



APRIL 2015 ► VOLUME VIII

# RENOVATION ON SCHEDULE

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## BEYOND THE COVER...

- OMICRON GROWS TO 89 MEMBERS

# RENOVATION UPDATE

By Sandy Gilbert '62

**As**

you would expect, there has been a great deal of progress on the renovation of Edgemoor, our 114 year old Chapter House, since the last report in the fall edition of *The Oracle*.

The interior of the house was assessed and treated to remove hazardous materials and prep work on the electrical, heating and plumbing infrastructure was begun.



**Sandy Gilbert**

With this interior work in progress in the first few months of the project, it didn't look like much was going on as you glanced at the house from the street. Then the heavy construction equipment appeared on the site and things began to change dramatically. As shown in the picture below, the old Dining Room was demolished to allow the construction crew to

begin preparing the ground to pour and set the new foundations and micro piles that will support the Dining Room and the three floors above it. The micro piles were drilled to a depth of 22 to 25 feet into structurally stable rock. The structural steel pilings were grouted solid and either connected by a structural concrete grade beam or covered by a concrete pile cap in anticipation for either steel/wood columns or shear wall construction. The new installed concrete was protected from all the snow and bitter cold this winter (The coldest February on record in Ithaca) by a hot water piping system installed beneath a large insulated concrete blanket that allowed the concrete to properly cure. This involved some impressive technology and experience by Welliver, our builder, who is well versed in working through Ithaca's legendary winters with their work on a number of Cornell projects like the new Gates Hall for computer sciences in the Engineering College.

Once this process was complete, the construction crew began building and erecting the frames for the exterior walls on the south side of the addition as shown in the picture below.



## RENOVATION UPDATE

Another view of the Dining Room looking southwest toward Plunkett's Point is shown below. The framed opening to the right is for double doors leading to the parking lot. The two framed openings to the left of the doors are for two west windows and the framed opening to the far left of that is for one of the two south windows.



The next picture below is an exterior shot of the Dining Room with the first floor above it framed in and sheathed. When completed, the new Dining room will be a bit larger and several feet higher with recessed lighting and added windows to provide more light and a better view of Cascadilla Gorge.



In the weeks following the pictures taken above in late February, the project moved ahead very quickly with the erection of the exterior walls for the first, second and third floors to enclose the addition. The next steps

in the coming months will be to seal the exterior walls and build the interior walls and floors that will include some new living spaces, the framing for the new additional bathrooms and the exciting new Exercise Center on the third floor.

The Construction Committee, Chaired by Jon Emanuele '03, has ably conceived and planned this major renovation project and they should be commended for their hard work and expertise. Other members of the committee include Mark Fernau '82, Mike Filiatrault '95, Bryan Harriott '16, Phil Prigmore '69, Chris Turner '94, Ralph Wilhelm '67 and Joe Willis '72.

Also playing an invaluable role in overseeing and managing the day-to-day construction process is brother Phil Prigmore '69, our Project Manager. Phil was the architect for the renovation who many of you met during the renovation presentation at the 100th Celebration. Given his long standing familiarity with the inside workings of Edgemoor, his career architectural specialty in dealing with historic landmarks and his proximity to the Ithaca area, Phil has kept the project on target and on deadline.

The Welliver people continue to assure us that the project will be completed as scheduled meeting the August 1st deadline for the completion of Phase One and earning a Certificate of Occupancy from the City of Ithaca that allows the undergrads to move in for the start of the 2015-16 school year.

On the funding front, the Capital Campaign continues to draw in some new pledges which now sit at about \$2.0 Million. To help with cash flow to pay for the bricks and mortar needed up front for construction, our Brother Bond Loan Program has been very successful in raising about \$400 Thousand. Anyone still interested in participating in this attractive interest bearing program should contact our Funding Consultant, [Greg McElroy](mailto:mcelroy174@aol.com), at (914) 582-6466 or at [mcelroy174@aol.com](mailto:mcelroy174@aol.com).

As the construction project has progressed, we have experienced considerably higher labor and material costs than originally expected. This is due to the improved economy with many other construction projects underway in the Ithaca area resulting in a shortage of labor and supplies and the need to pay more to get them. In addition, we encountered some unanticipated

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## RENOVATION UPDATE

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demolition costs as some rotting floorboard was discovered under plywood coverings in some of the existing living quarters.

Given the expense situation, it has been decided to move forward with the rest of the renovation in two phases. Phase One will include the complete finishing of the new Dining Room, a totally redone and more functional Kitchen area, a restored Rathskeller Bar and first floor common areas and the new addition housing the Electronic Learning Center or Media Room and the Reading Room. The second and third floors will be built to move-in condition, but not completely finished with the living areas and Exercise Center set up for everyday use, but requiring added finishing, paint and trim. For cost reasons, the revival of the old wooden staircase and the opening of the new bathrooms will also be delayed until later in Phase Two.

As more money becomes available during the five-year funding period, the finishing work on the second and

third floors will be carried out when school is out during the ensuing summer months. Completing the traditional wooden staircase and the additional new bathrooms portion of Phase Two will take another funding effort that is likely to begin in the next few years.

Of course, for those of you who have not yet made a pledge, your contribution will help us expedite the completion of the renovation project. For more information or to make a pledge, contact Sandy Gilbert at [sandem133@aol.com](mailto:sandem133@aol.com) or by phone at (941) 807-8305.

We hope you all will make every effort to come back on Homecoming Weekend from September 18 to 20 for the Grand Opening of Edgemoor to see the great progress we have made with this landmark project. This will be entirely a celebratory event with no personal solicitation for further funding. That will come sometime later down the road. More details about the events at the Grand Opening will be available shortly. For questions in the meantime, contact the manager for the weekend, Chris Fateh '02 at [cmf237@cornell.edu](mailto:cmf237@cornell.edu). ❖



# CORNELL TODAY: CELEBRATING 150 YEARS!

By Stephen Ashley '62

**A**

bout once every decade, leadership changes come about at Cornell that have a way of redefining the University – usually in subtle ways, but occasionally in more dramatic form. 2015 is a seminal year. As a University community, we will celebrate a Sesquicentennial and the completion of a \$6 billion Capital Campaign. The real longer-term impact will come about with the installation of Elizabeth (Beth) Garrett as the 13th President of Cornell. In addition to the transition from David Skorton to Beth Garrett, a new Provost will be named succeeding Kent Fuchs and a new Vice President for Student and Academic Services will be named to



**Stephen Ashley**

replace Susan Murphy. These are tremendously important positions and will shape the next 10 years in terms of strategic vision, academic emphases and student life.

