



APRIL 2012

## RETURNING COLUMNS

- *Inside Cornell*
- *Cornell Greeks*
- *Hort Sense*
- *World Travel*
- *The Recipe Box*
- *The Wine Rack*

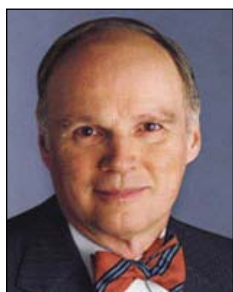
## BEYOND THE COVER ...

- *A Tech Campus in NYC* (page 2)
- *Changes to Greek Life at Cornell* (page 4)

By CU Trustee Stephen Ashley '62

In

the waning days of 2011, Cornell's strategic direction suddenly changed dramatically with the announcement that Cornell and its partner, Technion, had won a competition to build a new engineering mecca and applied sciences campus on New York City's Roosevelt Island.



Stephen Ashley

In announcing Cornell's win, Mayor Bloomberg said, "Today will be remembered as a defining moment." The mayor's idea, which began in 2010, was to create a "tech campus bake-off" among major research universities, with a goal of having New York City surpass Silicon Valley as a global innovator and technology venue. The initiative was led by the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and the benchmarks were to create 30,000 new jobs and as much as \$1.4 billion in new tax revenue.

As many as 15 different universities demonstrated interest. In the early days of the initiative, there was a widespread assumption that Stanford would win the competition (Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Stanford's President John Hennessey are apparently golf buddies). In developing its proposal, it was clearly understood at Cornell that Stanford was our main competition. (More on how Cornell won later.)

### THE DEAL: WHAT IS THE CORNELL NYC TECH CAMPUS?

Simply stated, it is a totally new engineering and applied science campus that will offer graduate degrees (master's and doctorates) in fields such as computer science, information science, and electrical and computer engineering. The city is offering land on the south end of Roosevelt Island under the terms of a 99-year lease, and it is estimated that the campus, when built, will include approximately two million square feet of space. The design of the academic facilities will include a deliberate mix of classrooms, labs, incubators, housing, and conference facilities. The first phase will be a building of 300,000 square feet, with construction expected to begin in 2014.

The academic programs will be organized around a "hub" that will feature curriculum and research across multiple disciplines, and will be directed toward particular sectors of the New York City economy. The initial hubs will include:

- Connective media
- Healthier life
- Built environment

Upon completion, it is anticipated that there will be 240 full-time faculty; about three-quarters of those will be dedicated exclusively to the New York City Tech Campus.

Since this campus will be devoted to graduate work only, in

all probability faculty from Ithaca will rotate with graduate students and research projects into and out of the Cornell New York City Tech Campus. The first group of students will matriculate this coming fall, and Cornell is currently looking for space in Manhattan that would be suitable. At full build-out, it is expected that there will be approximately 2,500 full-time students.

### THE PLAYERS

**Technion** – Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, is Israel's leading applied science university and a key driver of Israel's tech boom. More than 70 percent of Technion graduates go on to be employed in the tech sector, and of the 121 Israeli companies listed on NASDAQ, half are headed by Technion graduates. Technion could properly be labeled as the MIT of Israel, with more than 12,500 students and 600 faculty. Technion is well-known to the faculty of Cornell; it has a very strong track record and reputation for tech transfer into the commercial sector. This latter strength was one of the reasons that Cornell wished to partner with Technion.

**Provost W. Kent Fuchs** – Provost Fuchs joined the Cornell faculty as the dean of the College of Engineering about 10 years ago and has been provost for the past two academic years. He has shown extraordinary leadership on the Ithaca campus and was a principal architect of Cornell's strategic plan. He led the effort in developing the proposal and was a key member of the negotiating team.

### Deans Lance Collins and Dan Huttenlocher, and Associate

**Dean Cathy Dove** – These three created Cornell's plan and assembled a New York City team to help advise on everything from engineering and legal matters to government affairs and public relations.

**President David Skorton** – Cornell's president embraced the concept from the beginning and worked with the Trustees to lay down the parameters with which we would move forward. Those parameters were:

- No dilution of the Ithaca campus
- No debt to create the Tech Campus
- No pledging of Cornell's endowment to accomplish the objectives of the plan

Those were tough parameters, especially since Stanford sits on an endowment approximately three times the size of Cornell's. President Skorton went to work, and convinced Charles Feeney (see below) to make a commitment of \$350 million to be used exclusively for phase one of the New York Tech Campus. This is the largest individual gift ever received by Cornell, and the president gets immense credit for his work in making that gift happen.

**Charles "Chuck" Feeney** – Mr. Feeney graduated from Cornell's Hotel School in 1956 and made his fortune with duty-free shops. His philanthropy is done through Atlantic Philanthro-





A rendering of Cornell's construction plans for the Tech Campus

pies, and he has been a longtime anonymous donor to Cornell with significant donations totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. Mr. Feeney is a private man, very modest, and he wants no recognition. It was only at the last minute that he allowed his name to be used publicly in connection with this gift. You can imagine the hush that went over the room at the final presentation meeting before the New York City team—headed by Deputy Mayor Bob Steele—when it was announced that Cornell had an anonymous gift of \$350 million to fund the New York Tech Campus. Mr. Feeney's philanthropy is done in the very best of the Cornell tradition—significant, transformational, and done without fanfare or self-promotion.

**Mayor Bloomberg** – Without question, Mayor Michael Bloomberg deserves recognition as the creator of this initiative and as the brilliance behind the proposal that would link higher education and research with long-term, 21st-century job creation and urban revitalization. This was nothing short of brilliant on the mayor's part. It was an example of visionary leadership and undoubtedly will be Bloomberg's lasting legacy of his tenure as mayor.

### HOW DID CORNELL WIN?

Throughout much of 2011, the gossip in New York City was that the Tech Campus proposal was Stanford's to win; the thought process was that the proposal had been written in such a way that Stanford would be a likely winner. Stanford has a remarkable track record in tech transfer, job creation in Silicon Valley, and in its engineering and computer science academic fields—and its President wanted the East Coast presence, having done his graduate work at SUNY Stonybrook.

Publicly, Cornell was a bit under the radar in its application, and that was by design. Our team thought carefully about what the city was looking for, and how we might respond. We included a proposal for K-12 Education—educating science and math teachers in the New York City School District—and we worked hard at engaging the various sectors of the New York City community that have an interest in that. Cornell already has a very large footprint in New York through the medical school, the architecture school, the ILR school, and CALS with its network of extension offices.

In addition, Cornell has a lot of experience in developing, building, and owning significant real estate in New York City. The university has experience working with the city agencies and with the peculiarities of the various bureaucracies. All of these ingredients mattered—but at the end of the day what really counted was that Cornell and Technion jointly met the requirements of the proposal wholeheartedly and embraced its terms. The New York City media began to pay attention to Cornell in the fourth quarter, and, suddenly, we were the university that really, really wanted to win.

### THE MEANING

One of the overarching goals of Cornell's recently adopted strategic plan is to be globally recognized as a top research university. For a number of years, many have felt that Cornell needed a stronger New York City presence to really meet and fulfill its potential. Clearly, the Cornell NYC Tech Campus addresses that, and indeed brings the university closer to its strategic objective. In many ways, this is a once-in-a-century event—these opportunities do not come around often. Aligning the mission with a major donor was a home run for all concerned.

Academically, this will further Cornell's already strong areas of engineering, computer science, and information. Significantly, all of the other undergraduate college deans are excited about this opportunity and have identified programs within their graduate fields that could have offerings in New York City. Across the Ithaca campus, Cornell faculty are solidly in support of this initiative. Dr. Laurie Glimcher, the new dean of Weill Cornell Medical College, has expressed strong enthusiasm for the connectivity between the medical school and this initiative. The support, excitement, and general buzz from Cornell's students and alumni has been overwhelming. It is a defining time in Cornell's history. It is a great time to be a Cornellian. ❖

# SAVE THE DATES



**REUNION:** June 7–10, 2012  
**HOMEcoming:** Sept. 21–23, 2012

# CORNELL GREEKS: A DEMAND FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

By Ralph Wilhelm '67

Chair, CU Fraternity & Sorority Advisory Council

**O**ur success in undergraduate leadership continues at Omicron Zeta. Our High Alpha, Gabe Mahan '13, and other officers took over this January and are doing exceptionally well with facing challenges and solving problems as best as they can. Support from alumni leaders, both official and unofficial, has often been provided and appreciated.

Rush this past fall and this January was exceptional for Omicron. As we have previously reported, Omicron took eight new members this past fall and 23 new Associate Members in January for an impressive total of 31 new members for this academic year. All of the current Omicron undergraduates, particularly the officers and most specifically the rush chair, Alan Workman '13, deserve huge 'attaboys' for a terrific showing for both semesters. The fall class led the campus in size, I believe, and the spring class was within one or two of being the largest on the Hill. These total numbers were required (with the requisite high quality we always seek) due to the large graduating class of seniors in 2012, but the Omicron undergraduate leadership came through in a huge way. Please make time when you can to drop a note to Alan, Gabe, or graduating High Alpha Steve Robertson '12 to pass on your congratulations and thanks.



Ralph Wilhelm

A final note on the house—this past academic year, Dan Freshman '12 was the IFC president and Alan Workman was the IFC vice president for communications. Their joint efforts, along with those of dozens of Greek leaders on campus, have continued to advance the cause of responsible behavior among Cornell Greek undergraduates. We owe Dan and Alan enormous thanks for their efforts! During the recent IFC executive board election, the students elected fine officers, including our Alan Workman as the 2012 IFC executive vice president. Alan just must not get enough of these challenges! Best wishes to Alan for a terrific upcoming year.

## The Greek scene at Cornell

Continuing on after the tragic death of the young sophomore SAE brother in February 2011, events on and off campus have accelerated and kept up the pace and demand for positive change. While the details of the young man's death are complex, suffice it to say that alcohol, hazing, forced drinking, and incredibly poor judgment were all involved. A few items of review may help put the current state into context:

- A number of undergraduate SAE men were expelled and asked to leave campus immediately.
- The SAE house was closed within weeks of the incident

(during the semester) and the members moved to other locations on campus. The building is currently being used as a rooming house for university students. The SAE house will be closed for a minimum of five years.

- Criminal charges were filed by the local district attorney against four SAE undergraduates. To my knowledge, this court proceeding is still ongoing.
- A \$25 million civil lawsuit was filed last summer against SAE national, the SAE local chapter, and 20 SAE undergraduates, 10 of whom were mentioned specifically by name and office held in the chapter. This civil lawsuit has not yet been settled.
- A number of SAE alumni have formed a committee to begin working with SAE national and the university to begin planning the potential reinstatement of the SAE chapter on campus, to take effect a number of years in the future.

