

Alpha Delta Phi  
at Cornell University

**RUSH**

AND

**NEW  
MEMBERSHIP  
GUIDE**



# Alpha Delta Phi

at Cornell University



## *RUSH* and NEW MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

by Marc B. Zawel '04

Local Chapter Established 1868.

### Index

• Welcome to Alpha Delta Phi .....	2
• A Brief History .....	4
• Our Chapter House .....	6
• How We're Organized .....	8
• Philanthropy .....	9
• The Benefits .....	10
• What Makes Alpha Delt Different? .....	11
• Membership Costs .....	12
• Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) .....	13
• Scholarships and Awards .....	16

## Welcome to Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell University



*Samuel Eells*

**T**he Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity was founded in 1832 at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, by Samuel Eells (1810-1842). While founded as a literary society, it evolved into one of the most distinguished of the original American college fraternities. To this day, it has retained its focus on its literary roots by attracting only the best students at the best colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. A majority of its chapters are leaders on their respective campuses, where some of their houses have been designated architectural or historic landmarks.



The Alpha Delta Phi experience has helped a disproportionate number of its 50,000 lifelong members to become top leaders in industry, government, education and religion, including Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt, two Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, five Supreme Court Justices, 10 United States Senators, nine state governors and over 40 college presidents.



*President  
Theodore Roosevelt*

The Cornell chapter, with its strong sense of history, tradition and camaraderie, dates back to 1869, when a small group of men espousing the fraternity's four pillars of service, sacrifice, leadership and brotherhood, received a charter from the University. Its members were, and continue to be, an incredibly close-knit group of individuals, dedicated to personal success and furthering the Alpha Delta tradition.

Members also recognize, however, that one of the strongest and most important attributes to the fraternity is the diversity and individuality of our brothers, who are joined as one to form Alpha Delta Phi. We invite you now to find out why we take such pride in our fraternity and how you too can make Alpha Delta Phi, its brotherhood and its traditions, a valuable and integral part of your Cornell and life experience like we have.

You can learn more about the history and traditions of Alpha Delta Phi, and get information on scholarships, awards, and famous alumni by visiting our website: [www.ADPhiCornell.org](http://www.ADPhiCornell.org).

## A Brief History of Alpha Delt

With its arrival in Ithaca in 1869, Alpha Delta Phi became the fourth fraternity established at Cornell University. To this day, Alpha Delt remains one of the oldest continuously run student-led organizations on campus. Members initially lived on Tioga Street in Collegetown until funds were secured by alumni to build a permanent house on Buffalo Street in 1878.



*The original Alpha Delta Phi on Buffalo Street in the 1880s.*

It is believed that the large brick structure constructed there, lodging a mere 16 brothers, was the first house to be built in America for fraternity use only. As Cornell experienced spectacular growth in the late 19th century, it was not long though before Alpha Delt also began to feel the pressures of expansion. Again, the alumni were called for assistance.

In the spring of 1900, Alpha Delta Phi purchased the beautiful hill, known as the Gauntlet, by Stewart Avenue overlooking Cayuga Lake that has been the site of our fraternity to the present day. A year later, architects from California to New York submitted ten different plans for a new house. The design eventually accepted from George R. Dean was a revolutionary, modern style: a long, linear yellow-brick house in the simple, clean-lined prairie style identified with the "Chicago School" tradition of architecture, originated by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. The house was completed and occupied in 1903.

Just as Cornell began the construction of dormitories on West Campus, tragedy struck the Alpha Deltas on February 11, 1929, when a tremendous fire ravaged the beautiful house. Immediately following the fire, a special meeting was held in which the offer of senior officers and directors of Chi Phi fraternity to take up temporary quarters there was accepted by the Chapter. The remainder of the term was spent there and the next two years on Summit Avenue. In the fall of 1931, through the great interest of alumni, the construction of a new and slightly larger house was completed. The new Phi lodge, our present elegant home, was designed in the Jacobethan revival style by John Russell Pope, one of America's most renowned traditional architects. Pope's works include the classically precise National Archives building and the original National Gallery of Art, both in Washington, DC. The house, which took 55 percent of Ithaca's work force six months to erect on the foundation of the 1903 house, has been called one of the most distinguished fraternity houses in the country.



