



MARCH 2013 ► VOLUME IV

LAMBDA CHI WINS FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

RETURNING COLUMNS

- *Inside Cornell*
- *Greek Life*
- *Travel Nuggets*
- *Hort Sense*
- *Recipe Box*
- *Wine Rack*

BEYOND THE COVER ...

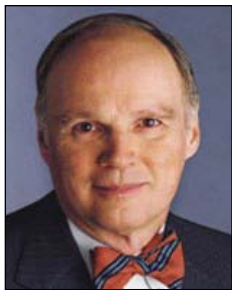
- *Centennial Campaign Reaches \$900,000 (page 2)*
- *Omicron Has Strong Spring Rush (page 5)*

E Z R
M D C C C

By CU Trustee Stephen Ashley '62

It

is a given in life that a tragedy often gives impetus to structural changes that were overdue and had been obvious for some time. Such is the case at Cornell following the tragic death of SAE brother George Desdunes, which resulted from hazing and alcohol abuse. Following Desdunes's death, the students most directly involved were expelled, and SAE was removed from Cornell's campus for at least five years. After consultation with his senior administrative team and board leadership, President David Skorton directed the student leadership of Greek life at Cornell to design a new outline and program for recruitment (rushing, pledging, new member education) and member initiation. The president's tagline for this initiative was "to end pledging as we know it." The



Stephen Ashley

focus of the changes is to end "the performance of demeaning or dangerous acts as a condition of membership."

In his role as chairman of the Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council, Omicron brother Ralph Wilhelm '67 has played a major role in working with undergraduate chapters, the administration, and interested alumni to bring about the necessary changes, convince undergraduates of the necessity for change, and advocate to fraternity national organizations about the steps that they must take to re-educate and police their chapters. Lambda Chi and Cornell are very fortunate to have Ralph's leadership and wisdom on this subject, and I know him to be extremely well regarded by the university's administration. All of those interested in Greek life at Cornell owe Ralph a deep debt of gratitude.

But what is the future for Greek Life at Cornell? Before answering that, we need to understand the scope and scale of Greek life and then the aspirations of the university—what the board of trustees, Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council, and administration desire.

First, some facts. Approximately 4,000 undergraduate students are members of a fraternity or sorority. At this writing, there were 64 chapters recognized on campus (this number is subject to change due to pending, completed, or yet unannounced judiciary actions). Between 25 and 30 percent of undergraduate students affiliate themselves with a fraternity or sorority. In more practical terms, Greek houses provide 1,500 beds that the university does not have alternatives for. Thus, you can easily see that there is a strong and continued interest on the part of the undergraduates for membership in a Greek organization. In addition, the lodging and dining facilities are an important part of the university's infrastructure.

Let us now turn to the aspirational elements of the dialogue that has been taking place for the past 24 months. First, the challenge is for individual chapters to address more fully the ideals of their own national charters and to look at those ideals in the context of delivering

Greek Life: Yes or No?

an experience at Cornell that addresses not only the social and living elements, but an enhancement to the academic experience. The goal is to build on Cornell's long history of Greek tradition and enable Greek life to prove its strength and value. It is readily recognized that deep and long friendships are formed and that individuals develop leadership that they later use professionally—and in many cases, give back to Cornell through volunteerism and philanthropy. Simply stated, the goal is to make Greek life worth having and provide a better experience that does not damage its members either physically or psychologically through hazing and/or substance abuse, as well as establishing a new model that makes Greek life part of an academic experience instead of a living and party experience.

The next steps on the part of Cornell's administration are to monitor the progress and performance of the new models of recruitment, assess the violations related to hazing and alcohol, and address skills, outcomes, and the need for evolving programs. President Skorton would like to see Cornell as a leader among America's universities in addressing the problems of alcohol abuse and hazing on America's campuses. It is a problem that cannot be ignored. Approximately 2,000 student deaths each year are related to alcohol, and alcohol or drug abuse is involved in more than 500,000 injuries each year. President Skorton has received strong support from national fraternity organizations and is an active participant in the Dartmouth Plan and the University of Maine studies relating to these issues.

No discussion of these questions should fail to mention the incredible leadership of President Skorton's senior team: Vice President for Student and Academic Services Susan Murphy, Dean of Students Kent Hubbell, and Associate Dean of Students Travis Apgar, who heads the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Greek life at Cornell has no better friends than these three individuals, all of whom had fraternity or sorority membership in their undergraduate days. They work and report in an open and transparent manner—one that works to bring out the best in student leadership while maintaining the president's directive that there will be no tolerance for hazing or alcohol violations in the midst of Greek life. They and their respective staff are available for support and to provide developmental guidance as Greek life moves into a new phase.

As Lambda Chi alumni, we can be very proud of the steps that our undergraduate leadership has taken and the roles that they have played on the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC). However, we need to be very supportive of these initiatives—not only with our own brothers, but also with those from other chapters with whom we might engage. Alumni have a real role to play in making Cornell the leader that the president has challenged us to become. Each of us can be assured that the goal of Cornell's leaders is not to eliminate or diminish Greek life at Cornell. Rather, it is to make it stronger, safer, and a more vibrant and balanced part of the undergraduate experience. ❖



President Skorton



CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN REACHES \$900,000

By Sandy Gilbert '62

As co-chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee that is working on renovation plans for the chapter house, Ralph Wilhelm '67, Doug Levens '92, and I are very pleased to report that we have made a great deal of progress since our briefing in *The Oracle* this past fall. In his meetings with a number of brothers who have come forward to offer major funding support, our campaign consultant, Greg McElroy, has already accumulated pledges of over \$900,000. That's more than half of the funding goal necessary to achieve the restoration of much of the infrastructure of the existing house and to add some attractive new functional areas and living space.

The ISWZA Board has retained the services of the architecture firm JHL Tecture PC, headed by Phil Prigmore '69, who is overseeing the planning phase of the project. Phil's firm specializes in restoring older buildings throughout New York State and beyond, and he has a great deal of experience dealing with Ithaca code and building officials. Phil is also handling this key phase of the renovation project at a favorable fee, which includes a substantial pro bono contribution to the campaign.

JHL Tecture PC completed its initial field observations during Cornell's winter break when the house was empty, including research, photo-documentation of the site, and the

development and revision of the as-built drawing set. Based on extensive input from the current generation of live-in brothers and alumni during the feasibility study, the design approach aims to preserve Omicron's traditional Tudor Revival style.

This plan will retain the masonry detailing and characteristic steep gabled roof with small balconies and prominent chimneys. The renovation will also include a more energy-efficient infrastructure and a planned addition with more educational, recreational, and living space.

In the coming months, JHL Tecture PC will complete the schematic design and conduct the initial structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing analyses. They will then move into design development and the preparation of the construction drawings that will enable us to negotiate the actual construction contract.

You will receive the official capital campaign announcement in the next month or so with more details about the renovation plans. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about Omicron's future plans, feel free to contact Ralph Wilhelm '67 (ralph.wilhelm1@gmail.com), Doug Levens '92 (levens@cox.net), Sandy Gilbert '62 (sandem133@aol.com), or our campaign consultant, Greg McElroy (mcelroy174@aol.com). ❖



100th CELEBRATION REMINDER October 18-20, 2013

Join the growing list of alumni who have reserved rooms in Ithaca for this exciting weekend to celebrate Lambda Chi's 100th year at Cornell. This will be a great time to catch up with old friends, meet other visiting alumni, get to know the great group of current undergraduates, and hear more about Lambda Chi's plans for the future. Look for more information about the program for this landmark event, including special LXA room rates at participating hotels in the months ahead. For questions in the meantime, contact the 100th Celebration Chairman Mike Agostin '92 (michael.agostin@stryker.com).

GREEK LIFE: JOINING A GREAT FRATERNITY AT THE NEW CORNELL

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

The following article is written from the perspective of a new freshman on campus in the fall of 2017 after Cornell fraternities have had a few years to fully implement the university's new rushing, new member education, and initiation policies, and Lambda Chi has successfully completed the renovation of its chapter house.



Ralph Wilhelm

Showing up with all my worldly belongings in Ithaca with my parents and my younger sister, I was filled with many emotions, particularly excitement and fear. But this was the day that I was looking forward to and also dreading: alone, on my own, making decisions, and having no curfew of any kind! Jeez ...

Our move to the North Campus with all the other freshmen was both uneventful and yet a bit overwhelming. But the university staff, various upperclassmen, guys living in my dorm, orientation counselors, and lots of students helping us move into the dorm all made it feel more natural than I had expected. In fact, the “movers and shakers” that showed up in droves to empty our car and trailer were terrific: very polite, quite friendly, and very curious about my background, including my hometown, school major, sports I was interested in, etc. It did not dawn on me until much later that they were sizing me up as I was them.

