



THE CORDELT

BETA OMICRON CHAPTER OF DELTA TAU DELTA AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

FALL 2015

DELTA TAU DELTA CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Alumni Recognized for Tireless Support and Involvement with Beta Omicron

REPORT FROM HOUSE CORPORATION PRESIDENT GRAHAM SEWARD '07

I hope that this edition of *The Cordelt* finds you well and that you are enjoying the fall season. This time of year brings back memories of Apple Fest on the commons, Delt football, fall break journeys, and the camaraderie surrounding the process of preparing for another Ithaca winter. It is also the time of year when we look forward to gathering with friends and family for the holidays. This year is particularly special, as we are coming off our hugely successful 125th anniversary celebration that took place at the Shelter September 18-20 and will be remembered by all for decades to come.

I would like to thank **Jason Saltsberg '94** for his many years of service to the fraternity. From his days as an undergraduate, to his role as a chapter advisor, to his many years keeping the House Corporation organized and on track as secretary, the past 20 years at Beta Omicron would not have been possible without his ongoing support and involvement. While Jason is not riding off into the sunset, he will be missed on the executive board and we look forward to his mentorship not only for House Corporation Secretary **Jeff Catalano '09**, but to all members of the board.

For those of us who were in Ithaca for the 125th anniversary, it was certainly one for the books. With over 100 alumni present, this was the largest Homecoming in recent memory. All generations of Delt's were represented, and while there was a massive range of life experiences in attendance, everyone could share one common

thread—Beta Omicron. We were also fortunate enough to have International President **Jody Danneman, Beta Delta '88**, COO **Jack Kreman, Theta Kappa '04**, Eastern Division President **Bryan Adams, Gamma Nu '07**, and former Chapter Consultant and current Educational Foundation member **Dylan Pyne, Gamma Eta '12** present for the entire weekend. The celebration culminated on Saturday evening with a banquet at the Shelter. Proclamations were made by many, including the Mayor of Ithaca Svante Myrick, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, and the Arch Chapter, and memories were shared by all who attended. Former House Corporation President **Scott Rice '90** was presented with the John W. Nichols Bridge Builder Award from the National Fraternity and Jason was recognized by his peers for his dedication to Beta Omicron.

All of this would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of **Michael Bonacum '10**. There are not enough thanks to convey the level of gratitude everyone in attendance has for Mike and his volunteer team's work in making this anniversary wildly successful. I would also like to recognize the overwhelming amount of work the undergraduates and Chapter Advisor **Jack Thompson '73** did to prepare the Shelter, including repairs and deep cleaning, for this event; the Shelter had not looked that good in years.

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A jazz quartet showcases its musical talents for alumni during the 125th anniversary celebration.



Alumni and undergraduates enjoy the celebration from their tent in the backyard of the Shelter.

How Beta Omicron Changed My Life

Stephen Shapiro '86 Thankful for a Lifetime of Friendship and Support from Brothers

As a freshman at Cornell University, **Stephen Shapiro '86** desired to connect with a diverse group of individuals with differing interests and backgrounds, as well as find a place he could call his home away from home. Delta Tau Delta provided both the opportunity to create lifelong friendships with individuals whom he is proud to call his brothers and a place that he could truly call home. "My Beta Omicron brothers have been and continue to be some of my biggest supporters and were a critical driving force in my becoming the person I am today. They encouraged me to develop social skills, leadership skills, and a high level of creativity that would benefit me significantly when pursuing personal and professional interests," he says.

Having supportive brothers in the chapter to look up to encouraged Stephen to expand his involvement in Beta Omicron by pursuing leadership opportunities. As social chairman, Stephen was able to showcase creativity and leadership abilities that shed a positive light on the chapter. Stephen also served on the undergraduate council, which allowed him to visit other Delt chapters and get involved with the fraternity on a national level. "Being a member of Beta Omicron helped me realize who I was as an individual and who I wanted to become. My brothers challenged me every day to be the best version of myself, and I cannot thank them enough for helping me become a better person."

As an alumnus, Stephen has maintained connections with **Allen Wong '85, Don Staffin '85, Mark Sheraden '85, Tony Lacke '85, Aaron Osofsky '85, Steve Getman '86**, and many others. One of Stephen's most cherished



Mark Sheraden '85, Tony Lacke '85, Aaron Osofsky '85, Miriam Osofsky, Allen Wong '85, Elenie Tsarhopoulos, and Stephen Shapiro '86 enjoyed having the opportunity to reconnect and share memories.

memories is when Allen and Don were stranded in London, Stephen's home at the time, due to the tragedy that struck on September 11, 2001. Stephen says, "The week we spent together in London was a wonderful and meaningful experience in light of a terrible event. The bond between brothers lasts a lifetime, and whenever I have the opportunity to connect with them it brings back wonderful memories of my college years. Those were incredibly formative and enjoyable years."

Stephen's dedication and involvement with Beta Omicron carried on after graduation, as he leapt at the opportunity to give a presentation to members of the Delt chapters in Boston. It is Stephen's hope that his commitment to Delta Tau Delta will inspire current and future undergraduate members to maintain lifelong connections with their own chapters.

