance	7.5%	20th*

*Out of top 50 schools overall

If the respondent to the question is a faculty member, the answer will place more emphasis on department ranking than on overall university rankings. Faculty want to be associated with top-ranked departments. This is especially true in the recruitment of new faculty and top-tier graduate students. Faculty would place more emphasis on National Research Council rankings, which are a measure of faculty productivity, external funding, and number of citations.

No doubt, the least informed on what the rankings mean or don't mean are prospective students and their parents and advisers. It has been reported that in the month that the 2011 *U.S. News and World Report* rankings came out, the website recorded more than 10 million visitors. So, people are clearly out there and looking. Cornell's current strategic plan sets forth "an overarching aspiration for the university: to be widely recognized as a top-10 research university in the world, and a model university for the interweaving of liberal education and fundamental knowledge with practical education and impact on societal and world problems." The following two charts show Cornell's current standing as measured by *U.S. News* and the *Times* of London:

2011 USN&WR BEST COLLEGES

1. Harvard	9. U. of Chicago
2. Princeton	12. Northwestern
3. Yale	13. Johns Hopkins
4. Columbia	13. Wash. U. (St. Louis)
5. Stanford	15. Brown
5. Penn	15. Cornell
7. Caltech	17. Rice
7. MIT	17. Vanderbilt
9. Dartmouth	19. Notre Dame
9. Duke	20. Emory

TIMES HIGHER ED SUPPLEMENT

1. Harvard	11. UCLA
2. Caltech	12. U. of Chicago
3. MIT	13. Johns Hopkins
4. Stanford	14. Cornell
5. Princeton	15. Eth Zurich
6. Cambridge	15. U. of Michigan
6. Oxford	17. U. of Toronto
8. UC Berkeley	17. Columbia
9. Imperial College	19. Penn
9. Yale	20. Carnegie Mellon

Different surveys and rankings will use different methodologies. U.S. News emphasizes peer assessments, undergraduate time to graduation, and class size. It does not take into account research or employment outcomes for graduates. The *Times*' higher education survey emphasizes peer assessment, research impact (citations), and international population, and does not take into account any measures of student outcomes. Also within each category, different weightings will be applied; the *Times* survey will place 60 percent of its rating on a combination of citations per faculty and peer assessment, while U.S. News allocates 22 percent. The breadth of course offerings and the quality of the student experience, both inside and outside the classroom, is not captured in any ranking. ►

INSIDE CORNELL, continued from pg. 3

No doubt the greatest inherent problem for a diverse, multifaceted research institution such as Cornell is that institution-wide rankings cover up significant differences within an institution. Cornell has seven undergraduate colleges—including art, architecture, and planning; agriculture and life sciences; engineering; hotel administration; and industrial and labor relations. Within each college are a great variety of departments—some that are not replicated in any other institution, many that are highly ranked (e.g., plant pathology), and some that are lesser ranked (some of the social sciences). Cornell has a #1 ranked college of veterinary medicine and a #13 ranked graduate school of management. Squaring these variables to create a single, numerical ranking among alleged peers is an exercise that should be taken on very cautiously and skeptically.

A February 2011 edition of the *New Yorker* carried an excellent article on school rankings, "The Order of Things," written by Malcolm Gladwell. The author states, "But it's an act of real audacity when a ranking system tries to be comprehensive and heterogeneous—which is the first thing to keep in mind in any consideration of *U.S. News and World Report*'s annual 'Best Colleges' guide." To prove his point, Gladwell cites that one percentage point differentiates Penn State from Yeshiva University. Penn State—obviously a very large, public land-grant university with low tuition situated in central Pennsylvania—is vastly different from Yeshiva, a small, private Jewish university situated on two campuses in Manhattan.

Is it possible to game the rankings? The answer is: somewhat. For smaller institutions and some professional schools, it is possible—and in some cases, is done to influence respondent's answers to ranking surveys. Recently, Southern Methodist University's undergraduate business school targeted its area employers who were the principal source of employment for SMU's grads. Helpful information was distributed and guess what?—SMU's score in the employer category shot up. And, because of the weighting, SMU appeared in the top 20. Meanwhile, Cornell's Johnson School, which scored very high in student satisfaction and faculty output (#8 and #6), but #20-something on the employer category, was scored overall at #13. Cornell's undergraduate business program, now known as the Dyson School, has been ranked only in the past five years and scores consistently #4, #5, or #6. Is Cornell's undergraduate program twice as good as its graduate program?

After all slicing and dicing is done, Cornellians can be very proud of the status and the role that their university has, not only in the United States, but the world at large. It is important that the provosts and deans have bought into the aspirational goal to be widely recognized as a top-10, worldwide research institution. It is a goal that will drive Cornell's future faculty recruitment, graduate student selection, undergraduate competitiveness, research funding, and philanthropy. As we think about Cornell, it is important to realize and acknowledge the complexity of the university, and the breadth of academic offering and research endeavor. It is important for those examining rankings to look beneath the covers at individual colleges, departments, and faculty.

One of the great strengths of the United States is the competitiveness that exists in its post-secondary institutions. Frank H.T. Rhoades sees value in the competitiveness within an institution and between institutions. He states, "Competition in both provides a healthy antidote to complacency and inefficiency." He encourages diversity and pluralism in American higher education. It can be safely said that any of the top-20 ranked institutions, whether on the *U.S. News* study or the *Times* of London ranking, is a top-tier academic institution that is creating substantive new knowledge, teaching its students ably, and has an engaged and very productive faculty. Should Cornell try to become Harvard? I don't think so. Cornell should continue to prove on its unique model and build on our strengths.

Do rankings matter? Yes, they do. 💠



SAVE THE DATES REUNION June 7–10, 2012 HOMECOMING Sept. 21–23, 2012

CORNELL GREEKS: SAE DEATH BRINGS HUGE CHANGES

By Ralph Wilhelm '67

e are fortunate, as we have been with recent classes, to have a fine group of young men leading Omicron Zeta this fall. High Alpha Steven Robertson and the executive board, along with the entire Zeta, have been solidly focused on setting the bar higher for the chapter: the number of men added this fall and spring; the cleanliness of the house inside and out; and a general and positive move to expect more of one another in terms of the house and its appearance, accomplishments, and support for making measurable progress on a continual basis. I consider myself lucky to be able to watch this transition and evolution.

For this fall (and the full academic year), a dozen or so upperclassmen committed to a pair of "annexes" in Col-



legetown. They had to do this last fall in order to get the space and location that they wanted. This has put more pressure on this fall's and spring's rush, but Rush Chair Alan Workman and the brotherhood seem focused in a big way on making big numbers happen. They have associated eight men; this is the biggest fall class in quite some time—probably more than the chapter has seen before any of these undergraduates were born. It turns out that the Greeks overall on campus are more

Ralph Wilhelm

interested in fall rush this year (more on that below), so it is wonderful that Alan and the Zeta have also been focused on these numbers.

The Greek scene at Cornell

The spring semester this year was eventful and tragic; we experienced the death of a Sigma Alpha Epsilon brother on February 25. This single event had a pronounced and traumatic effect on the Greek world on campus. There has been a considerable amount published on this young man's passing, so we will not go into all the details again. However, his death raised suspicion, and allegedly involved the use of alcohol and hazing involving SAE pledges and brothers. As a result, the university shut down the SAE chapter for at least five years, expelled a number of involved students, and closed the house in middle of the semester, converting it into student housing for use this fall.

As a direct result of this tragedy and multiple police department investigations, the district attorney filled formal charges against four young men. This past summer, a civil lawsuit was filed for \$25 million against the SAE national office, the SAE local chapter, and 20 students. Of these men, 10 were named in the suit by full name and elected position. The legal and civil proceedings have not concluded.

The university had already established January 2013 as the deadline for the start of completely dry rush and newmember education periods, as part of a restatement and clarification of the university's recognition policy for all Greek chapters. (For more details, contact me.) As a result of the SAE brother's death, this deadline was moved up almost immediately to January 2012. Cornell's Greek tricouncils, including the IFC, were very much in support of the move-up.

The spring semester and this past summer were used to vet and discuss various alternatives that could and would be instituted and enforced as a result of the SAE tragedy. Many staff, Greek alumni councils, undergraduate Greek councils and other alumni and undergraduates were involved in these discussions to one degree or another.

None of the individuals involved could have known how challenging and difficult this time period would be. The

Greek student leaders in the 65 chapters and in the tri-councils were elected not knowing that they would have to deal with this event plus the months of intensity, discussion, and decisions. To a large degree, Cornell's Greek undergraduate leaders did very

Rush Chair Alan Workman and the brotherhood seem focused in a big way on making big numbers happen. They have associated ... the biggest fall class in quite some time.))