It is right and proper that this column should begin with a word about David Skorton. David is currently completing his ninth year as President. He will leave at the end of June 2015 and become the Secretary (CEO) of the Smithsonian. David's tenure was marked by the Great Recession and the need to right-size the University's operating budget. This was done skillfully and with minimal impact on the academic program. Without question, the most important undertaking of the University in many years was the Cornell NYC Tech Initiative on Roosevelt Island. Longer term, this is a billion-dollar undertaking that is already transforming the role of the University in the tech field and in its presence in New York City. On campus, David is best known for his engagement with students and his palpable love and admiration for them. It has been a great pleasure to have known and worked with David.

The transition in the Presidency from David Skorton to Beth Garrett is moving at a rapid clip and is somewhat

different from previous Presidential transitions. For the spring semester, Beth has been on leave from her position as Provost at the University of Southern California and has been heavily engaged in learning "Cornell". She has been meeting with deans, faculty and student leaders. She is present at many off-campus Alumni and Sesquicentennial events. Beth is a natural. She loves meeting people and conversation comes very easily. By July 1, 2015, Beth will be very well prepared to assume her duties. The installation of the new President will take place during Homecoming Weekend, which also coincides with Lambda Chi Alpha's celebration of the renovated house at 125 Edgemoor Lane.

Two key hiring positions will await Beth's decision – the Provost and the Vice President for Student and Academic Services. Search Committees have been formed and are underway for both positions. The process for screening and hiring is very deliberative, collaborative and can seem to the outsider as unnecessarily drawn out.

The Provost position, was previously held by Kent Fuchs who had been Dean of Engineering prior to being named Provost. Kent left Cornell to become President of the University of Florida. The Provost Office has responsibility for the academic program and the University's Ithaca operating budget. All deans report to the Provost as well as several Vice Provosts and the University Librarian. The Provost is the principal reporting officer to the President. Kent Fuchs was a remarkable academic leader, a gentleman of good humor and a concise, strategic thinker. Kent provided the intellectual horsepower that went into Cornell's successful bid for the Tech Campus in NYC. Cornell's tradition has been to move people into the Provost office from one of the college units – a dean or occasionally, an associate dean. In all probability, the Search Committee will provide Beth with finalists that are currently known to the Cornell community.

It is very hard for me to imagine Cornell without Susan Murphy. Susan has been a member of the Cornell administration for 25 years, and for many, personifies what is best about Cornell. She is nationally recognized as a leader in the field of student services and campus life, is without question one of the most articulate thinkers and speakers that many of us know, and provides the cool head and tough-love presence that is

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required in this position. Susan’s well-thought-out advice guided the President and the Trustees as we dealt with the aftermath of George Desdunes’ tragic death at SAE and the need to redefine hazing – not just for fraternities and sororities but also for sports teams, music groups, etc. Greek Life at Cornell has no better friend than Susan Murphy, and she has shown time and again her commitment to the wellbeing and the ideals of Greek Life. Susan has a broad span of direct reports – the Athletic Director, Food Service, Gannett Health Services, Residential Life, Greek Life and anything else that you can think of that would impact students. All student organizations in one way or another have a link to Susan’s office. All who have had the opportunity to work with Susan have learned so much about what it takes to provide an environment for Cornell’s 21,000 students that is engaging, nurturing and fulfills Cornell’s tradition of shared governance. Kathryn Boor, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Science, is Chairing the Search Committee that will make the recommendations to President-Elect Garrett. Kathryn

tells me that there is great interest in this position from around the country and that interest is stimulated by a desire to work with Beth Garrett.

Together, these three positions constitute a unique combination of transitions and, taken together, will undoubtedly be transformative for the University throughout the next decade. On campus, there is much excitement about President-Elect Garrett; but, in all fairness there is some anxiety that accompanies the excitement – especially given the transition in the Provost office and in Student and Academic Services. Who will the new leaders be, what changes will they make, what directions and goals does the University aim for? The Trustees will be working with the new leadership team ranging from access (affordability/student aid), academic rankings, the challenges and opportunities of the electronic classroom, and the ever-present defining of the business model. As Cornellians we all have much to look forward to, much to celebrate and much that undoubtedly will be new and thought provoking.

Stay tuned! ❖

## GREEK LIFE: STEADY AS SHE GOES

By Ralph Wilhelm '67

**It** has now been a few years since the Cornell Greek new member education period (bid acceptance in spring until initiation) has stabilized at four weeks. Most chapters have dealt with that challenge successfully particularly since most Greek Nationals have “standard” new member education (NME) periods that range from less than four to more than four weeks. So the challenge is not finding a program that will fit; it is undergraduates and alumni support groups that decide to make it happen. Except for a bit of change about change in general, this is becoming a non-issue.



Ralph Wilhelm

The four-quarter system continues on now in its third/fourth year. (For review:

- First quarter, August to fall break in October: no freshman contact with Greeks.
- Second quarter, End of fall break until January Rush kickoff: organized contact with freshman in registered non-alcoholic functions.
- Third quarter, January Rush kickoff until end of initiation: contact no problem with freshman but must be non-alcoholic.
- Fourth quarter, end of initiation to end of spring semester: all rights and privileges as per normal regulations.)

Generally, the undergraduates are able to deal with the various rules and regulations in each quarter, although not all undergraduates are pleased with these regulations, e.g. some wishing for no regulation or restrictions with freshman at all.

Until a few years ago, the approximate one week period of rush was quite out of hand ending in numer-

ous charges and transports to hospitals (e.g. students with substance abuse, etc.). Currently that period of rush is milder and not as raucous at all. The period of challenge is now the first few weeks of new member education after bids are accepted and turned in, however this year, it did seem calmer compared to the last few years.

You might be interested in specific data concerning rush for the IFC and the Panhellenic Councils. The Panhellenic (PHC) Council is now at thirteen Sororities, all doing well and robust with solid numbers. Cornell has added two sororities over the last few years: Phi Sigma Sigma three years ago and Phi Mu last fall. When both of these new chapters (of strong nationals) started, they took approximately 90 new members in the fall and another forty to sixty in the next spring. The demand for more capacity in sororities is a great thing, but a bit overwhelming. Typical total membership in mature PHC chapters is around 170 to 180 in the spring; the sororities then graduate 40 to 45 members and take in the same number the next spring.

One more observation on the PHC situation. On our campus it is expected that PHC chapters will all have a House. That is one of the requirements for a successful rush. All of Nationals who chose to apply to recruit at Cornell are told this, but given that Cornell is a very tight real estate market with limited land to build on, it is a real challenge for new sororities to gain a foothold and successfully rush. The second youngest sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, has been renting a house (the old Kappa Alpha house across from Delta Upsilon) for two years. The Phi Mu chapter does not have a House in their second semester on campus, now with 145 members from two semesters of rushing. This is an issue that we are attempting to solve with their National.

