



NEWS FROM THE KNOLL

HOMECOMING 2·0·1·5

We invite you to return to
106 The Knoll
to see old friends
and meet the current
brothers of Phi Kappa Tau
on the weekend of
September 18–19.

Join the tailgate before the
Homecoming football game
against Bucknell at 3:00 p.m.
on Saturday, September 19,
and then join us for dinner with
the brotherhood later that night.

More details will follow
in the weeks ahead.

For more information, please
contact Alexander Gomez, vice
president for alumni relations at
vpar@cornellpkt.com.

Photo at top: Reunion Weekend in June was an occasion for these alumni and undergrads to mingle (L–R, front): James Brennan '07, Will Longano '07, Eddie Castaneda '07; (L–R, back) Jason Grand '07, Alex Fisher '07, Eric Oberman '14, Steve Pazzano '07, Tim Wickham '07, VPAR Alex Gomez '14, Logan Pierce '07, Dan Schiff '02, Ben Lee '13, Greg Nostrand '14, Jason Freedman '15, Jeff Witz '14, Jeremy Rothstein '07.

CORNELL CHAPTER REPEATS AS MOOSNICK WINNER

Alpha Tau received the Moosnick Trophy for highest grade-point average on July 18 in Oxford, Ohio, during Conclave. This was the 11th time in the past 13 years the chapter has received this honor. Chapter president Brian McGovern '13 accepted, along with Akshay Jain '15.

The chapter had just over a 3.4 GPA for 60 men. Runners-up were Chapman and Nebraska Wesleyan chapters, the latter winning the Maxwell Award as outstanding chapter.

About 120 men from around the nation attended the third Conclave, a gathering to discuss programming, learn more about the national Phi Kappa Tau, tour sites related to fraternity history at Miami University, and meet with the National Council, which holds meetings in years

when there is no Convention. Scott Conroe '01, Empire Domain director, also attended.

Alpha Tau also received citations for recruitment and money raised for the SeriousFun Network camps.

Elsewhere, Eric Oberman '14 and Mike Beveridge '14 planned to attend Leadership Academy in Georgia later in July.



Chapter President Brian McGovern '13 (second from right) holds the Moosnick Trophy, while Akshay Jain '15 holds the plaque. Presenters were national president Rick Keltner (left) and former national president Charlie Ball.

CORNELL CHOOSES CHAPTER FOR AWARDS

Alpha Tau of Phi Kappa Tau achieved a rare honor during the annual Fraternity and Sorority Awards in April, receiving Outstanding Chapter status from Cornell University for roughly the 12th time since 2002.

The university's Office of Fraternities, So-

rorities, and Independent Living (OFSIL) gives the award to three fraternities in Interfraternity Council, along with sorority and fraternity chapters from the other two Greek councils.

Javi Ortiz '12, social chair in 2013, presi-

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CHAPTER GRADUATES 16, HONORS TWO

Alpha Tau Chapter had 16 seniors become part of the Graduate Council on May 24, a sunny and warm Sunday that provided a pleasant walk to Schoellkopf Stadium for Cornell University's 147th Commencement.

A couple of weeks earlier, the chapter's executive board chose two of the seniors, L.T. Nault and Nitin Rajinikanth, as the Meritorious Service Award recipients. L.T. served as treasurer in 2014, and Nitin served as vice president in 2014 and chaplain for two years. Both were honored for how much they cared about the chapter beyond the offices they held. This award was created in 1981.

Bryan McDonald was chosen Dream Teamer of the Year for contributions to intramural sports. This award was created in 2001 by Dennis DeMarco '01 as the chapter sought to build campus name recognition and brotherhood through playing intramural sports.

The May graduates were Matt Coster, Tom Flagiello, Ankith Harathi, Eric Krasnow, Kevin Liu, Bryan McDonald, L.T. Nault, Sam Nelson, A.J. Nickas, Andrew O'Connor, Jake Potashnick, Nitin Rajinikanth, Mark Shneerson, David Sternau, Marcus Wetlaufer, and Lekshmi "Lex" Shivakumar.

The last chapter meeting of the academic year on May 3 was filled with emotion, as usual, with seniors offering their thoughts upon leaving.

This was the 14th graduating class for the chapter since re-founding in 2000, with those first members graduating in 2002 and 2003.



Bryan McDonald and Tom Flagiello (L-R) get ready for the procession.



Mark Shneerson and Andrew O'Connor (L-R) savor the walk to Schoellkopf Stadium for Commencement.



A.J. Nickas, L.T. Nault, and Dave Sternau (L-R) pose en route to the Arts Quad to line up for the procession.



Lex Shivakumar, Ankith Harathi, and Nitin Rajinikanth (L-R) on their way to the Arts Quad before Commencement.

