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CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN SURPASSES \$1.75 MILLION

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CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN SURPASSES \$1.75 MILLION

By Sandy Gilbert '62

Following a great response from our alumni attending the 100th Celebration Weekend last October and the recent 100th Reception at the Cornell Club in New York City, the Centennial Campaign has now exceeded \$1.75 million in pledges. This is a major achievement in such a relatively short time and is a great testimony to the loyal support of our many contributing alumni.



Sandy Gilbert

The \$1.75 million level was reached via another \$300,000 in alumni pledges raised following the 100th Celebration Weekend that brought the campaign to \$1.5 million. Reaching this threshold qualified the campaign for an additional \$250,000 challenge grant from a very generous anonymous alumnus. The campaign goal has been increased to \$1.9

million. The remaining \$500,000 to cover the \$2.4 million total cost of the renovation will come from a new mortgage paid over several years via undergraduate house bills.

The construction committee has received approval from the ISW-ZA Board to close the Chapter House after Reunion this June and begin the renovation this summer. During the construction period, the Omicron undergrads will live together in the currently vacant ZBT house until the new Edgemoor re-opens for the fall semester in 2015.

Those of you who have not yet been approached for a pledge



Phil Prigmore '69 showing the renovation floor plans

to the Centennial Campaign will soon receive a letter outlining the project and a copy of the Campaign Brochure. You will then be contacted by another Omicron alumnus asking you to help us cover the remaining funding needed to complete the renovation.

If you have any questions about the project in the meantime, feel free to contact any one of the following Co-Chairs of the Centennial Campaign Executive Committee:

- Doug Levens '92
levens@cox.net
- Ralph Wilhelm '67
ralphwilhelm@comcast.net
- Sandy Gilbert '62
sandem133@aol.com ❖



CORNELL TODAY: THE HOTTEST OF THE IVIES!

By Stephen Ashley '62

O

ver the past ten years, Cornell has seen its undergraduate applications grow from 20,000+ per year to most recently in excess of 40,000 for the approximately 3,150 freshman positions. Of course, these applications are not distributed evenly among Cornell's seven undergraduate colleges. The Big Three – Arts and Sciences, CALS and Engineering dominate. But, what is behind this rise in popularity among high school juniors and seniors? Ask anyone who has a child or grandchild going through the college application process, and you will find



Stephen Ashley

that the decision-making process is often a bizarre and strange melding of fact, impressions, desires, influences – and sometimes, the absurd. At the end of the day, rest assured, this process inevitably produces good results for the student, for Cornell and also for most of the other 4,000+ institutions of higher learning in the U.S. In this column, I will not attempt to parse the thinking of Cornell's applicant pool. What I will comment on are some thoughts about various initiatives that the University is engaged in – both internally and externally.

Let's begin with the advent of the Common Application. During the timeframe that I referenced, Cornell did adopt the Common Application that produced a spike-up in applicants but not to the current levels. This past fall, the Common Application had some technical problems that plagued all institutions using it -- which has brought into question its continued use. These problems meant

delays in responding to early decision applicants and having to extend deadlines. A student has to work carefully through Cornell's process inasmuch as they apply to one of the colleges and the decision-making is done at the college level with each college having its own criteria for admission. Sometimes, this is cited as a confusing issue or even a barrier -- but, never underestimate the ability of an 18-year-old to work through the maze. While I am willing to attribute a portion of the increase in applicants to the Common Application, I do not think it is the whole story.

Cornell in the media – especially positive media – brings attention to the University. We saw an increase in applications when our basketball team was going to the Final Four. The Roosevelt Island Cornell NYC Tech Campus has brought attention to Cornell's strength in engineering. Undoubtedly, this has had an effect in significantly increasing applications into the Engineering College. Remember that Cornell NYC Tech is graduate level only, but the spill over or halo effect is there.

Rankings do matter, and students know how to find them. Cornell has recently been helped by its recognition as outstanding in engineering and life sciences, undergraduate business education, hotel administration and industrial labor relations (both one-of-a-kind colleges), architecture and the strong core of liberal arts disciplines. These rankings, combined with Cornell's unique status as a land grant institution within the Ivy League, gives Cornell an edge in today's world where the applied and theoretical are joined together to address global issues. Students have been greatly attracted to Cornell's sustainability initiatives and the fact that sustainability as a theme weaves through virtually all curricula.

The University remains fully committed to its needs-blind admission policies. Simply stated, ability to pay is not a barrier to matriculation. While a number of institutions have needs-blind policies, Cornell fares very well in match-ups against our Ivy

peers. While Harvard, Princeton or Yale may have more generous financial aid policies than Cornell, an Ivy-match policy is in place for students that have been accepted at one of the other Ivies as well as Cornell. More than half of those students choose Cornell. The socio-economically diverse population at Cornell and the ability to find “more people like me” is often the response to “why?”

Branding is not something that higher education institutions have come to willingly – it seems “too corporate.” However, branding and marketing are very much a part of what major universities do today – and Cornell is no exception. Being in the news is part of that. More aggressive outreach to college counselors, onsite visits to larger urban high schools, and having uniform messaging are all part of a conscious and serious effort at presenting the opportunities and the value of a Cornell education.

It was President Rawlings that placed an emphasis on undergraduate education at Cornell. To make this effort more than words, an initiative was started to engage undergraduates in serious research work with faculty. Today, it is hard to find an undergraduate student that is not enthusiastically involved with faculty doing serious research. Often, this work leads to peer review and published papers with the undergraduate students named as research assistants. Often times, this work is cross-disciplinary and exposes students to subject matter that perhaps would not have been available to them otherwise. Given the quality of students that are applying to Cornell, this and other initiatives focused on the undergraduate experience have given Cornell an extra “hook”. While each undergraduate college still maintains course requirements for graduation from that college, the last few years have seen increased opportunities for students to obtain minors and take credit hours outside their home college. These opportunities do get factored into a student’s decision making especially when they see the remarkable variety of courses that are offered.

Increasingly, opportunities for studies abroad weigh on a student’s decision. President David Skorton has made a priority of enhancing Cornell’s international experience for its students, and while the current program is robust -- i.e., literally all parts of

the globe, especially when research projects are factored in – we can expect to see increased emphasis placed on a global experience during one’s undergraduate years.

While advanced uses of the internet and social media are well beyond capabilities and knowledge of this writer, we should not ignore the impact that both have on generating interest and enthusiasm. Cornell communications has come a long way in the last several years in terms of making use of these tools to inform and connect with its prospective students. Think for a moment how rapidly comment and opinions are transmitted by 18-year-olds. Harnessing these engines is ongoing and ever changing. I submit that only our brothers under the age of 25 can really assess the impact that these tools have on the growing applicant pool at Cornell.

The challenges for the admission officers in the various colleges is to build a class that has the characteristics to not only learn and engage on campus but also to go forth and engage four years later in the world and in meaningful ways. We continue to face challenges in attracting under-represented minority groups but have made significant progress. Today, only between 40% and 50% of the undergraduate population self-identifies as white Caucasian. The University continues to work at calibrating the financial aid formulas, and there is work to be done regarding the very large freshman survey courses, i.e., Psych 101. There is more demand for business related courses than we can reasonably provide and still maintain quality. These are a few of the issues that confront those enrolling in a freshman class.

