



SouthAvenews

CORNELL CHAPTER OF DELTA UPSILON | EST. 1869

Cornell DU: Embracing and Leading Change

Fraternities across the country face a myriad of challenges that impact their membership, reputation, and overall operations. Cornell DU is no exception.

Additionally, fraternities are grappling with declining membership numbers as changing attitudes toward Greek life and increased scrutiny of their practices have deterred potential new members from joining. With fewer members, fraternities face financial strain and difficulty in sustaining their organizations. Cornell DU, while current membership is among the best on campus, faces the same challenges. We were fortunate this year to initiate one of our largest new-member classes (29) in recent years.

Fraternities are also facing increased regulation and oversight from college administrations, as well as state and federal governments, which can impact their autonomy and ability to govern themselves. Cornell has made multiple changes impacting fraternities and sororities, including stricter social policies and requirements, the elimination of bursar support, and several code-of-conduct and judicial process changes. In addition to the changes implemented by Cornell, DU International has implemented several new requirements, most notably the launch of substance-free housing for all chapters.

Cornell DU, like most fraternities, is at a critical crossroads in addressing these challenges and must adapt and evolve to ensure its continued relevance and existence in the future. It will require a concerted effort from fraternity members, alumni, and stakeholders to address these

issues and to build a more positive and sustainable future for fraternities.

Change is hard, especially for a group of 19–20-year-old students balancing academic stress and the desire to enjoy the brotherhood and social opportunities of a college fraternity. I am proud to say the current group of officers and brothers have stepped up to embrace and to lead the necessary change to ensure DU will remain a great place to live, study, and play for years to come.

I wanted to highlight one of the most significant changes and transitions currently underway at Cornell DU: the move to substance-free housing.

Transitioning a college fraternity to a substance-free environment can be a challenging but ultimately rewarding experience. By making this decision, the fraternity is not just complying with national requirements but taking a significant step toward promoting a healthier and safer environment for all members.

This transition requires clear guidelines and expectations for all members. This has included implementing new social policies, hosting training sessions, and fostering open communication about the decision. Currently, all large social events at the house are planned and scheduled as “alcohol free,” while “out of house” events and “date nights” have also been added. This has required creativity in planning and execution, and the brothers have stepped up to the challenge and successfully created “new” events that have met all requirements. By making the decision to go substance free, DU is not only prioritizing the health and safety of the members but also setting a positive example for other organizations on campus.

We are fortunate to have a great group of officers leading these changes, along with strong alumni and advisor support. The Greek environment at Cornell will continue to change, but I am confident DU will adapt and thrive. I encourage all of you to plan a trip back to visit, to meet some of the new brothers, and to hear about the balance between protecting the best DU traditions and embracing change.

Please continue to help us support our current brothers by paying your alumni dues (see link in this newsletter).

Fraternally,
Bob Straka '82



Undergraduate Chapter Leaders and Chapter Governance

Pictured in the chapter library, the executive board (e-board) meets weekly. Comprised of the elected chapter officers and appointed committee chairs, this group is responsible for all chapter operations and for fulfilling obligations to the alumni, to the university, and to DU International. The e-board meets before regular house meetings, where the full brotherhood discusses the prepared agenda and considers matters requiring consensus of members. The chapter advisors are welcomed to e-board meetings as contributing participants, but do not attend house meetings. Our historic election as a non-secret fraternity continues to guide open dialog and open discussion of all matters and issues big and small. The lessons and experience of self-governance in residential fraternity life remain one of the unique experiences for all brothers. (Note in this photo, President Harrison Fredericks at the head of the table, and chapter advisors Moore and Sheavly standing on the left.)



