



# SouthAvenews

CORNELL CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON | EST. 1869

## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### State of the D-Union

The 2019-2020 school year has started off well. The house is full, and as leaders on campus the brothers are continuing to make the most of Cornell. As president, I am striving to uphold DU's reputation as the premier fraternity on campus; our GPA is above the campus average, and we continue to adapt to Cornell's ever-changing attitude toward Greek life.

We have had a strong showing for intramural sports. Our soccer and flag football teams performed very well, with soccer making the playoffs. Our basketball team is preparing for the winter, with ex-Holy Cross varsity player Jack Stevens providing the backbone to make our team the best on campus.

Brothers are involved in all aspects of student life.

- Connor Dolan '21 is the new club soccer president, an incredibly competitive and successful team.
- We have volunteer firefighters, youth basketball coaches, local business managers, and journalists.
- DUs are members of the club soccer, hockey, and lacrosse teams; varsity crew, baseball, squash; and sprint football.
- Nick DeFransico '21 and David Larar '20 went to Helsinki to attend Slush, the largest tech conference in the world. They represented Cornell Venture Capital, where David is the president.

I am proud to lead the current brotherhood. We have the closest group of men, we live in the nicest houses on campus, and we are all proud to be DU brothers.

Scott Zelov '21  
Chapter President



## DU Dinner Celebrates 150 Years, Fetes More than 50 Alumni

Alumni brothers representing six decades of DUs convened in Ithaca on the weekend of November 8 to celebrate the Cornell chapter's 150 years on the Hill and to be recognized for their financial contributions and service to DU.

The highlight of the weekend was the recognition dinner's keynote address by retired General John Paxton '73, USMC. The former chapter president, who rose to become a four-star general and 33rd assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, entertained and moved the brothers with his recollections and the lessons learned decades ago at 6 South Avenue and since.

His classmate, Mark Clement '73, warmed up the assembled alumni with his humorous and touching remarks about his association with generations of DUs.

The planning committee, chaired by Frank Tataseo '76, organized a weekend of



DU Brothers at the 150th Celebration Dinner.

activities that included a Big Red hockey game, a tour of Cornell's wrestling facility, and a lunch at DU.

In addition, CDUA thanks Scott Keenum '76 for his contributions to the success of the weekend.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4.

### CDUA thanks the alumni who contributed \$250 toward the costs of the recognition dinner:

Robert H. Ainslie '78  
 Robert R. Baldini '74  
 Anthony B. Cashen '57  
 Mark J. Dewey '75  
 Cal T. Fastuca '78  
 Douglas A. Herron '72  
 William J. Hoffman '75  
 Dennis J. Langley '74

Joe LaQuatra Jr. '74  
 Daniel J. Leonard '79  
 Robert Mauro '72  
 Gerard M. Miknis '72  
 Scott A. Millhouse '76  
 James T. O'Hargan '72  
 Dominick N. Pasquale '57  
 John M. Paxton Jr. '73

Douglas C. Porter '78  
 Michael L. Sandul '76  
 James N. Seeley '75  
 Randy M. Shayler Sr. '72  
 Robert J. Straka '82  
 Frank A. Tataseo '76  
 James E. Thul '75  
 Robert J. Verna '68



# CORNELL DELTA UPSILON ASSOCIATION

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

PRESIDENT <b>Mark Kamon '75</b>	COUNSEL <b>Mark Clemente '73</b>
TREASURER, VP CAPITAL PLANNING <b>Duane Phillips '78</b>	VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS <b>Kevin Bruns '79</b>
RECRUITMENT CHAIR <b>Lance Polivy '08</b>	ALUMNI DUES CHAIR <b>Mark Merila '82</b>
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS <b>Thomas Scott '78</b> <b>Doug Porter '78</b>	PHILANTHROPY CHAIR <b>Cal Fastuca '78</b>



## CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT <b>Scott Zelov '21</b>
RUSH CHAIRS <b>Luke Haralampoudis '21</b> <b>Connor Dolan '21</b> <b>Corgan Goodrow '22</b>

## Update on Request for DUI Substance-Free Policy Waiver

In May 2018 Delta Upsilon International announced a substance-free housing policy, effective August 1, 2020, in response to many of the tragedies that have occurred around the country. By the full implementation date, it was DUI's intent to ensure that no alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs would be stored in a chapter facility, regardless of a member's age.