Is it any wonder that Cornell has recently been ranked as one of the top 15 best values in higher education despite its cost (\$50,000+ in the endowed units, \$40,000+ in the contract units)? 40,000 applicants is a great problem to have. This is particularly true when you realize that early admission applications at 4,000 are up 14%, regular admissions are up 7% and under-represented minority applications are up 11%.

As we approach Cornell’s Sesquicentennial, there is much to celebrate and be proud of. What a terrific time to be a Cornellian! ❖

GREEK LIFE: PROGRESS TOWARDS STABILITY AND CHANGE

By Ralph Wilhelm '67

T

hankfully, the Greek Life picture continues to evolve toward stability and acceptance of change. The initiatives we've talked about in previous issues continue forth at a more measured pace, focused on assimilating the change and making it part of the Greek culture at Cornell.

Some might say, "accepting and adapting to the new normal."



Ralph Wilhelm

The move to the four-week New Member Education (NME) period for both fall and spring rush was done for the first time in this current academic year. Most chapters with the help of their Nationals, their alumni as needed, and the Cornell Greek office did quite

well with it. This four-week NME period covers the time between acceptance of bid and initiation, which for this semester ended on February 23, 2014. A few chapters chose to have an NME period of zero weeks, initiating immediately after bid acceptance, but they are the exception. The remaining chapters fit initiation into the allotted time, most performing their ritual on the last weekend.

It is particularly gratifying to report that by and large, the campus during rush and NME was much quieter than the last few years. Recent history has shown that the period that presented the biggest problems with illegal parties and generally unhealthy choices have been the weeks involving rush, NME, and the week or two following initiation. This year rush and the NME weeks were notably calmer compared to previous years. With the noted exceptions of unfortunate behavioral incidents at Phi Gam and D U and a hazing allegation against Chi Psi, the post initiation period

also generally went along smoothly at most houses.

One more piece of data that is especially encouraging: in the last few years, freshman after rush would anonymously fill out surveys that over 80% of them were offered liquor during rush. The data for this past rush in January indicates that the comparative number has dropped significantly to the 20 to 25% range. This is real measurable progress toward more solid social behavior and a meaningful reduction in risky choices.

Dan DeFlumeri, High Alpha, covers Omicron's rush results in more detail in his President's Report on page 7. However, it is important to note that with our 19 new Associate Members this spring added to our 3 new members from last fall's rush, Lambda Chi's 22 new members puts us well above the Cornell fraternity average of 15 to 16 new members. With the number of new freshman signing up for rush remaining constant and Cornell accepting a growing number of sophomore transfers in recent years, Omicron has made the wise choice of conducting both a fall and spring rush to minimize the risk of getting enough good men in just one spring rush and to take advantage of acquiring some of the fine transfers and upper classmen who decide to rush in the fall. This extra effort is the main reason why Lambda Chi has landed 32% more new members than most other fraternities and stands as one of the largest houses on The Hill with seventy seven members.

One more note that may be of interest, there are currently a dozen Panhellenic chapters on campus, with Phi Sigma Sigma being added last year with a very strong class. The demand of Cornell women to join sororities has consistently outstripped the available spots with over 900 women signing up for rush in January. Because of the increased demand from women who now compose about 55% of the Cornell community, the campus and Panhellenic groups have agreed to add yet another sorority: Phi Mu. This new sorority is currently looking for suitable housing and will begin rushing in the next academic year. It is this author's opinion that we will continue to go through the unique PHC process for gaining permission to add yet another



(or more) additional Panhellenic chapters until we come closer to meeting the growing demand.

The topic of “live-in” advisors continues to be alive, well, and not resolved yet on campus. The Fraternity Sorority Advisory Council (FSAC), has had four distinct and lengthy debates on the subject over the last fourteen months. It appears that the focus is moving in two directions simultaneously: (1) to expand adult advising in all its forms, and (2) to create a doable pathway to “live-in” advisors. The first area deals with a variety of things: permanent and solid alumni advisors as a majority of chapters have, solid and experienced alumni boards, and conscious and clear ties between undergraduate boards and alumni boards. The focus on the “live-in” advising portion is potentially taking a modified stance. At this point in the debate, it appears that “live-in” advisors would be required for new chapters or for chapters who had difficulty in the past who are coming back to campus. Other positions in this spectrum of “live-in” solutions would weigh the track record for solid and consistent chapter behavior to allow for a non-live in advisor to guide and advise the chapter. This portion of the debate is far from over and will be heavily debated again at the end of April by the FSAC and if we converge on an acceptable solution, this may be brought to the Trustees at their May Student Life Committee meeting. Remember: this is all just my opinion at this point, so stay tuned.

The “live-in” advisor discussion is especially important to Omicron given our upcoming renovation. It is the opinion of the Omicron Construction Committee that it is judicious at this point to at least rough-in the plumbing needed for a “live-in” advisor at the new Edgemoor. We can decide later (months or years hence) if we need to build the live-in advisor suite. This way we are prepared for the option if necessary.

One last point I want to bring up is Cayuga’s Watchers. This is a campus wide initiative run as an independent 501-c3 organization (<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2013/11/cayugas-watchers-aim-friendly-intervention>). This is a student run and student initiated program to intervene on a peer-to-peer basis to help diffuse difficult or edgy issues that come up at student social events. The students who perform this task are trained in how to behave, paid for performing this service, and only go to social events where the Cayuga’s Watchers are invited to attend. This is a stunning student developed and led organization with real potential to turn things around. I recommend you read the short article above at the web link listed.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email or call me at (317-508-6866; rvw5@cornell.edu). ❖

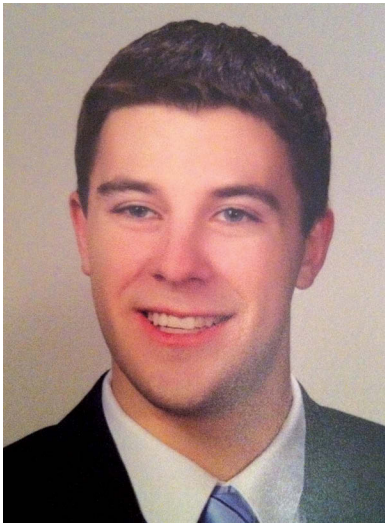


PRESIDENT'S REPORT: STRONG SPRING RUSH

By Daniel DeFlumeri '15

As

the newly elected High Alpha, I am pleased to introduce myself to all our alumni readers and give you an update on some of the house's activities and achievements since the last President's Report in the fall edition of *The Oracle*.



Daniel DeFlumeri

I grew up in Peabody, Massachusetts in the Boston area and graduated from the St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers. I am an Industrial and Labor Relations major in the ILR School pursuing minors in Law & Society and Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Cornell was my choice because of its outstanding reputation and some great stories I heard about the accessibility and effectiveness of the Alumni Network which has already paid dividends for me in the form of an internship and a number of valuable informational interviews. Cornell was also attractive to me because, while I love the Boston area, I wanted to experience living in a new part of the country with a diverse group of students.

