

NY DELTA DOINGS

NY DELTA CHAPTER OF PI BETA PHI AT CORNELL

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

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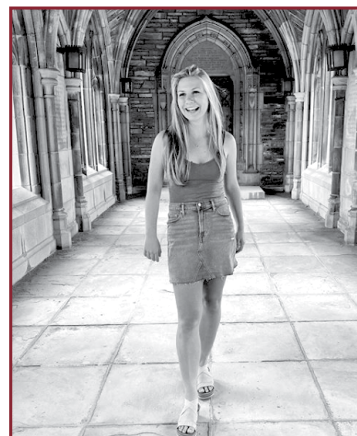
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LIFE ON CAMPUS DURING COVID-19

By Kayla deLeuze '20

As a viticulture and enology major, I am used to being in a laboratory setting, studying the microbiological functions of yeast, performing different types of fermentations and distillations, and giving tastings as a TA for the notorious VIEN 1104—Introduction to Wines and Vines. I am used to spending the majority of my time in Stocking Hall taking my classes and also doing research in the Gibney Lab for eukaryotic cell biology and wine microbiology. Now, in my last semester, my day-to-day looks a lot different than my once usual fall at Cornell. I definitely spend a lot more time in my apartment doing Zoom classes and work that I would usually do in a library or at Stocking Hall. Although my research continues to be in person, there are guidelines on how many people can be in the laboratory at a time, in masks, and properly distanced. Most of my clubs and other activities have also been moved online, so while those meetings still exist, they look really different.



Kayla deLeuze '20 has been on the Executive Board of NY Delta for two years.



Kayla deLeuze '20 and Nicki Bukovac '21 enjoying a walk around campus.

I have three in-person courses, which allow me to feel a sense of

normalcy back on campus. Every morning, Cornell requires the on-campus community to fill out a “daily check,” which is, essentially, a series of questions asking about symptoms of COVID-19 or recent exposure to someone who has had COVID-19. Once you fill this out, in order to be able to attend in-person classes, your status must be green, which means “you may proceed to campus—follow Cornell’s face covering requirements.”

As an undergraduate, I am tested twice a week at testing centers all around campus.

When on campus, face coverings are required in all facilities, and during class, both professors and students are required to wear face coverings. Many classes I am in have an in-person component that students who are on campus can attend, along with a recorded Zoom component that enables off-campus students to continue to participate and take the course. I have a lot of classes that have had to make a lot of modifications for us to be able to do the lab or get the same sensory experiences, and I feel like my professors have done a good job of being creative and giving us things to take home that will create a similar experience.

Through all of this craziness, I've seen the campus change in many positive ways that have truly contributed to Cornell's success with COVID-19.

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● Your check-in status is: GREEN



You May Proceed to Campus - Follow Cornell's Face Covering Requirements.

Thank you for completing your Daily Check. **You may proceed to campus.** Please continue monitoring your health and follow [university guidelines for social distancing and personal hygiene](#) while on campus. If you develop symptoms while on campus, contact Cornell Health at 607-255-5155.

Photo of the Cornell Daily Check Status.

CONTINUOUS OPEN BIDDING, COVID-19, AND RECRUITMENT UPDATES

By Quincy Erturk '21

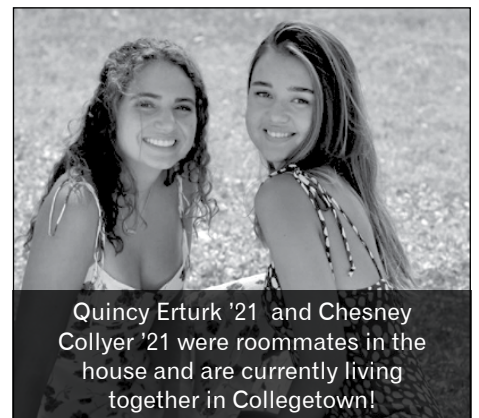
The NY Delta Chapter participated in continuous open bidding (COB), or, informal recruitment, this semester! The COB process this year consisted of an open house round, followed by “coffee chats” with sisters in our chapter. Potential new members (PNMs) could qualify as long as they were not first semester freshmen. The open house round was completed via Zoom, where we had members of our chapter host breakout rooms in which PNMs introduced themselves and got to know our membership!

