



- Save the Date!
AZ Summer Picnic
August 11th, 2018.
Location TBD. \$15 per adult.
- New Mailing Address:
Please send correspondence to:
Alpha Zeta
PO Box 5077
Cortland, NY 13045

Check us out on Facebook!

Alpha Zeta at Cornell can be found on line at two locations:

- **Our website at:**
<http://www.alphazeta-cornell.org/>
- **Our Facebook site is:**
“Alpha Zeta Fraternity—Cornell Chapter.”

The website will be a bit static as we transition to a new management process for the website. The Facebook page is managed by the actives and has the current activities.



The current AZ Actives in our annual porch photo!

Chancellor's Report

As this year transitions to the next, we must reflect as an organization on what we have accomplished, what we hope to accomplish, and what our path will be to reach those goals. Both on our campus and across our Nation, Greek life is under increased judgment and scrutiny. Between the incidents of bias on our campus, and other more severe cases of systemic hazing, racism, and sexism, it is not unreasonable to question whether the pros of Greek life outweigh the cons. We are at a fork in the road and we must dare to take the path less traveled.

I believe wholeheartedly in the benefits of being in a fraternity. When I think back to how I ended up at my first rush event, it all seems like nothing more than luck, but what a stroke of luck. Being in a fraternity is a transformative experience, it gives you a place to belong, and helps you grow as a person. I maintain that joining the House is the best decision I've made since being at Cornell. Alpha Zeta has given me a family and a home at a school that can be very overwhelming at times. I cannot thank all the brothers and sisters, past and present, who did something to make that possible for me. I also cannot imagine a time in the future when a place like this might not exist at Cornell. We must be cognizant of the flaws that exist in the fraternity system and come together as brothers, sisters, actives, and alumni to ensure that Alpha Zeta continues for many years.

With that said, I am happy to report that the Chapter had an outstanding semester. As you can read in this newsletter, we had the largest fall pledge class in recent history, realized many house improvement projects, and again increased our philanthropy efforts. We elected a new executive board consisting of four juniors and three sophomores who are excited for the year ahead. I am looking forward to the coming semester and all of the challenges and successes that it will hold.

George Stack '19, Chancellor



New Brothers and Sisters of Alpha Zeta Cornell !

Alpha Zeta was proud to welcome eleven new members into our fraternity in the fall 2017 semester! The new pledge class has already begun to take an active role in our house through philanthropy and running for elected house positions. Together, their studies span a range of fields that will bring creative new perspectives and diversity to the house as a whole! We look forward to their continued dedication to the house and fraternity. Congratulations to the fall 2017 pledge class!

Photo (L to R and front to back):

- Lilly-Anne Trainor (Plant Science '20)
- Marete Seymour (Viticulture and Enology '19)
- Kiana Peters (Agricultural Science '18)
- Hannah Merrill (Agricultural Science '19)
- Marina Timmerman (Animal Science '20)
- Joe Morgiewicz (Agricultural Science '18)
- Corrigan Herbert (Viticulture and Enology '19)
- Brendan Tarantino (Biological Science '20)
- Dustin Smith (Plant Science '19)
- Leia Chung (Animal Science '20)
- Audrey Schuttak (Food Science '20)

Submitted by Collin Dillingham '18
Censor



Leadership Summit

On November 11th, I attended the Alpha Zeta Chapter Leadership Summit in Rosemont, Illinois alongside Chancellor George Stack '19 and alumna Lauren Fessler '17. The summit was hosted and moderated by The Alpha Zeta High Council. Members and officers from 11 chapters around the country attended. The summit covered several great topics such as leadership styles, conflict management, and ideas for activities, recruitment, and fundraising. A lot of great ideas were shared between the chapters that attended and each chapter offered constructive criticism to others that will help each chapter improve in at least some small way, which was great to see. The High Council did a fantastic job of teaching us some techniques to take back to our chapter with a special focus on officer teams. It was great to meet so many people from around the country and consider different perspectives. I hope that more of our Cornell AZ actives will be able to attend a national event like this in the future! Many thanks to the CALS Trust and Alumni Corporation Board for their fiscal support of the trip.

Submitted by Valerie G. Weisbeck '20
Incoming Rush Chair



A Facelift! New privacy fence installed!