I joined Lambda Chi because the Brotherhood impressed me as a down to earth group of guys who clearly enjoyed spending time with each other and who I could see myself living with. I also really liked how the different classes hung out with each other and there were no cliques. At Lambda Chi, it's common to see Seniors hanging out with Sophomores. I also loved the location of the House. It doesn't get much better than being right on Cascadilla Gorge.

OMICRON FACT BOX: SPRING 2014

High Alpha.....	Dan DeFlumeri '15
High Beta.....	Mike Dohmann '16
High Gamma.....	Chris Merrill '15
High Epsilons.....	Alex Valenti '16
.....	Kyle Coble '16
High Tau.....	Alex Gatto '15
High Delta.....	Duncan McCausland '16
High Sigma.....	Kyle Frank '14
High Rho.....	Ben Sarnoff '15
High Iota.....	Rob Suriani '16
High Mu.....	Ryan Pritchard '16
Steward.....	Mike Hassman '15
Jock.....	Randy Linderman '15
Executive Representatives.....	Nick Polera '15
.....	Jamie Winebrake '15
.....	Reece Anderson '16

Thanks to the great work of Rush Chair, Peter Caldwell, Omicron remains one of the largest Chapters on The Hill with seventy seven members including the nineteen outstanding new Associate Members shown below who just joined our ranks. Our GPA is now 3.35 which continues the upward trend we have achieved in recent years. We maintained our position as a campus leader in serving the community with several fund raising events with Cornell sororities during the past fall and our planned participation in the National Fraternity's North American Food Drive this spring. Omicron's intramural sports program also continues to flourish with outstanding performances in both soccer and football last fall which are covered in detail in the Sports Page section following on page 9. And lastly, we kicked off our spring social schedule with a very successful Valentine's Day semi-formal which was the first formal social event for our new Associate Members. Sorority Mixers planned this spring semester include Kappa Delta, Pi Phi and AE Phi among others.

I look forward to having a chance to meet many of our alumni supporters who have been so generous in their support of our upcoming renovation program. ❖

STRONG SPRING RUSH



OUR NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Unless otherwise noted, all are in the Class of 2017:

Joe Barsotti, ILR, from Burlington, VT
Josh Behler '16, Arts and Sciences, from Merrimack, NH
Andrea Biondi, Engineering, from Coral Gables, FL
Doug Bourdett '16, Arts and Sciences, from Bayonne, NJ
Justin Chon, CALS, from Glendale, California
Alexander Fernandez, CALS, from Suffern, NY
Alex Garcia '16, ILR, from Easthampton, MA
David Glazer, CALS, from Rochester, NY
Bryan Harriott, Engineering, from Winston-Salem, NC
Chase Johnson, Arts and Sciences, from Waterbury, VT

Matt Kim, CALS, from Manhasset, NY
Tim Krausz, Arts and Sciences, from Saint Helena, CA
Ryan Lee '16, Arts and Sciences, from Boston, MA
Ege Mihmanli, Engineering, from Istanbul, Turkey
Max Murray, Engineering, from Rush, NY
Mike Reed, CALS, from Horseheads, NY
Zach Stricklin, ILR, from Montgomery, AL
Jason Weinberg, Engineering, from Suffern, NY
Alex Woloshyn, ILR, from Lake Forest, IL

ALUMNI SPEAKERS WANTED

By Ben Sarnoff '15

The current LXA Omicron Chapter Undergrad Executive Board has revived an initiative to bring in alumni to Edgemoor to speak with the undergraduate brotherhood at various points throughout the spring 2014 semester and beyond. We invite and encourage the alumni to discuss and share with us their life experiences subsequent to leaving the LXA community at Cornell University (and a Chopper anecdote here and there would not be inappropriate, either).

We envision that this speaker series will be both informational and interactive from the perspective of the presenter and attendees. Moreover, bringing in speakers will provide current brothers with an idea of the possible career paths and opportunities that exist beyond the university borders. These "opportunities" shouldn't be limited to professional endeavors; they may include any life experiences (e.g. traveling or philanthropic work) that will enhance students' perspectives of the world. In addition, staying in contact with LXA alumni will allow the brotherhood to continue to grow the connections that were established in

the grueling Ithaca winters.

We want these LXA connections to expand and extend into the "real" world, just as they have at Edgemoor. This past fall we had our Omicron Centennial Celebration in Ithaca, and it was tremendously rewarding. Students met and interacted with alumni, hearing about their backgrounds and adventures. Building off the success of the Centennial Weekend, we believe that an ongoing connection between alumni and undergraduates will be an incredibly rewarding learning experience.

Continuing to educate, expand, and unite the LXA community at Cornell and on a national level will only help the fraternity to strengthen. We would love to get the speaker series started this spring semester. If you are passing through Ithaca for any reason and would like to drop by for a meal and to speak for an hour or so, or even want to make a special trip to see the old Campus and give a talk, please contact me, Alumni Secretary (Rho) Ben Sarnoff at bas262@cornell.edu. I will be happy to answer any questions and try to arrange a mutually agreeable date and time given the undergrad schedule. I look forward to learning from you. ❖

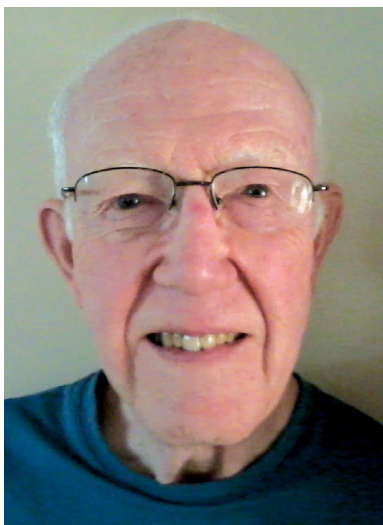
LXA WINS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

By Lee Leonard '63



micron is rapidly becoming an intramural sports power on The Hill. Following last year's flag football championship, this fall's soccer team won its first inter-fraternity soccer title in recent memory.

Armed with a deep and well-balanced squad, Omicron took the league by storm, surpassing last year's strong showing that ended with a controversial narrow loss 1-0 to Delta Upsilon in the semi-finals. This year's final result was a 4-1 shellacking of Sigma Chi.



Lee Leonard

During the season, the defense was anchored by Jamie Winebrake '15 and Kevin Yu '15, experienced returning starters and longtime room-

mates, who provided consistent veteran leadership and the stamina to play the entire game throughout the season. Their efforts, along with our two outstanding goalkeepers, Michael Hassman '15 and Chris Heagen '16, helped Omicron lead the league in defense. The team only allowed one goal the entire regular season via an unfortunate penalty kick by Seal and Serpent. As the level of competition rose during Lambda Chi's four-game march through the playoffs to the championship, this group continued to shut down the high-powered offenses of Sigma Pi and Sigma Chi among others.

In the midfield, returning starter, Chris Merrill '15, was assisted by newcomers Randy Linderman '16, Ben Sarnoff '15, Alex Gatto '15 and Kenny Wronka '16 in controlling the flow of play. Sarnoff demonstrated extreme focus on a well-struck free-kick goal while Linderman delivered stunning long-range goals a number of times during the season. Meanwhile Wronka applied tireless and tenacious defensive pressure whenever called upon.

