



MARCH 2016 ► VOLUME X

THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

RETURNING COLUMNS

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COVER STORY: THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

By Sandy Gilbert '62

Following the landmark celebration of the reopening of the renovated Edgemoor at the Grand Opening Weekend last September, the Campaign Committee and the alumni and undergraduate officers have been working hard to create a lifestyle that takes full advantage of the outstanding new facilities of our new home while helping to preserve it for generations to come.



Sandy Gilbert

The Campaign Committee is pleased to report that the Phase II Campaign to cover the unforeseen overages in Phase I and the additional construction needed

to open the new bathrooms on the second and third floor is going very well. Pledges from the alumni who attended the Grand Opening Weekend now total about \$350,000 or 64% of the new funding goal. This has been achieved by asking contributing alumni to extend their Phase I pledges for at least another two years. So far, nearly 75% of the alumni who have been approached for an extension have agreed to do so. An effort to reach our remaining alumni is now under way.

You can learn more about the Phase II Campaign by viewing the Grand Opening Presentation online at www.iswza.org. Just click on the Edgemoor Heading, scroll down to the Campaign for Omicron Zeta and click on the Grand Opening Presentation. To answer any questions about the Phase II Campaign, contact any of the following members of the Campaign Committee: Sandy Gilbert at sandem133@aol.com, Doug Levens at levens@cox.net or Ralph Wilhelm at ralphwilhelm1@gmail.com.



In response to requests from a number of alumni visiting the Grand Opening Weekend, the Campaign Committee has agreed to develop an Edgemoor Ten Year Plan that will outline specific measures on how our great new facility will be maintained, funded and preserved. The undergrads are also a key part of this process as they have developed a working list of procedures and behaviors that will help keep the House common areas as clean and welcoming as possible.

For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to visit the new Edgemoor by all means make plans to stop by for a tour when you are back in the Ithaca area. Reunion 2016 will feature a cocktail reception at Edgemoor on Saturday afternoon June 11th. More details will follow. Homecoming 2016 is scheduled for September 23-25. We look forward to seeing you at these popular upcoming Omicron social events. ❖

CORNELL TODAY: OUR NEWEST COLLEGE

By Stephen Ashley '62

Trustees approved the creation of a College of Business. In its simplest form, a unified College of Business would include the School of



Stephen Ashley

Hotel Administration, the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and the Johnson Graduate School of Management. Each of the three schools would retain their own historic identity and focus, but the faculties would be integrated along academic lines, i.e., marketing, finance, accounting. The Dyson School would be shared with the College of Business and its present parent, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. This initiative has

been the subject of various studies and strategic planning reports over the past seven years, and it became a priority for Cornell's new President and Provost, Beth Garrett and Mike Kotlikoff. Historically, each of the schools has been separately accredited – sometimes leading to confusing findings on the part of the accrediting team and overlapping recommendations. At the undergraduate level it has been sometimes awkward and confusing for incoming and already matriculated students regarding course accessibility and individual school requirements.

Driving the recommendation for the creation of the College were considerations of scale, faculty recruitment, student experience, redundancy and operating savings. Each of the three separate accredited programs has between 45 and 60 faculty. This is measured against Wharton's 220 and Harvard's 173. Each school currently addresses its own needs in a silo fashion, and there is redundancy in not only course offerings but graduate and research programs. Common programs such as Cornell Tech, Entrepreneurship and Global Engagement would be enhanced through a unified college approach. Upon realization, the College of Business would have approximately 2,900 undergraduate

and graduate students and 150 tenured-track faculty, which would be more than all but two of the 16 institutions against which Cornell measures itself. The design is for each of the individual schools to retain their unique characteristics and strengths:

School of Hotel Administration: Number one ranked program globally and since 2014 has been an accredited business school. Recently, the Hotel School has placed new emphasis on real estate and entrepreneurship.

Dyson: Outstanding applied economics research – resource management, sustainability, environmental and development economics. It currently offers the most competitive undergraduate program in the University for admission – a mere 7% of the applicants are admitted.

Johnson School: Has long been recognized for an outstanding research faculty and has recently been expanding in New York City and China. The faculty have been very innovative in curriculum development and in digital emersion. Student placements are excellent.

Beth Garrett has made the point that today a top global institution of higher learning must have a top business college that drives collaborations (business, foundations, not-for-profit NGOs) that are essential for the dissemination of knowledge that is being created for society's benefit. The University also sees students increasingly drawn to rapidly evolving areas of the economy and they require accessibility to business disciplines. Individual schools will be able to more strategically recruit faculty, and their faculty recruitment success will be improved as a result of the larger scale. Cornell has already experienced this in the combining of the Economics Department in the College of Arts and Sciences with that of the Labor Economics Department in the ILR School.

Now that the Trustee vote has taken place, the next step is broadly defined as engagement. Various groups of faculty, staff, students and alumni will address the issues of academic organization, administrative support and responsibilities of the various Deans. It is presently contemplated that the College of Business leadership would be headed by a Dean, presumably Soumitra

continued on page 13...

GREEK LIFE: STRIVING TO MOVE FORWARD

By Ralph Wilhelm '67

This winter and spring initially continued on a stable path for Greek Life at Cornell. Then the system was hit by two incidents involving two Chapters (not Omicron) that had exhibited poor judgment involving the use of alcohol with freshman at Rush events. Each Chapter lost two days of Rush and both are scheduled for hearings in front of the Greek Judicial Board.