There was so much interest in becoming part of our membership that we actually held two open house rounds, with nearly 100 potential new members attending. The next round of coffee chats was also completed over Zoom due to university policy, but was much more similar to the philanthropy or preference round of our usual recruitment. Each PNM was paired with a member of our chapter and was able to have a more in-depth conversation about themselves, their values, and why they were excited about Pi Phi. We are proud to announce that we gained 11 awesome new women into our chapter from this process. These women are involved leaders on campus, they are innovative thinkers, and they are enthusiastic and passionate about Pi Phi!



Our newest members of MC'20!

Formal recruitment this spring will all be over Zoom, and it will take place during the academic semester. This will be a change for us, as recruitment usually occurs the week before classes begin on campus in late January. We will be hosting the first round through Bitmoji classroom, and subsequent rounds should be as similar as they can be to previous years, though virtual! Our biggest goal for recruitment this year will be learning how to best utilize technology to demonstrate our membership and our values, as well as get to have real connections with the PNMs attending recruitment.



Quincy Erturk '21 and Chesney Collyer '21 were roommates in the house and are currently living together in Collegetown!

MC'20: LIVING IN A SORORITY HOUSE DURING COVID-19



Some of the members of MC'20 posing in front of our beautiful home.

Many of the sophomore and a handful of junior members of Pi Phi live in our house. This year, we were so excited that MC'20 was still given the opportunity to live in our house—with a few modifications. Following Cornell's policy, the house was expected to follow physical distancing protocols with masks in communal spaces. In terms of people allowed to enter the house, there was a strict no-guest policy. In the bathrooms, dividers were installed in between sinks to further enable distancing. Lastly, more scheduling needed to be involved for things like dining and laundry usage. However, MC'20 took these challenges in stride and was able to have a great live-in experience this fall while safely living in a sorority house. Below are some of the highlights, difficulties, and what classes have been like for MC'20 girls living in the house.

What has been the most fun part about living in the house this semester?

Chloe Solon: Getting closer to all of the other girls because our time together got cut super short last semester! I love eating dinner with everyone and hanging out together downstairs.

Annelie Miller: I have loved constantly being surrounded by people. In a time right now where you really can't see that many of your friends, it has been so nice to be living with so many of them!

Jeren Konak: Getting to know Dickyi, our chef, who has been so incredible this semester. She truly is my mom at school and looks out for every girl living-in.

What is something weird/different about living in a sorority house during COVID-19?

Chloe Solon: Because there are so many people here and we all have contacts outside of the house, it's been a little difficult to stay aware of what is safe and what is not inside

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SENIOR REFLECTION: MEG ANDERSON

By Meg Anderson '21

I joined Pi Phi freshman year because the Pi Phis in my life were the coolest ladies I knew at Cornell. My Rho Gamma was a Pi Phi (and I didn't know that at the time) and I worshipped the ground she walked on—her style, her humor, her kindness. Three of my teammates on the polo team were Pi Phis, and there were Pi Phis in my government classes and on my Outdoor Odyssey trips. I spent my first Thanksgiving away from home with a Pi Phi senior. It just seemed that the places at Cornell I felt most MYSELF were full of Pi Phi women. I already had so much in common with the other sisters before I even joined. I still



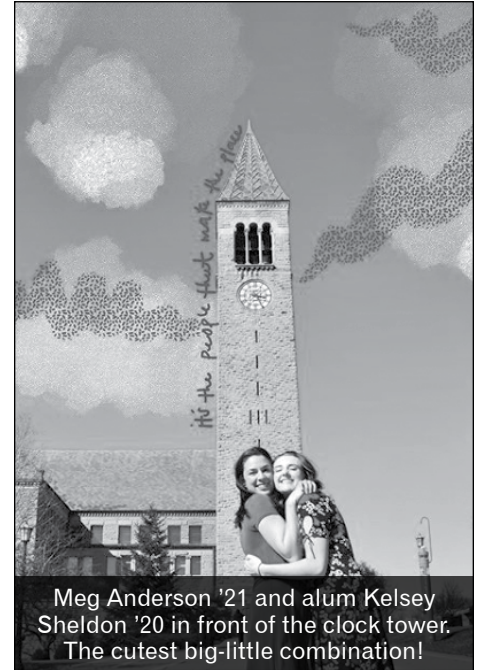
Meg Anderson '21 has been a new member educator for three years for NY Delta. We cannot thank you enough, Meg, for all of your contributions to our sisterhood!

went into recruitment with an open mind... but nothing could compare to the warmth and joy I felt at 330 Triphammer.