*Brothers in the front hall of Alpha Delta Phi house.*

Later weathering difficult times like the Depression, World War II, Vietnam, and the Korean War, Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell University has continued to prosper. While flexibly adapting itself to changing customs and attitudes, the active chapter has nonetheless clung to the fundamental standards of high personal achievement, service to Cornell and gentlemanly conduct – standards that have been honored by the men of Alpha Delta Phi since its inception at Cornell more than 130 years ago.

## Our Chapter House

The Alpha Delta Phi chapter house at 777 Stewart Avenue is independently owned and operated from the University by the fraternity's Alumni Board of Directors. The house consists of over 30 spacious single bedrooms on its four levels, most carpeted and furnished and all wired for high-speed Internet access





*Alpha Deltas gather in front of the Goat House.*

and digital cable, and several large communal bathrooms, all renovated in 2003. The wood-paneled library on the first floor provides a quiet place to study, while the large living room—with fireplace, carpet, and leather couches—offers a comfortable space for brothers to converse in. The Tower, on the third floor, provides incredible views of Cayuga Lake, while the Solarium, at the back of the house with a pool table and big screen television, gives members a place to unwind after class. All meals are offered to brothers in our star-shaped dining room, a structure unique in America; our kitchen, and access to industrial-grade appliances, is available around the clock. A recent \$90,000 capital renovation project has brought numerous improvements to the Phi, including a bluestone patio in the front of the house, and a completely remodeled 2,000 square foot downstairs social space with dimmable lighting and plenty of room for socializing and dancing. And, of course, the secrets of the Goat House are known only to brothers.



## How We're Organized



All brothers, including those living in and out of the house, are expected to be active members of the brotherhood. Brothers are asked to attend fraternity events and meetings, pay dues in a timely manner and contribute to the general upkeep and cleanliness of the house. Within the fraternity, members are encouraged to pursue leadership positions as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Rush Chair, House Manager, Social Chair, and Steward and their respective supporting assistant positions. These officer roles, filled each semester by election, provide brothers with important skills like budgeting, supervising others, planning, and documenting compliance.

Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell, Inc., a New York State corporation run by our Alumni Board, owns and operates the Phi lodge, and more generally, advocates for, supports, mentors and works closely with the undergraduate active brothers.

Alpha Delta Phi is a member in good standing of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the self-governing body for all fraternities here at Cornell. We have a strong relationship with the administrators and staff of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. The chapter is also in complete compliance with standards set by Alpha Delta Phi International.

## Philanthropy

The brothers of Alpha Delta Phi understand the importance of giving back to the community of which they are a part of and have consistently taken the lead among Greek organizations in philanthropy efforts. Victory Club, an annual black-tie charity ball with legal gambling dating back to the 1930s, has helped to raise tens of thousands of dollars for worthy local charities over the last several years. The fraternity has become a trusted partner in civic improvement efforts as well, most recently offering a surprise \$500 donation to the Ithaca Public Education Initiative, in tribute to the inauguration of Cornell's 11th president, Jeffrey S. Lehman '77. On campus, Alpha Delta Phi has again taken the lead by hosting the annual Greek Faculty Appreciation Reception that honors professors from each of the seven colleges for their passion and dedication in their academic field each fall. Past areas of the chapter's charitable contributions include improving health, public safety, fire prevention, and literacy in Tompkins County.



*Alpha Delts take part in Victory Club fundraising event.*

## The Benefits

In a school as large as Cornell, Alpha Delta Phi provides its members with a safe and comfortable environment in which to live and learn. We offer an unparalleled experience, an opportunity to first join and later lead a brotherhood, making friends and memories along the way that will last a lifetime. Camaraderie among Alpha Delts remains strong across all undergraduate classes; members study, eat, and live closely with one another. An excellent full-time cook offers brothers an array of dining options, made-to-order breakfast and lunch, and a healthy nightly dinner. Many members participate in extracurricular activities together, from writing for the *Cornell Daily Sun* to leading the student government. Intramural sports are also wildly popular.