Ralph Wilhelm

Then late Saturday night, January 30/31, an incident occurred at the Psi Upsilon Chapter. A female student reported that she was sexually assaulted after midnight in the Psi U house. By the end of the week, the Psi U House President turned himself into the police (after being

identified by the young lady) and eventually pled not guilty to the charges of committing three felonies. He was released this week on his own recognizance and awaits the decision of an upcoming Grand Jury hearing. In the meantime, he is not allowed on campus for any reason.

Psi Upsilon is currently on interim suspension by the University and its National. This level of suspension allows the Chapter to only act/ behave as a residence hall, nothing more. Investigations will continue to be run by the campus police, the Ithaca police and the Psi U National Fraternity.

Fortunately, despite these disappointing occurrences, the addition of new University and Greek-specific leaders in Ithaca has so far been a steady and continuous evolution of bright people mostly from outside of Cornell who are focused on learning and listening prior to making any substantial changes.

This article will focus as it always does on the Greek World on campus, commenting on the just completed

“honeymoon period” for the new VP for Student & Campus Life (Ryan Lombardi), the search for a new Dean of Students to replace Kent Hubbell, the addition of a new Assistant Dean of Students & Coordinator of Inclusion in the Office of Fraternity Sorority & Independent Living (Timothy Fair), and the yearly evolution from the 2015 Tri-Council Greek Leadership on campus.

Ryan Lombardi continues to drink from the fire hose but is clearly making his mark. As the next VP and “Chief Student Officer” succeeding Susan Murphy, Ryan has often referred to his predecessor as a “legend.” He does understand the scope and responsibility of the position and brings terrific skill into the job. In my opinion, Ryan is doing wonderfully well. His focus is first and foremost on undergraduates in all the forms they take on campus, obviously including the Greek world we are concerned with.

I find myself very fortunate to be both Chair of the Fraternity Sorority Advisory Council but also a member of the newly formed Advisory Council on Student & Campus Life; both positions report directly to Ryan allowing for both access and the responsibility of offering opinions on challenges that come across Ryan’s desk. (As you might imagine, the recent events on campus offer a “special” opportunity for these conversations.) While I frankly didn’t know how much contact to expect from Ryan, my expectations have been exceeded by Ryan’s outreach...on a whole host of topics. The content of these conversations, mostly one on one by phone and email, are sensitive, but his probing questions, ability to listen, his perceptions and willingness to learn and focus....are all most impressive qualities. We all are most fortunate to have a man of Ryan’s ability in this position.

The search to replace the current Dean of Students, Kent Hubbell, continues and will resolve itself in the near future. Kent has been in this role for almost ten years (two-five year appointments) and he has done a fine job. His empathy and support as he serves as the primary liaison between students and the University administration has been exemplary. He will be missed for certain but this appears to be one of the first significant personnel decisions that Ryan Lombardi is making.

The newest addition to the OFSIL office run by Travis Apgar is the filling of the Assistant Dean of Students & Coordinator of Inclusion in the Office of Fraternity Sorority & Independent Living. Timothy Fair is our new Assistant Dean responsible for the MGLC (Multicultural Greek Letter Council) and will dual-report to both Travis Apgar (the Senior Associate Dean of Students for OFSIL) and Renee Alexander, the Associate Dean and Director of Intercultural Programs, Student and Academic Services. While Tim did just start in the job on January 28th, we look forward to working with him in supporting the numerous (over a dozen) multicultural Greek Fraternities and Sororities on campus.

The final comment on the structural changes happening on campus deals with the Cornell Tri-Council leadership, the three independent but highly connected eBoards (undergraduate Boards of Directors) made up of the IFC (Interfraternity Council), the PHC (Panhellenic Council) and the MGLC (Multicultural Greek Letter Council). While I have closer relationships with the Presidents of each Council, I do get to spend multiple sessions each semester with either or both of the eBoards of each Council plus their "G-Body" or general body meetings held typically every week or two during the semester.

I will sorely miss the group of leaders that served in the 2015 calendar year, especially the three Council Presidents. They are an exemplary group of student leaders under substantial pressure at the nexus of their student group, their eBoards, the undergraduate student body, the administration, and affiliated alum-

ni. Over the eight years I have been associated with the FSAC, it is this special group of leaders that I have grown closest to; I will miss them in their on-campus roles in many ways, but I look forward to continuing our friendship as they wind their way through graduation and into their chosen careers.

In closing, all of us intimately involved in overseeing Greek Life at Cornell are concerned about the negative impact on the image of fraternities created by the anti-social and illiegal behavior cited above. With two Chapters charged with serving alcohol to freshmen during Rush and the Psi U alleged sexual assault, the University will undoubtedly consider additional steps to ensure that the Greek community lives up to its institutional standards of excellence and respect for others.

As you would imagine, the weeks following this writing and when you read this column will mark the beginning of quite a bit of introspection and discussion on campus.

I am very fortunate to already be scheduled to be on campus during this critical period. I will be meeting with students, faculty, and staff to learn, understand, discuss, and offer whatever help we can. I'll do my best to keep you informed but frankly the Cornell Sun, the Ithaca Journal, and the Ithaca Voice will do a fine job with more timely information.

As always, I'd be pleased to answer your comments and questions. My "door" is always open and you can reach me at rvw5@cornell.edu or (317) 508-6866. ♦





PRESIDENT'S REPORT: OMICRON EXCELLS ON CAMPUS

By Thomas Suesser '18

As

the newly-elected High Alpha, I am pleased to introduce myself to The Oracle's many alumni readers and give you an update on life here at Edgemoor after our first semester in our outstanding new home. I grew up in Portola Valley in northern California and graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School.



