

# AZ NEWS



## 2022 WINTER EDITION



### • Winter AZ Florida Lunch!

March 23 in Sun City Center  
Contact Dick Church at  
rac15@cornell.edu or  
315-272-6371 for details

### • AZ Alumni Summer Picnic

July 2022 (date pending)  
Vitale Park, 5828 Big Tree  
Rd, Lakeville, NY 14480.  
hosted by Ken and Mike  
Marley

## CALS Charitable Trust Update

The CALS Charitable Trust increased support levels to CALS undergraduate students for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Trust committed \$6500 for CALS undergraduate research grants, administered by the Office of Academic Affairs and Strategic Programs. These grants provide funding for CALS undergraduate research expenses, including travel to professional meetings or conferences to present findings.

The Trust also committed \$26,000 for academic enrichment grants, available to active members of Alpha Zeta in CALS. Eight grants were awarded in fall 2021 to students doing a variety of activities. For example, two grants were awarded to Kate McKale (IARD, 2024) and Thomas Aciri (Plant Sci, 2024) who received funding to cover travel expenses to the 2022 National 4-H Youth Summit on Agriscience in Washington D.C. in March. Spring academic enrichment applications are due March 18, 2022.

Wendy Weichert '89,  
Academic Enrichment Award Coordinator

## Check us out on Facebook!

Our Facebook site is: [Alpha Zeta Fraternity — Cornell Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/AlphaZetaFraternity—CornellChapter)  
at the link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AZCornellChapter/>



### Dean's Night at AZ

October 17th the actives hosted current CALS Dean Ben Houlton and past leaders Dean David Call (1978 to 1995) and Dean Kathryn Boor (2010 to 2020).



## **New Brothers and Sisters of Alpha Zeta Cornell!**

### **Fall 2022 New Members!**

An important quality of the Cornell Chapter of Alpha Zeta is diversity. Diversity of race, ethnicity, gender identities, socioeconomic status, sexualities, etc. Diversity is where we get our strength. Each person who walks through 214 Thurston Avenue's doors comes with their own stories and experiences which bring unique perspectives to the table, metaphorically or literally speaking.

The Fall 2021 New Member Class is not only a diverse group of individuals, but one of the largest classes in Cornell Alpha Zeta history, with 21 members. We are excited how our new members will shape our chapter for years to come.

William Shipley, December '21 in Environment and Sustainability. He is thankful to AZ for giving him, "The best semester of my life".

Stephen An '23 Animal Science, originally from Seoul, South Korea. AZ supplied him with knowledge, "about different aspects of (the) Ag industry and how people are so dedicated to the industry's improvement..."

Thomas Acri '24 Plant Science, current Scribe, active in FFA and 4-H

Ashley Bao '24 Plant Science, involved in the Cornell Bread and Food Clubs on campus.

Kandy Burdier '24 Animal Science, UTA for ANSC 2400, the Biology of Reproduction. "Everyone apart of AZ has something they are passionate about and I love the opportunity we have to learn from others and gain new interests for ourselves."

Alyssa Craner '24 Animal Science, E-Board for the Bee Club and a member of the Moeller Lab.

Nick Graves '24, Biology on the pre-vet track, is grateful for the many networking opportunities, speaking with alumni who have gone on to attend Cornell Vet and other graduate programs.

Chap-Lum Lau '24 Animal Science, is grateful for the "welcoming and supportive community."

Kate McHale '24 International Agriculture and Rural Development, presenting at the National 4-H Youth Summit in DC with Tommy Acri.

Isabel Stanley '24 Animal Science, is a member of the McFadden Lab for Dairy Cattle Biology.



## Active Member News

Alex Taylor '24 Animal Science, He is thankful for the friends he's made through AZ.

Michaela Berger '25 Food Science, "AZ has given me a sense of belonging on campus."

AJ Chrisler '25 Biology and Society major who joined AZ to make "lifelong connections and (have) experiences related to agriculture."

Marissa De Leon '25 Animal Science, currently one of Alpha Zeta's Diversity and Inclusion chairs, matters she is very passionate about.

Jenna Goodwin '25 Animal Science, She is on the Western Equestrian team, and is famous in the chapter for bringing goats to the 2021 Ag Day.

Maddie Kaufman Schiller '25 Applied Economics and Management and Air Force ROTC.

Aleks Marcinkowski '24 Plant Science. She enjoys how AZ is, "a diverse but like minded (group) with their own specific passions."

Henry Marquez '25 Agricultural Sciences major, is an avid gardener and active in Hortus Forum and Cornell Compost.

Jeffrey Morse '25 double major in Biological Sciences and Computer Science. He is the Webmaster and is responsible for the recent website update.