Active Member News



Outgoing Seniors

This December, Alpha Zeta had two active members graduate. While our house is sad to see these wonderful people leave, we are excited for what their futures hold. Cassidy Fletcher '17, an Agricultural Science major, will continue her life as an agronomist for Seedway in the northeast region. Cameron Fuhr '17, a Biological Sciences and Communications double major, will continue his path as a consultant for Cognitive Consulting in Connecticut, and then possibly go to graduate school in a few years. Alpha Zeta wishes our graduated seniors the best, and hope they find success and happiness with their futures.

Emily Green '18 Chronicler

Philanthropy Report

Our members completed a wide variety of philanthropy projects last semester. In September, actives participated in our annual highway clean-up, in which we collected several bags of garbage through the adopt-a-highway program. Later in the fall, Alpha Zeta hosted a blood drive on campus through the Red Cross to help fill the ongoing need for blood due to the number of devastating natural disasters earlier in the semester. In addition to the blood drive, members also hosted a campus-wide relief effort to collect supplies for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Other philanthropic activities in which members participated include Cornell Greeks Give Back, writing thank you letters to service members and veterans of the military, preparing quilts for those in need, volunteering for 4-H and FFA, putting together meal packages, hosting a suicide-awareness polo match, volunteering at fire departments, and much more! We are thankful for the opportunities we have to serve our community and our nation!

Alanna Staffin '19
Philanthropy Chair/ Outgoing
Steward

Photo right—Recruiting at
Clubfest! L to R:
Jordan Moody '18,
George Slack '19,
Cameron Fuhr '17



Relief Effort

AZ members hosted a campus-wide relief effort to collect supplies for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. L to R: *Kassidy Fletcher '17 and Tyra Jenkins*



House Manager Report

The time has come to hand over the responsibilities of taking care of the House, and step away from what has been a very challenging, productive, and rewarding year. The completed projects have greatly improved the condition of our ever-aging House. A big thank you to all of those who have helped. I hope the experience of all involved was as fun and enlightening as mine. Our 214 Thurston Ave has been given well-earned love and care recently, which will continue with more projects in the works. I have the utmost faith in my replacement, Justin Dye '19, to continue working and guiding us towards a better home. I wish Justin luck, and I thank our members and Alumni for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role. It is an experience which I will never forget. I look forward to the role of Pledge Master, and hopefully spending more time getting back to my agricultural roots. Carter Collins '19, Outgoing House Manager



Member Activities 2018

Active Actives at AZ Cornell

As Alpha Zeta members, we are proud to be part of a professional, social and honors fraternity. Alongside our hard work in school, the many AZ activities we spend our time on says a lot about us. This past semester has been very busy for many of our members who have been involved in a great deal of professional development, community service events, and school-related activities.



One of the favorite professional events of our members is our bi-annual Faculty Wine and Cheese event. Held on November 8th, the event was a remarkable success drawing more professors than previous events with a variety of interests stimulating many thoughtful conversations. This event provides an opportunity to members to develop a larger professional network, work on networking skills, and gain an appreciation for new viewpoints. In addition to this house-sponsored event, members have actively sought and participated in other events including the Agriculture Future of America Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the Cornell Nutrition Conference held in Liverpool, NY.

In addition to developing professional skills and networking, a great deal of time has been spent giving back to the community as well as supporting and having fun with each other. In October our Diversity and Inclusion Chair Anupreksha Jain '19 hosted a traditional Diwali dinner, which helped expose members to Indian culture, custom, and authentic Indian food. On November 18th, the social committee, headed by social chairs Stephanie Bishop '19 and Tyra Jenkins '19, hosted the annual fall formal which was a night for members to relax, dance, and have fun. In December, we had our Ag Extravaganza and a Secret Santa gift exchange. The Extravaganza is a temporary replacement for Ag Day which we haven't been able to do with the recent construction on the Ag Quad. With interactive, educational displays in some key areas on campus to target a broad student population with fun perks like taste testing maple syrup and apples, Ag Extravaganza has been a fun outreach event. We are all hoping to get back on the Ag Quad next semester now that the construction is completed.

Overall, it was a busy fall semester here at 214 Thurston!

