OMICRON ORACLE





A LETTER FROM THE ORACLE'S NEW EDITOR



By Brett Ainsworth '92, Editor

For the past 27 years—first as an undergraduate, and then as an alumnus pursuing a career as a writer and editor for the venerable *Hartford Courant* newspaper—Henry McNulty '69 has served as the editor of *The Omicron Oracle*. Given his lengthy time at the helm, it is understandable that he has asked to retire. On behalf of every member of Omicron Zeta, we want to sincerely thank Henry for his many years of dedicated service. However, before he leaves his post, we have asked him to share his insights on the various changes and repositioning of *The Oracle* over the years.

Henry relates that, for decades, *The Oracle* was written by undergraduates as a means to inform alumni about what was going on at the house. This produced a lively, up-to-date vehicle that was very much in tune with its times. With some good editing—and some not so good—*The Oracle* was inconsistent in its coverage. In addition, because it wasn't written by alumni, it didn't always address alumni concerns and interests.

When the ISZWA board asked Henry to take over the writing and editing in 1987, Henry says that he strove to achieve consistency with the editorial content. The newsletter would always contain certain elements—like alumni news and a "state of the house" report by the High Alpha—and the various sections would always appear in the same order. This continuity gave *The Oracle* a focus and created a comfortable format for the reader because he knew what to expect and where to find it.

Henry's second objective was to achieve historical completeness. He instituted the "Omicron Fact Box," which listed all house officers by name and title, and he ensured that there would always be a list of new associate members by full name, Cornell school, graduation year, and hometown. The idea was to create a historical record, so readers could consult it years later as a factual reference.

Henry also tells us that he did a little cleanup around the edges. Except for the traditional newly initiated brother (NIB) profiles—which are a bit tongue-in-cheek—he discouraged undergraduate in-jokes and photographs or discussion of alcohol abuse. He also introduced more quality photography, often by his own hand.

And finally, Henry says he is proud to be part of the team that created a whole new electronic *Oracle* with its 20-plus pages of full-color editorial matter, which can be found online at our website, www.iswza.org.

Looking to the future, *The Oracle* will continue to evolve from its historical roots as a printed newsletter to a full-scale online magazine. This process allows us to bring you much more editorial content, including an expanded alumni news section, feature articles like "Inside Cornell" and "Greek Life," and lifestyle columns on travel, food, wine, and gardening.

The electronic format is also a much more efficient use of your dues contributions, as it enables us to produce five times as much editorial material for considerably less cost than the traditional four-page printed and mailed version. Most importantly, the response of the brotherhood to the new electronic format has been very gratifying. Not only in terms of many positive comments, but after only two issues, *The Oracle* now reaches 75 percent of our known living alumni via the announcement email. A few more respond by providing their email addresses after each issue.

A key part of the evolution of *The Oracle* into a full-color online magazine is the amount of visual material we now have at our disposal. Our regular features generally come with a workable supply of supporting visuals. But it's in the alumni news section where we especially appreciate those of you who submit your letters with some interesting pictures. We encourage you to continue doing so, as the photos really make this section come alive.

I look forward to my new role as editor of *The Oracle* and welcome any suggestions or comments at www.iswza.org. *

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INSIDE CORNELL

A Tour of the Cornell Campus

By CU Trustee Stephen Ashley '62



lumni visiting campus after an absence of as little as five years uniformly remark on the construction activity.

They ask: "What are all these new buildings for?" and, "What's happening to the green space?"



ing in excess of \$1 billion. These new structures serve the student experience through both residential complexes and academic priorities.

Yes, over the past 10-15 years, there have been

significant improvements to the campus-total-

For this issue, I thought you might be interested in a narrative tour of the new campus facilities that have sprung up over the past decade and a few words about those on the planning boards.

Stephen Ashley

First, something needs to be said about campus

planning. Approximately 10 years ago, the university trustees and the administration embarked on a campus master plan. This involved the use of consultants, and a task force of trustees, administrators, and college unit representatives was established. The plan was comprehensive and forward-looking.

The approach to the plan was to categorize the university's needs and priorities into areas such as residential, academic, athletic, field research, and requirements for animals. Also included were infrastructure needs—transportation, utilities, bike paths, and walkways. A priority of the task force was maintenance of green and open areas—not just those for study purposes, like Cornell Plantations, but also those for student congregation or contemplative opportunity, and those of historical importance and scenic legacy. The comprehensive master plan is the guiding document for the current decade. However, it is not viewed as being chiseled in granite—but rather an organic, evolving plan.

Stop #1: North Campus Housing

New housing was built approximately 10 years ago in order to house all freshmen, thereby creating a more unified first-year experience. The new dormitories offer suite-type living and are built around a large, open space, now named Rawlings Green.

At one side of Rawlings Green is Appel Commons, which offers dining and recreational facilities for the North Campus residents. Appel Commons is named for trustee emeritus Bob Appel and his wife, Helen, who contributed \$15 million toward the construction of the building.

The dormitories were paid for by the issuance of New York State Dorm Authority bonds, and the debt is serviced through room fees. This is also true of West Campus housing, which we will discuss momentarily. The North Campus and West Campus housing were a major initiative of President Hunter Rawlings.

Stop #2: College of Architecture

We are now crossing the Triphammer Bridge and arriving at the

College of Architecture housed in Rand Hall, Sibley Hall, and the striking new Milstein Hall. Milstein Hall was designed by the renowned architect, Rem Koolhaas, and features an incredible amount of poured concrete and a cantilever over University Avenue. The architect had a challenge in terms of positioning this building in such a way that it would not be visible from the Arts Quad and would be integrated into the nineteenth-century Sibley building and 1920s-era Rand Hall. Accrediting teams had been critical of the physical environment for Cornell's number one-ranked architecture college, and Milstein Hall addresses this issue substantively. Its most notable feature is the cantilever over University Avenue.

STOP #3: JOHNSON ART MUSEUM

Near Milstein Hall is the new addition to the Johnson Art Museum. The original structure was designed by I.M. Pei, who is still active at age 90 and had a hand in the addition. A small but spectacular Japanese garden, which is very serene and secluded, adjoins the addition.

STOP #4: WEST CAMPUS

Moving down Libe Slope to the site of the former University Halls (the structures that bore more resemblance to a medium-security penal institution than a college campus), we find the University Halls completely gone and replaced by a series of "houses" that combine suite-style living with dining. Each house has a live-in faculty adviser and provides a series of fora throughout the academic year. The houses are named for significant deceased faculty (e.g., Alice Cook, Carl Becker). The dorms are for sophomore through senior students and are in high demand.

These structures were part of Hunter Rawlings' Undergraduate Initiative Program and are financed through New York State Dorm Authority bonds.

STOP #5: LAW SCHOOL

As we move back up the hill toward the Engineering Quad, we will see significant fencing to our right, around the open space between Myron Taylor Hall and Annabel Taylor Hall. This is an addition to the law school, for which ground has just recently been broken, and will contain classrooms. It is being built under the lawn in front of Myron Taylor Hall and will open on to the sunken courtyard that Lambda Chi brothers have walked through for many years on their way to class. This project is fully paid for through philanthropy and some law school reserve funds.

STOP #6: ENGINEERING QUAD

Next on our campus tour is the Engineering Quad, which has been substantively transformed with the addition of Duffield Hall. Duffield Hall was constructed approximately 10 years ago and is the home of Cornell's nanoscience initiative.

Duffield adjoins Phillips and Upson Halls, and it features a large atrium and inside windows with views of moon-suited students working in the labs. A few steps from Duffield Hall is the new Bill and Melinda Gates Hall, now under construction in the Hoy Field parking lot. This



Weill Hall, Cornell's \$150 million life science building.

will be the home of Cornell's computing information and science faculty, which was initially financed with a lead gift of \$25 million from the Gates Foundation. The building is a \$50 million structure, and an additional \$25 million had to be raised through philanthropy before construction could begin.

STOP #7: BIOTECH

Going now to Teagle Hall and Lynah Rink, we encounter Cornell's Biotechnology Building, which was built approximately 17–18 years ago. More significant now is Weill Hall, which is a \$150 million life science building with a footprint that covers a significant part of one of the alumni fields. The building was designed by Richard Meier, a Cornell architect graduate, and features Meier's signature all-white exterior. The building is named for Sandy and Joan Weill, who designated \$50 million of their \$350 million university commitment to Weill Hall.

A note on Sandy and Joan Weill: Sandy is one of the most remarkable benefactors that Cornell has ever had, and his leadership of the Board of Overseers of Weill Cornell Medical College has been exemplary. Sandy has committed his own resources, but has also been very instrumental in raising additional funds to benefit the medical college. He is always much in the news—most recently with some statements regarding the reinstitution of Glass-Steagall type separation between investment banking and commercial banking—but his support of Cornell and its leadership has been indefatigable, and he is always thinking years ahead.

STOP #8: FOOD SCIENCE

Farther east on Tower Road, construction is underway on a new food science building that tips in at \$50 million and is paid for out of the State University Construction Fund. Cornell has a number-one-ranked food science department, but the old Stocking Hall was being held together by duct tape and bailing wire. It is amazing that the university was able to attract faculty and graduate students into such an antiquated facility. Food science is probably better referred to as food safety, and it is in this built environment that the cutting-edge research is taking place.