The IFC situation has stabilized compared to a few years ago. There are currently 36 chapters on the Hill (versus 52 from the 1960s). Most have been having successful rushes over the last few semesters. A few facts and comparisons might help: Adding fall and spring IFC recruiting numbers, the average total new members per year are almost 18 per chapter (versus 26 at Omicron in 2014-15).

Only 17 of the 36 chapters successfully rushed last fall semester, but picked up approximately 4.5 members per chapter that chose to rush (Omicron picked up six last fall.)

The average IFC chapter picked up fourteen new members this spring (versus Omicron at 20).

These IFC numbers are quite stable...a good thing. Omicron continues to be one of the bigger Chapters on the Hill.

That all being said, we continue to have challenges to no one's surprise. The issues that we continue to work on across campus:

More than half the houses on the Hill, fraternities and sororities, have live-in advisors or couples inside their Chapter Houses. They are required in PHC chapters, not in fraternities. The data tends to be consistently positive about the effect of a live-in advisor. Omicron needs to make its decision moving forward.

The issue of disrespect shown by Greek members to various outside speakers, etc. tends to be a nagging problem. We are having more discussions about this challenge; no real progress here.

The University (in concert with the respective national fraternity) continues to use interim suspension quite consistently on every chapter where a serious charge or allegation is filed. This is not popular with all undergraduates or alumni, but I am very positive about this approach. The upside is much stronger than the downside.

The issue of Collegetown being more raucous than normal, totally unsupervised parties, underage drinking, noise issues late at night, etc. continues to be a topic of concern. This is not just a Greek issue and it is not a new issue at all. Study groups from the University, the Trustees and the Town Officials of Ithaca continue to study possible solutions.

Lastly, the challenge of continual thievery from Houses of trophies, charters, portraits, composites, other specific and memorable symbols is now getting much more attention on the undergraduate and alumni/staff level. I sense a growing impatience with this and a push to create a much better solution space combining positive reinforcement and harsher punishments. Stay tuned.

As always, fire back with questions; always willing and interested to answer questions and concerns.

Ralph Wilhelm (317-508-6866; [rvw5@cornell.edu](mailto:rvw5@cornell.edu)) ❖



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT: STRONG SPRING RUSH

By Bryan Harriot '17

In

my role as the newly elected High Alpha, I am pleased to introduce myself to Omicron's many alumni readers and give you an update on the house's progress since the last

President's Report in the fall edition of The Oracle. I am a native North Carolinian who grew up in Winston-Salem and graduated from Mount Tabor High School. I came to Cornell because of its renown in the engineering field and am majoring in Computer Science. As a career, I hope to either explore operations research to improve the layout and function of websites or applied computer science engineering using programs and coding to improve various processes in any application.



**Bryan Harriot**

My personal interests include the restoration of vintage Porsches including a 356c and a current project with a 911. I also enjoy carpentry, playing some lacrosse and soccer and I am a member of the Cornell SKI and Snowboard Club and the Habitat For Humanity.

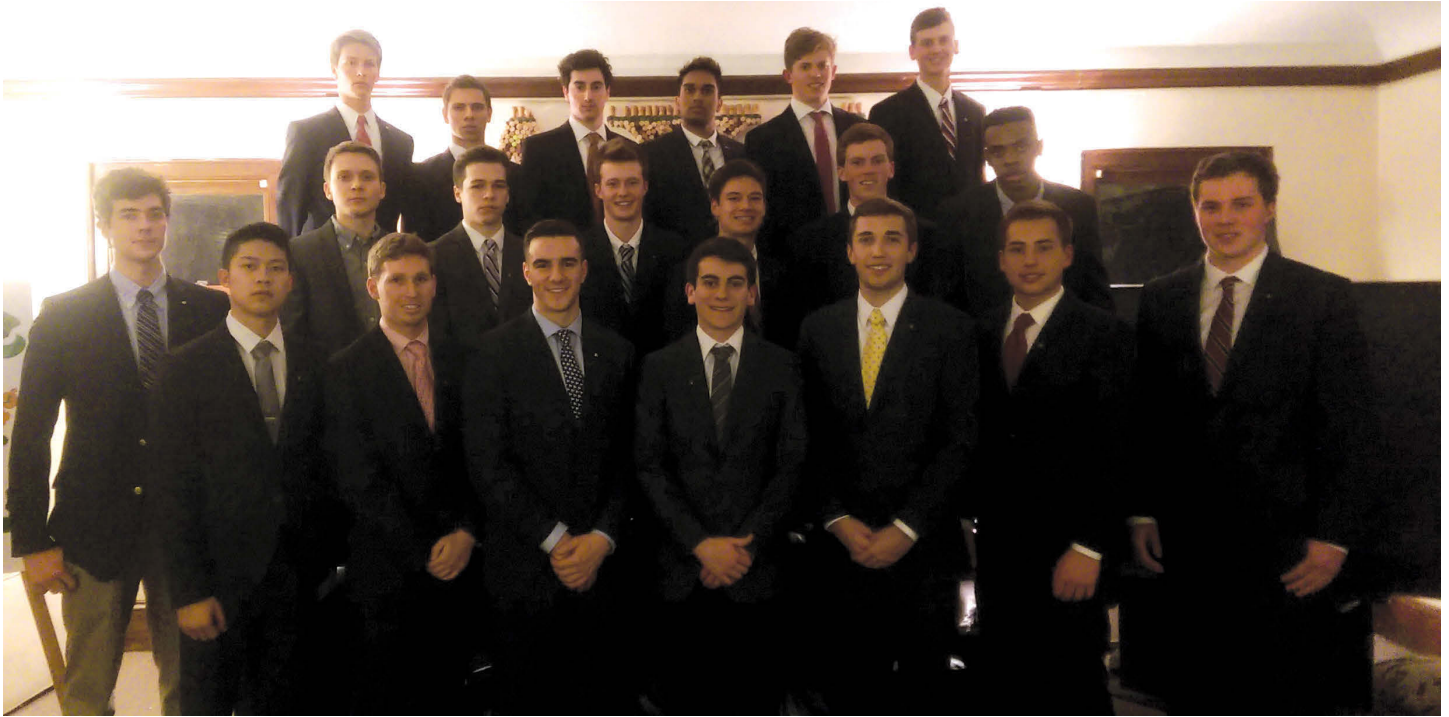
As you have learned from periodic ISWZA updates, the chapter was placed on suspension for an incident involving a brother and a Cornell female student at Edgecliff shown above, our rented quarters during the



renovation. This is standard protocol for the university's Office of Fraternity Sorority Independent Living (OFSIL) whenever there is any sort of investigation involving a fraternity. All members of the chapter fully cooperated with the Ithaca Police during their investigation and they have notified Cornell that Omicron Zeta is no longer part of the investigation. The suspension was lifted by both the university and Lambda Chi National on February 11th. We are pleased with the Greek Judicial Board's decision that came down in mid-March, especially their acknowledgement of our cooperation with the university during the evaluation process. This has been a learning experience for the entire brotherhood and we have already made positive changes in our Event Management Policy to ensure safe and responsible events in the future.