Pi Phi has given me the confidence to be myself and to be a leader. It has also given me a sense of belonging and community. I love that I can walk into any room in Ithaca—from Lynah Rink to CTB— and see the smiling face of one of my sisters. Being a new member educator for three years has also been central to my membership of Pi Phi. I absolutely love passing my Pi Phi passion on to new members and teaching them the quirks and traditions of NY Delta. It's important to me that all members of our chapter feel welcomed and included, from bid day until graduation and beyond. That position has allowed me to contribute to our chapter, and it has given me many close bonds with younger members, and for that, I'm so grateful.



Meg and her line during spring recruitment 2020, where Meg performed the sisterhood story during round one.



Meg Anderson '21 and alum Kelsey Sheldon '20 in front of the clock tower. The cutest big-little combination!

One year for the new member retreat, the new member education team and I dressed up in thrifted wedding dresses. I may be biased, but it was the funniest stunt ever. That is a memory that will always make me smile. Other smaller moments also hold a special place in my heart, like decorating the house for the winter holidays, performing a skit during recruitment with my little, and completing an 80-mile bike race with a sister. I will miss NY Delta!

MC'20: LIVING IN A SORORITY HOUSE DURING COVID-19

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the house, but with cases so low on campus it is a lot easier now!

Annelie Miller: In years past, the capacity of the house and the amount of people living in the house has been a lot more. This semester, we have a smaller group of girls living in the house, but it's made us get to know each other way better!

Jeren Konak: Trying to maintain a distance since we all live together but are still a big group of girls. We have navigated this really well throughout the semester—through that we've truly come to a "new normal"

What have your classes been like this semester?

Chloe Solon: They feel like a lot more work because everything is less separated—it's all on the computer so it feels like a lot of hours of work all day online. Some professors have been really understanding, though, and since we are all in the same situation on campus together it's a lot easier to stay motivated than



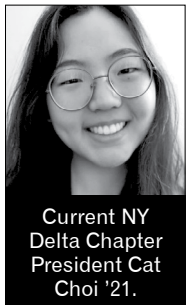
MC'20 members Jenn Munson '23, Jeren Konak '23, Prameela Kottapalli '23, Chloe Solon '23, and Jordan Tralins '23 enjoying the fall!

it was in my online classes last semester when I was at home.

Annelie Miller: I am in lots of online courses this semester. Luckily, the school Wi-Fi extends to our house so we can all take classes on the same Wi-Fi without it crashing in the house. However, it can be very difficult to concentrate, and hard to pay attention in my online classes.

Jeren Konak: All my classes are online so it definitely was an adjustment! That said, I am definitely happy I came back to campus where people are also doing school so I can be more focused than if I was at home.

NY DELTA ADAPTABLE IN FACE OF NUMEROUS CHALLENGES



By Cat Choi '21

This year threw everyone in our chapter a few curveballs, and because of this in particular, my goal throughout my presidency was leading with compassion. I hope I can be remembered for prioritizing empathy and diplomacy while always putting the interests of the chapter first. Sometimes, carrying out the latter did not involve a binary choice, but rather a complicated and unprecedented set of circumstances. Having trust and delegating efficiently across the executive board and the broader leadership team proved to be an essential skill that I quickly learned to utilize in order to accomplish our goals.

In terms of tangible goals, I am extremely proud of NY Delta—especially Director of Philanthropy Shayda Daneshvari—for the \$50,000 we were able to fundraise and donate toward combating racial injustice alongside other organizations in the Greek community. I am also very excited about the



Cat Choi and her little, Matilde Cardoso '23, after big-little this spring.

regular D&I presentations that our pilot committee has worked on implementing regularly. These are significant steps that have moved us forward in acknowledging our history—both individually as a chapter and as a subset of a broader system—of exclusivity and tolerating indefensible behavior. At large, I am most proud of the chapter's adaptability to every new challenge this year that tested our strength. Each of us fought our own unique battles that came with this pandemic, but we were able to stay in touch, stay safe, recruit new members, and support each other despite all odds.

