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PLEDGES REACH 76% OF GOAL

RETURNING COLUMNS

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COVER STORY: PLEDGES REACH 76%

By Sandy Gilbert '62

Thanks to the continued generosity of many Omicron alumni, the Capital Campaign to complete the elements of the renovation that we were not able to finish when Edgemoor celebrated its Grand Opening Celebration a year ago has reached \$420,000 in alumni pledges or 76% of the Phase II funding goal. This is a major achievement on top of the \$2.0 Million in alumni pledges to the Phase I Campaign and the \$450,000 in Brother Bond loan commitments that were already in hand when the House reopened.



Sandy Gilbert

Since the Grand Opening Celebration, we have continued to upgrade Edgemoor with the staining and sealing of the rear deck to match the siding on the building and the upgrading of the second and third floor bathrooms with an improved ventilation system. Next on the list of upgrades thanks to the initiative of Beth Mezitt '64, wife of Wayne Mezitt '64, who led a special campaign by the '60s era wives, is the pending renovation of the first floor Ladies' Room. This will include a complete update of the facility with improved plumbing, new lighting fixtures, a new vanity, a new mirror and a fresh coat of paint.

To date, the Omicron Capital Campaign to renovate Edgemoor has raised nearly \$2.9 Million in alumni pledges and private loans making it the largest fraternity funding effort in Cornell history.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

However, with the added financing required to cover the unexpected overages in construction needed to reopen the building and the remaining repairs that we could not afford to do at that time like replacing the old bathrooms and necessary repairs to the existing roof and balconies, it is critically important that we secure



Edgemoor at Twilight

the necessary additional alumni pledges for \$130,000 or the remaining 24% to reach our Phase II funding goal.

Take a look at the list of donors on the Campaign Honor Roll on the Back Cover of this edition of *The Oracle*. If your name isn't on the list, please join us to complete this landmark project. A pledge of \$1,000 or more will list your name on the Campaign Honor Roll and, if you prefer, you can pay out your pledge in installments over the next three years from 2016 to 2018. Your pledge can also be tax deductible.

An effort is underway to reach all of you who have not contributed to the campaign so far. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the funding process or you want to come forward to make a pledge, please contact me at sandem133@aol.com or by phone at (941) 807-8305.

CORNELL TODAY: TRANSITION

By Stephen Ashley '62

Since this is the first article I have written following Beth Garrett's untimely death, I feel it appropriate to offer some remarks regarding Beth's short tenure as the 13th President of Cornell.

Beth's death was caused by a virulent form of colon cancer that metastasized throughout her body in a few short months. During the months from October 2015 through the end of January 2016, Beth maintained a full and overflowing schedule of work on behalf of Cornell. It was during this time that I was working with Beth on the formation of the College of Business (the subject of my last column), and her quick intellect, high energy and thoughtful approach to the issues was evident throughout. Beth



Stephen Ashley

last publicly appeared on behalf of Cornell at a New York City celebration for the completion of the Capital Campaign. The loss of Beth is simply beyond sad.

Even though Beth's tenure was only slightly over six months, her impact on the University will be remembered as significant. Obviously, the creation of the College of Business – a bold move in and of itself – was transformational in terms of Cornell's offerings in business and management education, which today reaches approximately a quarter of the student body. The other significant lasting impact of Beth's leadership was the team that she assembled to carry the University forward.

The appointment of Mike Kotlikoff as Provost was inspired. Mike's thoughtful, steady and calm hand has proven to be invaluable during his time as Acting President and now as Provost under Interim President, Hunter Rawlings.

Fred Van Sickle, Vice President of Development and Alumni Affairs, was recruited by Beth and joined the

senior staff in January 2016. Fred comes to Cornell after having served in senior positions at Columbia and Princeton. Fred brings deep knowledge of Development and Alumni Affairs organization, a genuine sense of humor and a motivational spirit that energizes those with whom he comes in contact. Fred is rapidly learning the Cornell culture and will be highly visible in external affairs during the coming years.

Ryan Lombardi, Vice President for Student Services, takes the helm in this important area of responsibility from the long-serving and much beloved, Susan Murphy. Ryan has proven to be a fast-study and an even hand on the tiller. Of particular interest to those that experienced Greek Life is Ryan's thoughtful approach to the transitioning of Cornell's Greek Life that started under David Skorton's leadership. Ryan also has the important task of bringing on board a new Dean of Students to replace Kent Hubbell who has retired. Kent has given the University distinguished service and has been a consistent and strong advocate for the well-being of Cornell's students.

Lastly, enough cannot be said of Hunter Rawlings who did not hesitate one minute in accepting the Board's bid to return to Ithaca and assume the role of Interim President until the 14th President of Cornell is identified and takes office. Hunter's presence, together with the team aforementioned, means that the leadership of the University is moving forward on strategic issues with confidence.

The Presidential Search Committee is moving steadily through its process. It is being chaired by Jan Rock Zubrow, Chair of the Board's Executive Committee, who also chaired the Committee that brought Beth Garrett to campus. The Committee is representative of Trustees, faculty, students and employees. When all is done, something in excess of 100 names will have been considered from academia, industry, and foundations. There will probably be no more than 10-to-12 candidates that meet the criteria for Cornell's position. The process of vetting is comprehensive and highly confidential. The summer has been a busy time for the Search Committee as teams from the Committee travel to visit with the finalists in their home locations. If the past is a prologue, it is possible to have an announcement of the selection of finalists prior to the end of

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GREEK LIFE: MORE CHANGE ON THE HORIZON

By Ralph Wilhelm '67

As

to be expected, change continues on the Cornell campus, not just with Greek Life but also on the Campus overall. We are all collectively awaiting the decision of the Trustee Search Committee regarding a new University President, but we are also seeing some significant change in the Division of Student and Campus Life lead by VP Ryan Lombardi.



Ralph Wilhelm

But first things first: an update on our current Greek Life status before looking into the future.

The weekend of August 27 had a very tragic incident: the death of an Ithaca College freshman who was involved in an altercation on the Cor-

nell campus very late Saturday night. Details are still evolving but incredibly sad.

The Psi Upsilon Chapter was in fact suspended and removed from campus as of May 2016 for a period of at least 1.5 years. The initial decision was for a longer period but VP Lombardi heard their appeal and reduced the suspension period. For a chapter as storied as Psi U, this will clearly have an impact and this University decision is certainly not lost on other Greek chapters on the Hill.

