



SouthAvenews

CORNELL CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON | EST. 1869

Message from the Chapter President Cornell Goes COVID-19

As Cornell announced plans for a largely virtual and heavily isolated semester, the young men of 6 South Avenue (excited nonetheless) geared up for an uncertain living experience at Delta Upsilon fraternity. Executive officers developed a comprehensive move-in and daily operations plan that enabled brothers to move to Ithaca safely and to then enjoy an as-normal-as-possible fraternity experience. Physically, the chapter house has undergone significant changes to accommodate tight COVID-19 restrictions. The capacities of first floor common spaces have been cut by 75%. Brothers are strongly encouraged to wear masks in the facility at all times. The back deck has added dining spaces



Barbells, benches and lifting rack.

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Message From DU Alumni President DU Brothers Show Leadership in a Most Challenging Year

I hope this finds all our brothers, families, and friends safe and well. “Happy New Year” takes on a whole new meaning as we reflect on all the challenges of 2020. This is certainly true for our current DU brothers—and all Cornell students – who just completed a semester where a critical focus on safety changed their daily lives and routines. I am happy to report that we had zero positive COVID-19 tests at 6 South Ave. thanks to strong leadership, and a group of brothers selflessly focused on following all safety guidelines. We should all be proud of their efforts. Every aspect of college life was significantly impacted – from virtual classes, mandatory testing, mask requirements, a social moratorium, new dining protocols, new sanitization stations and cleaning protocols, strict visitor policies, and a mandatory

student behavior compact. Did I mention a social moratorium on all parties/events? The brothers found new ways to socialize, and our alumni helped with a new DU fitness center, tables for outdoor dining, and extending meal plans through the weekend. Please read current President Ben Hirsch’s note in this newsletter detailing these and additional COVID-19 driven changes to daily DU life. The challenges will continue in 2021 as classes resume on February 8th (hopefully) with the same safety guidelines and restrictions – and the additional challenge of “virtual only” rush for all Greek houses.

We were extremely fortunate to have hired our new Chapter Advisor – Scott Sheavly—prior to the start of this semester. We believe the current support model of a

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Support our Brothers: Call for Dues

I sincerely hope this note finds you and your family safe and healthy. This past year has dramatically changed most of our lives and I know each of us is looking forward to returning to some sort of normalcy in 2021. This year, due to COVID-19, the house has faced increased costs to ensure the safety of all the active brothers. I am proud to say we have successfully navigated the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year through the diligent work of the alumni officers and the active brothers.

As we move into 2021, I humbly ask you to make your 2020-2021 contribution to the Alumni Dues. A gift of any size is welcome and is truly appreciated. The Alumni Dues help fund many important activities such as the SouthAvenueNews, maintaining our database, website, reunion, homecoming,

a live-in RA oxford, and other priorities as they arise. Please donate what you can, get involved when you have the time and remember what DU has given to you in the past and can still give to you in the future.

Hopefully, this year’s Cornell Homecoming will be in person as it will be a pleasure to see many of you again.

Fraternally,

Mark Merila ’82

Alumni DUES Chair,
Cornell Delta Upsilon Association

P.S. You can also make a donation online through our secure server at <http://www.cornelldu.org/>. Just log on and follow the link to “Dues and Gifts”

Hochstein Design

What got you interested in becoming a golf course architect/designer? How did you break into the profession?

Really, I've wanted to do this since I first stepped out onto the golf course at age 4. Everything about the game immediately fascinated me, starting with the simple advancement of the ball across the terrain while avoiding trees, water, sand, long grass, and other natural obstacles. Then you end up on the green, and it has this impossibly short and fine grass, where you work the ball over contours to make it disappear into a tiny hole, which is a strangely delightful experience in itself. That initial experience that I had wasn't even on a good course, but I was hooked and immediately started spending a large chunk of my free time drawing golf holes and routings.

From then I did all the things that seemed best for finding a way into the profession: visit and study different golf courses, read books by the great old architects, get a landscape architecture degree from Cornell, go to Scotland for an extended period, and do fieldwork both on maintenance and construction crews. My big break was when Tom Doak (**Cornell '82**) offered me an opportunity to join his talented hands-on team and shape (bunkers, fairways, tees, and some greens) on a new course in China. That



experience laid the foundation for much of the work I have done since, and I plan to continue working in such a hands-on fashion as new opportunities arise under my own name.

How would you define the perfectly designed hole?

The best holes challenge a range of skills,

rewarding the player who not only has accuracy and distance but also (and perhaps more importantly) has deft touch, imagination, and the mental smarts to think their way around the challenges a hole presents. Thus, the best holes challenge both the aerial game through optional, risk-assessed carries or angles and the ground game through tight, firm grass and contours that reward short game skill as well as positioning wrought both by accuracy and strategic decision-making. Two holes that immediately come to mind are the 14th and 17th (Road Hole) holes at the Old Course at St Andrews. Both holes reward distance, accuracy, strategic shot placement, imagination, and soft touch in approaching the green and getting it close to the hole. That is as good as it gets.