Thomas Suesser

I wanted to go to a larger university a good distance from home and fell in love with Cornell when I visited the campus. Everything seemed to fit into what I wanted out of a college experience. Cornell's renown for a top engineering program synched the deal as I wanted to pursue a degree in civil engineering.

I was introduced to Lambda Chi by a teammate on the club hockey team. During Rush, I was most comfortable at Edgemoor and simply realized that I wanted to be around the Omicron brothers more than anyone else.

Along with the support of the other Omicron officers, we have had a very enjoyable and productive fall semester. After a successful fall Rush, we attracted the following four new Associate Members who are now

brothers, Justin Andelson '18, Michael Coombs '18, Alex Costa '18 and Aaron Goldberg '18. Most recently, High Delta, Nikita Dubnov '17, led us into the important spring Rush where we welcomed the sixteen new Associate Members shown and listed on the following page.

Omicron continued its high level of social responsibility on campus this past fall with our participation in an array of philanthropy activities including a GoFundMe addition to our canned food drive for Feeding America that raised over \$1,300. We also had a number of brothers finish the Spartan College Classic race to benefit the United Fund of Tompkins County and we fielded a number of runners in the Relay For Life.

Using the great new space in Edgemoor's commons areas, we were able to have an active social program this fall including a first-ever foam party on the beautiful new deck and patio, the popular Secret Santa festivities and Christmas Party and our traditional Winter Formal.

For this semester, we already have planned a Casino Night with the Kappa Delta Sorority and are looking forward to a number of other mixers, the 70 Degree Party and our Spring Formal.

As we have done in recent years, Lambda Chi was very successful in last fall's intramural sports program with a Championship in volleyball, second place in ultimate frisbee and we reached the semi-finals in soccer, three on three basketball, coed soccer and coed volleyball. Omicron brothers participated in thirteen different intramural sports from flag football and tennis doubles to golf and squash. The great new Gym at Edgemoor could be playing a role in all this.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



NAME

Leo Andriuk
Jonathan Augarten
Nicolas Casazzone
Eric Chen
Juan Sebastian Forero
Joaquin Jerez
Dillon Jones
Fredrick Kennedy
Conrad Perez
Jack Pertschuk
Aleks Stajkovic
Samuel Tellier
Cole Thieries
Amanze Udebiuwa
Andrew Weigand
Maxwell Wulff

HOMETOWN

Westport, CT
Scarsdale, NY
Dix Hills, NY
Albany, NY
Bogota, Columbia
Paris, France
Farmington Hills, MI
New York, NY
San Francisco, CA
Berkley, CA
Madison, WI
Groton, MA
Seattle, WA
Ellicott City, MD
Hamilton, MA
Skaneateles, NY

MAJOR

Physics
Animal Science
Electrical Engineering
Human Biology
Government & Economics
Mechanical Engineering
Industrial & Labor Relations
Information Science
Industrial & Labor Relations
Computer Science
Industrial & Labor Relations
Physics & Computer Science
Biology
Economics
Applied Economics & Mgmt.
Engineering

The latest available House GPA is from last spring where it was 3.39 placing us in the top third of all social fraternities on campus.

In closing, I want to express our thanks on behalf of all

the undergraduate brothers to all the alumni who have donated so generously to the renovation of Edgemoor during both the Phase I and Phase II Campaigns and hope you will stop by and see our beautiful new home on your next visit to Cornell. ♦

TRAVEL NUGGETS: SAVORING THE BERKSHIRES

By Alan Fridkin '65

T

raveling west, the last third of the Mass Pike pierces sparsely populated and peaceful terrain. There are three interesting signs: the first two in the tiny township of Becket. One notes the Appalachian Trail crossing and its foot-

bridge over the highway. The second registers an elevation of 1,724 feet, the highest point on Interstate 90 until you get to South Dakota (if you ever do). Just before the Lee interchange, a sign welcomes you to the Berkshires. This is hill country, although nearby Greylock at 3,491 feet is a small mountain.

Like many little corners of New England, the whole is more than the sum of its parts. It is a gem that most readers will not know well. It's pleasant for day trippers in any season and even more so

if you can while away a few days at a comfortable local inn. Consider "four Cs" for a mini-vacation: culture, cuisine, country and cozy retreats.

Especially in summer, and spilling into other seasons, you have the world class venues of Tanglewood, shown at right, Jacob's Pillow, the Berkshire Shakespeare Festival and the spectacular Clark Art Museum just off the Williams College campus. Mass MOCA, the Norman Rockwell Museum, Naumkeag, Chesterwood and a handful of lively theaters, such as the Colonial in Pittsfield and the Mahaiwe in Great Barrington offer further premium entertainment.

There are many regional destination restaurants. Our favorites include Chez Nous in Lee, the Inn at Gedney Farm in New Marlborough, the dining rooms of several luxury inns in Lenox and funky bistros in Great Barrington. We make it a point to have lunch or dinner at the Red Lion in Stockbridge in the Christmas season.



Alan Fridkin



Red Lion Inn

There has been an inn there since 1773. Stockbridge's main street was immortalized by Norman Rockwell and is especially charming in late December.

Rambling and nearly deserted country roads link sleepy villages and farms with the outside world. They are especially rewarding in the fall foliage season. State routes 2, 8, 9, 23, 57 and U.S. Highways 7 and 20 take you back in time. Watch for deer and ice patches!



Tanglewood

In small towns, and in the middle of nowhere, you will find atmospheric B&Bs with crackling fireplaces, house dogs and interesting people on either side of the reception desk. We have enjoyed several anniversary dinners at Gedney Farm. It is all candlelight, creaky wide floorboards, high end cooking and vintage wines.