STOP #9: VET SCHOOL

Beyond the food science construction is the vet college, which boasts a new animal diagnostic lab and is now considering expansion of the teaching facilities.

STOP #10: AG QUAD

The Ag Quad is undergoing a less dramatic transition. Approximately 10 years ago, an addition to Mann Library, together with a

renovation of the old Mann Library, was completed. It is now one of the best study spaces on campus, featuring state-of-the-art everything and, of course, one of the world's best collections of life science literature. Warren Hall, home to the Charles Dyson School for Applied Economics and Management (Cornell's undergraduate business program), is currently undergoing a complete renovation costing between \$40 and \$50 million, paid for out of the State University Construction Fund—obviously one of the benefits of Cornell holding land-grant status for New York State. The Dyson School is ranked number three among 400 undergraduate business schools in the country, acing out Wharton, which is number five.

Warren Hall had literally not been touched since I was an undergraduate student there more than 50 years ago. I think some of my doodles are still carved in one of the desks!

STOP #11: GOLDWIN-SMITH

Dropping down to East Avenue, facing the back of Goldwin-Smith Hall, we will soon see construction taking place for a structure that will fill the back of Goldwin-Smith Hall, between the two legs. Much of this structure will be below-grade, and that which is above grade will be a significant glass-sheathed building. The structure will not be visible from the Arts Quad and is one of the first new buildings in a great number of years that will support and house humanities. It is an \$80 million building and is financed with philanthropy, carrying a lead gift from Seth Klarman; it will be known as Klarman Hall. Seth has a very significant hedge fund and is based in Boston.

STOP #12: PHYSICAL SCIENCES

As we walk along East Avenue, one will be mildly impressed by the new physical sciences building that fills the space between Rockefeller Hall and Baker Lab. This \$150 million building is predominantly glass construction above grade, but contains five floors below grade. The architect had a tough assignment in marrying the somewhat classical stone structure of Baker Lab with the more Gothic brick structure of Rockefeller. Plain glass seemed to be the only way to do it.

COMPLETION OF TOUR

We are now back at Triphammer Bridge, and our tour is complete.

The university campus is constantly evolving. Next on the planning horizon will be an expanded health facility to meet the increasing physical and mental needs of students. Working out the mechanisms for financing that building will be tricky, but preliminary efforts indicate that it can be accomplished. ❖



Millstein Hall houses Cornell's architecture program, which is ranked number one in the country.

GREEK LIFE: LAMBDA CHI ALPHA AND THE GREEK COMMUNITY

By Ralph Wilhelm '67 Chair, CU Fraternity & Sorority Advisory Council

micron Zeta is well looked after and supported by our alumni leaders, undergraduate officers, and members.

Our undergraduate president, David Cascione '13 (dac283@cornell.edu), will guide our chapter through the fall semester, aiming at duplicating the exceptional rushing class

of associate members that Omicron assembled this past aca-



Ralph Wilhelm

demic year. While it will be difficult to duplicate the success of the 31 new members from fall 2011 and spring 2012, Omicron remains focused on doing just that. The great news is that we are at a stable size that puts us among the top five chapters on campus in a number of areas (number of brothers, participation in extracurricular activities, leadership on campus, etc.). Note that, with David taking the Alpha position, our alumni liaison (or Rho) will be Jake Barnes '15 (jrb458@cornell.edu).

While we do miss the influence and guidance of having two Omicrons on the IFC eBoard—Dan Freshman '12 served as president in 2011, and Alan Workman '13 as vice president of communication—Alan will serve as the executive vice president for the IFC in 2012, which will enable us to influence the Greek direction on campus. Here's to hoping that another Omicron steps forward to run this November for next year's IFC eBoard and continue our streak of three-consecutive academic years with IFC executive board members!

The Greek Scene at Cornell

The Greek pace on campus continues to quicken due to a variety of influences. These influences include an increase in national expectations for healthy choices by undergraduates on college campuses and some very specific Cornell challenges, including the tragic death of a sophomore SAE brother in February 2011 due to suspicious circumstances involving hazing and alcohol; the \$25 million civil law suit filed against SAE National, the SAE local chapter, and 20 undergraduates as a result of the young man's death; and the closing of a number of other Greek fraternities on campus.

Events at the end of the spring semester and the beginning of the current semester have shown that alcohol and hazing are not the only challenges—racial issues have also begun to surface with some ugly situations. Due to a racial incident in May 2012, Sigma Pi was placed on provisional recognition status for this academic year. Other regrettable incidents have occurred in Collegetown, however Omicron was not involved in any way.

The better news here is that these unacceptable behaviors are not rampant on campus. However, they do occur often enough to cause all of us that are involved to be aggressive and eager to do whatever is possible to significantly reduce the amount of egregious behavior and encourage healthier choices and mature decision-making based on sound values. This focus holds for both the Greek and the non-Greek communities on campus.

The continuation of unacceptable behavior by some individuals and some Greek chapters, combined with the increased expectations for mature and acceptable decision-making, continues to keep the Greek community in full view on campus. This has resulted in, among other things, the insistence on dry rush on campus, beginning with this past academic year. Generally, this change was reasonably successful; however, more work and improved behavior for all must be our collective goal.

As you will remember, President Skorton issued his demand that the Greek system on campus eliminate pledging as we know it. This directive occurred in August 2011 with a face-to-face, hour-long session with all Greek senior undergraduate leaders on campus with President Skorton; a *New York Times* op-ed on August 24, 2011, by the president; and the formation of a RARE (Recruitment, Acceptance, Retention, and Education) Committee of ap-

proximately two dozen members (including undergraduates, alumni, staff, and national Greek experts) to address the Skorton challenge.

The RARE Committee has met a few times with our Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council (FSAC) and the University Trustee Student Life Committee (SLC). As chair of the Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council, I have been intimately involved with this process.



President Skorton

The watershed discussions with both the FSAC and the Trustee SLC occurred this September and October, ending with a series of firm and clear recommendations going to the trustees for their feedback and approval. The overall focus of these discussions continues to be the stabilization, improvement, and substantial movement of the Greek system toward a greatly improved and more acceptable risk profile on campus. We do understand that we are in the midst of forcing a culture change on campus—hence our short- and long-term focus on this challenge. However, we are convinced that we are on the right path; we just have plenty of work left to do! We are fortunate to be in the middle of many of these discussions and will keep you as informed as best we can.

The National Picture

Our national fraternity continues along its stable and productive path, which was laid out years ago. It is now building upon its TRUE Brother Initiative to base all of their training and focus around this approach, built on the foundation of Seven Core Values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Service and Stewardship, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. These values are apparent in just about everything a solid chapter does: recruitment, leadership through challenging times, new member education, initiation, lifetime brotherhood activities, mentorship, and so on. It is my

personal hope that our Omicron Zeta alumni and undergraduates plan their future to include more of the TRUE Brother initiatives and values.

Summary

If you have any questions or comments on this report, please send me an email (rwy5@cornell.edu) or call me on my cell phone (317-508-6866). I'd be pleased to answer as best as I can.

BROTHERS STAY ACTIVE ACROSS CAMPUS

By David Cascione '13 High Alpha

the newly elected High Alpha, I am pleased to have the chance to introduce myself to our alumni readers and tell you about some of the chapter's plans for the fall season. Growing up in the warm climate

of Naples, Florida, and being a huge Gators fan, I always thought I'd go to college at the University of Florida. In fact, I didn't really know much about Cornell until I started receiving some literature from the university. After a session with my guidance counselor, I was impressed with what she told me about Cornell's Ivy League tradition and the fact that it has one of the best undergraduate chemistry departments in the world. After applying early deci-



David Cascione

sion and getting in, I thought I'd give it a year and go back to Florida if I wasn't happy studying in "sunny" Ithaca. Of course, I fell in love with the place during my first week on campus.

I really hadn't planned on joining a fraternity, either, but attended Rush Week anyway to have a good time with some good friends from Low Rise 7. We spent most of the time during the week at Lambda Chi and two other houses, but

Omicron was the only place where I didn't feel like I was being rushed or sold on anything after the first couple of days. Still questioning whether I should join a house, I was finally convinced by Alan Workman '13, a great friend from my first semester; and my future big brother, Steve Robertson '12; to make one of the most gratifying commitments of my life.

Our alumni readers will be glad to know that the chapter is off to a great start this fall. We plan to continue our strong academic showing with this past spring's 3.24 grade point average, which ranked us in the top 30 percent of fraternities on the hill. We are also financially sound with 56 current brothers, which makes us the fifth-largest fraternity on campus.

Omicron has been increasingly active in recent years in its efforts to give back to the community, and we are working to continue that tradition. This fall, we will sponsor a blood drive and a "trick-or-treat for canned goods" charity event on Halloween to provide some much-needed food supplies for Ithaca's less fortunate residents.

On the social scene, the chapter will host one open party, as well as mixers with six different Cornell sororities. We also look forward to an active fall intramural sports program following our success in basketball this past spring, when the house made it all the way to the championship game.

And lastly, we are already planning our strategy to repeat last year's very successful spring rush program, during which Omicron attracted 23 new associate members, one of the largest new member classes on campus.