Tony Cashen '57

Scott Sheavly Retires as Chapter Advisor, Andy Moore Aboard as New Chapter Advisor

After serving four years as chapter advisor, Scott Sheavly's final task was to identify and to help recruit his replacement. Andy Moore met with alumni and chapter officers and brothers and will succeed Scott in his advisory role full time in the fall. In the meantime, he will meet the brothers and interact with Scott to become familiar with the role of chapter advisor. Scott has been a terrific mentor for our undergraduate officers and brothers. More about Andy and his background will be in next newsletter.

For the past five years, the university has required all fraternities to have a resident advisor (RA). We have had a succession of RAs from the Law School who reside in the third-floor converted alumni suite. It's been difficult to find suitably qualified RAs for Cornell's current 31 IFC fraternities. Our close proximity to the Law School has made our chapter an attractive residential location for a law student. We have gone beyond the required RA by retaining a more experienced and dedicated professional chapter advisor to work closely with the undergraduate brothers and the alumni, most of whom do not live close to Ithaca.

Tony Cashen '57



Pictured above left to right: Chapter President Harrison Fredericks, Scott Sheavly (present resident advisor), Joey Ramesar (present graduate law school resident advisor), and Andy Moore (incoming chapter advisor).

DU Justice Foundation Leadership Award Presentation

Justice Foundation President Bob Verna '68 provided scholarship checks to six undergraduate brothers for their leadership contributions to the chapter. Pictured left to right are Brotherhood Co-chair Alex Ehrenthal, Brotherhood Co-chair Jared Slade, President Harrison Fredericks, Historian Jaden Tauber, Vice President Matt Greco, and New Member Educator Eli Biddlecom.

The Justice Foundation is funded by alumni contributions and supports undergraduate programs, leadership awards, and other initiatives suggested by the brothers or by alumni board members. Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible and specifically help build and sustain the vitality of undergraduate chapter life.

While annual dues contributions support our alumni programs, and periodic capital campaigns maintain our 6 South Ave. chapter house, the Justice Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) entity that helps fund our educational mission.



Tony Cashen '57

Meet our Current Chapter President: Harry Fredericks



Hi! My name is Harrison Fredericks. I am the current president of the Delta Upsilon Cornell chapter. I am a sophomore from Long Island, New York, and I am currently studying animal science with a concentration in preveterinary medicine and a minor in business management. Outside of class and DU, I also manage to find the time to be an avid member of the Cornell men's varsity polo team.

I have absolutely loved my time here at Cornell so far, and a large part of that experience has been because of DU.

When I was asked to step into this role, I inherited a great house culture, an amazing executive board, and positive direction for the house. Despite some bumps in the road, the brothers and I have been working nonstop to maintain and to promote the values we hold closest to our hearts. The strength of brotherhood as a concept beyond title and reference is so deeply rooted in DU's culture that

I picked it up all the way back at the start of rush. There is a sense of belonging that DU provides that helps make such an intense environment like Cornell that much more manageable.

In a changing environment for Cornell Greek life, we have had to be adaptable and resilient. I have witnessed firsthand and led our ability to make changes to ensure the longevity and standing of DU as an over-155-year-old institution on campus. We have been making many great strides in becoming a role-model house across campus. We are one of the first houses to adhere to and to promote substance-free housing and to prove that it can be successful. Furthermore, the active role of our alumni has been so pivotal in times of need and has made us feel more supported than ever before.

I am so thankful to be afforded the opportunity to be in this role. In my tenure as president, I hope to continue to foster these close relationships and to push us forward to be a model house across campus.

Sincerely,
Harrison Fredericks '26

DU Finances Explained

It has been some time since you heard from me on money matters. In this newsletter, I will provide an overview of DU finances. The first thing to know about DU finance is that every single penny relating to 6 South Avenue comes from either the chapter members or from the alumni. Cornell owns our house. They are responsible for all things related to life safety. However, Cornell does not pay for anything: not the roof, not the lawn, not the heating system, not the life safety features. We pay for all work done at the house. We pay for all maintenance and repairs. We pay for all capital improvements.