A dozen local online websites would be happy for your visit. Start with: www.berkshires.org, www.berkshirecountymagazine.com or contact me at alanganayl@comcast.net. ❖

HORT SENSE: FIRST FLOWERS EVERY SPRING

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64

For

New Englanders like me, winter's typical weather conditions create a near-primal craving for spring--how much longer must we endure these bleak days; when will we again start to feel that welcome wakening of spring?



Wayne Mezitt

Fortunately, every year around this time, that perfect remedy reliably reappears in my garden: the colorful and fragrant flowers gracing the stark branches of Asian witch-hazel (*Hamamelis intermedia*) gently unfurl to light-up my yard and brighten my mood. When most people first catch sight of its flowers in the otherwise-bleak mid-winter landscape, they tend to mistake it for Forsythia--but Forsythia

won't come into bloom for at least another month, probably more.

Fall and winter freezing temperatures keep witch-hazel's dormant flowers tightly-held in knobby buds, fulfilling an obligatory period of cold before it's ready to bloom. But in mid-winter, warmed by sun and above-freezing temperatures, its spidery 3/4"-wide fragrant flower petals unfurl (just like a New-Years-Eve-party noise-maker) and then re-furl once again when temperatures drop. Typically starting around mid-February, this furl-unfurl process continues repeatedly for up to six weeks as temperatures fluctuate between freeze and thaw; no hardy woody plant I know holds its flowers longer! This year is unusual--I first saw flowers unfurling in mid-January, weeks earlier than normal. And I know it will continue to bloom well into March.

Flower colors of witch-hazel cultivars range from the clearest yellows to rich oranges and reds, including numerous tonal variations. Among the dozens of early-flowering Asian *Hamamelis* cultivars available at garden centers and online, size of flower, fragrance intensity and winter leaf-retention varies. Some of



Witch-Hazel Bloom

the most popular include 'Arnold Promise' (lemon-yellow), 'Pallida' (sulfur-yellow, a Cary Award winner) and 'Diane' (red), along with the native species *Hamamelis vernalis* (variable orange-yellow).

Witch-hazels are easy to grow in most parts of the eastern USA, pest free and deer resistant, winter-hardy to Zone 5, enjoying rich, acid soils, flowering most heavily in full sun but also growing well in light shade. Plants bloom well even when young and generally reach about 15 feet high and wide at maturity, so give them plenty of room to grow. The visual effect of grouping together differently colored cultivars is outstanding, particularly against a dark background planting of conifers or at the edge of the woods.

For a spectacular cut-flower vase display, combine similar-size branches of different-colored types and place in a sunny window. For me their puffy, quarter-size blooms hold for about a week indoors, adding a welcome fragrance to temper our family's mid-winter doldrums and amazing our dinner guests. Some cultivars tend to retain their autumn leaves—simply clip-off the brown leaves to better expose the flowers.

As a horticulturist, I'm repeatedly surprised to realize how few people know about these remarkable witch-hazel hybrids, even though they've been featured for years in many public gardens. Ironically, the likely reason for its continuing obscurity is its foremost feature—it displays its colorful flowers earlier than most garden centers are open for business, so it has finished

continued next page...

THE RECIPE BOX: Chicken Stir-Fry



By Sandy Gilbert '62

The next time you are thinking about ordering some Chinese take-out, try making this simple, basic Chinese dish from Rhonda Lauret Parkinson's *The Everything Chinese Cookbook* at home instead.

It's quick and easy to do and much healthier than many greasy take out offerings loaded with MSG.

This basic stir-fry is a skeleton recipe that you can adapt according to your taste and the ingredients you have on hand. Add a marinade and experiment with different seasonings like chili paste. To make a one dish meal that includes vegetables like broccoli, mushrooms or bamboo shoots, stir-fry the chicken first, remove it from the wok, stir-fry the vegetables and add the sauce. Add the chicken back to the mix and simmer until all the ingredients are fully cooked. Enjoy.

INGREDIENTS (SERVES FOUR PEOPLE)

- 1 pound chicken meat
- 1 tablespoon Chinese rice wine or dry sherry
- 2 tablespoons oil for stir-frying
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 thin slices of ginger
- 1/2 cup chicken stock or broth

PREPARATION

- Wash the chicken meat, pat dry and cut into cubes or thin slices
- Add the oil to a preheated wok or skillet. When the oil is hot, add the garlic and ginger and stir-fry until they are aromatic.
- Add the chicken and stir-fry until it changes color.
- Add the chicken stock, rice wine or dry sherry, sugar and salt and bring to a boil.
- Simmer until the chicken is cooked.
- Add vegetables as described to the left

HORT SENSE

...continued from previous page

blooming well before most homeowners start shopping for their spring gardens.

But it's also easy for me to understand why anyone experiencing Hamamelis in full flower at this otherwise dreary time of year immediately feels compelled to have it growing in their own yard.

A footnote: the late-fall-flowering native witch-hazel *Hamamelis virginiana* (from whose leaves and bark the familiar Dickinson's astringent solution is distilled) looks similar. But rather than early spring, it comes into bloom in October and November, often lasting into December (it's also a wonderful landscape shrub!). Purportedly, America's early settlers discovered that branches of this shrub function magically as divining rods to help locate subsurface sources of water, hence the name "witch-hazel."