CDUA had concerns about being able to reconcile that policy with Cornell's different approach; we also were seriously concerned about its impact on DU's rush competitiveness. CDUA contacted DUI's executive director to voice our concerns, as did a number of other DU chapters with the same or similar concerns. As a result, DUI has agreed to grant waivers to chapters that would meet certain other requirements, such as increased levels of engagement in DUI's training programs.

A CDUA committee has been examining what is entailed in obtaining and maintaining the waiver, especially in light of the greater scrutiny of Greek life at Cornell. Our preference is to remain affiliated with DUI, and we are looking for our committee to help navigate through these trying times.

Our hope is also to influence the culture of the undergraduates in recognizing the risks involved and working within the campus and fraternity guidelines. This certainly is difficult amid changing policies and rules. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm and leadership of the undergraduates and are fortunate to have a very active and involved alumni group working with them throughout the year.

*“ This is difficult amid changing policies and rules [but] we are encouraged by the enthusiasm and leadership of the undergraduates. ”*

*- Mark Clemente '73, CDUA Counsel*

Mark Clemente '73  
CDUA Counsel

## It's worth another look!

Visit [www.cornelldu.org](http://www.cornelldu.org) to register and update your profile.

- Look up DUs
- Learn about upcoming events
- Donate to the Raising Our Game Capital Campaign
- Pay your Alumni DUES
- View Homecoming, reunion, and many other pictures
- Learn about DU history and view vintage photos!

CDUA asks every alumnus to visit and register on the site—a quick process that includes selecting a user ID and password.

[www.cornelldu.org](http://www.cornelldu.org)

## Chapter Welcomes Resident Advisors

For the last three years, our chapter has benefited from having Ryan Coles, a PhD candidate in ILR, serve as a resident advisor and mentor. Ryan, who lives in Ithaca with his wife and children, has been a valuable sounding board for the undergraduates. He is actually DU's third RA since 1990 (the first two lived in). Safe to say, DU has had positive experiences with RAs.

In 2018, Cornell established a requirement that all fraternities have a live-in resident assistant by the fall 2020. With that in mind, the board aggressively searched for a highly qualified live-in advisor to comply—and, in the process, add a mature, experienced voice to work with the undergraduates.

This fall, Michael Andrews, a second-year law student, joined our team. Mike is an outstanding young man. He was member of a fraternity at University of California,

San Diego. More impressively, Michael served for four years in the U.S. Air Force—in flight operations as a loadmaster, logging over 400 missions. In both the service and law school, he has received sterling recommendations and high praise. Mike is currently living in the alumni room at 6 South Ave.

DU is blessed with chapter advisors. A recent Cornell graduate and DU, Owen McMenamy '19, is serving as an undergraduate advisor. Owen is a graduate student in information science in the business school. He was an active member, played varsity baseball, and was a chapter officer as a senior. Owen is focusing on aligning the chapter activities in support of achieving the milestones required by DU International.

Mark Kamon '75  
CDUA President

## Bob Straka '82 Joins CDUA Board

*This fall, CDUA welcomed former chapter president and retired corporate executive Bob Straka '82 to the board of directors. SouthAvenews recently caught up with Bob.*

**SAN:** Bob, tell us about your family.

**Bob:** I currently live in the Cincinnati area with my wife of 36 years, Jackie. We have three grown children, Bobby, Julianne, and Brett; two terrific daughters-in-law, Annie and Alexis (both with doctorate degrees from UC); and an adorable four-year-old granddaughter, Eleanor—with one grandson on the way! No Big Reds yet, but there's always hope.