Chi Psi is coming back to Cornell with a recolonizing effort supported by their National. The University revoked their recognition at the end of the 2014 semester due to serious charges of physical and psychological hazing.

The newest Sorority, Phi Mu, has finally secured a Chapter House for their members. Phi Mu had colonized successfully approximately three years ago, but their lack of a physical House on campus had recently begun to impact their recruiting. This is a very posi-

tive decision and it will long term help us push the Panhellenic chapters forward to eventually consider adding another new Sorority – to meet the increasing demand for membership on the Hill.

So, where are we today? Ryan Lombardi as the “Chief Student Officer” (really the VP, Student and Campus Life, replacing Susan Murphy in August 2015) is doing extraordinarily well after his first year of learning the job and making significant decisions. For example: The Dean of Students position previously occupied by Kent Hubbell for fifteen years (moved back to Architecture Faculty this fall semester) has been split into two positions. The first “half” of the position was split off and a current staff member, Dr. Joe Burke, was promoted to Executive Director, Campus and Community Engagement. Joe will be responsible for all Residential and New Student Programs, OFSIL (Travis Apgar), and a variety of student leadership, engagement and campus activities.

The “other half” of the Dean of Student’s position will be more focused on the remaining activities and will be staffed in the very near future. The three finalists for the position are on campus for public presentations and Q&A with students, faculty, and staff between August 26 and September 2. The candidate pool was quite talented with deep backgrounds in student affairs, as you might have expected.

Ryan has requested a complete review of the Greek system and programming on campus to be completed by April 2017. This will be a very wide-open and introspective review of the “system”: what we do well and where we might improve. Note that this is NOT a study to eliminate or suppress the Greek system; rather the study will highlight where we continue to be exemplary and also focus on where we want to improve.

He has also kicked off last spring a campus wide review of all student housing. This includes all types of residences and buildings and examines the multi-dimensions of options going forward. This study will be finished by the end of 2016.

Dr. Lombardi continues to be very involved in the two University Committees that I am fortunate to be a member of, the Fraternity Sorority Advisory Coun-

cil and the Advisory Council for Student and Campus Life. Ryan continues to put students first in everything he does, truly exemplary.

One other observation regarding Greek Life overall needs to be made. The significance of the suspension and revocation of recognition from two storied Greek Chapters on the Hill (Psi Upsilon and Chi Psi) should not be lost on you all. These chapters have both been on the Hill for many decades and are deeply interwoven into the superstructure of the campus, e.g. significant Trustee membership, significant financial contributions and volunteer involvement, etc. To “throw them off the Hill” was no easy decision. Please do not underestimate that. But to me at least, the takeaway here is that the University continues to solidify and increase their level of expectations around Greek Life and students in general. This will not change. Please do not infer that the University wishes to remove Greek Life or all Greek Houses. That is not their intent. The University’s intent is transparent and above board in terms of high expectations on behavior and the elimination of risky behavior. The more that Omicron and frankly the Cornell Greek entities, including all students, can understand this...we really will then become much more stable, achieving, and lower risk living units.

Moving forward, there are a number of opportunities that are presenting themselves to us:

The first is Trustee Council Weekend (October 27 to 30) when Omicron will host the Annual breakfast for Trustees and Council members on Saturday morning. It is quite an honor to be asked and our Chapter should be very proud indeed. This will be a great opportunity for us to show off our brand new House to forty or fifty significant alumni from the Hill.

The Alumni Affairs and Development Division is kicking off a new Leadership Summit on October 26 that will begin small with a handful of experienced volunteers and meet face to face three times between October 2016 and June 2017. The goal is to focus on how volunteers function in their various groups, learn their craft, understand best practices, lead groups, minimize overlap, and most importantly, codify and pass on these skills to up and coming volunteer leaders. Stay tuned on this one.

The movement of new senior leaders onto the Cornell campus includes a new Judicial Administrator. She started the summer of 2016 and will be reviewing the entire judicial process, not just the Greek Judicial process, in terms of what is appropriate but also in terms of supporting the Cornell Code of Conduct. Medium and long term this review and potential change could have an impact, still to be determined.

So, what are the suggested takeaways from this article? First of all, the University is undergoing significant change from the top down: a newly announced President soon, new Chief Student Officer, Dean of Students organization and leader, new VP-Alumni Affairs, new Executive Director Campus & Community Engagement, new Judicial Administrator, etc. Further, these new leaders are energetically learning about what we have done for years or decades and bringing a whole new set of eyes and ideas to these challenges. These new Cornell leaders are and will have positive impact and my plea to Omicron members is to assume that:

These changes are opportunities.

- We as alums and students will be involved in numerous ways in helping to steer and contribute opinions to these changes.
- They will be done as openly and transparently as possible.
- And finally, we’ll figure out a way to make this work with new leaders and modified processes...all for the betterment of Cornell and the stellar education that it offers to our exemplary students.

As per normal, I will be on campus four times this fall semester and another three or four trips in the spring semester. I will do my best to keep you all aware, but I would also suggest that you subscribe to the Cornell Sun’s daily email summary newsletter that is quite helpful to keep in touch with what is happening on campus.

As always, I’d be pleased to answer your comments and questions. My “door” is always open and you can reach me at RalphWilhelm1@gmail.com or (317) 508-6866.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: EDGEMOOR'S UPGRADE CONTINUES

The

undergrads are pleased with the continued upgrading of Edgemoor's facilities with the much needed retrofitting of the second and third floor bathrooms to provide better ventilation and the

pending complete renovation of the first floor Ladies' Room. The rear deck and stairs have also been stained and sealed for protection against the elements and they now match the color of the siding on the Chapter House.

The slate of officers working with me to manage the House and plan our fall philanthropic, social and intramural sports programs are shown in the Fact Box at right.



Thomas Suesser

Omicron's planned philanthropy events for the fall include the Dizzy Sports Tournament where participants pay \$7.00 or bring ten pounds of food with all proceeds going to our Charity, Feeding America, and we will participate in Lambda Chi National's upcoming Fish and Loaves Week in November. Our brothers sign up to work 2-3 hours during the week serving meals to the homeless and less fortunate in the Ithaca area.