"Magical" certainly seems to me like an appropriate term to describe both the American native and Asian shrubs that bloom at such unique times of year! ❖



THE WINE RACK: Top One Hundred Wine Values



By **Sandy Gilbert '62**

In the December 31, 2015 edition of Wine Spectator magazine, columnist Keith Newton rates the top wines priced at \$20 or less for 2015. Listed below are some of his selections and descriptions for a variety of both red and white wines:

Albert Bichot Chablis Domaine Long-Depaquit 2013 France

"Fresh-cut apple flavors are joined by lemon and chive notes in this brisk, juicy and mouthwatering white." The wine costs \$20 with an 89 rating

Rich Whites

Calera Chardonnay Central Coast 2013 California

"A clean, pure and juicy white offering a refreshing mix of ripe pear apple and melon flavors shaded by a chalky minerality." The wine has a 90 rating and costs \$20.

Full Body Reds:

Vina Carmen Cabernet Sauvignon Maipo Valley Alto Gran Reserva 2012 Chile

"A rich, well spiced red with luscious flavors of licorice and dark plum supported by ample acidity." The wine is given a 91 rating and is priced at \$15.

Columbia Crest Cabernet Sauvignon Horse Heaven Hills H3 2013 Washington

"This red is supple, focused and distinctive, exhibiting a core of ripe plum, currant, sage and floral flavors." The wine carries a 91 rating and is priced at \$15.

Elegant Reds:

Amici Pinot Noir Sonoma County Olema 2013 California

"This red wine exhibits a lively, refreshing and complex mix of snappy wild berry and raspberry flavors that are firm and vibrant." The wine has a 91 rating and is priced at \$20.

Light Whites:

Attems Pino Grigio Venezia-Giulia 2014 Italy

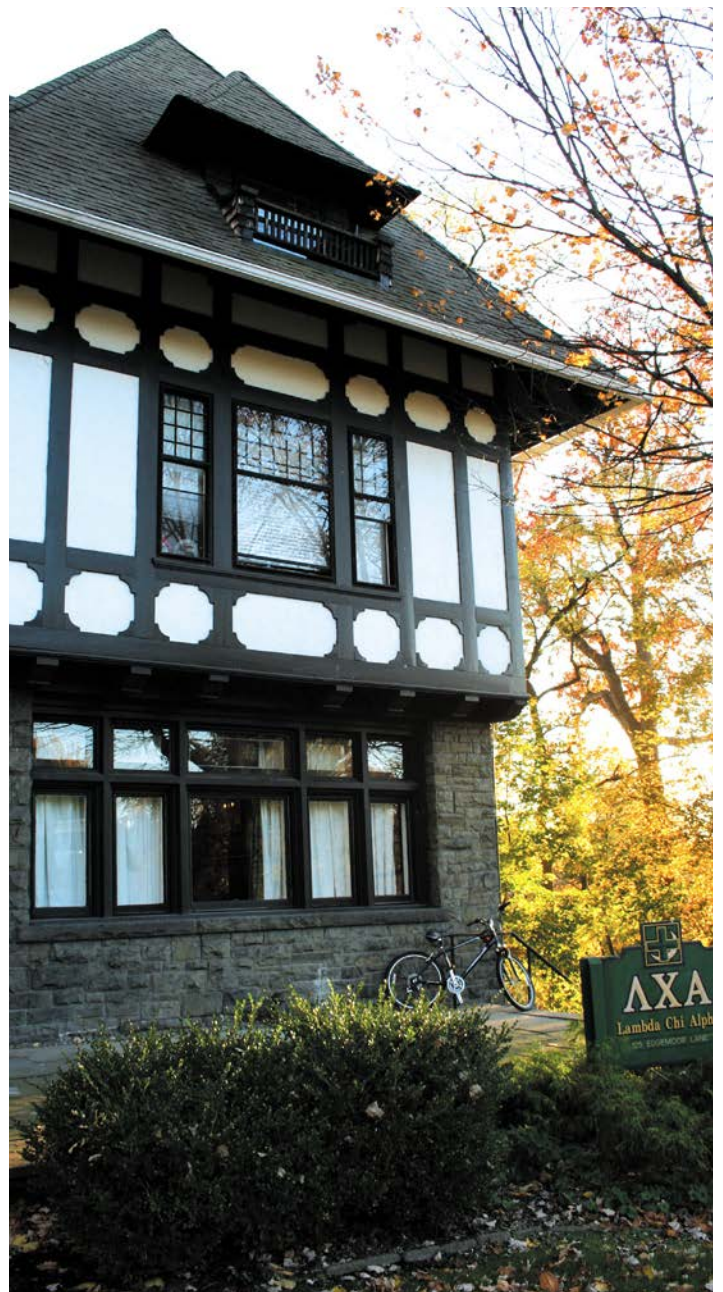
"Bright and fruit forward, offering lively peach and passion fruit notes underscored by rich, stone-tinged minerality." This wine costs \$20 and has a 90 rating.

OBITUARIES

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

William A. Chater '58
August 30, 2015

Fay W. Brandeis '42
December 8, 2015



ALUMNI MILESTONES

The

following Omicron alumni are being acknowledged for their outstanding personal achievements:



Brett Ainsworth '92

The Oracle's Editor since 2011, Brett has been recognized for his distinguished career in the newspaper industry by being named as President of the New Jersey Press Association. He is shown above at the podium addressing the organization at the annual meeting in November at the Forsgate Country Club. Brett is the owner and publisher of *The Retrospect*, a leading local newspaper.



Reuben Shaw '93

Reuben Shaw, a member of the Salk Molecular and Cell Biology Laboratory and holder of the William R. Brody

Chair, has been named the new Director of the Cancer Center at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California.