Lambda Chi also continued to dominate on the offensive

end with contributions from the likes of Anthony Mazzulli '15, and club player, Jason Schwab '15. Peter Caldwell '15 and Kyle Coble '16 also added valued offensive minutes throughout the season. This group managed to tally 17 goals during the regular season resulting in a league-leading 16-goal differential. During the post season, former Syracuse varsity player Clayton Dubin '14, added a necessary spark in hotly-contested 2-1, 2-0 and 2-1 victories over Pi Kapp, Alpha Gamma Rho and Sigma Pi respectively. A barrage of goals against Sigma Chi in the championship game –two each by Mazzulli and Schwab, put the game out of reach by halftime in an impressive 4-1 victory, giving Omicron the title.



The soccer team shown above hopes to build on this year's accomplishments and plans to compete for the title again this coming fall. The prospects are there with this season's roster including only one senior. All starters from the championship match will return and the roster will be bolstered with several new faces from this year's rush.

In other sports news, Omicron made it to the playoffs in flag football before being eliminated and the basketball team continues to do very well with impressive wins over Alpha Delt, 44-22, Sigma Pi -2, 37-5 and Delta Chi, 26-21. Despite a loss to Phi Psi, 32-25, the team still has the potential to make the playoffs. ❖

ALUMNI ADVENTURES: RECORD CATCH

By Jim Sollecito '75

This is a new entry for *The Oracle* featuring unique adventures and accomplishments experienced by Omicron alumni. Send us a report on your personal achievement for future editions. This is Jim's story about his record-breaking arctic adventure.

In March 2013, my fishing buddy Dennis Ouellette, owner of Ontario Orchards in Oswego, asked me if I was interested in joining him for a once in a lifetime fishing trip into some remote streams in eastern Canada on the edge of the Arctic. At age 67, Dennis is the most avid fly fisherman I've ever met and we have fished together on many occasions from Alaska to the Baja. However, this was a very challenging journey involving lots of equipment and various modes of air transportation into what experienced pilots refer to as "The capitol of bad weather" that would leave us on our own for prolonged periods in remote areas populated by black bears, wolves and even some polar bears. Listening to Dennis' enthusiasm for the unique fishing opportunities, I knew I had to join him.

Our journey began on Wednesday, July 31st when our friend Keith Richardson, a very experienced 60-year-old airplane pilot and licensed guide, said we'd better take that short 5.5 hour drive to his house ASAP so we could get airborne and beat the big storm headed across Canada. Sensing his urgency, we hurriedly threw our things into duffle bags 2 days earlier than originally planned, and drove to Racine, an hour east of Montreal where we met our sage pilot. He has owned the same Cessna Aerocet 3500 single engine float plane since it was new in 1978. This would be our work horse, ferrying three of us, our equipment and twelve 5-Imperial gallon jugs of fuel stowed in the floats. Since this kind of bush plane cruises around 110 mph and has a fuel capacity of 84 gallons, burning 17 gallons an hour gave us a range of about 400 miles, an estimated 4 1/2 hours flying time-give or take headwinds, tailwinds and bad weather.

How do you pack for a 12-day trip? I like to be prepared. If there's a chance I might need something, I include it. However, Keith made me unpack my hastily packed bag, culling out many of my "necessities." He reminded me that it was all about weight and room in the plane. We needed to be able to carry enough fuel to reach our destination and

get back again. Keith said he didn't need to be a good pilot; he just wants to be an old one.

Keith's 32-year-old son, Patrick, is a commercial helicopter pilot who has spent years flying the backcountry of Alaska in his 4-seat Robinson Raven 11 helicopter. The chopper can fly low, a mere 30 feet above the ground at 100 mph, but doesn't have the fuel capacity to make such a remote trip. Hence the need for coordination between father and son pilots and their two machines: the plane accessed and carried the fuel and the helicopter took us to the fishing locations. Add the factor of constantly changing weather and it requires a lot of planning and coordination. That's Keith fueling the Cessna and me with our supplies ready to load in the adjacent picture:



First we took an 850 mile 8-hour series of flight legs in the bush plane to Nain, the northernmost settlement in Labrador. From Nain it took three trips to fly supplies and more fuel to our base camp. Keith's timing was impeccable and we did beat the weather. Other flights & sportsmen were fogged in at the airport for the following five days. We had safely reached our destination: a cozy camp on Tsasiujak Lake, where we were socked in for days.

The camp consisted of an unfinished boarded-up building, an outhouse, 2 paddle canoes and a freighter canoe with a 10-horse engine. Our quarries here were Arctic Char, huge Lake Trout and Brook Trout up to 5 pounds. People don't take this trip for the view although it was stupendous and it would be an ideal movie location to film a lunar landing.

Unfortunately, the bugs were so thick that swatting them was insufficient. We scraped them off with our hands. We

ALUMNI ADVENTURES: JIM SOLLECITO '75 LANDS RECORD CATCH

applied DEET a few times every day and again before hitting the sleeping bags. I learned that wearing blue and green-colored clothing keeps down the bug attacks; anything else was an attractant. Of course, that's why the fishing is so good here because the fish eat these same mosquitoes and black flies during July and August, the two months that the lakes aren't frozen over.

There was no sign of a human anywhere. We did see black bears, polar bears, wolves, Beluga whales, Harp seals, and did I mention the polar bears? The presence of polar bears brought a whole new level of danger to the trip. We could tell we were sharing the fishing spots with polar bears by the large paw prints along some of the rivers. Even more alarming, we were staying near where a camper was pulled from his tent and mauled by a polar bear just a few days before.

The key to bear defense is to have a Bear Monitor with you. That would be an Inuit with a rifle. Inuits lead tough lives. A 50-year-old Inuit is considered old up there. Since there were five of us fishing and just one monitor, we shared him. I kept my bear spray handy.

The inaccessibility of the area was the charm and appeal, but also the challenge. Fishing the secluded rivers as far as 200 miles from base requires a helicopter. The float plane is needed to get fuel for the chopper and other supplies. This unique land is rugged and remote. Intense evening conversations were spent planning and sequencing for the efficient acquisition and use of fuel. All this was focused on getting to where we thought the Arctic Char might be located.

Once the wind shifted and the sun shone, a typical clear day started with a plane or chopper dropping Dennis and me 30-50 miles from camp. We were left for the day to "bar hop." This means fly fishing one river bar and wading to the next. Around 5pm we were picked up and flown back to camp. Most of the 20-30 fish we caught in a day were released unharmed. If conditions changed, such as fog or wind, then we were prepared to spend the night sharing the riverbanks with the bears and wolves. If you see a bear, he's already seen you. Keep doing what you do, most of the time they are merely feeding and will move along. We



drank river water and never saw another soul. It was spiritual indeed.

The azure blue water ran fast and cold. Once the Char started their migration from the ocean, the fishing really picked up as did their size. From the air we spotted Char by the thousands, and we also scanned for bears. We were dropped off to fish for a period of time, then moved on to a different piece of crystal clear water. I have seen fish jump waterfalls in Alaska; here the powerful char swim up them. Just amazing.

In the Natchvak Fjord on the last day, I was able to hook and land the Arctic Char in the adjacent picture that established the highly prized new IGFA Fly Rod World Fishing Record. After a torrid fight in the river, I landed the

17.5 pound male with an 8 weight fly rod with a 12-pound test leader. When I caught him, I was pretty sure he was a world record. First I had to bury him with stones in the river so the bears wouldn't smell him and wait 3 hours for the chopper to finally return.