– Ralph Wilhelm '67

well; you would have been proud of them. They struggled to grasp and deal with all the ensuing events, but both the Omicron leadership and the IFC leaders (including two Lambda Chis: Dan Freshman as IFC president, and Alan Workman as VP for communication) did well to communicate, to debate, to make decisions, and to move forward.

Two big challenges

As a result of all this, August was a very full month. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (OFSA) issued a formal email and letter addressing the changes in how the university's recognition policy would be implemented for the 2011–2012 academic year (again, if you would like to see an electronic copy, please let me know). Per the six-page memo, the university will immediately split the Greek academic "calendar" into four quarters.

The first quarter ("Moratorium") will last from August 19 until October 11. It is defined as the period where there will be no formal or informal recruitment activities by Greeks with incoming freshmen (transfers and upperclassmen not included.) Note that it is expected that Greek houses will rush transfers and upperclassmen during this first quarter.

The second quarter ("Informal Recruitment") will cover October 12 through December 16. This period is defined as the period when freshmen are permitted to engage with ➤

CORNELL GREEKS, cont. from pg. 5

chapter members in activities to learn about individual chapters and their members (with no alcohol or drugs permitted at any time or at any location). The structure and processes for this period are still being developed.

The third quarter ("Formal Recruitment and New Member Education") will last from January 17 to 22 (rush week) and from January 23 to April 1 (new member education and initiation). The activities are the normal ones that you would expect, except that any time during this period—when the freshmen are involved—no alcohol, drugs, or hazing are permitted.

The fourth quarter ("Post-initiation") covers the period from April 1 until the end of the semester. During this period, all Greek members are fully initiated and privileged to enjoy the full benefits of membership.

There are many questions about exactly how this will occur and which rules, regulations, and processes will additionally be put in place to facilitate these new four quarters of Greek life on campus. The IFC, the OFSA, the individual house officers, the Alumni IFC (AIFC), the Fraternity-Sorority Advisory Council, and the senior staff are all involved to make this work well. This is no small task.

A second and very significant event also occurred in August: the release of President Skorton's challenge to the Cornell Greek community to "eliminate pledging as we know it today on campus." This challenge was discussed with the Cornell Greek leaders (chapter presidents and tri-council officers) on August 23 at the annual Greek leaders' retreat. The entire topic was discussed initially with the group; President Skorton then spent more than an hour with the Greek leaders explaining his challenge and the rationale, and taking dozens of questions. The end of the retreat was spent in breakout sessions, discussing the implications of this challenge. We would refer you to numerous articles that have been published nationally on this, including an op-ed article by President Skorton in the New York Times on August 24.

To summarize Skorton's challenge: He is adamant about making "pledging as we know it today" vanish from the campus. Yes, he does realize that this is a huge task, but he is dead serious, and expects this to happen. He has the unconditional support of the university trustees in this effort. Unlike other institutions (Princeton and the University of North Carolina recently, but plenty of others in the not-too-distant past) that have either curtailed rush, frozen all bidding until further notice, or even closed down the Greek system altogether-President Skorton has chosen to not do any of this. He has chosen to allow the aforementioned "four-quarter system" for this academic year. However, during this 2011–2012 period, the Greek system will be expected to do its homework and benchmarking, and come up with a new system to be used at Cornell in all Greek chapters that will eliminate "pledging as we know it," stop hazing, and very quickly hasten the entire Greek system to be in a more mature, safe, and productive state.

We at Omicron are very fortunate for a number of reasons, not the least of which is our Associate Member program (instituted in 1972) replacing pledging as some of us can remember from the 1960s and before. There are currently four or five national fraternities that have active and worthwhile programs very similar to LXA's. As you would expect, these national programs will be used as exemplars for the task force to use as they move forward to meet President Skorton's challenge.

The "challenge task force" (we don't have a better name for it as I write this) started meeting in mid-September, and consists of 15 to 20 people, including nine Greek students, alumni, staff, and national representatives and they will have their hands full. The good news is that President Skorton has given us a year to get this done, and to have it be used and implemented in the fall of 2012. But the challenge is immense. All of us feel that the positive qualities of the Cornell Greek system are wonderful and totally worth saving; now we just have to meet the challenge and show how much we want it with solid and productive results.

The national picture

Our national fraternity continues along strong and capable, and is still one of the top five in North America. The Grand High Zeta has created a new vision and strategy for the fraternity, finances are stable, and the True Brother program based on our seven core values continues to grow and be adopted among our 200 chapters.

If you have questions or comments on the content above, please contact me at rvw5@ cornell.edu or call me on my cell phone at (317) 508-6866. I'd be pleased to answer as best as I can. ◆

WORLD TRAVEL: THE TURKISH TRIFECTA

By Alan Fridkin '65

he three most popular destinations for western tourists visiting Turkey are Istanbul, Ephesus, and Cappadocia. All are worthy of your attention. But if you have more time, there are many additional and intriguing venues. In a 400-by-1,000mile rectangle of varied topography and climates, there is plenty to see.

Why go there? The vast majority of Turkish people are extraordinarily friendly. Museums and archeological sites will take you back through 12,000 years of history and



counting. Compared to the Euro zone, Turkey is a bargain, with excellent quality accommodations available at value prices. There is probably no other Muslim country that is so accessible to an outsider.

Alan Fridkin

At the intersection of Europe and Asia, Istanbul—

with a population of over 17 million—is a truly beautiful, cosmopolitan, and unique city. We spent seven days there and felt we had just scratched the surface. Ottoman palaces, ancient mosques, and atmospheric old neighborhoods are juxtaposed with other sections containing new skyscrapers and shopping malls. The waters of the Bosporus, the Black Sea, and the Sea of Marmara make it a hub of international trade and culture. Two splendid modern airports and a quickly improving road system make getting around the country quite easy. Driving, though, is rather tenuous, so stick to the excellent commercial bus system.

The excavations of the ancient city of the Ephesians are a 100-year-plus work in progress. There is a steady stream of tour buses from the ports of Izmir and Kusadasi. The site is on a scale even greater than Pompeii and Knossos. Most visitors spend at least a few hours walking around, with or without a guide. To savor the experience with fewer crowds, consider staying a night or two in Selcuk or Kusadasi.

The strange, almost surreal landscapes of Cappadocia look like they were designed by Gaudi or Dali. Ancient underground cities, cave dwellings, and early Christian churches and monasteries carved out of the rock beckon. Stylish boutique cave hotels cater to relatively well-heeled tourists. Views of the area from dawn balloon rides or four-wheel-drive vehicles are unique. Most locals are engaged in subsistence farming, handicrafts, and the tourist trade.

If you like seaside resorts, sailing, and fishing, Turkey has hundreds of miles of exquisite coastline. There is almost always an ancient ruin or archaeological museum to savor. Bodrum is a world-class venue with sophisticated hotels and restaurants. We actually preferred Fethiye and Antalya, which are not so overbuilt. Stops in Izmir and Konya were well off the tourist track, and yet cities



The Blue Mosque in Istanbul

of great historical and cultural significance. The eastern third of the country is a somewhat dicier neighborhood; intrepid travelers we met who had been there, however, found it rewarding.

Turkey's tourism industry is booming. The quality of hotels, restaurants, and transportation are quite respectable. Several dozen people we know who had been there before were enthusiastic. And now, so are we. *



Lamps at a bazaar

THE RECIPE BOX: Chicken Romana

By Sandy Gilbert '62

This recipe is based on a chicken and artichoke dish prepared at Sam's, an old line Italian restaurant in midtown New York. It's quick and easy to fix, and the resulting rich brown gravy, flavored with artichoke and sage, gives this light dish a hearty, comfortfood taste. Try it, and send in one of your favorite recipes for "The Recipe Box" in the next *Oracle*.