Orientation was great fun, meeting loads of new people and lots of neat ladies. It sure seemed as if the ladies were in the majority, but I wasn't complaining! After orientation, we did go to a number of big and some small organized events, and this is where I first heard the information about the “four quarter system.” I soon realized that it dealt with the Greek system of fraternities and sororities on campus and had been in existence since about 2010.

Classes started on the Arts Quad, and it was a hoot. We hung out primarily with other members of our class of 2021, but then an odd thing happened. A bunch of us decided to go up to Barton to play some pickup basketball one night, and we had a terrific time. That night a fellow came up to me, one I did not initially recognize, but he knew me. We began talking, and I realized that he was one of the counselors who had helped move me into my dorm room. He explained it was a Greek-led effort on campus (hence the shirts that they all wore with funny Greek letters on them, not all of which I could easily recognize) to help freshmen easily acclimate to

campus. But as Joe talked, it was clear that he had really been listening to what I said back then, and it must have stuck; he really knew a lot about me.

Anyway, that was my first of many encounters with Joe and his friends on campus during the fall. I had learned that during the “first quarter” of the fall semester, upperclassmen who were Greek could talk to me, and me to them, but it had to be random, not in large groups, and could not involve any social events. It sure worked for me, as it helped me to get to know them better. It was a very low-pressure way to make some new friends!

The first quarter lasted until the fall break, the first week in October. From that point, “second quarter” took over with a very different set of rules. As freshmen, we could attend registered events at fraternities on campus, which gave us a firsthand look at what really went on at some of the different houses. The atmosphere was very relaxed with a variety of things to do, from some time on the climbing wall on campus to just hanging out watching a basketball or football game on the tube or shooting pool. All the events with the freshmen were alcohol-free, and it gave us a great chance to interact in a fun, relaxed setting and get to know one another. The process enabled me to meet some great new people and expand my horizons by learning about some new activities and events on campus. I began to get a real sense of which group of guys I was most comfortable with and how the different fraternities interacted socially with sororities and the rest of the university community.

December brought final exams and term papers, and finally the chance to go back home for the holidays to relax with family and friends. After my positive second-quarter experience interacting socially with fraternities, I was committed to sign up for Rush, which began the week before the second semester started in January. I really wanted to give this fraternity experience a try.

In January, I returned to campus excited about my new set of courses and the beginning of the “third quarter” that would last until the end of February, including a six-day formal Rush period organized by the university and the IFC. The activities were all registered with the university as alcohol-free social events that included some kind of punch, soft drinks, and snacks. The process allowed us to visit different houses and eventually sort out which houses we liked best and which ones wanted us.

During this six-day Rush period, I not only learned a great deal about the different fraternity houses, but I also learned a lot about myself. I quickly found that I was most comfortable with the fraternities where the brothers didn't pressure

me to join or go on about their supposed social ranking on campus. I found I gravitated to the houses that had a mix of different and interesting people who had an idea of where they were going with both their fields of study and their activities on campus. They were active participants in their house, the Cornell campus, and the community at large through clubs, their intramural sports program, and some house-sponsored community service projects. And, of course, I was also favorably impressed with the houses that had attractive physical layouts with accommodating recreational areas and comfortable living quarters.

The Rush experience, while a great deal of fun and very illuminating, was also a very vigorous exercise. As the process wound down in the last few days, I was considering three houses, then two, and then the unthinkable happened: I got two bids on the last night. What to do?

I had to call home that night. I talked to my parents and also to a few good friends. They listened, asked a lot of questions, and in the end simply said, “You made the rounds, you know what you are looking for; just trust your gut, and you’ll make the right choice.” It was 2:00 a.m. when I decided to join Lambda Chi Alpha.

Frankly, it was the best decision I could have ever made. The chapter’s new house on Edgemoor Lane was spectacular, the other members of the new member class who would be my contemporaries were truly a great group of 28 guys with a wide range of interests, and the brotherhood stood out as a very congenial group who really liked each other and believed in their fraternity.

The semester began the day that I turned in my bid, and my new life began in a whirlwind of new classes to master, new directions in my clubs and other campus activities, and the beginning of a strong new relationship with 75 new friends in the house.

At our first meeting at the house, we were addressed as associate members (AMs), our role from that day until we would be initiated in four weeks, near the end of February. We were told very clearly that during these four weeks we would be expected to learn some basic information about the brotherhood, Omicron Zeta, and the national organization’s core principles and values. It was strongly emphasized that despite taking on these extra duties, we were to make sure that we didn’t let our grades slip. The emphasis on maintaining our academic standards was really pounded into us as part of our duty not only to ourselves, but to

the values of the entire brotherhood.

Our four weeks went by very fast. We were encouraged to pick out big brothers (I got a great one—Joe!) and also given a bunch of material to learn about the fraternity both locally and nationally. We also were shown how the house operated and what our AM and brotherly responsibilities were. The house made it a very user-friendly process, as the material was laid out in a clear, understandable sequence that we could follow from the beginning. Each week focused on two different core values, like leadership and integrity, with the brothers teaching us by example how these basic foundation blocks would help us and the house survive and flourish.

We all knew that the university and the IFC had worked hard since 2010 to redefine the old pledging process that too often became a negative experience marred by hazing or risky and unsafe behavior. We also recognized that being part of the new approach to introducing freshmen to fraternity life would be a much more enjoyable experience. But we didn’t realize until the indoctrination program began to unfold how much of lasting value we would learn from the brotherhood in terms of mutual respect, trust, and cooperation.

By following the rules on campus set by the university and the IFC, and supported by LXA National and Omicron Zeta, we had some fun, learned some valuable lessons, and made sure we stayed out of trouble. As expected, we did not go to social functions where alcohol was present (there were some social events where alcohol was served for the initiated brothers of legal drinking age, but we weren’t invited and didn’t attend), and we stayed focused on the end goal: to satisfy all the AM requirements, get through initiation, and finish the third quarter successfully!

We were initiated toward the end of February, on a date that was agreed to by the university and our chapter, in the same ceremony that has been used at Lambda Chi for over 100 years. As all of you who have been through it know, it was an exciting and uplifting experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.

As a sophomore, I am now a very “senior” member of the LXA house. I ran and was elected the house steward. It sure is a lot of work, but I am learning things about organization, business, and dealing with people that I could never learn in a classroom. I have joined a great house, the LXA house. And when people ask me what fraternity I joined, I always say, “I didn’t just join a fraternity—I am a Lambda Chi.” ❖





OMICRON HAS STRONG SPRING RUSH

By Matthew Clardy '14
High Alpha

As the newly elected High Alpha, I am pleased to introduce myself to our alumni readers and relate some of the house's activities and achievements since our report in the last edition of *The Oracle*.

I grew up in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park—known for its museum in the former home of renowned architect,



Matthew Clardy

Frank Lloyd Wright—and graduated from Fenwick, a Catholic high school. Cornell was my first choice for college because of its superb engineering school and awesome campus. I hadn't been to Lambda Chi prior to Rush Week, but I came around with Brian Barnes '14, who was my roommate at the time, and felt that the house had a great mix of different people, rather than the very homogeneous character of most of the other houses I visited. Joining Lambda Chi is a decision that I have never regretted, and I really love the house and the brotherhood, especially since I

believe we have continued to improve Omicron's reputation on campus every semester since I have been a member.

As a major in chemical engineering, I am looking to join the industry after graduation next year. In the meantime, I have been working with Infineum (a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil), engineering motor oils, and I hope to stay in the petroleum industry.

The house had a very productive fall semester, as we had 100 percent participation from all 49 brothers in our community

OMICRON FACT BOX: SPRING 2013

High Alpha	Matthew Clardy '14
High Beta	Brian Barnes '14
High Gamma	Christopher Meier '15
High Tau	Nick Polera '15
High Mu	Eric Baum '15
High Iota	Alex Shoifet '15
High Delta	Peter Caldwell '15
High Sigma	Kevin Yu '15
High Epsilon	Jake Barnes '15
High Rho	Jamie Winebrake '15
Athletics Chair	Ryan Rizzuti '15
Steward	Ari Rubin '15
Sustainability Chair	Sam Daly '14

Current house GPA: 3.335 • House website: www.iswza.org

service activities, including LXA National's American Food Drive and the fundraising campaign for the campus United Way under the leadership of Alan Workman '13, who was chairman of the effort. You have already read about the great success of our intramural sports program, capped by our championship flag football team, which is featured in the cover story of this edition of *The Omicron Oracle*. We expect our basketball and softball teams to do very well this spring. Our social season was highlighted by a number of great sorority mixers with Pi Phi, Alpha Phi, and Alpha Epsilon Phi, and our now-classic foam party continues to be a very popular event. With all this extracurricular activity, it is also important to note that the house's GPA for the fall semester improved a bit over the spring of 2012, moving to 3.335.

