

ny delta doings

NY Delta Chapter of Pi Beta Phi at Cornell

Winter 2006-2007 newsletter

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Undergraduate president reports on chapter

By Mimi Do '07
Undergraduate President
amd66@cornell.edu

The beginning of the fall semester at New York Delta was quite hectic.

On my second day back in Ithaca, I attended a campus-wide presidents' retreat sponsored by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. We traveled off campus and spent the day discussing goal setting, assessing our leadership styles, and—most importantly—networking with the presidents of other chapters on campus.

The following weekend, our leadership development consultant from headquarters, Brittany VanCleve, arrived in Ithaca. As a recent alumna and former president of the Nevada Alpha chapter, Brittany easily related to the women in our chapter, and we had a great time getting to know her. She joined us on our own executive retreat at the Cayuga Nature Center, during which we did some team building via a ropes course and then some individual goal-setting activities.

She spent the next few days meeting with members of our executive board in order to gauge our

progress since our last LDC visit. Brittany only had great things to say about our chapter and offered us some really great feedback and suggestions that I know will prove useful in strengthening New York Delta.

I am also happy to announce that our new house directors, Dillon and Angela (and new baby Miles), are finally settled in. They have been very accommodating to the needs of the in-house girls and seem to be establishing a good rapport with everyone they have come in contact with.

On a final note, one of my personal goals for this semester is to be able to build stronger ties between the active members of our chapter and local (and also not-so-local) alumnae. We have such a widespread network of New York Delta graduates, and I would love to be able to involve all of you in the activities of our chapter. Please feel free to get in touch with me should you have any questions, comments, or requests.

This is shaping up to be a great academic year for our chapter, and I know that it will be a very rewarding end of my term. Take care and best wishes for the new year!



Sisters work to strengthen children's reading skills

By Caitlin Corner-Dolloff '08

The Champions are Readers program got off to an exciting start this semester. We spearheaded a volunteer program at Caroline Elementary School, a rural school about 15 minutes outside downtown Ithaca. The school has created an after-school program that focuses on assisting children who have trouble with reading and math in the classroom. The children in this program span from first to fifth grade, allowing us, the New York Delta Pi Phis, to help improve reading skills at many levels.

The coordinator of the after-school program is especially excited to have volunteers because individualized attention can significantly improve student learning. As of this writing, Pi Phis plan to work with the children two afternoons a week from mid-October to mid-December. It is an exciting opportunity to pool our talents and interests in order to help a

group of students. We plan to continue this program in future semesters, and it should provide a great springboard for other projects within the school.

In connection with our push to expand the literacy programs, we are organizing a book drive during the fall semester. The book drive will be announced before Thanksgiving, allowing people to travel home for the week and come back with a few gifts to donate. We hope to donate children's books to local schools and will donate the other books to the Tompkins County Library for their annual book sale, which helps fund library projects. This will be a campus-wide event and has the potential to be a great success.

Many of our sisters are involved in at least one of these projects—showing our support for improving literacy while helping children and working with the communities around us.



NY Deltas participate in successful Greek Week

By Tara Young '08

The NY Deltas came out in full force for Greek Week 2006. Participating on the black team, we kicked off the week by working at the Philanthropy Carnival.

Our team ran the Frisbee booth and helped sell t-shirts to raise money for Tompkins County Public Library. We also participated in the blood drive by both giving blood and volunteering at the event.

On Tuesday, we participated in the Greek

Olympics. The volleyball tournament and relay races were great, but we really excelled in the wings eating contest. One of our seniors, Amber Clemente, won the entire contest!

The next day, we made it all the way to the championship game for the three-on-three basketball tournament. We had an entire entourage cheering on our team as our members played their hardest. Our team MVPs were senior Naomi Skolnik and junior Colleen Tucker.

The next night, we went to see comedian Dave Reilly perform, and on Friday, we made our way to North Campus for some ice cream and live entertainment. The week ended with a tailgate before the football game and a win for Cornell football!

Overall, Greek Week was full of fun and lasting memories. The NY Deltas showed the rest of the Greek community and the Class of 2010 what a premier group of women we are.