**SAN:** So what's kept you busy since your days at DU?

**Bob:** After I graduated from Cornell, I immediately joined Procter & Gamble, where I spent my entire career. I retired in 2018 after 36 years of service in numerous global and regional sales and marketing roles, including global sales manager for P&G's \$6 billion laundry business and managing director for P&G's North America oral care business. I had the privilege of launching several future multi-billion dollar brands, such as Swiffer, Febreze, and Tide Liquid. I also had my share of notable marketing failures, but we won't go into that.



**SAN:** What brings you back to the DU fold?

**Bob:** I am looking forward to re-engaging with DU, specifically as part of the Cornell DU alumni board, for several reasons. I look forward to reconnecting with classmates and other brothers I've not seen in many years.

I also owe DU a debt of gratitude. I want to give back to an organization that provided me with so many great life experiences and memories. I also know that the Greek system at Cornell and on other campuses is being challenged. I look forward to being a part of the leadership team at this critical time, helping the chapter navigate these pressures and preserve the fraternity experience that benefited me so greatly.

Finally, I want to champion support from the strong DU classes of the 1980s. It's now our turn to complement the tireless work and contributions of the alumni directors from the classes of '50s, '60s, and '70s.



**SAN:** Any final words for our alumni readers?

**Bob:** I really encourage my DU friends to get involved again. It's only been a few months, but I'm finding serving on the board both rewarding and a lot of fun. So, DUs of the 1980s, what say you?!



Bob Straka '82

## Fundraising Update

Thanks to the generosity of many brothers, we have reached pledges of **\$1.7 million**, with **\$1.4 million received** to date. Our construction to date has touched every area of the house (see the latest update in this issue on page 4).

We need your help to reach our interim goal of \$2.0 million to complete some much-needed improvements (first-floor bathroom, ramp to front entrance).

**Thanks to all who have completed their current pledges!** If you have open pledges, please consider making your contribution or completing your pledge promptly to keep our momentum going.

If you want to make an additional contribution, your support would be greatly appreciated.

## Summer Meetings Set Expectations

Alumni-chapter meetings this past summer laid the groundwork for a successful academic year.

Last July and August, a group of five chapter officers and five alumni directors met to develop plans designed to:

- 1) Meet the challenges facing the chapter as societal pressures evolve;
- 2) Create performance guidelines to help the chapter respect the new facility improvements that have been installed; and
- 3) Work toward evolving a chapter culture that supports the long-range view of DU.

The working sessions involved great interaction by all participants. They also produced common understanding of the roles of alumni and undergraduates, along with a greater respect for the traditions and history of Cornell DU. President Scott Zelov is mobilizing his executive board to share in the responsibility to hold everyone accountable to contribute to the chapter successes. The undergraduate team is making good progress on our improvement objectives, and we look forward to the continued strong performance of the chapter.

Mark Kamon '75  
CDUA President

## Philanthropy

- The annual s'mores fundraiser with Sigma Delta Tau raised \$650 for the Wounded Warrior Project. The October 8th event was held on the Arts Quad.

- With Delta Gamma and Alpha Delta Phi, DU cosponsored GoPink, a fundraiser for breast cancer awareness.

- Four undergraduates will participate in a DUI-organized service trip to Jamaica in January 2020. The brothers will work on improvement projects at elementary and middle schools.

- During November, DUs participated in "No Shave November," a fundraising contest hosted on GoFundMe in which brothers didn't shave to raise money and awareness of men's health.

# Fall Capital Campaign Renovations Include Bathroom, ADA Projects

Construction is underway once again at 6 South Ave. This is our third successive year of capital improvements to the house. Earlier this year, our plans for summer construction were derailed by unacceptably high bids. Demand for project work at Cornell in the summer months is always strong, and this year we were priced out. Fortunately, we were successful in a second round of bids, and contractors are now working inside and outside the house. It helps that the undergraduates are on board with work being performed in their midst.