Things you will need:

(serves two)

- A boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut in half lengthwise with each piece pounded to about a ½-inch fillet
- 4-5 tablespoons of flour to coat the fillets
- 1 egg and a splash of water to make an egg wash
- 1 cup of low-sodium chicken stock
- ½ cup white wine, like pinot grigio
- 1/2 of a 6-ounce jar of marinated artichoke hearts
- 2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
- 2 pats of butter
- Dash of Gravy Master
- Sprinkle of dry crushed sage
- Sprinkle of chopped fresh parsley
- Dash of salt and pepper



Preparation:

- Heat a 12-inch skillet, lightly coated with the olive oil, over mediumhigh heat
- Dip chicken fillets in the egg wash
- Dredge fillets in the flour
 Place fillets in heated skillet until they begin to
- skillet until they begin to sizzle
 Turn heat down to

medium and sauté until

golden brown on both sides

- Remove fillets from pan and drain off any excess oil
- Deglaze the pan off the heat with the white wine, and scrape up all the brown bits from the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon to flavor the gravy
- Place the fillets back in the pan surrounded by the half-jar of artichokes, cover with the chicken stock, and simmer under medium heat for about eight minutes
- Remove the fillets and all but a few pieces of artichoke and turn the heat up to high until the remaining liquid begins to boil
- Add the dry sage and swirl it into the forming gravy, crushing the remaining artichoke pieces with the wooden spoon
- Sample the gravy for taste, adding more wine, stock, or sage to taste; the gravy should be thickening up in a few minutes and should have a crisp, flinty taste from the artichokes and crushed sage
- Add the two pats of butter to continue the thickening and a dash of the Gravy Master to darken it
- Give it a final taste for flavor, season with salt and pepper if needed and finish with a sprinkle of the chopped parsley
- Plate the fillets, cover with the pan gravy and top with the artichoke hearts

Chicken Romana is nicely complemented with some steamed asparagus, a few roasted rosemary-encrusted russet potatoes, and paired with a crisp pinot grigio like Santa Margherita. *



THE WINE RACK: Some Chardonnays

By Sandy Gilbert '62

Chardonnay is America's most popular wine, red or white, and it is also the world's most widely planted white wine grape. This is a relatively recent phenomenon, as just 30 years ago, there were only a few hundred acres of chardonnay planted in California. Today, it is grown on tens of thousands of acres. Chardonnay is said to be a winemaker's dream, because it is both prolific enough to make into relatively inexpensive, good-quality, everyday drinking wine, and yet distinctive enough when aged in oak barrels to make complex and concentrated dry white wine. It is the later "oaked" chardonnays that tend to carry the more expensive price tags. The chardonnay grape is also used to make other wine varietals, including pouilly-fuissé, chablis, and champagne. Below are some well regarded chardonnays and a chablis in a range of price points for you to try:

Valley Of The Moon Chardonnay, 2009 (\$10.99)

Housed in a bottle with a misty moonscape label, this wine is definitely a step up from the inexpensive chardonnays—too often offered at backyard barbecues—that justifiably earned the infamous title of the "three Cs" (cheap California chardonnay). Valley Of The Moon has a crisp, fresh taste that is typical of the increasingly popular "unoaked" chardonnays. It is a good light wine to sip through cocktails or pair with quiche. *Wine Spectator* gives Valley Of The Moon a 90 rating.

Martin Ray Reserve Carneros, 2009 (\$19.99)

This Santa Rosa, California, selection has pure chardonnay character, with popular New World tropical fruit flavor wrapped in a buttercream texture with a smoky oak finish. This is an elegant, full-bodied chardonnay with pear and fig flavors. This wine pairs very well with chicken and is considered to be another winner from owner Courtney Benham. It has been rated 90 by the *Wine Enthusiast*.

Don Bouchard Chablis, 2009 (\$22.99)

This chablis from Burgundy, France, is an elegant, unoaked wine made from the chardonnay grape with subtle aromas of tree fruit and citrus. It has a crisp flavor profile, and the lack of oak-barrel aging lets the apple and pear fruit flavors shine through. This wine is a very good choice to compliment shellfish.

Chalk Hill Chardonnay, 2009 (\$29.99)

Chalk Hill (Russian River Valley, Sonoma, California) is an elegant, full-bodied wine that is the direct result of uncompromising grapegrowing efforts in the pursuit of chardonnay excellence. The wine presents intense aromas and flavors of pear and apple integrated with a hint of spice and smoky oak. It carries Chalk Hill's signature traits of richness and elegance. When the occasion calls for chardonnay, it is undoubtedly my first choice.

Editor's note: All quoted prices are from Total Wine, a major wine discounter, and prices in other stores may be a bit higher. *

HORT SENSE: THE WONDERFUL FRUITS OF FALL

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64

few weeks ago, I was visiting with John Comstock '61 and his wife, Arlene, who were enjoying some tomatoes and cucumbers I'd grown, and asked me a tough question: Are these vegetables or fruits? And how do they differ? That's not simple to answer. Botanically, because they mature from the flower of the plant, many of the foods we generally refer to as "vegetables" would technically be fruits—those tomatoes and cucumbers, for example. But it's certainly incorrect to classify an apple as a vegetable. In any case, for our taste buds, technical classifications

like these are really of minor consequence.



Many of us maintain vegetable gardens and grow a fruit tree or two. And because so many types of apple, pear, plum, and peach trees are readily available at garden centers, some of us actually have an area we use as an orchard. Working with horticulture and food are two of my favorite activities (well, mostly the eating part). It surprises me that more people don't take advantage of the fruit-producing capacity of plants in the landscapes around their

Wayne Mezitt

of fruit as a gastronomic bonus:

Trees and larger shrubs:

- Apple, some crabapple, and cherry trees
- Dogwood (cornus mas and kousa)
- Fig, lemon, olive, and orange trees (for you Southerners)
- Juneberry and shadbush (amelanchier)
- Nut trees: chestnut, filbert, hickory, walnut
- Pear, persimmon (diospyros), plum, and quince trees

Smaller shrubs and groundcovers:

- Beachplum (prunus maritima)
- Blueberries, both low- and high-bush; cranberry and mountain cranberry (*vaccinium*)
- Elderberry (sambucus): Ripe berries make a nice jam
- Juniper: Use the fruit of some types (it's actually a cone!) for flavoring
- Rose (large edible hips on some varieties)
- Vines: grapes of all types, hops, kiwi (actinidia), and passionflower

If multiple-use gardens spark an interest in you, here's a recent book that puts edible landscaping into a wider perspective: *Edible Forest Gardens* by Dave Jacke. Whatever your level of interest, this is a great time of year to enjoy the fresh bounty from our vegetable gardens, and it's also a perfect opportunity to explore the concept and add more edibles to your home landscape. *****



Alumni news is always welcome, and if you can include a photo, all the better! Please send it to OmicronOracle@gmail.com.

homes. A goodly number of the so-called "ornamental" (I prefer

commonly used for beautifying our homes also produce crops

the term "environmental") trees, shrubs, and vines that are

>> 1944

George H. Getman writes, "Our long, long trips ended in 2010 when we went on safaris to Botswana, Zambia, and South Africa. This year, we limited ourselves to visiting parts of Europe we had not seen before. The U.S. life is still interesting, monitoring my nine children, 35 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren."

>> 1950

Rodger Gibson writes, "Glad to see **Joe Dwyer** is making the effort to rally brothers for Reunion and Homecoming. His living so close to Ithaca and still practicing law makes him a natural— my very best to him! Like Joe, my son, two sons-in-law, and two grandsons are lawyers."

>> 1954

James Abbott writes, "Still working and enjoying it; more travel, though ... this year, central Europe with my son, daughter, and granddaughter: Prague, Vienna, Munich."

Teodoro Valentiner writes, "I celebrated my 80th in Hamburg with nearly all my family—only the USA section was missing,



due to college commitments. I was on Long Island this past Thanksgiving, and also saw my grandchildren at UDel and James Mason."

» 1955

Charlie "YB" Way writes: "Despite the record hot weather all over the country during the past summer, it remained very pleasant out our way in Bellingham, near Seattle, with temperatures rarely above 70. I continue to enjoy skiing, and have been fortunate to get to Jackson Hole, Whistler, and the Northern Sierras over the past year or so. As part of a group of 20 friends from Bellingham, Pat and I recently toured the Dalmatian Coast, Greece, Albania, and Croatia, followed by a 10-day swing through Tuscany and northern Italy." You can reach "YB" at cybway@aol.com.

» 1957

Robert Hurlbut writes that he is currently a trustee of the University of Rochester, chairman of the New York State Insurance Fund, on the advisory board of Cornell's hotel school, and a member of Strong Memorial Hospital.

>> 1960

Joe Persivale has begun his move back to the Ithaca area, putting his New Jersey townhouse on the market and ➤

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

storing some belongings in nearby Danby. Joe has stopped by the campus and the house a few times on his visits to see his daughter, Leigh, who is a vice president with the Cornell Federal Credit Union. He hopes to relocate in the greater Ithaca area as soon as his place in New Jersey is sold. Joe's email is joegenie2@aol.com.

Thanks to the generosity of **Bruce Veghte '60**, there was a very enjoyable gathering of Omicron brothers for a mini-reunion in Clearwater, Florida, early this past summer. Joining in were **Swede Saderholm '60**, **Wayne Mezitt '64**, and **Sandy Gilbert '62**. Over the course of several days, the group had a great dinner at the renowned Columbia Cuban restaurant, a private tour of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, a fun round of golf at the West Chase Country Club, and great seats at a Tampa Bay Rays night game. You'll find Bruce at bbveghte@tampabay. rr.com.

» 1961

Although he had to miss the Florida reunion described above due to a prolonged bout with shingles, **John "Ohm" Comstock** writes: "I have rebounded pretty well and am getting back to normal. Arlene and I continue to enjoy life around our home base in Gloversville, in the shadow of the Adirondacks. I still love to ski, especially when we visit one of our daughters, who lives in Colorado." John's contact is jcomstock@frontiernet.net.