As a professional speaker, Stephen has the unique opportunity to travel the world and educate audiences on innovation and creativity. He has given over 1,000 speeches in 50 different countries, and is eager to continue impacting lives through his speeches.

When he is not hard at work, Stephen enjoys watching and performing magic. He and his fiancée, Elenie, are loving their new home in Orlando, Florida. Stephen is looking forward to reconnecting with brothers at future alumni gatherings and says, "I am amazed how everyone looks the same after 30 years; there must be something special in the Delt water at Cornell!" You can contact Stephen at inquiries@stephenshapiro.com.

BONDED BY BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood is not only for four years; it is for life. For **Joe Wilson '76**, this could not ring more true. Becoming a part of Delta Tau Delta not only allowed Joe to develop inseparable bonds with many brothers, but also to exceed expectations and strive for excellence in virtually every aspect of his life. Joe says, "My experiences in the chapter helped me grow personally and professionally. The men of Beta Omicron are some of the best friends I could ever ask for, and I wouldn't trade that for the world. I could not be more thankful to be part of this organization that will continue to thrive for years to come."



One unique asset that sets Beta Omicron of Delta Tau Delta apart from other fraternities is the strong alumni involvement in the chapter. Joe is

thankful to have formed important connections as an undergraduate with two alumni in particular, Eastern Division President **Wayne Sinclair, Gamma Delta '68** and Field Representative **Keith Steiner, Alpha '73**, who have both gone on to be important leaders with the national fraternity. These alumni encouraged Joe to pursue leadership within the chapter as social chairman and eventually as chapter president. One of Joe's most

cherished memories as president was receiving Beta Omicron's first Hugh Shields Award on behalf of the chapter from Wayne. The Hugh Shields Award is presented to the top 10 of Delta Tau Delta's 130 chapters. "Having the rare opportunity to receive this prestigious award on behalf of the chapter and being recognized for our hard work and dedication is a moment

that I will never forget. It means so much to me seeing the men of Beta Omicron carrying on the powerful legacy today and continuing to strive for excellence."

As an alumnus, Joe's involvement with Beta Omicron remains strong. When he attended his first Karnea, which meets every other year for the International Fraternity, in 1974 at Tan Tara Lake, Missouri, Joe created several connections and friendships with Deltas from chapters all across the U.S. Joe has attended every Karnea since then, and enjoys the unmatched camaraderie he shares with alumni who attend. As a 40-year member of the House Corporation and having served as House Corporation president for nearly 20 years, Joe takes pride in the continued success that the chapter has undergone. "Beta Omicron would not be where it is today without the tireless support of alumni. They provide

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Beta Omicron Puts the Pedal to the Metal

Undergraduates Take the Reigns in Academics and Leadership, Set Goals for the Future

Beta Omicron surged through the beginning of the semester, recruiting the talents and commitment of both undergraduates and alumni alike. The chapter celebrated its 125th anniversary, which included alumni spanning four decades and members from the Arch Chapter, Eastern Division, and Cornell campus officials. The men of Beta Omicron have made tangible efforts to include alumni across the country in the day-to-day operations of the chapter, and the effort put in to hosting a 125th anniversary truly initiated that process.

Undergraduates Implement New Approach to Academics

Our men represent a wide range of majors from hotel administration to electrical engineering, with an overall GPA of 3.236. This GPA is competitive with Cornell's fraternity average of 3.30. Our director of academic affairs formed an independent committee outside of the president and vice president to meet on a biweekly basis to discuss networking, both internally and externally, to help improve academic and professional achievements. This involved implementing study sessions into undergraduate members' schedules, encouraging our alumni in the workforce to send out e-mails about potential full-time jobs and internship opportunities, or simply offer professional advice.

Beta Omicron Dedicated to Community Service

Our philanthropy has remained consistent with our efforts on a biweekly basis with Enfield Elementary School to supervise math nights and the young students of the greater Enfield community. We successfully completed a bake

sale and two philanthropic concerts to raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRE) and hosted a haunted house in late October. Our chapter established a minimum of five hours of community service to be completed by each member every semester or a fine of \$20 per hour will be charged and subsequently donated to JDRE.

Chapter Sets High Goals for Recruitment

The men of Beta Omicron always have positive growth as a main focus. Our chapter successfully signed three new brothers to begin the new member process. This remains right at the campuswide average of three members for a fall new member class. Recruitment Chairman **Nicholas Milner-Gonzales '16** was quoted during the undergraduate Homecoming presentation to alumni, saying, "We are pursuing recruitment in much more academic, club-oriented ways than ever before. This ensures not only a positive connection with the brotherhood, but also shows these individuals strengths outside of the fraternity." Beta Omicron is actively pursuing a higher goal of recruiting 15 men in the spring.