Reuben's research experience has focused on cancer metabolism: how metabolic pathways are altered in cancer and play a role in the origin and progression of the disease. While investigating one of the most commonly mutated genes in lung cancer, he discovered an energy-sensing pathway that shuts down all growth and reprograms metabolism when nutrients are scarce. This energy-sensing pathway has been previously studied as a target for Metformin, one of the most widely prescribed medications for Type 2 diabetes. This suggests a very unexpected and direct link between metabolic pathways and cancer. Reuben's lab went on to molecularly decode a number of new components of the metabolic pathway which connects nutrition and exercise to suppression in both cancer and diabetes. Reuben's work has led to new therapies for both these troublesome diseases.



Jeremy March '14

The following text has been excerpted from an article by Marjorie Olds, a Guest Columnist for the *Ithaca Journal*, in the December 31, 2015 edition.

Jeremy March shown above with his brother Xavier Bourne, spent the early part of his childhood being shuttled through the foster care system with his two siblings, Xavier and Javail. They were finally re-

MILESTONES

claimed by their grandmother and brought to Ithaca to live in their first “forever home.”

Even though his early years were confusing and challenging, Jeremy was a standout at Ithaca High School in both his studies and on the basketball court. Despite his strong academic record, his basketball ability and glowing recommendations from the faculty, his college choices were severely limited by virtually no financial resources and the need to be near home to help out with the care of his younger siblings. This brought him to Tomkins Cortland Community College where he did well academically, starred in basketball and enjoyed the diverse culture with kids from all over New York State. He graduated with honors and was admitted to Cornell and awarded a prestigious Cornell Traditions scholarship. He was also joined at Cornell by both Xavier and Javail.

Unfortunately, just as he began to get acclimated to life at Cornell, Jeremy began to experience vision impairment. After a visit to an optometrist and a CAT scan, he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor stemming from the optic nerve. Rather than take a leave of absence, Jeremy persisted with his studies interrupted by a long regimen of radiation and remediation at the Strong Memorial Hospital in Roches-

ter.

Back at school whenever he was well enough, he began to research what it would take for him to reach his ultimate goal, becoming a lawyer. But he was stricken by a stroke in his senior year, perhaps stemming from his earlier radiation therapy. Rather than leave school, he reduced his course load and relied on assistance from the Students with Disabilities Services at Cornell. During his recovery he was steadfastly supported by Xavier and Javail.

Despite the difficult and extraordinary circumstances surrounding his college experience, Jeremy was able to join the Omicron Chapter where he participated whenever he could in the House community service activities and played on the intramural basketball team. In 2014 he received a Cornell degree in development sociology and was joined by Xavier who earned a degree from the Hotel School.

Jeremy currently works in law enforcement in Boston where he hopes to renew his dream by pursuing a law degree. ❖

CORNELL TODAY: OUR NEWEST COLLEGE

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Dutta, the current Dean of the Johnson School. Each of the schools -- Johnson, Dyson and Hotel would have individual Deans. This is currently very much a work in progress with the hope for actualization of the new College of Business in the fall of 2016. Some of the issues raised at this early stage – particularly by the undergraduate units – i.e., impact on CALS and loss of identity for the Hotel School, will be addressed as the study groups go forward.

In presenting the proposal to the Board of Trustees, the Provost spoke to “What will success look like?”. At the top of his list was that Cornell’s College of Business would be recognized as the No. 1 business school focused on addressing major societal challenges. The elements for making that happen are resident in the individual schools. What is currently lacking is an integrated faculty and seamless collaboration on “cur-

riculum, teaching, recruitment and program development”. This is clearly a case of the sum being greater than the total of the parts.

In preparing this article, I am indebted to President Garrett and Provost Kotlikoff for the numerous hours of communication in person, telephonically, by email and also the Provost’s presentation to the Board. Over the past nearly 20 years that I have been a Cornell Trustee and now Trustee Emeritus, I have been witness to four transforming initiatives for the University – the Medical College in Qatar, the \$600 million Belfer Research Facility in New York City for the College of Medicine, the Cornell New York Tech Campus on Roosevelt Island, and now – the College of Business. Each of the first three carried substantial risks, but each is now surpassing expectations and is adding incredible value to Cornell’s mission and the University’s rankings. May the College of Business follow in this tradition. ❖

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

► 1948

Bob McKinless reports that he is getting used to living alone for the first time in his life and says "Thank goodness for Stouffer's and the microwave and having four children living in the nearby North Virginia area." Bob shared a beer last fall with Bob Shaw '78 and Andy Wagner '14 and Andy and Greg Pekar '15 joined Bob at the Zinck's Night Celebration at the local Cornell Club. You can reach Bob at bikerbob8@mac.com.

► 1960

Curt Curtice '60 thoughtfully sent in the following excerpt from the November 1958 *Oracle* that chronicles the Brothers' work project that resulted in the construction of the original slate patio off the dining room that has been beautifully upgraded by alumni Jim Sollecito '76 and his vendor as a part of the Edgemoor renovation: "The terrace area at the rear of the House, started by the pledge class last spring, was finished early in the fall term. During the warm fall weather, it has found a great deal of use as an added social area. The newly surfaced area is about 50 feet long and an average of 20 feet wide. It is paved with slate slabs of various sizes. Other features include a concrete retaining wall on the edge of the gorge, a corral-type cedar fence and concrete steps leading toward the summer house. All the members of the House pitched in on the job of finishing the terrace." You'll find Curt at wtcurtice@aol.com.