Program bonds senior citizens, sisters

By Kate Powers '08

Glamour Gals is a weekly program that the New York Delta Pi Phis have been involved in for three years.

It began when Rachel Doyle, Glamour Gals founder and a Cornell alumna, approached Pi Phi and requested our involvement. Every Sunday afternoon, we visit the Longview retirement home, where we create cross-generational connections with its residents.

We are grateful for the opportunity that we have been given through our involvement in Glamour Gals. It's nice for Pi Phis, as we are able to share our own experiences, gain wise perspectives, and come to know the residents.

At Longview, Pi Phis provide the residents with manicures, massages, and makeovers. We find that there are some residents who come back week after week. This demonstrates to us that they value the time that we spend with them and that the program has become a priority in their lives as well as ours.



Lindsey Walker '09 and Babette Stern '09 with residents of Longview.

Sister reflects on Cornell's new president and his vision

By Opal K. Hammer '07

Cornell finally has a new president. David J. Skorton was inaugurated on September 7, 2006, as Cornell University's 12th president.

Skorton—a physician for children and adults—has been a lead researcher on cardiac diseases, a computer scientist, an advocate for the humanities, and an accomplished jazz musician. But Skorton's impressive resume gives us only a glimpse of what he might bring to Cornell during this presidency.

Upon the announcement of Skorton's se-

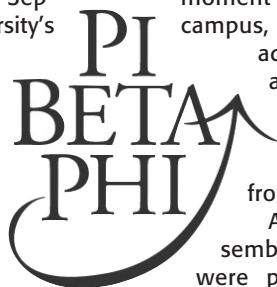
lection in January 2006, I had the opportunity to meet with the new president and learn his vision for the university. From the moment he walked onto the Cornell campus, it was clear that Skorton is an advocate for student involvement and student governance at Cornell. He is a supporter of the Greek community and has already met with Greek leaders from the Tri-Council.

As members of the university assembly, Julianna Marwell '08 and I were part of the welcome wagon, rolling out the red carpet for Cornell's new president and participating in the inauguration ceremonies. The inauguration was en-

tirely pomp and circumstance—with members of the various assemblies, faculty, staff, and students adorned in academic regalia and processing through the Arts Quad.

True to the first impressions he made in January, Skorton has maintained his stance on strong student involvement and has advocated for reaching out to the global community, furthering Cornell's position as a premiere research institute, and optimizing the working and intellectual environment for everyone on campus.

We have a lot left to learn about President Skorton, but the Pi Phis who have met him so far believe that Cornell's future looks good in his hands.



our alumnae share their news

"I am writing this for my mother who graduated from Cornell in 1927 and is still very proud of being a Pi Phi," writes the daughter of **F. Elizabeth (Lawson) Churchman '27**. "She is now 100 years old. She would love to see some of her great granddaughters become Pi Phis some day. However, she is now confined to a healthcare unit of a wonderful nursing home. She left a very small town in southern Virginia and went to Cornell in 1923—unusual, to say the least, back then. She has had a great life, including extensive world travel—starting in 1928 and her final international trip at the age of 90. The first and last trips were to Italy." Send greetings to Elizabeth at 1600 Westbrook Ave., HC 158, Richmond, VA 23227.

"No particular news," writes **Flora (Daniel) Glass '37**. "I'm leading a happy life in a first-rate retirement community, Judson Park. Lots of congenial friends, including a companion cat. Everyone should be so lucky." Keep in touch with Flora at 2181 Ambleside Dr., Apt. 203, Cleveland, OH 44106.

Helen (Wallace) Miksch '53 writes, "A sad year here in Lititz. My dear husband, Bill, passed on February 19 from a combination of Parkinson's and prostate cancer. He was 81 and missed our 50th wedding anniversary in May by a few months. I plan on staying here in our own home for the next few years. My grandson is living here with me and will finish high school in 2007." Write to Helen at 121 E. Main St., Lititz, PA 17543. E-mail her at ibuhelen@mailbug.com.