Camille Radhakrishnan '25 Plant Science major on the Pre-Med track and one of the recruitment chairs for 2022.

Sophie Rosenburg '25 Civil Engineering and active in the Cornell Hydroponics club and calls AZ, "a wonderful welcoming community that is always willing to help when needed."



## Ag Day Fall 2021

At the time we opened Ag Day this past fall, fewer than half of current Cornell students had ever been on campus for an Ag Day. Covid-19 had forced a hiatus in Alpha Zeta's annual tradition of hosting the public outreach and philanthropy event, but after a September of covid caution and a timely return to Cornell's lowest alert level, we were able to hold the event on the first of October. Between support from Alpha Zeta alumni and associates and teamwork within the Chapter, Ag Day proved a stunning success for its many objectives, including community engagement, philanthropy, recruitment, and agricultural education.

In addition to checks funding the event, we received numerous donations of apples. With donations from Yes! Apples (Chelsea Van Acker), Bittner Singer Orchards (Jim Bittner), Cornell Orchards, and Masker Orchards (Emma Davis '22), we had over a dozen bushels — more than a thousand apples. The supply of crunchy, delicious Snapdragon, Sweetango, Rave, Cortland, and Honeycrisp apples was substantial, and we thought it was more than sufficient as we offered an apple to each person who came to experience Ag Day, but there wasn't one apple left by lunchtime, the peak of the event! Still, the greatest attraction was the Professor Potato Sack Race, so popular there had to be several heats. A large crowd gathered to watch as Prof. Joseph McFadden claimed victory and Prof. Marvin Pritts catapulted himself toward the finish line in a glorious attempt to overtake his colleague. Students, faculty, and staff passed through, stopping by tables, taking pictures with the animals, and buying raffle tickets in droves.

Since Cornell's Covid guidelines reduced our capacity for serving meals to prepackaged wraps, we devised a new revenue stream to complement the food sales that we anticipated would underperform. Active member Amanda Wilson (Plant Science '23) assembled numerous baskets for a raffle, including purchased items and donated gift boxes from Yes! Apples and Cornell Dairy. Clearly a lot of passersby felt lucky; the raffle generated a return on investment of 400 percent. In all, we were able to donate \$2,000 to Tompkins County 4-H this year, split between the 4-H youth program and Cornell Cooperative Extension's 'Seed Money' initiative, which supports community-oriented programming for Tompkins County. We hope to expand the raffle next year with additional donated goods and high-value packages.

While many attendees were lured by the raffle baskets, it felt like still more were attracted to Alpha Zeta. Ag Day's timing aligned well with our recruitment schedule, and generated much interest in our chapter, helping propel the Fall 2021 New Member Class to its gargantuan size. Among the new members introduced to Alpha Zeta at Ag Day are the newly elected Recruitment Co-Chair Camille Radhakrishnan (Plant Science '25) and Junior Ag Day Chair Jenna Goodwin (Animal Science '25), who even brought her own goats to the Ag Quad for the festivities!



I'm thrilled that I will get to work with Jenna this year to make Ag Day still better. We hope to expand the scope of the event, bringing in more demonstrations from various labs and agricultural firms, and further familiarizing the Cornell community with the importance of agriculture and its diverse roles.

Thank you to the generous alumni donors who enabled us to run the event so successfully this year. We were especially proud to represent our top sponsors on all of our event paraphernalia and advertising: Pawsibilities Vet Med (Valerie Marcano & Seth Andrews) and Yes! Apples (Chelsea Van Acker).

To see a little bit of Ag Day 2021, I hope you'll watch [this short video](#) edited by outgoing Chancellor Connor Tamor. To support Ag Day 2022, Please find our alumni appeal and donation form [here](#).

Gratefully,  
Eli Newell

If the links get lost in translation:

Video:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rb3n0zrIMZW43rRnQjl\\_xRla5-qEChXI/view?usp=sharing&usp=embed\\_facebook](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rb3n0zrIMZW43rRnQjl_xRla5-qEChXI/view?usp=sharing&usp=embed_facebook)

Donation:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OO7dPFU6RgsQmk42IPnVD9tXGGYSIvF/view?usp=sharing>

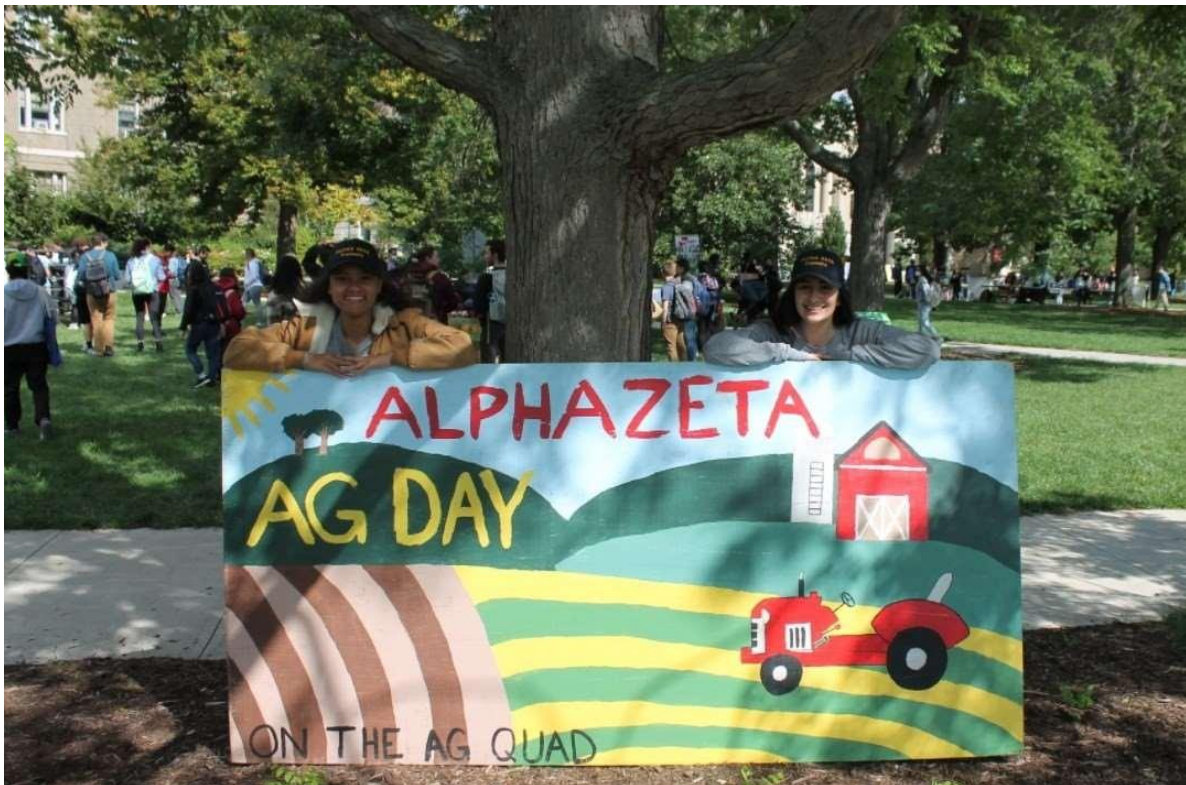




## Member Activities — Snapshots!



**New Fall Members** – Front row: Michaela Berger, Chap-Lum Lau, Maddie Kaufman Schiller, Tommy Acri, Jeffrey Morse  
Second row: Isabel Stanley, Aleks Marcinkowski, Alyssa Craner, Steven An, Kate McHale, Kandy Burdier, Marissa De Leon  
Third row: Jenna Goodwin, Nick Graves, Will Shipley, Sophie Rosenburg, Ashley Bao, AJ Chrisler, Henry Marquez  
Back: Alex Taylor



Actives, Payton Fleming (left) and Kiana Silver (right), at Ag Day Fall 2021.





## **Fraternity Leadership Corner**

### **Outgoing Chancellor's Report**

Serving as Alpha Zeta's Chancellor this past year has been a difficult but rewarding challenge. When I first came into the position, I intended to focus on (1) keeping everyone safe and healthy through the COVID-19 pandemic, (2) restart some of the essential events that makes Alpha Zeta special, and (3) foster an environment where our members can excel both socially and academically. With the hard work of my E-Board, as well as the support from our active membership, we were able to achieve these goals. Everyone was able to stay healthy throughout the year, with only minor symptoms of illness. 2021 also experienced the first Ag Day since 2019. Thanks to Jonah Helmer and Eli Newell, Ag Day was incredibly successful, as we had many agriculture-focused organizations gather on the Ag Quad and we were able to raise a lot of money for local agricultural organizations. In Addition to Ag Day, we held National Initiation twice in 2021, initiating almost twenty members into AZ Nationals. We were also able to hold our first bi-annual Wine & Cheese event since 2019, where we chatted with professors and AZ alumni on a more casual level. 2021 also saw the first "Dean's Night" formal dinner ever! Finally, Alpha Zeta welcomed the addition of twenty-one members in our Fall 2021 New Member class, the largest new member class since the late 2000s. With a large new member class, a restart of many essential AZ events, and networking opportunities for our members, Alpha Zeta is certainly trending in the right direction. I'm fully confident that Payton Fleming, AZ's next Chancellor, will carry the torch and continue to lead Alpha Zeta down a successful path.

