



## Rensselaer Chapter Hosts 2019 Society Convention & Leadership Training Conference

The Rensselaer Chapter hosted the 19th Annual Society Convention and Leadership Training Conference March 14–17 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

After two years of meeting on campus, the decision was made to shake things up a bit, and all proceedings were instead held at the Hilton Garden Inn, a welcome change,

given the frosty temperatures that greeted siblings over the weekend.

Proximity to beds was also important for this business-heavy weekend, as things kicked off with a marathon Board of Governors meeting on Thursday night. Two

*(Continued on page 8)*



## Society Welcomes New Leaf Affiliate Chapter

New Leaf, at Indiana State University, is the newest Affiliate Chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi Society as of their first initiated class this past May.

The origin of the New Leaf Chapter began with breakfast. Their Graduate Advisor, Michael Blitstein, Brunonian 2003, gathered the six founding members, Alyssa Wilson, Andrew McKeighan, Ash Twesme, Bailei Lankster, Cameron Stice, and Kara Davis for a breakfast that sparked the connection between them all, leading them into many deep discussions as the day went on about what they all wanted for the first Midwest Chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi Society.

The members became fast friends, as they all shared a common passion for creating safe spaces for everyone within the society and in the community around them.

Since the initiation of the founding class of the New Leaf Chapter, they have all experienced the incredible ability of the Alpha Delta Phi Society and the people within to bring out the best qualities and potential in its members. All the members have united around their growth in leadership skills, passion for the Society, and love for each other.

### ***Inside Society Xaipe...***

<i>Convention Votes to Grant Penn Charter.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Reflections on the Society's Literary Tradition.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Society Award Honorees.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>SELEF Undergraduate Literary Competition Winners .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>SELEF Graduate Literary Competition Winners.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>SELEF Seward Scholarship Award Winners .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>2018 Fund Appeal Honor Roll.....</i>	<i>6–7</i>
<i>Record-Breaking Fund Appeal Matching Challenge.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Society Author Book Reviews .....</i>	<i>12–13</i>
<i>Meet the New Society Graduate Governors.....</i>	<i>14</i>

# Convention Votes to Grant Penn Charter

While there have been Alpha Delta Phi Society members at the University of Pennsylvania since April 2010, this spring marked the beginning of a new phase for the group as a chartered chapter of the Society. Both undergraduate and graduate members were excited to think about the possibilities offered by a charter and reflect on the work it took to reach that status.

“We were an affiliate for so long,” Max Morant, Penn 2016, said when reflecting on his feelings after hearing the results of the Convention vote on Penn’s undergraduate charter application. “It’s a testament to our character as a chapter that we’ve come through significant periods of tension and struggle and have become a long lasting part of the Society, and of the Penn undergraduate community.”

Lydia Ramharack, Penn 2018, noted that “everything I did as President was to set us up to apply for charter. We rewrote the bylaws, we had good numbers from rush, and we collaborated with outside organizations on campus get our name out there.” This included successful events like a storyboarding workshop in collaboration with the Kelley Writer’s House featuring Faryn Pearl, Penn 2014, which was made possible thanks to a SELEF grant.

As a result of years of hard work, the Penn Chapter now sees a new path forward for both undergraduates and

alumni. Lydia mentioned that in addition to the increased stability provided by chartered Chapter status, they are excited to have a vote at future Conventions, advocate for future Affiliates, and build morale for current (and future) undergraduate members. They said that “working on the application was a nice way to bond with (their) siblings” and they’re incredibly thrilled at what Penn has accomplished and “excited to see what happens in the future.”

For Max, the charter also proves that Penn can sustain a Greek organization that “has the ability to evolve and grow over time to meet the needs of the undergraduate students, something he and the Penn Graduate Organization are very proud of.”

Moving forward, he is excited to rally alumni support around the new charter and to think about what the Chapter’s future could hold, from rush goals to potential group housing solutions.

As Max summarized, the charter “enables the alumni and the undergrads to start thinking about the far-off future. We still have to think about how to manage ourselves right now, but it’s exciting to think about making things better for ourselves in the future.”

## Reflections on the Society’s Literary Tradition

By Samuel Biagetti, Brunonian 2006

Over the past half-century, many pledges of the Alpha Delta Phi Society have seen a perplexed expression come over their friends’ and loved ones’ faces when they tell them that they are joining a “co-ed literary fraternity.”

The raucous image of contemporary Greek-letter societies is hard to square with the bookish, stodgy, and rather effete associations with the word “literary.” Even Alpha Deltas themselves show a degree of confusion as to what it means for our Society to be a literary one, and the connection to literature can sometimes seem tenuous or quaint; it is not unusual for devoted Siblings to show only a casual or occasional interest in literary pursuits, and not every chapter explicitly incorporates literature into its formal practices.

Nonetheless, no Alpha Delt has ever seriously proposed dropping the Society’s “literary” identity—and in fact, in

recent years, this distinguishing marker is only becoming more important to the Society’s survival, as it navigates the rough waters of the twenty-first century college campus.

The tension and ambiguity in the meaning of Alpha Delta Phi’s literary aspect stems from the fact that the term had an open and expansive meaning when the

*(Continued on page 11)*



# Congratulations to the 2019 Alpha Delta Phi Society Award Honorees

The Alpha Delta Phi Society honored four siblings during the 2019 Convention Banquet with awards to celebrate their outstanding contributions to the Society.

## **Society Order of the Sword and Spear**

The Society Order of the Sword and Spear is the highest undergraduate honor recognized by the Society and recognizes a member who has done outstanding work for their chapter, campus, community, and Society.

This year, Lydia Ramharack, Pennsylvania 2018, received this honor.