"As a follow up to the last report, much to the amazement of everyone, the treatments for Phil's cancer were effective, and we expect a full recovery," writes **Barbara (Schikler) Hankins '54**. "We bought an apartment in Bethesda and will be moving shortly." Send Barbara congratulations at 5225 Pooks Hill Rd., #A29N, Bethesda, MD 20814; Barbara@hankins.net.

Anne (Markley) Mays '56 writes, "Sorry not to make reunion 50, but politics in Illinois are in full swing, and we are fully involved! We have a great non-official Pi Phi alumnae club in Quincy with 15 members in their 90s, as well as recent grads. We have a Christmas lunch to include actives and a Founder's Day lunch. Pi Phi was and is a wonderful organization for me." Write to Anne at 333 W. Fairway Dr., Quincy, IL 62305.

Mary (Barton) Nees '72 writes, "I just got back from a really great class on monotypes at Arrowmont, thanks to a scholarship from the Pi Beta Phi Foundation. Arrowmont is a wonderful school, and I'm fortunate to live only two hours away from there now. This coming school year, I will finish my master's in fine arts at East Ten-

nessee State University. If you want an invitation to my spring show, drop me a line." Write to Mary at 156 Heather Ln., Johnson City, TN 37601. E-mail her at mbn7@comcast.net.

Diane (Wright) Hirsch '74 writes, "On a Monday night in May, I met up with **Moira 'Dolly' (Hearne) Hints '74** and **Helga (Valdmanis) Toriello '74** for dinner in Milford, Connecticut. Helga and Dean ('75) were playing in a golf tournament in Westchester County. We had a great time catching up and reminiscing. I still work for UConn Cooperative Extension. Some of my work has brought me back to Ithaca for meetings, and

I always enjoy visiting with **Maryterese Pasquale-Bowen '73** and David Bowen. My son graduated from St. Michael's College in Vermont, and my daughter is a junior at UConn. My youngest daughter will be doing the college-visit thing this summer." Keep in touch with Diane at 37 Ardmore St., Hamden, CT 06517. E-mail her at jhirsch@snet.net.

"Our daughter, Elizabeth, will be joining her brother, Charles 'CG,' at Cornell this fall," writes **Sarah (Henderson) McClure '77**. "CG is in the engineering school, Class of 2008, and Liz will be in human ecology, Class of 2010. Chip ('75) and I have lived in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, for the past 10 years, but try to get away to our vacation house in Captiva, Florida, when we have a few days. I've been keeping busy the past few years with several volunteer organizations and boards and am currently considering some property investment projects now that I will be an 'empty nester.' Chip is CEO of ArvinMeritor, an auto supplier." Write to Sarah at 55 Cabot PL., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304; smccl28016@aol.com.

Sarina (Monast) Bronfin '82 writes, "We had our annual Pi Phi mini-reunion in February in Washington, D.C., with **Jill (Flack) Seigel '81**, **Martha (Garcia) Cairnie '81**, **Kristi (Bleyer) Johnson '82**, and their families. **Naomi (Gelzer) Kettler '81** couldn't make it due to a ski trip, but we were 20 strong! I'm looking forward to our 25th reunion in 2007. Hope everyone goes back to Cornell for the weekend." E-mail Sarina at sbronfin@yahoo.com. Send her postal mail at 270 Bellair Rd., Ridgewood, NJ 07450.

Jeanine (Thomas) Riband '84 writes, "We are on our sixth year in Switzerland. It's a long time for us after all our moves. We're very happy here. It is a beautiful place to love. A view of the Alps and Lac Lemman (Lake Geneva) is not a bad way to start the day! It looks like a vacation spot. Our kids are in the international school here. Daniel is

news & notes from around NY Delta

ANONYMOUS DONATION ALLOWS SISTERS TO OPEN IN-HOUSE GYM

By Lindsey Walker '09

Pi Phi has recently developed its very own gym, Club Pi Phi! We received an anonymous and gracious donation of two elliptical machines, along with some dumb bells, yoga mats, jump ropes, and exercise balls.

Club Pi Phi is located in the basement of the house, and we hope that it will continue to develop as more things are donated. We hope to eventually put in a rubber floor and possibly obtain a larger set of dumb bells and other various pieces of workout equipment.