Bob Pezzulich reports, "Helen and I had a wonderful trip to Asia, where we visited Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. We especially enjoyed our stop at Angkor Wat, a World Heritage site that is the largest and best-preserved of the ancient Khmer temples in northwest Cambodia. We were fortunate in being spared from the wrath of Irene's floods here in Vermont, as our home is on high ground. We did lose power for 15 hours, but that is nothing compared to those Vermonters who were without it for days. Wilmington, a town 25 miles to our east, was completely cut off from the rest of the state, along with 10 other towns in the flood area. This was Vermont's worst flooding since 1894." Bob is at bandhpezz@mac.com.

» 1962

Bob Cutler writes from Florida: "It has been almost 50 years since my class left Cornell for love, excitement, and travel. Love comes first, and I have been married twice. The first was to Marcia Warrington, whom many of you have met. We had two sons; Rob is now in Thailand with a local bride, Ahn, and a son. My younger son, Jon, lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, with his wife, Jenn, and daughter, Sawyer. I later married Mary Ruth. When I left Cornell, I joined Johnson & Johnson, and after several engineering assignments, was fortunate to be assigned as General Robert Wood Johnson's direct assistant. Shortly before he died in 1968, the general suggested that I broaden myself from engineering, and I promptly took his advice and enrolled in the Harvard Business School. It was a fabulous experience, and I graduated with distinction with a major in international business. After graduation and a brief stint with

Colgate-Palmolive in marketing, I then moved to Chesebrough-Pond as general manager of the Caribbean, living in Trinidad and Tobago. I used to joke that my territory was larger than the entire United States, but that it was 99.9 percent water. Tragedy struck in 1974, when Trinidad suffered a severe drought, and both Marcia and Rob became extremely ill. Upon doctors' advice not to return to Trinidad, we moved back to the U.S., and I joined Olin, where I worked in various capacities for 25 years. Most of that time was spent ensuring that the company was compliant with federal, state, and local regulations. In 2001, Mary Ruth and I moved to Sarasota, Florida. Unfortunately, we drifted apart in 2007. Since then, I have been active in several local clubs, including the Cornell Club. In 2009, I became ill and moved to an assisted-living facility. Although now cured, I find the location comfortable and have decided to remain. I enjoy meeting local brothers, especially Dave Landrey '66 and Sandy Gilbert '62." You can reach Bob at rcutler@tampabay.rr.com.



Emmy Lou and Sandy Gilbert '65 with their granddaughter

With their 50th Reunion coming up in June 2012, **Steve Ashley, Sandy Gilbert**, and **Chris Napjus** have formed a group of '62 LXA brothers who'll return to the hill for the festivities. Some of the other '62 brothers who are considering attending include **Jeff Burnam, Bob Cutler, Frank Hawkins, Jack Kempster, Lee Manning, Bob Miller**, and **Larry O'Brien**. Other interested brothers should contact Sandy Gilbert for details at sandem133@aol.com.

Jack Kempster updates us with: "Time flies when you are having fun, and it's hard to believe that almost 50 years have flown by since my '62 class departed the hill to make our way in the real world. Shortly after graduation, I entered the Army, went to flight school, and spent the next 27 years flying just about every aircraft in the Army's inventory. I spent most of my time in troop-carrying Hueys and attack helicopters, including Black Hawks and Apaches. The Army actually paid me for ► what I would have done for free. A lot of my career was spent traveling around the world (twice in Vietnam), and then helping the Army develop new systems like the Black Hawk and the Chinook when I wasn't actually in the cockpit. Along the way, I met the love of my life, Bea, and we were married in 1965. I retired as a colonel in 1989 and moved to Roanoke, Virginia, to manage international programs for the world's largest nightvision goggle manufacturer. I enjoyed the chance to continue sharing stories with the air crews from around the world while using the leading-edge technology in night operations. However, even this much fun had an ending, and in 2000, I retired from private industry. We thought about residing on family property in New Hampshire, but one very cold and snowy winter convinced us that, growing up in New York state and at Cornell, winters somehow must have been much warmer back in the day. In 2002, after a brief bout with cancer (thanks to Agent Orange exposure), we moved to Lakeland in central Florida, where we purchased a home on the 13th fairway of a private country club. I have had the recent pleasant opportunity to renew a fraternal friendship with Sandy and Emmy Lou Gilbert, who live just down the road near Sarasota. Bea and I have taken a number of cruises from several Florida ports to the Caribbean, Yucatan, Grand Cayman, etc. When not cruising, I am able to play golf; however, my golf score doesn't seem to improve with age. I think I need a better pencil. I still have a lot of fun anyway, and try not to forget it is just a game. Our three children-Betsy, Ted, and Ross-are spread around the eastern U.S. Our youngest son, Ross, is a Lambda Chi and a University of Tennessee graduate. We have managed to spoil our five grandchildren on a fairly regular basis prior to returning them to their parents. Bea and I are looking forward to seeing LXAers and coming back to the hill next year for my 50th. If you are ever in central Florida, or in transit, call or stop by, and I am sure I can scare up some hot or cold adult refreshments." You'll find Jack at jkempster@tampabay.rr.com.



Lee and Leslie Manning in Hungary

Lee Manning writes: "Leslie and I just returned from a terrific European jaunt with our daughter, Sarah; Leslie's sister Amy and her husband; and our niece, Beth. We flew from D.C. to Amsterdam and spent a couple of days there, then took the high-speed train from there to Nuremberg via a brief stop in Dusseldorf. In Nuremberg, we boarded a Viking River Cruise ship for seven days down the Danube, visiting Melk, Passau, and ending up in Budapest. Cruise life is hard to beat, but you'll never lose any weight living like that. After six more days exploring Hungary in a rented van, we visited the town of Eger, where we learned a few Hungarian words and drank lots of "Bull's Blood" wine (Egri Bikaver), and visited the local castle and home of the legendary hero, Istvan D<mark>obo, who fought off</mark> the Turkish invasion in 1552. A personal goal was to find traces of Leslie's Jewish roots. Her family came from the region of Hungary that's northeast of Budapest, and in a Jewish cemetery in Hatvan, we found memorials to some in her family who perished in the Holocaust—which was very emotionally hard to take. In one documented case, one cou<mark>ple on her father's</mark> side was forced to dig their own grave and then were shot in the head to drop in. Difficult to comprehend. However, despite the disturbing events, we now have a family tree for Leslie that goes all the way back to her great-great grandfather, Jakab Neuwirth, who was born in Pencz, Hungary, in 1796." Lee can be found at lee.manning@cox.net.

» 1963

Bob Elliott writes: "We had a busy but great summer at our place on Long Beach Island on the Jersey shore. We are now headed for Steamboat Springs for my youngest niece's wedding. After that, we drive with our daughter, Elissa, and her family, as well as our son, Joe, to Yellowstone for three nights. The kids will head back to New Jersey, and Connie and I will drive on to Glacier National Park, and then on to Banff and Lake Louise in the Canadian Rockies. It should be a great trip." Bob can be reached at bobell1189@aol.com.

Bill Imig checks in from Denver to say: "Joyce and I have kept up contact with our LXA skiing buddies—**Bob Ball '64** and his wife, Ann—with get-togethers four or five times a year. I really love how I spend my time including watching after our two Denver grandchildren three days a week, bicycling as much as I can, and volunteering in a homeless center every Thursday. Joyce and I are really looking forward to an upcoming tandem bike ride in South Dakota later this fall." Bill's email address is billimig@forethought.net.

Iohn Lutz writes: "This should bring back skiing memories of over 40 years ago. That's me on the porch of the Stowe Inn in Vermont with my 1967 Head 360s (205 cm. long) and my current Atomic Nomad skis (160 cm. long). After the picture was taken, I walked over to the Vermont Ski Museum and made a gift of my "historic" equipment. Ed Lortz, do you still remember the Mad River Barn?" John is at jrlcorp@verizon. net. >



John Lutz '63

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>> 1964

Jack Hastings met up with Bob Elliott '63 and Connie this past spring for a seafood lunch at the Crow's Nest in Venice, Florida. They hadn't seen each other in the 50 years since their days on the hill. They caught up quickly, as Jack and Bob shared some common work experiences in the insurance business and a great interest in sports. Jack's email address is allbirdies@ comcast.net.

» 1965

Tom Shineman reports: "My business partner and I are launching a new venture, SalesGenomix, that matches salespeople with employers using a talent assessment scientifically proven to predict success potential across 14 different sales roles (www.salesgenomix.com). A successful pilot test has been completed, and they are currently busy refining their offering and seeking funding to expand. My wife, Jan's, employer—Neteeza, a small software firm—has been acquired by 'Big Blue,' so she is now an alliance director for IBM. My daughter Trynka (Cornell '96) has been named president, North America, for Vistaprint, an up-and-coming e-commerce company. This past January, Trynka gave birth to our fifth grandchild, Amelia. And daughter Torrey (Reed '01) is completing her PhD in political science at NYU." You can reach Tom at esfusion@sellmoretraining.com.