Lydia serves as the graduate adviser for the Penn Chapter and the new member educator for the newly chartered affiliate at Indiana State University. They currently work at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and are pursuing a master's degree in mental health counseling. However, they still make the time to hang out with their friends at the Penn Chapter and are eternally grateful for the family they have through the Society.

## **Star and Crescent Award**

The Star and Crescent Award is awarded by the Society Board of Governors to a graduate member who has made an outstanding and lasting contribution to the Society; it is the highest distinction bestowed upon a graduate member of the Society.

This year's winner is Tom Giordano, Columbia 1986.

Tom pledged Alpha Delta Phi in autumn 1983 as a student at Columbia University, and was keenly active in Columbia's undergraduate chapter through his graduation from Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture and Historic Preservation in 1989.

Since then, Tom has served ADP continuously, either as a governor of Columbia's graduate association, or of the Society, or both. Tom has pursued a career as a construction lawyer since graduating from Fordham Law School in 1995. He routinely provides legal and other advice to the Society, and serves on its Awards committee.

## **Emerald and Pearl Award**

The Emerald and Pearl Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the Alpha Delta Phi Society at the national level, and secondarily, exemplary contributions to the member's chapter.

This year's honoree is Emily Law, Capital 2019.

Emily is currently the President of Undergraduate Parliament, where she previously served as Recording Secretary. She's also been the President, Recording Secretary, and in various other positions within her Chapter. She studied International Affairs and the Russian language at George Washington University, and started law school at Northeastern University this fall.

## **Rising Star Award**

The Rising Star Award recognizes young leaders of the Society who are making significant contributions to the organization.

This year's honoree is Andy Richards, Brunonian 2017.

Andy serves as chair of the Diversity and Inclusion committee. Outside of ADPhi, Andy is working on completing a master's degree in industrial/organizational psychology. She spends her free time running a virtual Dungeons & Dragons campaign.

## **We Need Your Help: Lost Members of Society**

The Society is trying to find any woman that initiated into the Alpha Delta Phi before the Society-Fraternity split in 1992.

We want to make sure that they all receive the recognition that they deserve and are given the opportunity to join the greater Society!

If you have any information that could help to find any of these fellow siblings, please email Michael Blitstein at [ExecutiveDirector@adps.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@adps.org).

# Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation

## 2019 Undergraduate Honorees

The Samuel Eells Literary & Educational Foundation (SELEF) is a self-governing, tax-exempt corporation that provides need-based scholarships and literary awards to deserving undergraduate students. Information about the 2020 awards programs will be available later this year. You can learn more about the program, and review the winning entries, at [SamuelEells.org](http://SamuelEells.org).

### 2019 Undergraduate Literary Competition Winners

#### **Daniel S. Pearl Stanford '85 Award for Literary Excellence**

Marco Harnam Kaisth, University of Chicago 2021

##### **Fiction**

1st: Emily Sheremeta, Binghamton University 2021

2nd: Serena Feldman, Binghamton University 2021

3rd: Max Klapow, Washington University in St. Louis 2021

##### **Non-Fiction**

1st: Michaela Pecot, Columbia University 2020

2nd: Christopher Jackson, Wesleyan University 2020

3rd (tie): Nathan Mullen, Wesleyan University 2020

3rd (tie): Amber Chong, Columbia University 2021

##### **Poetry**

1st: Ezra Lowe, George Washington University 2020

2nd: Julia Layton, Wesleyan University 2019

3rd: Jordan Rubin-McGregor, Brown University 2019

#### **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Writing**

1st: Matthew Wu, University of Colorado 2021

2nd: Jordan Rubin-McGregor, Brown University 2019

3rd: Serena Feldman, Binghamton University 2021

##### **Photography**

1st: Anderson Peguero II, Columbia University 2019

2nd: Marco Harnam Kaisth, University of Chicago 2021

3rd: Cameron Downey, Columbia University 2021

##### **Visual Art**

1st: Julia Levine, Wesleyan University 2020

2nd: Ainsleigh Caldicott, Wesleyan University 2021

3rd: Stephanie Gemmell, George Washington University 2021

##### **Music and Lyrics**

1st: Tommy Song, Columbia University 2020

2nd: Alyssa Gengos, Columbia University 2020

3rd: Sheung Him Jason Tang, University of Pennsylvania 2018

##### **Film**

1st: Max Libre, Union College 2019

2nd: No award given

3rd: No award given



# 2018–19 SELEF Graduate Literary Competition Results

The Samuel Eells Literary & Educational Foundation Graduate Literary Competition is open to all college graduates associated with SELEF at select schools. First prize of \$250 in each category is offered in the form of a charitable donation on the award recipient's behalf. Based on funds available and the number of second and third prizes awarded, amounts up to \$100 may be offered for charitable donation on each award recipient's behalf. Donations must go to a charitable 501(c)(3) organization with a literary or educational mission of the award recipient's choice. You can learn more about the program, and review the winning entries, at [SamuelEells.org](http://SamuelEells.org).