Despite the difficulty in dealing with this unfortunate situation, the brotherhood was able to come together under the able leadership of Rush Chair Duncan McCausland '16 to launch a very successful Rush effort attracting the twenty new Associate Members pictured on page 9. The new AMs come from twelve different states across the country, attend six different colleges at the university and bring a variety of new interests





and activities to the chapter.

With the twenty new Associate Members, above, Omicron now has eighty nine total members, one of the largest houses on The Hill. Our most recent GPA average is 3.35.

The other current officers working with me to keep the house at the forefront at Cornell are shown in the adjacent Fact Box.

I look forward to meeting many of you this fall at the Grand Opening of the renovated Edgemoor during Homecoming Weekend, September 18 to 20. ❖

## OMICRON FACT BOX: SPRING 2015

High Alpha .....	Bryan Harriott '17
High Beta .....	Zachary Stricklin '17
High Theta .....	Kenneth Wronka '16
High Gamma .....	Micheal Dohmann '16
High Epsilons .....	Jarrett Goodness '17
	Timothy Krausz '17
High Kappas .....	Peter Caldwell '15
	Christopher Merrill '15
High Tau .....	Jason Weinberg '17
High Rho .....	Joshua Behler '16
High Delta .....	Max Murray '17
High Phi .....	Jamie Winebrake '15
High Iota .....	Joseph Barsotti '17
High Sigma .....	Ege Mihmanli '17
High Mu .....	Patrick Spoth '17
Steward .....	David Glazer '17
Jock .....	Dan Defumeri '17
Standards .....	Chase Johnson '17
Executive Representatives .....	Alexander Fernandez '17
	Richard Ibsen '16

# TRAVEL NUGGETS: ROOM WITH A POINT OF VIEW

By Alan Fridkin '65



Have you ever woken up in a hotel room and not known what city you were in? In my working days, I stayed at dozens of Hiltons, Marriotts, Holiday Inns and the like. The furniture, layout, generic art work and amenities came from the same giant warehouse. A clean, safe, reliable and reasonably priced place to stay checks most of the boxes. But it rarely makes for a memorable experience.



Alan Fridkin

On my own dime, I usually seek out an inn or hotel that has a story, reflects a truly personal welcome and/or is a destination in its own right. Such places may or may not be expensive. But it will be a place run by interesting people, where you meet

interesting people and where you might become one yourself.

Four blocks past a chaotic market, behind a somber stone wall on a dimly lit and vaguely menacing street, there is an ancient and massive wooden door. Inside is an oasis of luxury and calm and perhaps the warmest and most sincere hospitality we have ever experienced. Welcome to *Riad Kniza* in Marrakech. If you choose to dine there (and you should), at breakfast they will ask you what you would like for dinner-and they go to the market to fulfill your request. The owners, second and third generation antique dealers, fill their home-and your rooms-with one of a kind furniture and art work. Some antiques, and quality reproductions, are available in their shop several miles away in the French Quarter.



Room at Riad Kniza Hotel



Lobby Riad Kniza Hotel

Unlike magazines and blogs, I don't have a "top ten" list for you. There are a handful of hostelrys we will never forget, some visited many times.

In any big city, it is coddling to have a regular and cozy address where they really know you and are truly glad to see you again. Their staff can honestly appraise a restaurant or show you were thinking of taking in. In Paris, we wouldn't think of staying anywhere other than *Le Saint Gregoire* in the 6<sup>th</sup>, our favorite neighborhood. We will be there in early May-to celebrate with our favorite General Manager, Francois, who is retiring. We will continue to see him in future years-but what will the hotel be like without him?

Five yards to the beach and twenty yards to the Mediterranean, the apartment(s) we have rented in Alassio, Italy for 25 years are modern efficiencies in a 400 year old building. Of all the dozens of beach towns we have visited across the world, this one is ours. We open the windows at night and go to sleep with the sound of the waves. Our hosts, the Mantellassis, are like family, including their 4 dogs. *Le Terrazze* is surrounded by unpretentious cafes, restaurants and beach concessions. It is a perfect place for the nightly passeggiata. We now

know more people there than we do at home. Guests come from a dozen countries. Americans are scarce.

Before they were the Knights of Malta, the Crusaders were kicked out of Rhodes by the Ottomans. A few miles off the Turkish coast, the island and the capital city, in particular, has been continuously lived in for more than 2500 years. Small Greek Orthodox Churches and Mosques coexist. Deep in the ancient town you will find, with local help, *Marco Polo Mansions*. A small number of modest art filled rooms have four poster beds. The hidden courtyard is drenched in primary colors and shaded by lush trees. It is the perfect setting for exceptional home-made breakfasts and thoughtful conversations with the charming couple that runs this little inn. Besides their good cooking, it is less than a hundred yards from our favorite seafood taberna in all of Greece: *Nireas*.

Deep in rural France, Germany, Austria, Italy, there are memorable restaurants with hotels attached. At the high end, they may belong to the ritzy *Relais et Chateaux* association. Traditional and characterful places might be independent members of *Romantik Hotels* and none are cookie cutter. Mostly rural and modest, some places raise the flag of *Relais du Silence*. Their three websites will lead you to a treasure trove of unique places such as *Oustau de Baumaniere* (Les Baux); *Romantik Hotel Santis* (Appenzell); *Relais du Silence La Ferme d'Augustin* (Ramatuelle).

There are memorable places closer to home. *Oglebay Resort and Conference Center* in Wheeling, WV is a surprisingly mellow find.

You are probably thinking that all of these special hideaways come with a very high room rate, but that's not always the case. *Riad Kniza* in Marrakech and *Le Saint Gregorie* in Paris are 4 star level and well worth it. Paris is an expensive city and at \$200 to \$250 a night in a very nice neighborhood, you could easily spend double the price of the *Le Saint Gregorie*.

The *Romantik* hotels are in the 2 to 4 star price range while the *Relais* and *Chateau* would be in the 3 to 5 star category. The *Relais du Silence* properties are often more rustic and modestly priced. *Oglebay* was very moderately priced during our last visit. All of the above hospitality selections offer great value and individuality. You'll definitely get your money's worth and more.

I could go on, and I will, over a gin and tonic or a phone call. ❖



# HORT SENSE: WINTER'S EFFECTS ON YOUR GARDEN

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64

F

or many parts of the northeastern USA and even further south, this is reportedly turning out to be the coldest and snowiest winter ever recorded. For our garden plants, one positive aspect of these extreme conditions

is that the amount and duration of this winter's snow has provided superb insulation, protecting snow-covered plants from drying winds and punishing cold temperatures and minimizing the depth of frozen ground beneath. But unfortunately, this excessive snow and ice has likely caused damage to trees and shrubs that doesn't occur in a normal winter.