Looking to this spring semester and beyond, we are especially pleased to announce that under the excellent leadership of Rush Chairman Peter Caldwell '15, we have added the 24 great new associate members pictured and listed below. This



represents an outstanding effort by the whole brotherhood, as LXA landed the fourth-largest AM class on the hill. The significance of this achievement is evident when you consider that the average number of new members for Cornell fraternities during this past spring's Rush was only 15.

As the chapter's new president, I look forward to working with the brotherhood to continue to keep Omicron at the pinnacle of the Greek community at Cornell, and I hope to have the opportunity to meet with many of our generous alumni supporters. If you are ever in the area, don't hesitate to stop by the house for a visit. ❖

OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

This term, 24 men have become associate members of Omicron Zeta. Unless otherwise noted, all are in the Class of 2016. They are:

Reece Anderson, Engineering, from Falls Church, Virginia
James Asselin '15, Engineering, from Springfield, Massachusetts
Alex Bronzo '14, Arts and Sciences, from Pleasantville, New York
Fred Callaway, Arts and Sciences, from Berkeley, California
Kyle Coble, Engineering, from Pomona, California
Dan DeFlumeri '15, Industrial and Labor Relations, from Peabody, Massachusetts
Mike Dohmann, Arts and Sciences, from Suffern, New York
Yonathan Estrella '15, Arts and Sciences, from Ridgefield Park, New Jersey
Alex Gatto '15, Arts and Sciences, from Chappaqua, New York
Luke Goodman, Agriculture and Life Sciences, from Long Beach, New York
Chris Heagan, Arts and Sciences, from Bethesda, Maryland
William Heideprien-Baird '15, Arts and Sciences, from Bethesda, Maryland
Richie Ibsen, Engineering, from Suffern, New York
Chris Jenkins '15, Industrial and Labor Relations, from Chestnut Ridge, New York
Randolph Linderman, Agriculture and Life Sciences, from Rome, New York
Anthony Mazzulli '15, Arts and Sciences, from Toronto, Canada
Duncan McCausland, Arts and Sciences, from Rock Hill, New York
Benoy Menon, Engineering, from Pasadena, California
Ryan Pritchard, Engineering, from Montgomery, New York
Ben Sarnoff '15, Arts and Sciences, from Pound Ridge, New York
Jack Sousa, Arts and Sciences, from Berkeley, California
Robert Suriani, Arts and Sciences, from Trumbull, Connecticut
Alex Valenti, Agriculture and Life Sciences, from Valley Stream, New York
Kenny Wronka, Engineering, from Wayne, New Jersey

TRAVEL NUGGETS: WELCOME TO MIDDLE EUROPE

By Alan Fridkin '65

Over the past nine months, friends of ours have floated their way through Prague, Budapest, and Vienna on four different river cruises. All enjoyed them immensely. Some years ago, we arranged our own solo travel, focusing on Budapest, Prague, and Krakow. There is a lot to see in these cities and their environs, and even more in the countryside. When we were in college, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland were on the other side of the Iron Curtain. Today, they are vibrant and independent nations reasserting their identities. Tourists are welcome and play an important part in their economies.



Alan Fridkin

Why Go

All four cities are quite distinctive and sophisticated centers of culture. Vienna and Budapest have populations of roughly 1.7 million; Prague, 1.2 million; and Krakow, about 760,000 people. Whether you enjoy dining, drinking, shopping, viewing architecture, visiting museums, attending concerts, meeting interesting people, or any combination during your vacations, you will find all of these elements in abundance. Even if you don't have family roots in this part of the world, there is plenty of history to take in through beautiful places of worship, royal palaces, ancient buildings, and lovely parks. There is an extraordinary abundance of fine music, from opera and classical to jazz and regional folk music, on offer. The Hungarians have some pretty good wine, the Czechs are masters at beer, and the Polish know a few things about sausage-making. Locals take their football (soccer) seriously.

When to Go

This is four-season territory. The winters can be quite cold. Check the country and city tourism websites for events that might be of interest to you.

How to Get There

In addition to the American carriers that fly there, we used and enjoyed Air France and Czech Airlines. Lufthansa is strong in this part of the world, as are LOT Polish and Austrian Airlines (the latter now part of Lufthansa). Malev Hungarian Airlines became insolvent and ceased operations early in 2012. Swiss Airlines and British Airways serve these countries as well.

We took the train from Prague to Krakow and back. At the time, it was considerably more economical than flying. Most flights require a stop in Warsaw.

A Few Useful Tidbits

Your guidebooks may reflect your wallet or traveling style. Budget travelers often rely on *Lonely Planet* and *Rough Guides*. For more creature comforts, consider *Frommer*,

Fodor, and the delightful British *Cadogan Guides*. Where available, *Insight Guides* are loaded with pictures. The hip *Time Out* guides only cover Prague.

A great local Central European guide series, usually available in country newsstands and sometimes via the internet, is the *In Your Pocket* series.

All of these cities have excellent tourism office websites, as do the countries themselves. We used www.pragueexperience.com to book opera tickets in advance, and this site has very useful information on hotels and tourist attractions.

I like to read local newspapers several months in advance of a trip. There are English language papers for all these cities; for example, *The Budapest Sun*, *Prague Daily Monitor*, and *Krakow Post*. The more adventurous can read a rough translation of the native language papers on Google Chrome using the translation feature.



The Szechenyi Chain Bridge over the Danube River connects Buda and Pest.



Rynek Główny is Krakow's main market square.

In recent years, we have always used the U.S. State Department website, travel.state.gov, to let the local embassies know we are heading there and get the latest information on country-specific risks and intelligence for American travelers. You should be aware that there may be pickpockets in some public places and on trains and buses. You can avoid a lot of grief by using a hidden wallet, dividing up your valuables, and utilizing hotel safes.

You will find many fine river cruise packages on the internet. If you head to these cities on your own, you can still take a short river cruise and/or bus orientation booked locally. We have found [booking.com](https://www.booking.com), [venere.com](https://www.venere.com), and [TripAdvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com) to be quite useful in selecting hotels. A rental car would be a burden in these large cities. Of course, for the countryside, it would be a great asset. ❖



Prague's old town square, Staromestske Namesti



LAMBDA CHI: CORNELL CHAMPIONS

By Lee Leonard '63

Although Lambda Chi Alpha has been a prominent player in Cornell's interfraternity sports in recent years with consistently strong showings in basketball and softball, the brothers added a jewel to their crown last fall by winning the championship in flag football.

Omicron tied for the league lead with a 3-1 record and won the regular season title by defeating Chi Phi 19-13. They then ripped through five playoff games, outscoring opponents by 154 to 6, and shut-out Delta Upsilon 28-0 in the title game at Schoellkopf Field. The "mercy rule" was invoked in all five playoff games, as the gang from Edgemoor Lane was ahead each time by at least 20 points with only 15 minutes to play.

In the playoffs, Lambda Chi defeated Phi Tau (32-0), Sigma Nu (26-0), Phi Sigma Kappa (41-0), Phi Gamma Delta (27-6), and Delta Upsilon (28-0).

Quarterback Sam Daly '14, regarded as the team's best player, attributed the gridders' success, particularly in the playoffs, to teamwork and the ability to overlook mistakes like missed blocks or dropped balls. Most of the other teams got upset with their own mistakes and bickered among themselves when they fell behind.

Contributing to the team's closeness and brotherly attitude toward one another were the weekly Wednesday evening "captain's practices" at Ruloff's in Collegetown, where the team and many of the rest of the brothers gathered to bond, relive their on-field exploits, and practice their unique training regimen.

Wide receiver James MacDonald '13 attributed Lambda Chi's dominance to a fast, relentless defense that harried opposing quarterbacks with a fierce rush and resulted in either sacks or errant throws. On offense, Omicron had great blocking, a number of go-to receivers, and Daly's strong arm and scrambling ability.

Senior Bill Morgan '13, the "coach," was key to designing both defensive and offensive schemes that allowed LXA to defeat some bigger and more athletic teams, like traditional powerhouses Delta Upsilon and Sigma Nu. Bill became the team coach and key strategist because he had to retire to the sidelines after

a controversial ejection and season-long ban for too vigorously protesting a very bad call in the first game of the season.

Captain Conor Kennedy '13 and Kevin Yu '15—a former Maryland AAU standout and starting point guard on last year's house basketball team—dominated Omicron's feared pass rush. Safety Greg Becker '13 used his amazing speed to bat down and intercept passes. He was the uncontested MVP in the championship game, also catching a touchdown pass.

Adam "Dugong" Stein '13 patrolled the field as middle linebacker and had an interception in every game. Unfortunately, he sustained a torn ACL against Phi Gam and had to sit out the championship game.

