



The Alpha Delta Phi

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Cornell Chapter Report

Cornell University – Ithaca, NY

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The Cornell Chapter House, as seen from the front. Alpha Delta Phi Drive is shown in the foreground.

Dear Brothers,

This year the Cornell Chapter has maintained its status as a powerhouse among Alpha Delta Phi organizations. Exemplary organization, planning, and alumni support have continued to perpetuate a culture of consistent success at “The Phi.” During my visit to the chapter, I was able to attend both a Thursday-night mixer with a sorority, as well as the chapter’s acclaimed Victory Club gaming night.

Through these events it was evident that the chapter maintains an active social calendar, strong alumni involvement, and a continued investment in philanthropy as a driving force behind the chapter. The Victory Club event displayed the unity between alumni and undergraduates, and the sorority mixer showcased the fact that the chapter has maintained itself as an upstanding member of the Cornell Greek community. In a single night, Victory Club raised over \$6,000 for the Meals on Wheels charity.

Such accomplishments are the result of a robust infrastructure and open communication with the chapter’s alumni, as can be seen by the chapter’s well-produced newsletter and website. The newsletter has been issued each semester for perhaps a decade, and contains sufficient content that alumni can get a feel for what’s going on at the chapter even if they have not been to

Ithaca in some time. The chapter's website builds upon the newsletter, and contains everything from a bank of newsletters to a collection of chapter composites organized by decade.

To build upon the chapter's success, heavy recruitment will be needed during the 2009-2010 academic year, to balance out the 27 graduating brothers from the class of 2010. Alumni have also raised concerns about the issue of brothers opting to live out-of-house for their senior year. To remedy this problem it does not seem that there is a single easy solution, but rather that a combination of financial incentives and unique benefits may be necessary.

The chapter might also benefit by incorporating the fraternity's literary tradition into its social calendar more extensively, and by concentrating on high-publicity literary events and special guests. All in all, the Cornell chapter has maintained itself as a top-performing Alpha Delta Phi organization, and stands poised to continue this trend far into the future.

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Zachary Pardey
Director of Field Operations
The Alpha Delta Phi International

Cornell Chapter:

Current Undergraduate Brothers: **44**

Initiated fall 2008: **0**

New-members spring 2009: **16**

Graduating May 2009: **5**

Graduating May 2010: **27**

House capacity: **32**

Living in house 2008-2009: **21**

Living in house 2009-2010: **28**

1. Recruitment (08-09 Goal = 12)

Score: 13/15

Positive Elements:

- 16 recruits accepted bids in spring 2009, representing a net gain of 11 men.
- Large events maintain awareness:
 - The chapter's Halloween event gathers much attention each year and drives recruitment.
- Every Thursday night the chapter holds an exchange with a sorority to which recruits are invited.
- Turkey Fest: coat and tie dinner event attended by all recruits.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- In order to avoid a dramatic shift in the size of the organization, the chapter will need to recruit heavily next year to avoid net loss in membership due to the 27 graduation brothers.

2. New Member Education

Score: 14/15

Last Year: 7/10

Positive Elements:

- Dinners are held twice weekly with the new-member class. This is a coat and tie event, at which the new members are quizzed orally on fraternity material.
- The chapter teaches a great deal of local history, as well as a significant degree of nationally-oriented material.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- Be sure to continue to educate new members about the structure and history of the international organization.
 - Board of Governors, convention, staff, CSCs.

3. Chapter Meetings

Score: 14/15

Positive Elements:

- Chapter meetings are held bi-weekly.
- Executive committee meetings are held weekly.
- The chapter communicates electronically to a large extent, which has yielded positive results.
- Adequate ritual is performed at all meetings.
- While some may argue that chapter meetings need to be held every single week, it seems that the Cornell Chapter has developed an effective system with regard to the frequency of meetings.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- The chapter may benefit by holding literary presentations during chapter meetings. This practice can add a lot to the culture of the fraternity given a very small time investment.

4. Fiscal

Score: 15/15

Positive Elements:

- Social dues are included with room and board
- The chapter is in a strong position to provide alumni support for brothers in need.
- Collection is managed through the university, and is not an issue.
- The chapter is current with regard to payment of International fees.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- Continue to manage finances responsibly, as is the case currently.

5. Newsletter

Score: 10/10

Positive Elements:

- The chapter's newsletter is published once per semester.
- The newsletter is organized and professional in appearance.

- The chapter consistently sets a good example for the timely production and professionalism of its newsletter.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- Continue the newsletter's production each semester.