When you sit down to design or redesign a hole or course, what do you seek to achieve?

The short answer is that I seek to make the hole or golf course the best version of itself, and that often means making it more fun and strategically varied. In doing so, I simultaneously consider big-picture, pipe-dream type options while also getting to know what is currently there. Sometimes, a simple shifting of bunkers and re-angling of

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ALUMNI NEWS

Davis Turner '67

Recently relocated to Fernandina Beach, near beautiful Amelia Island. Retired after more than 55 years in the elevator industry.

Howard Pickering '60

Adelle and I are still retired and moving

about – very fortunate to this point. Still skiing, but had to evacuate Vail quickly in March – Skip needs a “hip job”. We stay in touch with Tony and Gail Cashen – Tony greatly responsible for our successful marriage – matchmaker then and through life – all around solid citizen, DU, Cornell, etc.

Greg Lingo '94

Just completed my first motion picture, 'Last Call' (formerly Crabs in a Bucket). Please look out for the release of this comedy starring Jeremy Piven. <https://lastcall.movie/>

DU Alumni President

local Chapter Advisor and live-in Advisor (Michael Andrews) is the right model for the future. Scott has been a tremendous on-site resource and mentor for our officers, supporting all brothers, and developing strong relationships with key Cornell leadership and staff. Please see a short bio and introduction from Scott in this newsletter, and join me in welcoming him to DU.

Three-Year DU Vision - While our current focus is on safety and required changes to current operations and budgets, our alumni leadership recognize the need to work on a plan for the future that ensures our DU legacy will survive challenges and changes to the Greek system at Cornell (and nationwide) beyond COVID-19. This includes recently deployed Cornell Social Policies and Guidelines, a proposed new student code of conduct, and new DU International requirements – putting all Cornell

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fraternities in a potentially precarious situation – one violation or poor decision away from judicial review, probation, suspension, or worse. That said, our current DU foundation is strong, with a brotherhood full of leaders and scholars - living the DU experience we all cherish, a renovated chapter house looking as good (or better) than ever, and generous, engaged alumni that ensure our DU experience continues.

Unfortunately, we will not be hosting a face-to-face reunion this year, but let's keep our fingers crossed for a homecoming in the fall when decades of DU alumni can come together to celebrate our friendships, tell stories, and “show off” our new renovations at 6 South Ave.

Please stay safe, best wishes, and Happy New Year!

Bob Straka '82

IN MEMORANDUM

James A.
MINGES '65
April 2020

Joseph G.
KELNBERGER '54
December 2014

Rodney Fisk
BECKWITH '57
August 2020

Paul R.
SMITH '66
April 2018

George H.
HULL '49
July 2015

James C.
ALTEMUS JR. '65
September 2019

Scott A.
MILLHOUSE '76
February 2020

John Joseph
FERRANTE '52
February 2017

Robert J.
CONWAY '73
March 2020



Fundraising Update

While traditional philanthropy efforts were limited in COVID-19 times, the DU undergrads led by Eric Wilchek, VP Philanthropy, started an on-line fundraiser with the *Salvation Army of Ithaca*. This effort will assist anyone struggling with unemployment, feeding their families, or paying rent & medical bills because of the health crises caused by COVID-19.

Cal Fastuca '78



New Chapter Advisor

Scott Sheavly

During my first conversation about the Chapter Advisor role, **Tony Cashen '57** impressed upon me the passion he has for DU, the lifelong friendships he has made and the powerful impact his experience with Oxford, DU has had on his life. Through listening to Tony, I found DU's values of building friendships, strengthening character, and encouraging philanthropy and service are consistent with the values my wife and I have tried to convey to our own children. The opportunity to work with young men and have a positive impact on their lives became very intriguing to me.

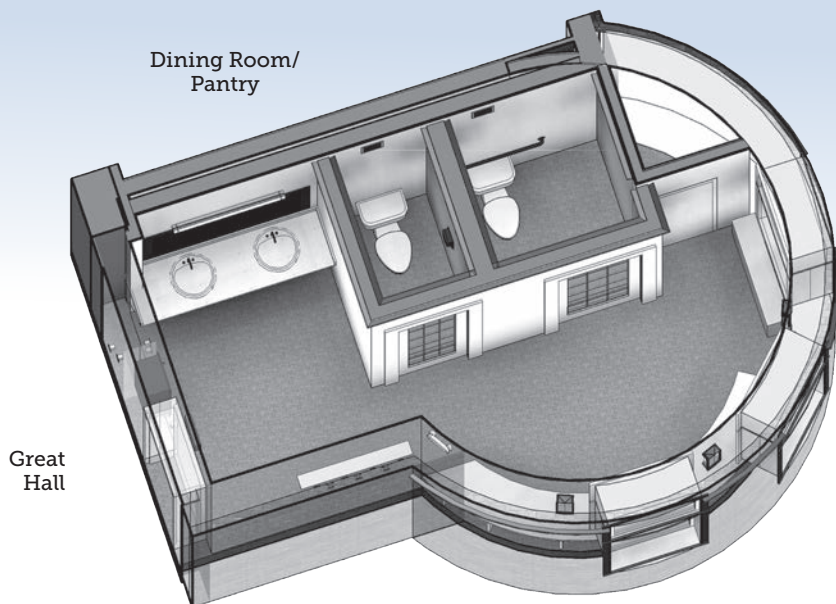
I am a Cornell graduate (class of 1980) and a retired 31-year Cornell staff member, the spouse of a Cornell alum and faculty member (Marcia, 1983, 1999), as well as the