I am hoping to go to medical school to become a doctor post-graduation—a profession and field in which it is crucial to be human-centered, to have resilience, and to understand that there is no “one size fits all” approach to problem solving. My experience as chapter president has provided me plenty of opportunities that have helped me further internalize these mindsets and incorporate them into my personal values.

There are so many times when things failed to transpire in the way I had



Cat Choi and Molly Pazol '22 on Bid Day 2020.

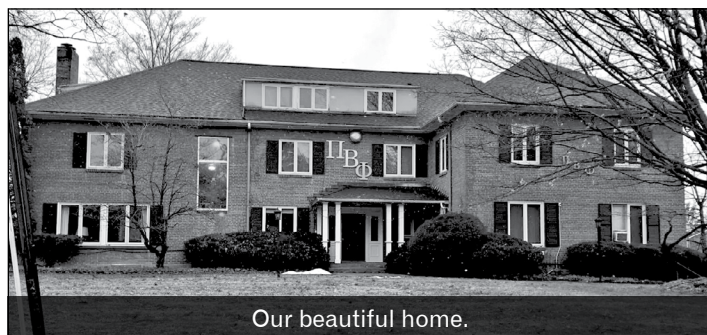
hoped they would, and I found myself on an utterly unanticipated path that even my predecessors could never have imagined possible. My advice to the future president of our chapter is that when these situations arise and leave you feeling defeated, remember that you build personal growth in these moments, and that it is an honor to be trusted to make difficult decisions on behalf of over 100 women. Your sisters believe in your discipline and values and only want you to succeed!

HOW WE MOVED-IN TO 330 TRIPHAMMER ROAD THIS YEAR

By Gracie Ashby '22

Managing the “move-in plan” during the summer to help women safely move in to the house during COVID-19 was quite difficult. Luckily, I had an amazing team of people I was working with, including Katie Compton, our house mom, Kara Maloney, my advisor, and Susan Murphy, who works for the Housing Corporation. My fellow executive board members were also very helpful throughout this process. We had to constantly watch the changing New York State guidelines to make sure our plans followed them. As a team, we created a move-in plan and adjusted it when necessary.

In terms of obstacles, having to create a plan when policies both statewide and Cornell-centered were constantly changing was extremely difficult. For move in, we wanted to limit the number of people moving into the house each day, so a schedule was created, which is different from past years when people could come whenever. Additionally, parents/friends were not allowed into the house to help with move in. Another issue we faced was adding more house rules, such as wearing a mask in common areas and limiting the number of guests. Although this was difficult to do, the live-in girls were able to contribute their thoughts on what they wanted for their live-in experience. Another issue was dealing with the changing New York State guidelines. Keeping up with the list of states that required the two-week quarantine was complicated, as



Our beautiful home.

we had girls from across the country moving into the house.

The house this year looks slightly different than in years past. First, plexiglass was installed in the kitchen to protect our chef, Dickyi, and in the bathrooms between sinks. Also, the furniture in the common areas has been rearranged to encourage social distancing. Girls also are wearing masks in common areas and in hallways. I have been so proud that we were able to successfully reopen the house while keeping everyone safe and happy! Although this year is different than others, I'm glad that Pi Phi still get to experience the joys of living together at 330 Triphammer!

CHAPTER THRILLED TO BE PART OF NATIONAL D&I PILOT PROGRAM

By Aarushi Machavarapu '23

This summer, Pi Beta Phi Headquarters released their intent to create a diversity and inclusion pilot program for their chapters across the nation to participate in. The idea of the pilot was to create a new director position (Director of Diversity/Inclusion) that would promote mindfulness, inclusive programming, and engage the chapter in intercultural life on campus and in the local community. Our chapter was eager to participate and were thrilled to be selected for the program.

Throughout my time as director of diversity & inclusion (D&I), the primary way we have implemented D&I in our chapter programming is through short social justice presentations from various D&I committee members at every chapter. Past presentation subjects have included racism in Greek life, intersectional feminism, tokenism, pronouns, cultural appropriation, and redlining. Future presentation topics include micro-aggressions, criminal justice, model minority myth, and savior

complex. The primary accomplishment of this D&I work is raising awareness within our chapter.

It is important for our chapter to recognize and acknowledge the different experiences our sisters of color have, and collectively work to become better allies. I believe these presentations are a great start to building that awareness and allyship.