All the alumni will be pleased to hear that both the second- and third-floor bathrooms will be renovated by mid-February. And by renovated, we mean blown up and

rebuilt in their entirety. Every possible construction trade will go through the bathrooms. No surface goes untouched. With durable finishes everywhere (ceramic tile throughout), these renovations will serve the house well for decades to come.

The second project will correct perhaps the most glaring deficiency in the house—and its full completion will make DU the first Cornell-owned fraternity house that is ADA accessible. This fall we are adding an ADA lift in the entry foyer, which will bring guests up to the Great Hall. Integration of this lift has been designed with the existing woodwork and finishes in this part of the house. The ADA path of travel from outside the house to the front door will happen on

a new ramp on the northeast corner of the house. That contract has not yet been signed but remains a priority.

During October and November, a separate project began on the exterior of the house. Close inspection reveals numerous failings in the brick, stucco, windowsills, and downspouts. Thus, it became necessary to invest some of our renovation funds outside the house. Unseasonably cold temperatures, even for Ithaca, recently caused the contractor to suspend completion until spring. We will be back to work on that in March, as well as on the ADA ramp in the near term.

Duane Phillips '78  
Treasurer and VP – Capital Planning

## DU Dinner Celebrates 150 Years, Fetes More than 50 Alumni



A group photo of the 150th Anniversary Celebration attendees.



Left (L-R): Tony Cashen '57 and, Joe LaQuatra '74.

Below: Mark Clemente '73.



Above: Will Drummond '20, Mark Kamon '75, Tim Rowlands '72, Scott Keenum '76



Bob Straka '82, John Bruns '67, Bob Verna '68.



L-R: Class of '57 Brothers John Seiler, Tom Keating, Tony Cashen, and Dominick Pasquale

Right: Gen. John Paxton '73, Retired USMC



# Catching Up with Lou Morga '07

## Eyewitness to Nats' Championship Season

*SouthAvenews caught up a few weeks ago with Lou Morga '07, vice president of hospitality & strategy, Nationals Park for Levy Restaurants.*

**SAN:** What was your career path to running food operations at Nationals Park?

**LM:** I started my F&B career at Shea Stadium with Aramark, eventually working in every area of the business: concessions, clubs, suites, catering, restaurants, and retail. I was part of the team that opened Citi Field and worked there for a few more years before making my way around the country as a GM of different properties in Knoxville, Nashville, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, and now finally DC, with the Washington Nationals and Levy.

**SAN:** What was it like working at Nats Park, with capacity crowds, dramatic come-from-behind wins, and the excitement of the play-offs?

**LM:** I've managed many large events, including the 2017 and 2018 MLB All-Star Games, but this was my first World Series. It's crazy, hectic, and stressful, but I wouldn't trade these experiences for anything. As you can imagine, the service level changes as you advance each round and expectations grow.

**SAN:** Give us a few examples of the changes.

**LM:** Throughout the postseason, we worked with security teams from around the country to be able to serve VIP guests, including the president and his family and friends. My Levy team for the World Series included 32 chefs and 60 front-of-house managers. To give you an idea of scale, we sold over



*Lou Morga '07*

200,000 units of beer during the three days.

**SAN:** Any take-aways from this championship season?

**LM:** Each day I try to stop and take it all in. I don't want to forget how lucky I am to be in charge of making sure 45,000 guests get one of the best experiences of their lives.