Our social schedule for the semester includes two date nights, some sorority mixers and the popular "Secret

OMICRON FACT BOX: FALL 2016

High Alpha	Thomas Suesser '18
High Beta	Gerrard Beucaud '17
High Theta	Karan Desai '18
High Gamma	Max Ginsberg '18
High Epsilons	Aaron Goldberg '18
.....	Leo Andruik '19
High Kappas.....	Bryan Harriott '17
.....	Jason Weinberg '17
High Tau.....	David Glazer '17
High Rho.....	Joaquin Jerez '19
High Delta.....	Nikita Dubnov '17
High Iota	Eric Chen '19
High Sigma.....	Sebastian Forero '19
High Mu	Drew Mathews '18
Steward	Nick Casazzone '19
Jock	Calvin Beckwith '18
Standards	Ian Fried '18

Santa" gift exchange and Christmas Party. Calvin Beckwith '18 will direct the House's intramural sports program for the fall with teams entered in flag football, soccer, co-rec soccer, golf and beach volleyball.

We began the fall semester with 60 undergraduate brothers with 40 of them living in the Chapter House and the most recent House GPA is 3.302. After a very



successful fall Rush spearheaded by Rush Chair Nikita Dubnov '17, we have added the following six new Associate Members pictured, left to right, above: Khalfani Louis '19 Human Ecology, Wheatley Heights, New York; Adam Macioszek '19 Electrical and Computer Engineering, Rumson, New Jersey; Dhruv Kumar '19 Arts and Sciences, San Jose, California; Jeremy Harper

'19 Agriculture and Life Sciences, Wayland, Massachusetts; Noah Goodman '19 Agriculture and Life Sciences, Syosset, New York; Jake Friedenberg '19 Hotel Administration, Merrick, New York.

Please join me in welcoming these new Associate Members to the Omicron family.



Back in August, Omicron sent undergrads Sebastian Forero '19 and Sam Tellier '19 and alumnus Sandy Gilbert '62 to the 56th Lambda Chi Alpha General Assembly at the National Doral Resort near Miami, Florida where *The Omicron Oracle* was honored again with an award as an outstanding Alumni Magazine. Sam, Sandy and Sebastian are shown left to right, at left, with the award.

On behalf of the undergraduate brothers, I want to thank the many alumni who continue to donate generously to the ongoing upgrade of Edgemoor and extend an invitation to you all to come by and see us on your next visit to campus or the Ithaca area.

HORT SENSE: FALL-CLEARANCE LANDSCAPING BARGAINS

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64

Chances are, you're not a horticultural expert. So planning and installing landscaping for your yard can sometimes be a confusing experience. But you probably also appreciate the value and benefits a well-landscaped home brings, both to



Wayne Mezitt

your family's enjoyment and to its market value. These can be compelling reasons to consider taking advantage of those clearance sales we see so many garden centers offering this time of year. And if you are reasonably judicious, these fall-clearance opportunities can save a lot of money and be a prudent investment for the longer term.

Each year, as their primary sales-seasons draw to a close, many garden centers find they have extra

plants in stock. Most lack sufficient space or facilities to properly store all of them over the winter. As trees and shrubs enter their winter dormancy, relying solely upon their appearance can be difficult to adequately judge their condition and health. Most reputable garden centers want to maintain long term trust with their clients and will not offer plants that are in poor or failing health. But at their drastically-reduced prices, clearance plants are typically not guaranteed. So it's always wise to confirm with experts on staff that their health is what you expect and that you understand how to properly install and care for them.

Fall is a wonderful time to enhance your landscape: by the end of summer most plants have finished their top-growth and still-warm soils encourage new root growth. And plants installed in autumn are ready to begin growing as soon as the soil thaws next spring – this gives them a significant head-start over just-planted trees and shrubs in becoming “established” (thereafter requiring less rigorous care).

Some garden centers include plants in their clearance sales because of foliage/stem blemishes or minor branch defects that shouldn't affect their long-term

health. Except for removing damaged branches, delay pruning until new growth starts next spring. Some winter twig/stem dieback is typical and normal and should be expected. Once you see new shoots appear next spring, clip off dry twigs, or simply let the spring growth cover them.

A key aspect of fall planting is assuring the roots stay healthy over their first winter in their new location. Water-in your new plants well when you install them, and make sure their root area is sufficiently moist as the ground starts to freeze. As winter sets-in, root growth slows and newer plants may not be as firmly anchored in the soil as those planted earlier; soil temperatures alternating between freezing and thawing can actually lift the newly installed plant out of the ground--this is called “heaving.” To help moderate soil temperature fluctuations and minimize the chances of heaving, we recommend mulching 6-8” deep around the root area for the first winter. But next April be sure to pull back all but 2” of this mulch (and down to the root-crown level at the trunk) to enable proper air exchange for a healthy root system.

These fall clearance bargains can be very enticing, and the potential savings may inspire you to invest more than you expected. So it's important to understand what you are buying and where they will best succeed in your landscape. Be sure to check hardiness ratings, light and moisture requirements, ultimate size, color compatibility with companion plants and any other features you consider important for your garden enjoyment. Selecting the right location first is much more prudent than discovering problems after the plant has grown and becomes more difficult to move.

By their very nature, clearance sales rarely offer a wide range of choices--after all, these are leftovers. If you are simply seeking an economical way to enhance the appearance of your yard, fall clearance sales can be an ideal opportunity for you. Some of our forward-thinking (and horticulturally astute) customers rely largely upon clearance sales to implement their garden designs and they save a lot of money doing that. If you have specific cultivars in mind for your garden, you may need to wait until they become available next season. But a fundamental challenge for garden center operators is to effectively match seasonal customer demand with on-hand availability, so be sure to take a look this fall. You may be surprised to find some unexpectedly good deals.

TRAVEL NUGGETS: THE ALSATIAN WINE ROAD

By Alan Fridkin '65

Country border areas are fascinating. Those black lines between nations have been changed many times. Cultures, people and ideas meld, and in most cases visitors are expected and welcome.



Alan Fridkin

This May we spent part of our French vacation on a leisurely drive to and through some of the thoroughly beautiful villages and vineyards along the 100 mile plus Alsatian Wine Road in the north-eastern corner of France. Germany and Switzerland are next door.

You don't have to be a wine drinker to enjoy these towns and landscapes. Beer drinkers and teetotalers will find food, crafts and friendly people to write home about.