Wayne Mezitt

## Snow and ice related damage:

Plants adapted or properly pruned to tolerate snow loads have probably fared well as the built-up volume of repeated snowfalls weighs-down weaker-branched shrubs and trees. But the extreme amount of snow, combined with compacted layering caused by continual shoveling and plowing, along with snow and ice dropping off roofs all add to the branch-breakage problem. Wind, road sand/salt and sun reflecting off the snow can cause leaf injury to shrubs like holly, rhododendron and other evergreens.

Wait to evaluate physical damage until most snow has gone. Evergreens with discolored, tattered or missing foliage will usually recover once warm weather enables new growth to emerge. Many shrubs and trees will recover from snow-load stress when their splayed branches spring back naturally as snow and ice melts away. Some boxwood, juniper, arborvitae and other plants may need their branches tied-up or cut-back to re-grow normally, and this should be done before new growth begins. For most damaged shrubs, take the time to prune branches to develop a wide "A-shaped" form, keeping the lower portions wider than the upper parts; this helps strengthen the plant's branch structure making it less prone to future branch-splay.

For those shrubs or trees with split or torn branches, it's advisable to cut-back and remove their damaged parts. Plants with serious branch breakage recover better if they are pruned more radically. In some cases it's wise to consider cutting-back even uninjured branches, enabling latent buds to emerge and develop a stronger structure and re-grow into a more balanced shape than it would with only a major section removed.

**Damage by wildlife:** Winter-long survival of deer and rabbits is seriously challenged by a persistent, deep-snow pack. No longer able to find sufficient food on the ground, they modify their eating habits, expanding their diet to avoid starvation. Rabbits and other small animals eat anything they can reach. To support the nutrient needs of their large bodies, deer eat virtually any foliage, buds and stems they can find. In areas of heavy deer population they will completely defoliate many plants like rhododendrons, arborvitae, holly and yews to the extent of their reach.

Heavily-browsed foliage isn't always fatal to the plant, just as leaves discolored by stress and reflected sunlight don't always indicate the plant is dead. Scratch the stem, and if the tissue under the bark (the cambium) is bright green, your plant should start to grow when the weather warms. Even if the foliage on your plant is gone or looks badly damaged, it may be in better condition than it initially appears, so wait until late spring to see if new growth appears.

**Rodent damage:** When it persists for more than a few weeks, deep snow provides an ideal environment for rodents like voles and field mice to thrive: hidden from normal predators, they seek nourishment by chewing through the bark and cambium layer of trunks, branches and stems, causing girdling damage that only becomes evident when the snow cover recedes. Maples and fruit trees are particularly susceptible to this girdling.

Once the snow has melted, if you find a stem slightly gnawed by voles or other rodents, it should be able to heal by itself; but if it is girdled more than 2/3 of its diameter, the part above the damage will have difficulty recovering and should be removed. There may also be hidden damage from rodents feeding around the root crown, below the soil surface. Unless all stems are girdled, the tree or shrub should be able to recover when growth resumes, albeit with a different branch

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# THE RECIPE BOX: Grilled "Sustainable" Salmon



By Sandy Gilbert '62

This recipe is unique in several ways. First, it uses Mt. Cook Alpine Salmon from New Zealand, a type of King Salmon that is the only farmed, non-wild salmon graded as a Green Choice by the

Monterey Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program. And, the combination of using this special fish and cooking it in this way produces a salmon dish that rivals even the wild caught salmon I have tasted in Alaska.

The fish is special because it is raised in very cold glacier water above the tree-line in the mountains in New Zealand in a free flowing, non-penned environment. This produces a firmer muscled fish with what I would describe as a "sweeter", more flavorful taste. Mt. Cook Alpine Salmon is sustainable because it is fed a mix of fish and plant pellets in a ratio of only about two pounds of feed to one pound of harvested salmon. This ratio is way better than the four or five pounds of fish feed needed to produce one pound of harvested fish that is typical for most farmed fish.

You can periodically find Mt. Cook Alpine Salmon at Whole Foods Stores here in the U.S. As you would expect, it is not inexpensive at around \$17.00 per pound. However, try it and I think you will agree that it is well worth the cost. ❖

## HORT SENSE

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structure than last year.

Many of our trees and shrubs are being challenged by this winter's unusual weather. Some plants may need to be rejuvenated, others replaced, opening opportunities for trying new plants. Use this winter's experience to observe what went wrong and evaluate what to do during the growing seasons to avoid repeated damage next winter.

Overall, I find it rather inspiring to realize that, despite winter's damage, nature's rejuvenation will make next spring's garden just as welcome, even if it's somewhat different than we would have anticipated with more accommodating weather. ❖

## INGREDIENTS (TWO SERVINGS)

One pound filet of Mt. Cook Alpine Salmon  
Sprinkle of salt and ground black pepper  
Three tablespoons of grapeseed oil  
Three tablespoons of honey  
Enough Hungarian sweet paprika to cover filet  
Sprinkle of Emeril's Original Essence

## PREPARATION

Heat up Grill five minutes before use  
Place filet skin side down on working surface  
Sprinkle the filet with salt and ground black pepper  
Spread two tablespoons of the grapeseed oil over the fish

Drizzle the honey over the filet in a criss-cross pattern to cover

Spread enough paprika over filet to cover  
Sprinkle Emeril's Essence over filet to complete preparation

Put serving side down on grill and cook for three minutes or so to create grill marks and caramelize the filet.

Put remaining tablespoon of grapeseed oil on skin side of fish

Turn the fish to cook the remainder of the time (six to eight minutes per half inch of thickness) on the skin side. This is done to help keep the fish from being overcooked or drying out as local chefs here on the west coast of Florida recommend that the fish be cooked medium rare for the best result. Grapeseed oil is used instead of olive oil because it has a higher smoking point. And finally, a number of restaurants here on the west coast of Florida are using grilled blackened fish skin like a cracker as a base for hors-d'oeuvres like grilled shrimp or caviar. Try tasting the blackened skin of the salmon, you may like it. It tastes a bit like the charred fat on a steak.