The chapter collects room, board, dues, social, and a handful of other line items from members (live-in and live-out). All the room rents go directly to Cornell for maintenance of the house. All the remainder goes into the chapter account. DU dining is the largest expense for the chapter, followed by social and recruitment spending. Dining has been outsourced to a specialized provider since 2016. Liability insurance for the chapter leaped up to \$30,000 this year. DU International parses out the substantial premiums to 68 active chapters.

Cornell has three primary accounts related to DU. The main one is DU house operating, which pays for ongoing maintenance and repairs by Cornell union tradespersons. This account has run deficits in recent years. Deficits are cured by a separate account named DU facility reserves. You can think of these two accounts as checking and savings. DU facility reserves has a balance \$20,000, an amount that is well below required reserves. The third account at Cornell is DU gifts. It is funded solely by alumni gifts (not by alumni dues).

Considerable amounts came into and out of DU gifts during the capital campaign years: \$1.3 million in 2016–2019 and \$400,000 in 2020–2023. Most of these gifts were spent on major capital improvements. Besides improvements you can see, investments were made in an all-new electrical room in the basement and for the all-new plumbing behind the walls and under the floors of the second- and third-floor

bathrooms. The “before” conditions for electrical and plumbing were way overdue for renovation. DU gifts today has a balance of \$170,000, for which we have no near-term capital expenditure plans. Building a main-floor toilet room in the southwest turret will cost approximately \$300,000. We are saving up for that project, the plans for which have been presented in prior newsletters.

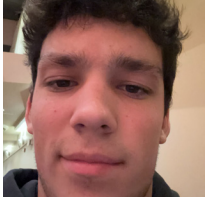
CDUA itself is funded solely by alumni dues. Fewer than 7% of our alumni pay dues, resulting in \$20,000 income in a good year and \$12,000 income in a bad year. Our expenses run in the range of \$40,000 per year. The largest expense tier is for alumni services and professional services (web site, database, transaction recording, alumni communications, accounting, tax). Alumni events held at 6 South Ave. (Homecoming, Reunion, 150th anniversary, alumni lifetime recognition) represent another tier of our expenses.

In recent years, net expenses for two chapter advisors have added to CDUA outlays. Cornell now requires a live-in advisor in all Greek houses (free room and board plus a small salary). CDUA has also hired a live-out advisor as a mentor to our undergraduates. The chapter reimburses CDUA as much as they can toward these advisor expenses. As is clear from above, CDUA is in an unsustainable financial situation. But, we are not yet in crisis mode because we have over \$60,000 in our account. You can help by topping up your annual dues (several alumni already do this) or by joining our honor roll of regular dues payers. If you cannot remember where you stand on your dues payments, reach out to Mark Merila '82 at mmerila33@gmail.com.

Duane Phillips '78, Alumni Treasurer
duane.phillips@me.com
925-788-5258

New Member Intros

PARKER WOODRING



I am from Wilton, Connecticut. Here at Cornell, I am studying economics and will graduate in 2026. I play wide receiver for the Cornell football team. In my free time, I love to fish and to play golf with friends.

ROBERT CHATRCHYAN



I'm from Ithaca, New York. Here at Cornell, I am studying viticulture and enology and will graduate in 2027. I enjoy spending time outdoors and listening to music.

DECLAN OCHENDOWSKI



I'm originally from outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I'm a class of 2026 grad in the Dyson School, concentrating in finance. A couple of my interests are football, golf, and Pittsburgh sports!

BRADY AUKER



I am a sophomore, studying environment and sustainability with a concentration in environmental economics and sustainable business. I will be graduating in 2026. Some things I am interested in and do include lacrosse, surfing, skiing, golf, CrossFit, and trying to learn guitar.

TRUMAN POPP



Hi. I'm from Glen Ellyn, Illinois. I'm class of 2027, double majoring in food science and environmental economics. I'm a big snowboarder but am also super interested in fitness and nutrition. In my free time, I like watching movies, cooking up some food, and walking around Ithaca.