Stephanie Bishop '19, Outgoing Scribe/ Incoming Treasurer



AZ Fall Rush Dinner



Ag Society Meeting 2018

Ag Promotion Award at the NYS Ag Society

Recognizing and promoting the best in NY agriculture is a fundamental role of the NYS Agricultural Society. The Society's annual meeting and forum, conducted in January in Syracuse, NY, is the largest and oldest statewide agricultural meeting that brings together all sectors of the food system to explore topics critical to the future of agriculture and to honor NY producers, farm organizations, media and businesses who are leaders in their respective communities/specialization. Of the eight award types distributed at the 2018 Forum on Jan 4th, the Ag Promotion Award was given to the NYS Beef Industry Council and Dryden Dairy Day Organizers (including AZ's Joyce and Dick Church). Alpha Zeta co-sponsors this award with the NYS FFA Foundation, and the Kreher Poultry Farm, Clarence, NY. AZ's display was hosted by actives, George Stack and Marlie Lukach.

National Agriculture Leadership Conference—NALC

This year, AZ Cornell headed to Stillwater, Oklahoma for NALC. Lauren Fessler '17, Anthony Arce '18, Anupreksha Jain '19, and Emily Ardalan '17 represented our chapter, along with Christopher Castellano '10. We spent several days learning about various aspects of agriculture in the Midwest. None of us come from large-scale animal production backgrounds, so this was a great learning opportunity for us all. We visited the OSU Purebred Beef Center, where we learned about the university's beef program. Next was the OKC Stockyard, which was a new sight for us all, and helped us to grasp the true extent of the beef industry in Oklahoma. We also got to visit Express Ranches and Clydesdales, as well as the Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Production Center. As always, NALC was a great chance to meet new people from other chapters, catch up with old friends, and work towards Alpha Zeta's mission of scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service. Lastly, we would like to congratulate Lauren Fessler on being elected to the AZ High Council!

Photo Right: Alpha Zeta Display at the 2018 Agriculture Society Meeting in Syracuse, NY. L to R - Marlie Lukach '20, George Slack '19 and Dick Church '64



Front Row (L-R): Richard Ball, Assoc. '14, NYS Commissioner of Ag & Markets; Brenda Carpenter and Joyce Church, Assoc. '92, Dryden Dairy Day Committee; George Stack '18, and Marlie Lukach '19, AZ actives; and Elizabeth Claypoole, NYS Ag Society President.

Back Row (L-R): Melissa Osgood, Assistant Director of Media Relations & Leadership Communication; Richard Church, Dryden Dairy Day Committee and Ag Society; and Todd Lighthall, NYS FFA Foundation.



Alumni Connections!



Photo Left: Fall Apple Picking (L to R)

Katie Bower '19,
Nicole Menetski '20,
Cameron Fuhr '17,
Allyson Wentworth '20,
Sarah Gurman '19,
Tyra Jenkins '19,
Emilie Gurman '19,
Audrey Schuttack '20
Collin Dillingham '18,
Isabella Yannuzzi '20

Emaleigh Perry, Legacy Member & CALS Charitable Trust Three Time Recipient

The CALS Charitable Trust's academic enrichment program continues to provide financial support for activities that complement and enhance a student's academic experiences at Cornell. Emaleigh Perry (Ag Science, 2018) is a notable recipient of three recent Academic Enrichment (AE) grants.

Emaleigh's first AE grant (\$1200) covered travel expenses to Chili with the Cornell Agribusiness Fellows 2017 International Study Trip during January break. As her first trip out of the country, she was "very thankful for the opportunity" and noted that she wouldn't have been able to go without the financial help.

Last summer Emaleigh received another AE grant (\$1100), which covered her living expenses while she worked as an intern at the Bolton Farm, Inc. hydroponics operation in Hilton, NY. Emaleigh described her work at Bolton Farms as "an amazing opportunity". As the only full time summer employee, she learned a variety of tasks and worked with a wide variety of crops. "I got my hands very dirty and learned firsthand the excitement and struggles of running an operation like John Bolton's."



L to R: Emaleigh Perry '18, Rebecca Ireland-Perry '87,
Jeff Perry BS'89 & PhD '18



Croswell (Skip) Ireland '57 and his wife Jane Ireland

Emaleigh's third AE grant (\$400) helped with travel expenses to the National FFA convention in Indianapolis, IL last October. While there, she represented CALS, spoke with companies regarding possible job opportunities and colleges about graduate programs. She also networked with agriculture teachers and got valuable career advice.