As an important addendum to the SAE tragedy, more challenges have befallen the SAE men still on campus. After the SAE death in February 2011, a good number of the SAE pledges who were still on campus decided to pledge the Tau Kappa Epsilon house instead last spring. They were initiated by the TKE chapter, and it appeared that a good number of SAE brothers on campus, plus the newly initiated TKE pledges, chose to spend considerable time at the TKE house in the spring and fall of 2011. A number of difficult incidents occurred at the TKE house, putting the TKE brotherhood in violation of the university policies dealing with freshman drinking at fraternity houses. The university had continual meetings with TKE alumni and undergraduate leadership, and when the behavior was not changed, the university chose to shut TKE down in December 2011 for at least three years. The TKE leadership did appeal, but the decision was not reversed. At this time, I am not aware of the status of the TKE physical house; unlike the SAE house, it is a privately owned structure.

Suffice it to say that the general tenor on campus is one where expectations continue to increase for more mature behavior on the part of the Greek community—and the non-Greek community, for that matter. Please believe me—this will not change. The pressure and high expectations for mature behavior will continue. I support this decision and am involved in a variety of issues, groups, and discussions on this topic.

The university declared that alcohol would be prohibited during Rush Week 2012. The week of rush actually was reasonably calm compared to that of January 2011, which was a good thing. However, the use of out-of-town trips with new potential members continued to go on during that week, violating a number of university rules. It is not yet clear what these continuing violations will mean in terms of either Tri-Council decisions or university reaction and decisions. Furthermore, during the two weeks after rush this year, the campus returned to the difficult state experienced



in previous years, with the use of drugs, alcohol, transports to medical facilities, and so forth. Again, it is not clear where these violations will lead us.

A four-quarter system was instituted by the university and the Tri-Council last August. We have just finished the third quarter, which starts at the beginning of Rush Week and continues to the first of April, by which time all new members must be initiated. During this third quarter, standard activities are the norm—except that during this period, alcohol, drugs, and hazing are not permitted when freshman are involved with their fraternity. (For more description of the four-quarter system, please refer to the *Omicron Oracle* from fall 2011.)

One last item we need to update you on is the task force assembled to address the challenge by President David J. Skorton to “eliminate pledging as we know it.” (There’s some background in last fall’s *Oracle*.) The task force is now known as the RARE group (Recruitment, Acceptance, Retention, and Education) because the group’s focus is broader than just “pledging.” The RARE group and mission was kicked off by President Skorton in August 2011, and their charter (approximately two dozen alumni, students, staff, and outside experts) are expected to have a final draft and proposal for the trustees meeting in May on campus. Their recommendations will take place this coming August.

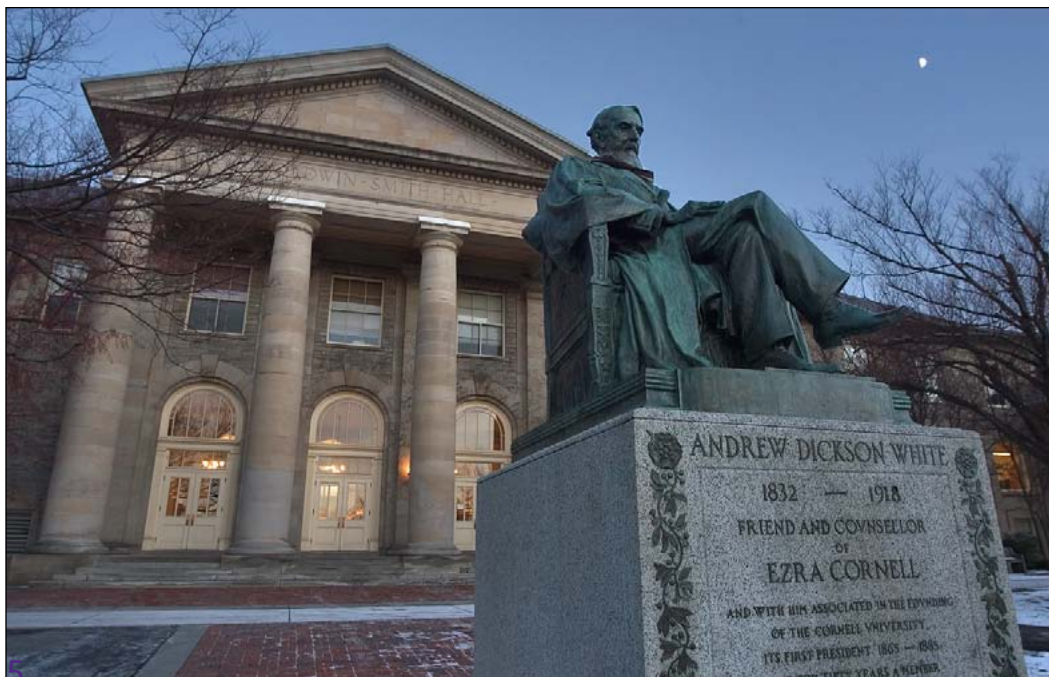
For this RARE effort, Omicron is in the enviable place of having a national fraternity and a local chapter that not only abolished haz-

ing in 1972, but has practiced non-hazing behavior for decades. Our Associate Member program is a direct reflection of that effort, and it puts us into very “rare” company with three other national fraternities that have similar, but younger, programs. These four nationals are being used as benchmarks for eliminating “pledging as we know it” and also eliminating all hazing. However, as we have continued to remind our undergraduate leaders and ISWZA board of directors, this “special” benchmarking position brings with it the requirement that those in our house keep their noses clean and remain totally above reproach. Our having multiple levels of leadership on campus brings with it an uncompromising position that speaks to a heightened visibility. We cannot get in trouble or even give the impression that we are exhibiting suspect behavior.

### The national picture

Our national fraternity continues on a positive path. It is still one of the top five in North America by all measures. The average number of chapters in the U.S. and Canada remains around 193, and the average chapter membership size has grown from approximately 41 in 2006 to 55 in 2011, which is a wonderful trend. The national fraternity spends more than 70 percent of its annual operating budget directly on programs and services for chapters.

If you have any questions or comments on this report, please send me an email (rvw5@cornell.edu) or call me on my cell phone (317-508-6866). I’d be pleased to answer as best as I can.



# CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN: DONATIONS ARE NOW TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Elliot Sloane '74, president of the Edgemoor Leadership Foundation, is pleased to announce that the IRS has approved the foundation as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation. Elliot and his leadership foundation team of



Elliot Sloane

Jim Morrill '84, treasurer, and Doug Skalka '92, secretary, deserve a great deal of credit for their effective groundwork that successfully gained the IRS designation as a tax-deductible public charity in nearly record time. This is a major stepping stone to accomplish on the road to setting up a tax-deductible conduit for donations to renovate the Omicron chapter house and to establish an ongoing leadership and mentoring organization for future

undergraduate brothers.

In accordance with IRS guidelines, donations to the leadership foundation may be designated for the renovation or development of educational areas of the house, including libraries and study areas. Based on the Centennial Campaign Committee's survey of recent Omicron graduates, a series of focus groups with current undergraduates, and alumni tours of several other recently renovated Greek houses on campus, study rooms like the ones many of us remember at Willard Straight Hall are a highly desired facility among today's Cornell students. Libraries are also now the site of high-tech computer stations wired to accommodate access to the internet and digital resources in libraries around the world.

In addition to providing improved and expanded educational spaces, the leadership foundation will also be able to accommodate funding for the purchase of AV, TV, and computer equipment for educational uses. This will further Lambda Chi's move into the 21st century with the capability to screen and interact with webinars, seminars, and conferences.

Beyond the important role of the leadership foundation as a tax-deductible source of funding for renovation and expansion of the chapter house's educational spaces, the foundation will also be the source of new educational and leadership programs and opportunities for future Lambda Chi undergraduates. This includes seminars and lectures with visiting professors, leadership training at conferences sponsored by the national fraternity, and career advice from participating alumni corporate executives.

The tax-deductible donation opportunities through the leadership foundation are flexible. They include straight cash contributions, the donation of appreciated stock or real estate, tax-free elective gifts from IRAs for some of our older

alumni, and even inherited gifts from parents' estates.

Assuming that a capital campaign for the renovation of the chapter house is feasible (a study process that is in its final stages) and if the leadership of ISWZA approves of going forward with a capital campaign, contributions to the leadership foundation will not be mandatory, as your personal tax situation will dictate whether the leadership foundation is the right vehicle for renovation contributions by campaign donors. However, the leadership foundation's existence will help ensure that your gifts are focused on education and leadership opportunities for future Lambda Chi's, as well as the knowledge that your donations are being put to good use.

In addition, and assuming that we are successful in our application as an approved fraternity campaign by Cornell University this spring, it will be possible that Omicron Centennial Campaign contributions payable over a five-year period will be given credit by Cornell as if they were made as a direct donation to the university! This is a particularly important consideration in 2012 for Lambda Chi alumni who graduated in years ending in either 2 or 7. We hope to get the university's permission in time, so that those in class Reunion years ending in 2s or 7s would be eligible to receive credit from Cornell for paid amounts to an Omicron Centennial Campaign for the Reunion year and two years of payments beyond that Reunion year, assuming that a campaign is launched as early as midyear in 2012.

Because of this exciting opportunity, before you make any Reunion donation pledges, please stay tuned for more information on this exciting dual credit feature that will come to you from the Centennial Campaign Committee over the next few months. ❖



# THE CHAPTER: OMICRON STEADY IN TURBULENT TIMES

By Gabe Mahan '13  
High Alpha

In the past year, the Cornell Greek community has been faced with great challenges. The sobering death of SAE's George Desdunes was the catalyst for sweeping changes to the Greek system, and the administration imposed a number of new regulations which affect almost every aspect of fraternal life—the quarter system saw reduced interaction with freshmen, in particular; the end of open parties; recruitment became entirely dry; the new member education process is more regulated; and associates are expected to refrain from alcohol. The changes have largely left Greeks grumbling in resentment and uncertain of their future.



Gabe Mahan

Fortunately, Lambda Chi remains an exception.

With an exiting class of 22 seniors, Omicron Zeta was faced with an imperative to recruit a large and stellar group of associates to make up for lost numbers and reinvigorate the house. Rush Chair Alan Workman '13, the officer responsible for the fall semester's unusually large class, had great foresight and didn't hesitate to

take initiative. Under his leadership, every brother came at least four days in advance to help prepare, and the house was a flurry of activity as brothers scrubbed floors, painted walls, filled holes, mended curtains, washed windows, and tidied nearly every cranny of the house. With the house in stellar condition, the brothers continued their efforts throughout the whole of Rush Week, and every waking moment was spent organizing events, discussing prospective members, and cleaning.

The effort was incredible. By the end of the week, our efforts paid off with a new class of 23 members, and in recognition of his leadership, I was pleased to present Alan Workman with an award for outstanding achievement.