JAMES THOMFORDE



I'm a freshman from Ithaca, New York, studying mechanical engineering. I will be graduating from Cornell in 2027. Some of my hobbies include listening to music, playing sports, and traveling.

DAVE LEE



I'm from State College, Pennsylvania. I'm studying computer science, and I will graduate in 2027. Some of my interests include soccer, which I played all throughout high school, Spikeball, and poker. I'm also a big Penn State fan, because I grew up a few minutes away from campus.

MIKE JONES



My name is Mike Jones, and I am from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. I am a sophomore on the football team, studying human biology with plans to attend medical school after graduating in 2026. In my free time I enjoy lifting, golfing, and spending time with my friends and family.

ARNO HUET



Hi, I'm from Arlington, Massachusetts. I'm a freshman and currently am undecided, although I'm heavily considering majoring in economics. I will be graduating in 2027. I play on one of the Cornell club soccer teams and am also a member of the Cornell Political Union.

JULIAN DAHL



I'm a current sophomore (class of 2026) majoring in economics. I'm originally from Munich, Germany, but my family recently moved to Las Vegas. On campus, I am a member of Cornell's varsity football team and am involved with CREDIT and Cornell Equity Research.

CHARLIE HORNOR



I am from Freeport, Maine. I am majoring in hotel administration with a concentration in real estate and finance. I plan to graduate in 2027.

JACKSON BENTLEY



I'm a freshman from Los Angeles, and I am majoring in history and government. I will be graduating in 2027. I enjoy surfing, skiing, hanging out with friends, and playing basketball.

ISHAN MADAN



My name is Ishan Madan, and I'm a freshman from New York City. I'm in the hotel school and will be graduating in 2027. Outside of class, I play golf and like to cook.

ETHAN S. QASEMI



Hi, I am from Long Island, New York. I am a human-biology major and will be graduating in 2027. I am a part of the ROTC team here at Cornell.

MAX KINDER



I'm majoring in mechanical engineering and will graduate in 2027. My hometown is San Francisco. I enjoy blacksmithing and football.

BO GRAHAM



I'm a sophomore from Woodinville, Washington, majoring in applied economics and management. I will be graduating in 2026. Some of my interests include hunting, DJing, and travel.

WILLIAM PAINTER



Hi, I am from Minnesota. I am an economics major and will be graduating in 2027. Some of my main interests are hockey, cooking, and fashion.

SAMUEL HECHT



I am from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. I am studying operations research and industrial engineering and will be graduating in 2027. In my free time, I enjoy playing video games, listening to music, and spending time outdoors.

E-Board

DEREK LI



I'm from Monroe, New York. I'm majoring in Nutritional Sciences and plan on pursuing medicine when I graduate in 2026. This year, I'm serving as my chapter's social chairman.

CHARLES SNAJDR



I'm the 2023-2024 philanthropy chairman for DU. I'm a junior in the College of Human Ecology, studying human biology, health, and society, and I will be graduating in 2025. I also play quarterback on the Cornell lightweight football team. My career goal is to go to medical school and to become a physician.

KEVIN LOPEZ



I am from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. I am a current junior in Dyson, studying applied econ with a concentration in business analytics. I will be graduating in 2025. It is my expectation to pursue a career in wealth management, as well as to continue building my own startup, 5ALPHA, which is a fitness-apparel and lifestyle company. This summer, I will be working at Oppenheimer and Co., doing asset-management and fixed-income research.

CARDEN OLSSON



I am a sophomore from Westchester, New York, majoring in applied economics and management. I will be graduating in 2026. On campus, I am the social chairman of Delta Upsilon, the VP of recruitment for Impact Investing at Cornell,

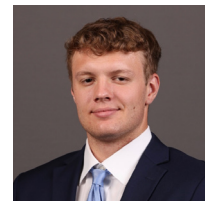
the VP of internal affairs for the Mutual Investment Club of Cornell, and a TA for AEM 2200: Business Management & Organization. During my free time, I enjoy playing and watching tennis, traveling, and going to the beach.