All the girls helped in setting it up, and the gym looks absolutely fabulous.

INTERNSHIPS, SUMMER PROGRAMS TAKE SISTERS AROUND THE GLOBE

The New York Delta Chapter has always prided itself on being a very diverse house. Nothing showcases this better than the wide array of summer internships Pi Phi participates in. Listed below is a sample of how and where this chapter's Pi Phis spent their summers.

Sisters participated in the following programs: Cornell in Rome; Applied Economics and Management Business Certificate; Cornell Pre-Law; Cornell in Washington; and International Student Volunteers.

Sisters also held internships at: Payroll 1; Kohn Pedersen Fox; Connecticut Congressional Campaign; Senator Clinton's Office; Human Resources Department of University of Illinois, Chicago; Joele Frank, Wilkinson Brimmer Katcher; Americans for Limited Government; Neonatal Research Lab; Research Department of MediaVest; Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

Sisters participated in these internships and programs in places as varied as: Ecuador; France; Germany; Ireland; Italy; the Netherlands; Spain; Switzerland; and the United States.

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our alumnae share their news

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14, and Michelle is 12. School is in English, but they get French every day. After six years, they're almost fluent. It's still not quite as good as if they were in local schools, but it's getting there. We are also still working on their Spanish (my mother tongue) and with not a lot of people to practice with, they often jumble it with French. My husband, Herb, continues multiple responsibilities with Medtronic. I have started doing marketing consulting and am helping develop a website and other marketing support for an ecologist in Brazil." Keep in touch with Jeanine at Chemin des Plaines 10, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland. E-mail her at jt69@cornell.edu.

"I have not written in a while, but wanted to let friends know what has been going on here in Connecticut," writes **Allison (Passer) Ostern '87** (16 Aspenwood, Simsbury, CT 06089). "I have been married to my husband, Fred, for 11 years and have two sons—Jake, 7, and Bennett, 4. They are both sports nuts and great athletes (maybe that's a result of all the time I spent at DU and Sigma Chi). I'm a stay-at-home mom currently. **Leesa Storfer '86** is still my best Pi Phi buddy, and I see **Sue (Davis) Frontero '87** at lot, too." Send Allison e-mail a allieo2964@aol.com.

"I missed our reunion again, as my third child, Owen, was born April 6," writes **Nicole (Halpern) Murphy '91**. "My two daughters, Madlyn (5) and Audrey (2) love him. I see other Chicago Pi Phi once in a while—like **Michelle (Michalik) Shield '91**, **Sarah (Siedman) Shelby '91**, **Jennifer Berger '91**, and **Tracy (Furner) Stein '92**. Please drop me a line at mail@chicagomurphys.com." Write to Nicole at 1185 Beech Ln., Highland Park, IL 60035.

Sara (Gur) Villalona '94 writes, "My husband I just moved from Rochester, New York, to Richmond, Virginia, with our two boys—Noah (born August 10, 2003) and Caleb (born February 4, 2006). I would love to hear from anyone in the area." Write to Sara at 6016 Carrington Green Pl., Glen Allen, VA 23060; slgur@hotmail.com.

C. Erika (Fulkerson) Howerton '95 reports that she and her family moved back to Oregon in spring 2005. Erika also reports that she continues to work at Intel and is expecting her second child at the end of the year. "Please call if you are ever in Portland." Keep in touch with Erika at 14900 SW Onyx Ct., Beaverton, OR 97007. E-mail her at Erika.howerton@intel.com.

Andrea (Beukenkamp) Ward '95 writes, "On

June 13, 2006, my husband, Jeremy, delivered our second child at our home in Vermont. We were also planning a home birth (our first child, Sabina, was born at home in 2002), but we did not anticipate the speed with which Amalia Pendleton would arrive. Despite the anxiety of the moment, everyone fared perfectly, and now Jeremy can add 'baby catcher' to his list of skills. We would love to hear from anyone in or passing through the Middlebury area. Contact us at dreyward@gmavt.net." Send Andrea postal mail at 530 South St., New Haven, VT 05472.