Sincerely, Connor Tamor '22

### **Incoming Chancellor's Report**

I am honored and humbled to have been elected Chancellor of Alpha Zeta Fraternity. The incoming Executive Board and I come from a variety of different leadership backgrounds, so I am looking forward to learning from them over this next year. My goal for this E-Board is to create space for each of them to grow confident in their abilities as leaders and to encourage them to foster and develop that same quality in other members. In my election speech, I made it abundantly clear that the leadership of this organization would not be divided by title but instead be a communicative and collaborative effort between all members of our organization. Alpha Zeta, thankfully, found its way into my life during my freshman year, and I could not be more grateful. This organization was the light at the end of the dark tunnel that was my first semester on campus, and it continues to provide each new and existing member with the love and opportunities that first drew me in. While it is incredibly important that this factor of Alpha Zeta remains constant, it is equally important that the tremendous growth and change I have witnessed over the past 2 years continues throughout my tenure. As Chancellor, I aim to keep our members' mental and physical health my highest priority. I plan to safely navigate our organization through this challenging period while also providing academic and professional opportunities to our members so they may continue to thrive in their fields of interest.

*Payton Fleming '23*



## Alumni and Community Connections

### Ag Society Meeting

Alpha Zeta cosponsored the Ag Promotion Award at the 2022 Ag Society Meeting in Syracuse on January 6, 2022. Jeff Perry '89 represented AZ. Pictured below L-R: Todd Lighthall of the NYS FFA Foundation, Mark Modzelieski, Joan Petzen of Wyoming County CCE, Stephanie Castle with American Farmland Trust, Commissioner Richard Ball and Jeff Perry, AZ. The Ag Society Meeting is one of the biggest agriculture networking events of the year.



### DeGumbia Award Growth Update!

The Jeffrey DeGumbia award was established in 1994 by the family of Jeff DeGumbia '95 after Jeff's untimely death in a car accident. For the past 25 years, Jeff's family has generously supported the award with annual gifts given to deserving Cornell students who are members of Alpha Zeta Fraternity. In the Fall of 2020, Jeff's classmates launched a fund-raising effort to endow the award so that it can be given out in perpetuity. The aim is to raise \$25,000 to enable an annual award of \$1000 to a deserving member of Cornell Alpha Zeta Fraternity. At the time of this writing, 27 alumni have contributed \$20,000.00. Donations from as many alumni as possible are encouraged to reach our goal of \$25,000.00. Please email Dale Porter '95 with any questions or your intention to contribute (daporter3@yahoo.com). Tax deductible contributions to the award can be made by writing a check to "CALs charitable Trust", note 'DeGumbia' in the memo, and mail to: Alpha Zeta, PO Box 5077, Cortland, NY 13045. Thanks to Dale Porter for taking on the effort to grow this memorial award!







## Philanthropy!

In collaboration with the Philanthropy and Athletics chairs, Alpha Zeta is excited to participate in the 2022 Ithaca Polar Plunge. Please consider donating to help us support New York's Special Olympics athletes. As always, we are grateful for your support!

To donate or for more information, visit this site:

[http://events.nyso.org/site/TR?team\\_id=11600&fr\\_id=2600&pg=team](http://events.nyso.org/site/TR?team_id=11600&fr_id=2600&pg=team)

Alternatively, checks can be addressed to Jeremy Gutierrez!

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW YORK**  
**POLAR PLUNGE.**

**Plunge IN PERSON on Saturday, March 26th, with**  
**Alpha Zeta Fraternity**  
**Cornell Chapter!**

**Ithaca Polar Plunge**  
1740 Taughanock Blvd., Trumansburg, NY 14886  
Registration: 10am

For more information, please contact:  
Michelle D'Amico - Associate Director of Development  
michelled@nyso.org  
212-632-3020

**MAGUIRE** **VISIONS** **#PLUNGENATION**

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

# 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](mailto: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](http://www.alphazeta-cornell.org))

## Officers

### 2020 UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

Chancellor: ..... Payton Fleming  
Censor: ..... Nelson Liu  
Scribe..... Tommy Acri  
Treasurer ..... Jeremy Gutierrez  
Chronicler: ..... Abi Hsu  
House Manager: ..... Eli Newell  
Steward ..... Amanda Wilson  
Recruitment ..... Abi Hsu  
Recruitment .. Camille Radhakrishnan  
New Member Ed .. Kiana Silver  
New Member Ed .. Nick Graves

## Alumni Officers

### Corporation Board

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

### Members at Large:

Rebecca Franklin '92  
Howard Mahoney '93  
Kimberly Fleming '87  
Judy Moody '05  
Ken Marley '05

### Advisors

Kim Fleming '87  
Cindy van Es (Associate '08)