Members Increase Efforts to Connect with Greek Community

Over the past several months, we have increased our efforts to connect better with other Greek chapters. We currently have three Greek health and wellness chairman at Gannett Health Services that connect other organizations on campus with the correct mental or social health resources they need. This group meets on a weekly basis and requires 10 hours of completed training before officially becoming a chairman. These men were



Undergraduates took the court by storm in a dodgeball tournament.



Brothers sell gourmet cookies at their bake sale, with proceeds going toward the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRE).

able to get 20 brothers to sign up to compete in the Greek Week Homecoming games. This number represented the third-most members of any chapter participating and connected us with new students on campus in a competitive spirit.

Delt Shelter Receives Major Updates

Improvements to the Shelter, including a complete cleaning and polishing of the stone and tile flooring, refinishing of the recreational room ceiling, the addition of a handmade wooden sign, painting every doorframe and bathroom, and the installation of a new front walkway, were proudly organized and executed by undergraduates and alumni. We wanted to make sure the Shelter looked great for our 125th celebration.

Thank You, Alumni, for Your Support

The Cornell Delts have a lot to be proud of, but a lot to look forward to. Without a doubt, Beta Omicron will continue to grow in both new and positive ways with the tireless support of our alumni, dedication to the values of Delta Tau Delta, and our commitment to how our generation impacts the Ithaca and Cornell communities. We are blessed to have the support and guidance of Chapter Advisor **Jack Thompson '73**, the House Corporation, and alumni across the nation. If you are ever in the area, please stop by for a visit. We love having the opportunity to connect with you to share memories and our vision for the future.

Fraternally,
John D. Salvagno '16
 Chapter President
 (315) 243-0278
 jds458@cornell.edu

Don't Miss Out!

Founder's Dinner
Jan. 27, 2016

Eastern Division Conference
Jan. 28-31, 2016, in Harrisburg, Pa.

Reunion Weekend 2016
June 9-12

Homecoming 2016
Sept. 22-24

More information will become available as we get closer to these events. If you have any questions, please contact **Jeff Catalano '09** at jpcatalano@gmail.com.

DELTA TAU DELTA CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

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As we move forward from this momentous occasion, we must continue our momentum to push toward our 150th anniversary and beyond. While talking with Jody, I asked him how many Delt chapters had been in continual operation for 125 years. While he did not have the exact number, he did know that it was less than five and most likely less than three. This achievement should not be overlooked, and we cannot ease up on our drive to be the best fraternity at Cornell and an example to other Delt chapters.

In the coming months, the House Corporation executive board will be meeting to plan for the next five years of Beta Omicron. This plan will focus on the maintenance of the Shelter, which is now 50 years old, and will be required to have mandated upgrades in the next three to five years, as well as alumni communications, involvement, and undergraduate mentoring. We will be looking for volunteers for each of these initiatives, so if you would like to be involved, please e-mail Vice President **Jeff Alfano '13**, Treasurer **Andrew Howlett '07**, or Secretary **Jeff Catalano '09**.

I would like to congratulate the undergraduates for welcoming three new members into the chapter and for sending four members to the A.D. White Greek Leadership Academy. This continued growth and commitment to the Greek community at Cornell is admirable and will help ensure our presence for the next 125 years.

May you all have a great holiday season and if you are available in January, please consider heading back to the Shelter for our Founders' Day dinner to finish out recruitment week.

Fraternally,
Graham Seward '07
House Corporation President
graham.seward@gmail.com

Welcome, New Members

Gabriel Diamond '18
East Meadow, N.Y.

Alexander Downey '18
Rock Stream, N.Y.

Ian Melvin '18
Bethel, Conn.

Chapter Eternal

David "Dave" Berry '59 entered Chapter Eternal on November 18, 2014, at the age of 77. He was a resident of Hawaii, and is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, son, James, and sister, Marilyn.



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BONDED BY BROTHERHOOD

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guidance and stability that is critical to the future of Beta Omicron, and it is important for alumni to recognize that they can impact the chapter in a huge way by contributing their time."

Joe runs an entrepreneurial chemical company in Duncan, South Carolina, that manufactures industrial specialty chemicals. His love for science began at an early age, when his junior high science teacher, Melvin Meade, sparked his interest in pursuing a career in the field. This encouragement helped Joe decide to attend Cornell University and become a chemical engineer after graduating. Joe has enjoyed a fulfilling 40-year career in the chemical industry, and is looking forward to many more years in this business.

When he has free time, you will likely find Joe working on his collector cars, spending time at his lake house, watching sports, or volunteering. He and his wife, Meg, have two sons, Josh and Joey, and a granddaughter, Mia. Joey, Joe's younger son, is a Theta Mu Delt at Clemson University, and Joe was proud to be able to pin him during his initiation. You can contact Joe at joe.wilson@gst-us.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President
John Salvagno '16
(315) 243-0278 / jds458@cornell.edu

Vice President
Michael Alter '16

Treasurer
Luke Zabinski '16

Recruitment Chairman
Nicholas Milner-Gonzalez '16
(559) 306-2398 / ntm32@cornell.edu

Social Chairmen
Garrison Lovely '16,
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Risk Management Chairman
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Joshua Robbins '16

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Dylan Hook '16