» 1966

Mike Hugger has been battling Alzheimer's disease at his home in Great Falls, Virginia, but he has really enjoyed hearing from the brothers who have called to check in with him. His wife, Janet, usually answers the phone, and Mike takes it from there. Give him a call at (703) 757-7752. You'll be glad you did.

Ed Lortz filed the following from San Francisco: "Not much traveling in the last year, except to our favorite, the American Southwest, where we visited Monument Valley, Utah. My other obsession in old age, besides fixing up our 1880s Victorian, is conservation and recycling. This past year, we installed both solar electric and hot water systems, cutting our electric bill to five dollars a month and our gas bill by over 30 percent. We recycle everything, including clothes, electronics, CDs, DVDs, and even old floppy disks. The local recycling company takes metal and hard plastics, and we haven't trashed a newspaper, box, or scrap of paper in 15 years. I wrote my first article on recycling in 1998, and just finished another on 'deaccessioning.' Hope to see more brothers from back east when you visit the Bay Area." You'll find Ed at edwardksf@gmail.com.

Rick "Swede" Walsh reports: "We are waiting to sell our family home in Savannah, Georgia, and then we'll move back to New York state, probably somewhere around the Oneonta area, where some of Ellen's family lives." It will be great to have Swede back nearer to Ithaca where we might get to see him more often. He is at ellenmacwalsh@bellsouth.net. Tom Willis writes: "My wife, Ruki, and I were glad to leave the heat and commotion in D.C. for a while this past summer to spend some time with our two daughters, their husbands, and four grandchildren in Ocean City, New Jersey, where it was 20 percent cooler than most of the Northeast. I also enjoyed watching our six-month-old granddaughter charm the congregation during her recent baptism when she smiled at everyone as the rector carried her up and down the aisle." Tom is at willis431@verizon.net.

» 1969

Warren Lem and his wife, Lee, met **Sandy Gilbert '62** for lunch at the River City Café, a local favorite, in Punta Gorda, Florida. They talked about Warren's work with the United States Professional Tennis Association, which takes him all over the country, meeting with regional tennis professionals to provide guidance and leadership in education, diversity, and member retention. They also agreed to return to Homecoming and meet with house chef Etienne Merle, to learn more about current and projected undergraduate eating trends that might affect any future renovation of the house's dining and kitchen facilities. You'll find Warren at warrenlem@aol.com.



"Zolt" Selos '69 and his wife, Maryann

Henry McNulty writes, "My wife, Anne, and I were having lunch with **Alan Fridkin '65** and his wife, Gayle, this past August when the phone rang. It was **Lynn Selos**, who now goes by **"Zolt"** (from his middle name, Zoltan)—he and his wife, Maryann, would soon be passing through Connecticut. Zolt and Maryann stayed with us for a day at our cottage on Long Island Sound and, blessed with good weather, we had a great time catching up on the past 42 years. And we also had fun seeing Al and Gayle! The Seloses now live in North Carolina." Henry is at hmcnulty@aol.com; Zolt's address is z47selos@nc.rr.com.

<mark>›› 197</mark>4

Gary Dufel reports that he and his wife Deborah have "run away from home," accepting a business opportunity in Queensland, Australia, for what is expected to be about a >

four-year assignment. They will be living well north of Brisbane, along the coast adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, and Gary has already got his diving certificate to take advantage of the local opportunities. They've packed light, and plan to see a lot of Australia and anywhere else they can get to in the next few years. If anyone gets the travel bug and wants to visit, drop them a line: gary.dufel@ghd.com.au.

>> 1977

Jim Morrow writes, "healthy and happy in beautiful northeast Iowa. I work for a community bank as chief credit officer. The kids, parents, extended family, and family farm interests are all fairly close. Our oldest son will be getting married soon; our youngest is in second grade."

>> 1984

Craig "Stable Masté" Ogburn writes, "I'm trading gold in NYC, a member of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Summers in Saratoga, winters in La Republica. Hope my Thumper buddies are well!"

News of the 1990s: Sandy Gordon writes, "This past spring, Doug Levens asked if I would serve as the 1990s correspondent for the new electronic Oracle, and I was delighted to accept. It has been a blast reconnecting with brothers I knew on the hill, and hearing from some that I am just now connecting with for the first time. The response has been huge—hope to keep hearing from you!"

» 1990

Stan Leong writes: "Dear brothers, I have been living in Asia for over 10 years now. First Shanghai, and now more permanently in Taiwan. My wonderful wife, Chia Hui Lu, is an accomplished pianist whom I had met back in the day in NYC. I want to share some of her work with you, so please visit the following link when you have a chance: http://www.youtube.com/user/godz illarampage?feature=mhsn#p/u/3/wNcaknimF4Q. I hope you enjoy it. As for myself: Over the years, I have transitioned from an engineering lifestyle to startups/VC to my current profession in the public equity markets. I've picked up cycling a few years back and am considering a half Ironman. For any brothers coming through Taiwan, please feel free to contact me. It would be great to catch up." Stan is at leong@broadedge.com.

» 1991

Kris Billiar writes: "I'm still here in Worcester, Massachusetts eight years—as a professor (of biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute) and the crazy schedule that entails."

Darin Feldman lives in New Rochelle, New York, with his wife of 15 years, Beth, and two kids, Rebecca (12) and Dylan (9). He's a senior vice president of sales and trading for a regional fixedincome brokerage firm in Summit, New Jersey, for a firm called R. Seelaus & Co. Before that, he was a portfolio manager for a credit hedge fund in Stamford, Connecticut. Darin spends most of his free time coaching his kids' baseball and softball teams.

>> 1992

Tom Boorady is in northern New Jersey, about 25 miles from Manhattan. For the past 13 years, he's been working at a small civil-engineering firm, providing consulting engineering services to a handful of municipal governments for infrastructure projects and planning board matters. On an impromptu trip to Ithaca this past July, Tom ran into **Mike Karet, Doug Levens**, and **Bill "Veg" Noon**. He'd also seen **Doug Piper, Chris Turner**, and **Scott Alessandro** in the fall. "I wish I could tell you where I saw them and what we did," he writes, "but the mission is classified." Tom also spent a couple of days with **Aubrey Bout** this past July outside of Boston. Happily, there were no speeding tickets. Although it can be tough to attend Reunion and Homecoming some years, it is always great to run in to brothers at other times. "Do I hear 'mini-reunion in the tri-state area'?" Let's make it happen, brothers!

Doug Levens runs a triathlon training camp for kids in Cheshire, Connecticut—his youngest athlete is just 8! Read all about it here: http://cheshire.patch.com/articles/campteaches-young-athletes-triathlon-skills?ncid=M255.

Sam Sankar has been in Washington, D.C., since 2002. Daughter Kirthi is now 2, and stepson Zachary is 8. He's just returned to the U.S. Justice Department's environmental law division after spending most of the last year working for the president's blue-ribbon panel on the BP oil spill. (You can see some of his work at http://www.oilspillcommission.gov/.) "I managed to make it to Reunion this year, where my wife, Amanda, and I caught up with other '90s grads Eric Schneider, Jamey Dumas, Steve DelRosso, Ernie Joynt, Sandy Gordon, Alex Flueck, and, of course, Veg. (He is an honorary '90s grad.) If you are coming to DC for any reason, do come visit." (sam. sankar@gmail.com)

Don Song is living in Portland, Maine, with his wife and two children, Charlie (5) and Esme (7). He is working as a wastewater engineer and spends most of his free time with his family and sailing Casco Bay. Recently, he almost cut his finger off building a treehouse! ("A carpenter I am not," he writes.) Good thing his wife is an emergency-room doctor. "Any brothers who find their way to Maine, please let me know." He can be reached at dlsong55@hotmail.com.