The new Associate Member pool is not only large, however; it is a group of young men of whom we are exceptionally proud. They have done much to reinvigorate the chapter, and while other fraternities are struggling to adapt to the new rules, Omicron Zeta has devised creative sober themes for sorority mixers like fondue parties, creating an indoor mini golf course, and a foam-filled dance party in the basement (the latter serves double purpose in cleaning the floors). The past semester's uncertainty has turned to optimism,

and I'm confident that we can expect great things from Lambda Chi in the years to come.

In keeping with our values, the brothers remain very involved in philanthropic projects, and philanthropy chair Matt Clardy '14 has organized a number of notable events. Over the winter, a number of brothers attended "Into the Streets," Cornell's campus-wide day of philanthropy, and the brothers spent the day revitalizing a children's theater company whose owner had unfortunately been battling cancer. The brothers made short work of a mountain of garbage, cleaned the grounds, and did a great deal of heavy lifting that could only have been done with a team of strong men. This semester, we have been actively participating in other Greek philanthropy events like the sorority dodgeball tournament, as well as planning other large events like the gorge cleanup with Chi Phi, which has become an annual occurrence. Of particular note are our plans to partner with a local elementary school. The brothers responded to the school's request for young male mentors, and Lambda Chi plans to start a long-lasting partnership this spring, with more than 20 members contributing their time on a weekly basis to tutor, mentor, and play with the local boys.

As a new president, it is truly exciting to lead during such a vibrant time in the chapter's history. While leadership of the house has not been without its challenges, I am backed by extraordinary brothers, and I look forward to seeing the great things they will accomplish. As we go forth, I also hope to become more connected with the alumni. If you're in the area, don't hesitate to stop by the house for a visit. ❖



Undergraduate brothers participated in "Into the Streets," helping to revitalize a children's theater this past winter



## OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

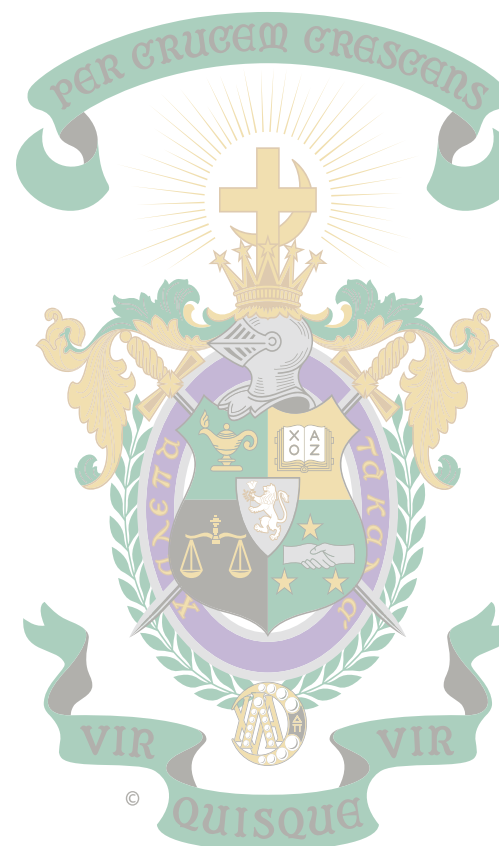
This term, 23 men have become Associate Members of Omicron Zeta.  
All except as noted are in the Class of 2015. They are:

Jacob Barnes, Human Ecology, from Manlius, New York  
Eric Baum, Arts & Sciences, from Randolph, New Jersey  
Dwight Bush Jr., Arts & Sciences, from Washington, D.C.  
Peter Caldwell, Arts & Sciences, from Spencer, New York  
Clayton Dubin '13, Arts & Sciences, from Mukilteo, Washington  
Jesse Fox, Hotel Administration, from Sudbury, Massachusetts  
Connor Goetz, Arts & Sciences, from Arlington, Virginia  
Noah Grossman, Agriculture & Life Sciences, from Linwood, New Jersey  
Michael Hassman, Hotel Administration, from Irvine, California  
Kevin Koch, Engineering, from Mequon, Wisconsin  
Joshua Lizotte, Arts & Sciences, from Linwood, New Jersey  
Christopher Meier, Engineering, from St. Louis, Missouri  
Christopher Merrill, Engineering, from Meredith, New Hampshire  
Gregory Pekar, Engineering, from Farmingville, New York  
Nicholas Polera, Hotel Administration, from Syracuse, New York  
Kevin Ross, Hotel Administration, from Northport, New York  
Eric Rubin, Hotel Administration, from Glen Rock, New Jersey  
Jonathan Schedlbauer, Arts & Sciences, from Sudbury, Massachusetts  
Jason Schwab, Arts & Sciences, from Linwood, New Jersey  
Andrew Tang, Engineering, from South Burlington, Vermont  
James Winebrake, Agriculture and Life Sciences, from Pittsford, New York  
Kevin Yu, Arts & Sciences, from Ellicott City, Maryland

## OMICRON FACT BOX: SPRING 2012

High Alpha .....	Gabe Mahan '13
High Beta .....	Dave Cascione '13
High Gamma .....	Nick Brunelle '12
High Tau .....	Bill Morgan '13
High Theta .....	Matt Clardy '14
High Iota .....	Ravi Garcia '14
High Kappas .....	Matthew Ullman '12
	Benjamin Rutin-Becker '12
High Delta .....	Arlen Papazzian '14
High Phi .....	Andrew Keating '12
High Sigma .....	James MacDonald '13
High Epsilons .....	Chris Fateh '13
	Andrew Lui '14
High Rho .....	Mac Bradley '13
High Mu .....	Dan Loeffler '14
Steward .....	Arturo Covarrubias '13
Athletics Chair .....	Adam Stein '13
High Pi .....	Jeff Barber '08

Current house GPA: 3.30 • House website: [www.iswza.org](http://www.iswza.org)



Omicron Zeta welcomes the spring 2012 class of Associate Members.



# HORT SENSE: RHODODENDRONS' OMICRON HERITAGE

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64

**T**hroughout the northern parts of the United States, one of the most familiar and popular landscape shrubs is the bright lavender-and-pink flowering Rhododendron “PJM.” You’ll probably recognize this plant. But you may be surprised to know that it was developed by my dad, Ed Mezitt '37 (Omicron 329), just after he graduated from Cornell.



Wayne Mezitt

This distinctive plant has now become ubiquitous, and rightfully so—few plants so winter-hardy offer such a stunning display of color so early each spring, and not many woody plants have the proven tolerance for the harsh conditions in which it thrives.

Almost everyone recognizes the large-leaf rhododendrons; they open their flowers in mid to late spring, grow fast, and can some-

times mature to overwhelming stature. But “PJM” is a different type of rhododendron in many important respects—it blooms so much earlier in the spring, is slower growing, is more compact, tolerates full sun with no problem, and is easy to maintain. In addition, this rhododendron's compact, distinctive (and aromatic) mahogany-purple winter foliage adds significant winter appeal to any garden.

In the early 1940s—once my father realized how outstanding his new rhododendron “PJM” appeared to be—he named it in honor of his dad, Peter J. Mezitt, using his dad's initials (an unusual practice at that time). Ed and his dad propagated it intensely and produced thousands of young plants, but it took many years to develop a market. It wasn't until the late 1950s that the real value of this plant became generally recognized and demand increased significantly. My father never patented any of his plants, and he encouraged others to grow them. For many nurseries nationwide, rhododendron “PJM” is now among their most heavily demanded plants.

But that's not the end of the story. He continued to use his success with rhododendron “PJM” as a basis for developing many new cultivars. When I joined him in the business at Weston Nurseries in 1966, we worked together until he died in 1986 to hybridize and introduce an increasingly wide range of flower and foliage colors and different growth habits.

To help distinguish the “PJM-types” from the large-leaf rhododendrons, we named their category “early rhododendrons” to designate those with smaller leaves and which reliably display their blooms much earlier in spring, by Mother's Day at the latest.

Here are some of the more readily available early rhododendrons, listed in order of their blooming times here in Hopkinton, Massachusetts:

- **Weston's Pink Diamond** – Fluffy, light-pink

double flowers opening a week or more earlier than “PJM,” often in early April. One of the first woody plants to bloom each spring in the garden. Colorful autumn foliage.

- **Midnight Ruby** – Red-purple flowers in April, compact growing. Green summer foliage turns an unusual shiny black-bronze for the winter.
- **April Snow** – Double-flowering white in late April. Particularly pungently-fragrant green leaves all year. Yellow winter stems.
- **Checkmate** – Low-growing and compact form of the lavender-pink flowering “PJM;” late April to early May.
- **Red Quest** – Nearly red flowers in early May on a slow-growing low mound; bright green leaves become bronzy green all winter.
- **Landmark** – Large trusses of dark pink flowers appear red from a distance; blooms in early May. Large, leathery, green leaves change to bronze-mahogany for winter. Vigorous and robust.
- **Olga Mezitt** – Clear pink flowers in early May. Shiny, bright green, aromatic leaves change to dark bronze-copper as winter approaches. Named for my grandmother. Chosen as a Cary Award Winner for 2007 (see [www.caryaward.com](http://www.caryaward.com)).
- **Little Olga** – A natural sport from its parent “Olga Mezitt” with similar features, offering smaller leaves and a more compact growing form; ideal for smaller gardens.

Unlike their large-leaf relatives, most of the early rhododendrons thrive in open, exposed locations, even in colder parts of the country. Coming out of winter, they rarely show more than minimal winter leaf damage, even following the most challenging conditions. Although they produce smaller flowers, their hardiness, profusion of bloom, and tendency for even young plants to produce impressive displays more than compensates. People sometimes mistake them for evergreen azaleas, but they're very different—few evergreen azaleas perform well in harsh northern winters. Be sure to choose ➤



Ed Mezitt '37 with his ubiquitous rhododendron “PJM”

a sunny planting location with well-drained acid soil and a high organic content. None of the early rhododendrons will perform well with “wet feet,” and they can suffer in boggy conditions. All require minimal fertilizing, and they readily tolerate shearing to maintain their size and shape—it’s always best to cut them back right after they finish flowering. Try placing them near a walkway or path where their aromatic leaves can waft their spicy scent and add to your enjoyment any time of year as you brush by.

The early rhododendrons are becoming increasingly available at garden centers. But be sure to shop early—those who wait for warmer weather are often disappointed because they’ve finished flowering by the time “real” spring begins

and everything else is in bloom.

Few types of woody shrubs offer so much enjoyment for so little care. And now that you know about their Omicron heritage, what could be more appropriate than this inspiring display of color in your yard every year as spring begins anew!