Come by for a visit whenever you are in town and be sure to let me know if I can answer any questions about the chapter. You can reach me at dac283@cornell.edu. *

OMICRON FACT BOX: FALL 2012

High Alpha Dave Cascione '	13
High Beta Chris Fateh '	
High Gamma Conor Goetz '	
High Tau Bill Morgan '	12
High Theta Greg Pekar '	
High lota Alex Shoifet '	15
High Kappas Adam Stein '	13
Alan Workman '	
High Delta Arlen Papazian '	14
High Phi James MacDonald '	13
High Sigma Dwight Bush '	
High Epsilons Kevin Ross '	
Kevin Koch '	
High Rho Jake Barnes '	
High Mu Dan Loeffler '	14
HighPiMattLeighton'	
Jock Steve Rosenfield '	
Steward	
Executive Reps Brian Silver '	
Ravi Garcia '	
Nick Polera '15 (alternat	e)

Current house GPA: 3.24 • House website: www.iswza.org



By Sandy Gilbert '62

The Capital Campaign Committee working on the renovation of Omicron's chapter house reached a major milestone at its fall meeting at Willard Straight Hall the Friday afternoon of Homecoming Weekend.

After announcing the successful completion of the feasibility study for the renovation program only a few months ago, Greg McElroy, the consultant on the project, reported to the committee that the campaign has already secured pledges from some major alumni donors accounting for nearly half of the proposed fundraising goal. This is a significant achievement in such a short period of time, and it bodes well for the ultimate success of the project.

The three co-chairs of the committee—Doug Levens '92, Sandy Gilbert '62, and Ralph Wilhelm '67—were joined at the meeting by committee members John Zelenka '10, president of the ISWZA Alumni Association; Steve Ashley '62, honorary chair; Phil Prigmore '69; Bob McKinless '48; and Jason Cho '98.

Greg McElroy reviewed the list of alumni that he intends to contact over the next few months with the committee, highlighting certain alumni who had expressed a willingness to make significant contributions to the campaign during the feasibility study.

Given the very encouraging start to the funding process, the committee now projects that we will be ready to formally announce the details of the renovation program to the general brotherhood early this coming spring.

Another significant step reached at the meeting was the hiring of Phil Prigmore and his well-known architectural firm, JHL Tecture PC, as the presiding architects for the project. Phil's firm specializes in working with older buildings, and he has been the lead architect on many building projects throughout Central New York. Phil and

his colleagues have extensive experience in working with many of the leading building contractors in the Ithaca area, and he has offered his firm's services at a very attractive rate.

The fieldwork, or first phase of the renovation process, will take place over the next few months with a survey of the site and checks on the foundation and setbacks to determine the most feasible location for any part of the project that would go beyond the present footprint of the chapter house.

Drawings of the final version of the renovation project will be available as part of the informational packet Omicron alumni will receive when the campaign is formally launched next spring. It is expected that the actual construction work will take place from the summer of 2014 through the spring of 2015.

Since the committee has been advised that it is not viable for safety reasons to do the construction while the brothers are living in the house, the committee will soon begin looking for a suitable large dwelling either on campus or nearby to house the brotherhood during the construction period.

With the timing of the project as outlined above, this makes our upcoming 100th anniversary celebration even more significant. Not only will we be commemorating Lambda Chi's 100th year on the hill, we will be celebrating the results to that date of the funding portion of the renovation process that will establish Omicron's new home for the next 100 years.

The 100th anniversary celebration has been scheduled by the ISWZA Board on the weekend of October 18–20, 2013. Mark the date down on your calendar to be sure you will be available to attend this landmark event. More details about the weekend program and hotel accommodations will come your way over the next few months.

These are definitely exciting times for Lambda Chi Alpha at Cornell! ❖

CHAPTER HOUSE MARKS ITS 114th YEAR



By Joe Willis '72

Having served as an ISWZA board member since 1974—and as the alumni house manager for most of that period—I thought you all would like to know how our venerable chapter house is faring in its 114th year. Given the rigors of Ithaca's legendary winters and the normal wear and tear over the years from about 50 active live-in college students, the house is definitely tired and worn in spots, but we've been able to keep it running as a functioning home for the brotherhood with some stop-gap, band-aid remedies for its aging infrastructure.

Thanks to a great effort by the undergrads a couple of years ago, the front of the house was given a major overhaul with the removal of the clinging ivy that was undermining the stucco, the replacement of some rotting wood framing, extensive spackling prep work, and a fresh coat of paint. The result has given the chapter house an attractive curb appeal as you approach from Edgemoor Lane.

Entering the first floor, the house has been kept as presentable as possible with periodic coats of paint by the undergraduates and the replacement of various furniture items and accessories like lamps and curtains as they succumb to everyday use. The cost of this process is a shared expense between the current undergraduates and the alumni.

The old classic wood in the chapter room, however, is definitely showing its age and will need to be replaced as part of any renovation effort. The two fireplaces on the first floor that provided warmth, comfort, and the site of many congenial gatherings for years can no longer be used until they are updated with modern metal sleeve inserts to meet today's fire safety standards.

The new sprinkler system that was funded by the house and some generous alumni has been paired up with the recently updated house-wide fire alarm system. The system has been approved by the university and attractively painted to blend in with the ceilings throughout the building. It has also been effectively designed so that it can be disassembled and reinstalled inside the walls and ceilings as part of any renovation project.

Our greatest challenge in maintaining the livability of the house is our ongoing struggle with the antiquated heating system. Powered by a boiler that depends on old, corroded pipes to transport heat throughout the house, the system is inefficient at best. The corrosion in the pipes is caused by leaks, which causes more "fresh" water to be added to the system. When you add

water that has impurities like chlorine, fluoride, and calcium to a steam system, those impurities at high temperatures act like acids and damage the pipes and boiler. The original leaks began in the return pipe that was under the concrete floor of the basement. We have bypassed that area with above floor pipes, but the added impurities attack the next-weakest section, and we find that we still have small failures (leaks) from time to time in various locations—though so far limited to the basement. These leaks put added strain on the boiler to pump out heat. This ultimately results in the costly expense of replacing the boiler every eight to 10 years.

As you can imagine, the arrival of the electronic age and the desire for continual internet access has placed increasing demand on an electrical system that was implemented back in the 1920s. We did get a welcome electrical upgrade 18 months ago when we contracted Time Warner to do some rewiring. However, it was largely a catch-up measure, as it did not involve the use of fiber optic cable, which is essential to meet the needs of today's internet-savvy Cornell students. Part of any renovation will need to include an upgrade of the old electrical power system throughout the house.

The plumbing, the third critical element of the house's aging infrastructure, also requires continual vigilance and frequent maintenance. The house's bathrooms see heavy use and are plagued by old corroding pipes. The situation is further exacerbated by frequent mold problems because the overhead fans lack the capacity to sufficiently dry out the air and walls. The urinals were removed a few years ago to reduce the flow of corrosive water through the system, but the problem unfortunately persists.

The kitchen, which is basically the same in design and function as it was back in the 1950s, also struggles to meet the needs of today's brotherhood. Set up to serve a large gathering of diners in one sitting, it isn't suited to also provide the ongoing self-service options desired by today's on-the-go students and offered by Cornell's upper-class dorms and the newly renovated competing fraternities.

The ISWZA board has done its best over the years to meet the ongoing challenges in maintaining the house as our brothers' "home away from home" with a kitchen renovation in 1989, the 1997 roof replacement, a bathroom renovation in 2000, the 2001 upgrade of the summerhouse, and a refurbishment of the dining room in 2004. However, we are really looking forward to the impending capital project, which will replace our aging infrastructure and, we hope, add some attractive new living space for us all to enjoy for years to come. �

HORT SENSE: SELECT THE RIGHT PLANTS FOR YOUR YARD

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64

eople are always asking me, "When is the best time to plant?" My answer is generally: "Whenever the ground isn't frozen." That doesn't mean digging up a plant in your yard and moving it to another location will always be successful, but any plant that is available at a garden center should be easy to get established in your yard whenever it is offered for sale at the garden center.



Wayne Mezitt

The next question—"How do I choose the right plant?"—requires a bit more consideration. If you're a typical homeowner, chances are you're somewhat mystified by the process of selecting the proper plantings for around your home. Obviously no single tree or shrub can be the right choice for every location; there are simply too many variables—your geographic location, climate, soil conditions, rainfall, sun exposure, wind, personal preferences, and other factors that

require individual decisions. And once you start exploring the options, you may be overwhelmed by the multitude of claims various brands make about their products.

In this article I'll focus on woody trees and shrubs—those that form the foundation of every enduring landscape. We'll leave discussions about herbaceous perennials, annuals, house plants, fruits, and vegetables for another time.

Choosing the right landscape plants depends upon your particular needs and preferences, so it's always best to start with some basic considerations. For example:

- What purpose and function do you want your landscape to serve? A quiet place to relax, shade to help cool your home, screening an undesirable view, guiding traffic flow, a low maintenance groundcover, or year-round appeal?
- Are the plants appropriate for your climate, and adapted to the soil and moisture conditions where they'll be growing?
- As they grow larger and more mature, how will your plantings continue to work with your site constraints, architecture, environment, and lifestyle?
- How do the aesthetics and plant combinations work together: size, shape, foliage, flowers, and seasonal appearance of the plants?
- Are you comfortable with the maintenance the plantings will require for irrigating, fertilizing, managing pests, and pruning?