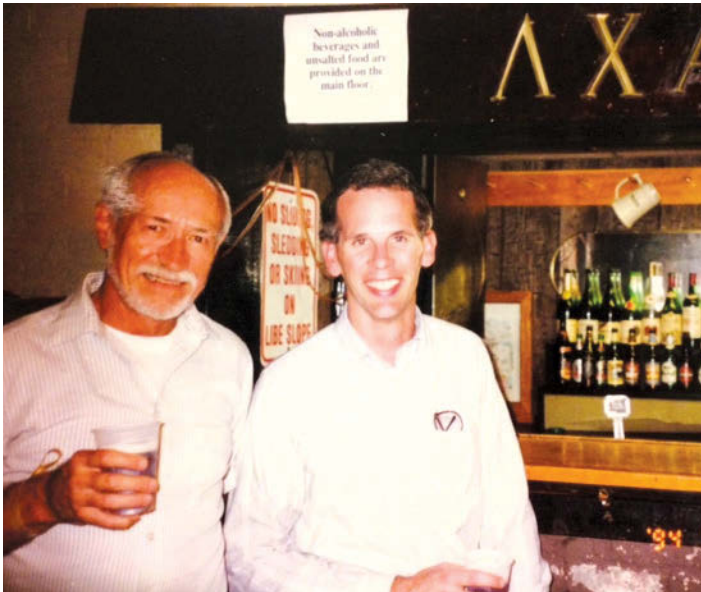
Serve with brown rice, a grilled tomato and your favorite wine.

# NEWS FROM ALUMNI

## ► 1944

George Getman tells us that he and his wife, Neva, have downsized by selling their home and leasing an apartment in Sun City Center near Ruskin, Florida. They have abandoned golf and their international junkets but are enjoying other activities that are easily accessible by either car or golf cart. They are enjoying life and feel they "lucked out". You can find George at [nevaandgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:nevaandgeorge@gmail.com).

## ► 1948



Bob McKinless, shown above with Tim Rogin '81 after a 92 mile bike ride around Cayuga Lake back in 1994, reports his latest biking adventure was joining his son and grandson last summer for a relatively flat 200 mile ride along the Missouri River. They had a chance to stop by the Lambda Chi house at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion which will celebrate its Centennial next year. Bob still is active with his men's singing group in Washington and they had a chance to sing with the Washington National Symphony at the Kennedy Center back in November. Bob has been the Librarian for the group for twenty years. His youngest of seven grandchildren will graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University this June. Bob can be found at [bikerbob8@mac.com](mailto:bikerbob8@mac.com).

## ► 1950

Harry Daniell writes to say that he is winding down his practice of internal medicine, but is continuing to teach on the volunteer faculty at the Medical School

at U.C. Davis. He continues to run, although slower, every day and still completes several half marathons every year. Harry lives at [hwdaniell@aol.com](mailto:hwdaniell@aol.com).

Joe Dwyer tells us he is in his sixty second year of practicing law and his wife, Elaine, is a Cornell law graduate. They have a bunch of kids, one doctor, three lawyers, two RNs, a CEO, a managing director, a high school principal and a stay at home mom who graduated from Wells College. Joe says: "Where else could I get away with bragging about my kids?" Joe resides at [joedwyer@roadrunner.com](mailto:joedwyer@roadrunner.com).

## ► 1955

Craig Atwater reports that he plays the piano for a choral group that his wife, Elizabeth, directs at their adult community. They recently had a concert which ended with a rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In". It reminded him of the house Dixieland band that played that song so often during his days at Lambda Chi. They even were part of the festivities on one Homecoming Weekend when the late Jim Plunkett '56 pulled the band on a trailer with his Willy's Jeepster. Craig says he still has very fond memories of the groovy sounds on Edgemoor Lane. His email is [edgemoor125@gmail.com](mailto:edgemoor125@gmail.com).

## ► 1956

Dick Terhune writes: "Gretchen and I are settled in for another "balmy" Maine winter. I keep busy taking grandkids Bev and Penelope to school two days a week and practicing my new hobby, cooking. It's better than carpentry because you can eat what you make. We now have six grandkids ranging in ages from six to twenty two. Dick lives at [rpterrhune@maine.rr.com](mailto:rpterrhune@maine.rr.com).

## ► 1957

Henry Kammerer tells us that he and his wife, Grace, continue to do some traveling, although they have decided to retreat from long range places like India and Sri Lanka that they visited last March. They now concentrate on closer spots in Europe like Italy and Portugal. You'll find Henry at [HGKamrer@aol.com](mailto:HGKamrer@aol.com).

## ► 1961

Don Coleman says that he is just living large and enjoying life at his homes in Weatherby Lake, Missouri and North Palm Beach, Florida. He was pleased to be honored with the 2014 Engineering Technology award from Missouri Western State University. He still loves flying his pressurized Cessna Z10 all over the country and he has joined the Omicron Alumni Mentoring Program and has two mentees under his aegis. Don resides at [colemanheavyconst@yahoo.com](mailto:colemanheavyconst@yahoo.com).

# NEWS FROM ALUMNI

## ► 1962

Jeff Burnam writes that he has been elected to Academic Visitor at St. Anthony's College at Oxford in connection with his research on climate change leadership as a complex moral problem. He will explore the problem of leadership in modern democracies in dealing with complex issues where short term sacrifices are needed to achieve long term objectives for the general good. Comments on the subject are welcome at [jeffryburnam@cox.net](mailto:jeffryburnam@cox.net).



Chris Napjus says that he really liked the fall edition of The Oracle and that he and Barb just returned from a spur-of-the-moment trip to Europe where they visited England, Austria, Germany and France. The beautiful Alpine scene above is from the trip. Chris says he is looking forward to coming back to The Hill this fall for the Grand Opening of Edgemoor in September and you can reach him at [cnapjus@verizon.net](mailto:cnapjus@verizon.net).

## ► 1963



John and Tracy Lutz sent in the above picture from a recent trip to the Hawaiian Islands. No question that the weather there has been a lot easier to take than this winter in New England where they call home. You'll find John at [jrlcorp@verizon.com](mailto:jrlcorp@verizon.com).

Bob Elliott checks in to say that he and Connie enjoyed a trip to two great U.S. cities, New Orleans and Nashville, for some unique music and food. They flew to New Orleans to meet some friends and enjoyed the jazz clubs, street entertainers, Creole food, the French Quarter and a great WWII museum. In Nashville they visited all the country landmarks like the Grand Ole Opry in Ryman Hall and the exhibits at the Country & Western Hall of Fame. In between, they drove the beautiful Natchez Trace Parkway stopping in Natchez to see all the beautiful antebellum homes. The visit gave them a real feeling for the "Old South". They also had a chance to see the National Military Park in Vicksburg which provided some interesting insight into the strategy behind some of the Civil War battles and they took a tour of plantations and cotton fields. They especially enjoyed staying in two Mississippi B&Bs on this part of the trip where they met some real southerners who were very interesting and hospitable. Bob's handle is [bobell89@aol.com](mailto:bobell89@aol.com).