*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. ♦*

## WORLD TRAVEL: PARIS THE SECOND (OR THIRD) TIME

By Alan Fridkin '65

So

you have been to Paris and seen the obvious attractions. But if you are planning a longer stay in the City of Lights, I’m happy to share some ideas for further exploration. You can craft your own template for enjoying this extraordinary place. Even if you are not fluent in French (and I am not, except for menus), you can tap into its myriad possibilities. We have made more than a dozen trips there, from a couple of days to a month at a time, and are ready for more.

### Your Paris

Where do you hang your hat? Paris is a city of 20 *arrondissements* (official districts) and perhaps 100 neighborhoods.

With a superb public transportation system, you could stay almost anywhere. But one of the best ways to make it your own is to find an area that you especially like and use that as your base of operations.

If you are staying for two weeks or more, a short-term apartment rental is a good option. Some hotels may give you a break on the room rate and/or a larger unit for a longer stay. You can arrange a rental directly with the owner or through a broker. There is no middleman with the former, but

there may be a little more risk on both sides of the transaction. The broker—whether based in the U.S., the U.K., or in France—may be an additional source of recourse and information. You can find ads for both in college and travel magazines, international newspapers, and on the internet. I suggest you check references carefully and talk with the folks you will be doing business with.

As to neighborhoods: Le Marais, Île Saint-Louis, Saint-Germain-des-Prés, The Latin Quarter, the areas above and

below the Champs-Élysées, Montmartre, Montparnasse, and Canal Saint-Martin are popular and distinct. The *arrondissements* on the second ring, with the exception of the 16th, tend to be less costly. Over time, we have grown to prefer the vicinity of the Luxembourg Gardens, the area where the 6th and 7th *arrondissements* meet, and the Parc Monceau section of the 17th.

Paris has hundreds of small hotels with great character—a perfect introduction to a particular area. Keep in mind that when there are only 20 to 30 rooms, these hotels book up fast. Dealing with the hotel directly saves them money, and they may be more inclined to give you a discount for a longer stay. The only major booking site we routinely use is Booking.com (no fees from you and no requirement for prepayment). European sites like 123France.co.uk, Trivago.com, and Venere.com offer some different perspectives from the big U.S. sites. TripAdvisor has plenty of rants, raves and some good insights. The *Michelin Red Guide* is quirky, but fairly reliable.

I usually look at *Frommer's*, *Fodor's*, and other U.S. guides to look for places to avoid (too many Americans). *Time Out* tends to focus on the trendy places.

We have tried roughly 10 hotels. As long as François de Bene is the manager, we will stay at Le Saint Gregoire in the 6th. The Hotel Saint Beuve near the Luxembourg is our back-up. L'Abbaye Saint-Germain and Duc de Saint Simon are nice, but pricey, alternatives. Other hotels can be just as full of character.

### Your Music

Pick up a copy of *Pariscope* or the weekly supplement to *Le Figaro*. Every night there are literally several dozen musical events going on—organ concerts in churches; superb jazz clubs such as New Morning, Duc des Lombards, and Petit Journal Montparnasse; classical music at Salle Pleyel,



Alan Fridkin



Théâtre des Champs Elysées, and Salle Gaveau; opera and ballet at Opéra Bastille and Palais Garnier; and world music at many clubs such as Le Divan du Monde, Le Zénith, and La Cigale. We always check out what is going on at Olympia Hall, which is a magnet for top entertainers. Salle Pleyel is Paris's Carnegie Hall, and always a great place for a concert. An evening concert in Sainte-Chappelle (the royal chapel, under the largest array of stained glass in Europe) or at Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre (a small 13th century Gothic church) will stay with you for a long time. Consider buying tickets in advance directly through each location's website, FNAC, Ticketnet.fr, or with the help of your hotel concierge. Parisinfo.com (The Paris tourist office) is also quite helpful.

### Your Food

There aren't many people this interested in Paris who don't care about good food! Even if you don't have your own kitchen, wander through the many outdoor and indoor food markets. Good examples are on Boulevard Raspail in the 6th and Rue Cler in the 7th. The Grand Epicerie at the Bon Marche department store is a great place to shop for gourmet ingredients. Local bread and pastry bakeries in Paris are the source of intense loyalties. Poilâne on Rue du Cherche-Midi is legendary for breads; Lenôtre on Rue Saint-Antoine near the Bastille is pastry heaven. Cheese is also serious business in France. See why at Barthélémy on Rue de Grenelle or Androuet on Rue Mouffetard. There is a cluster of serious food shops around Place de la Madeleine, including Hédiard, Fauchon, Caviar Kaspia, and La Maison de la Truffe.

### Dining Out

Clearly, a key reason to be in Paris is to sample the wonderful restaurants. High-end restaurants, local bistros, traditional brasseries, wine bars, regional specialists, and ethnic gems all generate strong partisanship. There are more than a dozen guides that can help you choose. Hotel managers and concierges may also be helpful. A sampling of our favorites include Le Grand Véfour (1st), Chez Georges (2nd), D'Chez Eux (7th), Garnier Saint-Lazare (8th), Ledoyen (8th), Chardenoux (11th), Au Petit Marguery (13th), and La Gauloise (15th). There are also restaurants representing most of the regional specialties of France throughout the city.

Paris is also a great place to enjoy other ethnic cuisines, particularly where the culture has meshed with that of France—look

for Corsican, Italian, Lebanese, Moroccan, Russian, Scandinavian, Senegalese, Tunisian, and Vietnamese places. There is even one restaurant featuring food from the Seychelles Islands.

### Café Life

Having coffee, a drink, or a light meal at a café and watching the world go by is a true delight. Every subway stop and church plaza has its share. Skip the touristy Les Deux Magots and Le Select and instead try Le Bonaparte behind Boulevard Saint-Germain. Le Nemrod on Cherche-Midi is one of our favorite hangouts. Try a place in a remote neighborhood and soak in the local atmosphere. The fewer tourists, the better.

### Park Life

When the city gets too intense, find a park bench or take a stroll in the Luxembourg, the Monceau, the Montsouris, or the Palais Royale.

### Smaller Museums

There are several dozen more obscure museums in Paris, many worth an hour or two of your time. A tiny sampling includes Musée Rodin, Musée de la Publicité (an advertising museum), Musée Marmottan Monet, Monnaie de Paris (a currency museum), Musée Delacroix, Musée Galliera (the Paris Fashion Museum), and Manufacture des Gobelins (a tapestry museum).

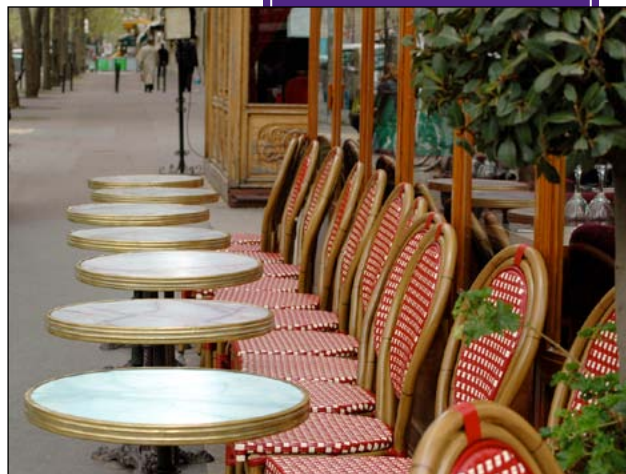
### What's Going On

With Google Translate and Babble Fish, you can get rough translations of the French papers, such as *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro*. The *International Herald Tribune*, *Wall Street Journal Europe*, and British newspapers are readily available. Many hotels also have English language television channels.

### Just Out of Town

Easy day trips include Giverny, Versailles, Fontainebleau, Senlis and Chartres, the ceramic museum at Sevres, La Vallée de l'Oise (which inspired many painters), or a cruise on the Canal Saint Martin. With the high speed TGVs, you can easily head out to Dijon, Lille, and other distant cities for a few hours and be back in Paris for dinner.

I hope your trip is splendid. If I can be of further help, let me know. ❖



# FOOD AND WINE *with Sandy Gilbert '62*

## THE RECIPE BOX: *Chicken Parma Verde*

This recipe is a personal adaptation of the familiar chicken Parmesan found on the menus of most Italian restaurants. The addition of the layer of spinach brings a refreshing new element and texture to the dish and nicely complements the creamy composition of the cheese and tomato sauce. Chicken parma verde is ideal for entertaining because it can be prepared ahead of time and then put in the oven to bake when the guests arrive.

### INGREDIENTS *(serves four)*

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast fillets
- Flour to coat both sides of each fillet
- 1 egg and a splash of water to make an egg wash
- 2 to 3 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
- 16 ounces or more of your favorite tomato sauce
- 12 thin slices of mozzarella cheese
- 1 package of shredded mozzarella cheese
- Freshly shaved parmesan cheese
- 1 package of fresh baby spinach (stems removed)
- 6 to 8 fresh basil leaves (chopped)
- 4 individual-size baking dishes

### Preparation:

- Heat a 12-inch skillet, lightly covered with the olive oil, over medium-high heat.
- Dip the chicken fillets in the egg wash, then dredge them in the flour. Place the fillets in a heated skillet until they begin to sizzle. Turn down the heat to medium and sauté until golden brown on both sides.
- Remove the fillets from the pan and place on a holding plate to cool. Coat the bottom of each baking dish with a thin layer of tomato sauce, then place the chicken fillets on top of the sauce.
- Arrange a blanket of baby spinach leaves (several layers thick) on top of the fillets, then place three slices of mozzarella to cover the spinach on each fillet. Cover the mozzarella slices on each fillet with tomato sauce. Spread some of the shredded mozzarella over the top of the tomato sauce, then shave some parmesan cheese over the shredded mozzarella.
- Place the baking dishes in the oven at 350 degrees Fahrenheit and bake for 30 minutes. Remove the dishes from the oven and set them under the broiler for three to five minutes to slightly brown the top layer of cheese. Remove the dishes from the oven, sprinkle the chopped basil over the top of the fillets, and allow the dishes to cool for a few minutes. Serve.

This zesty chicken and cheese dish is best complemented with a salad of mixed greens dressed with oil and vinegar accompanied by some slices of fresh multigrain Italian bread. Great wine pairings include

robust red wines like La Castellina Chianti Classico di Tommaso Bojola or Angeline Cabernet Sauvignon. ♦



## THE WINE RACK: *Some Excellent Merlots*

Merlot, with its fresh, ripe fruit appeal, has captured the attention of the everyday wine consumer and is now the world's most popular red wine. It offers the red fruit taste components of cherry, plum, and currants, with hints of cedar when aged in oak. While most merlots are produced with a focus on a soft, mellow, and fruit-forward style, the grape is also capable of producing refined wines that are complex and elegant. These wines, including Pomerol and Saint-Émilion, dominate the right bank of Bordeaux and the grapes are also successfully grown in California and Washington. Merlot should be served at room temperature, and it is popular as a wine to sip during cocktail hour or paired with lamb, duck, veal, or cheese. Below are some well-regarded merlots at different prices:

### **W. B. Bridgeman Cellars, Merlot 2008 (\$14.99)**

This merlot, from the Yakima Valley in Washington, was named one of the 50 best wine values in the world by *Food & Wine Magazine*. That claim could be debated by some experts, but this is definitely a good value for the price. It has flavors of coffee, currant, and chocolate complemented by a smooth and supple texture. This medium-bodied wine pairs well with London broil.