Don't get frustrated thinking that the process is so complicated that you can't readily decide which plants to choose. A good place to start is by visiting public parks, botanical gardens, and arboretums around your community. These gardens display a multitude of plants, often well-labeled, and you can readily see how they look as they grow. Many more detailed sources of information are also available to help simplify the process.

The <u>Cooperative Extension System</u>, available in every state, provides some of the best resources—this is a nationwide educational network established in the 1800s to offer useful, practical, and research-based information to agricultural producers, small business owners, and ordinary citizens, particularly in rural areas. Each state has an office at its land-grant university, along with a network of local or regional offices staffed by experts who specialize in crops suitable for the region. Although recent budget cutbacks have diminished some aspects of the system, the basic information is still readily available, usually for little or no cost. Search the internet for details on your region.

More specific information about recommended plants is available from regional plant-selection programs. These programs offer performance evaluations based upon impartial trials and recommendations from actual experience; they tend to be much less biased than claims offered by companies that produce the products themselves. And because local conditions determine what grows best in any area, regional programs are the most relevant and helpful.

Here are some recommended programs that evaluate the most appropriate woody tree and shrub choices:

- Northeast: The Cary Award, Tower Hill Botanic Garden
- Mid-Atlantic: <u>Gold Medal Plants</u>, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
- Southeast: Theodore Klein Plant Award, Kentucky
- Midwest: Plants of Merit, Missouri; Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Evaluations, Illinois.

The climate in western parts of the United States varies widely, and the number of those evaluation programs is too extensive for this article.

Many trees and shrubs have a society devoted to specific information about those particular plants. Examples are the <u>Rhododendron Society</u>, <u>International Lilac Society</u>, <u>The Conifer Society</u>, and <u>Magnolia Society</u>. Plant societies like these offer devotees great opportunities to share similar interests not readily available



The hepticodium bush is a hardy, attractive addition to many home gardens.

HORT SENSE, continued from previous page

elsewhere. Many of them have local chapters where members can meet and exchange helpful information.

And when you want one-on-one discussions about plants, your local independent garden center will usually offer the most reliable and relevant information. Select a business that is family-run and has been in operation for a long time; those ubiquitous "box stores" tend to be more interested in generating income than providing the most knowledgeable, well-considered advice. If you can, talk with staff members and hitch up with one of their experts who is interested in helping you, understands your needs, and is willing to spend the time

to work with you.

Most importantly, enjoy the process—few activities provide more gratifying rewards than creating natural outdoor living spaces around your home.

R. Wayne Mezitt '64 is a third-generation nurseryman and a Massachusetts-certified horticulturist, now chairman of Weston Nurseries of Hopkinton and Chelmsford, Massachusetts. He has served as president of the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, the New England Nursery Association, and the American Nursery and Landscape Association, based in Washington, D.C. *

WORLD TRAVEL: THE GREEK ISLANDS

By Alan Fridkin '65

spent some of our formative years in Ithaca, in a landscape full of Greek names and references. Perhaps you have made a brief stop in Athens or an overnight at some cruise ship port of call in the Aegean. It takes a

special effort to get to Ithaca, Greece, home of Homer's Odysseus/ Ulysses—and, for that matter, to many of the Greek islands. The

hard-to-get-to places tend to be less spoiled and homogenized.



Alan Fridkin

With roughly 140 inhabited islands, and some 3,000 isles and islets all told, Greece is a very appealing destination for anyone drawn to the tranquility or singularity of a place apart. The truly distinctive blues of sky and sea there make this one of the most idyllic corners of the world. That is still true, despite the current economic and political turmoil. So far, we have only stayed on 15 of the islands, although we have stopped briefly by ferry or,

on a clear day, flown over another dozen. It is surprising how distinctive they are—even the local inhabitants look different!

Here are a few suggestions for crafting your own itinerary.

When to Visit

High season—from late June to early September—means crowds, very hot temperatures, and high prices. December to March is usually cold and wet, and many hotels and restaurants are closed. We have taken a couple of five- and six-week trips between early April and late May and found it an ideal time to be in Greece. There are lots of wild flowers, and hoteliers welcome you like lost cousins. Early fall is also a good option, although there is more rain as the season progresses.

Getting Around

The primary means of getting to and from the islands is by ferry or catamaran. Of course, you can join a cruise or even hire a boat.

Some of the more populous islands have small airports, with flights mostly to and from Athens and Thessaloniki. Remember that groups of islands, and specific islands, are on different ferry lines. Sometimes islands that are relatively close to each other have no connecting service!

The major hub to and from almost every destination is Pireaus. Ferries range from small homely vessels to giant roll on, roll off car ferries with restaurants, lounges, and attractive state rooms. Definitive ferry schedules are not usually posted until a month or so ahead, but the previous year's schedule can provide some guidance.

The most comprehensive timetables are on www.gtp.gr, but you need to make some effort to learn the port codes, locations, and shipping company codes. You can use a number of online sites to buy tickets. We have used and been happy with www.ferries.gr. It's a service provided by Paleologos, a small agency in Heraklion, Crete. Armed with a confirmation number, you can pick up your



A view of Potmos



A quaint square in Corfu Town

tickets at small agencies along the way. Beware, some similar-sounding websites are in places like Vanuatu, Italy, and the U.K. Query whether they will be around to help you with a problem.

Breaking It Down

The main islands or groups of islands are: the Ionian Islands, Argo-Saronic Islands, Sporades and Evvoia, Northeast Aegean Islands, the Dodecanese, the Cyclades, Crete, and, by some definitions, Cyprus.

The Guides

Besides the usual suspects—Frommer's, Fodor's, Lonely Planet, Rick Steves, and the Rough Guide—a nearly essential book is *Greek Island Hopping* by Frewin Poffley, now in its 21st edition (2011). Eyewitness Travel's *The Greek Islands* (2011) is quite helpful. Be sure to check out www.greektravel.com, an ongoing project by Mike Barrett. Also quite useful is www.livingingreece.gr/strikes, by a Californian living in Greece.

Selecting Your Island(s)

What is most important to you: beaches, archaeological sites, bigger cities? Luxury accommodations or simple ones? Every island has a unique blend of history and occupiers, whether it was the Ottomans (Turks), Venetians, Genovese, Brits, Germans, and various Greek city-states in ancient times. In subtle ways, those layers of foreign influence were blended into the local culture. The most well-known and popular destinations—Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes, and Kerkyra (Corfu)—are so for good reasons. Crete has a strong following, and you will be hard-pressed to find more agreeable towns than Rethymno and Chania elsewhere.

In the Cyclades, we especially enjoyed Paros and Sifnos. The former has the very charming

town of Noussa. Sifnos is a surprisingly green island, with flagstone paths connecting many of the small villages. In the Dodecanese, Rhodes is a standout for its history and 2,000-year-old city. Patmos, the island of Saint John, is small, but exceptionally beautiful. We have spent time on Samos, Chios, and Mytilini (Lesvos), and would go back to all of them without hesitation. Kerkyra (Corfu), near the Albanian coast, is bedecked with flowers, and Corfu Town is quite elegant. Our "to do" list includes Symi, Kos, Limnos, Thassos, Skiathos, Skopelos, Hydra, Kefalonia, and, of course, Ithaca.

When you are further along in your planning, I will be happy to provide you with specific suggestions and experiences. Please spend a minimum of two, and as many as seven days on each island (Crete merits two weeks) to fully soak up the sense of place. Changes in ferry schedules, strikes, and strong winds may disrupt your plans. Adapt to the changes, the way the natives do, and it will be an even more enjoyable trip. ❖



A street scene in Mykonos

THE RECIPE BOX: Mustard & Dill Salmon

By Sandy Gilbert '62

Given its unique taste and well-documented health benefits, salmon is a popular entree in American restaurants and on the dinner table in many households. It can also be prepared in many different ways—hot off the grill, poached as a cold mousse, or baked on a cedar plank.

I like to bake salmon in the oven with an easy-to-make topping flavored with mustard and fresh dill. Since the best ingredients are always the essence of any good dish, I highly recommend using wild-caught sockeye salmon. It is an environmentally sustainable fish, available in many local markets, and its deep red flesh delivers a richer, more satisfying flavor.

INGREDIENTS (serves four)

- 1.5-pound wild-caught salmon fillet
- Several tablespoons of mayonnaise
- Several tablespoons of Dijon-style mustard
- Several sprigs of fresh dill, chopped
- 1 teaspoon of paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon of black pepper

Preparation:

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
- Mix the mayonnaise and mustard in a bowl in a ratio of two tablespoons of mayonnaise to one tablespoon of mustard in enough quantity to completely cover the top of the salmon fillet.
- Add most of the chopped fresh dill to the topping mix, reserving some to add later when the fish is served.
- Add the black pepper and stir into the topping mix.
- Line a baking dish with aluminum foil for easy cleanup.
- Place the salmon fillet in the baking dish with the skin-side down.
- Cover the top of the salmon fillet with the mustard-mayonnaise topping mix.
- Sprinkle the paprika over the topping mix.
- Bake the salmon for approximately 25 minutes, or until tender when touched with a fork.
- Broil the salmon for just a few minutes to render the topping a golden brown.
- Cut the salmon into four portions, sprinkle with the remaining fresh chopped dill, and plate to serve.