## DU Alumni News and Notes...

**Edwin Shuttleworth MD '51** recently had a new painting accepted into the National Watercolor Society International show in California, which began in October. "Sad to learn of the passing of old friends John Dan and Bill Kirkland," says Ed. (Pegasus66@comcast.net; 3216 Chapel Hill Blvd, Boynton Beach, FL 33435)

"Lucky and I are doing fine," updates **Walt Harrison '52**. If you have an address for Walt on file, you may need to update it—they moved to a retirement community in California: 2701 El Camino Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

When Brother **William Webber MD '54** wrote to us in July, he sent in a summary of life after Cornell and DU. "I graduated in 1954, BA Zoology, pre-med. Two years active duty on USS Cadmus (AR-14), based in Norfolk, Virginia. Attended Cornell University's Medical College 1956-1960, mostly on Korean G.I. Bill. Married Mary Savage, a Cornell Nursing School grad, in 1958 (president of her class). Internship at Bellevue, NYC, on Cornell General Surgery Division, then five years of residency there, followed by two years of plastic, reconstructive, and hand surgery at King's County Brooklyn and

North Shore Manhasset. Next, a marvelous career in St. Louis, Missouri, for 26 years—group practice, solo, and finally full time academic as Associate Professor of Surgery Emeritus. Raised two girls and a boy during this time in St. Louis. Semi-retired 1994, and moved back to Ithaca, New York, for four years to help build Ecovillage at Ithaca, an environmentally-oriented co-housing community. Finally, retired to Tucson, Arizona, in 1998 to be closer to two of my daughters and families who live here. I have been living in a solar house since 2000. Mary died in 2004 from lung cancer. I reconnected with a high school girlfriend who was divorced, and we married in 2005. What a lucky break! I've had a very active life in retirement, maintaining the solar house, desert gardening, photography, hiking, singing bass in a community chorus, delivering meals to shut-ins, trumpet playing, travelling to see kids and grand kids, model building, and surviving aging. Also lots of reading on a variety of topics, mostly science, some politics, climate change, history, etc. Never thought I'd make it to 87...Now I have three great grand kids, all boys. Recently I've enjoyed bicycling over at Saguaro National Park East (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)—10 miles with a group of retired cyclists ("the Wobblers"). Get back

in touch with Webb at wmlbu8@aol.com, or by postal mail at 10526 E. Seven Generations Way, Tucson, AZ 85747.

"Aloha!" says **John Berndt '76**. "I have been involved in surfing, cycling, and golf in Honolulu, Oahu." Though John has a DU Homecoming visit on his calendar, he welcomes visits from his brothers. Reach out John to say "mahalo," or plan a trip: jberndt4@yahoo.com (1118 Ala Moana Blvd, #406 Waiea, Honolulu, HI 96814).

**Mike Bernardo '78** has been living in the south for 30+ years now. "As the saying goes, 'I wasn't born in the south, but I got here as fast as I could,'" he says. "My wife, who is also from South Carolina, and I have four kids who all worked in the north—three daughters in New York City, one son in Boston." What else has "Nards" been up to? "For the past six years, I've travelled to Vietnam with Vietnam vets through Vets With a Mission, started over 30 years ago. We see patients, and more recently have been teaching Vietnamese med students, who value the hands-on teaching we give them. Fantastically beautiful country (made all the better by the fact that they're no longer shooting at us...or

*(continued on page 6)*

# DU Alumni News and Notes...



(continued from page 5)

us at them)." Visiting or travelling through South Carolina, or just want to find out more about the medical trips to Vietnam? Contact Mike at mbernardo777@gmail.com

"After losing my awesome bride, Lynn, to cancer in March 2016, I have found my new girl! Donna and I will be married in the summer of 2020," announces **David Newton '78**. "We

met at Don Strang's daughter's wedding. For the second time, I bought my engagement ring from Steve 'Crabs' Corbo—great to do biz with a trusted friend." Newt still regularly sees Priceless, Lalls, Goobs, Donny, Bo, Stick, Sewy, Hoss, Angelo, and a few other derelicts. Want to get back in touch with Newt? Write to him at 303 Columbus Ave, Apt #601, Boston, MA 02116, or djnewton81@gmail.com.