On our first French driving trip, many years ago, we stayed in the lovely cities of Colmar and Strasbourg. This time we settled a few days each in the ancient towns of Riquewihr and Obernai. Close by, Eguisheim, Kayserberg, Ribeauville and many smaller hamlets also have appealing B&Bs and Inns. Riquewihr with less than 2,000 residents and Obernai with around 11,000 date to the Middle Ages and beyond.

While French is primary here, German and English are well understood. It's a prosperous and historically complex region with a proud identity. Settle into a typical Winstub or Bierstub and enjoy large platters of food often with a pork theme. Choucroute, an array of sausages, salted meats, potatoes and sauerkraut, various dumpling, meat and poultry dishes are hearty



Kayserberg

stick to the ribs fare. Libations can be of the generic house variety to Grand Cru Rieslings and Gewurtzriminers.

Stroll through the narrow main streets and sample a great variety of pastries and cheeses, including the magnificent Munster. Puppets, wood and ceramic art, paintings and fabrics make worthy gifts and mementos.

In this internet age there is a huge library of materials available to help you plan your trip. I'll just say having a vineyard out your back or front window, a number of convivial restaurants within walking distance, and thousand plus year old streets to explore are ample reasons to visit this lovely corner of France. Dozens of wineries offer tastings and some tours. Wine merchants in the major towns offer an impressive array of the region's best.



Scallops and white asparagus along the Wine Road

You can take the high speed TGV train from Paris to Strasbourg, Colmar or Mulhouse and rent a car from there. Or drive into the region on France's excel-

lent roads. The quiet and pastoral Wine Road is clearly marked, and there are plenty of Tourist Information Offices in places along the Road or nearby.

THE RECIPE BOX: Chicken Romana



By Sandy Gilbert '62

The Romans love artichokes when they become available in the spring time and find ways to use them in every dish they can. Try this tasty version of Chicken Marsala with some green

beans and a nice oaked Chardonnay or a dry Pinot Grigio and you'll be glad you did.

DIRECTIONS:

Season chicken with salt and pepper

Dip chicken in flour on both sides

Melt 2 tablespoons of butter and 3 tablespoons of oil in skillet

When foam subsides, add chicken breasts and brown them on each side for three minutes over medium/high heat

Transfer to plate when browned

Pour off most of the fat from the skillet

Add Marsala wine and ¼ cup chicken stock and bring



INGREDIENTS (SERVES FOUR PEOPLE)

4 boned chicken breasts
(pounded to ¼ inch)

3 tablespoons of olive oil

1/2 cup chicken stock

sprinkle of dry sage

1/2 cup Sweet Marsala Wine

2 tablespoons of chopped parsley

6 ½ oz jar of artichokes (drained and rinsed)

dash of Gravy Master coloring

3 tablespoons of butter

salt and pepper

flour for dusting chicken

to a boil for one or two minutes

Deglaze by scraping the bottom of the skillet to free browned fragments

Return the chicken to the skillet, add artichokes and sprinkle of sage over medium/high heat

Simmer for 10 minutes, basting occasionally with pan juices

Transfer chicken to platter and top with artichokes

Add remaining ¼ cup of chicken stock to the sauce, simmer and scrape remaining brown fragments in pan

Add a dash of Gravy Master, and thicken with remaining tablespoon of butter until you have a rich brown gravy

Sprinkle with parsley, add salt and pepper to taste

Plate chicken with artichokes on top, cover with gravy and serve

Enjoy

THE WINE RACK: New Wine Values

By Sandy Gilbert '62

Total Wine is the largest retailer of wine and spirits in the United States. Launched in Potomac, Maryland in 1991 by brothers David and Robert Trone, it is a good source for fine wines at lower prices than most other retail outlets. When choosing wine, I look for wines at the price point I want to pay that have been rated by independent reviewers at around 90 points or above. Below are three well rated reds and whites listed on the Total Wine Online Store website at www.totalwine.com that you should try.



this wine received an 89 rating from Wine Spectator and five stars from six Total Wine consumers. The wine is described as fragrant and juicy with lime blossom, melon and peach flavors. The wine has a bright finish and goes very well with shellfish and other light fare.

Governors Bay Sauvignon Blanc, 2014

\$12.49

This appealing white wine from Marlborough, New Zealand is given a 90 rating by Beverage Dynamics and is credited with dried apricot and honeysuckle aromas that add complexity to the passion

and citrus fruit flavor. It is also cited for having a delicious pure, clear, crisp finish.

Santa Margarita Pinot Grigio

\$17.97

This straw yellow white wine from Alto Adige, Italy is my personal favorite Pinot Grigio and it receives a five star rating from thirty one Total Wine consumers. It is described as having a clear intense aroma with a bone dry taste with the appealing flavor of golden delicious apples. It is a wine of great personality and versatility.

Red Wines:

D'Autrefois Pinot Noir 2014

\$11.99

Reviewed by Beverage Dynamics and given a 90 rating, this wine is described as having savory aromas and flavors of raspberry and cranberry and tea. It is a well balanced, light bodied crisp wine.

Mascota Vineyards La Mascota Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

\$15.99

This wine from Mendoza, Argentina is given a 90 rating by James Suckling and received a four out of five star rating by 14 Total Wine consumers. It is described as a good cab for the money with pretty floral and plumb characteristics with a fresh finish.

Mascota Vineyards Unanime 2011

\$24.99

Another selection from Mascota, Argentina, this blended wine gets a strong 93 rating from Wine Enthusiast and five out of five stars from 21 Total Wine consumers. Described as deep and lush up front with highly appealing aromas of blackberry and toast, it carries a finish with notes of espresso.

White Wines:

Grey Rock Sauvignon Blanc 2015

\$14.99

A Sauvignon Blanc from Marlborough, New Zealand,

OBITUARIES

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

John S. Stahura '52

July 6, 2014

Bernard D. Broeker '62

April 28, 2015

James M. Davison '43

December 30, 2015

Philip R. Worn '49

April 15, 2016

Michael R. Hugger '66

February 13, 2015

Rodger W. Gibson '50

September 18, 2015

Robert L. Curtis '83

January 13, 2016

A

fter years of outstanding service for Cornell University, Steve Ashley has received the Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award. The award honors alumni who have



Stephen Ashley '62
Frank H.T. Rhodes
Exemplary Alumni
Service Award

demonstrated extraordinary service to Cornell through long-term volunteer activities. The award was established in the spring of 1994 and named after Cornell's 9th President, one of the most beloved administrators in the university's history. President Rhodes played a significant role in the development of national science policy under several U.S. presidents and he established initiatives at the university for Asian studies, supercomputing,

biotechnology and nanofabrication.