Adam Borah '94 in Iraq

>> 1994

Adam Borah sends details of his amazing journey and service: "I live in Georgetown, Texas—near Austin—with Elisa, my wife, whom I met compliments of **Mike Buckler**. He set us up on a blind date at Homecoming 2000 while I was still in medical school—our fateful first meeting was at 125 Edgemoor Lane. >

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We have two children: Madeline, age 8, and Zachary, age 6. We also have four dogs, two cats, and untold miscellaneous fish, frogs, etc. After medical school, I did my residency in psychiatry at Tripler Army Medical Center on Oahu. After four years in paradise, I moved on to Fort Hood, Texas, where I was the 1st Cavalry Division psychiatrist. With the "1st Cav," I got to go to new and exciting places for extended periods of timelike, for instance, luxurious Camp Taji, Iraq, for 15 months. In retrospect, it wasn't too bad, but I missed my family. After returning home, I continued to be stationed at Fort Hood, and I was advanced to eventually be in charge of all outpatient behavioral health for the post. That was a very hard job, and I spent two years working 12-hour days, on average. Yuck. Also, over that time, Nidal Hassan came to the post, and he went on his murderous rampage about three months after arrival. I didn't know him well-we interacted maybe 10 times, and, thank God, he did not work in my area of operations. But, he made Fort Hood a scary place to work and a very busy place for a psychiatrist. About two years ago, I completed my military obligation and chose to become a civilian. The freedom of being able to say 'no' or 'I quit' is nice, but thankfully, I have had no cause to be disgruntled. In fact, I now still work for the Army as a civilian, and I have voluntarily moved to a position of less responsibility and fewer hours. Working nine-to-five for the past year has been heavenly. I have had time again to pursue hobbies, including triathlons. In 2008, I raced the Ironman Coeur d'Alene with Eric Helmy, and this past May, I did the inaugural Ironman Texas, beating my previous low time with a time that's now slightly less slow (by 25 minutes). This year, I am very much looking forward to meeting up with some brothers I have fallen out of touch with in Denver at a Broncos-Bears football game." Adam can be reached at amb18@cornell.edu.

Jeffrey Feldman writes: "I married Alison in 2002. Our son, Jack, was born in 2003, and our daughter, Leah, was born in 2005. We live in Ambler, Pennsylvania, which is about 35 minutes north of Philadelphia. Both my family and Alison's family are local to the area, so we get to spend a lot of time together with them. In 2007, I became a partner at Montgomery, McCracken—a law firm with offices in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and (as of September 1) NYC. (Fellow Omicron alum **Scott Coffina '89** also happens to be a partner at the firm.) I litigate business disputes of all kinds, from simple contract breaches to federal racketeering claims. I'd be glad to hear from brothers via LinkedIn (Jeffrey S. Feldman), Twitter (@Jeff_Feldman), Google+ (+Jeffrey Feldman), or email (jfeldman@mmwr.com)."

After getting his bachelor's from Cornell, **Earl Francisco Lopez** continued on to complete a joint master's program at the Johnson School of Management and Cornell Institute for Public Affairs, and later received a JD from Howard University School of Law. He also completed the "innovation for economic development" executive program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. And he's a U.S. Army veteran! Currently, Earl (who goes by E. Francisco professionally) is serving as a presidential-appointed senior policy advisor at the United States Department of Labor. He serves as a workforce and economic-cluster lead on key interagency efforts that promote regional innovation clusters and innovative urban affairs strategies to create jobs, reduce poverty, and expand economic prosperity to all Americans, as well as provide policy advice on important international programs. In the past 15 years, he has also led and executed civic, workforce, and economic-development strategy; strengthened management and organizational capacity; and coordinated advocacy and policy development both domestically and internationally. He's also spent time as consultant, legal counsel and advocate, nonprofit leader, and adviser to nongovernmental organizations in countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

» 1995

Chris Anthony recently accepted a new job with United Technologies Corp. He will be transitioning from Sikorsky to Hamilton Sundstrand. With this transition, he and Christine will be relocating the family up to the Hartford, Connecticut, area. Kids Jake and Mikaela are sad to leave their current home, but are excited about new adventures. Last fall, beloved Belle who some brothers will remember was the dog Chris and Christine got their senior year at Cornell—passed on. Chris reports that she is missed, but the family did get a new puppy. Dash, this spring.

Jason Dewitt is married to Laura Tarvin DeWitt (Cornell '95) and has two lovely, spirited daughters. Stella (3) and Maisie (5 months) occupy most of their time and thoughts. In 2010, they moved from Boston to northern Virginia for a job change. Jason enjoys his work as an education policy analyst, but living in suburbia has been, admittedly, a big adjustment. He gives a big shout out to all the brothers in the Boston area (and their families, too)!

Mike Filiatrault switched careers from chemical engineering to finance five years ago and is now working for Merck near Philadelphia. He got his MBA at night from Villanova and graduated at the top of his class. Mike and his wife, Katrina, have three young boys: Ben (9), Henry (5), and Charlie (2). He has recently been learning to fish the shoreline for striped bass and met up with **Matt Kelleher '99** for a day to try their luck. (He's still working on getting his first catch ...) Mike and his family have been getting together with the families of **John Barney**, **Frank Goppel**, and **Brain Machinist** for a week in Cape May, New Jersey. He's also volunteering on the ISWZA Board as treasurer.

» 1996

Michael Buckler writes, "I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi from 2006 to 2008. Upon my return to the States, I wrote a (recently published) book, From Microsoft to Malawi: Learning on the Front Lines as a Peace Corps Volunteer (Hamilton Books, 2011). The book is a fundraiser for three students I lived with in Malawi; each has passed the college > entrance examination and is ready to continue his education in Malawi—but none has the resources to do so. I hope that the book proceeds and donations from readers will change that. To read more, visit www.FromMicrosoftToMalawi.com."

Bing Chen has been living in New York City, working for an asset-management company as an equity analyst. Aside from work, Bing spends a good amount of his free time playing beach volleyball in Central Park. He is single and lives in Midtown Manhattan.

>> 1998

After living in Chicago proper for 12 years, **Paul Cheong** moved to the suburb of Glenview in January, and is getting used to the suburban lifestyle. His two children (Andrew, 3, and Amelia,18 months) keep him and his wife very busy in their free time which means more time at the local toddler park and less time at Wrigley Field. Paul has been working for U.S. Cellular for about three years as a lead database administrator, responsible for designing and implementing Oracle database solutions. He's caught up with many brothers over the past few years at a few weddings, and looks forward to seeing everyone at the 15year reunion in 2013.

Daniel Eisenberg is currently living in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, and works as an associate veterinarian at a small animal practice. He spends the majority of his free time with family and friends, but also enjoys extreme sports.

Christopher O'Donnell writes: "My wife, Alison, and I have two amazing kids (Emma, 4, and Tyler, 2) who keep us on our toes and slightly sleep-deprived. We recently just purchased our first home in Irvington, New York, after several years of being renters in Manhattan. We are loving life in the 'burbs, and the kids especially love seeing all the green stuff they thought grew only in Central Park. I have been working in IT at Accenture ever since graduating back in '98, and I can't believe I am still there."

James Turner writes: "Alissa and I are living in Wakefield, Massachusetts, and our son, Will, turned one in June. I've been working for a small engineering firm specializing in dams, geotechnical engineering, hydraulics and hydrology since 2004. Alissa's currently working at Hanscom AFB in contracting, though we're hoping for her to begin staying home with Will soon. It's been a year full of adjustments, but overall, things are good."

>> 1999

John Lambert is still enjoying the island lifestyle in Hawaii and spends most of his time on Oahu and the Big Island. His wife (class of '98) and he just celebrated their first anniversary and are looking forward to having some visitors to the islands in the coming months: Yale Klat and his wife, Melissa, as well as Matt Kelleher and his wife, Bree. If any brothers are ever passing through the mid-Pacific, he'd love to hear from you.

>> 2003

Ron Peck checks in to update his recent history: "I married Corinne, my girlfriend of eight-plus years, in 2010. I am working as in-house counsel for The Phia Group, LLC, a vendor that provides cost containment, claims recovery, and consulting services to health insurance carriers and benefit plans. I was recently promoted to senior vice president and general counsel at the company located in Braintree, Massachusetts, just south of Boston. Corinne and I just finalized an offer and acceptance on a new house in Natick, Massachusetts, and we should be moved in by the time you read this. I am now driving a sweet 2010 Subaru Legacy."

>> 2004

Lew Sovocool writes: "I am not working with the Southwest Conservation Corps (the organization that runs the veteran firefighting crews) anymore. However, they are still running the crews and are training vets in skills that will make them more competitive when pursuing federal employment in jobs like wildland firefighting. My girlfriend works with the SCC and is fairly involved in what's going on with tho<mark>se crews, so I keep</mark> up to date. I came along at the beginning of the program, and hopefully, my efforts helped to establish a solid framework for more veterans to receive the training and experience that will help them land a federal position. I have benefited from the program, as I am currently working as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service in Durango, Colorado, on the San Juan Interagency Hotshot Crew. I am enjoying the work, and we were very busy with fires this past summer. Anyone interested in my experience with the SCC can read about it in the Cornell Daily Sun." (http://cornellsun.com/node/45889).