► 1961

Nick Carter tells us that he has been feeding a big, immature female redtailed hawk since Thanksgiving. He's been spiking up some roadkill, chicken gizzards and old venison stew pieces onto a long piece of an old shaft tong handle to feed the bird. He thinks the hawk might have been hand-reared and then released by some falconer as the bird doesn't show any alarm at people, perches on lawn chairs and doesn't seem to recognize the local squirrels as something edible. Likewise, the squirrels don't seem to view the hawk as a threat, something he is trying to rectify on both counts. Nick has been asked to consult with the CBF on an exciting new fish ladder-lift at the Conowingo Dam as part of the FERC relicensing evaluations. He'll be working with a whole core of engineers, lawyers, cost accountants, statisticians etc on the project. Nick hopes his years of environmental work is useful to them and the shad, herring and eels that have largely been shut off from the Susquehanna River and beyond since 1928. Nick lives at nmcarter1@verizon.net.

► 1962

Frank Hawkins reports that Life continues to be good down in the Florida Keys. He is still busy with three companies, Hawk Associates, Hibiscus Marketing and Hibiscus Photography. Frank is also active on a number of public and private boards. He occasionally gets to his lake house in Brevard, North Carolina, but not often enough. Like many of the '60s era, he spends a lot of time with his grandchildren. His oldest grandson, Nicholas, is in his third year at West Point and the second grandson, Nathan, just entered Berry College in Rome, Georgia where he was recruited to play on the lacrosse team. He also has four other grandchildren who are making life enjoyable. Frank will soon be checking off another big item on his bucket list with a trip to Iwo Jima. The Japanese only open the island one day a year so he is very pleased to get a seat on the plane. You'll find Frank at fhawk852@gmail.com.



Lee Manning organized a dinner for a group of '60s era Omicrons in the Boston area including clockwise, left to right: Wayne Mezitt '64, Leslie Manning, Lee Manning '62, Rich Bertelson '62, Abby Bertelson, Tom Shineman '65, Jan Shineman and Beth Mezitt '64. The group meets several times a year when Lee is in town for his meetings with the Manning Foundation. Lee can be found at lee.manning@cox.net.

Bob Miller writes that he and Katarina had a nice holiday in Stockholm over Christmas and that they enjoyed the biannual assembly of the world movement for democracy in South Korea which provides a networking opportunity for about 600 democracy activists from around the world. They convene to share experiences and learn strategies to promote democracy in their home regions. These are the real people at the barricades in their home countries and it is not unusual for one of the participants to return home to

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be imprisoned or even murdered. Bob says the assembly was very informative and he and Katarina enjoyed touring Seoul and a side trip to the DMZ. On the way home from Seoul, they spent three days in Shanghai which they thought was an amazing city. They were stunned by the gorgeous airport, the beautiful hotel and the size and modernity of the city. Auto traffic, on the other hand, was very scary. Bob lives at rcmiller@davidsondawson.com.



Chris and Barb Napjus had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday celebrating their daughter Alison's wedding with 29 other guests in a 17th century Italian villa near Verona, Italy. The picture above was taken from their tour of the Pieropan winery in Soave. Alison is a Senior editor at *Wine Spectator* magazine and set up a great wine tour for the wedding guests. Chris will answer at cnapjus@verizon.net.

► 1963

Lee Leonard reports that he, Ruth and the family had a great Christmas holiday with the kids and enjoyed an Ohio State sports weekend on the campus. Lee is pleased that he was honored with the best book for 2015 in the Ohio History category by the Ohio Library Association for his work as a co-author of the biography *James A. Rhodes, Ohio Colossus*. Once again he and so-author Tom Diemer have been invited to participate in the association's Book Festival in April. Lee can be found at rlleonard@mycidco.com.



Tom Miller, shown above clearing some snow in January's record blizzard, tells us that he and Dorie have been staying close to home to spend more time with their grandson, Hiro, while he and his family are still in the U.S. They are expected to go back overseas in the next year or so. He also commented that he was very glad to hear that the Campaign Committee is working on a Ten Year Plan for Edgemoor that will outline how the facility will be maintained and funded into the future.

Along with John and Tracy Lutz, the Millers caught up with Ken Boyles '64 for a dinner back in October. Tom was interested to hear about Ken's involvement in the major restoration of two hotel properties. Tom can be found at tdurhammiller@yahoo.com.



'60s News Note: Obie's Diner

Thanks to some great digging by our resident historian, Jason Cho '98, alumni questions about whatever happened to the '60s era late night landmark,

Obie's Diner, have been answered as follows: Obie's Diner down on West State Street was run by Courtland O'Brien until he passed away sometime in 1966 or 1967. The diner was a popular after hours spot for Omicron night hawks in the 50's and 60's. Renowned for its variety of burgers (Tully Burger, shown above) it was the favored place to have a 1:00 AM breakfast after a night of pub crawling. As Henry McNulty '69 points out, Obie's was also fondly known for its delicious apple turnovers, grilled and slathered with but-

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ter. Obie's lineage continues indirectly as his sidekick, Eldred "Bud" Wimer, got a job at the Boulevard Diner on Taughannock Blvd. and later took over Mae's Diner on Lincoln Street which became Bud's Diner and then Ziffy's. Today, it is still in business as the Lincoln Street Diner. You can still find Bo Burgers and Tully Burgers at diners around Ithaca. According to the local food reviews, Burger Central is now the Glenwood Pines which serves their version of the Tully Burger.

► 1965



John DeWitt, shown above playing bass with the Sarasota Jazz Project at the Blue Rooster in Sarasota, Florida, says he has been very busy playing every day in jazz groups ranging in size from duos to big bands and covering the jazz spectrum from Dixieland to modern jazz. He also plays four times a month with Smokey's Session, a seven piece R&B horn band. John and Pat are enjoying life in Florida and are managing to stay healthy. You'll find John at john dewitt64@gmail.com.