## **Non-Fiction**

1st: Jason Haas, Wesleyan University 2000  
2nd: Jason Haas, Wesleyan University 2000  
3rd: No award given

## **Fiction**

1st: Nessa Burns Reifsnyder, Bowdoin College 1986  
2nd: Harper Hansen, George Washington University 2018  
3rd: Mads O'Brien, Wesleyan University 2016

## **Poetry**

1st: David Jilk, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1985  
2nd: Sharisse Kanet, Wesleyan University 2006  
3rd: Ian Hochberg, Brown University 2001

## **Photography**

1st: Joseph Staub, Wesleyan University 1992  
2nd: Sharisse Kanet, Wesleyan University 2006  
3rd: Beth Hollander, Brown University 2004

# 2019 Clarence A. Seward Scholarship Honorees

The Samuel Eells Literary and Educational Foundation would like to congratulate those undergraduates who have been awarded Seward Scholarships for 2019–20. These competitive-based grants are awarded on behalf of Clarence A. Seward. The scholarships go to those individuals who demonstrate not just scholarly achievement but also leadership and significant contributions to the community at their college or university. This year's honorees include:

Marco Harnam Kaisth, University of Chicago 2021  
Melissa Shuey, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 2020  
Brennan Burns, University of Pennsylvania 2020  
Stephanie Gemmell, George Washington University 2021  
Nathan Mullen, Wesleyan University 2020  
Alex Perry, Kenyon College 2021

# 2018 ALPHA DELTA PHI SOCIETY FUND APPEAL HONOR ROLL

Includes Donations to the Alpha Delta Phi Society, Donations to the SELEF Chamberlain Fund, and Reported Contributed Expenses.  
Donations made during 2019 are not reflected in this Honor Roll, but will be listed in the Honor Roll in the next issue of Society Xaipe.

*Monthly Giving Club Donors in Italics*

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE (\$2,500+)

Chad Wolfsheimer, Brunonian 2000

James Kavanaugh, Bowdoin 2015

*James Sabo, Bowdoin 1992*

Richard Schwartz, Brunonian 1986

Robert McKelvey, Middletown 1959

*Thomas Clark, Bowdoin 1999*

Zanne Gerrard, Middletown 1994

## GOVERNOR'S CIRCLE (\$1,000–2,499)

*David Clodfelter, Bowdoin 1989*

Eric McClelland, Brunonian 1995

Jordan Copeland, Brunonian 1994

Kenneth Osgood, Middletown 1985

*Kristen Soule, Brunonian 1999*

*Laura Hellwig, Capital 2016*

Lisa Copeland, Brunonian 1994

Marisa Blitstein, Brunonian 2003

Michael Blitstein, Brunonian 2003

*Peter Goldstein, Brunonian 2008*

*Peter Kester, Bowdoin 1987*

Raghav Sharma, Brunonian 1996

*Timothy Smith, Brunonian 1993*

## CHAIRS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE (\$500–999)

Austin Cohen, Columbia 2007

*Brian Ferrell-Locke, Brunonian 2001*

*Christine Chapman, Brunonian 2014*

*Elizabeth Jenny Flanagan, Middletown 1983*

Joan Matelli, Middletown 1992

*Kristin Bergman, Brunonian 2011*

Matt Schechter, Bowdoin 1991

Steven Crowe, Stanford 1967

Vihang Mehta, Brunonian 2012

## SIBLINGS-IN-ARMS (\$250–499)

*Alec Moore, Brunonian 1990*

Andrew Del Donno, Brunonian 2006

Cailyn Hansen, Brunonian 2019

Christie Gibson, Brunonian 2006

*David Ragsdale, Bowdoin 2006*

*Gregory Golrick, Brunonian 2002*

James Coburn, Brunonian 2001

*Jennifer Ragsdale, Brunonian 1998*

Leah Stern, Middletown 2006

Marissa Bergman, Brunonian 2014

*Paul Neshamkin, Columbia 1963*

Robert Volgman, Brunonian 2014

*Thomas Giordano, Columbia 1986*

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## Monthly Giving Club Donors in Italics.