The salmon is well-complemented by a baked tomato with breadcrumb dressing and some fresh green beans; it should be paired with a fine red wine like Markham Napa Merlot 2007, which is given a 90 rating by *Wine Spectator* and reasonably priced at \$16.97 in wine discount stores. •

THE WINE RACK: Reunion Wine Tour

By Sandy Gilbert '62

I'd like to share a great experience that a number of '62 Omicron grads had at our 50th Cornell Reunion this past June, because it is something I would recommend you do on one of your next trips back to the Ithaca area. I am talking about a chauffeured wine tour to some of the leading wineries around Seneca Lake.

Back in our days on the hill, the words "leading" or "quality" were not usually used to describe New York State wineries or their products. But things have changed in recent years, as a bevy of small boutique wineries have appeared that produce limited harvests of quality wines. By small harvests, I mean production of 700 to 10,000 cases.

Thanks to the initiative of Chris Napjus '62—who engaged the help of his daughter, Alison (CU '99), a senior tasting coordinator on the editorial staff of *Wine Spectator* magazine—a special tour was arranged at four of Seneca Lake's outstanding wineries. This area was chosen because it is a short pleasant drive from Ithaca through rolling countryside, and there is a cluster of very good vineyards right near each other—so little time is spent going from one to the next.

Chris arranged the car service, which included a comfortable stretch limo for our party of eight from Fitzgerald Brothers Finger Lakes Wine Tours in Geneva, New York (315-828-6289). The tour was set for five hours, and the cost per couple was \$102.00, including a tip for the driver. We all met at the Holiday Inn on South Cayuga Street in Ithaca at 11:00 a.m. and pursued the following itinerary:

11:45 a.m. at Red Newt Cellars (3675 Tichenor Road, Hector)

A charming small winery with an attached shop and bistro, Red Newt provides a list and description of wines available for tasting. A \$6 tasting fee allows you to taste six wines of your choice from a list of 16 different red and white wines. Since the list includes the bottle price of



The '62 wine tour group enjoys lunch at Red Newt Bistro. From left to right: Chris and Barb Napjus, Sandy Gilbert, Janice Ashley, Emmy Lou Gilbert, Steve Ashley, and Bea and Jack Kempster.

THE WINE RACK, continued from previous page

each wine, most of the members of our group chose to taste the more expensive options. Of the white wines on the tasting list, I found the best to be the 2007 Pinot Gris by Curry Creek Vineyards (priced at \$23.99), which is described as tasting of "apple, blanched almond, honeysuckle, and mineral, with a long fresh finish." It is a very crisp white wine. My second choice among the whites was the 2008 Gewurztraminer by Curry Creek Vineyards (\$34.99), which was described as "elegant in structure and fruit." It is an easy-drinking wine with a hint of spice.

In the red wine grouping, I preferred the 2010 Cabernet Franc by Glacier Ridge Vineyards (\$38.99), which is reminiscent of "raspberry and cranberry, combined with hints of lavender and spice that complement the subtle tannic finish." I also enjoyed the 2010 Viridescens (\$51.99), which is a very pleasant blend of 67 percent merlot, 28 percent cabernet sauvignon, and 5 percent cabernet franc.

12:30 p.m. at Bloomer Creek (5301 New York 414, Hector)

Another quaint stop on our tour, Bloomer Creek presented two wines that I especially liked. The white was the 2010 Chardonnay Block 97 (\$22), described as "an undiscovered gem with a creamy mouth feel and subtle finish" in a recent wine review in *The New York Times*. My favorite red wine was the 2007 White Horse Red (\$26). A rare wine with only 137 cases produced, this is a blend of bordeaux, merlot, and cabernet franc with a delicate tannic structure.

1:30 p.m. at Atwater Vineyards (5055 New York 414, Burdett)

By the time we got to Atwater—after tasting so many wines at the other vineyards—a number of us began cutting back on the number of wines that we sampled. I only tasted the reds here and really enjoyed their special new release, the 2010 Syrah (\$30). The brochure notes that "while native to France's Rhone Valley, syrah takes very well to the shale-covered hillsides of Seneca Lake, producing an elegant wine brimming with dark fruit, spice, and earth." I felt this was one of the best wines I tasted on the tour. I also appreciated their Stone Bridge Red, priced more modestly at \$12, which is a blend of cabernet franc, corot noir, and pinot noir.

2:15 p.m. at Hazlitt Vineyards (5712 New York 414, Hector)

A busier and more commercial winery than the others, Hazlitt is a fun place to visit with its helpful staff and \$3 tasting fee. I tried only whites here and thought that the 2011 Pinot Gris (\$18) was the best. It is a full-bodied, Alsatian-style wine that pairs well with food. I also enjoyed their most popular white, the 2011 Sauvignon Blanc (\$18), which has a pleasant citrus flavor that establishes it as a good sipping wine. And finally, we tried a very unique and rather expensive desert wine, the 2010 Vidal Ice Wine (\$49). This wine has won best of class standing in competitive tastings and has a distinct taste of honey with a smooth, silky finish.

2:45 p.m. at Red Newt Cellars (3675 Tichenor Road, Hector)

By now, we were all very hungry and headed back to our first stop for a delightful lunch of homemade quiche, salad, and sandwiches on Red Newt's back porch, overlooking the shores of Seneca Lake.

After the short drive back to Ithaca and some time freshening up at our respective hotels, the group headed for the Boatyard Grill, down by the inlet near Cayuga Lake, where we were joined by Lee Manning '62 for dinner to complete a memorable day. ❖

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

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



Nick Carter '61 prepares for a kayaking excursion.

>> 1948

Bob McKinless reports: "I co-chaired an interesting reception in Washington, D.C., this past spring for 36 Cornell Greek alumni at the Arts Club, the former home of James Monroe. Travis Apgar, Associate Dean for Fraternities and Sororities, spoke about the university's new approach to Greek recruitment and the assimilation of new members. The school year is now divided into four quarters, with informal rush limited to the second quarter, and formal rush and new member education taking place in the third quarter. All initiations are to be completed by April 1, well in advance of final exams, and all events involving freshmen will be alcohol-free.

"There was some concern expressed among the alumni group that the new restrictions on rushing would diminish the number of students seeking to join the Greek system. However, we were told that the opposite was true, as the numbers affiliating with houses in January showed a significant increase over last year. Travis emphasized that alumni should stay involved with their undergraduate chapter to help ensure that the desired behavioral changes will occur. Joining me from Omicron were Jamey Dumas '91 and Mark Schneider '93." Bob can be reached at bikerbob8@me.com.

>> 1952

Bob Milkey writes: "I've been retired for 20 years now and live winters in Venice on the west coast of Florida. Still sailing and enjoying the beach. I went to my 60th Reunion from the vet school and was one of only five of 24 still living. During the summer, I am a wannabe farmer on 185 acres, raising and training harness horses on my own track. I gave up driving the horses to younger and better drivers after three fractures. Any other old goats traveling down this way in Florida are welcome to stop in and hoist one." Bob's email is bobmilkey1@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

>> 1961

Worrall "Nick" R. Carter III sent in a great piece about his important environmental work during his 35 years with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, where he wrote environmental position papers for the agency that were used for issuing or denying permits. He joined the agency as a biologist in 1965 after getting his master's degree in fisheries biology from the University of Washington. One of Nick's fans, Don Baugh, vice president of education at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said: "I always called Nick the man who spoke for the fish, not the politicians or the shopping mall developers." Nick is retired now, but he and Margaret continue to personally practice an environmentally sustainable lifestyle by recycling all their paper, cans, and bottles and composting their organic kitchen debris and yard waste. To read the full article about Nick's environmental work, go to http:// www.shorelife.com/2012/07/30/speaking-for-the-fish/. You can reach Nick personally at nmcarter1@verizon.net.



Bob Cutler '62 pauses for a photo before hiking up Mt. Arab in the Adirondacks.

>> 1962

Bob Cutler writes to say: "I am pleased the *Oracle* will contain an article on the present state of the house. I was rather surprised not to see much substantive change, either for the better or the worse. It seemed the same and well-kept; my kudos to the brothers and staff!

"After a tour of the chapter house, Barbara and I continued our summer vacation by heading off to my family's ancestral hermitage—a camp built by my grandfather on Mt. Arab Lake, a private lake in the Adirondacks." Bob's email address is rcutler@tampabay.rr.com.

Sandy Gilbert reports that he and Emmy Lou took a very enjoyable post-Cornell reunion trip through New England, visiting family

and some brothers from his era on Edgemoor Lane. The first stop brought them to Hopkinton, Massachusetts, where **Wayne** ('64) and Beth Mezitt hosted the Gilberts and Tom ('65) and Jan Shineman for a great roast lamb dinner at the Mezitts' ancestral home, built by Wayne's grandfather on the grounds of the Weston Nursery. Wayne led the group on a very interesting tour of his spectacular private gardens, featuring unique plant specimens—some living in the same spot for as long as 50 years. It was a delightful evening and a great chance for everyone to catch up, since they last saw each other at Homecoming Weekend back in 2009.

After a stay with family in Riverside, Rhode Island, near Providence, the Gilberts met **Henry McNulty '69** for lunch at his summer home in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. Henry graciously provided a tour of this picturesque seaside town, including a swing through Fenwick, the neighborhood where renowned actress Katherine Hepburn held court for so many years. You can reach Sandy at sandem133@aol.com and Henry at hmcnulty@aol.com.