### **Chateau Ste. Michelle, Indian Wells Merlot 2009 (\$15.49)**

Another entry from Washington, this Columbia Valley merlot showcases a signature fruit-forward, mouth-filling style. Boldly flavored and packed with blackberry and scented with vanilla, this plush merlot has a velvety texture and a rich garnet color. *Wine Spectator* gave this wine an 88 rating.

### **Kenwood Vineyards, Jack London 2007 (\$19.99)**

Housed in a bottle featuring the same wolf head symbol that is displayed on the bookplate logo of Jack London's *Call of the Wild* and *Seawolf* novels, this medium-bodied merlot carries the flavors of cherry and smoke. A great choice with a rack of lamb. *Wine Enthusiast* gives the wine a 90 rating.

### **Sheridan Vineyard, Mystique 2008 (\$24.99)**

This elegant wine is a blend of 40 percent merlot, 40 percent cabernet sauvignon, and 20 percent cabernet franc. Aged for 20 months in second-use oak, this wine boasts flavors of currant and cherry with savory, spicy overtones. It is considered to be an excellent value for the price and is given a 92 rating by *Wine Advocate*.

*Editor's note: All quoted prices are from Total Wine, a major wine discounter, and prices may be a bit higher in other stores.*



# UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE: ALAN WORKMAN, IFC LEADER

As a third-generation Cornellian, Alan Workman '13 is following in the footsteps of his grandfather and both his parents. He grew up in Westfield, New Jersey, and attended the local high school. Choosing Cornell for his college career was an easy choice, as he had wanted to come to the Hill ever since he was a toddler, and he loves the Ithaca area—so much so that he stayed in town over the past summer to do research, and will do the same this year.

Alan feels that Cornell provides him with a great atmosphere of academics and extra-curricular activities, and he couldn't imagine being anywhere else. His brother was just admitted to Cornell early decision, and will matriculate in the fall. (Hopefully, he'll be a future Lambda Chi.)

Alan's field of study is challenging—a pre-med psychology major with a concentration in biopsychology. Many of his classes pertain to the structure and function of the brain, and he hopes to continue these pursuits in his medical career. Alan is in his second year of research in the biopsychology lab under the aegis of Professor Barbara Finlay. In this regard, he attended the 2011 Society for Neuroscience conference last November to present his research work. He will also do his senior honors thesis in Finlay's lab beginning this fall.

According to Alan, he didn't anticipate joining a fraternity when he first came to Cornell. But during the fall semester, he met some Lambda Chis, and he and some of his friends

stayed in contact with them. After that fall, he knew he wanted to come back for Rush Week. He ended up joining Omicron with three of his close friends. They have all lived in the house for the past two years, and will be living in Collegetown together in the 2012-2013 academic year.



Alan is vice president for communications for the Interfraternity Council. (In this, he joins brother Dan Freshman '12, who is the IFC president.) Alan firmly believes that his experiences at Lambda Chi and his resulting work with the IFC have taught him far more about life and dealing with people than any of his classes at Cornell. He learned that successfully living independently and operating an organization requires a tremendous amount of planning and hard work. He believes his Greek experience has prepared him well for the challenges of a career in medicine and the world beyond Cornell.

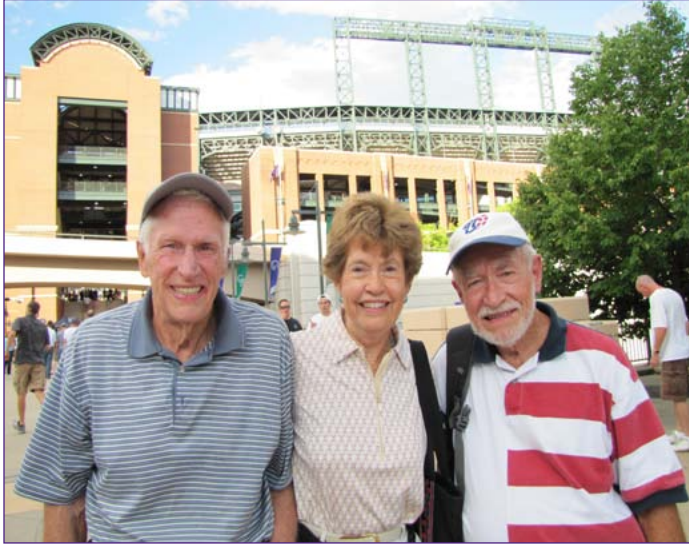
As rush chairman, Alan led the charge for Lambda Chi that brought the house 31 new Associate Members during the fall and spring. He says he had a tremendous

amount of support from the brotherhood, and he reports that morale at 125 Edgemoor Lane is running high. Congratulations to Alan for an outstanding college career so far, and for his leadership role as an exemplary Lambda Chi! ♦

“Alan firmly believes that his experiences at Lambda Chi and his resulting work with the IFC have taught him far more about life and dealing with people than any of his classes at Cornell.”

# 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](mailto:OmicronOracle@gmail.com).*



Bob McKinless '48 (on the right) with his wife, Nancy, and friend John Hornbecker at the Rockies versus Nats game

## » 1948

**Bob McKinless** writes that his biggest recent adventure has been joining his son, Rich, on a major portion of his quest to visit all 30 Major League Baseball parks in a single season. In April 2011, they flew to Houston (with their bikes in tow) and drove to games in Dallas, Phoenix, San Diego, and Los Angeles. Along the way, they toured Death Valley and went for bike rides in New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada as part of Bob's quest to bike in every state. It was a strenuous eight days with two flights, five baseball games, three bike rides, and 2,800 miles of driving. In August, Bob and Rich flew to Denver, where Bob's friend from his Cornell days, John Hornbecker, and John's wife took them to dinner and to the Rockies game against Bob's Washington Nats. This was a special reunion for Bob and Jack, as they hadn't seen each other since they picked peaches together in Colorado way back in the summer of 1947. Bob's email is [bikerbob@mac.com](mailto:bikerbob@mac.com).

## » 1955

**Charlie "YB" Way** tells us he took a ski trip at Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort with his wife, Pat, and daughter, Suzie, Cornell class of '91, and her family. YB is also headed to Copper Mountain with some friends from Bellingham, Washington, in March. You can reach YB at [cybway@aol.com](mailto:cybway@aol.com).

## » 1959

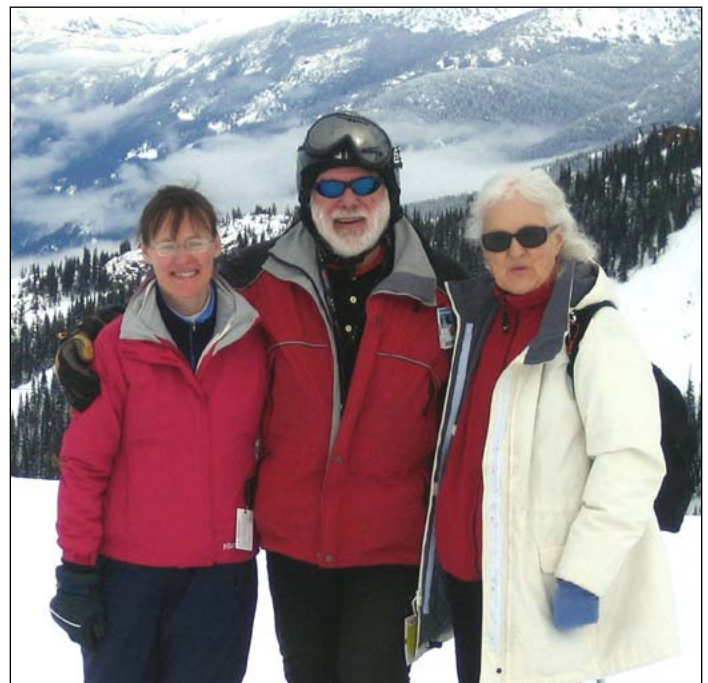
**Carl Igelbrink** filed the following: "My wife and I currently live in Old Lyme, Connecticut, where it seems all Yalies return when they retire. We moved here about four years ago after spending 10 years of our retirement in Vermont, where I was able to ski regularly with the same buddies I first skied with after Columbia Business School nearly 50 years ago. We returned to Connecticut to be closer to family and services. We also wanted



to simplify our lives. However, living in a house that dates back to circa 1690s, we're not exactly meeting that objective. We have two daughters and are expecting our first grandchild in June. After that, we will try to arrange a trip to England so my wife can return to her mother ship, then go on to Europe so we can use up the Euros that are depreciating in our safe deposit box. We both remain active and spend more and more time either repeating what was said to each other or talking back to the radio as we add our comments to NPR's news reports." Carl can be contacted at [cigelbrink@comcast.net](mailto:cigelbrink@comcast.net).

## » 1960

**Curt Curtice** reports that life is good in the Atlanta area, despite some very un-Georgia-like weather during the past few months. He says the Curtices have stayed pretty close to home for the last year, but went to England to visit Pam's family in late March. Curt's son, who is a producer of news shows for CNN.com, went with them, which made for a nice family reunion. Curt also posed a question about the accuracy of classmate **Bruce Veghte's** ('60) recounting in an earlier e-newsletter about his adventures at the hands of a pledge class (now known as Associate Members). Curt says he remembers several instances of Bruce being caught without funds, transportation, or a place to stay during his four plus years on the Hill. In fact, he spent most of his weekends living at Curt's parents' home in Rochester while he courted his future wife, Sara. While he was there, Bruce did all he could to endear himself to Curt's folks and to thank them for their hospitality—he even helped to redecorate one of the bedrooms. Curt just wonders why his dad began referring to Bruce as "Vesuvius Veghte"? You can find Curt at [wcurtice@aol.com](mailto:wcurtice@aol.com) and Bruce at [bbveghte@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bbveghte@tampabay.rr.com).



Charlie "YB" Way '55 with his daughter, Suzie, and wife, Pat



**Joe Persivale** tells us that he is still living in New Jersey and is hard at work renovating his house. Once the renovation is complete, he hopes to put the house on the market and move to the Ithaca area near his daughter, who works at Cornell. Joe's email is [joegenie@aol.com](mailto:joegenie@aol.com).