Our strong alumni network provides mentoring and career guidance, while our Alumni Board offers several annual academic scholarships and awards to undergrads. Each spring, the families of our active members are invited to Ithaca for Parents' Weekend, a wonderful opportunity to tour our beautiful house, experience a formal dinner and enjoy the sounds of local jazz musicians.



## What Makes Alpha Delta Phi Different From Other Fraternities?

With so many fraternities to choose from at Cornell, what makes Alpha Delta Phi a cut above the rest? Besides being one of the oldest and most respected Greek houses on campus, we are one of only a handful who remains independently owned and operated from the University. In the face of changing times, Alpha Deltas continue to emphasize the importance of tradition and etiquette—in the songs that we sing, the weekly jacket and tie dinners we enjoy and the Homecoming celebrations we revere. Our fraternity has always abided by a firm no hazing and non-abusive pledge process. We believe that new member education should consist of learning about your pledge class, the brotherhood and the history of the Phi. Nothing more.

Alpha Delta Phi continues to emphasize the importance of philanthropy, in particular our black-tie Victory Club charity ball, making the fraternity a true leader in the Greek and local community. Our supportive alumni offer guidance and support, both as undergrads and upon joining their ranks, while maintaining the beautiful house we live in. Above all, however, is the versatility of our brotherhood, so eclectic and eccentric. We are athletes, opportunists, authors, scientists, bankers, lawyers and soldiers. We are road-tripping college kids, intramural sports champions, hard-working students, and above all, gentlemen.

Our motto is *Manus Multae Cor Unum*, which translated means, "Many Hands, One Heart." We understand that our diversity is Alpha Delt's greatest strength and, at the same time, our greatest opportunity to challenge and learn from one another.

## Membership Costs

After joining Alpha Delta Phi, members are expected to pay the following fees through Cornell's Bursar Office. Room fees vary from year to year, but are consistently less than the cost of a single dorm room in on-campus housing. Additionally, room rates include electricity, heat and parking – considerable costs for most other rental properties near the Cornell campus. The meal plan (board) is priced between Cornell's "Any 14" and "Any 17" meal plans and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the week except Saturday and Friday dinner. Breakfast and lunch are prepared to order by our full-time chef. (Most fraternities offer breakfast and lunch buffet style, not cooked to order.) "Protocol," our jacket and tie dinners, are held on Wednesday and Sunday nights.

Dues are an important but relatively small part of the fees, but cover the costs of all fraternity events, liability insurance, registration with the national (which includes eligibility for scholarships and awards) and leadership training conferences with other chapters.

### A Comparison Of Costs

	<u>In House</u>	<u>Out of House</u>
<b>Room/Parlor Fee</b>	<b>\$3,300.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Board</b>	<b>\$1,350.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
<b>Social</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,650.00</b>	<b>\$1,700.00</b>

## Frequently Asked Questions

☆ *What is the rooming situation? How are they chosen?*

All of the rooms in the house are singles. Rooms are chosen based on merit, seniority and previous in-house living. Sophomores holding positions can easily pick ahead of less involved older students. Some excellent single rooms are also connected to social rooms where groups of friends can live together while still enjoying privacy in their sleeping rooms.

☆ *Is it possible to study in the house?  
How are members' grades?*

As with the general student population at Cornell, grades are largely affected by the student's personal aptitudes, habits and major more than any environmental factors. As in the dorms, the house is largely quiet during the week and lively Friday and Saturday nights. Alpha Deltas are strongly represented in all colleges at Cornell and maintain a house GPA over a 3.0. The overwhelming majority of fraternities at Cornell have GPAs in the 3.0 to 3.3 range, making ranking against other fraternities less representative, as a swing of .05 points may equate to five or more spots in the ranking.