Through these presentations, we have placed a huge emphasis on diversity and inclusion this semester, as it is beyond important to recognize the privileges we have as a part of Greek life, which is predominantly white and socioeconomically privileged. Additionally, we implemented a one-month daily training called Justice in July through the app SnapHabit for our chapter to engage in daily work surrounding anti-racism.

However, the work is far from over and we have many future goals! Many of our goals pertain to making the social aspect of our chapter more inclusive. Additionally,



Aarushi Machavarapu '23, our current director of Diversity & Inclusion.

we hope to work with Pi Beta Phi HQ to address non-inclusive bylaws and recruitment rules to help make sure our chapter can be as inclusive as possible.

UPDATES FROM HOUSE CORPORATION

By Susan H. Murphy '73 | House Corporation Treasurer

At 330 Triphammer Road, fall 2020 has been unlike any that we have ever experienced before, and hopefully, it also is unlike any that we will ever experience again! The good news is that the house is open and 20 new members are enjoying the live-in experience; the bad news is that so many others are not there and interactions amongst the live-in sisters, and the new member class as a whole, are so different from what they have been in the past.

When Cornell announced it was opening, with classes being taught virtually, in-person, or in mixed modality, and residence halls occupied, we opened our doors as well. To prepare the house, we made several adjustments: we installed plexiglass in the kitchen to protect Dickyi, our wonderful chef, as she prepares and serves meals, we had plexiglass dividers installed in the bathrooms between the sinks, and we calculated occupancy levels for every room and posted those limits. As a result of the changed occupancy guidelines, the dining room spread into the living room, some of the living room furniture was put in storage, and no bedroom was assigned more than two occupants. (In fact, several remain empty.)

In addition to the regular summer deep clean, the house was given a complete sanitization prior to reopening and additional semi-weekly sanitizing has been implemented to supplement our regular housekeeping schedule. As an outgrowth of these precautions, in combination with weekly (or in the case of undergraduates, twice a week) surveillance testing, we have felt comfortable that we are able to offer a safe environment for the staff and the sisters at 330 Triphammer.

Thanks to the incredible work of Exec. and, especially, our house director, Katie, the move-in process went safely and every woman tested negative before classes began. Sadly, because of the limits imposed by New York State and by Cornell, there are no in person chapter meetings and no gatherings larger than 10 at the house (or anywhere, for that matter). That said, the spirit of sisterhood and home created at 330 Triphammer continues. Cornell had incredible success in staying open and recording a very low positive rate given the testing protocols, mask and social distance mandates, and the excellent cooperation, indeed leadership, among the students in adhering to the behavioral compact. As Thanksgiving approaches, in person classes are ending, as is on-campus living. The chapter house will close at Thanksgiving and reopen when Cornell resumes in early February.

To be sure, New York Deltas enrolled in fall 2020 will have unique memories of their time at 330 Triphammer!



ALUMNAE SHARE THEIR NEWS

Elizabeth (Collins) Verbsky '56 writes, "I live in a retirement community, and I have my own apartment that I live in with my rescue dog. However, we can't eat in the dining room or interact with the other residents due to the coronavirus!" (3801 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Apt. 133, Waco, TX 76708; kimbet60@yahoo.com)

"I attended the 100th birthday of NY Delta with **Ginny Gustafson '58**, who flew in from Oregon to stay with me and attend the party," writes **Ann (Gaffey) Coyne '58**. "My Pi Phi roommate, **Mary Margaret Mueller Carmichael '54**, died on March 6, 2020. She also lived at Kendal in Ithaca." (357 Savage Farm Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850; acoyne@unomaha.edu)

Beth (Hoover) Morsman '60 wrote in May: "No news. Like most people, we're secure at home and have cancelled three trips so far. But we're healthy, we Zoom with family and friends, and take a hike every day." (1340 Ferndale Rd. N., Minneapolis, MN 55447; bethmorsman@mac.com)

Sue (Justin) Garmston '63 writes that she and her fellow '63s "**Barbara (Strong) Winslow, Bobbie (Boicourt) Richards, Sandra (Luburg) Beeman, Sara (Hart) Olson, Gwen (Sibson) Porcaro, Joan (Rasmussen) McGee, and Carol (Sammis) Heltzel** will all be gathering in Asheville, North Carolina, to celebrate 60 years of friendships. We were all Pi Phis in our youth and the friendship has endured through the years with many trips together, both near and far." (1846 Sapphire Way, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762; sgarmston@gmail.com)