Congratulations to **Andrew Billingsly '15**, who got engaged in December 2018 to Brodie Shephard (niece of **Andy Shephard '76**). The pair married in Ithaca in September 2019. Send your well wishes to the newly-married at 403 E 90th St, Apt 4W, New York, NY 10128.

## In Memoriam

*The Cornell DU family has recently been informed of the passing of the following members. The alumni association wishes to express its deepest condolences to families, friends, and fellow DUs for their loss.*

### GEORGE W. NICHOLS JR. '45

October 30, 2018

George spent his life living in various locations, including Chicago; Michigan; Long Island, New York; Allentown, Pennsylvania; and, most recently, Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and served as a pilot during World War II. After the outbreak of the war, he was stationed in Pearl Harbor, where he flew PB4Ys in search and rescue missions as well as on submarine patrols. George met his wife Suzanne in 1938. Upon returning from the navy, they married and were together while he attended Cornell University. Upon graduating, they returned to Long Island where George and his brother, John, opened Nichols Brothers Hardware in a historic building in Syosset, New York.

### JESSE B. HANNAN JR. '51

June 23, 2019

At 19, Jesse enlisted in the Army Air Corps, serving his country during World War I. After returning from overseas, he attended college at Alfred Agriculture and Technical College and Cornell University. He graduated in 1951. He met wife Betsy at Cornell, and they married in October 1952. After college Jesse worked with his brother, Parce, on the family farm for the next 11 years. Following the sale of the farm, Jesse moved to Seneca Falls, New York, where he worked for Cornell University as the Cooperative Extension Dairy and Livestock Specialist for the next 25 years, retiring in 1988. Jesse and Betsy spent many years at their home on Cayuga Lake enjoying time with children and grandchildren, boating, traveling, and golfing.

### GILMORE H. ROTHROCK, MD '54

November 17, 2017

Dr. Rothrock graduated from the Hill School, Pottstown, in 1950. He completed his undergraduate studies at Cornell University in 1954, and graduate studies at Thomas Jefferson Medical School in 1958. After many years in private practice, Dr. Rothrock retired in 1999 from Apple Hill Surgical Group. He was a standout tennis star. He held the national tennis title in doubles while at Hill, then went on to be captain of his Cornell team. He continued to enjoy the game until the age of 77. He won 14 York City/County tennis titles, was inducted into the York Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2007, and into the Athletics Hall of Fame at Hill School in 2015. Gil was a humble man. His presence and kind manner made him special to those who had the privilege of knowing him.

### JOHN P. CONTI '86

March 21, 2019

John passed away after a brave, three-year fight with cancer. He played football in high school and at Cornell University, where he was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity. During college John met Debbie Greathouse, the love of his life. Travel was important to the pair—they moved to San Francisco, where John swam in the chilly Bay waters including under the Golden Gate Bridge and from Alcatraz; they traveled to Nepal, which sparked his interest in Buddhism and meditation. Later in life, he traveled to meet his Italian relatives in Rome. In 1996, they moved to Fairfax, California, and started a family, where they spent many enjoyable days exploring the Marin Hills. Later, they moved to Sonoma County to continue

to live close to nature. John was a loyal and supportive friend, maintaining friendships from childhood, school, his community, and with his work colleagues throughout his life.



*Public obituaries for the following brothers were unavailable:*

### THEODORE H. WADDELL '50

August 16, 2018

### PAUL B. McMAHON '55

August 4, 2017

### RICHARD C. SHAKNIS '55

October 10, 2018

### LAWRENCE B. MURPHY '81

April 21, 2012

### GUY T. LYTTLE '83

April 5, 2014

### CONRAD A.J. EPISCOPO '87

December 20, 2018

## SouthAvenews

*This newsletter is published by the Delta Upsilon Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. Alumni news and pictures should be sent to [alumni@cornelldu.org](mailto:alumni@cornelldu.org), or Alumni Records Office, Cornell Delta Upsilon Association, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.*