Christopher "Christo" Meier '15 came off the bench to play quarterback and sparked LXA's win over Chi Phi when Daly had a preliminary exam at game time. Sophomore Chris Merrill was a terror on the defensive line and batted away several key passes in the championship game.

Seniors Frank Rizzaro '13 and James MacDonald '13 doubled as wide receivers and defensive backs, and contributed mightily to the cause of the purple, green, and gold.

Along with the outstanding flag football team, the brothers enjoyed a very successful soccer season with a 3-1 record in league play. They won their first two playoff games against Chi Phi and Delta Chi, but lost in a hard-fought semifinal to Delta Upsilon, who had an exceptional goalie. The team improved its passing skills over previous years, with James McDonald '13 and Steve Rosenfield '13 contributing the bulk of the scoring. Kevin Koch was an outstanding goalie, saving a penalty kick in the key 2-0 win over Chi Phi.

Looking to this spring semester, the house expects to be a strong contender in both basketball and softball. Omicron made it to the championship game in basketball last year, but lost to Sigma Pi. Although the roundballers will be hurt by the loss of senior Adam Stein '13—the starting center and top rebounder—because of his football injury, the team has some returning bench strength and some promising prospects among the new associate members that will help the cause. ❖

HORT SENSE: MAGNOLIAS FOR NORTHERN GARDENS

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64

Here in New England, what flowering tree shouts, “Spring-time has begun!” more emphatically than the magnolia? Festooning the streets of Boston’s Beacon Hill and dozens of public parks (and of course my own yard), the annual appearance in early April of the striking blossoms of the Saucer magnolia (*Magnolia soulangeana*) announces the onset of those milder days we yearn for all winter. Magnolias are easily grown and versatile throughout the northern United States, so they can be part of almost any garden.



Wayne Mezitt

Magnolias are among the most ancient and diverse of the flowering trees, and the many varieties now available in garden centers offer a surprisingly wide range of choices for northern gardens. Most winter-hardy magnolias are deciduous, displaying only bare stems all winter and typically topped with fuzzy flower buds, holding the promise of spring.

Among the earliest to flower every spring are the tree-like Kobushi magnolia (*M. kobus*) and the more compact-growing Star magnolia (*M. kobus stellata*). Named cultivars such as Centennial, Royal Star, and Waterlily reliably produce profuse multitudes of fragrant, slender white tepals (magnolia flower petals and sepals are merged, hence this term). Both Centennial and the choice pink-flowering cultivar Leonard Messel are Cary Award winners.

Flowering a week or so later—usually concurrent with the saucer magnolia cultivars—are the newer yellow flowering hybrids like Elizabeth (a Cary Award winner), Butterflies, Goldfinch, and Yellow Lantern. These newer selections, only recently available to the public, mature to large multi-stem trees, typically opening their blooms in early to mid-May here in Hopkinton. Their unusual colors add a new dimension of interest to the early spring garden.

Take care to choose the right location for all these early flowering magnolias to avoid late frosts that can damage the floral display: Site them at a high point in your yard where the frost won’t settle, on the east side of your home, or at the edge of woods overspread by a light canopy of tree branches. Some yellow flowering cultivars, including Gold Star and Yellow Fever, bloom a week or more later than the earlier yellows, thereby often avoiding late frosts.

By the end of May and into June, the Oyama magnolia (*M. sieboldii*) opens its fragrant, nodding white blossoms. Make sure you plant this species so you can look upward into the tree to enjoy the striking red center of each flower over a period of three weeks or longer. The flowers of Sweetbay magnolia (*M. virginiana*) have upward-facing, lemon-scented,

creamy-white flowers with prominent yellow centers that bloom over a period of several weeks in June, continuing sporadically into July and even August.

The latest-blooming of the hardy magnolias for this region—and perhaps best suited for larger landscapes—is the Bigleaf magnolia (*M. macrophylla*). By June, this impressive tree is already clothed with its unique display of tropical-looking, 2-foot-long leaves that distinguish it from any other tree hardy enough to sustain this climate. On mature trees, foot-wide, fragrant white blooms open in June, day-by-day for two to three weeks, making a spectacular primordial statement that delights every garden viewer. An added bonus is its October display of rounded, fist-size, cone-like fruits that open to reveal salmon-colored seeds. The Ash magnolia (*Magnolia ashei*) is a more compact-growing sub-species that produces flowers at a much younger age, matures at about half the size, blooms a week later, and may be more suitable for typical home gardens.

If you are adventurous, you might want to push the hardiness limits and try one of the summer-flowering cultivars of the evergreen Southern magnolia (*M. grandiflora*). Although these magnolias historically aren’t considered to be reliably climate-hardy in this region, recent winters have proven sufficiently mild to enable some of these to survive, even producing flowers many summers. Choose a cultivar like Bracken’s Brown Beauty or Edith Bogue, both of which have survived over the past decade with minor foliage damage in protected locations in our gardens in Hopkinton. Make sure you plant these where the soil stays moist, ideally in an eastern or northern exposure to avoid winter sun (which can damage buds) and out of the winter winds.

Magnolias offer a surprisingly wide choice of colors, forms, and flowering times for northern climates. Few types of plants offer such rewarding benefits, and most are exceptionally easy to grow. With a bit of planning, almost any garden can employ



Magnolia sieboldii

magnolia cultivars that open their blooms progressively to encompass the entire spring season beginning in mid-April; some are even in flower as late as July.

Search the internet to learn more about this fascinating genus. If you need more details, check out the Magnolia Society website (www.magnoliasociety.org) for information. This organization offers members worldwide some spectacular benefits, including tours and seminars. One of the best magnolia books is Jim Gardiner's *Magnolias: A Gardener's Guide*. And, of course, you can always rely upon experts at your local garden center as one of your most valuable resources.

Now that spring is upon us, it's a great time to take particular notice of the fascinating sequence of magnolia bloom in your region as the season progresses. Maybe some would be worth adding to your own garden!

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

THE RECIPE BOX: *The Best Pasta Ever*

By Sandy Gilbert '62



This simple, easy to prepare, delicious spaghetti dish with tomato sauce and basil has been called “the best pasta ever” by pop stars Beyoncé and Jay-Z. It was adapted from Scott Conant's recipe at the Scarpetta restaurant in the famed Fontainebleau Hotel on Miami Beach. According to *People Magazine*, the two stars enjoyed it so much when they had it for dinner that they had second helpings delivered to their room after their show at 2:00 a.m.

This is a great rustic, or country-style, tomato sauce that can be used as is or as the foundation for other sauces by adding meat and cream for Bolognese sauce, or vodka and cream for vodka sauce. Try it—you won't be disappointed!

INGREDIENTS *(serves four)*

- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- Two 28-ounce cans Cento whole Italian tomatoes, halved
- Pinch of crushed red pepper, dried oregano, basil, and lemon thyme
- Pinch of kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese
- 6-8 fresh basil leaves, sliced
- 1 pound spaghetti

Preparation:

In a wide frying pan, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the tomatoes, herbs, and red pepper flakes and season lightly with salt and pepper. Let the mixture cook for a few minutes until the tomatoes start to soften. Then, using a potato masher, finely crush the tomatoes until they form the base of the sauce. CAUTION: If you use a non-stick frying pan, you should either use a soft rubberized or plastic potato masher, or crush the tomatoes in another vessel outside the frying pan to be sure you don't nick or chip the non-stick surface of the pan. The sauce will yield about three cups, and it can be made

ahead of time and stored up to two days in the refrigerator.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the spaghetti until just shy of *al dente* (8 minutes vs. the 9 minutes recommended on the box). Reserve a little of the pasta cooking water. Drain (but do not rinse) the pasta and add it to the sauce, cooking it over medium-high heat. Gently toss the pasta with a couple of wooden spoons until the pasta is just tender. If the sauce seems to be too thick, add a little of the pasta water. Take the pan off the heat, toss in the butter, cheese, and basil, and stir to mix. Serve immediately. ❖

THE WINE RACK: *Good, Affordable Wines*

By Sandy Gilbert '62

As today's global economy allows local stores and markets to offer a variety of products from all over the world, it has become much easier to find some very good wines for less than \$20 per bottle. Below are some highly regarded red and white wines you should try.

RED WINES

2010 Pigmentum Malbec Cahors (\$9.99)

Malbec, originally used in Bordeaux as a blending grape to soften the tannins of Cabernet Sauvignon-based wines, has become a very popular choice for those looking for a well-bodied, but inexpensive red wine. Although many of today's popular Malbecs now come from Argentina, try this outstanding selection from the Cahors region in southwest France. It is described by wine reviewers as “a ripe and luscious red, with rich flavors of dark cherry and chocolate that features a sculpted finish of cocoa powder and raspberry.” This wine is rated at 90 by *Wine Spectator*, and it complements game dishes and selections featuring grilled mushrooms.