## >> 1961

**John Comstock** writes from the shadow of the Adirondacks that he still enjoys the refreshing chill of winter and, of course, the good skiing that comes with it. Unfortunately, he says his longtime group of skiing buddies that has headed out west every winter for 30 years has finally fallen apart due to various ailments and old age. Even in this season of snow drought, John managed to get in some skiing at least once a week and has the option to head west to Colorado to visit his daughter when they have some snow. You'll find John at [jcomstock@frontiernet.net](mailto:jcomstock@frontiernet.net).

## >> 1962

When **Jeff Burnam**—who now teaches graduate students at Georgetown—heard his old freshman roommate, **Sandy Gilbert '62**, had just come back from a trip to China with his wife, Emmy Lou, he sent him a note recalling an interesting story. He attended a luncheon recently in Washington where the speaker was William Reilly, former head of the EPA. Reilly told the audience that the Chinese government contacted him back in 2008 to ask him how he managed to get the different states to comply with federal rulings. They said their provinces, which are supposed to enforce regulations, ignore them. Reilly told them about the critical role of environmental groups, the press, and the courts in holding our industries and the states accountable. Reilly remarked that the Chinese body language strongly suggested that they did not take to that approach. But when he mentioned that he sent a letter of thanks with a flag to industries that complied voluntarily, they thought that was a fine idea. Now, Reilly went on, China has a "10,000 Flags" program for industries that reduce their pollution. You can reach Jeff at [jeffryburnam@cox.net](mailto:jeffryburnam@cox.net).

**Sandy Gilbert** and **Chris Napjus** have been working on a special entertainment package for 1962 Lambda Chi's returning this June to the Hill for their 50th Reunion. The Lambda Chi add-on program features a chauffeured winery tour around Seneca Lake visiting some of the Finger Lakes' top wineries as selected by Chris's daughter, Alison, who is also a Cornellian and a member of the staff of *Wine Spectator* magazine. The group will also attend a private dinner at the Taughannock Farms Inn. Other members of the class of '62 planning to attend the Reunion include **Steve Ashley**, **Jack Kempster**, **Lee Manning**, and **Bob Miller**. Other '62 brothers interested in joining the group should contact Sandy at [sandem133@aol.com](mailto:sandem133@aol.com).

This past summer, **Frank Hawkins** took his oldest grandsons to Normandy, accompanied by historian Colin McGarry. They spent five days on the D-Day battlefields, which he says was a wonderful experience. Frank also writes that he has just started a new company called Hibiscus Marketing, a public-relations and communications company designed to serve businesses in the Upper Florida Keys. Frank says they had two clients before they could even get their website up and running. The company's site is [www.hibiscusfloridakeys.com](http://www.hibiscusfloridakeys.com). In addition to running his business at Hawk Associates, Frank continues to sit on several boards, including the board of the Florida Keys Electric Co-

op, where he serves as treasurer and chairman of the finance committee. Frank's personal email is [fhawk852@gmail.com](mailto:fhawk852@gmail.com).



Frank Hawkins '62 with his grandsons Nathan and Nicholas and friend Jack Harper on the guns at Longues-Sur-Mer in Normandy

**Jack Kempster** reports that he was busy this past fall as an honor guard at the Tampa, Florida, Shrine Center for Veterans Day parades and ceremonies. After 27 years in the Army, he still likes to take time to honor Old Glory and what it means to those who have gone in harm's way. Like many of us, Jack says that after retiring from his civilian job with ITT Night Vision Corporation in Roanoke, Virginia, he hasn't figured out how he had time to do work with all the volunteer time he spends with several charities around his home in Lakeland, Florida. As an ex-chopper pilot, he particularly enjoys being co-chairman for the rotorcraft attending the Sun-'n'-Fun International Exposition and Fly-In in Lakeland. That's because he can usually wrangle at least a couple of hours of stick time from some of his buddies during the six-day event. Jack can be found at [jkempster@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jkempster@tampabay.rr.com).

**Lee Manning** is pleased to report that, while attending a meeting in Boston for the Manning Family Association—of which he is president—he was able to link up with his old friend **Rich Bertelson '62**, whom he hadn't seen in many years. They met for dinner, a few drinks, and lots of reminiscing about the good old days on the Hill. Lee's email is [leemanning@cox.net](mailto:leemanning@cox.net) and you can reach Rich at [richard.bertelson@ae.ge.com](mailto:richard.bertelson@ae.ge.com).

**Bob Miller** wrote to say how much he enjoyed the first electronic *Oracle*. Bob says it was a terrific piece of editorial work and everyone involved should be exceedingly proud. Noting **Sandy Gilbert's** ('62) column, "The Wine Rack," he passed along a recommendation from Eric Asimov of the *New York Times*, who highly praised a New York Riesling from Ravines Wine Cellars. Bob reports that he is now on his second case of this Ravines Riesling and, at \$16 per bottle, he thinks it is a great wine value. Bob's email is [rcmiller@davidsondawson.com](mailto:rcmiller@davidsondawson.com).

**Larry O'Brien** reports from his family farm in Canton, New York, that he is recovering nicely from a heart procedure. He still faces a regimen of some rehab work, but both he and his doctors like how he is doing. He was also pleased to note ➤

# NEWS FROM ALUMNI

that he enjoyed catching up recently with his classmate, Lee Manning. You can contact Larry at [larryob@hotmail.com](mailto:larryob@hotmail.com).



Bob Elliott '63 with his wife, Connie, during a trip to Las Vegas

## >> 1963

**Bob Elliott** and his wife, Connie, made their second trip to Las Vegas this past fall for a stay in a friend's timeshare. The Elliotts especially enjoyed side trips to Zion and Bryce national parks. When they got back to New Jersey, they were pleased to note that they were lucky to escape the hurricane, but they got hit hard with the Halloween snowstorm. They were without electricity for five days and without phone, internet, and TV for eight days. After two cold nights, they escaped down to their place on Long Beach Island on the Jersey shore for some R and R. You'll find Bob at [bobell89@aol.com](mailto:bobell89@aol.com).

**Bill Imig** writes from Denver that he and Joyce took a big bike trip back in September, during which they rode for three days on the Mickelson Trail in South Dakota. This year they plan to visit eastern Turkey, which **Alan Fridkin '65** called "an ancient and interesting part of the world" in this past fall's "Travel Nuggets." Bill continues to spend every Thursday volunteering at a day shelter for the homeless, as he has for the past four years. The shelter sees several hundred men and women a day when they come in for showers and clean clothes, to pick up mail, and to hang out in a place where they are accepted as human beings. Bill says each story is different, but in general, they suffer from mental illness, drug or alcohol addiction, criminal histories, or a combination of all those things. Bill feels that, but for the grace of God, he could have ended up like them. You can reach Bill at [billimig@forethought.net](mailto:billimig@forethought.net).

## >> 1964

**Bob Ball** wrote to say that he retired in October and now spends most of his time in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He enjoys trips to spend time with his grandchildren and shared some good skiing at Steamboat in March with **Bill Imig** and his wife, Joyce. You can find Bob at [rball@stmbt.net](mailto:rball@stmbt.net).



**Jim Loomis** writes, "After 27 years working for Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation, primarily in the construction of nuclear power plants, I have been consulting in related fields since 1993. My wife, Judith, and I have a house on the Columbia River in Richland in eastern Washington. Our three sons live about 200 miles west in the Seattle area. I continue to work about half the time and spend a lot of the rest of my time fishing, mountain biking, and working in my wood shop. Judith is quite busy with the local art gallery and her involvement in community affairs. Most of my consulting work is in the Southeast and I spend a great deal of time in Chattanooga. I recently visited **Bob Rapp '64** in Aiken, South Carolina, and in the unlikely event that anyone comes out our way, I would love to see them." Jim's email is [jeloomispe@aol.com](mailto:jeloomispe@aol.com).

## >> 1965

**Springer Cox** checks in to say: "It's been very pleasant this year here in North Carolina. Alice and I completed our trip to China in October that we have been planning for several years. It was centered on a Yangtze River cruise with Viking River Cruises. We spent 17 days with friends we have known since my Cornell med school days. The tour included Shanghai, the Three Gorges, Chongqing, Xian, Beijing, Guilin, and Hong Kong. Great fun was had by all. I think we will probably use Viking again for their European river cruises. We are now preparing to sell our house in Holly Springs, North Carolina. Naturally, that would be at the very bottom of the worst housing crash of our generation. Oh well ... We are attempting to build a house in a nearby 55 plus retirement community. The uncertain part is how long this is going to take. Right now we are sprucing up the house so we can show it. I'll keep you posted." Springer's email address is [springercox@nc.rr.com](mailto:springercox@nc.rr.com).

**John DeWitt** reports that he is still busy playing gigs with a variety of musical groups. In one recent week, he played with a 17-piece band on one night and his Rare Groove Band on another night, followed by dates with a piano-bass drums jazz



Bill Imig '63 during a three-day biking trip on the Mickelson Trail in South Dakota with his wife, Joyce



trio and the David Amram group at the Long Island Winterfest Jazz Festival. John is still teaching bass four days per week at Five Towns College and Suffolk Community College and is starting to think about retiring—possibly down in Florida. You'll find John at [dewmusic@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dewmusic@ix.netcom.com).

**Rich Drake** writes to tell us: "After selling my company, Drake Management Services, in 1998, I retired in 2000. My company managed food service operations in senior living communities throughout the western U.S. Since that time, I have kept active in the business world by participating on various boards. However, I am now winding that down and spend more time hunting, fishing, and on the golf course. We have lived for many years in Scottsdale, Arizona, where I spend eight months of the year, and then four months at my summer home on Lake Coeur D'Alene in Idaho. Both of our children are Cornell graduates. Our daughter, her husband (also a Cornell graduate), and two grandchildren live in LA. Our son lives in Denver. Although I was raised in Ithaca and loved my time at Cornell, I don't get back very often. Our lives seem to be too busy to go back east. In my early career, we lived and worked in New Zealand and Australia for several years, and we have many friends there, so we tend to travel more west than east. Perhaps with more prodding, I will make it back for a Homecoming."

**Pat Huston** filed the following message: "Gosh, it's been a long time. The most recent *Oracle*, featuring people that I remember from my brief time at Cornell in the '60s, brought back some good memories. After leaving in January 1963, I transferred to Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, to pursue a degree in optometry. During a visit to see my father in the San Francisco Bay area, I was able to touch base with LXA Brother **Dave Wilson '65**, who had entered graduate school at Stanford. After receiving a doctorate in optometry in 1967, I spent a year in private practice before spending 26 months on active duty in the Army, most of it at Fort Myer, Virginia. My wife, Sigrid, and I enjoyed being able to visit with the Imigs—who were stationed in Baltimore—several times during that period. It's been fun seeing **Bill Imig '62** and his wife, Joyce, occasionally over the last several decades. After I was released from active duty in the Army in 1970, we settled back in Portland, where I began a career in the Kaiser Permanente optometry department that lasted until 2009. Concurrently, I managed to serve 24 years in the Army and Air Force reserve, retiring in 2002. I guess I've 'gone to the dogs' in retirement, as a lot of my time is involved with canine performance events." You can connect with Pat at [huston.p@gmail.com](mailto:huston.p@gmail.com).