Steve's selection for this distinguished award stems from his three-term membership on the Board of Trustees starting in 2003 and his tireless work for the past ten years as the co-chair of the Cornell Now Campaign. His many other efforts on behalf of Cornell include leadership roles with the Cornell Club of Greater Rochester, The Major Gifts Committee, and the Class Council for the Class of 1962.

He has directed particular attention and service to his areas of study both undergraduate and graduate by serving on the Dyson Undergraduate Advisory Council and as chair of the Undergraduate Business Program Campaign from 2002 to 2006. In recognition of their outstanding philanthropy, Steve and his wife, Janice, were honored as Foremost Benefactors in 1997.

This is a much deserved recognition for Steve's many years of dedicated work on behalf of Cornell.

The Passing of Ray Melton: The Measure of a Good Life

The following was provided by Doug Levens '92.



Ray Melton and his wife, Lillie, with Mark Fernau '82

On July 8, 2016 I made the trek up to Ithaca to pay tribute to a friend and fraternity Brother. I knew he had an impact on my life, but until that day, I had never really tried to articulate his impact. I knew I liked hanging out with him when I lived in the House and when I returned to Edgemoor after graduation. I also fondly remember that he made sure I was respectful to my future wife, Liz, while we were both undergraduates. I am not a religious man by nature, but was touched by Pastor Wright's eulogy for Ray. He started out by talking about his visit with Ray just prior to his passing. Aside from the many stories that Ray told, he remembered that Ray said that he was ready to go because he had "lived a good life." Pastor Wright posed the question in his eulogy of "What makes someone decide that they have lived a good life?"

He summed it up with what he called the three C's:

Connections: Ray's life was made good by the people that he came in contact with.

ALUMNI MILESTONES

Convictions: His conviction led Ray to believe in the potential of people. This conviction led him to dedicate his life to others to provide guidance and wisdom

Commitment: Ray was committed to the fraternity, the Ithaca community and to others.

A good life is not measured by days or years, but by the legacy that is left behind.

Sitting in that church that steamy July morning, I was struck by the diverse worlds Ray had touched. There were a handful of Ivy League educated men, but the predominance of the crowd was local residents from Ithaca. Everyone knew that Ray grew up in Ithaca. What many of us didn't know was that he was a pillar in the Ithaca community just as he was to us at Lambda Chi. He was just as likely to help a single mother in

CORNELL TODAY: TRANSITION

continued from page 3...

2016. The next chapters in Cornell's 150 year history then begin.

I close out with some thoughts on the challenges confronting higher education and particularly America's research universities. In real terms, research funding has been on a steady decline over the past decade. It has become more politicized, and the result is that the engine that has driven economic progress in this country for the past 50 years is at some risk going into the next 50 years. The public continues to express concern about the outcomes of a college degree and the cost thereof, particularly when the subject is linked with student debt. Cornell's Needs-Blind Admission Policy is geared to limit student debt to approximately \$26,000.00. The Ivy League Schools in particular are subject to public criticism of elitism and not doing enough to educate students coming from middle and lower income families. Most recently, the NLRB approved a provision for graduate students to unionize. Several years ago, there was a graduate student union vote on the Cornell campus. It did not pass – largely due to the votes from the graduate students in Engineering and the Physical Sciences. These are issues that Cornell's Board of Trustees is grappling with and will undoubtedly frame the policies of the next President.

rehab as he was a future Supreme Court Clerk. He had the unique ability to provide wisdom from his life and relate it to people from many walks of life. There was no racial or socioeconomic divide that separated his wisdom and advice. Ray had "life experience" that none of us had. In his own way, he imparted that knowledge to many of the brothers who passed through the kitchen at Edgemoor. His life lessons were not something we would learn in the classroom, but they have often been more important in our everyday lives.

Ray was an employee to all, but more importantly, a brother, friend and mentor to many. I challenge all of us to also live a good life and leave behind a legacy in our own way.



NEWS FROM ALUMNI

► 1948

Bob McKinless tells us that he and his 32-year old grandson, Chris, took a two week excursion of rail trails in Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. Chris was a big help driving over 2,000 miles lugging bikes and baggage and keeping Bob safe as well as providing great company. The trails are ideal for older cyclists as the routes are gently graded and are free of auto traffic.

Bob and Chris biked over 130 miles in five different states collecting 30 new counties by bike and 90 new counties by car. A major highlight was a dinner cruise on the Mississippi in New Orleans. Chris had to leave Bob in Atlanta to return to his work as an ER doctor, but Bob managed to get home by himself in one piece. Bob has now biked in all 50 states and 702 different counties. You'll reach Bob at bikerbob8@me.com.

► 1960



Nick Carter pictured at left at a River Keepers' "Show and Tell" event in Maryland near his home, continues his great environmental work with kids. Working with the gill net on the roller on

the bow of the boat behind him, he caught a big Gizzard Shad and some Hickory Shad to show the kids. Nick said it was fun for him and the kids loved it. You'll catch Nick at nmcarter1@verizon.net.

► 1961

Don Coleman, who loves to fly around the country in his own plane, was on his way to Glacier National Park for a big family vacation when he started having engine trouble over Wyoming. He was able to divert to Casper, landed successfully, rented a car and drove eleven hours so he wouldn't miss the party.



Safely back at his home base in Weatherby near Kansas City shown above, he and his wife, Diane, enjoy hosting the "Incoming Students" Party, for the Heart of America Cornell Club, a tradition they have held for the last ten years or so.

Don enjoyed his 55th Reunion at Cornell last June, but was sorry that the only Omicron from his class who returned was Joe Cordero. He hopes the others are alive and well. He also enjoyed seeing the new Edgemoor again at the Omicron Reunion Reception on Saturday afternoon and had the chance to catch up with Dave Landrey, Ken Kana-gaki, Tom Willis and some other '60s era Brothers.

You'll find Don at colemanheavyconstruct@yahoo.com. If any Omicron brothers find themselves in the Kansas City area, Don says you are welcome to call him at (816) 916-8383 and stop by for a visit.