Lee "Beast" Manning filed the following: "I travel from my Vienna, Virginia, home to the Boston area several times a year in conjunction with my duties as president of the Manning Family Association. During my June swing through the area, I was able to catch up with Wayne ('62) and Beth Mezitt, Tom ('65) and Jan Shineman, and Rich ('62) and Abigail Bertelson. We had a great time over a couple of drinks and dinner during a crashing summer thunderstorm. Rich is still working for General Electric in its jet engine division, a job which takes him all over the world. Wayne is still heading up Weston Nurseries, the business started by his grandfather and father; and Tom is running a consulting firm, Fusion, offering sales training and design services. I retired from the EPA (where I spent 40 years) and now volunteer extensively, both with the Manning Association and with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club here in Virginia, where I chair the Information Technology Committee and manage the club's database and website. I also get some good exercise keeping foot trails in the Virginia mountains in good repair by hiking and maintaining the trails. I also filled in at the '62 LXA-Cornell Reunion group in Ithaca that was arranged by Sandy Gilbert, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Everyone parted saying that we have to do this more often." Lee can be contacted at lee.manning@cox.net.

Bob Miller writes: "What a great spring issue of *The Oracle*. It is incredible what you guys have done to stimulate such a generous exchange of information, so far in excess of the alumni news. The layout and art are also spectacular. Well done.

"Sorry to have missed the '62 50th Reunion at Cornell. As a member of the board for the past nine years, I had to attend a special symposium and dinner in Los Angeles sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) honoring former Secretaries of State, George Schultz and Madeleine Albright. Some unexpected drama occurred when Secretary Albright tripped and bumped her head at a pre-dinner reception. She visited our table several times after the incident to check with her doctor about her condition. The doctor recommended that she should get a CAT scan. I allowed that the advice

seemed prudent, but perhaps it could be postponed until after she gave her speech. The next day a symposium was held at the Reagan Library, because it was President Reagan and Congressman Dante Fascell who sponsored the legislation that created the NED. Unfortunately, we took no pictures." Bob can be reached at rcmiller@davidsondawson.com.

>> 1963

Bob Elliott tells us: "Connie and I are well and enjoying the summer. We haven't gone to our summer home on Long Beach Island on the Jersey Shore as much this year because we try to watch our grandson, Mathew, play baseball on Saturday mornings. They sure struggle at that age, and it is very entertaining. More time away from the shore this spring has also enabled me to play more golf.

"With the arrival of summer, we did get down to the shore for some beach time. Below is a shot of my brother, **John '66**, and me taken on Long Beach Island overlooking Barnegat Bay. We had a wonderful few days. John's wife, Jackie, and our Denver, Colorado, relatives were also there. We spent a lot of time at the beach, and John and I still love the ocean. Our annual tennis game was a challenge, and I always enjoy talking politics with my brother, who is a political science professor.

"The last *Oracle* really looked great. It was wonderful reading that the current chapter is doing so well in spite of the problems at Cornell with the fraternity system. It's also great to see the participation from so many brothers from our era." Bob can be reached at bobell89@aol.com.



Bob Elliot '63 (right) and John Elliot '66 (left) vacationed together on Long Beach Island this past summer.

Tom Miller writes: "We are working on reducing Dorie's tax business to a semi-retired workload. It's tough to decide which longtime clients to drop. The list is now completed, and it will go out next month. We have been very fortunate to have both our children select Northern Virginia as their place to live. We get to visit and babysit Jenifer and Mark's two boys (7 and 4). Last May we heard that Tim and his wife, Beverly, would be moving to Germany for three years. Bev works for the State Department and has taken an overseas assignment. So much for having them close at hand.

"I have been fussing with repairs to our 'new' 25-year-old house, and at the moment, it looks like we will do the 'retired in place' concept, along with a growing number of others in our little neighborhood.

"I have also been working on researching the Miller/Durham family tree. I have been stuck on the Miller line, but found a long-lost 'cousin,' and he provided the link that traces the Millers back to around 1724 in Fonda, New York. Records show that my oldest known grandfather had ancestors of Jane Fonda as sponsors for some of their children, and that he fought in the Revolutionary War as an old man. It turns out that Miller is Dutch, not German, although several of my grandfathers married ladies from Germany. My mother's side goes back to the days of the Pilgrims." Email Tom at tdurhammiller@yahoo.com.

>> 1964

Ken Boyles writes to say: "No real news to report. I am enjoying retirement and 41 years of marriage and researching my ancestry. Our son, his wife, and our two grandchildren are living in Denmark, so lots of travel on our plate." Keep in touch with Ken at kboyles@yahoo.com.

Jack Hastings tells us: "I just returned from visiting my daughter, Kim, and her family in Cincinnati. Lots of watching the grand-kids' soccer games, baseball, and catching up. Living in Florida with daughters in Carlsbad, California; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Bowdoinham, Maine; keeps the airlines in the black.

"Haven't played much golf lately. I prefer not to deal with the frustration. Bike riding and long walks seem to fit my exercise needs at this stage of my life. I hear **John DeWitt '65** is moving down this way, and I look forward to catching up with him and **Sandy Gilbert '62** for lunch sometime soon." Jack can be reached at allbirdies@comcast.net.

Jim Hirsch writes that he enjoys seeing *The Oracle*, and that he had lunch with Ed Town '65 while visiting his ex-boss down in Siesta Key, Florida. Jim is interested in hearing more about the 100th Anniversary Celebration in October 2013, and you can keep in touch with him at jimdeb46@aol.com.

>> 1965

John DeWitt reports: "Pat and I are in the midst of selling our house here on Long Island. Lots of lookers, but no buyers yet. In the meantime, we now own a home in Lakewood Ranch, near Sarasota, Florida. The previous owners are renting from us until their new place is finished. We will be down in Florida in late August getting the new place set up.

"I played the Clearwater Festival with Dave Amram again this summer and enjoyed the chance to play with Bobby Sanabria and Raffi, who sat in with David. I'll do one more festival with him over Labor Day weekend, but I have told him about the move south and that he'll have to find someone else to play bass. Hopefully, he'll get a gig in the Sarasota area one of these days." You can reach John at dewmusic@ix.netcom.com.

Rich Drake writes to say: "Thanks for prodding me, as I'm not very good about staying in touch.

"After selling my company, Drake Management Services, in 1988, I retired in 2000. My company managed food services in senior living communities throughout the western U.S. Since then, I have kept active in the business world by participating on various boards. However, I am now winding that down and

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

spending more time hunting, fishing, and playing golf.

"We have lived for many years in Scottsdale, Arizona, where we spend eight months of the year, and four months at our summer home on Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho. Both our children are Cornell graduates. Our daughter, her husband (also a Cornell graduate), and our two grandchildren live in Los Angeles. Our son lives in Denver. Although I was raised in Ithaca and loved my time at Cornell, I don't get back very often. We seem to be too busy to go back east. Earlier in my career, we lived in Australia and New Zealand for several years, and we have many friends there, so we tend to travel more west than east. Perhaps with more prodding, I will make it back for the 100th Anniversary Celebration next year." Contact Rich at rdrake8551@aol.com.

>> 1966

Dave Landrey tells us that he retired from his law practice and has moved to Sarasota, Florida. He and his wife, Joan, bought a home in May 2011 and, after some renovation, moved in at the end of August 2011. Dave stays active in the business world by serving on the boards of four privately held corporations. He also enjoys mentoring two high school students in Sarasota, is a director of his homeowners association, and plays bridge whenever he can. Dave's email address is drlandrey@aol.com.

Ed Lortz writes from the Bay Area: "As before, my quadruple obsessions with conversation, recycling, house projects, and restaurants have overtaken traveling as my primary activity. I did manage to help my cousin build houses for Habitat for Humanity in Charlottesville, Virginia, to celebrate her 60th birthday; I also visited **Ron Moyer '61** for several days on the beach. I took a weeklong driving trip to southern Arizona to visit an old neighborhood buddy's widow and help her get settled. Nothing really new or fun in the house department, just repairing decks, cabinetry, sewers, and garage floors.

"The two-year-old solar electric and solar hot water systems continue to keep our electric bill to the minimum of \$5.00 a month and gas at about \$20.00 a month, and our recycling and compost bins are always more full than the garbage. Still get rid of anything we haven't used in two years through selling or giving it away on one of a half-dozen websites in San Francisco. Got tired of polishing an S.S. United States ice bucket and got some lunatic to bid \$3,000 for it on eBay. Also have moved more financial statements from utilities, credit cards, banks, and investment accounts to be downloaded in PDF, then reconciled on the monitor and burned to a CD at the end of the year for filing with taxes. I even get ATM receipts as emails. Unfortunately, in the process, I have helped to bankrupt the postal service, which refuses to admit that first-class mail has been subsidizing junk mail for decades and continues to fail to modify its business model to make junk mail pay for itself.

"Have had a couple of visits from brothers and hope to see more of you when you are passing through San Francisco for vacation or business. Hope to make the next '60s Reunion in October of 2013." You can reach Ed at edwardksf@gmail.com.