2009 Chateau Saint Michelle Cabernet (\$10.97)

This outstanding Cabernet value comes from the Columbia Valley in Washington State and is praised as being “rich and round with a sophisticated mix of grapes, including Cab Franc, Syrah, Malbec, and Petit Verdot, carrying dark fruit flavors of black cherry and cassis that creates a lush center.” *Wine Enthusiast* gives this wine a 90 rating and, when served at room temperature, it pairs well with full-flavored meats and hearty cheeses.



2009 Viticcioio Bere Toscana (\$14.99)

With Italy's renowned "Super Tuscan" usually ranging in price from \$50 to well over \$200 per bottle, this is a really great wine value at such a low price point. It has been reviewed with great praise: "Boasting dark cherry and berry aromas and flavors, this polished red is vibrant and harmonious. It lingers on the finish with a light fruit and spice-

filled aftertaste." The wine is a blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet, and Merlot grapes and received a rating of 90 by *Wine Spectator*.

2008 Markham Merlot Napa (\$16.97)

Merlot, currently the world's most popular red wine, was traditionally used as a blending grape to soften Cabernet Sauvignon and has now captured the attention of everyday wine consumers because of its fresh, ripe fruit appeal. Reviewers praise this selection from California's Napa Valley as "sleek and well-focused, with appealing aromas of red currant and toasty tomato leaf that lead to rich flavors of plum, mocha, and cedar, with tannins firming up on the finish." *Wine Spectator* gives this wine a 90 rating.

WHITE WINES

2011 Brancott Sauvignon Blanc (\$9.99)

New Zealand's Sauvignon Blancs have attained somewhat of a cult following for their remarkably intense, ripe, fruity, herbaceous character, which seems to be a pleasing combination of Sancerre-styled grassiness and California fruitiness. Reviewers claim that Brancott "is a mouthwatering wine that sets the style for clean, oceanic Marlborough, New Zealand, sauvignon." The wine carries "a touch of flint in the aroma, with bright passionfruit flavors and fresh acidity to balance it." This wine pairs well with seafood, especially fried clams, and is given a 91 rating by *Wine & Spirits*.

Sanrecchetto Verdicchio di Jesi (\$10.99)

Verdicchio is one of the best white wines of Italy. It is made in the Marche, east of Tuscany along the Adriatic Sea. The best Verdicchio comes from an area called Castelli di Jesi and is often shipped in a green amphora-shaped bottle. Sanrecchetto Verdicchio di Jesi is an outstanding example of this dry white wine at a very attractive price.

2010 Foxglove Chardonnay (\$14.99)

This Chardonnay from the central coast has been hailed as one of the top values in California wine. It is described as having "tons of ripe, varietal fruit in a style that is quite rich but not heavy, with clean citrus and floral notes that add freshness on the long finish." *Wine Advocate* gives this refreshing wine a 90 rating.

Tesoro della Regina Pinot Grigio (\$16.99)

Pinot Grigio has become popular as a sipping wine during cocktails or with appetizers, and it pairs well with light seafood dishes. Tesoro della Regina's crisp apple and peach notes combine with hints of fresh orchard blossoms and a mineral backbone that energize this stunning Pinot Grigio from the heart of Italy's Veneto. Be sure to give it a try the next time you are looking for a good white wine.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

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

>> 1948

Bob McKinless writes to say that last spring, he completed his goal of riding his bike in all 50 states when he and his son, Rich, took their bikes to South Carolina to complete the unique journey. He continues to sing in the Washington Men's Camerata and serves as the organization's librarian. Bob's wife, Nancy, had a major bout with COPD, but after a stay in the hospital and giving up smoking, she has recovered nicely and has resumed her orchestra and quartet musical activities. Bob continues to enjoy the success of the Washington Nationals, and he and Nancy accomplished the task of downloading their memories in the form of stories on a DVD for the family. You'll find Bob at bikerbob8@mac.com.

>> 1950

Joe Dwyer tells us he is in his 60th year of practicing law. He has 11 children, three of whom are also lawyers. One is a Lambda Chi from Gettysburg. Joe's email is joedwyer@roadrunner.com.

Roger Gibson recently related the great story of how the cartoons that graced the wall behind the house's *rathskeller* bar for so many years were created. It seems that back in late '40s, there was a cartoon convention down in Ithaca that was attended by a number of the leading cartoonists of the time, and Roger and some of his pals from Lambda Chi talked them into coming up to the hill to act as judges for the Junior Weekend Float Parade. After the parade, which was a big event back then, the cartoonists were invited down to the chapter house for refreshments, and the idea of immortalizing their work on the bar wall was born. Roger's email is rodggib@insightbb.com.

>> 1952

Craig Atwater writes from Englishtown, New Jersey: "Still active with my music as a pianist for the choral group at our adult community. I also play big band arrangements twice a month with other senior organizations, and I am the organist for services at our local Presbyterian church." Craig can be reached at cwagroovey@thepondsnj.com.

>> 1957

Ed Parazynski tells us: "I am happy to learn that Omicron has not only survived challenging times, but has also emerged as a well-regarded and well-supported part of the Cornell community. After leaving Cornell, I spent a few years in the Air Force and then worked on the Apollo Program in New Orleans and Washington, D.C. We moved frequently, much of the time living overseas in the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. We had many good years, but also the worries of civil wars, revolutions, and invasions. We now live in Seattle after retiring from Boeing. We enjoy reading *The Oracle*, especially the recent "Travel Nuggets" piece on Greece. We lived there in the '70s after evacuating from Beirut, and then again in the '90s. We have some fine memories



from those days, but also some great concern for our Greek friends and their country with its current economic struggles. We currently travel a lot, with tropical villa rentals and ocean cruises to escape Seattle winters, and trips to see our son and his family in Houston. Our best wishes to all brothers and associates for another good school year and for a successful campaign to renovate the house." Ed's email is parazynski@comcast.net.

» 1960

Pete "Swede" Saderholm tells us about his great experience doing mission work for his church in Logan Town, Liberia: "This is a story that began in 2006, when our church was looking for a new overseas mission. We decided to focus on the plight of Christians in Liberia, who had recently been freed from the suffering caused by several decades of civil war. They were attempting to return to a normal life, and we focused on a school in Logan Town, a suburb of Monrovia, where a cadre of dedicated staff and teachers were running a school for about 900 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. We began by raising \$31,412 to provide salaries for the teachers via a series of fundraisers. There had been no formal education for more than 10 years, and some of the students were 19-year-old fifth graders. They touched our hearts. As time passed, we learned that it was difficult to teach during the heavy equatorial rainy season because the roof leaked. We provided funds for a new sheet metal roof and a gasoline generator to provide more light in the dark classrooms during the heavy rains. We also found some textbooks that were scheduled to be destroyed by our local school system and arranged to have them shipped to the school in Liberia. They are now proudly displayed in their library. We



Four LXA alums and their wives met for dinner in Boston. Pictured clockwise, from center front: Tom Shineman '65, Abigail Bertelson, Rich Bertelson '62, Leslie Manning, Lee Manning '62, Beth Mezitt, Wayne Mezitt '64, and Genevieve Shineman.

were then informed that the school was too small to hold all the children. We responded with funds from a concert, which provided enough money to begin constructing some new classrooms. The latest request was for help building a medical clinic on the site. We agreed to raise more funding to help support the project and sent a group of us over to Logan Town to help with the construction of the clinic. We mixed cement, transported water, and carried building blocks. Each day, we could see the walls rising higher. By the end of our week there, we shared many memorable exchanges with the grateful students and left with a great feeling—that we were really making a difference in this deserving community." You can reach Pete at pdsgms@msn.com.

» 1962

Jeffry Burnam tells us: "I am still trying to teach our broken political system to young minds at Georgetown University. My former boss, Senator Richard Lugar, is joining our faculty this spring. Perhaps he can help. In the meantime, Chuck Hagel of our faculty has been confirmed as Secretary of Defense. Georgetown is a wonderful place 'at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue' for folks interested in government and politics. My big news is that I have had my right knee replaced, and Diana and I were able to spend our August vacation in the Berkshires and the Adirondacks. I hope the brothers will note that 2012 was the warmest year on record in the U.S., and that we had a dozen catastrophic weather events. It's time for action in my research area, climate change." Jeff's email is jeffryburnam@aol.com.

Lee Manning visits the Boston area several times a year in his role as president of the Manning Family Association and had a chance to get together with brothers **Rich Bertelson**



Pete "Swede" Saderholm '60 talks to some of the students from the school he helped renovate in Logan Town, Liberia.

'62, **Wayne Mezitt '64**, and **Tom Shineman '65** (and their wives) for a great dinner and the chance to share some news and war stories from their days on Edgemoor Lane. Lee, Rich, and Wayne have reserved rooms for the 100th Anniversary Celebration in Ithaca in October and look forward to seeing more of their contemporaries from the '60s era. Lee can be found at lee.manning@cox.net.