Waiting for a flight was always a test of faith and gave me time to think a lot about life in general. Fuel was hard to come by and necessary to return to camp, then finally home. Some days we flew 100 miles to find fuel so we could fly another 300 more. It was that kind of place.

Nature's way, and ours for this adventure, was one of constant readjustment. The weather turned so the trip was cut short. It was a harrowing flight home. I used to quip "If I die on the way home from a fishing trip, don't worry about it. If I die on the way up, that's the time to be sad." Those words haunted me on the stressful 10-hour bush plane ride home. Pilots require intricate math, weather science and flying skills. Fortunately, everyone involved was keenly dialed in and we arrived safely.

Parts of this adventure will be with me for the rest of my days. Not just the fishing, but the whole experience, the perspective and vastness of the natural world. When Ama, the Inuit Bear Monitor, asked me what I did for a living, I told him "I plant trees." He looked at me quizzically and asked "why?" In the natural world, there are more questions than answers. ❖

TRAVEL NUGGETS: THE ITALIAN RIVIERA- NEGLECTED TREASURE

By Alan Fridkin '65

T

he humorist Calvin Trillin mused that one of the great tragedies of history is that the Italians didn't get an island in the Caribbean despite Cristopher Columbus discovering the area. There is no Santo Prosciutto, as he daydreamed, but there are plenty of lovely Italian beach resorts along their thousands of miles of coastline.



Alan Fridkin

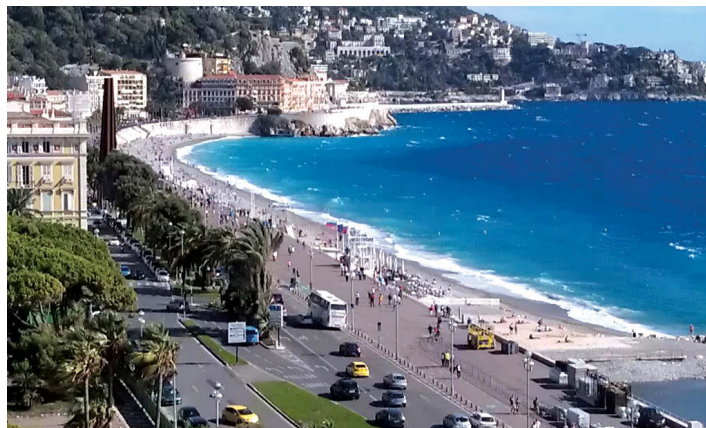
The word Rivera conjures images of rich and unpleasant folk conspicuously consuming in places like Cannes, St. Tropez, Antibes and Monte Carlo. There are many Rivas now, but the original term for coastal beach resorts referred to the French and Italian littoral from roughly St. Tropez to La Spezia. There are

fewer British and Russian aristocrats now, but people with or without a lot of money, regardless of their nationality, still gravitate to this sunny strip.

We prefer the faded and less pretentious Italian side, divided roughly into the Riviera dei Fiori (of Flowers) to the west and Riviera Ponente (the East) to the east of Genoa. Both are a part of one of the smallest of Italy's 20 regions, Liguria. It is a boomerang shaped wedge of land along the northern stretch of the Mediterranean, about 163 miles long and rarely more than 20 miles deep.

I first washed up on these shores courtesy of the U.S. Navy in 1968-9. It was love at first sight. As much as we are addicted to travel, we have spent more time here than anywhere else and will continue to do so.

Unlike the Spanish and Portuguese, the Italians haven't decimated their beach towns with high rise and hermetically sealed luxury and package tour hotels. Not



Nice

everything is pretty, but you are not walled off from everyday life. Before tourism, this was an area of commercial fishing, hearty agriculture and shipbuilding. All three activities continue, altered by today's markets. The fishing is now geared to upscale restaurants and local fish markets. The agriculture focused on what they do best: olives and olive oil; fresh flowers; vineyards; and specialty crops such as artichokes, asparagus and basil. The shipbuilding now is more in the form of handcrafted yachts.

This area isn't hidden-it is teeming with visitors, but few are from the U.S. these days. Some Americans gravitate to the tour touted beauty of places like Portofino and Cinque Terre, combining day or overnight trips with the better known venues of Florence and Siena in neighboring Tuscany. But there is so much more to see and savor!

Logistics- Genoa has a small airport, but it is not well served. From the states, by air, the best access is through Nice. Milan or Pisa is a second choice, although there is much to see if you head in those directions. Nice was part of the kingdom of Naples until the 1850s and still has an Italianate feel. Nice is a delightful city-for shop-ping, dining, art and music. From there you can proceed by car, train or bus into Liguria. Ventimiglia, and the Italian Border are scarcely 25 miles to the east. The most flexibility would be with your own rental or lease car. Private car services or taxis will take you across the border.

TRAVEL NUGGETS

Train service is extensive, although the Italian Railway is generally 20 years behind the French. Arriving from France, you have to switch to an Italian train in Ventimiglia. Train service from Pisa and Milan go through Genoa. Pickpockets work the border and main train stations. Be smart and use a hidden wallet. Bus lines tend to be local, provincial affairs, useful for traveling between towns, but not for long distances.

Why Bother- The terrain is gorgeous. There were fishing villages here that predate the Greeks and Romans. While archaeological sites are modest, there is a timeless beauty, together with medieval art and Italian hospitality. Seafood and pasta dishes can be sublime. Local produce and specialties are often spectacular. Think pesto, and seasonal treats like artichokes, zucchini blossoms, mushrooms and chinotto (a myrtle leaved small orange). There is lots of fine gelato, espresso and cappuccino.

Less expensive and less pretentious than the French Riviera, you can easily combine the shopping and sunning of beach resorts with beautiful mountain (really hill) villages just a few miles inland. See some of the most beautiful yachts in the world in San Remo and Porto Maurizio. World class opera and jazz are on tap in Genoa.

Genoa is a fascinating city rich in history, beautiful palaces and churches that is somewhat off the tourist track and well worth discovering.

With wheels, it is easy to combine a trip here with a sortie into the wine, spa and mountain sectors of Piemonte a short distance to the north. Destinations there include Alba, Asti, Acqui Terme, Cuneo and Torino (Turin).

Where to Visit/ Stay- We like smaller towns, each with its own personality. Along the coast: Lerici, Sestri Levante, Santa Margherita and Camogli to the east and Noli, Varigotti, Alassio, Laigueglia, Cervo, Porto Maurizio and Bordighera to the west of Genoa are lovely. Inland, villages like Apricale, Cas-

tel Vittorio, Castelbianco and Ranzo offer beautiful scenery and ancient communities. Small hotels, B&Bs, Pensiones and Agriturismo (working farms) all offer reasonable priced quality lodging.



Alassio Beach



Alassio Birdello

Where to Dine- Six of our favorites, over many years: A Spurcacciu-a in Savona; Il Vescovado in Noli; the Hotel Lamberti and the Sail Inn in Alassio; Lanterna Blu in Porto Maurizio and Amarea in Bordighera. If I could schedule my last meal, it would be fish soup, bottarga with buffalo mozzarella and tomatoes, and whatever fish or pasta my friend Massimo recommended at Lanterna Blu. Of course, there would be a bottle or two of local Pigato or Vermentino.