6. Literary Programming

Score: 12/15

Positive Elements:

- The chapter is working to get Kent Hubbel, Cornell Dean of Students to give a literary presentation this year or next year.
- Each new member gives a literary presentation to the brotherhood as part of his new-member education.
- The chapter's newsletter includes excerpts of literary content.
- The chapter consistently contributes to the SELEF Literary Competition. See bonus-points opportunity, below.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- The chapter may benefit by incorporating a literary presentation night into its social calendar. Such events would bring the fraternity's literary tradition into the public eye at Cornell.
- **BONUS CHAPTER EVALUATION POINTS AVAILABLE** for entries to this year's Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation (SELEF) Literary Competition! Up to **15 bonus points** are available which could be added to this evaluation report. *One point per viable entry into the 2008-2009 SELEF Literary Competition, maximum of one point per brother. Please send entries to Alpha Delta Phi headquarters at:*
 - Alpha Delta Phi International
6126 Lincoln Ave.
Morton Grove, IL 60053

7. Communal Meals

Score: 5/5

Positive Elements:

- The chapter eats together unofficially on a daily basis, and dines as a brotherhood formally on protocol dinners each Sunday and Wednesday.
 - A wait staff is hired for each protocol dinner.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- Continue the protocol dinner tradition.

8. Alumni Relations

Score: 10/10

Positive Elements:

- The chapter's percentage of lost brothers has held steady at **8%** over the past year. No recently graduated brothers have been lost.

- The Stewart Howe management company serves as a go between for the alumni and undergraduates. A Stewart Howe representative meets with the undergraduates weekly.
- The president of the chapter maintains regular electronic contact with alumni leadership.
- The Cornell Administration is well-stocked with ADPhi alumni.
- The chapter's alumni are well organized and provide indispensable support for the chapter.
- Alumni attendance is consistently strong at Victory Club, Homecoming, and initiation.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- The Cornell Chapter maintains one of the strongest alumni organizations of the wider fraternity.

9. Social Programming

Score: 9/10

Positive Elements:

- Large events are consistently successful, i.e. the Halloween party, September fest, and Mardi gras.
- The new members are responsible for planning and executing an event.
- Brotherhood events: wine-tasting tours are a consistent success.
- Mixers with sororities are a regular occurrence at the chapter.
- Last year the chapter held a university sponsored event at the house. The chapter is working to bring an event like this back.
- The chapter holds a parents' weekend for the families of new initiates.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- Continue the status quo.

10. Community Service/Philanthropic Programming

Score: 8/10

Positive Elements:

- Victory Club is the chapter's most significant philanthropy event.
 - VC typically raises about \$6,000. This year the proceeds went to Meals on Wheels for Tompkins County.
 - The event is widely popular on campus as well as among Cornell Alpha Delt alumni.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- The chapter may benefit by increasing its community service efforts to supplement the VC philanthropic event. Involving brothers in a regular volunteering activity would build upon the chapter's collective sense of service.

11. Physical Plant

Score: 7 /10

Positive Elements:

- The chapter hires a cleaning service on a weekly basis.

- The house is kept reasonably clean, but trash accumulates in various places at times.
- Many bathrooms in the house seem to have gone without cleaning for significant spans of time.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- The chapter may benefit by increasing its attention to detail regarding house maintenance.
 - More-frequent cleaning might increase the likelihood of seniors living in.

12. Academics

Score: 16/20

Positive Elements:

- The chapter's average GPA is approximately 3.2, approximately .1 higher than the all-student average.
- The chapter provides a \$500 rent stipend for attaining a GPA over 3.5.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- The chapter may consider holding study hours and/or review sessions, especially for its associate members to build positive habits.

13. Leadership/Management

Score: 15/15

Positive Elements:

- The president's goals include:
 - To improve relations with the larger Cornell community.
 - Ride-along with Cornell police, Ithaca police, Ithaca Fire dept
 - Luncheon meeting with former mayor of Ithaca
 - Meeting with chief of Ithaca Police to build too relations
 - The chapter has arranged a meeting with the current mayor of Ithaca on March 30th.
 - This is a "how can we be good neighbors" meeting.
 - To recruit a large class next year, so that the chapter will not sustain a large hit when the 27 men of the class of 2010 graduate.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- Continue the goal oriented leadership style.

14. Website

Score: 10/10

Positives:

- The chapter's maintains an exemplary website which showcases the chapter's strength and history.
- The website is kept current with a calendar of upcoming events and up-to-date information.

Recommendations:

- Continue to keep the website up to date and in working order.
- The chapter might benefit by showcasing its literary and philanthropic endeavors via the website.

15. Convention / Leadership Conferences

Score: 10/10

Positives:

- The chapter consistently sends delegates to all conventions and conferences.
- The chapter hosted the Empire State Regional Leadership Conference this year.

Recommendations:

- Two delegates (one undergraduate and one alumnus) are need to represent the chapter at the 177th International Convention in Schenectady NY, hosted by the Union Chapter.
- Continue to attend all conventions and leadership conferences.

16. By-Laws

Score: 5/5

Positives:

- The chapter maintains and regularly updates a set of by-laws and chapter position descriptions.
- Relevant and appropriate documents are posted on the chapter website.

Recommendations:

- Continue to ensure that the by-laws and position duties are updated to reflect the working of the chapter.

17. Inter-Chapter Visits

Score: 10/10

Positives:

- The chapter is the frequent host to visits from many chapters. This year the chapter hosted the Memorial chapter, Hamilton chapter, and Middlesex Chapter.
- The chapter's associate members often visit the Hamilton Chapter as part of their education process.

Deductions (if needed)

Hazing	None
Alcohol Abuse	None

Summary

Total Score: 183 out of 200
Current Standing: Excellent