Larry O'Brien wrote a note to say: "Great new *Omicron Oracle*. Looking forward to hearing more information about the house renovation project and the cooperation with Cornell." He also wondered how the summer house was holding up after all these years. You can reach Larry at larryob@hotmail.com.

» 1963

Bob Elliott reports that their house on Long Beach Island on the Jersey Shore survived Sandy's wind gusts and driving currents of water, but did incur some major water damage. When they first arrived, there was no heat or drinking water, and he and Connie could only stay for a few hours at a time to clean up all the debris. The loss of personal belongings piled high on the curb for removal was hard to believe. He hopes to be finished with the cleanup by the time you read this. Bob's email is bobell89@aol.com.

Lee Leonard writes: "Spring is a myth in central Ohio. The long dreary, slushy winter generally doesn't puddle to an end until late April, and then the temperature immediately shoots up to 90 degrees for the rest of the summer. We had a good holiday season and managed to see both *Lincoln* and *Les Misérables* for some very enjoyable entertainment." Lee also enjoyed working with the undergraduates on the football cover story, and we are delighted to welcome him with his accomplished background in journalism to the writing staff of *The Oracle*. You can reach Lee by email at rleonard@mycidco.com.

» 1964

Jack Hastings hosted a great evening of dinner and jazz at Allegro's in Venice, Florida, as shown in the picture below. Top row, left to right: Jack, **Sandy Gilbert '62**, and **John DeWitt '65**. Bottom row, left to right: Jack's partner, Cathy Allison; Emmy Lou Gilbert; and Pat DeWitt.



Rick Walsh '66 and his wife, Ellen

» 1966

Rick Walsh tells us: "We've been pretty busy trying to sell our home in the Savannah area, and it looks like we have finally succeeded, assuming the closing goes as scheduled. We hope to be relocated in Oneonta by the time you read this, and we will try to attend the 100th in October." Rick's email is ellenmacwalsh@bellsouth.net.

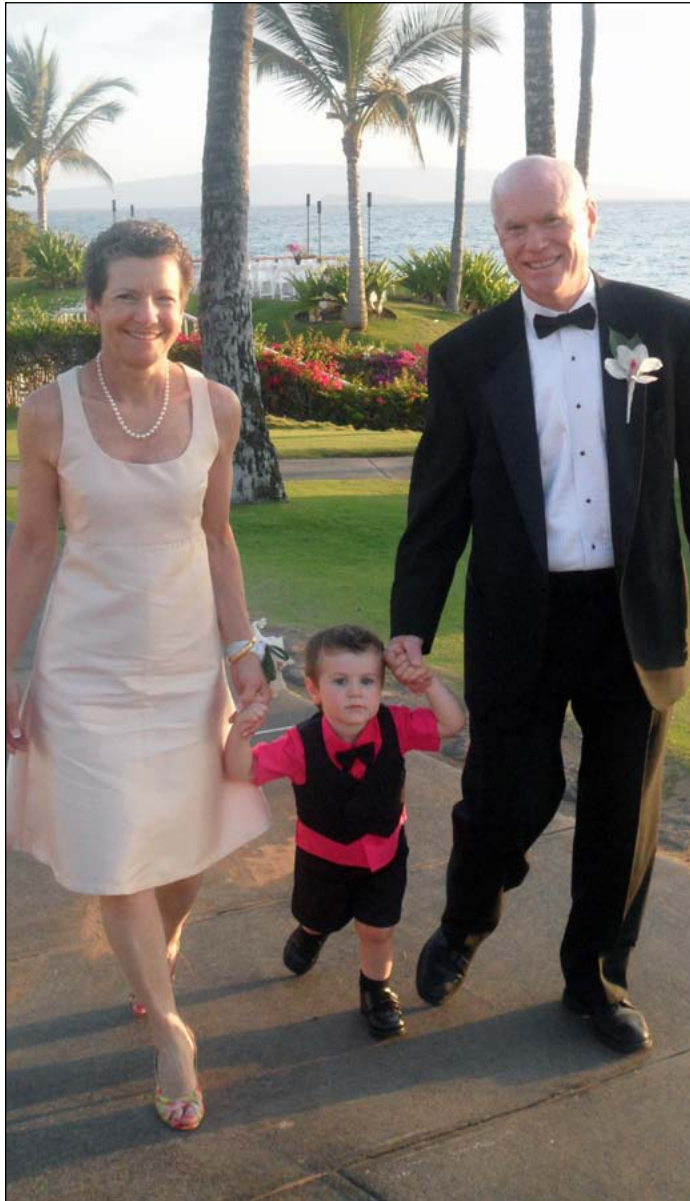
» 1969

Our long-time editor of *The Oracle*, **Henry McNulty**, checks in to say: "I'm looking forward to being back in Ithaca October 18-20 for the celebration of Omicron Zeta's centennial. It should be fun, and I hope many others from my era will be there, too. This past fall, Anne and I made a whirlwind trip to Rome (the one in Italy, not the one in New York), more or less on a whim. We had perfect weather and enjoyed the Eternal City for a long weekend. This year, we are looking forward to hosting **Dave Shannon's** ('69) older daughter, Courtney, when she and a few New Zealand friends spend some time here in the United States during the spring or summer." Henry can be reached at hmcnulty@aol.com.

Warren Lem tells us that he has been recovering from arthroscopic surgery on his rotator cuff with several weeks of therapy. Prior to the surgery, he spent three days as a first responder fireman near his home in Kismet on Fire Island, helping to deal with the devastating aftermath of Sandy. One of the most important and dangerous duties Warren faced as a first responder was the removal of several 100-pound propane tanks that were scattered throughout the town. The tanks were a potential fire hazard and very difficult to remove, as many of them were buried in 5 feet of sand. The tank removal was a top priority because a 100-pound propane tank has the explosive power of a 500-pound bomb. Warren can be reached at warrenlem@aol.com.

» 1976

Frank "The Tank" Sherman writes: "We moved a few years ago to a house on Lake Michigan outside Milwaukee in anticipation of my retirement, which finally happened at the end of 2012. I decided to leave AkzoNobel early to



Frank “The Tank” Sherman ’76 enjoys son Jonathan’s wedding with his grandson and his wife, Terry.

do something different, which will probably involve kids, teaching, and working with our church. Terry continues to be very active doing volunteer work, including transforming the Wisconsin prison system. The kids are mostly out of school—we have a head and neck surgeon, school social worker, soon-to-be chiropractor, nurse anesthetist, and professional musician who plays the French horn. Terry and I are certainly well prepared for the nursing home; 2012 was a busy year, including two graduations and two weddings. The kids got us an annual pass for the national parks for Christmas, so we are contemplating buying an RV and hitting the road this summer. I already have the 100th locked

in for October, and I look forward to catching up with many of our alums after so many years.” Keep in touch with Frank at tfsherman@gmail.com.

» 1977

Jim Morrow, treasurer of the Edgemoor Leadership Foundation, tells us: “Family keeps me busy, with the oldest son getting married recently and the youngest in fourth grade. We live in Decorah, a small town in beautiful northeast Iowa, where I am the EVP and chief credit officer at Decorah Bank & Trust. Luther College, the liberal arts college here, has some great faculty members with Cornell connections.” You’ll reach Jim at morrow1406@gmail.com.

» 1978

George Lutz reports: “Things are fine in southeastern Pennsylvania. Drexel freshman causing a big pay decrease. My wife and I will be there for the 35th Reunion in June. We are staying at the Holiday Inn downtown.” Contact George at gml@cdllawoffice.com.

Bill Murphy writes: “I am due to be a grandpa for the first time on June 11. Our son Chris and his wife, Saemi (both Cornell 2003), are living in Richmond, Virginia, and are having their first child. That makes Reunion doubtful at this point. Our son Matt (Penn State 2006) and his wife, Maureen, are living in Orlando, Florida. I have been working for DuPont since graduate school and just moved to our agriculture and nutrition platform as the global business engineering manager. Nancy is still running her solo rheumatology practice and osteoporosis resource center in Wilmington, Delaware. We live in Garnet Valley, Pennsylvania, and have a nice second home in Lewes on the Delaware coast. We are there almost every weekend and several weeks in the summer. If anyone is in the Rehoboth-Lewes area, get in touch with me and stop by. We also have plenty of room for those who can stay the night.” Bill can be reached by email at murphywt33@hotmail.com.