REUNION ON THE KNOLL

Last month, the Alpha Tau Chapter hosted its annual Reunion Weekend reception for the class of 2005 and the class of 2010, which were returning to celebrate their five-year and 10-year reunions. We also had the privilege of hosting various brothers from others graduation years, including some who graduated in the 1980s.

We spent Saturday afternoon on the Knoll, relaxing in the backyard and playing KanJam and cornhole. Undergraduates got the chance to meet Graduate Council brothers and talk about their experiences here at Cornell. It was interesting to not only learn about what changed since their time as undergraduates, but also what stayed the same. Certain things about Phi Tau and Cornell seem to be timeless, such as the names of the rooms in the house and the crowded first-floor parties. These shared experiences made it easy to connect and to appreciate being part of this brotherhood.

The reception was a great opportunity to show alumni that our chapter is still striving. We talked about the different things we were doing on campus and the various recognitions that our chapter has received. It was also an opportunity to see the impact that other Phi Taus were making in the real world. Brothers who graduated only years ago are now up-and-coming in their various fields, and we are all interested to see where they will eventually land.

Our next major event will be our annual tailgate and alumni reception during Homecoming weekend. It will occur on September 19, and we encourage all alumni to return to Cornell and to attend. More information will be sent out soon, but we hope to see many of you there, because it is a great opportunity to reunite with old brothers and to reconnect with the chapter.

Alex Gomez '14



ΦΚΤ ALUMNI NEWS

“Worked in 47 countries,” writes **Robert Ostrander '49**. “Finally came to roost in Romulus, New York, in 1995. Home is where the heart is!” Get back in touch with Bob at reomag@rochester.rr.com or at 5715 Rt. 89, Romulus, NY 14541.

Dan Schiff '02 writes: “Had a great time at my Cornell 10-year reunion, and I appreciate the guys in Ithaca letting me stay in the house. Glad to see Alpha Tau continuing to grow with quality brothers!” Write Dan a note to let him know how you're doing:

schiffilis@gmail.com; 4530 Connecticut Ave. NW, Apt B2, Washington, DC 20008.

In July, **Drew Weirman '09** finished up a year-long assignment as a manufacturing engineer at Lockheed Martin in Syracuse, New York, where he worked on sonar, ground-based radar, and electronic warfare systems for the military. “Will probably be relocating again soon!” Write to Drew to get all the details: arw84@cornell.edu; 823 Clover Dr., North Wales, PA 19454.

WHY I VISITED THE KNOLL

I returned to The Knoll for my 10th Cornell Reunion in June because Phi Kappa Tau defined my college experience. There are many banal things I could say about nostalgia for the good old days, though, truthfully, I have no desire to be 20 years old again. But it's comforting to visit and to see how Alpha Tau Chapter remains a solid brotherhood.

Many aspects of my Cornell social scene are gone: Dino's bar is a distant memory, the Palms is a pile of rubble, and the Chapter House is charred to a crisp. Fortunately, our chapter house still stands, better in many ways. And, of course, our vast backyard remains the perfect place to spend a gorgeous spring day.

The current undergraduate brothers wouldn't know me from Jeffrey Lehman (former Cornell president), but it wasn't hard to see that the character of the chapter has carried through the years. One young woman serving as a class of 2005 Reunion clerk, upon hearing which house I was in, exclaimed, “Phi Tau? I love those guys!”

That Alpha Tau continues to thrive is a credit to our strong alumni leadership. I know I shouldn't take for granted that 106 The Knoll will stand forever as our home, but I hope it does. I'll be back for other reunions, and each time I return, the undergrads will look at me with increasing concern when I say I'm down for some of the social games they like. But beyond just allowing me to awkwardly relive the past, the fraternity has given me friendships that continue going strong. And that's the most important thing I could ask for from a college experience.

Dan Schiff '02



CHAPTER ETERNAL

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

William J. Cuccio '66

December 6, 2014

Donald R. Curtis '53

February 5, 2015

Richard C. Daniels '49

January 26, 2015

Robert W. Ficken '50

March 31, 2012

Edgar J. Stevenson '67

January 22, 2015

Charles B. Winn '56

May 27, 2009

CORNELL CHOOSES CHAPTER FOR AWARDS

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dent for 2014, and member-orientation officer for last spring, was named an Outstanding Chapter Officer. Spring initiate Christopher Cox '15 was named an Outstanding New Member in the Greek system.

The chapter also received an award for Outstanding Social Responsibility, for strong management of social events and for participation at risk management talks.

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is published by the Alpha Tau Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity at Cornell for its members and friends. News and photos should be sent to: Alumni Records Office, Alpha Tau of Phi Kappa Tau, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876. Comments about this edition can be sent to Alex Gomez '14 at vpar@cornellpkt.com. This issue edited by Scott Conroe '01