



# LUMINATOR

Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell



ITHACA, NEW YORK

WINTER 2003-'04

A Message From The Alumni President —

## Dedicated Alumni Support House On Willard Way

Dear Beta Alumni:

As always, I send you my greetings and wishes for a healthy and successful new year. Our fraternity remains strong, with 24 new members pledged this past fall. Additionally, there are nearly 1,250 Cornellians who are OTS alums. We have one of the largest and most active alumni associations among all OTS chapters. This is noteworthy and fortunate—as other chapters falter when alumni lose interest. Without alumni support, the house on Willard Way would fall into disrepair, and that condition inevitably leads to declining membership, interest, and, possibly, loss of the charter. I continually remind the veterinary students who join OTS that their

membership is a lifelong relationship and that the day will come when they too will be called upon to support this fraternity.

As of this newsletter, 178 alumni have contributed \$16,150 during 2002-'03 for dues and contributions. Thank you very much for your continued support. It would be great if more than 15 percent of alums contributed to the house. Please consider any sum sufficient to help support the fraternity. House repairs required this year have also affected our budget, and we need to recoup from those expenses. Our next big project will be needed repairs to the tile roof. Leaks at valleys and around the chimneys are causing water damage inside the house. The costs could be

\$20,000 or more and we are considering both contributions and a new mortgage to fund these repairs. Treasurer Bart Forlano '95 will report our finances and loan options in March.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend Cornell Conference this year—on March 26-28, 2004. The actives are planning to serve great hot-and-cold hors d'oeuvres on Friday evening. Our annual business meeting, after the social hour, will discuss both house finances and my efforts to convene an executive council of alumni to help manage and direct the fraternity. I look forward to seeing many of you in Ithaca in March.

Ned Dykes '74, Alumni President

## Beta Chapter Organizes Successful Bid Night And Rush

After a drawn-out rush, interrupted by exams and the closing of our favorite margarita bar, we are happy to announce that 28 bids to join Beta Chapter were handed out and 24 were accepted.

We had a promising beginning to rush with the annual barbecue during the opening week of orientation and classes. The event was well attended by all classes, and the first-years had a very strong showing, with almost half the class dropping by to partake in the food, beer, and camaraderie.

To advertise our next rush event, we put on the annual rush skit. The skit pokes fun at the curriculum and the tutorial process and the first-years always enjoy it, but this year we revamped it from "Chicken Little" to "Mr. Ed" and then type-cast the characters from the second-year class, which made the skit even more amusing. The skit advertised the OTS rush

"Crazy Pants" theme party. Our guests arrived in home-sewn pants, pants made from playing cards, pants made from

At that point, rush ran into its only major hurdle with the abrupt closing of Coyote Loco, a long-time vet student

favorite much beloved for its delicious margaritas, bargain-priced during Happy Hour. Despite being unable to organize a deal with another bar on short notice, we still had a strong showing of first years at our final rush event, the rush dinner, had a good turnout. Bid night was held on Thursday, October 9, and was a semiformal wine and cheese evening. Initiation was scheduled for October 17, and called for the pledges to appear in public in their coveralls and barn boots for a bar crawl.

Respectfully submitted,



*Zeke and Julie Storm, Colin Wolff, and Kristin Vynhal at rush event.*

biohazard bags, and a variety of fabrics in all sorts of bright colors, and enjoyed some very strong mixed drinks such as "Cosmo-pants," courtesy of our social chairs.

Kristin Vynhal '06

Craig Lewis '06

Rush Chairs

## Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

"The class of 1951 is dwindling—as we are all in our late 70s or older," writes KENT C. ROBERTS '51. "We are the last all-male class to graduate from the veterinary college at Cornell." You can send a message to Kent at 102 Cohee Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060, or by e-mail at kcrdvm@aol.com.

JOHN M. McVICAR '52 reports that after 12 years of snowbirding, he and his wife have sold their house in Virginia and have become Florida residents. "The latch string is always out, so call or come by when you are in this area." Their new address is 5229 Verano Point Way, Elkton, FL 32033 (mcvicar1015@aol.com). John adds that he occasionally hears from or sees JOHN BALDWIN '52 and BRUCE HAYNES '52.

ROBERT C. NELSON '53 has a new address: 50 Thornbrooke Dr., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702.

ANTHONY PALMINTERI '57 reports that he has opened a new animal hospital staffed by 10 interns, eight boarded specialists, and 22 veterinarians. "The building contains 20 exam rooms, five operating rooms, MRI, nuclear medicine, fluoroscope, etc. Opening day coincided with my 70th birthday party attended by many DVMs, including classmates AL SCHWARTZ, PAUL CORWIN, LOIS BERMAN, ANDY WILLIAMSON '59, and CHARLIE GOULD '59. There was also a surprise phone call from 'the great one,' Dr. FRANCIS FOX '45,

who could not attend." Send your regards to Tony at 200 Woodside Ave., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417, or by e-mail at drapalminteri@aol.com.



*Tony Palminteri '57 (l.) and Andy Williamson '59 (r.) at the entrance to the new hospital.*

Stay in touch with JOHN V. STEINER '68 at Meadow Lane Farm, 1151 N. Yarnallton Pike, Lexington, KY 40511 (e-mail: jvsdvm@aol.com).

HAROLD J. HOLSHUH '69 lives at 3015 Roxanne Ave., Long Beach, CA

90808. He writes, "It has been three years since my final retirement and I thought I should contribute a little something to the chapter. I'm still cruising the Caribbean with my wife, Susan, and silky terrier Matey. We come home for the rainy season (winter) but our boat Sipapu awaits in El Salvador. We return in early October for six to eight months, destination Panama." You can stay in touch with Jake by e-mail at jakeandsue@iprimus.com.

MALCOLM A. CRAM '74 lives at 505 Lombard St., Philadelphia, PA 19147. He writes, "Two years ago I left my position with Pfizer's Animal Health to join Pfizer Pharmaceutical's human division. However, I have recently rejoined Animal Health. In my free time I continue to work per diem at Lums Pond Animal Hospital in Bear, Delaware. In the spring, Mark, my significant other, and I did a bike tour through Tuscany, Italy, and then spent the rest of our summer weekends at our weekend house on the Chesapeake Bay. I'm still trying to get John Lee '74 to visit." You can send Malcolm e-mail at malcolmkram@comcast.net.

RONALD W. HULSLANDER '75 makes his home at 105 Lesky Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845.

CANDACE KAGAN PLATZ '81 receives mail at P.O. Box 1240, Auburn, ME, 04211. She writes, "I am a member of Maine Equine Associates, owned by fellow Cornell graduate David Jefferson. We are a five person equine ambulatory practice, working mostly with performance and pleasure horses, with some breeding and track work as well. Last year, I became one of fewer than 125 dressage instructors certified by the United State Dressage Federation, and am currently training and competing FEI dressage horses. Of particular interest to me is how to combine a veterinarian's understanding of form, function, and pathology with a dressage trainer/instructor's skills to both prevent and aid in the recovery from injury. My older daughter is now a sophomore at Cornell School of Arts and Sciences. I had no influence whatsoever on her decision! But it's great to visit Ithaca again, even if I do get lost." You can send Candy e-mail at ckpdvm@aol.com.



*Joel English, Carrie Brown, and Bruce Ingersoll enjoying a recent rush event.*

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## Class Of '07 Pledge Night Bubbles With Fun And Games

The e-mail read, "Come dressed in coveralls and rubber barn boots." When a first-year Cornell vet student sees these words, they usually expect something like "Block 7 tomorrow at 3:00," or "Stella and Dozer duty bright and early in the morning" to follow, but that was not the case the week of October 13, 2003. This time it was the message sent out to all of the OTS pledges a few days before Initiation Night began on October 17th. The returning members had something special in store, a night full of tradition and history, but also of laughs and good times. By the end of the night these pledges would have gone through an ordeal that many others had done before, trying to be the best vet student that they could be, but would also come out of it feeling like they were a part of something special, the Omega Tau Sigma Veterinary Fraternity.

Upon arriving at the OTS house on the 17th, pledges were ushered into the basement and told to organize themselves into a square shape around the current members already assembled. They were then told the secret handshake, which (for all of you non-members out there) is totally the coolest thing in the world. Next, they were told that in order to sympathize with their future patients, they had to get on their hands and knees and make the sound of their newly assigned animal, eventually ending up in a group with all of their other similarly foolish pseudo-animal friends. Oh yeah, and this was all while blindfolded. This was the start of a night of events that were designed to make the pledges feel like they could rely on each other for support and also to provide a little humor for the members watching.

Getting the night going right away, pledges were split up into groups with appointed guides/designated drivers who made the pledges do comical stunts in a wild-goose chase around the Ithaca area.

One such destination, in one of Ithaca's friendly neighborhood establish-

ments, required pledges to operate! No not on patients, but on the friendly young man who gave himself over to Milton Bradley for scientific purposes, and if the pledges could not do it right, they had to pay a penalty. One pledge was quoted as saying, "I don't want to be a surgeon, I don't have any experience." That person subsequently lost the game, and volunteered to eat a nice fresh plate full of whipped cream.



*Nicole Bruno, Liara Gonzalez, and Joya Griffin at the OTS Welcome Barbecue event.*

As the pledges' night wore on, they eventually found themselves in the garage of some little country shack located on Oakcrest Rd., over by the mall. I think everyone who has been there knows what I am talking about and will agree with the description. When I went by the house for a quote, I rudely had Natural Light beer cans thrown at me, while in the background I heard, "Get off my lawn, bastard!" Needless to say, the pledges found themselves in the midst of the most unfair game of beer pong ever played on the face of the Earth, though all in good fun. After this initial game, the pledges then had to get a little more physically involved and participated in an Initiation Night Field Day with relay races and all. You know, those fun ones where you do the wheelbarrow race and the one where you put your head on the end of a bat and spin around. Only these games ended in the pledges drinking some kind of

weird liquid out of red plastic cups. This was the most entertaining event of all, for both the pledges who seemed to enjoy making themselves dirty, and for the current members—who were completely amused and amazed by the how the pledges' competitive nature could result in such a tragic comedy when alcohol was added. There were no winners or losers, just good old-fashioned drunken fun for all.

Also helping to make the night a complete blast were some cleverly devised games such as Digitz, provided by some really gracious hosts in a trailer park (Yeah, they have them in Ithaca), as well as the game that will go without a name, because it is just too vulgar to state here, but needless to say girls definitely like to play more than guys. Also helping to accessorize the pledges were some really talented girls in the back of some bar. They not only had the most well organized games, but also gave out the most colorful and intricately decorated

prizes of the night. Yes, I would like a bone, a dog bone that is.

As the night was coming to an end, the pledges once again found themselves blindfolded and holding hands, walking down steps to their final destination. They were all part of a group in a line of many who had walked that same path before. Not only did they have each other for support, but also had an upperclassman on either side, guiding them down the steps to their last objective. Once at the bottom, the dirty and mildly inebriated pledges were embraced as the most current members of OTS. A society full of history, and rich in support passed on through rituals that they had just undergone.

Congratulations to the newest members of OTS who will be sure to keep the tradition alive!

Pete Romano '07

# The OTS Chili Challenge Is A Hot Time



Tim McComb '06, winner of Best Overall Chili.

It was a gas! "And when was the chili cook off?" a non-OTS member asked. Pathetic, isn't it? How could anyone miss, let alone forget about this annual event?

The chili cook off was an enormous success for the year. To quote that TV spokesman for the Fuccillo auto mall, "It was HUUUUUGGGGGE!" We had over 15 contestants competing for such prestigious titles as: most colorful, best veggie, best overall, and spiciest chili, to name a few. Prizes were awarded (the fundraising chairs gave paper plate awards and unique sauces to the winners), but the losers got nothing.

We had a late entry of New Orleans style chili. The Swine Club was recognized for the best overall chili. Craig Lewis was the proud recipient of the spiciest chili award. "He made the hottest chili in the world...it hurt my tongue and made

my cry," Dr. E.K. lamented. He will now have to answer to the entire second year class. "He will pay for what he has done!" a tired, overworked and disgruntled student screamed. Eyes ablaze, in a fit of rage, the student stormed off to the library ... yes, the class of 2006 does go to the library, contrary to popular belief.

On a lighter note, Mrs. Farrelly made a cake...it was good....mmmm cake! We'd especially like to thank everyone that cooked and helped with setup and cleanup, along with all of you that came to eat. Be on the lookout for more fun fundraising events!

Written by: your lovely, talented, cute, sexy, intelligent, witty, single (and not so single) female Fundraising chairs.

Liara Gonzalez '06  
Maria Ross '06



At left, Craig Lewis '06, winner of the award for Most Spicy Chili.



At right, Erica Hoffeld '04, winner of the award for Best Vegan/Veggie Chili.



At right, Sean Freer '05, winner of the award for Best Meat Chili.



Sam Morello '06, (l.), and Brooke Johnson '06, (r.), were winners of the award for Most Interesting Chili.



# House Managers Report Our House Is On The Rebound

Our house has had a strong rebound after hosting Grand Council last year. We've unlocked the attic and all the composites are back on the walls!

We've had many new changes to the house this year. Most importantly, seven new residents have joined the OTS live-in gang. The new group comprises over half the house residents and ranges from first years to third years. The new mix of people has been great for the house and we've enjoyed a great deal of cooperation in keeping the house clean and fun.

One of the most enjoyable traditions our new residents have added is our house "fests." So far, we've had corn fest, meat fest, pizza fest, and soon to

come, Hungarian goulash fest! In addition to new residents, our living room also has

a new, elegant paint job.

One new change we would love to see in the future is a new roof for the house. Over the years, the leaks into the house have become worse and all the members of the house are concerned about the damage the water is having on the structure of the building. Estimates to repair the roof are in process and we hope to have work started in the spring when workers can get onto the steep tiles.

Angela Herrmann '05  
and Emily Decker '05  
House Managers



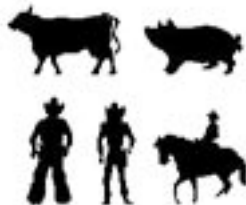
OTS members Zenithson Ng and Christina Bove at the OTS barbecue.

## Grand Council 2003 – Oaties Encounter Okies

Hello to all my fraternal sibs out there in the real world! Beta Chapter attended the 76th annual Grand Council in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The theme this year was "Roughing It." After leaving New York in a hailstorm, I was more than pleased to enjoy 80-degree weather and sunshine. My introduction to Oklahoma included getting lost on winding dirt roads. I pulled up to the GC site, which reminded me of a summer camp, except for the iced-down keg by the volleyball court. Speedos and bikinis were out to greet the sun.

Later, in the evening, we were treated to a down-home pig roast cooked on a grill hauled in by a truck! At the country-theme party, fellow Oaties were decked out in chaps, cowboy (or girl) boots and hats,

and some really big belt buckles (almost ridiculously so). Line dancing and the two-step were done in classic style. Guelph out-glitzed everyone with their sexy eveningwear, high heels and wigs.



The Saturday afternoon Gonzo Olympics were won with little contention by Kappa Chapter from Iowa State.

During the delegates meeting, Dr. Gordon announced his retirement as President of OTS. The awards ceremony was held in the camp dining hall with much rowdiness and wild yelling. Beta was awarded second place Most Improved Chapter and longest distance traveled to GC. "Wife beaters," black eyes, and leftover 80s hairdos were strutted at the politically incorrect "white

trash party." Guelph hosted a lakeside fire and fire burial-at-sea of their Grand Council mascot, Captain Jack. Die-hards returned to the dance scene (yours truly included) and helped the Oklahomans by making sure there were less kegs to pick up in the morning. Needless to say, the next morning came too soon. One thing I am confident about is that next year's Grand Council should be a blast and that Beta chapter will be a tough competitor to Gamma.

Signing out, fraternally yours,

Elisa Salas '04



Elisa Salas

# Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

(continued from page two)

KATHLEEN M. KALAHAR '82 has a new address: 28 Riverside Ave., #6J, Red Bank, NJ 07701.

Congratulations to LISA (Dietrich) ZIMMERMAN '85 and BILL ZIMMERMAN '85, who were married in December! They went to Mont Tremblant, Canada, for a ski vacation, and when Lisa wrote in June, they were enjoying a two-week vacation in Hawaii. E-mail reaches Lisa at ld50@empireone.net, and "snail mail" reaches both of them at 80 Rice Rd., Nassau, NY 12123.