Bob Pezzulich tells us that he enjoyed a Cornell Club outing at a Yankee's game at the Stadium back in August. The game was preceded by a cookout on the roof and it was his first visit to the impressive new Stadium complex. He is looking forward to an extended visit to Tuscany where he knows he can count on good food, good wine and some great people. The only downside of the trip is the timing as he will miss his 50th Cornell Med School Reunion. Bob has also heard about the early plans for a big gathering of '60s era Brothers at Homecoming 2018 and plans to be on hand. Bob lives at pezz371@icloud.com.

► 1962

Lee Manning is pleased to report that he underwent an ablation procedure back in January at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, one of the leading cardio institutions in the country, and the AFIB heart malady has not returned since. In early June, he was able to resume his cleaning work along nine miles of the Appalachian Trail with no adverse cardio effects.

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At the family hoedown shown above near his cabin in Columbia Furnace, Virginia, that's Lee in the yellow shirt at the extreme left of the picture and his wife, Leslie, seated in the light blue shirt. The extended family group along with a couple of "occasional" professional musicians includes six or seven guitars, a double bass and three or four fiddles. The gatherings remind Lee of his days in the old Dining Room at Edgemoor where he played guitar in Omicron's House Band. Lee answers at leemannig@cox.net.

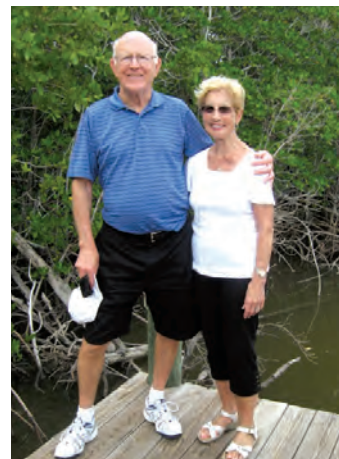


Bob Miller enjoys his ongoing work with the brave democracy advocates he has met from around the world who often face great personal danger in their countries for their challenge to autocratic regimes. He also reports that his son, Tor, shown above in a shirt ad, is enjoying a successful career as a musician. Tor and his band recently completed a national tour opening for Norwegian singer, Aurora. His new single, "Surrender" was just introduced in Paris. His first album, "American English", will be out by this writing and is available for preorder on iTunes. It's a nice legacy for a former member of the Cornell Glee Club. Bob resides at recmiller@davidondawson.com.



Chris and Barb Napjus had a great trip to the Alsatian Wine Country (See Travel Nuggets on page 7) along the banks of the Mosel River. Chris reports that the views, wine and food were outstanding. That's one of the quaint villages, above, along the Alsatian wine trail. You'll find Chris at cnapjus@verizon.net.

► 1963



Bob and Connie Elliott had an enjoyable break from New Jersey's winter with an extended stay in Naples Florida where they had great beach weather and had a chance to catch up with Sandy '62 and Emmy Lou Gilbert for a lunch and Warren '69 and Lee Lem for a dinner. They especially enjoyed their visit to Everglades Park shown at left. After the winter break, they

had another relaxing summer on Long Beach Island on the Jersey Shore. The Atlantic Ocean was especially warm this year with temperatures in the high 70's with larger than normal waves. Their beach was been fortified with extra layers of sand by the Army Corps of Engineers to help protect it from Hermine and other coastal storms. Bob lives at bobell89@aol.com.

Tom Miller tells us that he enjoyed attending the D.C. area lunch organized by Tom Willis '66 at Clyde's where he caught up with some old friends like Jeff Burnam '62 and met some younger Omicrons. Tom and Dorie are enjoying watching their youngest grandson grow up and waiting for a new granddaughter who is due in December. Tom says his agronomy professors would be proud of his ability to use their knowledge to overcome the problems of monoculture to raise a bumper crop of delicious tomatoes. He feels they have turned Virginia's red clay into Indiana

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loam, but at a very steep price. Their tomatoes might be expensive, but they make great BLTs. You'll catch Tom at tdurhammiller@yahoo.com.

► 1964



Wayne Mezitt writes to say that it has been a hot and critically dry summer in eastern Massachusetts and they desperately crave a good rainfall event. He's never seen their irrigation ponds as low as this summer. Other than that, however, it's been a positive year for both the nursery and personally. Wayne and Beth continue to enjoy playing golf when they aren't lugging water to their gardens, but, like many of us, it's still a struggle to consistently break 100.

Wayne also sent in the picture above of the participants at the 13th annual Adirondack Reunion of late '50s and early '60s era Omicron alumni who gather every summer for a few days of R&R with some golf, hiking and cultural events. From left to right this year's group consisted of Lee Leonard '63, Dick Veghte, a non Omicron but brother of Bruce Veghte, Pete Saderholm '60, Steve Ashley '62, Wayne Mezitt '64, Bill Curtice '60, John Comstock '61, Carl Igelbrink '59, Bruce Veghte '60, John Schneider '58, Bert Vonderake, a non Omicron, Tom Shineman '65 and Bill Fuller '61. Wayne can be found at waynem@westonnurseries.com.

► 1965

Tom Shineman reports that with two business partners he owns SalesGenomix LLC, a web-based company specializing in helping employers assess sales talent. So far the firm has landed sixty clients. His wife, Jan, continues her high tech career as a marketing executive with IBM. Since neither Tom or Jan are chained to an office, they are free to combine business and travel and manage to play a lot of golf on the links at Lake Placid in the fall and Scottsdale, Arizona during the winter.

He is especially proud to report that his children and grand kids are doing well and enjoying life. Daughter Trynka, Cornell 96, is President and CEO of Vistaprint, a \$2 Billion e-commerce firm and recently assumed a Directorship with a leading British events and conference company. Trynka and her husband, James, have bought a vacation home on Nantucket where Tom likes to visit them and their three wonderful kids.

This past June, Tom visited his daughter Carrie in Greenwich, Connecticut where he attended Grandparents' Day with his two grandchildren. His youngest daughter, Torrey, is an Assistant Professor at Pitt and a renowned slam poet. Tom answers at esfusion@sellmoretraining.com.

► 1966

Dave Landrey tells us that he really enjoyed his 50th Reunion Weekend at Cornell and his first visit to the renovated Edgemoor. He says he was really impressed by all the work and effort that went into the reconstruction. He was particularly struck by the harmony between the older sections of the House and the new additions. It all fits together so well. Dave was also impressed with the attractive plaques designed and donated by classmate Paul Williamson.