>> 2007

Michael Spinnicchia writes, "Well, guys, nothing much new here ... just watching reruns of *Sex and the City* and Skyping with Tyler Woodell. If anyone wants to visit Albany, my mom says she'll make brownies and lasagna. I redecorated the basement as a shrine to A-Rod. He's the best ... nothing against Derek Jeter." *****



OBITUARIES

The Omicron Oracle notes with sadness the deaths of the following brothers:

Deane A. Dunloy '33 • October 22, 2010 **Harold G. Schlicht '41** • February 22, 2011 **William R. Best '47** • January 13, 2011 **Alexander P. Hyde '47** • March 15, 2011 **Thomas T. Rollinson '48** • January 26, 2011 **Christus J. Larios '49** • February 26, 2011 **Matthew J. Zak '52** • September 12, 2011 **Richard W. Constantin '56** • August 4, 2011

MAKING THEIR MARK: ALUMNI IN ACTION

Bruce Veghte '60 is a seven-year board member and treasurer of the popular Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida, where he has been working on a \$12 million building program for the facility. The CMA is a leading marine attraction on the west coast of Florida that also houses and rehabilitates injured marine life. Their most famous marine "guest" is "Winter", the subject of the recently released Warner Brothers motion picture *Dolphin Tale* starring Morgan Freeman, Harry Connick Jr., Kris Kristofferson, and Ashley Judd. It is a heartwarming true story about a dolphin that gets tangled in a fishing net and is painstakingly rehabilitated by the staff at the CMA. If you get a chance, see the film, as it's a good story the whole family can enjoy. Bruce reports that it was a unique experience watching the film crew turn the aquarium into a variety of different sets. The financial growth and expanding success of CMA to achieve its mission is exciting.



Bob Miller '62



Dave Shannon '69

evidence. Patty (Cornell '86) had been raped and killed near Stowe, Vermont, a state without a DNA data bank for convicted offenders. Despite the presence of a DNA "fingerprint" collected from Patty's clothes that could have identified her assailant, Vermont couldn't effectively use the evidence. The Scovilles made it their personal goal to continually petition Vermont lawmakers to establish a DNA data bank for convicted offenders by joining the national Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), which allows investigators to tap into genetic evidence from other jurisdictions. By 1998—largely thanks to the Scovilles' persistence and leadership—Vermont passed a bill that put the

The total revenue for CMA in fiscal year 2005 was less than \$1.5 million. CMA's budget for fiscal year 2012 shows total revenue at over \$11.0 million. That's a remarkable achievement in such a short time.

It's been a long, hard journey, but the 13year quest by David Scoville '61 and his wife, Ann, to find the person responsible for the murder of their daughter, Patty, in 1991 is finally over with a remarkable outcome. After years of frustration, as the case languished with no real leads, they decided to launch their own advocacy campaign, writing letters and testifying in support of expanding the use of DNA

state in the national CODIS system and established the state's own DNA database for violent offenders. As that initial bank of genetic profiles grew, it finally yielded a match in 2005 that identified Patty's killer as Howard Godfrey. Three more years passed until his trial, but it took the jury less than two hours to convict him, and he was sentenced to life in prison without parole. The Scovilles' saga and the notoriety surrounding the trial was widely covered by the media, including the New York Times, Reader's Digest, America's Most Wanted, and a segment on CBS's 48 Hours. David Dudley wrote a comprehensive article in the July-August 2006 edition of Cornell Alumni Magazine with a follow-up in this year's May-June Reunion issue. For the Scovilles, the most memorable part of the story occurred this past October with Vermont's decision to name their new DNA Lab in Patty's name. Now housed in a state-of-the-art forensic facility in Waterbury, the Patricia Scoville Memorial CODIS Laboratory stands as a lasting monument to Patty and the Scovilles' dogged determination to find justice for their daughter.

Jeff Burnam '62 recently attended a meeting as an observer of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). Looking back on his years in the U.S. State Department, the formation of the CBFP is his fondest memory. The CBFP was launched in 2002 by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell. As deputy assistant secretary of state for environment, Jeff travelled to the Congo Basin to discuss its formation with national leaders. His work persuaded the U.S. government to generously fund the partnership, along with France and more than three dozen other governmental and nongovernmental partners. U.S. diplomacy encouraged Omar Bongo, president of Gabon, to create a 17 million acre park system. The Congo Basin partners are now at the stage of trying to manage the parks they created, cracking down on illegal logging and trying to promote tourism to counteract adverse development. Jeff reports that the parks in Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville) are definitely worth a visit. If you go to Gabon at the right time in the summer, you might even see hippos swimming in the ocean. The National Geographic has run several articles and produced several TV shows on the forests in the Congo Basin which is the second largest block of undisturbed tropical forest in the world. Jeff regrets that none of them recognized the contribution of the U.S. and the George W. Bush administration in promoting tropical forest conservation in Africa.

As an interesting adjunct to his legal work at Davidson & Dawson in New York, **Bob Miller '62** and his wife, Katarina, have traveled around the world as board members of the National Endowment for Democracy, attending conferences with world leaders and diplomats to bring together activists working for democracy. In his travels, Bob was especially pleased to have met the Dalai Lama, who was presented with the Democracy Courage Award at a reception at the Library of Congress. His travels with the NED have taken him to South Africa, Ukraine, and Indonesia. Bob reports that he has met some inspiring people who often work at great personal peril to advance democratic breakthroughs in their society. Bob is now working on a nascent World Youth Movement for Democracy with some terrific North ►

MAKING THEIR MARK, continued from prev. pg.

Africans, among others, who were deeply involved in the Tahir Square uprising in Cairo last spring.

Mountain climbing is not for the faint-hearted. Mountain climbing in Nepal is on another plane all together. **Dave Shannon '69**, now an embedded New Zealander, has logged many hours on Nepal's storied slopes after he was transferred there in his role as country director for Foster Parents Plan, now known as ChildReach. Dave has chronicled his mountain climbing and other exploits in an intriguing book, *The Tibetan Horse*, now available online at www.smashwords.com/books/view/51125. Dave was also honored to have met in his travels with fellow New Zealander and renowned mountain climber, the late Sir Edmund Hillary. Sir Edmund was gracious enough to sign Dave's ice ax, which is now a prized possession. *



THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN: Nonprofit Corporation Established

he Centennial Campaign Committee (CCC) met on the Friday afternoon of Homecoming Weekend for a planning session with Greg McElroy, Omicron's campaign counsel, and gave an impressive update to the ISWZA board on Saturday morning.

Important announcements included the incorporation of the Edgemoor Leadership Foundation, headed by Elliot Sloane '74 as the foundation's president. Elliot announced the appointment of Jim Morrill '84 as treasurer of the foundation and outlined the steps taken to formally establish it as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Its ongoing mission will be to foster academic and leadership skills for LXA undergraduates, and it will have an important role as a funding conduit for the Centennial Campaign.

As a registered 501(c)(3) corporation, the Edgemoor Leadership Foundation will allow donations to the Centennial Campaign to be tax-deductible. In addition, Elliot informed the board that qualifying campaign donations would be eligible to be recorded by the university as accredited donations to Cornell, as long as they are given during an agreed-upon five-year window. We expect this giving window to commence next spring at the latest. These combined fiscal features are a major benefit to all of Omicron's potential donors.

Greg McElroy briefed the board on the process to conduct the feasibility study and his progress to date in contacting some of our potential major donors. A credible feasibility study is one of the requirements by Cornell for all renovation projects over \$250,000 and is one of the prerequisites to gain Cornell's approval to start the five-year giving window.

After consulting with the CCC executive committee and a review of the Omicron donation records, the committee compiled a list of potential top donors. Over the course of the next few months, Greg will arrange personal meetings with many of those identified in this group of brothers to review the preliminary renovation plan and to assess their potential level of giving to the Centennial Campaign. After these interviews, he will prepare a feasibility-study report that will set a recommended funding goal that will determine the degree of



renovation we can undertake. Assuming that we decide to move ahead with our renovation plan, the next phase of actual pledging and fundraising will begin shortly after that, through the efforts of our campaign counsel and a few of the CCC members. This subsequent phase is expected to take a year or more.

Following Greg's contact with major donors, the general brotherhood will receive literature describing the planned renovation and a request for funding support. This phase of the campaign will be handled by the CCC and a group of alumni volunteers from the various decades from the '40s through the '00s. Anyone interested in assisting in this important aspect of the campaign should contact Sandy Gilbert '62 at sandem133@ aol.com for details.

The board was pleased with the progress to date on the campaign, and the Omicron brotherhood should be encouraged that we are moving toward preparing our house for the next 100 years.

Above photo: Doug Levens '92 , John Zelenka '03, Ralph Wilhelm '67, Bob McKinless'48, Sandy Gilbert '62, Mo Jardaneh '09, and Elliot Sloane '74 17



THE CHAPTER: Omicron Welcomes Unusually Large Fall AM Class

By Steven Robertson '12, High Alpha

micron is off to another great start in the fall of 2011. After saying goodbye to 15 graduating seniors, we began the fall semester with a heavy focus on recruitment. After initiating a total of 18 new brothers last year (four in the fall, 14 in the spring), Omicron hoped to continue its recent success. This commitment brought in a total of eight new Associate Members, the largest fall rush class of any house in the past three years at Cornell.