Emaleigh Perry (AgScience, 2018) is a THIRD generation Cornell AZ member who graduates in May, 2018. Congratulations Emaleigh!

Submitted by Wendy Weichert, CALS Charitable Trust



Alumni Connections!



In Memory of Emily Eshelman '98

Emily Beth (Eshelman) Virkler, age 41, class of '98 of Beaver Falls passed away peacefully on November 26, 2017 at home surrounded by her loving family. Emily, the daughter of Barbara and Paul Eshelman, grew up in Ithaca, NY. She graduated from Ithaca High School in 1994 and from Cornell University in 1998 where she was an active member of Alpha Zeta. Emily married Dr. Paul Virkler after college graduation and her son Nathan was born in 2007. Following their marriage Emily and Paul lived in Ragusa, Italy, where Emily taught English. Upon their return they moved to LeRoy, NY, where Emily worked for the Girl Scouts and then as an admissions counselor at Genesee Community College. During their time in LeRoy, Emily completed her Master's in Public Administration at SUNY Brockport. In 2005 the couple moved to Kansas City, MO, where Emily was a guidance counselor and instructor at the University of Missouri. In 2007, the family moved to Trumansburg, NY, where Emily was an active volunteer at the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, the Jacksonville Community Church, and Trumansburg Elementary School. In 2017 the family moved to Beaver Falls, NY.



Notes from Alumni

Scott Orchutt '63 shared an update: I retired in 2002 from The University of Akron after 31 years of teaching biology. My wife and I moved into the continuing care retirement community of Kendal at Oberlin (the same outfit as at Kendal at Ithaca). My wife died 2 years ago of Lewy Body Dementia. Most of my life now revolves around the increasing number of little surprises that one's body presents as we age.

Write to Scott at: 220 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074.



Have alumni news to share? Contact Dick Church at: RAC15@cornell.edu or mail to: Alpha Zeta, PO Box 5077, Cortland, NY 13045.

Many thanks to Dick Church '64 for collecting and capturing these fine AZ alumni moments!

CALS Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet

L-R: Wisner Buckbee '79, Bridgette Buckbee '05, An'drea Van Schoick '96, Mary Grainger '79, Assoc. '80, Brad Grainger '79, Mary Lou Durfee, Steve Durfee '79, Joyce Church '64, Assoc. '92, and Richard Church '64. A fun gathering! Submitted by Dick Church.

AZ News

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Alumni Records
Alpha Zeta Fraternity
PO Box 5077
Cortland, NY 13045

OPTION FOR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER:

If interested in receiving an electronic newsletter rather than a mailed copy, please email Jeff at jap255@cornell.edu and we will make that adjustment for the next newsletter.

AZ News is published regularly by the Cornell Chapter of Alpha Zeta for its friends and members.

Annual Dues: Please consider sending your annual dues of \$50 (made out to CALS Charitable Trust) to the AZ Alumni, PO Box 5077, Cortland, NY 13045 address. The Corp Board and CALS Trust are coordinating efforts in supporting the actives. The annual support will allow the Trust to continue to grow and support future actives. Jeff Perry '89 Corp Board President. (Pay pal is still available on our website — www.alphazeta-cornell.org)

Officers

2017 UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

Chancellor:George Stack '19
Censor:Christel-Remy Kuck '20
Scribe:..... Hannah Merrill '19
Treasurer:Stephanie Bishop '19
Chronicler:Marlie Lukach '20
House Manager:Justin Dye '19
Steward:Isabella Yannuzzi '20
Pledge Master:Carter Collins '18
Pledge Educator: Caitlyn Robertson '20
Rush Chair:Valerie Weisbeck '20

Alumni Officers

Corporation Board

President..... Jeffrey A. Perry '89
Vice President:Bonnie Muffoletto '88
Secretary:..Rebecca Tallmadge-Ingram '98
Treasurer:Glenn Gabriel '97
Endowment Secretary: .John Brouillette '86

Members at Large:

Rebecca Franklin '92
Jessica May '11
Kimberly Farrell Fleming '87
Judy Moody '05

Advisors

Timothy J. Oonk '86 (Associate '03)
Cindy van Es (Associate '08)
Todd Schmit (Wisconsin Gamma '90)