parent of a Cornell student. Cornell has been and continues to be an important part of my life, and the chance to work with Cornell students and help guide them through these challenging times is an opportunity and responsibility I take very seriously.

While I have only been involved with the brothers at Cornell DU for a short time, it has been a pleasure working with an incredibly bright and hardworking group of young men who are committed to excellence in their academic pursuits, jobs, and personal lives. This school year is full of challenges, yet the long-term future for these young men is bright and prosperous. I am honored to be a part of their lives.

Scott Sheavly

THE NEXT BIG THING



In the first half of 2020, we concluded multiple major capital improvements – upstairs bathrooms, an ADA lift in the entry foyer and an exterior ADA ramp connecting to the oxford, front porch. We need to re-landscape around the house foundation and we expect that to happen in spring 2021. More importantly, we have already designed the next big improvement to the house. We are confident this project will be well-received by all alumni.

Our architects are preparing a bid package for a new bathroom on the main floor of the house. We will use the southwest turret space off the Great Hall for two toilets and two sinks as well as other amenities. This will be a spacious unisex bathroom with private stalls. It will also be ADA accessible. Refer to the architect's 3D rendering (pictured above).

We have had mixed results from bid pricing in recent years. We have to see the final cost before we commit. But we hope and expect to be able to complete this project during calendar 2021. We have the funding (almost!). Thank you to several alumni who stepped up to our appeal for gifts in the last newsletter. This was the project we have been saving up for. We are within \$40,000 of our goal to finance the expected cost of this addition to our house. This is likely the last of the major projects planned for this capital campaign. But please keep your pledges coming because we have a shortlist of minor projects we want to tackle in 2022.

Duane Phillips '78

Treasurer & VP Capital Planning

COVID-19

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to ensure that brothers can eat together in a safe manner.

Online classes and few opportunities for external social interaction have forced the brotherhood to spend extended time within the chapter house. Thankfully, with the support of our alumni, an in-house gym, outdoor picnic tables, and other amenities have created an extremely enjoyable living experience. Our daily routines are defined by group workouts in the gym, football and basketball on the back deck, and large weekly barbecues. In a semester where a plurality of Cornell students has massively

struggled under harsh circumstances, I can safely say that the brothers of Delta Upsilon are thriving. When we arrived on campus in late August, we made a commitment to continue to adhere to Cornell COVID-19 safety guidelines**. Since then, we have all worked hard to build a healthy and worthwhile fraternity experience. As this once uncertain and daunting semester winds to an ultimate close, I can happily report that our chapter has done everything in our power to prevent the spread of the virus, and we have built an environment that has afforded a college-defining Delta Upsilon experience — the one that we all love and share.

Ben Hirsch '22

President

Hochstein Design

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a green can completely change the dynamic of a hole. Other times, the hole just needs to start over and be completely re-imagined. Because these things cost money and involve layers of complication, I try to start with the minimal approach. Everything has a cost vs. benefit, though. If a big change to the hole costs a lot but does not necessarily add much to its quality, I won't advocate for it. If it provides a major beneficial change to the course's aesthetic and playing interests though, it is worth fighting for.

Has being a course designer made you a better golfer?

Yes and no! On one hand, I have a good understanding of the different options I have when approaching a hole or particular shot. Sometimes, as crazy as it sounds, laying up on a par 3 can be a good play.

On the other hand, though, I can hardly ever just "play golf" anymore without over-analyzing decisions made by the architect, pondering different strategies for different players, or looking at all the other types of putts on a green while giving my own much less attention. I'm also constantly looking at construction details, from observing the ways surface drainage works, critiquing finish work details and tie-ins, and trying to figure out what exactly was done for bunker construction. All that very much gets in the way of trying to execute golf shots. Also, with all the travel and time involved in this career as well as having a young family, it is difficult to find time for a casual game. As I have often heard and repeated, "if you want to play a lot of golf, don't get into the golf industry!" I've been trying to rectify this a bit more lately, but even so, the sacrifice in rounds is well worth the reward and satisfaction of pursuing and living a lifelong dream.

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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, or Alumni Records Office, Cornell Delta Upsilon Association, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.