Bob Shaw writes: “Sorry I have been off the net for awhile. I have been recovering from major spinal surgery that I had at the end of 2012. The good news is that the surgery went well. This will be a big year for us, with the April marriage of our son, Bobby, who will be an assistant state’s attorney in Miami; the May graduation of our twin daughters (the last of four through college, whew); and my 35th Reunion at Cornell in June. I continue to be “bicoastal,” with a corporate apartment on Telegraph Hill in San Francisco and the family home in McLean, Virginia. This enables me to run the Hornblower dinner boats in California and the Alcatraz and Statue of Liberty ferries, and to build new boats to replace—after 150 years—the Maid of the Mist in Niagara Falls, Canada. Let me know if you are visiting any of these locations and



Mark Fernau '82 recently took a trip to Alicante, Spain, with his wife, Melissa, and his son, Fletcher, to visit his daughter, Gwen, while she was studying abroad.

need a cold beer.” Bob’s email is shawrw@gmail.com.

» 1982

Mark Fernau writes: “I had a fun 2012 traveling to Europe not once, but twice. First to Scotland in May to look at some castles and distilleries ... and brought with me the warmest May week in years, and not a drop of the famous Scotland rain. Then we went to the coast of Spain for a week in November to visit our youngest daughter, Gwen, who was doing a semester abroad in Alicante. That’s Melissa and me with Gwen and our son, Fletcher, in the picture below, at night in front of the San Nicolas Cathedral in Alicante. Lots of good food and cheap wine, and I got to dust off my high school Spanish skills. Gwen is a junior at Ithaca College, so I have been back to Ithaca a bunch. In February, I took in the Harvard-Cornell hockey game with brothers from the class of ’80: Steve Keegan, Brian Rooney, and Bill Stasiuk. We have been in the Boston area for almost 20 years now, and I am working as the managing technical editor at the American Meteorological Society. Melissa and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary this summer.” You can contact Mark at mef29@cornell.edu.

» 1984

We all experienced “road trips” during our days on Edgemoor Lane, but few involved the range of the trip described as follows by **John “Tanz” Tansey**: “Next fall will mark the 29th anniversary of the ill-fated expedition to James Bay in Canada undertaken by Bob ‘Sully’ Sullivan ’85, Tom ‘Brew’ Brewer ’85, and me. One overcast Friday afternoon, we loaded up Sully’s car with Chef Extraordinaire Ray Melton’s box lunches, various snack foods, an ample supply of our favorite beverage, and a box of White Owl cigars (to keep the mosquitos and black flies away, of course). I am pretty sure we also had a map. Our voyage began with a rush of excitement as we coasted down Edgemoor Lane, and we were soon speeding due north with Moosonee, Ontario, and James Bay in our sights. Our minimal trip planning led us to believe that once we arrived in Cochrane, Ontario—a mere 680 miles from Ithaca—we would be able to catch a train for the remaining 186 miles north to Moosonee, situated just

12 miles from the lower lip of James Bay. Our plan was to worry about the last 12-mile stretch when we got to Moosonee. Our route north took us up Interstate 81 through Syracuse, past Watertown, and into Canada via the Collins Landing border crossing. We hadn’t visited Ottawa before, so we decided to make a quick detour into the city. We arrived that evening and stopped at a pub for nourishment and to use the restroom. The pub’s prices were much higher than we were interested in paying, so we made it a quick visit. Back on the road, we were heading north on highway 416. After driving the rest of the evening into the early morning hours, we pulled Sully’s car into a campground near the highway and caught a little sleep. We were soon up and enjoyed a breakfast of Pop-Tarts roasted over an open fire. The drive to Cochrane that day was the highlight of the trip. Highway 416 takes you through vast stretches of forest dotted by a seemingly endless number of

small ponds, lakes, and streams. We stopped at various times to take in the beautiful panoramic views and reflections of the forest spread across the still surfaces of undisturbed lakes and ponds. Another highlight included entering the James Bay Frontier Travel Area, and we kept count of all the passing vehicles with moose heads tied atop the roof. Needless to say, it was moose hunting season in Canada. We finally reached Cochrane late Saturday and made our way to the train station, where we were stunned to hear that the next train north to Moosonee wasn’t scheduled to depart Cochrane for two or three more days. We quickly calculated the time it would take to make the trip and eventually get back to Ithaca, and we realized that we didn’t have enough time to finish the trip without missing a few days of classes. Not having invested much time in trip planning, it was with only mild disappointment that we decided to cut our journey short and head back. After a quick hot meal, we were back on Highway 416 heading south. With a full day of driving already behind us, we drove for just a few hours, gave way to exhaustion, and spent the night in a cheap hotel. Starting at mid-morning the next day, we decided to visit Niagara Falls. Once again, our planning and time management was less than stellar, as we arrived at the falls well into the night with no view in sight of the night-darkened falls. An attempt to reach Buffalo to check out the nightlife before places closed also missed the mark, so we just kept driving east toward Sully’s hometown of Rochester. Sully’s mom generously welcomed us early the next morning, and we spent the next couple of days camped out at Sully’s place, cleaning out his mom’s refrigerator and cupboards before heading back to Ithaca. It was a trip with no real purpose, aside from the challenge of reaching an out-of-the-way place on a map. But it was a lot of fun. I think that’s why we did it.” Email John at tansey08@gmail.com.

» 1986

Paul Byrne writes: “I continue to practice OB/GYN in Nassau County on Long Island and hope to expand my practice by hiring another physician this summer. Getting into robotic surgery. Exciting stuff. The biggest news is my eldest daughter, Jessica, is pregnant, so by the time you read this, I should be a grandpa.” Paul can be reached at pabyr@aol.com.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI



John “Tanz” Tansey ’84, Bob “Sully” Sullivan ’85, and Tom “Brew” Brewer ’85 took an ill-fated road trip to James Bay in Canada during the fall of 1984.

» 1989

Bill Casswell writes: “Carolyn (Cornell ’90) and I celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary and went on a great vacation to Maui and Kauai, Hawaii. Also had a good time at Reunion and saw brothers Jason Cho ’98, Bill Noon ’84, Sam Sankar ’92, and John Zelenka ’03.” Email Bill at wccasswell@verizon.net.

» 1991

Sebastian Ciancio is currently busy in a urology practice in Danville, Illinois, having finished his residency back in 2001. He married the beautiful Jennifer in 2006, and has two happy girls (born in 2009 and 2010). Sebastian surrendered his life to Christ in 2004. “All else pales in comparison to that event,” he writes. Catch up with Sebastian at cianciomd@yahoo.com.

Jeff “Jed” Donahue is currently living outside Princeton, New Jersey, working as the director of a custom automation group in the NDT world. He and his wife, Jennifer, (class of 1997) got married over six years ago in what he humbly considers to have been a nice little autumn ceremony in Boston, with a large contingent of LXAs helping with the send-off. They now have two boys, Jacob and Jordan, who are 5 and 2, respectively. Jeff and Jennifer have been able to stay in touch with a few of the brothers and their families, scattered throughout Upstate and the Northeast. They are also regular attendees at all the Big Red hockey games at Princeton and MSG (should anyone wish to add their support). And the family religiously makes the trip back to Ithaca for the Grassroots Festival every year, which is where

Jeff and Jen met. The boys have been every year as well. Jordan was two months old at his first fest, and Jacob was negative-one month (i.e., imminent). “Peace and joyful wishes to all,” he concludes.

Alex Flueck is living in the suburbs of Chicago with Amy and their two boys (currently in seventh and fourth grades). He teaches undergraduates in electrical and computer engineering. His research involves smart grid and other interesting power grid dynamics issues with his graduate students. Alex also works with electric utilities to prevent blackouts. He hopes to catch up with all of you: “Let me know when you get stuck at O’Hare!” Email him at flueck@iit.edu.

Christopher Hebert has been living in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, for the past 18 years with his wife, Gail. They have three sons: Alex (15), Cameron (13), and Kyle (9). “It’s scary thinking that my oldest will be learning to drive in a few months!” The boys keep busy with a variety of activities, including sports, music, and theater. Chris still enjoys

golfing, particularly since it’s one of the few things he can do without hurting himself—alas, Chris ruptured his Achilles for the second time a few years ago playing soccer, and hasn’t done that again since. After working at various locations throughout Massachusetts, Chris is happy to now be working as director of finance at Beacon Power, located in Tyngsboro about 5 minutes from the Heberts’ home. Chris finds it to be an exciting company with an innovative, clean energy storage technology that is ready for large-scale applications. Chris would love to hear from anyone in the New England area (chebert2002@yahoo.com).

Stephen Setran has been keeping busy, living in Foothill Ranch, California. He and his wife, Melody, have two beautiful girls, Lorelei (6) and Casey (3). They are enjoying lots of swimming, soccer, and ice skating. At Stephan’s company, IQubz, they have been working in various industries, focusing on custom business intelligence, CRM, and data integration projects. The Setrans are planning a summer family trip to Taipei, Taiwan, which should be a lot of fun! Keep in touch with Stephan at s_setran@yahoo.com.