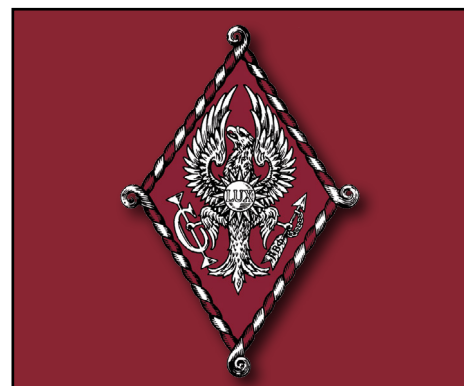
Elizabeth (Lewis) Allen '64 writes, "My husband, Don, and I live in southern California. We stay in touch with senior year roommate **Nancy (Taylor) Butler '64**

and her husband, Ed. Every five years we enjoy going to Reunion with them. My life is filled with kids, primarily those who we have 'adopted' and who we mentor and tutor and consider part of our family. My favorite sports remain boogie boarding and skiing. We are grateful for great health and great friends. Our red Standard poodle, Lulu, keeps us on our toes! I would love to hear from Pi Phi sisters!" (715 Hygeia Ave., Encinitas, CA 92024; elizabeth@ctcmmediation.com)

"Everyday is Zoomday," **Elisabeth E. (Kaplan) Boas '71** wrote in May. "I'm also catching up on the fiction and nonfiction books I've been 'saving until I have more time.' Thirty books since January 1, 2020 (two fiction plus one nonfiction, repeat!) in between keeping up with Zoom appointments, etc." (11 Oxford St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815; ekb7@cornell.edu)

Judy (Marlinski) Doyno '85 wrote in March: "We continue to have Pi Phi reunions from the class of '85. At least 17 of us celebrated our 55th birthdays together at **Jen Wysocki's ('85)** home in Old Lyme, Connecticut. It was incredible! Also, last summer, I had the honor to attend **Amy Snow's ('85)** daughter's wedding in Montreal, Canada, with **Betsy (Daniels) Graseck '85, Lorah (McNally) Perlee '85, and Kari (Pedersen) Dooley '85**. It was a joyous occasion." (30 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, MA 02108; judy.doyno1@gmail.com)

"One down! One to go!" writes **Kim (Brown) Bixler '91**. "Our daughter, Kendall, graduated from Cornell in 2020. Our son, Robert, is scheduled to graduate in 2021. Both kids experienced Cornell during the pandemic—online learning, no graduation ceremony, and the complete shutdown of Ithaca. (Our daughter plans to crash Robert's graduation ceremony in secret!)"



DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Jane (Simmons) Wiltse '41
March 11, 2020

Elizabeth (Zobel) Hannan '51
February 13, 2020

Mary Margaret (Mueller) Carmichael '54
March 6, 2020

(301 35th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; kimbixler@earthlink.net)

Heidi (Straub) Henderson '96 wrote in May: "We're all good here in Rhode Island. My oldest daughter, Ella, is graduating from high school this year and plans to attend UPenn in the fall. It's a different sort of 'graduation' than we thought we'd have, but we're really proud of her either way. Rhode Island has been great place to quarantine if one must. We have acreage, a guest house to 'vacation' to on our property, and an amazing neighborhood that is always up to something fun. Come visit!" (32 Rhodes St., Cumberland, RI 02864; riheidi@gmail.com)

LIFE ON CAMPUS DURING COVID-19

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Students have increased their time outside and have embraced Ithaca's natural beauty during this fall. I have seen so many people going on hikes to Buttermilk

Falls and sitting outdoors on the slope during dinnertime to watch the sunset. More than that, I have seen an increased accountability for students, which has made many students really adhere to the guidelines that Cornell has set out for us, as well as limit the amount of people they see in person. Being in this "new normal" environment—where everyone is focused

on school and the majority of people are in a similar place in life—has definitely made this semester worthwhile and inspired me with how much a community can come together to persevere. I have really loved being back in Ithaca, finishing off my Cornell experience, and being able to see my Pi Phi sisters while socially distanced!