



RUMINATOR



Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma at Cornell

ITHACA, NEW YORK

WINTER 2004-2005

Dear alumni:

This issue has lots of news from the officers and committee chairs, so I'll let them tell the story and sit back this issue. Suffice it to say, OTS is in great hands and I can assure you that the chapter is strong and growing. In early 2005, I'll be writing to past officers to set up a steering committee for a capital campaign. We need to define our goals and set up a budget plan.

Ned Dykes '74, Alumni President

OTS Enjoys A Great Year

Hello from a very chilly Ithaca! We hope this *Ruminator* finds you well...we're having our first snowfall here today. This has been a truly outstanding fall: we had some beautiful colors on the trees all the way up to November—and a great OTS rush! We began in August during orientation week with the welcome-back OTS barbeque open to all. Rush finished with 28 first-year and four second-year pledges!

Philanthropy added a few events to support the local SPCA in addition to ongoing Red Cross blood drives and the always-popular children's Halloween carnival. OTS sponsored a team of walkers for the Breast Cancer "Making Strides" walk-a-thon and raised \$2,000.

After my first year in OTS, it became obvious that unity events keep the members working and playing together and strengthens the fraternity. You'll be interested to read on how the unity committee manages to keep us together!

Fundraising is always a challenge, and this year's "The Men of Cornell Vet" 2005 calendar is a real winner. Let me know if you want one.

The social chair and house manager have been hard at work hosting parties and redecorating the house with some new furniture and paint.

Last year I was the rush chair, and as I got to know the incoming class, I realized how truly wonderful OTS is. I graduated from Cornell in a class of 3,500, then walked up campus one mile to join the veterinary college, a class of 85. It was almost like small-town culture shock even though I had never left Ithaca! In my second year, I recognized the new class was

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Beta Bonds Remain Strong

As vice president of Beta Chapter, I have had the privilege to organize and participate in events that foster interaction between alumni and students. OTS at Cornell provides its members with opportunities to form friendships with people from every class year and to get to know our alumni.

Beta Chapter held the annual alumni dinner on March 26, 2004, in conjunction with the annual conference. Unfortunately, the conference was scheduled during spring break and many students were out of town. Those that were here had an enjoyable evening meeting with OTS alumni. Stories of old parties, practical jokes, and professors were told late into the evening. Older members recalled transforming Dr. Fox's office into a barn stall, complete with straw, chickens, and a goat for his birthday. Younger members shared tips on getting internships and what to look for in one's first job. Members old and new had the opportunity to compare their Cornell experiences and marvel at how much things have changed and yet how much they've stayed the same. It was pretty awesome to realize that we were all part of the Omega Tau Sigma legacy at Cornell that goes back to the early years of the 20th century. Beta was chartered in 1911!

Beta Chapter initiated "Scrubs Night" as an opportunity for members to meet each week for a night of funny television and popcorn. Each Tuesday, OTS members meet at the house to watch *Scrubs*. It's a fun time to relax, meet with other members, and discuss the next OTS function. Having a weekly function at the house has helped to make the OTS house more of a focus for the fraternity. We also take this opportunity to write thank-you notes to alumni who have paid dues or donated to the Beta Chapter.

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Beta Continues Its Strong Philanthropy Tradition

Philanthropy is off and running this year, putting a new twist on some old ideas as well as tackling new projects. We hope to bring a broader appreciation to the Cornell veterinary community that veterinarians have a commitment not only to animals, but also to humanity.

OTS continues the tradition of hosting the Red Cross at the vet college by organizing four successful blood drives per year. The Cornell community is always incredibly supportive. Our two other traditional philanthropic events, the annual charity ball and the Halloween costume carnival, were great successes. The charity ball is attended by the Cornell veterinary community to raise money for a local charity. This year we donated to the Cayuga Nature Center, which provides hands-on activities for children with an interest in animals and the sciences. Not only did our charity ball raise much-needed funds

for the center, but it also served to educate the public about the needs of this important educational resource.

The annual Halloween costume carnival is a much-anticipated event. The carnival gives the young and young at heart an opportunity to show off their costumes and compete in a variety of fun Halloween games.

Along with our traditional projects, this has been a year of new ideas for Beta. Our first new project was baking dog biscuits to sell at the annual college open-house in April. Baking the biscuits was a unity event as well, as many members participated in the baking! These culinary creations were a big hit, selling out in less than two hours, and raising more than \$250 to benefit the local SPCA! Second, Beta organized a team to walk in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" event, held in Binghamton, New York, in October. The OTS Beta team

received overwhelming support from the Cornell veterinary community, raising more than \$1,800 through faculty/staff donations, bake sales, and pink ribbon sales, and putting our team in second place for total fundraising.

This year has been busy, with few days passing without a poster or sign advertising an upcoming OTS philanthropic event. Each event has made our group a little more tightly knit, from baking dog biscuits to donating blood and finally walking for cure. Through traditions and new ideas, Beta has reached beyond the animal world. Our hope is that our actions have demonstrated not only our strong commitment to our animal patients, but also to our clients who may need a shoulder to cry on, and to humanity as a whole.

Vanessa Kirsipuu '07
Kristen Pastir '07

The House Is In Good Shape

This year the OTS house has prospered, despite one little problem—roof repairs! Other than that, the house is in good shape, and we have a number of OTS members who are looking forward to moving in next year.

The house is operating at not-quite-full capacity, with one extra room available, which we are hoping to rent out very soon. We also rent out an extern room, generally for visitors from other countries, at \$75/week. It's a modest, inexpensive room, but fine for a short time and great to meet people from other places.

This fall with the influx of four new residents, the house has really become a thriving community. For the first time, we have allowed non-vet students to live in the house, with the stipulation that vet students have first priority. However, if a room remains available by summer, it can be rented

out to non-vet students at 150 percent of the normal rent.

The new residents, combined with those who remained, have really added a lot of fun and liveliness to the house, with frequent impromptu house movie nights as well as all going out to Collegetown together. It appears that half the house will even be going on spring break to Waikiki together!

At the end of the 2004 academic year in May, we were fortunate to acquire lots of new furniture for the house at a minimal cost from students who were moving far away and selling their stuff. We now have a pull-out couch, three more new couches to re-outfit our living room, a new desk for one resident room, and a new bed for another. The house managers are trying to get most of the rooms furnished so first-year students have less of a burden moving in. Considering how inexpensive stuff is at the end of

the school year, this can be done at minimal cost and creates an incentive for new residents.

The OTS pledge project this year focuses on improving the house, and they completed two projects. One was the great backyard cleanup. Now it looks amazing! The second was painting the first floor of the house and reorganizing the composite photos.

On the official side of things, we passed our annual fire department inspection with minimal fuss. Eventually, we need to replace the fire alarm system (last upgraded in 1965!) with electronics to come into code compliance. Along with needed roof repairs and some necessary heating/boiler work, Dr. Dykes promises to get a campaign going to keep the house safe, dry, and comfortable.

Stephanie Furman '07
April Korich '06

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.

OTS Welcomes 32 New Members

This year was very successful with 28 first-year and four second-year initiates. This was one of the largest pledge classes our chapter has ever had. Pledge starts with the welcome-back barbeque in August at the house for the entire school. We had 95 percent of the class of 2008 in attendance. Over 100 upperclassmen, both OTS and non-OTS members, attended. Dr. Dykes practically had to be resuscitated after grilling over 300 burgers and hot dogs!

A week later, we hosted a dinner for all students interested in joining OTS. Over 50 enjoyed homemade sauces, garlic bread, and pasta. Compliments to the cooks! The president gave a presentation on the history of OTS and the benefits of joining. She discussed unity events, such as our annual ski trip, philanthropy, and the way OTS brings together the four classes for all kinds of events. More than half eventually rushed.

An OTS tradition is the annual skit that spoofs the trials and tribulations of being a first-year vet student at Cornell. With dead-on impersonations of both faculty and students, the audience was in hysterics. At the end of the skit, we advertised our final rush event: a graffiti-theme party. We plastered the school with posters stating "BYO white t-shirt and neon highlighters." The house was lit with black lights, which made for a very "interactive" night with people writing all over each others' shirts, pants, etc. Glowing gin and tonic drinks added even more color to the night.



Megan McCracken '06, Kara Spillman '08, Julio Lopez '08, Carole Harbison '08, and Kristin Phair '08 at bid night this fall.

On September 10, we hosted a wine and cheese bid-acceptance night (a semi-formal event). Current members and new pledges each brought a bottle of wine to compliment the fruit and cheese platters we provided. We were very excited to offer bids to 28 freshmen and four sophomores.

After a two-week pledge period and a break for mid-terms, we had our famous initiation night. All arrived at the house at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 1, dressed in coveralls and barn boots. After reading the mission statement of OTS and describing the coat of arms, we separated the new members into pre-determined groups of 4-5 people. The second-year class chauffeured their initiates to various bars and houses around Ithaca. Each car had a theme, ranging from white trash punk band to St. Patrick's Day in New York. The third- and fourth-year members were the "hosts" at their own homes or at popular bars in town, and each stop on the tour around town had a different theme. It was the members' mission to make sure that the initiates had as much fun as possible with their upperclassmen hosts. At the end of the night, we returned to the house and the new members entertained us with

a skit in which they mocked us and each other. For those who were drinking, the designated drivers made sure everyone got home safely.

Patricia Doherty '07
 Michaela Cautela '07



Dr. Ned Dykes grills up some burgers at the OTS barbeque.



Laura Damakse '07, Stacy Chozynski '08, Annie Hauff '08, Caithlin Craver '07, Jaime Hopper '08, Amber Arriola '07, and Patricia Doherty '07 at the annual OTS barbeque at the start of the school year.

OTS Maintains A Busy Social Calendar

The OTS Beta Chapter has been known to throw a great party now and again. This year we hope to expand that legacy with a few big bashes open to all Cornell vet students to unwind, rejuvenate, and leave the books behind for a change and have some fun.

October was a busy social month with OTS hosting the after-finals Block I party. A mid-week party, the first-year class really “relaxed” after their first set of vet school finals. Plenty of upperclassmen helped them celebrate



Hindatu Mohammed '07 and Jess Urbonas '08 at the OTS graffiti party this fall.

this rite of passage. The SCAVMA-sponsored Halloween party held at the house was also a rousing event. Cleanup was challenging, but many pitched in to help.

As of this writing, our next event in November will be a tribute to the house residents' current favorite movie, *Old School*, with Vince Vaughn and Will Farrell. This is sure to be an all-out, no-holds-barred bash that doesn't require a lot of preparation. Once again, the entire vet school will be invited, and with such an enthusias-

tic first-year class, it's sure to be a blast. Music from the movie soundtrack, favorite moments, and flyers similar to those used in the movie are featured. We hope nobody will be going streaking! But who knows? Here's hoping it will be as great a success as the other parties we've held this year.

All in all, OTS social events have been a big hit recently, and they have been great for members and non-members to let loose and have a lot of fun together.

Stephanie Furman '07
Becky Mitchell

Extensive Social Events Keep Oaties Close-Knit

Unity has been busy planning both new and traditional events. Last spring we made our annual wine tour of the east side of Seneca Lake. A busload of Oaties tasted local wines from Poplar Ridge, Wagner, and Red Newt vineyards. Our annual ski trip will be coming up soon, and this year we are thinking about going up to Montreal to hit the slopes.

Broomball continues, and this year's new class will get their first shot at battling the upperclassmen on the ice. The first match is set for November with a follow-up match a few weeks later.

As for new events this year, we scheduled a pumpkin- and apple-picking day to be followed by a barbeque and pumpkin carving, but foul Homecoming weather intervened. We could also soon be riding go-karts at the local racetrack in Ithaca, as some people have expressed interest in running their friends off the road. One of the most anticipated new events for this year is Cornell hockey tickets. If anyone knows Cornell, then they know that hockey is the biggest sport on campus, and OTS managed to snag four season tickets in the student sec-

tion. Now every OTS member will have the opportunity to see at least one game over the course of the season. Everyone is really excited about this.

In December, we look forward to our holiday dinner and gift exchange. The ski trip will be in January, and we are anticipating a great weekend of skiing and getting to know one another better!

Peter Romano '07
Zenny Ng '07
Laura Damaske '07

OTS Enjoys A Great Year _____

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a blast of fresh air—still gung-ho—and that the best thing about OTS was the opportunities to meet people in other classes whom you might otherwise never get to know. The people we have in OTS are open, friendly, and outgoing, and they truly care about the house and have come to use it as a center for social gatherings, from post-exam parties to relaxing movie nights. I really think we have something special here, a great group of people who are dedicated to the fraternity and to the community at large. It is truly my image of what a professional fraternity should be, and I am very proud of our chapter and very happy that I have had the opportunity to serve Beta over the past year.

Kristin Vyhnaal '06
OTS President

Beta Bonds Remain Strong _____

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Whether it is relaxing by the fire after a hard day of skiing on the winter retreat, sharing tips on how to survive first-year anatomy with underclassmen, or listening to stories of fantastic parties OTS alums had at the house before we were born, it is the camaraderie between its members that makes the Beta Chapter so special. When asked by members of the class of 2008 why they should join OTS, I always replied, “To meet people in other classes and form great friendships.” I firmly believe that is one of the most rewarding parts of fraternity membership in the Beta Chapter of Omega Tau Sigma. It is the people who make our chapter great, and I hope I have served them well over the past year.

Megan J. McCracken '06
OTS Vice President

Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

GEORGE V. MCKINNEY '41 writes, "It is good to hear from you and '200 Willard Way.' I was wondering if anyone has any pictures—recent or from the archives—that you could e-mail to me. Also, does anyone hear from any of my fellow students or have any old or recent pictures of them or the era that you could share? Thank you." Get in touch with George at 5440 Balsam Ln. N, Plymouth, MN 55442. His e-mail address is rmkmp1s@aol.com.

CHARLES S. DUNCAN '45 writes, "My wife, Evalyn Chapin (Cornell '46) and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary on June 24. At 79 and 80 years old, we are basically healthy and happy. A fly in the ointment, after 56 years on our 90 acres, is the threat of a Wal-Mart 24/7 superstore to be built next to our property line about 600 feet from our house. And our property is in a residential/agricultural zone, at that. Oh, woe, and sleepless nights. We keep busy with garden and other regular chores. In 1978, we changed our veterinary hospital into a rental house. Take it from me—life is never easy or logical, but it certainly does build character and is much better than the alternative. I'll send another letter on our 70th anniversary and hope I can report that there is no Wal-Mart here." Send best wishes to Charlie at 7444 U.S. Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676. His new e-mail address is gadunc80@usadatanet.net.

KENT C. ROBERTS '51 writes, "I retired in 1995 but still have an office at the college (VA-MD) and do a few jobs that no one else would probably do. We are celebrating our 25th anniversary of the opening of the country's first truly regional veterinary school in 1980. I was here then and it has been gratifying to be part of starting a new veterinary college. Believe me, it wasn't easy. I talk to JOHN WEEKS '51 and HERBIE JONES '51 from time to time." Keep in touch with Kent at 102 Cohee Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060.

ARTHUR P. MOTTA '53 reports a new address of 4045 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 02745.

HAROLD A. JENKINS '57 recently moved to 1533 W. Genesee Rd., Baldwinsville, NY 13027.

JAMES F. PEDDIE '65 received Moorpark College's Distinguished Faculty Chair honor this past fall. Jim is a professor and veterinarian in exotic training and management at America's Teaching Zoo. Send congratulations to him at 4201 Faria Rd., Ventura, CA 93001. His e-mail address is drspeddie@avenuecable.com.

DOUGLAS W. HART '67 writes, "I am still enjoying mixed practice very much. I'll retire when I find something I like better. Our family is a great source of joy to us. This year, our daughter-in-law (Kelsey Hart '04) graduated from the Cornell Veterinary College. Our youngest daughter, Jan, graduated from medical college and has started a residency in ob-gyn in Manhattan. Two new Dr. Harts!" Doug can be reached at 3067 Church St., Pine Plains, NY 12567. Send him e-mail at hartstrun@taconic.net.

"I sold my practice this spring," writes EDGAR T. "Tom" CLARK '69, "and Mary Ann and I moved to a farm in Pennsylvania. Our four children are out of the nest and we are now grandparents. Retirement plans include splitting our time between the Pennsylvania farm and where two of our children live. We both are still skiing and can usually be reached in Alta between January and March." Otherwise, contact Tom at 1196 Barnden Brook Rd., Eldred, PA 16731 or at ladybugfarm3@yahoo.com.

WALTER F. KNIGHT '72 reports, "I do mostly large animal medicine in a three-vet mixed practice. Each January, Lois and Abigail (wife and daughter) accompany me on work projects in Peru, South America, for BCM-International, a Christian mission headquartered in Akron, Pennsylvania. We have three sons, Andy, Pat, and Chris, who live and work in New England. Abby turned 16 this past September." Stay in touch with Wally at 1215 Simpson Brook Rd., Waterford, VT 05819. His e-mail address is wallyvet@kingcon.com.

DAVID H. HANCOCK '75 recently moved to 7 Chablis Dr., Fairport, NY 14450. Reach him by e-mail at dhhancock@yahoo.com.

MICHAEL D. KEEM '79 sends news that he opened his new companion animal practice, Aurora Pet Hospital, in October 2004. "I am currently in the final process of completing the sale of Cheektowaga Veterinary Hospital and Amclare Veterinary Hospital to my four associates. Even after 25 years, I still look forward to going to work each and every day as a member of our wonderful profession." Mike's mailing address is 1111 Mill Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052-2818; his e-mail address is petdvm1@aol.com.

JON S. PATTERSON '81 writes, "I am on sabbatical leave from MSUCVM for six months (June-December 2004), during which time I will focus on scholarly activities related to teaching. Most of my time will be spent as a tutor in the problem-based learning (PBL) curriculum of the second-year human medical students at MSU. I will also spend two weeks at Cornell in mid-October to learn more about PBL in the veterinary college. My son, Geoff, starts college this fall at Grand Valley State University (Allendale, Michigan), where he'll study film and video production. My daughter, Kelly, is a senior in high school this year, and she is already making plans for college. She would like to study math and physics." Send greetings to Jon at 5932 Buttonwood Dr., Haslett, MI 48840; patterfam@comcast.net.

CANDACE K. PLATZ '81 writes, "My husband, Jim, and I just got back from our second home in Bonaire, Netherlands. I am planning to brush up on my dog and cat neutering skills to participate in an international veterinary team working for the Bonaire animal shelter this October. Cut down on pet overpopulation half a day; dive the most diverse reefs in the Caribbean the other half. Who says you can't reteach an old horse vet old tricks she once knew?" Candace receives mail at P.O. Box 1240,

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Our Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

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Auburn, ME 04211-1240. Reach her via e-mail at ckpdvm@aol.com.

JAMES S. WATSON '85 writes, "I feel like I dropped off the face of the earth. My de facto second profession has been construction—the 'new' clinic is now almost four years old, and we just finished building a large house. I learned all about being a general contractor. Now I'm trying to heal. North Carolina is a hike from Ithaca, but I would like to hear from old friends—stop in for a cold one!" Jim lives at 2573 Linden Ave., Aberdeen, NC 28315. Send him e-mail at saranac2@earthlink.net.

WILLIAM and LISA W. JOHNSON '86 recently moved to 1029 State Highway 80, Edmeston, NY 13335.

ROBERTA A. DUHAIME '89 writes, "I've moved again! I finally made it back to Texas. I am now a tick epidemiologist with the USDA tick force here on the U.S.-Mexican border. This is a new position for the agency—created after 98 years of the program. I cover about 800 miles of the Rio Grande from Del Rio to Brunsville. Don't think I'll transfer anymore. I love it—heat and all!" Roberta's new mailing address is P.O. Box 440853, Laredo, TX 78044. Her e-mail address is Roberta.a.duhaime@aphis.usda.gov.

LINDA M. MESSINGER '90 reports that she had a baby girl, Sara Jane, on November 17, 2003. Send congratulations to Linda at 5725 S. Macon St., Englewood, CO 80111.

TRACY WARD '90 (47 Meadow Pointe Dr., DeWinton, Alberta, CANADA T0L 0X0) writes, "Last spring I received my master's degree from the University of Calgary. My thesis research involved investigating the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance in nasal pathogens of feedlot cattle. Shortly after, I changed jobs and am now a field veterinarian and technical sales rep for Bayer Animal Health."

REENA V. SHAH '97 writes, "I've been at the Oradell Animal Hospital since my internship here. Done

some traveling in my free time. I got married in the fall of 2001 and we just bought a house in New Jersey, so no traveling for a little while. If any one is in the area, drop a line—we love visitors." Reena can be reached at 15 Woodland Place, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444. Her e-mail address is sjwinn64@earthlink.net.

SARA (Quinn) AMENTO '98 writes, "On May 15, 2004, I got married to Brian Amento. JEN DeMEO '98, JULIE FIXMAN '98, and MALISSA DeHART '98 came for the event. Brian and I went to Alaska for our honeymoon. We visited two sled dog teams and I got to vaccinate a pup destined for the Iditarod." Send congratulations to Sara at 37 Headley Ave., Morris Plains, NJ 07950. Her e-mail address is saqdv@att.net.

ERIC R. CHRISTENSEN '99 writes, "After finishing my appointment at CUCVM in July 2003, I spent several months doing emergency work in the Ithaca/Finger Lakes region before joining Murray Hill Veterinary Associates (my current place of practice) in mid-September. Work is very busy and we see lots of very interesting cases, but more space is desperately needed, and a new hospital facility is now under way. As of September, I'll be married to my fiancée—a Cornell MBA whom I met while teaching at the vet college. Many OTS alums will be in New Hampshire to help us celebrate. I'm currently living in north-central New Jersey—feel free to come by and visit anytime!" Eric's contact info is: 67 River Rd., Summit, NJ 07901. Reach him by e-mail at erc2@cornell.edu.

MARI MORIMOTO '01 reports that right after graduation, "I moved back to New York City, where I worked full-time for a year, and then I've been doing relief work around Manhattan ever since. I'm still translating Japanese comic books as well, and trying to get back in touch with classmates and schoolmates. Please get in touch!" Mari receives mail at 333 E. 34th St., #2E, New York, NY 10016. Her e-mail address is nycfishgirl@aol.com.

CANDICE M. FLYNN and DAVID A. CRUM got married in Potomac, Maryland, on Saturday, September 25, 2004. They are still residing in Virginia: 11633 Fairfax Commons Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030.

MARY (Bean) and JOHN SYKES '02 write that they celebrated their first wedding anniversary last August. John is entering his second year of residency in zoo and wildlife medicine at the University of Tennessee, and Mary is working in a small animal practice in Knoxville. Their new mailing address is 1705 Woodpointe Dr., Knoxville, TN 37931. Reach them by e-mail at jsykes3@utk.edu or bosleybean@hotmail.com.

CHRISTOPHER G. BYERS '03 is a resident in critical care and internal medicine at VCA Veterinary Referral Associates in Gaithersburg, Maryland. His new mailing address is 19908 Crystal Rock Dr., #204, Germantown, MD 20874. His e-mail address is cgb4@cornell.edu.

KATHERINE S. GARRETT '03 recently moved to 3660 Rabbits Foot Tr., #8, Lexington, KY 40503. Send her e-mail at ksg@alum.dartmouth.org.

ROBERT W. NICHOLS III '03 writes that he is enjoying Los Angeles. "I'm playing in a baseball league, making some good friends. Special hello to the spiritual leader, DR. DYKES '74, and my two OTS mentors, JOSH BRUZGUL '75 and JOHN GALLAGHER '00." Bob currently works at the Pacific Palisades Veterinary Center. His mailing address is 1824 Old Ranch Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90049. Reach him by e-mail at rwn5@cornell.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of:

WILLIAM H. ADOLPH '43
KENNETH L. KIEHLE '45
June 6, 2004