When- Since we don't like crowds, anytime but summer is best Sept-Oct and May-June are ideal. We often head there for a month in Jan/Feb. It can be cool and rainy. But I will take 50s and sometimes 60 degrees over winter in New England. Even when it sometimes drops to the 30s, you will be in one of the warmest places in Europe.

Andrew Dickson White wrote part of his memoirs while staying as a house guest in our favorite town, Alassio, in the winters of 1903 and 1904. It is still a fine place to reflect on life and the world. ❖

HORT SENSE: CREATING YOUR SIGNATURE LANDSCAPE

By R. Wayne Mezitt '64



ompared to homeowners in warmer climates, we New Englanders tend to devote less attention to fully utilizing the grounds around our homes. Long winters, hot and dry summers,

water-use restrictions, are among the factors that limit our imagination and serve as disincentives to creativity. Alternate activities such as golf, travel, boating, sports, and of course career advancement also compete for our attention. As a result, many of us have simply accepted the boring, minimal, old-style “Ring-Around-the-Foundation” type plantings that contractors traditionally install when they build homes.



Wayne Mezitt

But changing lifestyles are now leading an evolution away from fundamentally cosmetic landscaping toward more thoughtful use of spaces around our homes. People are discovering the value of imaginatively-designed “outdoor rooms” and reconnecting with the pleasures that only gardening and working with the rhythms of nature can afford.

How extensive your landscape should be will depend upon your answers to a number of personal questions: How long do you intend to live in this home? How do you anticipate using various areas, e.g., family activities, entertaining guests, relaxation, growing vegetables? What’s your budget — both in dollars and available time? How will your planned changes be perceived by your neighbors and affect the neighborhood and surrounding areas?

Here are some general suggestions for designing your landscape:

Involve your family in coming up with possibilities and preferences for the ways various areas in your yard should function.

Compile lists of the “givens” based upon area measurements and observation of important features (some of

which may not be evident in a single season). Take note of soil characteristics, drainage conditions, seasonal sun and wind patterns, temperature extremes, topography and size of the site, existing trees and structures you wish to retain.

Agree upon a budget — both the dollars you can spend and the time you can devote, including maintaining your grounds after installation. This is a good opportunity to decide how much you can do yourself and how much should involve outside contractors.

Before installing any new plants, make sure the basic infrastructure requiring major excavation, construction or grading is finished. Here’s a recommended sequence for efficient landscape installation, perhaps scheduled in phases:

Hardscape (contour creation, soil improvement, stonework, irrigation systems, fences, etc.);

Locations for major trees or large shrubbery, including existing plants;

Understory-type, slower-growing and smaller trees and shrubs;

Groundcovers and herbaceous plantings (including sod or lawn);

Seasonal color and flowers (annuals) and detailed decorative touches

Spaces around your home can readily be transformed into areas for varying uses including vegetable or herb gardens, lawn sports, pool, outdoor-cooking, specialized landscapes (Japanese, Italian, rock gardens, etc.), water gardens, reading areas, contemplative gardens, orchards, shady arbors, topiary, formal, rose or peony gardens, and so on.

Every project needs a plan, but not necessarily written or formalized. Inspiration may come from gardens you’ve seen and admired, expert advice from a local garden center, or by working with a designer you’ve hired to help envision the possibilities. You may notice specific deficiencies to correct or have a particular vision to fulfill, but you also may want assistance in developing concepts and possibilities. Be sure to consider how the plants you choose will grow and change as they mature, and how the mature landscape will suit your vision. Plans that evolve as the garden develops often produce the most gratifying

results because they adapt to emerging possibilities.

Landscaping is not an exact science: there's lots of room for error and adjustment. Very few choices are strictly right or wrong, as long as you understand the fundamentals and use nature as a guide. You will find the process most gratifying if you adopt a mindset to enjoy all aspects of the undertaking along the way — from the planning process, the installation and development, to the results.

Living plants are among those rare investments you can expect to increase in value as the years pass. Develop relationships with key experts who can utilize your own knowledge and advise you on design, infrastructure details, and horticulture. If your budget is limited, consider saving money by using smaller plants, sowing grass in-

stead of sod, and implementing your garden design in phases. Landscaping is a long-term commitment: never skimp on the fundamentals of quality construction and infrastructure like soil quality, proper drainage and water management.

Planning and installing gardens around your home can be a rewarding experience and a wholesome, fulfilling family activity. Landscaping adapts to the time and money you wish to invest. It affords unique opportunities to apply the principles and favorite design ideas you've observed in travel and in other gardens. And best of all, effectively designed landscapes maximize the year-round enjoyment of the personal spaces around your home to provide decades of enjoyment for your family and guests. ❖

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

► 1948

Bob McKinless reports that he made two trips to Cornell this year for special events, his 65th Reunion and Omicron's Centennial Celebration Weekend. He drove to the first in June with his bicycle stopping to collect three more counties in Pennsylvania and Jason Cho '98 drove him to the Centennial Celebration. He managed to get over 1,000 miles of biking this year and he is still singing with the Washington Men's Camerata where he serves as their librarian. Bob is also happy to say that Nancy's health is improving and she is now driving again for the first time in a year. You'll find Bob at bikerbob8@mac.com.

► 1952

John "Rednose" Nickles '52 proudly tells us that his daughter is serving the country with the military in Afghanistan. He is anxious to see her when she returns home at the end of the month. John can be reached at mjnickles@verizon.net.

► 1959

Charlie "Y.B." Way tells us that he is still actively skiing with season passes at the local Mt. Baker and up in British Columbia at Whistler where he spent Presidents Day. He also made a very special purchase of a classic red 1955 MG TD from the estate of Pat's oldest cousin. Buying it he says not only satisfied his forty year old

itch times two, but also helped satisfy an obligation since he helped talk him into buying it in the first place. Y.B says he thinks the purchase takes him into his third childhood. When he is not tooling around in his new MG, you'll catch Charlie at ctbway@aol.com.

► 1960

William T. "Curt" Curtice says that he has enjoyed fighting all the snow and ice in Atlanta by trying to find some trays to slide down hills ala his days in Ithaca. Alas, no such luck in his part of Georgia so he has been forced to sit in front of the fireplace with some suitable liquid refreshments and contemplate the fates of our Yankee brothers up north. Curt has heard from Carl Igelbrink that they have been inundated with snow on the Connecticut shore and , not surprisingly, John Comstock living in the foothills of the Adirondacks has been up to his elbows in the white stuff. He hasn't heard much lately from Charlie Way and Bruce Veghte, contrary to his nature, has been keeping a low profile while minding Winter, his tailless dolphin, at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Curt says it's been fun keeping in touch with so many old classmates over the years and he feels it's amazing how little most of us have aged. With golf season approaching, he is now getting back to trying to make short putts. You'll reach Curt at wcurtice@aol.com.

► 1961

John "Ohm" Comstock relates that the record cold and snow in Gloversville has kept him and Arlene pretty close to home snow-blowing and trying to stay warm.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

With all the snow, he has been able to get in some good skiing when the weather hasn't been too cold. You'll reach John at jcomstock@frontiernet.net.