Rick Walsh writes: "Ellen and I just got back from a week's stay in Oneonta and Elmira, where we visited Ellen's brother and family, and then our son, Rick; his wife, Donna; and our three precious grandkids. Had a wonderful time, safe trip, and we enjoyed being out of the extreme southern heat for a while. Took a swim with Rick and the family at Robert Treman Park in Ithaca and enjoyed great gyros from a hole-in-the-wall place there, On the Street. Still no luck with selling our house here in Savannah, but we have reduced the price again and seem to have some renewed interest. We are praying we will be back in New York soon. Our best to all." Rick can be reached at ellenmacwalsh@bellsouth.net.

Paul Williamson tells us: "Thanks for the heads-up on Al Fridkin's article about Greece in this issue. We loved living in Greece—we lived for two years in a suburb north of Athens, where we visited nearly 40 islands, the Peloponesium Peninsula, and parts of northern Greece. We visited literally hundreds of archaeological sites, and the scenery and small towns were magnificent. We didn't care much for Athens or our Greek customers (the National Police, Coast Guard, Fire Department, and Army-effectively their Homeland Security). I won and then managed a \$400 million contract for SAIC to install a C4I system for Olympic Security for the 2004 games, which also upgraded their communications and control capability for emergencies, disasters, and terrorism after the Olympics. They still use the systems we built every day. Unfortunately, it was tough dealing with the Greeks, as they tend to take advantage in business dealings in any way that they can and have a bad tendency not to pay their bills. However, the program was successfully completed before the Olympics, and there were no security incidents during the Games. It was the best and the worst two years of my life. Take care." Email Paul at paul@artsignworks.com.



Paul ('66) and Cheryl Williamson visit the island of Santorini while living in Greece.

>> 1967

Frank Sullivan writes to say: "Don't have too much news to report—although the last time I sent in news, Ford was running for president, so maybe there's more than I think.

"After finally graduating from Cornell in late '69, I figured I'd need a real job, so I went down to Wharton, and—due to their



Alan Shineman '69 sent us this photo from the late '60s. He is the third person in the second row from the top right. Let us know if you're in this picture and send us some news for the spring *Oracle*!

desperation for full-pays—was admitted and graduated with an MBA with a desire to go into real estate. It's a goal I've accomplished, as I've now been in that profession for 41 years—the first eight in a lending function, and the past 33 as a principal in an investment management company some friends and I formed in the early '80s. We've grown the business, Clarion Partners, to be one of the largest in the U.S., and it's made me somewhat well-known in the small pond of institutional real estate investors.

"Well, as with all good things ... I'm thinking about retirement, either this year or next; something my wife has already done. People say, 'What will you do?' Good question, but some invites to serve as a full-time consultant to some large institutions warrant some thought. Another thought is that the world needs a new debt capital source (and we'd form one). Add three kids, four grandchildren, a couple of homes, and a desire to do and see some things I never quite got to, and I think I can keep busy.

"Having gone into a bit of an unusual profession, I didn't get much chance to bump into others from the house, although I did keep up with **Greg Machnij** '64, who was in the same profession and worked for a competitor until his untimely death a number of years ago. I still see and talk with **Ralph Wilhelm** '67 fairly often, as his work brings him to New York, and we're happy to share a drink, a meal, and lots of old stories. Like others, Ralph has been quite adept at breaking open my wallet, and I was pleased, after I found a few pennies underneath the couch, to make a gift to keep the house standing for the next 100 years. I encourage others to do likewise." Frank can be reached at frank.sullivan@clarionpartners.com.

>> 1969

Warren Lem writes to say that he is still very busy traveling with his work as the regional vice president of the United States Professional Tennis Association. Despite retiring, he finds it is almost a full-time commitment. However, he and his wife,

Lee, were able to catch up with **Harry** ('69) and Liz DeLibero; **Dave** ('68) and Sande Mishanec; their daughter, Emilie; and her fiancé, Chris; for an enjoyable dinner in Lake Placid, New York.

Warren has already noted LXA's 100th Anniversary Celebration in October of 2013 on his calendar and will make every effort to be on hand for the festivities. Contact Warren at warrenlem@aol.com.

>> 1990

Rod Gallagher writes what he believes is his first Omicron Oracle update: "In summary, the past 22 years are as follows: Lived and worked in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Tokyo, NYC, and Massachusetts again—with most years in the Boston area, where I currently reside (still a lifelong Yankees and Jets fan, true to my roots in New York). I returned to Cornell to earn my MBA '05 at the Johnson School (including a trip to LXA and the gazebo to utilize the light switch, although I can't recall if it was there anymore), got married, got divorced, and am now living with my two beautiful daughters, who are helping me relive my sports glory years through their soccer teams. On the career side, I've worked for global asset management, insurance, and management consulting firms, and view my expatriate assignment in Japan as one of the highlights. With any luck, I will be retired and living in Hawaii before the next 22 years go by! Hope everyone is well." Rod's contact info: rmg39@cornell.edu.

Scott "Malibu" Whitney moved from SoCal to Providence, Rhode Island, in 2004, and was working in sales at Hasbro until recently—a corporate reorganization has changed his employment picture, and it is "frustrating to be looking, along with many other people, but something will come of it." Scott lives in Barrington, Rhode Island, with wife, Kristyn (Cornell'90 also); son, Callan (11); and daughter, Katarina (7). He got back into the sport of rowing in 2004 upon their arrival in Rhode Island, and recently competed in six events at the USRowing Masters National Championship, where he earned two gold and two bronze medals. He also won first overall with doubles partner Dan in the "Blackburn Challenge," which is a 20-mile-long, open-ocean race around Cape Ann, just north of Boston. Anyone in the Providence area can give him a shout: srw13@cornell.edu.



Scott Whitney '90 competes in an open-ocean rowing race just north of Seattle.

>> 1991

Brian Coller, his wife, and his two kids are living in the suburbs of Chicago. He is a professor of mechanical engineering at Northern Illinois University. A recent accomplishment: He became the

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

first person to ride "Klein's Unrideable Bike"—a 26-year-old, rear-steered bicycle that was previously thought impossible to ride. Brian and his students figured it out and collected the prize money. "Hope everyone is doing well," he concludes.



Brian Coller '91 rides "Klein's Unrideable Bike."

Jeremy Dodds is living with his wife and two daughters in Skaneateles, New York, about an hour north of Ithaca. His daughter Morgan (11) is into lacrosse, music, and ballet, while Lauren (8) enjoys Irish step dancing. Jeremy's wife, Kristin, is working on a master's degree in literacy, and he is working as a district data coordinator with local school districts. Jeremy continues to race in marathons, duathlons, and triathlons—he's slowly working on completing a marathon in each state, and he hopes to someday compete in the Hawaii Ironman Championship. In the meantime, he's enjoying small village life with his family. He concludes: "To any brothers from the late '80s or early '90s (or anyone else), let me know if you are coming to Ithaca, and maybe we can get together." Email him at doddsj@roadrunner.com.

Mike Karet is still living in Buffalo, New York, with his wife, Christa; his two kids; and his dog, Shaggy. His son, Brendan, is entering his sophomore year at Hobart College; daughter, Ava, is a high school sophomore. Mike continues to operate the industrial metal-finishing business that his grandfather started in 1928, Keystone Corporation. He has also recently started a new business, Brava Metal Supply Corp., which focuses on selling to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Kevin Lemanowicz just signed on for two more years as chief meteorologist at Fox 25 in Boston—a job he's held since the day

they launched 16 years ago! In that time, he and his wife, Alina, have watched their two boys—Conor (15) and Jacob (12)—grow up, enjoying every precious moment. Alina is a personal trainer. The family recently made their first-ever trip to California—Yosemite blew their minds. Most of their vacations are spent at their Gulfside home in Miramar Beach (Destin), Florida. Kevin writes that they are all very busy, but suggests kevinlemanowicz@gmail.com or @klemanowicz "on the Twitter." He concludes, "I only have a fan page on Facebook, as weird as that sounds."

>> 1993

Reuben Shaw is living in San Diego, California, where he is a professor at the Salk Institute, a biomedical research institute affiliated with UCSD that sits atop a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla. He runs a 15-person research lab with PhD students and post-doc fellows, performing cancer research and diabetes research. Reuben's wife, Katja, is an assistant professor at the Scripps Research Institute up the street, and they had the great joy to have their first child, Alina Victoria Shaw, born 18 months ago. She is already babbling and running around and exhibiting many hallmarks of her father's antics, which some of you may remember from the house. Reuben says he travels way too much for work, organizing and speaking at cancer and biomedical research conferences all around the world, "which sounds vaguely glamorous, but it gets tedious when it's onethird of the year on the road." On the upside: Such travel affords surreal things like literally running into Dave Askov '92 in the Osaka airport. The other upside is that he has found himself in the past few years actually returning to deejaying late-night parties into the wee hours at some of these cancer conferences—you would be surprised how crazed they can get. "Don't stop 'til you get enough, boys." (By the way, if you want to be blown away, check out Reuben's website: http://www.salk.edu/faculty/shaw.html.)

After **Joel Sumner** and his wife worked high-tech jobs in Shanghai, China, for two-and-a-half years, they transferred back to Austin, Texas, this past spring. Their time in China was wonderful, but they weren't planning on a long stay there, and that duration was just about right. He writes, "If any of you are going to be over there, let me know and I'll send some recommendations."