The fall 2011 Associate Member class is: Robert "Mac" Bradley '13 from Los Angeles; Chris Fateh '13 from Scarsdale, New York; Andrew Lui '14 from Woodside, New York; Jeremy March '13 from Ithaca; Arlen Papzian '14 from McLean, Virginia; Ryan Rizzuti '13 from Congers, New York; Matthew Scognamiglio '13 from Old



Steven Robertson

Bridge, New Jersey; and Andy Wagner '14 from Memphis, Tennessee.

Under the leadership of our High Kappas, Benji Rutkin-Becker '12 and Matt Ullmann '12, they will learn what it takes to become true brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha and continue the strong traditions of our chapter.

In other news, at the end of the past spring semester, the brothers of Omicron—in a joint effort with our neighbors, Chi Phi—held a

gorge cleanup. At the event, more than 30 brothers from the two houses, combined with Cornell Plantations and Cornell Outdoor Education, spent the afternoon in the Cascadilla Gorge area directly below the two houses, picking up trash and clearing the path of loose rock.

Overall, the group collected more than 15 full bags of trash and cleared a path of more than a mile along the gorge trail. Unfortunately, because of heavy rain during the week leading up to the event, the houses were unable to clean the gorge area directly behind each of the houses, as we had originally planned. That section of the cleanup has been rescheduled to a date later this semester. Additionally, Omicron has decided to combine with Friends of the Gorges to "adopt" the section of the gorge that lies below the chapter house. This program will involve monthly cleanups throughout the year once the paths are open and safe enough for public access.

Another recent philanthropy event that brothers participated in was in Owego, New York, which is south of Ithaca (not far from Binghamton), during the weekend of September 24–25. The small town of Owego was hit particularly hard during the flooding that plagued much of southern New York during the beginning of September. The flooding left nearly 75 percent of the local residents without access to their homes. Over the weekend, 10 brothers and associate members, along with several other members of the IFC community, volunteered their afternoons to help local residents clear their homes of all the damage done by the flooding, some of which experienced flood waters as high as six feet.

I am also happy to announce that two brothers of Omicron are currently sitting on the IFC executive board: Dan Freshman '12 is president, and Alan Workman '13 is VP of communications.

As always, there is never a bad time to visit 125 Edgemoor Lane. If you are in the area, please do not hesitate to contact me at (607) 280-6993 or ssr79@cornell.edu. *

OMICRON FACT BOX: FALL 2011

High AlphaSteven Robertson '12High BetaJames MacDonald '13High ThetaMatt Clardy '14High GammaKyle Frank '14High TauDerek Jeong '12High IotaRavi Garcia '14High KappasMatt Ullmann '12 and Benji Rutkin-Becker '12High DeltaAlan Workman '13High SigmaGabe Mahan '13High EpsilonsStephen Love '14 and Carter Loftus '14High RhoEddie Reynolds '12High Mu (House Manager)Bill Morgan '13StewardJohn Pertsch '14
High Mu (House Manager) Bill Morgan '13
Athletic ManagerBrian Silver '13Sustainability ChairKevin Braunscheidel '13High PiJeff Barber '08 (Butler University)Graduate AdvisorsBilly Smith '10 and Matt Leighton '08President, Cornell IFCDaniel Freshman '12VP Communications, Cornell IFCAlan Workman '13
Current house GPA: 3 240 • House website: www.jswza.org

Above photo: Undergraduates at the Homecoming football game against Bucknell in September. Left to right (with letters painted on): Gabe Mahan '13, Chris Fateh'13, Jeremy March '13, Greg Becker '13, Tarik Abdelqader '12, Dan Loeffler '14, Matt Clardy '14, Jim Scheller '13, and John Pertsch '14. This photo was taken by, and appeared in, the *Cornell Daily Sun*.

OUR NEWEST BROTHERS

n the spring, Omicron Zeta initiated a dozen new brothers. Here are brief, and somewhat accurate, profiles of them:

Matt "Clardvark" Clardy, Engineering '14, is a sophomore from Chicago studying chemical engineering with the rest of Cornell's socially awkward population. One of Matt's biggest strengths is his strength. He has been working out since high school and has goals to compete in bodybuilding in the near future. His biggest weakness is that he's a Minnesota Twins fan, despite living in Chicago, a city that already has two other baseball teams.

Stephen Love, Human Ecology '14, joined our ranks this past spring, making a reverse "Oregon trail" trip from Rogue River, Oregon, into Ithaca. He can often be seen on campus sprinting up cliff faces, lifting boulders out of the way for crossing Girl Scouts, and dropping perfectly thrown passes.

Carter Loftus, Ag and Life Sciences '14, recently joined Lambda Chi as our most intelligent member. During his Associate Membership, he achieved a perfect 4.3 GPA, besting his paltry 4.24 from the previous semester. While Cornell generally reserves this type of grade inflation for those in the hotel school, Carter did all of this as a biology major. Hailing from the Syracuse area, he also is a member of the polo team.

Don't be fooled by **Sam Daly**'s ('13) Midwestern drawl: the Madison, Wisconsin, native is a force to be reckoned with. He is on pace to break all modern passing records in Cornell intramural fraternity flag-football history, with an arm that rightfully belongs on the varsity football team. Outside of the hashes, Sam enjoys the weather, cheese (only from Wisconsin), Badgers football, and aspiring to be a mechanical engineer.

Kyle Frank, Ag and Life Sciences '14—besides winning the award for best mutton chops on campus—is also widely known around Cornell for his family's vineyard, one of the most famous in the Finger Lakes region. This impresses the ladies enough that they can forget that he lives in a room named "the pit." When not getting to know the lovely women of the sorority community, he enjoys watching classic Disney movies with the sound turned off.



Cleanup in Owego *(from center):* Andy Wagner '14 (with shovel), Andrew Lui '14, Matt Scognamiglio '13, Chris Fateh '13, and Jim Scheller '12

Dan Loeffler, Arts '14—known as "Lafla" or "Lof," but best known as "Lafleur"—has been a terrific addition to our house from Syracuse. A truly well-rounded gentleman, Dan has contributed both athletically and academically. His prowess on the intramural football field and suave demeanor make the ladies swoon. But running over opposing teams and breaking hearts aren't his only strengths. This is a man of scholarship, a man who will stop at nothing to probe the deepest questions that humanity faces.

John Pertsch, Engineering '14, is studying applied physics in engineering. Hailing from right outside San Jose, California, John brings with him a certain "swagga" that comes with a lifetime of basking in the sun. When he isn't dutifully attending to his studies, John likes to take time out to pursue his other interests, such as playing goalie for the fraternity's intramural soccer team and straightening his hair.

Ravi Garcia, Engineering '14, is from California, so he naturally enjoys the smaller things in life. Sadly, he does not share the same love of the silver foxes of the luxurious Turning Stone Casino as his big brother, but instead prefers women his own age (yuck!) As he is an aspiring biological engineer, it is impossible to understand what he wants to do with his life.

Arturo Covarrubias, Arts '13, is a double major in physics and economics from Chicago. He currently has no idea what he wants to do with his life, but seems content where it is going. He is applying to do research for his professor involving nanoscience, but at the same time thinks he wants to attend the Cornell in Washington program next semester and get an internship in finance.

Tarik Abdelqader, ILR '12, is an extremely driven and passionate student. As a senior, Tarik has elected to continue with a heavy courseload of reading, reading, and some more reading—the most rigorous aspect of an ILR degree—in addition to preventing others from having that cognitive capacity as an offensive guard for the Cornell University varsity sprint football team. He integrates our core values in his up-andcoming Ed Hardy-esque clothing line, DEVOL. The tastefully crafted rhinestone- and glitter-covered T-shirts should serve as a primary example that the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha are welcoming of all lifestyles and faiths, regardless of how misguided their fashion sense may be.

Tom Burke '13 is in the School of Hotel Administration. He is very interested in technology and will most likely pursue this field upon graduation. He is involved in Statler with leadership positions in hotelie organizations, fits into the hotelie mold, and would definitely be considered a "well-respected hotelie" by his peers. He's from Paradise Valley, Arizona, where hotels are not unknown.

Gabriel Mahan, Arts '13, hails from the wintry chasms of Mahtomedi, Minnesota. When he is not holding Philosophy Club meetings on our scenic gazebo, you can find him reciting sonnets for one of his numerous lady friends. As one of the best High Sigmas that Omicron Zeta has seen recently, Gabe provides the house with constant, cultured entertainment through his weekly installments of "Sigma Gabe Presents."

Congratulations to all! \diamond

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