Other '66 Omicron Reunion attendees joining Dave at the Omicron Reception on Saturday afternoon were Ken Kanagaki, Dave, George Gavrell, John Elliott and Tom Willis. Dave lives at drlandrey@aol.com.

Ed Lortz writes that he acted on his plan last June to leave the Bay Area for the Philippines and has "Gone Back to Zero" which will be the title of his upcoming book. After his growing dissatisfaction with the city and citing a neighbor's characterization as "The tech-centric focus/hassle/obsession is becoming a bit too much", he, his partner and their rescue Doberman have moved into a nice furnished three bedroom house on the outskirts of Dumaquete (Google it). Ed chose this area after researching 49 other states and some locations in Central America and he likes the fact that the Philippines is the third largest English speaking country in the world and Dumaquete is an appealing city of 100,000 with four universities, a major medical center and 5,000 ex-pats as a social base.

As noted above, Tom Willis also attended Reunion and the Reception at Edgemoor. He thought Jason Cho '98 did a great job acting as host for the function and really appreciated all the hard work Chris Fateh '12 and Trevor Connor '95 did to make the function a success from ordering food to handling the logistics of getting well loved former cook, Ray Melton to be able to join the party.

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Tom feels that the award for least changed and most fit among the '66ers was George Gavrell. He works out with weights regularly and it shows. Tom recounts that George cleverly avoided the draft in the days of Vietnam through med school and the Navy ROTC by becoming a Navy Urologist. His navy career was good to him as he managed to stay at the Navy Base in Oakland, California for 18 years simply commuting to work like most civilians. After leaving the Navy, George had a second career with Kaiser Permanente. Following Reunion, George and his family headed to Milan Italy for some retiree R&R. You'll reach George at gavrells@aol.com.

Tom continues by saying that he is very impressed with the current undergrads at the House. They are very sharp guys and have managed to keep the place looking very clean and neat since the Grand Opening Celebration in the fall of 2015. He was especially impressed with the undergrads' physical condition and thinks the new Exercise Center was a very prudent investment.

Tom also hosted a luncheon gathering for D.C. area Omicrons at Clyde's of Towson's Corner, Virginia in late June. Thirteen Brothers ranging from the Class of 1948 to 2015 were in attendance. Joining Tom were Bob McKinless '48, Jeffrey Burnam '62, Tom Miller '63, John Bennett '77, Harry Kaiser '78, George Lutz '78, Craig Morton '78, Bob Shaw '78, Jason Cho '98, Arlen Papazian '14, Andrew Wagner '14 and Greg Pekar '15.

Tom graciously picked up the tab for the luncheon and asked the attending Brothers to write a check to the Edgemoor Leadership Foundation to cover their portion of the lunch rather than paying him. The donations will go toward the Phase II Campaign to help complete the unfinished portions of the planned renovation like-up grading the bathrooms and repairing portions of the existing roof and balconies. It's a great idea that should be encouraged for other Brother gatherings. You'll catch Tom at willis431@verizon.net.

► 1969

Henry McNulty tells us that his wife, Anne, retired from her ob/gyn practice at the end of 2015. At the same time, Henry dissolved his 20-year old communication consulting business, but continued to work with a couple of clients for a few months. By July of this year, he was able to retire completely. They both are now "at leisure". Henry says that he still hasn't completely gotten the hang of retirement, because

even now, he still looks forward to the weekend. Their son, Frederick, graduated from Connecticut College last year and before heading off to grad school, he has been teaching English to elementary school children in Seoul, South Korea. You'll reach Henry at henry.b.mcNulty@gmail.com.



Warren Lem relates that he blew out his shoulder back in July and had to have rotator cuff surgery. That definitely put a crimp in his tennis activity for awhile. Fortunately, he was back in good shape in time for the US Open when he and Lee shown above on the left in the third row with the staff did their volunteering work at Arthur Ashe Kids Day. Warren is now the President of the US Professional Tennis Association Foundation whose mission is to provide funding for programs that help economically disadvantaged kids learn tennis. Some of the programs they funded last year include: "Aceing Autism" in New Orleans, Balcon's Special Olympics, Austin, Texas, First Break Academy-Ramp Tennis in Manhattan Beach, California and the Mardy Fish Children's Foundation in Florida. Warren adds that he will be at the USPTA World Convention in California in September so he will unfortunately miss Homecoming at Edgemoor this year. You can contact him at warrenlem@aol.com.

► 1974

Elliot Sloan writes about a month long business/vacation sojourn through Europe with his wife, Jolena, and thirteen year old daughter Laura. It was a fast-paced, but enjoyable adventure and they all felt it was a memorable trip. Some of Elliot's snippets about places they visited include:

Amsterdam: Way too noisy and chaotic for us. Seeing dodgy drunken and drug-laden folks of all ages on nearly every street corner wasn't a great introduction to Europe.

Prague: Neat, neat city. So much to see. Costs were low, food stores and sightseeing abundant and easy to access. While the Nazi's and Soviets crushed much of the organized religion in the city, most of the synagogues and many of the churches in and around the Old Town are now treated like museums, shrines and venues for music

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recitals. The buildings are well preserved and presented with pride.

Milan: The city is very busy and urban and though there are lots of things to see, it can be a handful to deal with the metro, crowds etc.

Florence: Quite a wonderful visit enhanced by the hospitality of a local colleague who took us everywhere. Would like to return and explore more of Tuscany.

As soon as he returned from Europe last summer, Elliot began teaching at South University near the Tampa airport on Tuesday nights. It's quite an undertaking as he leaves Sarasota no later than 2:00 PM, meets with the program director for a couple of hours, teaches an online class from 6:00 to 10:00 PM and doesn't get back home to Sarasota until around midnight. He feels it's worth the effort because it is a very interesting course to teach. Elliot can be found at ebsloane@gmail.com.