Christine (Crompton) Gorman '96 (1054 Lehman St., Houston, TX 77018) writes, "**Estie (Jacob) Kearney '96**, a few other Cornell swimmers, and I returned from a week at a beach house in Delaware. We would love to have more of those Pi Phi swimmers and divers join us next year. Send me a note at christinec_g@hotmail.com. Looks like the gathering will be in Hot Springs, Arkansas."

"We are loving life living in in rural Rhode Island," writes **Heidi (Straub) Henderson '96**. "Our baby, Susanna, is about to be 1, and her big sister, Ella, is 3. They're great friends, and we love being their parents. We're going to try and get them up to Cornell sometime this year!" Keep in touch with Heidi at 32 Rhodes St., Cumberland, RI 02864; heidihenderson@cox.net.

Andrea M. Madrigano '97 writes, "I am finally graduating from residency in general surgery. Five years is way too long. I've decided to do one more year as a fellow. I'm starting at Stanford in July and will be doing a fellowship in breast oncology. Any current pre-med, please feel free to e-mail me for advice." Write to Andrea at 800 High School Way, #211, Mountain View, CA 94041; andreamadrigano@yahoo.com.

"Dave and I celebrated our wedding in Ithaca on June 4," writes **Kirsten (Rowe) Marchand '00**. "Many of our friends were able to stay at the Pi Phi house over the weekend. Pi Phis included sister-in-law and bridesmaid **Tiffany (Bangs) Rowe '95**, who was with her husband, Ben, and 7-month-old son, Anderson, readers **Betsy (Lewis) Totten '00** and Denison Pi Phi Jordan McKnight. **Liz Hamilton '00**, **Kathryn Omeg '00**, and **Blaire Daly '00** added to the festivities." Send Kirsten congratulations at 19 Sunset Rd., Watertown, MA 02472; kirsten_rowe@yahoo.com.

Alison B. Diesel '01 writes, "I just finished (finally!) my internship year at the Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center in Norwalk, Connecticut. Keep in touch!" Write to Ali at 13

Goldenrod Ln., Madison, WI 53719; ali_diesel@hotmail.com.

Adrienne Kroepsch '03 writes, "Reporting from D.C. is great, but Hawaii is soon to be even better. I qualified for the 2006 Iron Man World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. Can't wait to represent the U.S. for females 18-24. I wonder if there will be any other Pi Phis there." To find out more about Adrienne and the competition, e-mail her at adriannekroepsch@hotmail.com; write to her at 1701 16th St. NW, Apt. 330, Washington, DC 20009.

"After two years of working in D.C.," writes **Joanne E. Smith '03**, "I've returned to Chicago and just finished my first year of law school at Northwestern University School of Law. Most importantly, I want to congratulate fellow 2003 alumna **Amy Montgomery** on her recent engagement to her fiancé, Luke. Amy and Luke are getting married in January of 2007 in Amy's hometown of Cleveland." Keep in touch with Joanne at 441 E. Erie St., #5902, Chicago, IL 60611; jesmith24@gmail.com.

Jamie C. Krueger '04 writes, "I've spent the last two years working in New York, Hong Kong, and London. And I've finally settled in Geneva, Switzerland, for the next few years. I'd love to hear from anyone who's passing through Europe!" Write to Jamie at Irve du Mole, Geneva 1201, Switzerland; jamie.krueger@gmail.com.

Monica N. Pham '04 writes, "This summer, I went to Old Navy and saw a girl with a Pi Beta Phi sweatshirt. I asked her what chapter she was in, and she replied 'NY Delta'. I then asked who her big was, and she said **Blair Corcoran '06**, who was my little's little. I had run into my little, little, little, little! Strange things occur at Old Navy. I will be attending law school this fall; everyone is welcome to visit!" Write to her at 21 Tremont St., Concord, NH 03301; mnp4@cornell.edu.

deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Hildegard (Uelzmann) Wilson '37
December 23, 2005

Esther (Powell) Peck '40
November 2000

Elise (Lawrey) Dooley '52
January 27, 2006