» 1992

Daniel Cuffe is now going on 15 years with Universal Theme Parks and Resorts. After spending 10 years in Orlando, it was time for him to “get out and explore a little.” He spent some time in Dubai, and has now worked for their Singapore resort for the past four years during the design, construction, and now operation of the theme park. Dan is

not sure how long he will live in Singapore (or where the next Universal park will be built), but “it’s a great (and HOT) place to call home.” Dan spent over two years working on the “Transformers: The Ultimate 3D Battle” attraction, which opened in Singapore in late 2011, and then in Hollywood in mid-2012. A third version of the attraction is currently in construction in Orlando. Most recently, Dan completed the design and construction of the world’s first Sesame Street indoor attraction for their park in Singapore. With no wife and no kids, he spends all his time exploring the planet. These past two years have included trips throughout Europe, Australia, China, Japan, and even Cambodia. Living in Singapore allows for weekends in Hong Kong, Bali, and (to really experience the latest *Hangover* movie) some crazy nights in Bangkok. That’s Dan below, hanging out on the Blue Fire block brakes. Catch up with him about all of his travels at daniel.b.cuffe@gmail.com.



» 1994

Jeff Feldman sent in an update last year, but is happy to announce that he has taken a senior counsel position at Starfield & Smith, P.C., to start and lead a litigation practice for them. Although he was an equity partner at his old firm, there was not much room for advancement in the partnership ranks, and there’s a lot of potential for growth at S&S! Email Jeff at jfeldman@starfieldsmith.com.

John Folger is in Cambridge, Massachusetts, working for a small security software outfit. He chases snow at every opportunity—one thing that “hasn’t changed from my time at 125 Edgemoor.” He has taken several trips out west this ski season, with another one in the works for a hut-to-hut adventure in Colorado in April.

» 1996

Ryan Yuan “Yen” Chen is still living in the Boston area with his wife, Marie. They are enjoying being parents—their sons are Tyler (21 months) and Tristan (4 months). Yen continues to work as a digital design verification engineer; Marie went back to school and is now a dentist. Keep in touch with Yen at ryuanchen@gmail.com.

After finishing up at Cornell, **Shannon Clark** got married to Hallie, his college girlfriend from his hometown of Tucson. After graduating from Duke Law School in 1999 (he “had to

get out of the snow”), Shannon moved to Phoenix, where he worked for a federal court of appeals judge before entering private practice at a large Arizona law firm. He’s remained at the firm since joining in 2000 and is a partner in the firm’s personal injury and wrongful death trial lawyer group. His practice focuses on automotive product liability cases, but he handles all sorts of other stuff. Hallie and Shannon have two boys, Carson (10) and Harrison (8). They stay active with travel (China last summer; Spain this year), skiing, and all manner of kids’ sports and activities. He still plays golf when he gets the chance and remains addicted to college basketball. “I don’t get back to Cornell much, but I sure miss the house, Hot Truck, the Chapter House, and Benchwarmers’ wings,” Shannon says. Email him at slc@gknet.com.

» 1998

Kevin O’Connor and his wife, Deanna, are still doing well in Syracuse—hoping March Madness will pan out for the Orange one of these years. They’re also looking forward to the “Big 15” Reunion in June, and seeing the ’98s and other brothers from the old crew back to celebrate. Make Reunion plans with Kevin at kevinocconnor44@yahoo.com.

James Turner and his wife, Alissa, welcomed their second son, Alex John Turner, on September 18, 2012. Big brother Will (now 2 1/2) doesn’t seem to mind too much. They got Will on skis for the first time in January—next year, black diamonds and moguls! Alissa changed jobs last June, transitioning from working for the Air Force to being a full-time mom. The Turners still live north of Boston, with James working in southern New Hampshire, largely on dam engineering projects. Catch up with James at j_e_turner@yahoo.com.

» 1999

Bradley Husted informs us that “the Husteds have been on the move again.” After six big moves in nine years, they are thinking of staying put for a little while. Their latest move was from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Syracuse, New York, for Brad to take a job for a small transportation consulting company, Transaver LLC. He never thought he’d end up back in Syracuse, but the job was a unique opportunity. The family has also grown since his last update, with three boys (ages 7, 5, and 2). They have all enjoyed skiing this winter (but wish there was some better snow!) and are eager to rediscover Central New York. Email Bradley at bmhusted@gmail.com.

OBITUARIES

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

Robert H. Hurlbut ’57 • March 4, 2013

John B. Legler ’61 • February 1, 2010

William E. Shull ’71 • January 1, 2013



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

2012-2013 • ISWZA Corporation (Omicron Alumni Association)



ISWZA SOCIETY

(\$500-\$999)

Robert H. Hurlbut '56
Scott B. Jacobs '79
Ralph V. Wilhelm Jr. '67

OMICRON SOCIETY

(\$250-\$499)

James K. Abbott '54
Stephen B. Ashley '62
Daniel B. Cuffe '92
Jason D. Lorenc '96
John J. Matchulat '67
Richard A. Meigs '80
Cecil L. Murphy III '69
John E. Nickles '52
Reuben J. Shaw '93
Raymond F. Weymer Jr. '89

PRESIDENTS SOCIETY

(\$100-\$249)

Michael L. Agostin '92
David C. Askov '92
Carl S. Atwater '50
Craig W. Atwater '55
Leonard M. Bardfeld '87
Steven B. Bloch '85
Reuben Blofstein '01
Rockne E. Burns '54
William H. Casswell '89
John A. Comstock '61
Ralph E. Deeds Jr. '57
John A. DeWitt Jr. '65
Joseph C. Dwyer '50
Joshua Paul Egnatz '05
Jonathan D. Emanuele '03
F. William A. Fuller '60
Rodger W. Gibson '50
Hamlin M. Gilbert Jr. '62
Eric M. Goldstein '05
Kenneth C. Huber '73
Jay Leeson Leonard '63
John R. Lombardi '70
Henry B. McNulty '69
Mark R. Mendelson '79
Robert C. Miller '62
James R. Morrow '77
Chris N. Napjus '62
Lawrence E. O'Brien '62
Christopher M. O'Donnell '98

Frederick S. Oh '85
Andrew D. Osborn '00
John E. Parazynski '58
Robert A. Pezzulich '61
Mark A. Portera '82
Gregory J. Rich '94
Mark A. Schneider '93
Robert A. Schneider '69
Douglas S. Skalka '82
Mark D. Ullman '82
Charles Y.B. Way '59
Raymond M. Yasson Jr. '79

CONTRIBUTORS

Dennis M. Barone '79
Aubrey E. Bout '92
William A. Chater '58
Robert W. Cutler Jr. '62
Harry W. Daniell '50
Dwight E. Dietrich '81
William B. Durham '69
Robert M. Elliott '63
Frederick F. Fakharzadeh '76
L. Richard Gons Jr. '53
Robert B. Hawley '83
Bruce E. Hedin '82
Patrick J. Huston '65
Henry G. Kammerer '57
Benjamin R. Kuhn '00
Chester N. Kuznicki '59
C. Stuart LaDow '47
Robert K. Lee '59
James E. Loomis '65
Edward K. Lortz '66
John R. Lutz '63
Andre P. Martecchini '78
William T. Mihalic '70
Robert K. Milkey '52
Harold S. Mitchell Jr. '65
Robert M. Mueller Jr. '72
Ron E. Peck '03
Francis X. Sherman '76
Edward T. Shineman '65
William E. Shull '71
Teodoro C. Valentiner '55
John T. Wey '88
W. Thomas Willis III '66
David A. Wurz '83
John F. Zelenka '03

Stay connected with ΛΧΑ!



L A M B D A C H I A L P H A A T C O R N E L L

2012-2013 GIFT AND DUES RESPONSE FOR OMICRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DUES:

- First five years out of college \$50
- More than five years out of college \$75
- President's Society (\$100-\$249) \$ _____
- Omicron Society (\$250-\$499) \$ _____
- ISWZA Society (\$500-\$999) \$ _____
- ZAX (\$1,000 or more) \$ _____
- Other (any amount other than those suggested above) \$ _____
- Total amount enclosed** \$ _____

Please make check payable to "Omicron Alumni Association."

CHARGE YOUR GIFT: Visa Mastercard Discover

Card # _____

Exp. date _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____

You may also make your gift on our website at www.iswza.org/give.

Contributions are not deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes. You may have already contributed to our annual appeal, but any additional participation would be greatly appreciated. 226-2

Name _____

Nickname _____ Init. year _____ Grad. year _____ Cell phone # _____

Home address _____ preferred

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Home phone # _____ Home email address _____

Business title _____ Company name _____

Business address _____ preferred

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Work phone # _____ Work email address _____

Date filled out: _____

SHARE YOUR NEWS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF *THE OMICRON ORACLE*: