

# THE Ruminator

OMEGA TAU SIGMA | CORNELL UNIVERSITY | FALL 2010

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Updates regarding preparations and fundraising for Grand Council 2011 and our centennial celebration

Reviews of past chapter social and philanthropy events

Alumni updates

## Chapter report from our alumni president

I am pleased to report that 200 Willard Way has again passed inspection by the Ithaca Building Department. After a few years of extra scrutiny by the city, we are now in full compliance thanks to the care and attention to detail of our resident members. It is no small task to keep an aging property in compliance with 21st-century codes but we continue to provide safe and affordable housing for up to 15 OTS active members. Many thanks to the actives who help maintain the house as well as to all our alumni who contribute yearly—both are necessary to keep our property safe and in compliance of city codes.

This year marks a milestone in the history of Beta Chapter: our 100th anniversary and recognition as the oldest active chapter in the OTS National Fraternity.

We are celebrating by hosting Grand Council in Ithaca over the weekend of October 21–23, 2011. Plans are already underway with anticipation of 250 veterinary student participants. We are also planning a parallel meeting (a “Centennial Conference”) the same weekend for past Beta officers and alumni to discuss the current state of the chapter and address the future needs of the fraternity. This means, of course, that a capital campaign is coming! Please watch the mail for an announcement and invitation. If you already have ideas and interest in helping OTS succeed, please let me know anytime. Contact me at nld2@cornell.edu.

Ned Dykes '74  
Alumni President

## Applause for the lovely “ladies” of ΩΤΣ!

In each of the four years that this event has graced the stage of James Law Auditorium, it has successively gotten bigger, better, and more exciting. This year was no exception as twelve of the veterinary college's finest gentlemen donned their high heels, party dresses, makeup, and wigs to raise money for the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes. Over 350 students, faculty, administrators, and staff came to watch the show and give money to their favorite contestant. Each section of the competition had the audience laughing, dancing, and singing along.

Our fabulous emcee, Julia Miller '12, put on a great show and treated the audience to an incredible opera act with her stunning voice. Two notable contestants this year were Dr. Bill Miller (Julia's father!) and Dr. Joe Walkshlag, who discovered their feminine sides and did a fantastic job bringing in both the crowds and the money. Dr. Mizer and Dr. Stipetic were

our fabulous judges and had the tough job of choosing this year's winner: Michael Robinson '13, whose stunning talent act as “Connie Lingus” won him the title of “Misster Cornell 2011.” The pageant raised a record-breaking \$3,300, which was donated to the Cancer Resource Center to support its work with people in the local community who are battling cancer.

Sasha Korn '13



Winners of Misster Cornell 2010 gather with the other “ladies” of the pageant.

# Omega Tau Sigma prepares to host Grand Council 2011 & celebrate our centennial anniversary on campus

During our centennial year, Beta Chapter will be recognized as the longest continuously operating active chapter of the OTS National Fraternity. As part of that celebration, we have been selected to host Grand Council in Ithaca, October 21–23, 2011. Planning for Grand Council has already begun, and we are thrilled with the enthusiasm and dedication members of the chapter have demonstrated while planning this truly memorable event. We've managed the responsibilities for plan-

ning by forming committees to organize all the Grand Council Omega Tau Sigma favorites (Gonzo Olympics, exceptional theme parties, and a special banquet event), as well as the necessary logistical committees for local arrangements, transportation, food, etc.

Based on the information we have received from our contacts in other chapters, we believe that there will be excellent representation from across North America—we can't wait to show everyone a good time! While we have

been successful in raising money for the 2011 Grand Council through our ever-popular Gertrude Hawk Chocolate sales and a competitive bout of Super Bowl Squares, we would be incredibly grateful for any alumni support to help us honor the Beta tradition in hosting the best Grand Council in recent memory.

Jesse Tyma '14  
Sherrri Gress '13  
Grand Council Co-Chairs

## ΩΤΣ members light up the house this semester

As vet students, we all have an impressive collection of highlighters, which we endlessly use to bring to light the most important information from our notes and texts. In the dead of a dark and dreary Ithaca winter, the OTS social chairs decided it was time to take all those bright colors and employ them for a better cause: the first OTS highlighter party. For those who don't know the concept, a highlighter party is lit by "black" lights, people wear white t-shirts, bring highlighters, and draw on each other so that by the end of the party everyone is glowing in the fluorescence of highlighter ink.

Although Ithaca received eight inches of snow on the day of the party, people arrived to find the house outfitted with ultraviolet lamps, strobe lights, a ceiling laser-light show, rave-worthy dance music, and a fog machine. Every member received a glow-bracelet to get them started. Some came already decorated with glow-in-the-dark paint or highlighter tattoos, while others came in full-white outfits as a blank slate. Regardless, it didn't take long for all willing participants to be covered in highlighter, glowing on the dance floor. Even the drinks were formulated to glow-in-the-dark!

The party coincided with the last weekend for prospective students admitted to the class of 2015, who were invited along with their student hosts. While many joined in the fluorescent events, others met and spoke with members in a "protected" zone. Socializing is a good way to recruit prospective students and introduce them to the benefits of OTS membership. Overall the highlighter party was a hit, and it will hopefully be the beginning of a new OTS tradition.

Andrea Butterfield '14  
Chelsea Anderson '14  
Nicole Finazzo '14



*Lisa Fiorenza '14 and Jesse Tyma '14*



*Social chairs Nicole Finazzo '14, Andrea Butterfield '14 and Chelsea Anderson '14*



*Mister Cornell contestants work the crowd; the tips they raised factored into their scores.*



*OTS ladies dress for the charity ball.*

### THE Ruminator

is published regularly by Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell University for its members and friends. News and submissions are always welcome and should be sent to: Alumni Records Office, Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851.

# Comforting the campus with chocolate

Linda Grayson, in *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens, said: "There's nothing better than a good friend, except a good friend with chocolate." The members of Beta Chapter have become those "good friends with chocolate" to the Cornell University veterinary community. What began this fall as fundraising for hosting Grand Council 2011 has become a chocolate-selling phenomenon at the vet college!

It all began with a call to the Gertrude Hawk Chocolates Fundraising Department. We ordered 20 carriers a variety of flavored chocolate bars. In two weeks, those were gone, and we had made \$450 for Grand Council. After winter break, we stepped it

up a notch and, with the community's love for chocolate, raised some serious cash during our charity ball. Those funds were donated to the Tompkins County SPCA.

This spring, we've dropped the price a little and set up shop by the cafeteria, selling chocolates every day during lunch. Thanks to the willingness of our members to sit and sell, as well as our faithful customers, we are continuing to raise money to fund Grand Council 2011. We hope to raise an additional \$1,000. Many thanks to everyone who has helped out thus far!

Linda Marie Pedro '13  
Most Worthy Master

## ΩΤΣ senior report

*The ΩΤΣ class of 2011 will soon be graduating, making the transition from students to veterinary professionals. Many have secured associate jobs, internships, and residencies, while others are continuing their education or searching for the right position. We are very proud of their accomplishments.*

Courtney Nussbaum '11

**Jared Coren:** Small-animal internship at Animal Medical Center (New York, NY)

**Katie Seeley:** Small-animal internship at Oradell Animal Hospital (Paramus, NJ)

**Ryan Goupil:** Small-animal internship at Oradell Animal Hospital (Paramus, NJ)

**Nicole Kelver:** Small-animal practitioner at Grand Island Small Animal Hospital (Grand Island, NY)

**Karley Hermans:** Seeking a position in a mixed-animal practice

**Courtney James:** Intern at Red Bank Veterinary Hospital (Tinton Falls, NJ)

**Sally Ann Iverson:** Pursuing a Master of Public Health full time

**Stephanie Owczarczak:** Intern at Veterinary Medical and Surgical Center (Ventura, CA)

**Amanda Wilding:** Seeking position

**Patrick McCarthy:** Small-animal general practitioner at Ford Veterinary Associates (Niagara Falls, NY)

**Koji Yasuda:** Comparative-pathology residency at the New England Primate Research Center at Harvard Medical School (Southborough, MA)

## ΩΤΣ serves the campus & community

**2011 CHARITY BALL** — This year, OTS hosted a "Night at The Oscars" for our annual charity ball at The Big Red Barn. The event was a huge success: attendees started the evening with a red carpet glamour shot, and then danced the night away to the fabulous spinning of DJ Kevin Render '13. The proceeds (\$800) were donated to the Tompkins County SPCA. Reviews from students in the vet college confirmed the success of the evening—Beta Chapter should be proud! We thank all the members who helped set up and made the evening possible. We look forward to an even more glamorous and successful fundraiser next year.

Evin Adolph '14  
Iwona Poplowski '14

**BLOOD DRIVE** — Once again, the Red Cross Blood Drive—sponsored by Beta Chapter on February 15—was successful. During the drive, 38 donors offered their blood; their donations will help up to 102 patients with whole blood and blood products. We appreciate all the new and repeat donors that make these drives a success. Our next drive is on **Friday, April 29, 2011**; this allows more than the 56 days required between donations, so we hope that repeat donors will give again and encourage their friends to become donors as well.

Jennifer Romano '14  
Lisa Fiorenza '14  
Blood Drive Co-Chairs

## Alumni updates

**Kent C. Roberts '51** reports, "I'm living in a retirement community, Williamsburg Landing. I'm in good health and am active, but I miss practice! I plan to return for our 60th Reunion in June." Write to 3010 The Mall, Williamsburg, VA 23185; kcrdvm@aol.com.

"I'm enjoying retirement, spending six months in New York (April–October) and six in Florida (October–April)," writes **John H. Baldwin '52**. "I hear from **Bruce Haynes '52** occasionally. I'm still in harness racing, with one racing 15 starts (four wins and several places). It probably will be the last one, as old age is catching up with me. I sadly review the

obits of classmates and friends. I'm glad to hear that Omega Tau Sigma is doing well—lived there for three years with my roommate, **John McVicar '52**." Contact John at 1448 County Rd. 32, Greene, NY 13778.

**Richard "Dick" Freund '54** has five grandchildren and four children, and he has been doing some woodworking. Ask him what he's been up to by writing to 120 Spinnaker Ct., Davidson, NC 28036; ffreund62@bellsouth.net.

**Neal Brown '62** writes, "Greetings, OTS sistren and brethren! Now, I don't mind telling you that it's been quite a year for

this old galoot! In February, after serving several years as the official rat catcher of Greenfield, New Hampshire, I could no longer abide our town's cavalier and inhumane anti-rodent policy, so I quit and returned to private practice. To this end, I am pleased to announce that I have established the first New Hampshire veterinary practice devoted exclusively to companion rat medicine. Although the pace of practice has been a tad slow in these first months, I remain confident that companion rat medicine is the wave of the future—the supply of these lovable little buggers and their potential 'companions' is simply bottomless. I am even  
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# Alumni updates

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thinking of franchising this revolutionary practice countrywide. Want to get in on the ground floor? Think about it! *Rattus compadrius* could be your ticket to the future! I would welcome your thoughts and feedback via email. Best wishes to all up there at 200 Willard Way." Write to Neal at P.O. Box 184, Greenfield, NH 03047; neal.brown@glsynthesis.com.

"After having practiced in New York City and Maryland for the past 45 years, I'm hanging up my stethoscope and moving to Arizona, a little south of Sedona," reports **Jon Deitchman '66**. "It's a beautiful part of the country, with a much quieter pace, and the temperature in that part of Arizona does not get over 95 degrees in the summer, and it's dry—a contrast to the humidity of the D.C. area. Also, my wife, Sandy, and I will be closer to my daughter, who lives in San Jose, California, with her husband and my grandson." If you're heading out that way, email him at jpddvm1@aol.com.