TRACY WARD '90 and her husband, Calvin Booker, spent the spring months caring for Tracy's 11-year-old twin nephews while her brother and his wife were both deployed in Iraq with the U.S. Army. "Quite a lifestyle change for us and our thinks-she's-a-child Labrador!" writes Tracy, whose address is 47 Meadow Pointe Dr., Dewinton, Alberta T0L 0X0, CANADA (bookerward@shaw.ca).

MICHAEL S. PAGLIARO '93 lives at 5 High Ridge Rd., Howell, NJ 07731. He writes, "My wife, Megan, and I are proud to announce the birth of our second daughter, Anna Elizabeth. She came into this world on September 2, 2003 and has made Kristen an older sister. I have recently purchased the Point Pleasant Veterinary Hospital and am very excited about my new venture." You can reach Mike by e-mail at mmpags@netzero.net.

CARL H. FORTNA '95 and his wife, Sue, welcomed their fourth child, Jacob Thomas, on Father's Day 2003. "I think we're done now," writes Carl. Mail reaches him at 370 Maiden Creek Rd., Fleetwood, PA 19522.

Please note this new address for A. SCOTT NEWMAN '95: 106 Blue Heron Court, East Amherst, NY 14051.

"I just got married to Olivier Tardif, an engineer, on June 21," writes KATE DONIS '97 (74 Hazen Rd., Au Sable Forks, NY 12912; kate@olikat.net). "We had a lovely pre-wedding honeymoon trip to Switzerland and spent loads of time in the Alps. At the wedding, ELSA LeBARS '97, JACKIE ARNS '97, ERIKA (Matthies) PRAUL, and SCOTT CHERRY '97 joined us as we cruised Lake Champlain. They managed to remind me at the wedding of an ill-fated SCAVMA trip to Indiana which was quite amusing."

ERIC H. LINNETZ '97 is doing a small animal internal medicine residency at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his girlfriend, Doria, is in the business school. He writes that it was great to see NED DYKES '74 and other professors and classmates at the ACVIM forum in Charlotte, North Carolina. Send your regards to Eric at 2215 Melrose Dr., Apt. A, Champaign, IL 61820, or by e-mail at elinnetz@uiuc.edu.

MICHELLE EGLI '99 still works at Delmarva Equine Clinic in the job she took right after graduation—and she's loving it. She writes, "The brood mares and standardbred racehorses keep me busy. Recently, I acquired a standardbred retiree and am breaking him to ride." Send mail to Michelle at 41 Turningleaf Court, Dover, DE 19904, or keep in touch by e-mail at meglidvm@worldnet.att.net.

CANDICE FLYNN '02 and DAVID CRUM '02 got engaged on July 6, 2003, while vacationing in the Adirondacks.

The wedding is scheduled for fall 2004. Congratulate Candice and David at 11633 Fairfax Commons Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030.

SANDRA MARSHALL '02 has moved to 13377 Connor Dr., Apt. P, Centreville, VA 20120; slmcaduceus@earthlink.net. She works at Little River Veterinary Clinic in Fairfax, Virginia.

MARCUS SMAIL '02 has a new address: 5920 Jane Way, Alexandria, VA 22310. He works at the Alexandria Animal Hospital. You can send Marcus e-mail at smailmandvm@yahoo.com.

JARDAYNA Y. WERLIN '02 resides at 103 Elm St., Stoneham, MA 02180.

Stay in touch with EMILY CROSS '03 at 9-A Ball Rd., Syracuse, NY 13215; by e-mail at emilycross7@yahoo.com.

## DECEASED

*We regret to report the death of the following alumni:*

ANTHONY F. FAVATA '40  
*on February 26, 2003*

GUY E. MORSE '42  
*on June 10, 2000*

JOHN S. PROPER '43  
*on September 16, 2001*

GERALD E. McCARTHY '50  
*on November 8, 2002*

### Send Us Your News!

Members keep in touch over the years and miles and learn one another's personal and professional news when they take a moment to return the alumni newsform. Send yours along to the address on this page.

## Beta Chapter of Omega Sigma Tau is on the web:

<http://web.vet.cornell.edu/public/ots/>

The *Ruminator* is published regularly by the Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are always welcome and should be sent to OTS Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.