Lee Leonard reports that he and Ruth celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends at the social hall of their church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio complete with decorations and photos and artifacts from the '60s. The event was duly noted in the Columbus Dispatch. Both Ruth and Lee are very active in the United Methodist Church where he is the lay leader and Ruth works with the women's circle. Lee finished his second book in October "James A Rhodes, Ohio Colossus" which he wrote with two other authors and was published by Kent State University Press. Lee and Tom Diemer, one of the other authors, hosted two book signing events in Columbus and Washington, D.C. Lee resides at [rleonard@mycidco.com](mailto:rleonard@mycidco.com).

## ► 1964

Bob Rapp tells us that he has finally retired after forty two years in the chemical and nuclear industries. He now lives in a lakefront home in South Carolina where he enjoys seeing his children and grandchildren and doing some travel. He happily reports that both his son and grandson have continued the family's Lambda Chi traditions. You can reach Bob at [blcrapp@aol.com](mailto:blcrapp@aol.com).

Wayne Mezitt writes to say that he and Beth were able to take a "bucket list" trip to India with three other couples. They had a great time experiencing all the sights and customs of this fascinating country. Much of the itinerary was inspired by tales from Beth's dad who had traveled there in his Cal Tech days doing cosmic ray research. Wayne has become very involved with the Massachusetts Horticulture Society where he is

## NEWS FROM ALUMNI

Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He also is heavily involved with the town library, is still active skiing and playing golf and enjoying their nearby kids and grandkids. Wayne can be found at [waynem@weston-nurseries.com](mailto:waynem@weston-nurseries.com).

### ► 1965



John and Pat DeWitt had a great time on a swing through a range of European countries from London and Paris through Germany and Italy. That's them pictured above in Venice. They had great weather, really enjoyed their fellow travelers and the great scenery. They can't wait to go back. John is also active playing bass with a number of jazz and blues groups in the Sarasota Florida area. John resides at [john dewitt64@gmail.com](mailto:john dewitt64@gmail.com).

Alan Fridkin writes that he knows some of the wines recommended in the Oracle's Wine Rack column and is looking forward to trying the Shallots Fountainebleau that appeared in the last Recipe Box column. He also noted that he is glad to see that the Omicron Capital Campaign continues to grow. You'll find Alan at [al-angayl@comcast.net](mailto:al-angayl@comcast.net).

### ► 1966

Ken Kanagaki reports that he has booked his hotel for the Grand Opening of Edgemoor in September, but had to go to the Hampton Inn because the Best Western is sold out. Ken enjoyed reading a great book, "The Third Plate", about the importance of good soil and the use of sustainable farming practices in growing the healthiest and best tasting plants and animals. He did a review of the book on Amazon. Ken and his wife pursue their own course for a healthy and sustainable lifestyle through

permaculture gardening, a concept that entails leaving the soil richer than it was after each gardening season. They also look forward to a return to "Holistic Holiday at Sea" a themed cruise featuring tutorials on healthy living. Ken lives at [kw2405@yahoo.com](mailto:kw2405@yahoo.com).

Ed Lortz has been working on replacing a retaining wall and the shingles on his three-story landmark Victorian house in San Francisco. With the work nearly done, Ed and his partner of twenty years and spouse for two years now hope to concentrate on some travel. Last Christmas they spent two great weeks along the Danube in Budapest and Vienna (Yes, brother Fridkin Europe can be fun although crowded in December). In April they will head for some R&R to Negros, a quiet island in the Philippines renowned for its pristine beaches. Ed is happy to show LXA visitors to the Bay Area some of the City's great coffee houses and restaurants and is still hoping to make the Grand Opening in September. Ed's email address is [eddieksf@gmail.com](mailto:eddieksf@gmail.com).

### ► 1969



Warren and Lee Lem shown above with Tennis legend, Nick Bollettieri, enjoyed their visit to the 2014 US Open in New York. Warren is the President of the US Professional Tennis Associations' Charitable Foundation that gives thirty grants to tennis programs across the country to help economically disadvantaged people learn to play tennis. Warren's handle is [warrenlem@aol.com](mailto:warrenlem@aol.com).

### ► 1974

Elliot Sloan sends along this interesting recount of his activities and travels: "My nieces think I work for the CIA. Then again, my adult nieces think a trip to Philadelphia from South Jersey is a huge adventure and neither has ever been on an airplane. I must admit, though, that my trips as an educator to Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Columbia, Cuba, Dubai Moldova, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Venezuela must sound pretty exotic and even dangerous to them. This is especially true given some of the global controversies surrounding many of those destinations.

Truth be told, however, I simply travel to those places



# NEWS FROM ALUMNI

as a volunteer advisor, professor and researcher to help the World Health Organization, universities and Ministries of Health improve health care in low and middle income countries around the globe. I have been doing this sort of volunteer work since the late '70s, shortly after I left Cornell and it has been a very rewarding part of my career. I've enjoyed it so much that I have paid my own way in some cases, though these days they seem happy to fly me, feed me, translate for me and generally keep me safe and out of trouble.

My "day job" over the decades has been somewhat more pedestrian, managing research and manufacturing organizations and, more recently, wandering the halls and classrooms of academia and government buildings to meet with policy makers. I'll bet a nickel that none of you who knew me in my days on The Hill would have ever figured me to become a PhD and a professor, but somehow it has worked out that way. The journey has been abundantly rewarding and way beyond any wild dreams I had while living on Edgemoor Lane.

It's an odd feeling approaching and contemplating "retirement", because I love what I do and the challenges and opportunities seem to expand year by year. My days in the classroom and my travels have allowed me to meet and engage several generations of younger learners who bring "digital native" skills and perceptions that will allow them to advance the field of health care in ways that I can only imagine. It will be a gradual change, but I am now looking forward to spending more of my time on hobbies like sailing, fishing and, yes, traveling to some places that I have deferred for so long. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Grand Opening in September." Elliot's home base is at [eb sloane@gmail.com](mailto:eb sloane@gmail.com).

## ► 1976

Frank Sherman reports that since retiring from corporate life two years ago he has been keeping busy. He now enjoys sitting on the other side of the Board Room table challenging corporate management to act more socially and environmentally responsible via his role as Associate Director of WIM-CRI. Key issues he is pursuing include climate change, pay disparity, ethical recruitment and supply chain sustainability. Also, as a member of SCORE, he helps entrepreneurs grow their business. He also enjoys watching his four grandkids and escaping out west with Terry and his new RV where he recently caught up with his Big Brother, Mike

Lebate '75 in Denver after a thirty six year hiatus. He and Terry '77 enjoyed getting back to The Hill in 2013 and hope to get back to see Edgemoor this year. Frank resides at [tfsherman@gmail.com](mailto:tfsherman@gmail.com).