>> 1994

Except for a short stint in graduate school in Arizona for a year and a half, **Carlos Barroso** has been living in South Florida since 1997, focusing his career on education. For the past 10 years, Carlos has worked as an administrator for Saint Andrew's School, an international day and boarding school located in Boca Raton. He is still single and enjoys all that South Florida has to offer. Adds Carlos: "I definitely miss my time at Lambda Chi and all the brothers!"

Jeff "Door" Goldberg is married (Jacqui, Cornell '96), with three kids (Isaac, 10; and twins Henry and Mitch, who are almost 7). He's living outside of Boston, back in his hometown, which is "a bit provincial, but very convenient." Jeff is gainfully employed at Sanofi (which, as of 2012, is the "largest" pharmaceutical company in the world), where he's the project head for a couple of oncology

products (Mozobil and Clolar). He sees **Frank Goppel '95** and **Brian Machinist '95** on a pretty regular basis. "If anyone's in Boston anytime, feel free to give me a shout at img15@cornell.edu."

>> 1995

Mike Filiatrault is working in the finance division of Merck & Co. on diabetes products. He and his wife, Katrina, have three boys—Ben (10), Henry (6), and Charlie (3)—and are living near Doylestown, Pennsylvania. They've vacationed with John Barney '95, Frank Goppel '95, Brian Machinist '95, and their families in Cape May, New Jersey, in past years: "It's always good to see them and relive old times." Mike has had the pleasure of serving as the ISWZA treasurer for the past several years and is particularly proud of the board's installation of the sprinkler system. He's looking forward to the 100 years of Lambda Chi Alpha at Cornell celebration and positioning Omicron well for the next 100 years.

Stuart "Tripp" Miniman and his wife, Heather (Caruthers)('96), will soon be traveling to Reykjavik, Iceland, to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary. They live in central Massachusetts with their kids, Rachel (8) and Sean (6), and dog (Indiana). **Frank '95** and Kristin (CU '97) Goppel gather the local Lambdas and families every year for apple picking. Stuart and Frank have been sharing Patriots football tickets since graduation. Stuart is an IT industry analyst at the open source research company, Wikibon. You can reach him at stuminiman@gmail.com or @stu on Twitter.



Frank Goppel '95, Stuart "Tripp" Miniman '95, and Jeff "Door" Goldberg '94 cheer on the Patriots earlier this year at the AFC Championship game.

>> 1996

2012 has been an eventful year for Michael Buckler. Within a span of three months (June to August), he started a new job as an associate attorney at Adduci, Mastriani, and Schaumberg (an international trade law firm in Washington, D.C.); got married to an exceptional woman, Rachel Levin, from Princeton, New Jersey (a former New Yorker who relocated her teaching talents to the district, currently at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, third grade); and sold his beloved house in Portland, Oregon, thereby committing himself to D.C. (close to family and many friends) for the foreseeable future. No kids yet, but Michael is a proud uncle of five youngsters—two from his side, and three from Rachel's. He's seen a handful of brothers in recent years—Jason Cho '98, Bob McKinless '48, Shannon Clark '96, Stan Chelney '96, Scot Alessandro '96, and Eric Helmy '96—and looks forward to seeing more now that he's back from Africa (Peace Corps 2006-'08) and relatively settled ("Please visit us in D.C.—we love guests!"). Speaking of Africa, Michael is still very involved with Malawian affairs, serving on

the board of Friends of Malawi and sponsoring the educations of three former students, two of whom have graduated from college. Contact him at mike buckler@yahoo.com.

>> 1998

Jaff Hasan and his wife, Amber, are enjoying life in Marlton, New Jersey (located near Philadelphia). They are excited to be preparing for the arrival of their first child—due date is around Thanksgiving weekend. Converting the office in their house into a nursery is the big project these days.

After two years in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the base of Pikes Peak, **Tom Lank** and his family have moved back to the East Coast. He's still in ministry, serving at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church in Haddonfield, New Jersey. They are living in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where Gretchen is teaching at the Baldwin School. Edith is now 7 years old and will be a Baldwin girl, while Alice is 3 and in preschool. So far, Tom has met up with **Jaff Hasan '98** and is looking forward to catching up with more brothers at **Chris O'Donnell's ('98)** later this fall.

Rob Osborn lives in Rochester, New York, with his lovely wife, son, and daughter. Bethany is now 20 months and busy learning her ABCs and showing interest (talent, we hope) in soccer and golf. Patrick Robert was born on August 15, 2012, and is bringing much joy. Rob reached his 10-year anniversary with Xerox in July 2012, where he currently works as a software and technology buyer. Rob hopes his wife will soon allow him to return to Edgemoor Lane to reunite with friends and traditions. ❖

OBITUARIES

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

Donald R. Baer '49 • December 27, 2011 Lloyd A. Bush '65 • June 5, 2012 Gerald G. Frost Jr. '55 • February 10, 2012 John R. James '56 • May 13, 2012

IN MEMORIAM

On Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17, about 115 brothers—mostly alumni from class years 2007 and younger, and many undergraduates—attended the two-day commemorative service for Brother Matt Omans '10. They came from all over the country, and it was a memorable sight to see such a large showing of support. We were able to arrange an overnight shipment of LXA pins from National so that all the attending brothers would be identified as members of Matt's fraternity. Four dozen purple, green, and gold roses were sent to the funeral home on behalf of the board, the alumni association, and the undergraduates.

Lambda Chi also played a major role in the funeral service, as Alex "Baba" Aidun '08 spoke on behalf of the chapter and Matt's friends. Matt's family was very touched by our presence, and his older brother remarked how much they appreciated the brothers' support for the family over the six months prior to his passing and throughout his whole ordeal. His brother also spoke about how important Matt's Lambda Chi experience was to him and thanked the brotherhood for making such a difference in his life at Cornell.

ISWZA Corporation (Omicron Alumni Associatior

(\$1,000 or more) Stephen B. Ashley '62 Jason J. Cho '98 **ISWZA SOCIETY (\$500-\$999)**

Robert H. Hurlbut '56 Scott B. Jacobs '79

OMICRON SOCIETY (\$250-\$499)

Christopher T. Grubb 'oo Mark V. Hallock '79 Jay L. Leonard '63 (Sprinkler Fund) Richard A. Meigs '80 William T. Morrow '54 Jon D. Pennino '71

PRESIDENTS SOCIETY (\$100-\$249)

Carl S. Atwater '50 Craig W. Atwater '55 Leonard M. Bardfeld '87 Steven B. Bloch '85 Reuben Blofstein '01 James M. Blomquist '62 Ryan Yuan Chen '96 John A. Comstock '61 William T. Curtice III '60 John A. DeWitt Jr. '65 Joseph C. Dwyer '50 Jonathan D. Emanuele '03 James Timothy Embser '56 Michael R. Filiatrault '95 F. William A. Fuller '60 George H. Getman '44 Rodger W. Gibson '50 Hamlin M. Gilbert Jr. '62

Eric M. Goldstein '05 Sanford C. Gordon '94 Joseph G. Gschwendtner '68 James W. Hirsch '64 Carl J. Igelbrink '59 David R. Johnson '86 John E. Johnson '54 Brian F. Kelly '78 John E. Kempster '62 David R. Landrey '66 Warren C. Lem '69 Clifford M. Manko '80 Lee J. Manning '63 Henry B. McNulty '69 Mark R. Mendelson '79 Steven M. Newpol '68 Donald B. Nicholson '62 Peter V. Oberstoetter '80 Christopher M. O'Donnell '98 Mark A. Schneider '93 Theodore S. Serbinski '04 Francis X. Sherman '76 Alan B. Shineman '70 John F. Spencer '54 Marcelo E. Valdes '77 R. Paul Williamson '66 P. Ross Worn '49 Thomas A. Zimmerman '75

CONTRIBUTORS

William D. Adams '55 Brett A. Ainsworth '92 Richard A. Albright '71 Stephen B. Albright '69 Willard R. Bliss '49 Rockne E. Burns '54 A. Roderick Carlson '52 William A. Chater '58 Robert W. Cutler Jr. '62 John S. Czelusniak '75

Harry W. Daniell '50 T. Frank Decker '51 Robert M. Elliott '63 Frederick F. Fakharzadeh '76 Edwin D. Fessenden '54 Gregg A. Fish '11 Tracy J. Flemings '85 Christopher J. Hebert '91 Bruce E. Hedin '82 Charles A. Hjerpe '58 Patrick J. Huston '65 William G. Imig '63 Henry G. Kammerer '57 Michael A. Karet '91 Luther H. Kroninger Jr. '51 C. Stuart LaDow '47 Robert K. Lee '59 James E. Loomis '65 James E. Margeson III '87 Andre P. Martecchini '78 Robert C. Miller '62 Robert M. Mueller Jr. '72 Anthony J. Orel '72 Randolph E. Parker '68 Mark A. Portera '82 Philip B. Prigmore '69 Ronald R. Riso '67 Brian M. Rooney '80 John C. Schneider '58 Robert A. Schneider '69 Raymond H. Schumacher '48 Edward Thomas Shineman '65 William C. Smith '10 Walter T. Spalding Jr. '56 George H. Wehmeyer '59 W. Thomas Willis III '66 David A. Wurz '83 John F. Zelenka '03

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