Springer Cox shown above with Alice ziplining with friends in Costa Rica, reports that they are enjoying life at Carolina Preserve, a retirement community in Cary, North Carolina. His main activity is running an ongoing bridge game in an eighty member Bridge Club. Alice keeps busy with some volunteer activities and tending her garden. You'll reach Springer at springercox@nc.rr.com.



Jim Loomis shown above with one of his recent catches writes that he was fortunate to have the opportunity to return to the great fishing grounds in Kamchatka for some fly-in trout fishing last August. His party of four had a helicopter to themselves for a week and flew into different wilderness streams each day. Things got exciting as they were up close and personal with several of Kamchatka's renowned large brown bears. Fortunately, Jim says they had blueberries on their mind and everything worked out well. Jim also said that he and Judith took a very interesting cruise down the west coast of Costa Rica and through the Panama Canal. You'll catch Jim at jeloomispe@aol.com.

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Ken and Miltilda Kanagaki shown above biking with their kids, report that they are continuing to adjust to his retirement by scaling back their involvement with some clubs and organizations. Ken has kept up his interest in a healthy lifestyle by starting up a nutrition support group called "Get healthy San Antonio." They will also take another "Holistic Holiday at Sea" cruise this year and in late April his bike club will bike on the Natchez Trace, the National Park converted from the historic north-south road running from Tennessee all the way to New Orleans.

Ken will be attending his 50th reunion this June and is looking forward to seeing Dave Landrey, Rich Fleming, Tom Willis and other Omicrons who are also planning to attend. Ken can be reached at kw2405@yahoo.com.

► 1966

Paul Williamson, the creator of the many new decorative LXA plaques at Edgemoor, writes to say that he and Cheryl enjoyed reading the fall edition of *The Oracle* and recapturing the great time they had at the Grand Opening. The weekend was the highlight of 2015. Since then, they have visited Cancun/Cozumel for a week for a working vacation on the beach. One of his jobs is to maintain the company website and develop new techniques for internet marketing. Paul says he has finally realized that he is an old dog who has to learn new tricks as it seems every month or so there is a new social media to master to protect their internet franchise. Between Google, Yahoo, Amazon, eBay, Zazzle, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc. it keeps him busy. Paul lives at paul@artsignworks.com.



► 1976

Jim Sollecito, shown above with a Great Amberjack that he caught off Marathon in the Florida Keys, had a unique experience while later kayak fishing there as he ran across the abandoned Cuban raft shown at left in the mangroves that had carried 14 people to our shores. Jim contacted immigration, who checked the blue tarp wrapped Styrofoam raft, spray painted "OK" on it and left it where it was. Over Christmas break,



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Jim says 72 have come ashore evidently concerned that once things open up between our countries they will have to use other legal channels to attain residency and citizenship.

Jim also had a chance to revisit the campus back in January and ran into some men from the Cornell wrestling team. When it came up that he was an alumnus and a member of Lambda Chi, they remarked that Edgemoor was one of the best places to live on campus with its new facilities, great views of the gorge and proximity to Collegetown. If they were allowed to join a fraternity, that's where they would want to be. That's good to hear. You can catch Jim at Jim@sollecito.com.

► 1980

Bill Stasiuk tells us all is well living on the North Shore of Boston. He and his wife became empty nesters this past year with the youngest in college and a son who just graduated from Cornell and landed a good job in the Boston area. He enjoyed seeing many of the Boston area Omicrons at last year's Cornell-Harvard hockey game. Bill answers at bill.stasiuk@freescale.com.

► 1982

Michael Curtis reports that he just moved to Kansas City where he has been named Assistant News Director at KSHB, the local NBC station. Michael will be found at mdcurtis123@aol.com.



► 1998

Jason Cho sends along the above proposed rendering of the new Chapter House (formerly known as Jim's) down on Stewart Avenue below Edgemoor Lane. In late January, The Ithaca Landmarks Preservation

Commission unanimously approved the plans to rebuild the building that mysteriously burned down in April of 2015. This move clears a major regulatory hurdle for the replacement of the building and the plans call for a three story structure with many of the same architectural features and accents as the building we all came to know and love. Jason lives at jjc7@cornell.edu.

► 2008

Alex "Baba" Aidun tells us that last December he joined Qubole, a Big Data company founded by the people who worked at Facebook and solved the massive data processing problems encountered during the company's explosive growth. Qubole was recently awarded "Most Innovative Use of Big Data in the Cloud" by the Cloud Awards. Baba is responsible for Qubole Education which involves conceptualizing and developing their technical training content including presentations, demonstrations, labs and certifications. He also is responsible for the development of self-service tools like community meetings and in-application tutorials. Baba is enjoying the interaction of his two passions-teaching and technology.

Back in January he returned to The Hill and had a chance to visit the undergrads and the beautiful new Edgemoor. It was clear that the brothers were really enjoying all the additional new rooms and features of the renovated Chapter House. He was also impressed with the strong leadership at the House and feels the current undergrads will continue the great positive momentum that Omicron now enjoys. Baba can be reached at bobuel@gmail.com.

► 2015

Eric Ari Rubin writes to say that he stayed on campus until May of 2015 and he is now living in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was a former steward and Theta, lived in the Mess and the 40 and attended the 2015 Lambda Chi National Convention in Memphis. You'll find him at ericarirubin@gmail.com.

OMICRON GATHERING



The above picture was taken last spring in front of Edgemoor of the largest gathering of undergraduate brothers photographed in recent years.

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