☆ *How is the house funded?*

When the costs for room, board and dues are calculated, they are submitted directly to the Cornell Bursar Office. They appear just before each semester (as with Cornell housing costs). We find this is a mutually beneficial arrangement for both the house and its members and their parents by centralizing the collection of funds and making it easier to apply for scholarships or grants against costs. The costs of running the Phi are also substantially subsidized by our generous and active alumni brothers.

☆ *Does my son need renters insurance?*

In many cases, possessions in the fraternity house (personal items of furniture, computers, televisions) are covered under your homeowner's policy. Most carriers classify fraternity houses as college housing, and possessions in college housing are generally covered parents' homeowner's policies. (Please check with your insurance carrier, this may vary.)

☆ *What about hazing?*

Hazing is against New York State laws and Cornell University policies and the Code of Student Conduct. Members of the Cornell Chapter of Alpha Delta Phi adhere to the letter and spirit of these rules.

☆ *What about cleanliness in the house?*

The undergraduate House Manager and Steward and their respective assistants are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the house and kitchen. A professional cleaning service visits the house several times per week and the entire membership pitches in

from time to time to clean up after events of to ensure the grounds are tidy.

☆ *What do you do to guarantee fire and health safety in the house?*

This is a topic we take very seriously. The student House Manager and President are obligated to reside in the house, which helps to ensure that they are aware of and can promptly attend to any repairs. We have a full fire alarm system, full sprinkler system and full fire suppression systems that are inspected four times per year. In addition, unlike many fraternity structures new and old, our house is a cast concrete and stone building, meaning fire safety is built in. Annually, the Ithaca Fire Department inspects the entire structure, and every three years the Ithaca Building Department inspects every space in the house. The house could not be occupied unless it met all building and fire codes.



*Alpha Delts mix it up with sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta.*



## Scholarships and Awards for Alpha Delt Brothers

### **Academic Awards**

\$500 awards are given each semester to every brother living in the house who is recognized on the Dean's List while taking a minimum of 13 credit hours. Newly initiated brothers are also eligible for these awards for the grades they earned while pledging.

### **McVoy Scholarships**

These scholarships are available to any student who receives financial aid. The formula for the scholarships is based on academics, house and community service. Alpha Delt brothers are the primary benefactors of the Martin McVoy Estate held in trust. Over the years more than \$1,500,000 has been distributed to support undergraduates both through direct grants and through loan replacement. For more information, visit: <http://www.adphicornell.org/adphicor/files/McVoyScholarships.doc>

### **Alpha Delta Phi Cornell Tradition Fellowship**

Alpha Deltas are the primary recipients of a Cornell Tradition Fellowship offered for leadership and service to the Greek community. Annually, up to five officers in the house are awarded grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$8,000, depending upon the number and quality of the applications.

### **Undergraduate Internships**

Brothers are given preferential consideration for the Adelpic Cornell Educational Fund Summer Intern Program stipends. This program provides stipend support or matching funds to student interns working in approved internships in nonprofit and public service organizations.

### **Matching Prizes for Writing Program Awards**

The Adelpic Cornell Educational Fund will match awards given for writing prizes, up to \$1000. This award is for brothers who win literary awards from a recognized organization at Cornell University or via the annual literary contest held by Alpha Delta Phi International.

### **Seward Scholarships**

The Seward Scholarship Fund grants scholarships to undergraduates on the basis of financial need, achievement in Alpha Delta Phi, and activities on campus. The fund is administered by a committee appointed by the International Board of Governors. The scholarships are awarded each year to outstanding members of the Alpha Delta Phi for academic achievement and campus leadership. Scholarships are awarded in amounts of \$500 and \$1000.

For more information on these awards, visit: [www.ADPhiCornell.org](http://www.ADPhiCornell.org).

Thank you for your interest in

**ΑΔΦ**

## Contact Us

If you have additional questions,  
please feel free to call, write,  
or visit the house.

Parents with questions for the president  
of our alumni board can find  
the most up-to-date  
contact information on our website  
(click "Public Area," then "Contact Us").

This brochure was produced with  
the financial support and partnership  
of the generous alumni and board of directors  
of Alpha Delta Phi at Cornell University.



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