"I've been fully retired for over five years now," writes **John W. Hilt '67**. "I am enjoying life, living in Sun City (Lincoln Hills, California), which is 25 miles northeast of Sacramento. I do a lot of clay-target shooting and represent two national shooting sports companies." Reconnect with him by writing to 1063 Tioga Ct., Lincoln, CA 95648.

**Harry P. O'Connor '68** has a new email address: hpocon68@aol.com. Send "snail mail" to 7824 E State St., Lowville, NY 13367.

Keep in touch with **Margaret E. Burgess '79** at her new email address: peg@fyi.net. Send postal mail to 69 White Loaf Rd., Southampton, MA 01073.

**Allen Wachter '81** is working as an associate professor in the SUNY Delhi vet tech program, and he is working part time at a 24/7 emergency clinic in West Hartford, Connecticut. Catch up with him at 258 Myers Rd., Neversink, NY 12765; drallenwachter@gmail.com.

**Jeff Jamison '82** now receives email at jeffjam@livoniavet.com. Write to 6005 Big Tree Rd., Livonia, NY 14487.

"After moving around and house-hunting for the past 14 years of our married life—during and after our army years—we have finally bought our first (and hopefully only) home," reports **Maria DiGiovanni '94**. "Our boys are very excited—Philip (13), Jack (11), and George (6)—and although Dave and I are exhausted from the move, we're thrilled to have our own home at last! Wishing cheer and health and happiness to all; come visit anytime!" Get in touch with Maria at 5 Quail Hollow Dr., Pinehurst, NC 28374. You can also email her at davmar@nc.rr.com.



Maria DiGiovanni ('94) and family.

**Joseph A. Impellizeri '94** reports his updated address and email address: 1285 Rte. 9, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590; oncologyvet@yahoo.com.

Catch up with **Erika (Matthies) Praul '97** by writing to her at her new email address, edpraul@fairpoint.net, or P.O. Box 157, Windsor, ME 04363.

**John Sykes '02** has moved to 290 4th St., Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Email him at sykes200vet@hotmail.com.

**Ashley (Shelton) Morgan's ('04)** name was misprinted in the fall issue of the *Ruminator*; the editors regret the error.

She graduated from Cornell as Ashley Shelton, and changed her name to Ashley S. Morgan after she was married. Her Cornell email address is no longer functional; her new email is asheltondvm@yahoo.com. (9222 Villa Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817)

Get in touch with **Matt Kornatowski '08**! Write to him at 40 Rush Mendon Townline Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. Members can also send email to him at m.kornatowski.dvm@gmail.com.

"I'm a first-year resident in emergency and critical care," reports **Adam Grochowsky '09**. Write to him at his new address: 212 Worcester St., Apt. 2, North Grafton, MA 01536.

**Kevin Nagel '09** recently moved to 46A N. Ellsworth Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401. Keep in touch with him via email at khn3@cornell.edu.

Reconnect with **Jen Olson '09** by writing to her at her new address: 2030 Cedarwood, Erie, CO 80516. Or, email her at jco32@cornell.edu.

**Peter Sepp '09** writes, "I just started working as a general practitioner at Murray Hill Pet Hospital in Manhattan." Ask him how it's going by emailing pseppdvm@gmail.com.

Catch up with **Carrie Santare '10** at 49 Bainbridge Ave., Thornwood, NY 10594; or emailing csantare@gmail.com.

Stay in touch with **Alex Mattfolk '11** by writing to his new email address at amattfolk@gmail.com. Alternately, he receives postal mail at 315 S. Maya Palm Dr., Boca Raton, FL 33432.

## ..... DECEASED .....

**John D. Murray '39**  
February 25, 2011

**Dewitt T. Baker '44**  
September 3, 2010

**Gerald L. Thorington '52**  
February 2, 2011

**John P. Combs '60**  
January 5, 2010

**Abram J. Zehr '60**  
March 14, 2011

**Kenneth P. Seeber '68**  
August 23, 2010