## » 1966

**Frederick "Swede" Walsh** wrote to say he was glad he called **Mike Hugger '66**, his old roommate at the house during his junior year, after hearing that Mike was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. They had a great time discussing both past and current events. You can reach "Swede" at [ellenmacwalsh@bellsouth.net](mailto:ellenmacwalsh@bellsouth.net) and Mike at [hugger@no.net](mailto:hugger@no.net).

## » 1969

**David Shannon** writes, "I have, like so many of my classmates of 1969, officially retired as of the end of 2011! Yep—no more 'formal' work, though I do have arrangements to undertake the occasional bit of consulting with some of my former not-for-profit clients with the support of my former employer. I also do some freelance writing and editing locally. Domestically,

now that I have retired, and our daughters are both pretty much away at university (though bouncing back home from time to time), we are downsizing and moving out of this high-maintenance acre of landscaped garden to find a less demanding lifestyle—one that will allow for more travel. And travels are on the books (all around the world)—time to see all those places we have promised ourselves. At the same time, it seems more and more of my high school and Cornell classmates are finding New Zealand in their own travel plans and are headed our way. We are delighted to assist your visits to the Shaky Isles (or 'Godzone,' as the locals call it) in any way we can. Just email me at [daveshan@orcon.net.nz](mailto:daveshan@orcon.net.nz)."



At opposite ends of the back row, Eric Powers '69 and Alan Shine-man '69 with the rest of a late '60s Lambda Chi football team

**Alan Shineman** writes to tell us: "I am currently living the 'retired life,' playing tennis two to three times a week and exploring plans for my next 'adventure.' I had been a vice president with JPMorgan Chase serving in various technology roles for 32 years. My wife, Genny (an LCSW), and I enjoyed traveling to Italy (Rome and Tuscany) this past September and recently hosted a neighborhood party commemorating our 30th year in our home in Westfield, New Jersey. Both our daughter Diana (Cornell '02) and son Doug (BU '07) continue to live and work in New York City. We all enjoyed seeing Cornell play BU in an exciting hockey game this winter at Madison Square Garden. Unfortunately, Doug enjoyed the game the most, as BU won in overtime. After getting her PhD at Penn, Diana has been serving as a scientific director for the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation and we've been encouraging her to 'speed up that discovery' if she can. I noticed **Ken Laven '61** listed on the distribution roster for the *Oracle* and wanted to pass along my thanks to him for giving me my first break working as a customer application specialist for General Electric Systems in New York City way back in the summer of 1969. During spring break, I had dropped off my resume at multiple locations in midtown Manhattan and was fortunate that it was spotted by Ken. And lastly, I recently had the occasion to seek a second medical opinion from my former Lambda Chi roommate for three years, **Dr. Eric Powers '69**, who, according to his online bio, is a professor of medicine and director at the Acute Coronary Syndrome Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has been named as one of 'America's top doctors' and one of the 'best doctors in America.'"

# NEWS FROM ALUMNI

**Warren Lem** writes from Naples, Florida, to say: “Just read the fall edition of the *Oracle* online and was astonished at the quality and depth of coverage. Had my morning cup of coffee reading the articles and enjoyed **Alan Fridkin’s** (’65) Turkish adventure because we just came back from Turkey. It is wonderful to reconnect. Thanks to everyone who put this together.” Warren’s email is [warrenlem@aol.com](mailto:warrenlem@aol.com).

## » 1971

**Bruce Adams** writes: “My career in the hospitality industry was a struggle, but ended on a very positive note. My company, Hospitality Training, did well for my wife, Bunny, and me. I sold it two years ago, relaxed for a while, and invested in a brokerage firm, Ameriprise Financial. They—and I emphasize ‘they’—specialize in managed bond accounts, which suits my nerves just fine. You won’t ever find me there—I enjoy my retirement. Most important, I was introduced to the reason for life by my lovely wife, Bunny—we have four grandchildren aged 17, 15, 5, 3, and one more on the way. My name is now ‘Bubba,’ and most recently I have been the special deputy to Spider-Man, Miami Division. Life is grand. Bunny’s youngest son works in Washington for USDA Secretary Vilsack. Both are good friends with ‘the decider.’ Beyond that life has been good, but my body keeps telling me that getting old sucks. This is an ongoing argument I keep having with my body. I miss hearing from Rob Mueller and Gary Furbish.” Bruce can be contacted at [bruceadams@bellsouth.net](mailto:bruceadams@bellsouth.net).



Couples from left to right: Gary Curtis ’69 and his wife, Colleen; Rob Mueller ’72 and his wife, Beth; George Botbyl ’71 and his wife, Ruth; Rick Albright ’71 and his wife, Suzanne; Ken Silsby ’70 and his fiancée, Mary Anne; and Jim Bowman ’69 and his wife, Betsy, vacationing together in Mexico this past February

**Rick Albright** writes in about the six couples pictured above: “Since the infamous reunion at Taughannock Falls State Park on July 4, 2000, our group has been vacationing together first every five years, then every two years, and now every year, sometimes twice a year. In addition to the group in the picture, **Dave Hogan** ’71 and his wife, Beth, have also joined us a couple of times. We have partied at my house, taken two cruises together (including a fabulous Alaskan cruise this past July), and traveled

to Riviera Maya and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, a couple of times each. Everyone in the group agrees that our get-togethers are usually the highlight of the year, and we all laugh together, as we did back at Cornell more than 40 years ago.”

**Dave Hogan** reports: “I have not seen a lot of the brothers over the years since I moved to South Carolina in 1979. I have lived in Columbia, South Carolina, since 1979. I did see **Rick Albright** ’71, **Ken Silsby** ’70, **Jim Bowman** ’69, **Gary Furbish** ’70, **George Botbyl** ’71, **Gary Curtis** ’69, and **Rob Mueller** ’72 about three years ago. I am married with two daughters. One is married. The other is a registered nurse. No grandkids. I run my own business training loan officers in the Southeast after I retired with 30 years at the Farm Credit System. That business keeps me very busy; over the past year, I was on the road for 197 days. I enjoy reading about the happenings of the others.”

## » 1974

**Gary Dufel** writes: “Living in Australia now, my knowledge of cricket is greatly improved, and I can tell the difference between rugby union and rugby league (they are different), and Australian Rules Football. I am currently sitting in a bar in Cairns, Australia, with the following choices of beer categories: domestic, premium, imported, and special imported, at gradually increasing prices. You may want to know that in the imported category at \$7 per bottle are Corona, Stella, Heineken, and ... Bud and Miller! And in the special imported at \$8—Corona Light! Apparently people here are under the impression Americans think very highly of Bud, and they think it is one of America’s best. (Still haven’t located a Foster.) In Cairns, the weather just about every day is 35 degrees C (95 degrees F) and 98 percent humidity; walk 50 yards and change your sweat-drenched shirt. Rarely can one swim in the ocean; most recently, crocs were spotted in the water at our beach. This isn’t Kansas. Have seen platypi and kangaroo; have eaten croc, kangaroo, and camel. But Deb and I are having a ball and we will need to start traveling.” Gary can be contacted at [gdufsr@gmail.com](mailto:gdufsr@gmail.com).

**Arnie Olender** reports: “This past year has had many ups and downs. My wife, Gennie, had open heart surgery in June to correct an aortic aneurysm. The boys and I realized that Mom is very important as a result (we always knew this, but this really hammered home the point). She had no symptoms—a heart scan that was not part of her normal annual physical saved her life. (Thus, get a heart scan.) Gennie recovered well, and by August we were in NYC for the U.S. Open and having dinner with the Dufels, Johnstones, Seiples, and Rosenbergs. It was clearly determined that, at our current age, each of us can now only remember 15 to 25 percent of all ‘stories’ accurately. We had a great time and wished the Dufels good luck on their adventure to Australia. Also, Gennie and I ran into **Mike Labate** ’74 and his wife, Sue, in Denver and spent a wonderful time with his family. One thing is always apparent when we see everyone—the years melt away fast once we get together. Gennie and I want to thank everyone who checked in



during her surgery and recovery. I continue to manage a region for Burns & McDonnell, and we are still growing despite the economy. I thought I could cruise into retirement, but in today's market, cruising is not part of the formula. I try to play as much tennis and golf as I can squeeze in, and still hang with my sons. My oldest interned in NYC with a law firm last summer and will finish law school in 2013. My youngest is a senior at Georgia Southern and is aiming to become a mechanical engineer. We plan to be in NYC again in 2012 for the Open and will see if we can get more brothers to meet for dinner."

## » 1977

**Jeff Stupski** writes, "Long time no see or hear. I got an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University—I'm now sort of retired from my position as a technical analyst (IT) for the Bank of New York, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., and Grand Union. I am a stay-at-home dad for our two children. I have worked in NYC and northern New Jersey for the past 27 years." Jeff can be reached at [jeffstupski@optonline.net](mailto:jeffstupski@optonline.net).

## » 1978

**George Lutz** reports in from Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. He is still practicing bankruptcy law, as he has since 1986. His wife is a special education teacher in the local school district. His older son graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2008 and is currently an officer on the USS Miami, a fast-attack nuclear sub. George's younger son will graduate from high school in May (God willing!) and will start at the University of Pittsburgh (probably) in the fall. If anyone is passing by the Reading/Lancaster exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, feel free to invite yourself for lunch, coffee, or a drink. You can email George at [george.m.lutz@gmail.com](mailto:george.m.lutz@gmail.com).



Brian Meagher '78

**Brian Meagher** writes, "Lots of news to report. My older son, Patrick, graduated in December from Cazenovia College with honors. Looking for employment now in radio and television production, with a possible link to a job in Syracuse. My younger son, Colin, is a senior at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach—gotta love that warmer climate! He is a part-time student and flight instructor finishing his final semester before (I hope) being

snatched up by an airline. The best part is that, since Colin is a flight instructor, I did not need to pay for tuition and flying fees this past year—which is a real treat after more than three years of doing so! I am hanging out here in Jamestown, New York, and cannot believe the lack of winter. I am currently on staff at WCA Hospital. Just as an aside, I am president of the County Medical Society. We Lambda Chis are such underachievers! Was off to Beaver Creek in January for skiing, to Utah and British Columbia in February, and then to Steamboat Springs in March. Skiing rules my life!"