### LILIES OF THE VALLEY (\$1–249)

Aaron Cooper, Penn 2020	Edmund LeFevre, Brunonian 1986	Kylen Moynihan, Middletown 2017
Aaron Rosenberg, Brunonian 2011	Edward Koch, Bowdoin 1958	<i>Kylie Madden, Capital 2017</i>
Adam Cath, Brunonian 2007	Edward Yasuna, Columbia 1967	Lydia Ramharack, Penn 2018
Alexandra Moehring, Binghamton 2016	<i>Elizabeth Dillon, Capital 2019</i>	<i>Lynn Cartwright-Punnett, Middletown 2007</i>
Alexis Bhadha, Capital 2019	Emily Kanarek, Binghamton 2019	Madeleine O'Brien, Middletown 2016
<i>Alina Lacombe, Capital 2016</i>	<i>Emily Law, Capital 2019</i>	Maria Salameh, Brunonian 2020
Alina Whatley, Middletown 2018	<i>Eren Can Ileri, Brunonian 2018</i>	<i>Mark Derby, Bowdoin 1995</i>
Amber Chong, Columbia 2021	Erhard Konerding, Middletown 1994	Mark Weingartner, Columbia 1980
Andrew Brown, Brunonian 2015	Eric Wheatley, Brunonian 1994	Max Morant, Penn 2015
Anisha Bandaranaike, Brunonian 2017	Erik Bergman, Columbia 1973	Meghan Sharkey, Stanford 1995
<i>Annye Bone, Middletown 1990</i>	Ernest Hildner, Middletown 1961	Melissa Diaz, Brunonian 2011
Arthur Delmhorst, Columbia 1960	Evan Finkelstein, Binghamton 2014	Michael Arguello, Stanford 1985
August Fuertes, Brunonian 2020	Fernando Villagra, Binghamton 2019	Michael Sugarman, Binghamton 2018
<i>Baird Bream, Brunonian 2010</i>	Frederick Hagemester, Stanford 1968	Michelle Fisher, Middletown 2019
Benedict Bolton, Stanford 2019	Gabe Auerbach, Binghamton 2019	Michelle Katz, Middletown 2009
Brennan Burns, Penn 2020	George Morfogen, Brunonian 1954	Monique Kahn, Brunonian 1991
Brent Curtis, Brunonian 1991	Giulio Giuffrida, Middletown 2019	Nessa Reifsnnyder, Bowdoin 1986
<i>Brian Guest, Brunonian 2013</i>	Haley Brush, Ursinian 2017	Nicholas Foeger, Brunonian 2002
Caleb Raff, Capital 2016	Hannah Gribetz, Brunonian 2015	Nicole Kosar, Ursinian 2020
Carly Blaugher, Rensselaer 2018	Harper Hansen, Capital 2018	Nora Hennessey, Capital 2019
Carolyn Connolly, Ursinian 2017	Harvey Taylor, Stanford 1967	Padma Lingechetti, Binghamton 2015
Carolyn Dundes, Middletown 2017	Ian Kavanaugh, Capital 2020	Pamela Sweig, Rensselaer 2020
Celina Kelly, Columbia 2009	Irisa Cisternino, Capital 2018	Paul Johnson, Brunonian 2016
Charles Allison, Brunonian 1966	Isabella Martinez, Brunonian 2017	Peter Reifsnnyder, Bowdoin 1989
Chiara DeMelfi, Ursinian 2019	Jack Kohn, Brunonian 1984	Peter Wolfenden, Brunonian 1988
Chris Jackson, Middletown 2020	James Beamis, Middletown 1977	<i>Philip Arevalo, Brunonian 2011</i>
<i>Christina Van Aken, Stanford 1995</i>	<i>Jamie Martin-McNaughton, Brunonian 2003</i>	Rachel Quinn, Binghamton 2019
Concetta Magliochetti, Ursinian 2019	Jane Sharp, Brunonian 1991	Randolph Austill, Middletown 1981
<i>Craig Chan, Brunonian 2013</i>	Jason Blumenkrantz, Brunonian 2000	Richard Grimm, Middletown 1968
<i>Craig Cheslog, Bowdoin 1993</i>	Jeffrey Gelles, Stanford 1985	Robert Boyd, Middletown 2008
<i>Daniel Ruan, Rensselaer 2019</i>	<i>Jeffrey Yaus, Middletown 1994</i>	Robert Wood, Brunonian 1958
Daniel Tatar, Brunonian 2014	Jenna Tishler, Brunonian 2020	Roger Giraud, Brunonian 1970
Daven McQueen, Brunonian 2019	John Howland, Bowdoin 1987	Ronald Beimel, Brunonian 2006
David Ehrlich, Stanford 1984	John Matcovich, Stanford 1983	Ruben Martinez, Binghamton 2013
David Howe, Bowdoin 1992	Jonathan Bodow, Brunonian 1992	Samuel Davidoff-Gore, Brunonian 2015
Dean Goossen, Columbia 1969	Jonathan Lamb, Brunonian 1999	<i>Samuel Judd, Granite 2011</i>
Dena Schwartz, Penn 2013	Jordan Welch, Plattsburgh 2019	Scot Spicer, Brunonian 1972
Deniyale Levin, Ursinian 2020	Kari Dahlen, Brunonian 1996	Steve Ehrfurth, Fraternity 2006
Derrick Alderman, Bowdoin 1996	Katherine Iribe, Middletown 2004	Terrie Eastmade, Bowdoin 1997
Dimitri Fulconis, Middletown 2020	Katherine Wasdin, Brunonian 2003	Tiffany Moustakas, Binghamton 2015
Donald French, Fraternity 1953	Kayla Gladle, Plattsburgh 2019	William Kirsner, Middletown 1991
<i>Donald Karon, Brunonian 1973</i>	Kenneth Ritt, Brunonian 1974	<i>Zachary Wilson, Brunonian 2012</i>
Douglas Rapp, Brunonian 2008	Kim Ladd, Middletown 2013	

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# 2019 Convention Report (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

topics would wind up dominating the weekend: changes to the rules governing how Convention would operate and amending the Constitution to provide better representation to the affiliate chapters.

Changing the rules governing Convention was something that had been in discussion for a long time. The traditional suggested use of Robert's Rules of Order has often led to more confusion than it resolved and it was felt by many that the strict adherence to it intimidated people out of participating, or that it led to Phantom Menace—levels of confusing bureaucracy as people tried to figure out what exactly we were voting on.

Despite those rules officially being listed as only guidelines, there was rampant debate about abandoning them completely. At the end of it all, the Convention agreed to

try something new, and allowed Parliamentary Christine Chapman, Brunonian 2014, to moderate debate as they saw fit, and happily, things did wind up running smoothly throughout the weekend.

Modifying the Constitution originally started at the 2018 Convention, when the affiliate chapters asked for voting rights and a clearer pathway to chapterhood.

A task force was created following that Convention to review the existing Constitution, clean up various inconsistencies, and correct language. The task force was also created to investigate better ways to provide representation to affiliate chapters without creating situations where affiliates could outvote chartered chapters or would have no incentive to formally pursue a charter because they already had a vote.





# 2019 Convention Report (continued)

*(Continued from page 8)*

Thanks to a suggestion from Haley Brush, Ursinian 2017, the usual Saturday afternoon business session grind was avoided, as rather than debate the points amongst 106 people, Convention instead broke into groups of 6–8 to discuss individually, before reconvening as a group.

This led to the smoothest business sessions in recent years, and ultimately, the changes were approved by Convention and subsequently ratified by the individual chapters.

While these two topics dominated the weekend, there was still plenty more to discuss.

Amidst the traditional chapter reports and election proceedings, attendees participated in dozens of breakout sessions over two days to discuss subjects meaningful to them. Some of these included the budget, mental health, updating the pledge manual, and conflict resolution.