PETER MINNECI



I am a Junior studying biology from Columbus, Ohio. I am the current house manager. I enjoy skiing, working out, hanging out with the fellas, and learning new things. I will be graduating from Cornell in 2025 and plan to attend med school in the future.

ELIJAH BIDDLECOM



I am from Buffalo, New York. I was the new-member educator this year. I am graduating in 2024 with a major in industrial and labor relations. My career goals is to be working in sports business or entrepreneurship.

MATTHEW GRECO



I am from Westchester, New York. I served as recruitment chair earlier this year and have since moved to Vice President. I am in the ILR school and will graduate in 2024. After graduation I plan on going to law school. In my free time I enjoy watching sports, listening to music and going to the gym.

ELLIOT KINDER



I am the treasurer and I am studying operations research and engineering at Cornell and will graduate in 2025. I grew up around San Francisco.

SEIF ELNAWAWI



I am from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. I transferred to Cornell earlier this year, and I am studying business in Dyson. I will be graduating in 2026. I am a current VP of external relations for DU.

JONAH KIM



I'm from Lawrence, Kansas, one of the VPs of Recruitment, and a transfer from the University of Kansas in ILR class of 2026. I play on the Cornell club hockey team and am pursuing a career in sports.



Make Your Gift Today

I hope this note finds each of you well and you are looking forward to enjoying the summer with family and friends. I wanted to express my gratitude for all of you who have given to the DU annual dues during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which ends June 30. For those who haven't given this fiscal year, please take the time to send in a check or to visit our website (www.cornelldu.org) to pay your dues. A donation of any size will help us continue to provide the alumni support for the undergraduates and to continue our alumni operations, including SouthAvenews, maintenance of our database, Reunion, Homecoming, a live-in RA, and other priorities as they arise. So far this year, only around 5% of alumni have contributed this

fiscal year. We need your help, so please open up your wallets and contribute before the end of the fiscal year!

The easiest way to donate is to contribute is online through our secure server at www.cornelldu.org. Just follow the link to "Alumni Dues." The site also allows you to set up a recurring contribution each year, something many brothers, including me, now use.

Thank you again for your past support of DU. We hope that you will consider joining us once more in our efforts to create a better future for our brothers and community.

Fraternally,
Mark Merila '82
mmerila33@gmail.com

Alumni News

Stanley Byron '54: While in Cornell, Carol and I were married (1955). Carol Byron passed this June 10, quietly at home.

Peter Blauvelt '57: Ann and I are 88 years old and not attending Cornell functions. We have four grandchildren. Two of our granddaughters are attending Annapolis. We have another granddaughter at St. John Fisher in nursing school and a grandson at Univ. of Buffalo.

Fred Andresen '59: The passing of Robert "Dutch" Butler '57 brought back a memory. John Teare '59, Jim Wray '59, and I recruited Dutch for a four-man DU swim team (we were all badly out of shape). Teare, bushed, walked the final yards of the free relay for a one-point IFC cup win! Sigma Chi, the clear favorite, went ballistic. Scott Little, CU coach and the judge: "free style means free style!" DU wins.

Ernest Feleppa '61: After more than 52 years of employment at Riverside Research Institute, I retired at the end of December 2021 as director of its biomedical engineering laboratory in New York City. I earned my BA in physics at Cornell University in 1961 and my PhD in biophysics from Columbia University in 1968. I then completed my training at Columbia as a postdoc in genetics and physiology. I began working at Riverside Research Institute in October 1969, where I initially participated in optical and ultrasound research projects. I then engaged in environmental studies and led a project helping the Department of Commerce design a regional system for managing US fisheries in a zone extending 200 miles from the shore. That project led to studies providing management support to the New York State Education Department in the mid 1970s. In 1976, I joined the then-fledgling biomedical engineering laboratories, which were applying advanced ultrasound and signal processing methods to characterization of lesions in the eye with grant funding from the national