► 1962



Lee "Beast" Manning and his wife Leslie took a week off in December 2013 to visit Iceland. Much to their surprise, it was not as cold there as the same week was back at their home in Virginia. The Gulf Stream has a lot to do with it. There was a little snow, and some rain.

The nights were long, but the scenery was incredible. The sun did not rise until nearly 11:00 am, and set again a bit past 3:00 pm, never getting more than 3 degrees above the horizon, even at "high" noon. During their time there they found navigating with a rental car to be easy (4 wheel drive, of course) and in every village and town, Icelandic natives spoke flawless English.

It is a land of lava flows and glaciers, punctuated by geysers here and there, and some hot springs. The coastal ring road (Route 1, of course) provides a constant barrage of scenic waterfalls. Here is a photo of Lee and Leslie in front of one called Seljalandsfoss, which can be hiked behind when the weather is warmer and the tourist braver. (the suffix *-foss*, very common, simply means waterfall in Icelandic)

The sun remained flare-free during their visit, so displays of northern lights were dim, and did not photograph well, but otherwise, it was a great trip for the scenery and the chance to meet the locals and soak

up the culture. Our advice to other travelers, get out of Reykjavik and see the countryside. It's a beautiful place. Also plan for leisurely breakfasts, and lengthy happy hours.

► 1963

Tom "TD" Miller wrote to tell us about his and Dorie's great trip to Frankfort, Germany during Omicron's 100th Celebration Weekend to await the arrival of the latest edition of Tom Miller, their first grandchild, Tomas Sadahiro Miller.

The latest Tom Miller is the product of their son, Timothy and his wife, Beverly, who is on assignment in Frankfort with the US State Department. The Sadhiro middle name comes with a unique story when Beverly's family hosted a Japanese exchange student named Masumi Sadahiro when she was in High School. They became lifelong friends and have been in each other's weddings. When Masumi's family was contacted for permission to use their name as young Tom's middle name, they happily agreed. Now the latest Tom Miller is called Hiro (Hero).

► 1964

Bob and Ann Ball have permanently moved to Steamboat Springs, Colorado from Amarillo, Texas where they have been treated to 280 inches of snow this past winter. They both are getting in more skiing now that Ann has recovered from a shoulder separation after being run over by an out of control skier last season. They had a very interesting trip in November to Chile for night sky viewing at the big observatories in the Atacama Desert with its clear, dark skies. In May, they will travel to Northern Spain/Southern France to view 30,000 year old cave art, a long time interest of theirs. Bob lives at rball@stmbt.net.

► 1965

Chuck Corddry reports that he and Lynn live in Houston where he has been retired for a couple of years from Shell's Legal department where he practiced anti-trust law. You'll reach Chuck at chuckcorddry@aol.com.

Ralph Stokes reports that he is retired from John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and he lives with his wife, Jo-Ann of 41 years, in Ellicott City, Maryland. Their two sons and their families live nearby and they enjoy spending time with their two grandsons. With the Chesapeake region celebrating the bicentennial of the War of 1812, Ralph has enjoyed visiting the places along the Bay that have historical significance. Ralph resides at grampsII@verizon.net.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI



Jim Loomis writes " Last August I made my second trip to Kamchatka, Russia for what has to be the world's best rainbow trout fishing. The Kamchatka peninsula is about 1,000 miles long and the size of California, but only has a population of 400,000 people with 75% of them living in Petropalovsk Kamchatsky (Petro). The rest of the peninsula features some of the most remote country in the northern hemisphere with only about three roads in the southern half. Access to the remote fishing camp on the Ozernaya River, about four hundred miles north of Petro, is by Russian M18 helicopter. As shown above with Jim on the right, the rainbow trout can exceed 30 inches in length, but average about 25 inches. In addition to the trout, there are arctic char and grayling in the river, plus at certain times, most species of salmon. There are also many brown bears, which are huge, but timid and tend to avoid contact with people. Jim's home base is at jrloomispe@aol.com.

► 1966

Rich Fleming says that he sold his Big Easy Tobacco Company, a distributor of over a thousand tobacco accessories throughout the US, and retired. He now plans to do all the things he hasn't done in the last twenty years like spend more time with his kids and grandkids in Chicago, Indianapolis and Delaware. Rich can be found at richardfleming@earthlink.net.

► 1967

Jack "Match" Matchulat tells us that he is still practicing Labor Law after more than forty years and has been married to Cindy for forty three years. They have lived in the mid-south since 1979 and near Nashville since 1989. Jack loves the area with its natural beauty and

has managed to keep his golf skills at a high level with a ten handicap. He would like to hear more from other Omicron alumni in the '66 to '69 years and allows he has plenty of room for visitors. You can contact Jack at jmatchulat@gmail.com.

► 1969



Warren and Lee Lem shown above in front of the Grand Palace in Bangkok, just returned from a swing through southeast Asia. Warren reports that Bangkok was a bit disconcerting with lots of street demonstrations against the Prime Minister. They feel they got out just in time and recommend would be travelers wait awhile until things settle down before journeying there. Warren lives at warrenlem@aol.com.

From way down under, Dave Shannon sends his best and asks friends to contact him at his new email address, daveshan@extra.co.nz.

► 1974

Phil Sollecito writes to say that he and Wendy have retired after living in Seattle for forty years and their joints are telling them they are ready for a warmer place with more sunshine, some year-round fishing and tropical fruit. Their plan is to move to the Port Charlotte area on Florida's Gulf coast this spring. You will reach Phil at autoamenity@msn.com.

► 1975

Allen Nicholson reports that he is serving as the Chair of Department of Biology at Temple University while also maintaining a teaching and research program. He is looking forward to his 40th Reunion next year and hopes other '75s will join him. Allen lives at awnphd@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

► 1976



When Jim Sollecito heard that visiting Ron Samascott was celebrating his 60th Birthday, he alerted the waiter who brought out the gratis desert and accompanying Urban Sombrero shown below. You'll find Jim at jsollecito@twcnv.rr.com and Ron at rsam1954@gmail.com.

► 1979

Mark Hallock reports that he left Jefferies & Company back in 2012 to staff a boutique advisory firm M20 Private Fund Advisors based in White Plains, New York. His oldest son, Nick, is a freshman at Columbia and Rob is a Sophomore at the Hackley School in Tarrytown. Mark is on the Board of the Cornell rowing Association and his wife, Claire, is active in the community. Mark resides at mark@m2ollc.com.

► 1982

Eric Bauer tells us that he has just published his fifth book, "Service Quality of Cloud-Based Applications" via Wiley Press as he continues his work at Alcatel-Lucent. Eric and his wife, Sandy, are looking forward to celebrating their 24th wedding anniversary in June. Their children are also doing well as Lauren is a sophomore at a magnet biotechnology High School doing gymnastics and their son, Mark, is in eighth grade and plays soccer and runs cross country and track. You'll catch Eric at ericbauer@verizon.net.