► 1978

Back in April, the following note by Bob Shaw about his visit to Vietnam ran in the travel section of The Washington Post. It is excerpted here. "My father, Bob Shaw, was a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War and always wanted to return to "the most beautiful country on Earth" at peace. Sadly, he never got to make the trip. When I saw that Military Historical Tours was visiting all the Marine locations in South Vietnam with a side visit to Hanoi, I jumped at the opportunity. It coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Marines landing in Vietnam. Highlights: We loved the City of Hue, the historic, cultural, educational and imperial Capital of Vietnam. The core of the city is mostly unchanged from the war days and is bustling with activity. One of our tour guides, Chuck Meadows, was the captain who led the first Marines across the Perfume River to the ramparts of the massive citadel on the first day of the Tet Offensive. Weeks later he helped liberate the Notre Dame Cathedral, overflowing with 3,500 refugees. Today, he is revered by members of that church. Later we stopped by a famous Buddhist monastery and came across a group of North Vietnamese Army vets in their distinctive dark-green uniforms, covered with medals. They were in town for their 40th anniversary of the liberation of Hue. We had an amazing time chatting with them amid mutual comradeship.

Cultural Connection: Many Vietnamese people love Amer-

icans. The dollar is the only currency I used, our music is omnipresent, and English is taught from the fourth grade on. Dozens of school children approached us to practice English and share their huge admiration for the United States. The veterans in our group were stunned by the friendliness of the people.

Everyone visiting Vietnam is amazed by the number of motor scooters darting around. Hanoi, a city of more than 6 million people, has over 4 million of them and the picture of scooters carrying families, farm animals and deliveries are priceless.

I was surprised by how industrious the Vietnamese people are. Rice farming is a massive amount of work, but everyone in Vietnam always seems to be multi-tasking. Each student seems to have two or three side jobs, and our tour guides had a number of businesses. Once I took a 6:30 AM walk in Hanoi near the Hanoi Hilton (the former POW prison) and was amazed to see every shop open with people hurrying around. At night a leather-goods shop turned into a busy noodle café.

Fondest memory: In the basement of our home in Dale City was a photo of my father's battalion in front of an old French fort. The battalion of 1,400 plus Marines and sailors sustained 1,087 casualties in 1969 outside Da Nang. I went to Hill 37, where my dad lived for a year and saw a Vietnamese guardhouse with a soldier and chickens next to the stump of the French fort. I'll treasure the photo of my dad's unit and me in front of that fort.

Now, I tell everyone to visit Vietnam to see the most beautiful country on earth, full of vibrant, hardworking people with a bright future. Semper fidelis. Bob can be found at shawrw@gmail.com.

► 1979

Mark Hallock writes to say that he had the chance to visit Edgemoor and thought the renovation was spectacular. He felt that everything was done really well and beautifully tied in together with the traditional Tudor design. Unfortunately, the Chapter House (Jim's) did not look good in its state of disrepair. With the Chapter House out of order, Mark, Ryan Pritchard and some other 21 year old Brothers convened at the Ithaca beer Company's Tap Room to do some Flower Power quality control testing. Mark answers at markhallock@gmail.com.

► 1982

Mark Fernau tells us that being President of the Omicron Alumni Association has been a challenging and rewarding experience. He says the best part is renewing old friend-

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ship, making some new ones and visiting Edgemoor regularly. Mark and Melissa had a great New Orleans vacation after a week of work there visiting the battlefield and discovering some great eating, drinking and music establishments. Their son, Fletcher, married a doctor last summer and their daughter, Gwen, is living in Spain and becoming fluent in the language. You'll find Mark at mfernau@ametsoc.org.

► 1990

We have learned that Dominick Delmolino was recently named Chief Technology Officer at Accenture Federal Services. Accenture acquired his company, Agilex Technologies, back in 2015. Dominick answers at ddelmoli@gmail.com.

► 1994

Josh Faust tells us that he, Jess and their two kids 12 and 10 have moved to Guanacaste, Costa Rica about a half block from a great surfing beach. He is still running the family business based in New York, but he is able to do 90% of his job remotely. He flies back to New York about once a month to check in. He says the family is happy there and all in all it has been a pretty neat experience and they plan to stay there as long as he can pull it off. He has also been doing a lot of distance trail running that's been fun. When he's not at the beach, you'll find him at josh@FaustHarriersonPianos.com.

► 1998

Jason Cho reports that July 30, 2016 was designated as the collective 40th Birthday of the Class of '98 who gathered to mark the celebration at the Strip House Midtown on West 44th Street in New York City. Organized by Dan Rubin, the group included Rob Sudol, Rob and Sheerin Rombach, Chris O'Donnell and Alison Moskowitz, Kevin O'Connor, Nima Nayeri, Tom Lank and Gretchen Boger, Jaff and Amber Hasan and Dan Eisenberg, Mike Coggins and Lillian Chuang and Jason Cho. You can reach Jason at jjcseven@gmail.com.

► 1999

Josh Spitalnik is excited to report that he has started his own law firm. He is doing the same kind of work –mostly construction and commercial law. He essentially acts as outside general counsel to construction and commercial clients handling business related law issues. This includes a wide spectrum of legal work from drafting partnership and LLC agreements to corporate dissolutions and all issues in between. Josh's new email address is [\[niklaw.com\]\(http://niklaw.com\).](mailto:josh@spital-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

► 2003

Ron Peck writes to say that he is still Senior VP and General Counsel at the Phia Group, a subcontractor for employee health plans dedicated to containing costs, developing policies and recovering plan funds from liable third party players. He and Corinne, who he met back at Cornell in 2003 when he was an Omicron Brother, welcomed their son, Gavin, into the world. He is their first child. Ron lives at rep117@gmail.com.

► 2008



Alex "Baba" Aidun tells us he has continued his important work with the Matthew Patrick Omans Memorial Fund wing of the Edgemoor Leadership Foundation since the very successful Mental Wellness event that he hosted last April 9th at the Chapter House pictured above. Later in April, he had a chance to sit down with Bill Farkus, CEO and Grand High Alpha at National, to discuss how to address mental wellness issues and others across the many Chapters nationwide. He has also recently spoken with the JED Foundation about ways to expand the programming at Cornell and how it can be replicated at schools nationwide. While the next steps are still in flux at this point, Baba is very encouraged about expanding the programming and reach of the Matthew Patrick Omans Memorial Committee.

The past few months have been filled with weddings of a number of Brothers who graduated during the same time with Baba. Most recently, Baba and a number of other Omicrons were in Saratoga Springs for the wedding of Mike Spinnicchia '07. Our brethren are also starting their own families as Alon Mass and his wife have a beautiful baby girl and Daniel DiBernardo '07 and his wife are expecting their own baby girl, Mina, as you read this.

Baba believes the work we are doing to improve our organization and the environment our Brothers live in at Edgemoor will enrich the lives and productivity of the next generation of Omicrons.

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