Institutes of Health. These studies led to others characterizing and imaging venous thrombi, arterial plaque, and diseased liver. My most-recent and quite fulfilling studies involved detecting and properly categorizing cancer in the prostate, lymph nodes, and thyroid. Now, as a retiree, I remain active in biomedical-ultrasound research as a consultant and am making up for lost vacation time in travels to the Caribbean and elsewhere with Mary Jane, my wife of 57 years, and I am enjoying every minute of both activities. Along the way, I became a master instructor in scuba diving and recently had a problem-free hip-replacement surgery.

Thos Rohr '61: Thos Rohr has been the president and CEO of Waikoloa Land Company from 1988 to 2010. He is widely regarded as someone who set high standards in the leisure hospitality industry in Hawaii. Thos was "shanghaied" to Hawaii in 1960 by his friend, Pete Revson. He quickly made a name for himself in the hotel industry, rising through the management ranks, becoming acquainted with many of the state's most dynamic business people. In 1974, he was name president and CEO of Kapalua Land Company. There, he played a major role in establishing the resort's iconic butterfly logo and, working with Arnold Palmer, bringing professional golf to Maui.

Anthony De Laurentis '64: Helen and I have recently "downsized" our home. Still live in the same area near Annapolis, Maryland. Bumped into several Cornellian in our new community.

Timothy Gardner '64: Still living in Maui, Hawaii. Turned 80, still working. Visited New York City in August. Highlight was spending quality time with De Laurentis '64. Tony was a chapter president at DU. I was surprised to see so few of my classmates ('64) on the honor roll of donors. We had a very strong class. Most were on hand for our 50th reunion in 2014. What happened?

Peter Gogolak '64: Happy to report that my granddaughter, Graylin Gogolak, transferred to Cornell (hotel school), and she started her sophomore year in fall 2022. She lives in Henderson, Nevada.

John Shaffer '66: I am enjoying life in retirement. Cycling a lot in Colorado and

traveling the USA with my wife Keyo. My marriage to Glendora ended tragically in 2012 from a stroke. It was a tough time. I met Keyo through good friends, and we married in 2015. Hope to travel to the eastern Mediterranean in the spring of 2023.

David DeBell '67: Moved from Florida to Arizona in 2021: much better for arthritis here! Big LA Dodger fans now; Phil Bickford (RH reliever) is our next-door neighbor. Oldest two grandchildren are here at Grand Canyon University (and Corinne is an outstanding ROTC cadet in the contingent). Still doing lots of animal rescue and fostering activities. Also serving as an election poll worker on a regular basis. If you get to the Phoenix area, stop by for a good craft beer!

Anthony Scalzo '71: Retiring at the end of this year after 40 years in practice as a medical oncologist.

James Knuff '74: Currently retired, member of Score Buss Counselors. Grandfather to three wonderful kids. Would like to play more golf than I currently do!

Ivan Matsunaga '86: Both of our kids have graduated as proud Cornellians! Madilyn Matsunago, 2020 BE in biomedical engineering, sprint-football manager. Tyler Matsunago, 2022 BA in history and government, sprint-football kicker.

IN MEMORIAM

John K. Howell '51 March 22, 2023	James G. Wray '59 October 31, 2023
Keith S. Campbell '53 October 18, 2020	Thomas L. Martin '60 September 21, 2021
Leo J. VanDijk '55 January 13, 2023	Jonathan G. Watson '63 September 20, 2022
James C. Drennan Jr. '57 June 7, 2022	Glenn E. Jones '68 August 2, 2022
Everett P. Loppacker Jr. '57 October 20, 2022	Jeffrey M. Riedl '70 October 1, 2020
James A. Cashen III '58 October 3, 2019	James H. Gibbons '82 July 18, 2020

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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.