Mark "Mef" Fernau and his wife, Melissa, and daughter Gwen attended the Cornell-Harvard hockey game in Cambridge back in February along with a group of Omicron brothers including Steve "Keegs Buddy" Keegan '80 and his wife, Anna, Brian "Rodney" Rooney '80 and son, Tim, Mike Lennon '81 and wife, Julie, Bill "Staz" Stasiuk '80 and his wife, Sue, and daughter, Julie, and Cliff Manko '80 and his wife, Patty. Mark reports that the pre-game warm-up at John Harvard's Brew Pub and a "Big Red" victory made for a great evening. He hopes other Boston area Choppers will join in next time. Mark also reports that after thirty years of shirking his duties, he has agreed to serve on the ISWZA

Alumni Board as Communications Director. One of his main goals is to teach the undergrads how to sing the Big Red Wheel, Sterile-I- Eril and other Omicron classics. You can reach Mark at mfernau@ametsoc.org.

► 1983

Brad Friedman writes to say he and his wife, Kim, have taken up competitive sailing and managed to place an impressive second in the "B" group at the nationals a few years ago. Brad also enjoys being Commodore of his Yacht Club which along with certain duties allows him to wear a natty (or silly depending on your perspective) uniform. When he's not out on the water, you'll find Brad at bnfriedman1@hotmail.com.

► 1991

Kris Billiar writes to report a number of major accomplishments: first, he was promoted to full professor of biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), where he has been on the faculty since 2002. Second, he was elected a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), an honor bestowed on just two percent of the organization's 130,000 members! Kris is the director of WPI's Tissue Mechanics and Mechanobiology Laboratory, where he studies how mechanical signals affect basic cell functions and influence such biological processes as tissue development, repair, and disease. Oh, and for good measure, he has an appointment as an adjunct associate professor of surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, has been named to the executive board of ASME's Bioengineering Division, and has been appointed an associate editor for ASME's *Journal of Biomechanical Engineering*.

► 1993

Andy Rosenberg happily reports that life is good for him in Weston, CT, where he and wife Lauren follow the theatrical pursuits of son Ben (12) and the soccer heroics of daughter Julia (10). Andy spends his work life in NYC negotiating television network distribution agreements for Time Warner Cable, to which he transitioned in 2007 after a long stint in Philadelphia as an attorney with Comcast. He regularly sees brother Simon Franceschi '92 on the Upper West Side and hopes to get more brothers together in Manhattan this year.

► 1994

Michael Rapolas is still residing in Hamilton, NJ with wife Christina and two pooches, a puggle and a rescue coonhound. He works as a senior finance analyst with TD Bank in Mt. Laurel, where he has been heavily involved with the financial aspects of the Bank's Online,

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

Mobile and ATM footprint. He's been able to travel to Toronto numerous times on business, and can say it has become one of his favorite cities (the Canadian affinity for beer certainly helps that case). Not surprisingly, he is still heavily involved with the sport of bowling, but has had to cut back somewhat on participation given recent knee troubles. He's been running Mercer County Youth bowling, as well as his own youth program in Ewing, NJ for 12 years now. Mike has been able to award tens of thousands of scholarship dollars over the years, and has graduated many kids through his program who have gone on to be very successful in league and tournament play. Also, he's still heavily involved with Cornell, as VP of the Class of '94, and is hoping to see some classmate brothers at Reunion in June!



Trevor Connor '94 goes for gold.

Trevor Connor is definitely seeing some big changes in his life for 2014. After over a decade of racing, 2013 was Trevor's last year participating in a full professional cycling calendar (he was mostly tired of being the oldest guy at the races.) He now manages a Professional Development team out of Colorado called Team Rio Grande Cycling. When he's not teaching young up-and-comers about the danger of frat boy life (he still gets a good laugh out of that) Trevor continues to write the coaching section for *Velo Magazine*, run his coaching business, and is starting a PhD in Exercise Science and Nutrition. But Trevor's biggest news is that this March, he's finally marrying his girlfriend of many years, Jamie Davis, down in the Florida Keys.

► 1996

Scott Alessandro claims that he "is still as strikingly handsome, unabashedly witty, and incredibly modest as he was when he graduated." He is living in Quincy, MA with wife Sarah ('97), son John (age 10), and daughter Callie (age 7). Callie and John take after Sarah's side of the family, which means that John is almost as tall as I am and Callie is not too far behind. Scott has worked at MIT Sloan School of Management for the past eight years, and last July took on a new position as Director of Undergraduate Education. He is proud to say that he is using what he learned as an undergrad to continue to manipulate undergraduate engineering majors to do his bidding. Go Human Ecology! When not working or embarrassing his children, he laments the plight of the Chicago Bears with Doug Piper '93, Chris Turner '94, Dave Hiemstra '95, Tom Boorady '92; tries to cook crystal meth with Greg Knight '96 to sell to Trevor Connor '94 and his Canadian friends; ducks fund solicitation phone calls from Jason Cho '98; and saves a seat at the bar for Stan Chelney '96 as Scott Muska '96 and he drink away their March Madness. Oh, Scott is also trying to figure out a way to retire early, so he can become a full time man of the sea. "Request Ichabod Flat oysters from Plymouth, MA by name," he concludes. "Good health to all."

► 1999

Rajiv Mashruwala currently lives in Seattle with his wife Mary Anne and two boys Zane (4) and Caden (1). He's been working at Amazon for the past seven years after getting his MBA from the University of Michigan, first managing one of the retail categories and now on the Kindle device product management team.

Scott Levine writes: "My wife and I did have a baby! Well, she had the baby and I watched. But there is a baby. She's named Colette, she's very cute, and she loves music and toys and dogs, and hates sleeping."

► 2002

Jonathan Meer proudly writes that he and his wife, Jolie '02, and big sister, Remi, welcomed Aaron Meer into the world. Jonathan says "We know he is already thinking of going to Cornell."

► 2008

August DeRosa tells us that he is a Captain in the US Air Force where he flies F-15E Strike Eagles out of Seymour Johnson AFB in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He is with the 335th Fighter Squadron and his call-sign is "Flex". August and his wife, Tiffany, are expecting their first child in May. He hopes to get back to Cornell for a visit when he completes his upcoming tour in Southwest Asia. August can be found at august.derosa@gmail.com.

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George H. Wehmeyer '59
W. Thomas Willis III '66
P. Ross Worn '49

CONTRIBUTORS

Richard A. Albright '71
Stephen B. Albright '69
Eric J. Bauer '82
Aubrey E. Bout '92
William A. Chater '58
Robert W. Cutler Jr. '62
John S. Czelusniak '75
Ralph E. Deeds Jr. '57
S. George Dirghalli '50
Daniel Eisenberg '98
Robert M. Elliott '63
Frederick F. Fakharzadeh '76
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Jacob D. Fry '45
Chris Joseph Gizzo '08
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Luther H. Kroninger Jr. '51
Benjamin R. Kuhn '00
Robert K. Lee '59
James E. Loomis '65
Edward K. Lortz '66
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Donald Lee Mayer '05
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Robert K. Milkey '52
Anthony J. Orel '72
Ron E. Peck '03
Addison W. Raap '09
Lionel Sims III '11
Walter T. Spalding Jr. '50
William Stasiuk '80
John F. Tallman '58
Christopher I. Turner '94
Mark D. Ullman '82
William R. Welsh '53
David A. Wurz '83
John F. Zelenka '03

*This list represents the donors of the 2013-2014 giving year to date