## » 1991

**James "Jamey" Dumas** and his wife, Jen, are enjoying their sixth year living in D.C., although they continue to talk about moving overseas again for a couple of years. He writes, "Work

has provided me with a great opportunity this spring to study Arabic full-time for 10 weeks with a native speaker, who continues to laugh at my miserable attempts to learn the language. Travel and proximity have given us a chance to catch up with a handful of Lambda Chis over the past few months, including a short vacation with **Bill "Veg" Noon '84** and a night of college basketball with **Dom Delmolino '90**, **Tom Bruno '90**, and **Sam Sankar '92**. Rumors of my acquiring a new scar at that last outing, started by my wife, are greatly exaggerated. Anyone coming to D.C. for any reason should let us know."

**Ben Rubin** is living with his wife, Liz, and their 3-year old son, Gabe, in Philadelphia. Ben remains in touch with **Ron Weisbein '94**, who lives in NYC but is contemplating a move to the City of Brotherly Love. Ben writes that, after a decade in hotel and restaurant operations, he became a real-estate attorney for a decade. Just this past year he retired from the practice to reenter hospitality as a manager for Aramark.

## » 1992

**Mike Agostin** is having a blast with his kids, now aged 7 and 9. "It's amazing how, when you feed them, they grow like weeds!" He is looking forward to the 20th Reunion this summer, and hopes to see you there! Mike recently had lunch with **Scot Brown '81** and **Matt Kelleher '99**. "We all work at the same Stryker (medical device) site here in Mahwah, New Jersey. Even though our cafeteria is good here, we all have fond memories of Ray's cooking. Chicken pucks and disco cake endures through generations!"

**Brett Ainsworth** writes: "My wife, Susan, and I have owned our hometown newspaper, *The Retrospect*, for 12 years. This year marks the paper's 110th anniversary. Despite predictions of the imminent demise of our industry, we expect this paper to be around for many years into the future. Recent events have been especially interesting from a professional perspective. Last year, I was one of three publishers who testified at the New Jersey State House about the need to publish public notices. The other two publishers run the state's most prominent daily newspapers, so I was flattered to be asked to testify. Not long after that, the New Jersey Press Association appointed me to its board of directors for a two-year term. Meanwhile, a story my paper ran landed me in national and international news. Here's the abbreviated rundown. We published a story on a Friday about a local town's literal trashing of its memorial to hometown celebrity Michael Landon, best known for his roles in *Bonanza*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *Highway to Heaven*. The following Tuesday saw the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in our office, where we had secured the memorial. The next day, TV stations showed up, along with representatives from the Associated Press, the *New York Times*, and many others. By that night, dailies in Australia had published the AP story and French-language newspapers had picked it up. The staff and I watched the story pop up on the internet around the world over the next 24 hours."

**Dave Askov** writes in with this update: "We have been living in Hawaii for seven years now, on the island of Maui. I came here for work, and have been at the same job since. I work at the Pacific Disaster Center, and the main focus of my job is maintaining a real-time GIS database of global hazard information, plus various map and web servers to get the information out. I also managed a project last year that involved our company in the implementation of all of ►

# NEWS FROM ALUMNI

our systems for the government of Vietnam—that involved a fair bit of travel over there. We're starting up a similar project in Jakarta, Indonesia, this year, too. Enough about work. I still play ultimate Frisbee a few times per week, which helps keep me in shape, or at least keeps me from being totally out of shape. We enjoy the beach and all those activities, but not as often as we wish. Life here on Maui is wonderful, and the scenery and weather are great, but my life is really not all that different from when I was on the mainland—busy. In addition to a busy work schedule, I was also the leader of my son's Cub Scout pack, so that was a major time commitment. He just graduated to Boy Scouts two weeks ago, and I think I was happier about it than he was! Julian is in fifth grade at a private school nearby. In addition to Boy Scouts, he is taking piano and ukulele lessons and plays on the school's volleyball team. My stepson will graduate from Seattle University this June. Amazing how time flies! Unfortunately, his graduation is the same weekend as the Reunion, so y'all will have to get by without me ... He is finishing in four years, which is a blessing, considering the cost of tuition. He is the captain of the university ultimate team and is the treasurer for the university's club sports. His degree is in international business, and right now he is busy job-hunting. (If anyone knows of anything, let me know.) My email is [mapgeek@digitalics.com](mailto:mapgeek@digitalics.com) and my cell is 808-264-8082 (note Hawaii time). I hope everyone takes pictures at Reunion so that I can see what I'm missing."



The wedding of Doug Piper '93 to Jennifer Armstrong in 2004

## » 1993

After spending several years working for a heavy/civil contractor in the Baltimore/Washington area, **Doug Piper** visited **Brother Chris Turner '94** in late 1999. That fateful visit led to his being shanghai'ed by Chris's parents, who sent Doug to build schools in Barbados for two years. While in Barbados, Doug developed many new hobbies, including scuba diving and becoming the self-appointed West Indies cricket ambassador to the U.S. Toward the end of his stint, he met a local woman named Jennifer Armstrong, whom he tricked into (a) leaving paradise in 2003 and (b) marrying him in 2004.



A few brothers managed to attend their wedding, including **Don Song '92**, **Chris Turner '94**, **Adam Borah '94**, **Sam Sankar '92**, and the all-important **Jason Cho '98** (so it's official). Doug and Jennifer now have a son, Ben, who is 3-and-a-half years old and keeping his parents very busy, mostly in a good way. For the past two plus years, Doug has been with Bradshaw Construction, a regional tunneling contractor that conveniently relocated its main office to within five miles of his front door in Eldersburg, Maryland. He writes: "The work is interesting and it has allowed me to travel to such exotic locations as Golden, Colorado, and Hartford, Connecticut. We managed to hold an impromptu event in the Boulder, Colorado, area recently that was graciously hosted by **Dave Hiemstra '95** and his family. Brothers in attendance included Dave, Chris Turner, **Scott Alessandro '96**, **Tom Boorady '92**, Adam Borah, **Trevor Connor '94**, **Eric Helmy '96**, and Jason Cho. It was great seeing everyone."

## » 1994

**Chris Durell** has been married to his wife, Brigit, for 13 years. They have two beautiful adopted daughters—Melody, aged 5, and Abigail, aged 1. They're currently living in Menifee, California, near wine country in Southern California. Chris is the vice president of sales for a midsize engineering company called Labsphere, Inc. ([www.labsphere.com](http://www.labsphere.com)), which is owned by a parent company called Halma Ltd. (UK). Chris sees **Reuben Shaw '93** a bit and is going to hang out with **Dan Turner '93** in Rota, Spain, for two weeks of vacation in April. "Would love to see the Lambdas, but have lost touch with the Southern and Northern California crew, so anyone can drop a line on LinkedIn."

**Brian Smith** writes: "Nancy and I spent two years living in London. Upon our return in 2002, we set up camp in Airmont, New York. Our house was empty and white, so we pled for help and received it in the form of an episode on *Designer's Challenge*. Around this time we had three kids, Sofia (then age 8), Tommaso (then age 7), and Marco (then age 3). I figured that being a strawberry blonde named 'Brianno' gave me license to pull my kids' names from pizza boxes, too. Last year, I met up with Brother **Jason Milligan '05** during my brief stint at Novartis Consumer Health. Right now, you can call me 'Brian-san,' as I am working with the oncology commercial team at the Japanese pharmaceutical Eisai Co., Ltd."

**Chris Turner** and his family currently live in Alpharetta, Georgia, a northern suburb of Atlanta. After many years in the Chicago area, his Miami-raised wife (Carrie Kurtz Turner, also Cornell '94) seized the opportunity to move the family to the South in 2007. Chris and Carrie have "three little monsters (in the *Sesame Street* sense of the word)": Jonah (8), Rachel (6), and Lila (3). Chris works in the advisory services group of PwC, as director in their sustainable business solutions practice. Carrie works as a recruiter for The Coddington Group, specializing in consulting placements. When not chasing groups of small children, Chris and Carrie can generally be found dozing off on the couch. After about eight years working with state and local



government clients, Chris's current project has him splitting time between Atlanta and Geneva, Switzerland, working with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development ([www.wbcsd.org](http://www.wbcsd.org)). The 20th anniversary of the first UN "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro is approaching, and Chris is working with the Council to coordinate business inputs to the UN's "Rio+20" Conference—a revival of the Earth Summit in Rio, 20 years later, to take stock of our progress toward living within the means of our planet. If anyone is interested in hearing more about the Rio+20 Conference, please feel free to contact me Chris at [christopher.turner@us.pwc.com](mailto:christopher.turner@us.pwc.com).

» 1995

**Dave Hiemstra** is "still enjoying Colorado. My wife, Rachel, and I are busy chasing our 16-month-old son, Riley, around and skiing when we can. We hosted a rowdy contingent of Lambdas in December for the Bears' disappointing loss to the Broncos. The tailgate was definitely the highlight!"

**Brandon Fong** and his wife moved back to NYC about a year ago for a new job. They were sad to leave Colorado, but are enjoying life in the big city. Brandon recently got back in touch with **Stan Chelney '96** and **Mike Buckler '96**, who are both in the area. He also reconnected with **Cort Simpson '96** (his senior year roommate in the 40) and went to Cort's wedding this past summer.

» 1996

**Greg Knight** writes: "Meredith and I (married in 2001) live in Winchester, Massachusetts with our two boys, Carter (7), and Zak (4). Carter is a lot like me (quite scary how much, actually) and Zak seems to follow the artistic spirit of Meredith. We lost our beloved dog, Troy, about four years ago and still seem to conjure up great memories of him dating back to the days at 125 Edgemoor Lane. Over the years, I have progressively moved to smaller and smaller companies (U.S. Navy, Johnson & Johnson, SCHOTT Solar, GT Solar, and now a company with about six people on staff, including myself), but I am having a great time working in the world of technology startups, angel investments, and consulting. We are very fortunate to live in an area with so many LXA Brothers, who we get to see on a semi-frequent basis."

**Scott Muska** has been living in West Hartford, Connecticut, with his wife, Tracy, and two kids, Noah (aged four) and Elsie (aged three), since 2007. Scott works in the Hartford office of Brown Rudnick LLP, practicing in several areas of law, including environmental, energy, construction, and real estate. They have stayed in touch with **Greg Knight '96** and **Scott Alessandro '96** and their families, who are just a couple of hours away in Boston. ♦

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OBITUARIES

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

- Joseph L. McKinney '50** • October 9, 2011
- John Burrough '70** • August 3, 2008
- Matthew Omans '10** • March 9, 2012

NOTES TO ALUMNI

We value your feedback! This is *your* newsletter ... we just produce it.

Please keep your email address current, as more and more Omicron Zeta communication will be done electronically. The *Omicron Oracle*, for example, has five times the editorial content of the paper *Oracle*, but costs us one-third as much.

We want to serve your needs.  
Please tell us:

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