## ► 1978

Bob Shaw tells us that he is still living in McLean, Virginia going on sixteen years. That's amazing to him since he has actually lived in twenty nine different places in his life. The kids are a couple of years past college, but are starting to cycle through grad school. His oldest son, Bobby, is a prosecutor in Miami (You can bet business is good) and he is going to have the first grandchild in May. Bob is on several Boards and is consulting for the dinner boat industry. He sees Bob McKinless '48, John Bennett '77, Harry Kaiser '78, Mark Todd '78 and George Lutz '78 whenever he is in the D.C. area. Bob and Michelle welcome any visiting Lambda Chi to stop by for a cold one when they are in town. You'll find Bob at [shawrw@gmail.com](mailto:shawrw@gmail.com).

## ► 1982

Doug Skalka is excited to report that their daughter, Abigail, will be in the Cornell class of 2019 in the college of Arts and Sciences. While visiting the campus last year with Abigail, he was able to dine with Randy Marcus '82 and his wife Terry who have been living in the Ithaca area for more than twenty years. They live in a beautiful house in Cayuga Heights where Randy has pursued his life-long hobby of collecting and restoring antique classic cars. Doug is looking forward to many more visits to the campus in the next few years. Doug lives at [ds kalka@npmlaw.com](mailto:ds kalka@npmlaw.com).

## ► 2008

Alex "Baba" Aidun tells us that he moved to New York in July living in East Williamsburg Brooklyn and has been working with MarketShare since November. He says it is an interesting company that works with cutting edge technology to develop marketing insights. They create mathematical models of marketing spending in conjunction with other inputs like the economy or social media to better understand the impact of these drivers on a particular outcome. The outcomes vary from client to client as each one has a different area of interest. As Manager of Data Strategy, it's his responsibility to be sure they have clean data and manipulate it as needed by their modeling team and marketing strategists. Baba is also working on advanced visualization tools to better empower his team and the other teams they support. He says it is a very exciting time for the industry and his company. Every day presents new challenges and he is continually learning. He thinks he is definitely in the right spot. You can reach Baba at [bobuel@gmail.com](mailto:bobuel@gmail.com).

# THE WINE RACK: It's Greek to Me

By Sandy Gilbert '62



Ever wonder what wine to order when you go to a Greek restaurant? Kim Marcus makes the following recommendations in a report in last November's issue of Wine Spectator Magazine based on a review of

over 150 different Greek wines.



*White Wines:*

**Sato Wines: Assyrtiko Santorini 2013**

(\$20.00)

This wine is given a 91 rating and is described as having "Intense golden raisin and tarragon flavors with a luscious finish."

**Tselepos: Moschofilero Mantinia Classic 2013**

(\$20.00)

The wine is described as "Complex and aromatic with mouth-filling flavors of lemon-lime and bitter almond."

The wine earns a 91 rating.

**D. Kourtakis: Assyrtiko Santorini Greek Wine Cellars 2012**

(\$13.00)

With a 90 rating, this wine is called "Broad and lush with plenty of rich and spicy notes to the pear, tart melon and baked apple flavors."

*Red Wines:*

**Ktima Foundi: Xinomavro The Lady of Naoussa 2008**

(\$15.00)

Described in the report as "Luscious and refined, with red currant and spicy cherry flavors," this wine is given a 91 rating.

**Boutari: Naoussa 2011**

(\$20.00)

With a 90 rating, this wine "Shows a sense of refinement to its dried raspberry and plum tart flavors with notes of white pepper."

**Ktima Foundi: Xinomavro Naoussa 2008**

(\$15.00)

Rated at 90, this selection has "Flavors of truffles and fig with an elegant finish."

## OBITUARIES

*The Omicron Oracle notes with sadness the passing of the following brothers:*

**William M. Watkins '49**

November 27, 2013

**John Thomas Fowler '63**

August 23, 2014

**John Keith Davidson '48**

December 26, 2013

**Truman Keet '45**

October 16, 2014

**Werner S. Ramminger '55**

June 7, 2014

**Richard Turner '46**

December 19, 2014

# ALUMNI MILESTONES: LAMDA CHI, LIBERIA AND EBOLA

By Peter "Swede" Saderholm '60

## The

*Oracle* is a publication for our Brothers and this is a story about Brotherhood: how you learn about it, how you use it in life, and the amazing things it can achieve.

When we were young in our formative years, for some reason, we selected Lambda Chi Alpha to be a major part of our College life. For some, this was not a lasting connection. However, for those who are reading this article, I suspect brotherhood continues to be a meaningful part of our lives. Friendships made, personalities understood, life situations managed during these early years have had a continuing impact on us even fifty years later. So whether



we recognize it or not, we carry Lambda Chi Alpha with us.

Throughout my professional career, I used the insight and experience developed

in my days on Edgemoor Lane as much as the technical skills I learned in the Classroom. About ten years ago I convinced my local church to provide some support to a School associated with a United Methodist Church in Logan Town, a suburb of Monrovia, Liberia. Over this period we provided tin to fix school roofs, purchased a generator because they had no electricity, built an additional set of classrooms to accommodate increasing student enrollment and helped to build a clinic in the area which has poor medical facilities. I have traveled to Liberia twice helping in these projects and in the process developed a deep friendship with the Principal of the school who has become like a Brother.

My last trip to Liberia was in February 2014. Shortly after our return, we heard the news about the Ebola Virus crossing over the border from Guinea. I have followed this crisis closely ever since. Liberians are lovely people who were poorly equipped and culturally unable to deal with this Public Health Disaster. About all they were able to do to reduce the possible spread of this deadly virus was to close the borders, offices, schools and markets and to restrict intra-community travel. The people did not understand how it was spread. Personal hygiene was a vital element, but in a

country with virtually no running water, this is very difficult. Reduced person-to-person contact and the washing of hands with a mixture of water and Clorox was the only sanitation available. The capability to do this at the local level was basically non-existent. It



took weeks going into months for the Government and the International community and its supporters to get sufficiently organized to accomplish this simple

step in sanitation country-wide. The Principal of the school, my new Brother, understood the importance of this act of personal hygiene. He asked me to provide funds to purchase buckets with spigots and clorox for the community around the school. We immediately responded to his request and he organized teams of his Senior High students to distribute these supplies to the community. They also conducted training on the importance of this washing process and handed out instruction sheets.

Now, having set an example for the bigger community in Logan Town, others started to provide similar services to their neighbors and the School at Logan Town became an example and a local headquarters for this activity.

To date, I have not received any reports of deaths from Ebola in this area. Over the ten years I have worked to support this school and

its Principal, we have only spent two weeks together. But I know him like a Brother and he knew we would support his vital need. What we learned about Brotherhood in our formative years emphatically answers the age old question: "Am I my brother's keeper?" If you are a Lambda Chi, you know the answer is "yes." ❖



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Ronald C. Wood '68

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Richard A. Albright '71

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James P. Bowman '69

Thomas Scot Brown Jr. '81

Rockne E. Burns '54

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David A. Wurz '83