Recruiting and chapter health was once again at the forefront, as Ursinian reported back that they were in danger of closing due to low numbers. Attendees rallied together to offer them support and assistance during their upcoming rush.

The affiliate discussions were quite apropos, as Cameron Stice and Radasia Blaylock from Indiana State University were at Convention as guests of the Board, as we each tried to determine if there was a fit. Happily, we did fit, and on Sunday morning, the Board voted to invite them to be our newest Chapter Affiliate, New Leaf.

This year featured two sets of guest speakers, with Lia James and Christopher Guest from Human Inclusion speaking on Saturday, and Jennifer Dorsey from Uplift speaking on Sunday about topics including consent, power dynamics, creating inclusive teams, and offering feedback in a tactful manner.

For the seventh year in a row, the Development Committee organized a Convention Donation Matching Challenge to encourage young and first-time donors to contribute to the Society. The weekend continued to break records: 101 young donors contributed over \$4,171 with a total of \$32,580 raised.

Convention concluded as Emily Law, Capital 2019, and Jim Sabo, Bowdoin 1992, put in their third appearance as Banquet MCs, opening the evening's festivities with a parody of the Elvis classic "A Little Less Conversation," then proceeding to an evening of literary exercises and awards.



# A Record-Breaking and Successful Matching Challenge!

Our 7th annual Convention Matching Challenge was a pie-smashing success!

Thanks to the generosity of 135 participating donors, we raised over \$32,000 for the Society. 101 undergraduate and young alumni crushed our previous record of 87 participating young donors.

This year's program included a fun tribute to the new Penn Chapter as Vice President Dena Schwartz, Penn 2013, took the role of pieing her sibling, Assistant Director of Expansion, Max Morant, Penn 2016. (Don't worry, all parties were fully consenting.)



Thanks to donors like you, the Society is well on its way to funding additional literary, educational, and leadership programming. You're making it possible to:

- Provide financial aid for initiation fees to 100% of the new members who request it
- Accept 100% of requests for reduced rates at Convention
- Expand to our first Midwest Chapter—Indiana State University

We are grateful to everyone who participated in the Convention Matching Challenge. Your donations make the Alpha Delta Phi Society more inclusive and accessible.

You can join us by making a gift a [ADPS.org/Donate](https://ADPS.org/Donate).

## Brunonian Chapter to Host 2020 Convention

We are thrilled to announce that the 2020 Alpha Delta Phi Society Convention and Leadership Training Conference (Convention) will be hosted by our Brunonian Chapter, and held in Providence, Rhode Island.

We hope you will join us for a weekend of socializing and celebrating with your fellow Alpha Deltas.

The Brunonian Convention will be held from March 5–8, 2020. Delegates, Society Officers, and other Convention attendees will meet for the start of business on Friday morning, and continue through Saturday evening. The Board of Governors will be meeting on Thursday and Sunday, bookending the Convention.

Excursions and social activities will be planned throughout the extended weekend and we will showcase the best that the Providence has to offer. And in an attempt to make Convention weekend more inclusive and

family-friendly, we plan to have childcare available, so bring the kids!

In the coming months, we will be releasing more information regarding dates, times, hotel, registration, additional activities, and tips on traveling to Providence in March.

We look forward to reuniting, rallying, renewing mystic ties with our brothers, sisters, siblings, and loved ones this spring at the 2020 Alpha Delta Phi Society Convention!





# The Society's Literary Tradition (continued)

*(Continued from page 2)*

Society was founded. It did not simply refer to a specific academic field, and it did not call to mind images of men in waistcoats sitting quietly around a fireplace and composing sonnets. Rather, “literature” could refer to the whole range of ideas, knowledge, and intellectual pursuits outside of the academic canon.

The colonial American colleges were aimed primarily at training clergy, and they taught a narrow curriculum focused mostly on logic, the Bible, and the Classical languages; the new colleges of the early republic such as Hamilton followed this blueprint, merely adding a few more courses in physical science.

However, by the 1810s, as the booming popular press churned out pamphlets, newspapers, and the first literary magazines, often carrying unorthodox ideas and styles inspired by German romanticism, college students’ curiosity strained beyond the traditional canon. At the colleges, “literary” came to refer to the students’ underground world of smuggled books and broadsheets, of plays and debates surreptitiously staged in dormitories. This world was sometimes organized into literary and debating clubs that competed fiercely for star performers.

When Eells and his compatriots formed Alpha Delta Phi, they clearly wished to transcend the existing literary societies’ partisan rivalries while retaining their sense of intellectual adventure: the new society would be literary in the broadest and most “comprehensive” sense, “providing for every variety of taste and talent, and embracing every department of literature and science.”

What is more, their experiment aimed at the creation of a new intellectual persona distinct from the staid clergymen that the colleges traditionally produced; the Society would supposedly instill a “true philosophical spirit,” reforming one’s “whole being.” In this way, students aspired to seize control of their own character formation out of the hands of the faculty.

Eells himself made his mark after graduation not only through teaching and the practice of law, but also through his addresses to the literary and debating societies that sprung up all over the antebellum republic; his most famous speech defended the teaching of the Greco–Roman Classics against the mounting religious attacks on their “immoral” sexual content.

Eells and his cohorts can be seen as less famous parallels to the coterie of Transcendentalist philosophers that formed at the same time around Ralph Waldo Emerson, who like Eells, came from a long line of Congregational clergymen, but left the ministry to pursue a life of philosophical reflection and social commentary. In his 1837 address to the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Cambridge, Emerson prophesied that poetry would soon become the “pole–star” of American education, giving shape to a new man and a new American culture that threw off burdensome inheritance of the Old World.

This expansive, sometimes transgressive, and vaguely nationalistic sense of “literature” suffused the life of Alpha Delta Phi in the nineteenth century. Brothers in the Victorian–era chapters held a rotation of business, essay, and debate meetings, presenting and critiquing one another’s writings on social and moral topics and wrestling with the sensitive political questions of their time. In the mid–1800s, Brothers in the Brunonian Chapter discussed arguments about George Eliot, the abolition of debtors’ prisons, the independence of Liberia, and the Civil War; the records from 1873 note a particularly “protracted” and “animated” debate over whether women in the US should have the right to vote. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the Society’s sense of “literature” began to shift towards the modern meaning of artistic prose and poetry, and formal discussions gradually moved away from essays on moral

*(Continued on page 15)*

## **The Alpha Delta Phi Society’s Headquarters Has A New Address!**

**All future inquiries should  
now be mailed to:**

**2242 North Baldwin Way, Unit 5B  
Palatine, IL 60074  
Phone: (847) 581-1992**

**A special thank you to  
Terrie Eastmade, Bowdoin 1997, for all  
of her hard work at headquarters!**

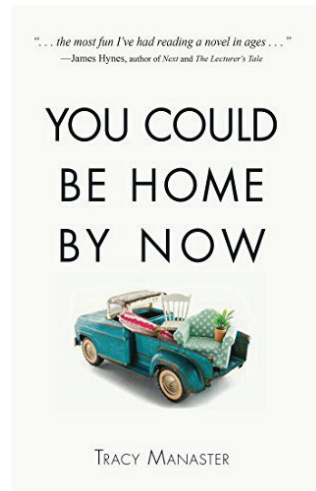


# Society Book Reviews

## ***You Could be Home by Now* by Tracy Manaster, Middletown 2001**

A review by Sigrid Burnet, Middletown 2000

The deftest of stories seem effortless, channeling readers from laughter to heartache and back in gripping and satisfying emotional roller coasters. Tracy Manaster's (Middletown 2001) *You Could be Home by Now* is a stunning example of such an excellently curated reader's journey.



Set in a 55+ community where golf carts roam the land and yard signs are punishable offenses, we are treated to three distinct experiences: a teenager sentenced to staying with her grandmother for the summer, a young professional in desperate personal circumstances, and a retired divorcé with a hidden agenda. Their disparate circumstances, experiences, and reactions when a resident is caught violating the rules weave a captivating, believable world.

The protagonists each have their own flavor, and it is hard to choose a favorite among them. Who will be your favorite protagonist? You won't know unless you read it! Mine is Lily, the perfectly coifed beauty expert who just so happens to be into girls. I love that she gets to be a real gay teenager, with all the self-involvement of that age without being a "noble homo" or "fairy godmother" or "cautionary tale." Plus, I'm using some of her beauty tips now. Sometimes when I look in the mirror I wonder, "What would Lily say to me?" and I make better choices.

Of course, though Lily is my favorite protagonist, I identify the most with Seth, who is trying to heal from a shattering loss while also working to ward off the more devastating blow of losing his connection to his wife. His sections are almost painful to read—but in the lance the boil, treat the infection so that healing can begin sort of way.

Also, we get to look into the seedy (or at least somewhat less than perfectly manicured) underbelly of a retirement community, and who hasn't wondered what they get up to in those places?

This book delves deeply into comedy and pathos, and is perfect to curl up with and lose yourself. Each time I reread it, the already vivid characters breathe and live a little more in my mind. *You Could be Home by Now* does not provide any easy answers to the tougher questions of life, which for me, is more satisfying than saccharine tales with perfect endings. Manaster provides hope in fragile, wounded, but also triumphant ways that feel authentic to actual life.

## ***Feeling Things in Public Places* by Carling Mars, Columbia 2010**

A review by Elizabeth Camlin, LCSW-C

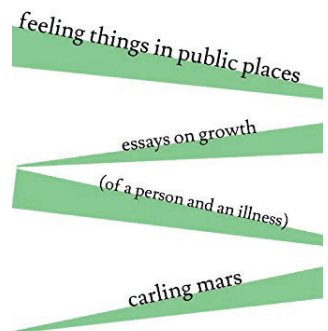
When I started working as a therapist, I found that my clinical training was lacking in a really important area: understanding what the lived experience of navigating mental illness is actually like.

How does it feel to have your reality shift underneath you? What is it like to have to trust the people around you, rather than what you see, hear, taste, and smell in front of you? What does growing insight and awareness mean—and what does it look like?

Mars answers these questions—and more—in her collection of essays about her life as a queer, genderqueer/semi-femme, mentally ill, disabled human. (She also has a very firm stance on identity—first language, for all those who were taught—like me!—in school to use person—first language. So, Lesson 1: check your assumptions.)

By examining and contextualizing her writing from journals she has kept over the years, Mars has laid out her growth on paper for others to see, understand,

(Continued on page 13)



# Society Book Reviews (continued)

(Continued from page 12)

and connect with. There are struggles with identity, history, privilege, and reality. Her memoir of living with schizoaffective disorder stands in the good company of Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, Meri Nana-Ama Danquah, Dr. Elyn Saks, and Andrew Solomon.

Reading this as her friend makes me inordinately proud and sad at the same time, because her experience clearly demonstrates the difficulties in navigating mental health care in this country and the true costs of chronic illnesses.

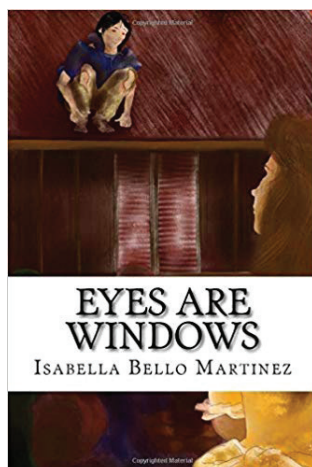
But reading this as a professional is a solemn reminder that providers need to actively listen to our patients, spend time with them, and explore their lives together. We cannot diagnose in a vacuum. We cannot treat without asking more questions rather than jumping in with prescribed answers. We need to remember that our patients are the experts in their lives, even in the moments where they use different language to describe their experiences. We need to see each patient as a complex human being. Ultimately, Mars' work is a callback to an unasked question our work-hungry culture asks: does the life of an ill, disabled person have meaning? The answer is clear and obvious—a resounding, loving, earth-rattling “YES.”

## ***Eyes Are Windows* by Isabella Bello Martinez, Brunonian 2017**

A review by Dayton Williams, Brunonian 2017

*Eyes Are Windows* is a fantasy novel set in the vibrant and tumultuous land of Erate. The continent, brimming with intrigue and on the brink of cataclysmic war, is carved up into rival kingdoms based upon the hue of their people's eyes.

From the distinguished Gold Coast to the proud Blue Lakes, from the cosmopolitan Central City to the expansive Great Forest, the reader will find themselves awash in a kaleidoscopic adventure



complete with star-crossed love, dread pirates, elegant masquerades, political deception, and lasting friendship.

While exploring perspectives across Erate, Martinez displays an innate ability to draw her reader intimately into the lives of her characters. Through skillful weaving of dialogue and narration, Martinez crafts personalities as rich and complex as the spectrum itself.

The story primarily follows Princess Star of the Gold Coast, an intrepid young woman who finds her optimism and hopeful ambition clashing with the heavy reality of a fraught political sphere as she takes her first steps into adulthood. Looking to rebuild the society she remembers from her youth, Star boldly sets out to find the next generation of Erate's leadership.

Along the way, she re-discovers old friends and uncovers secrets and connections among the kingdoms that she never expected to find. Star learns that the best path forward is not in recreating the past, but in using its mistakes to build a better future.

The world of *Eyes Are Windows* is well-crafted and the story is intriguing and full of unexpected twists and turns. But undoubtedly, the most impressive feat of the novel is Martinez's skillful balancing of the complex dynamics among a large cast of characters with the time and emotional investment in each individual. Erate is a colorful, immersive world and *Eyes Are Windows* is an absolute joy to read.

## **Join Alpha Deltas From Across the Nation**

**Alpha Delta Phi Society's 2020  
Convention & Leadership Training Conference**

**Hosted by the Brunonian Chapter  
March 5-8, 2020, in Providence, R.I.**

**For more information  
visit [www.adps.org/convention](http://www.adps.org/convention)**

# Meet the New Society Graduate Governors

## Kari Dahlen, Brunonian 1996

Kari has served the Phi in various roles, including Secretary of the Society, Awards Committee Chair, and on the Board of Governors. She is interested in starting a peer counseling program to support fellow siblings during times of crisis. She currently uses her computer, HR, A/P, A/R, financial, and medical knowledge to assist management with a group of assisted living and nursing homes.



## Melissa Diaz, Brunonian 2011

Melissa serves as the Director of Chapter Services, having first joined the team in early 2017. Professionally, Melissa is building a career in public policy and currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy at the George Washington University, where her final research project focuses on funding for Clean Water Act programs at the state level.



## Peter Goldstein, Brunonian 2008

Peter serves as the chair of the Lifelong Experience committee, and originated the Society's graduate mentoring program in 2018. Inspired by his undergraduate experience with the Society, Peter founded Bay State Commons, a cohousing community in development in Massachusetts. In his professional life, Peter leads a small software team at Google.



## Dena Schwartz, Penn 2013

A member of the founding class at Penn, Dena is currently Vice President of the Board of Governors and serves on the Development committee. Professionally, Dena is a consultant at EAB, a research and technology firm serving K-12 schools and institutions of higher learning. She is interested in questions of volunteer sustainability within the Society.



## Join the Alpha Delta Phi Society On Social Media!

**[www.adps.org](http://www.adps.org)**

**Twitter: [@adpsociety](https://twitter.com/adpsociety)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/AlphaDeltaPhiSociety](https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlphaDeltaPhiSociety)**

**LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/adpsociety>**

**Instagram: [@adpsociety](https://www.instagram.com/adpsociety)**



# Society Elects 2019–2020 Officers

The Alpha Delta Phi Society elected officers for the 2019–2020 year. The re-elected officers include:

- President Jim Sabo, Bowdoin 1992
- Vice President Dena Schwartz, Penn 2013
- Treasurer Laura Hellwig, Capital 2016
- Executive Director Michael Blitstein, Brunonian, 2003

We would like to introduce you to the newly elected officers, who include:

## **Assistant Treasurer Alison Errico, Brunonian 2006**

As an undergrad, Alison served as Chapter Treasurer, Rush Chair, Vice President, and Undergraduate Governor. She currently works as the Radiation Safety Officer and Laser Safety Officer at Boston University and Boston Medical Center. She lives in Peabody, Massachusetts, with her husband, Andrew Del Donno, Brunonian 2006.

## **Secretary Carly Blaughter, Rensselaer 2019**

Carly is a 2018 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is the Society's current Secretary. Having previously held the titles of Undergraduate Parliament Secretary, Student Governor, and President, she looks forward to bringing the enthusiasm she had for the Phi as an undergraduate member to the Society's executive body. In her free time, Carly enjoys sewing, interior design, making kombucha, and petting dogs.

## **Assistant Secretary Haley Brush, Ursinian 2017**

Haley serves as the Assistant Secretary and is thrilled to be part of the national leadership. She first started in the Phi as a founder of the Ursinian Affiliate, where she fell in love with the interconnectedness of the Society's chapters and truly national siblinghood. Haley moved to Washington, D.C. last fall after completing an AmeriCorps VISTA year of service with the City of Philadelphia and now works in higher education consulting.

# The Society's Literary Tradition (continued)

*(Continued from page 13)*

and political topics toward readings and commentaries on popular authors such as Robert Louis Stevenson and Edgar Allan Poe. By the 1930s, debates were discontinued, and it became more common for Brothers to share their own creative writings, particularly short stories.

By at least the early 1960s, the national Fraternity began holding a blind literary contest, which has continued in various forms to this day. A new literary competition for graduate members recently began. The "literary" spirit is evidently strongly concentrated among the co-ed chapters, considering that in recent years, Society siblings have swept almost every prize category. (You can see the most recent winners on pages 4–5, and review the prize-winning entries at [SamuelEells.org/literary-competition/](http://SamuelEells.org/literary-competition/).)

Still, the role of literature varies tremendously from one chapter to another, appearing in different forms and to different degrees in their formal social, recruitment,

and pledging events. Several chapters today hold open mics or book giveaways; the Middletown Chapter has sometimes published a literary magazine for the Wesleyan community. Some chapters include literary readings or performances in their pledging process; Middletown Siblings consult with pledges to assign them to broad "departments of literature," as alluded to by the Fraternity's founders. Moreover, the literary aspect of the Alpha Delta Phi has proved to be especially crucial to newer chapters such as Capital, which must strive to distinguish itself on a campus already crowded with Greek-letter groups.

Irrespective of these variations among chapters, most of the literary life of the Society surely takes place informally, in young siblings' intellectual pursuits and in their interactions with one another. Wherever Alpha Deltas seek to learn outside of the walls of a classroom, and to grow and develop their characters among their peers, there the "literary" aspect of the Society, in the deepest sense of the word, endures.

# ALPHA DELTA PHI SOCIETY

## CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES

Binghamton Chapter, Binghamton University  
Bowdoin College Graduate Organization, Bowdoin College  
Brunonian Chapter, Brown University  
Capital Chapter, George Washington University  
Columbia Chapter, Columbia University  
Granite Graduate Chapter, University of New Hampshire  
Middletown Chapter, Wesleyan University  
Penn Chapter, University of Pennsylvania  
Stanford Graduate Chapter, Stanford University  
New Leaf Affiliate, Indiana State University  
Rensselaer Affiliate, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Ursinian Affiliate, Ursinus College

## OFFICERS

President: Jim Sabo, Bowdoin 1992  
[president@adps.org](mailto:president@adps.org)

Vice President: Dena Schwartz, Penn 2013

Secretary: Carly Blaugher, Rensselaer 2018

Assistant Secretary: Haley Brush, Ursinian 2017

Treasurer: Laura Hellwig, Capital 2016

Assistant Treasurer: Alison Errico, Brunonian 2006

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Kristen Caulfield, Brunonian 2021  
Christine Chapman, Brunonian 2014  
Kari Dahlen, Brunonian 1996  
Melissa Diaz, Brunonian 2011  
C.F. Fariello, Penn 2020  
Peter Goldstein, Brunonian 2008  
Ian Kavanaugh, Capital 2020  
Alanna Kwoka, Brunonian 2010  
Kylie Madden, Capital 2017  
Joan Matelli, Middletown 1992  
Jim Sabo, Bowdoin 1992  
Dena Schwartz, Penn 2013  
Emily Sidor, Binghamton 2021  
Kristen Soule, Brunonian 1999  
Ashley Taylor, Granite 2013  
Zachary Wilson, Brunonian 2012

## MAJOR INITIATIVE LEADS

Chapter Services: Melissa Diaz, Brunonian 2011  
Communications: Tiffany Moustakas, Binghamton 2015  
Development: Alanna Kwoka, Brunonian 2010  
Events: Kylie Madden, Capital 2017  
Expansion: Sam Davidoff-Gore, Brunonian 2015  
Member Safety: Christine Chapman, Brunonian 2014  
Operations: Alina Lacombe, Capital 2015.5

## HEADQUARTERS

Executive Director: Michael Blitstein, Brunonian 2003  
[ExecutiveDirector@adps.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@adps.org)  
Headquarters Administrator: Terrie Eastmade, Bowdoin 1997  
2242 North Baldwin Way, Unit 5B, Palatine, IL 60074  
847-581-1992 • [hq@adps.org](mailto:hq@adps.org)

## THE SOCIETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.adps.org](http://www.adps.org)  
Twitter: [@adpsociety](https://twitter.com/adpsociety) or #adps  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alphadeltaphisociety>  
LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/adpsociety>  
Instagram: [@adpsociety](https://www.instagram.com/adpsociety)

## ROSTER OF SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

Robert G. McKelvey, Middletown 1959 (August 1992–October 2001)  
Charles E. Gross, Jr., Brunonian 1972 (October 2001–November 2005)  
Craig C. Cheslog, Bowdoin 1993 (November 2005–March 2012)  
Chad Wolfsheimer, Brunonian 2000 (March 2012–March 2015)  
Kristen Soule, Brunonian 1999 (March 2015–March 2018)  
Jim Sabo, Bowdoin 1992 (March 2018–present)

The Alpha Delta Phi Society, formed by a group of chapters that withdrew from the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity in 1992, is an independent and legally separate gender-inclusive organization not affiliated with the Fraternity.