

The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2001

Report From The Sage

Being sage of Mu Chapter has been an incredible experience so far. Past sages have claimed that no president ever comes out of the position the same as he went in—and I have definitely seen changes in myself as well as in the fraternity as a whole. Mu Chapter is doing very well: We recently initiated 15 young men and held elections in which many of these new brothers took over important positions. I am confident that they will lead Sigma Pi with the same fervor as others before them.

My position as sage has afforded me many challenges, and I am enjoying every minute of it. One special experience that I will forever hold in my memory is my President's Weekend. Every spring, the new pledge class is encouraged to take the sage out and show him a good time at some point during the semester. This year's pledge class decided to make it a trip that would be remembered for years to come.

As I was walking out of my last class one Friday back in March, I was greeted by a couple of pledges who encouraged me to accompany them back to their dorm. I had a great time hanging out with the guys. We went out to dinner, watched a movie, and spent time playing some video games. I was content with the good time that I had and was ready to return to the Pi house. But the weekend was just beginning. We then piled into a couple of cars and drove to the airport. I thought it was a joke at first, and they were just trying to be funny. But to my surprise, I boarded a plane shortly after, escorted by 10 pledges. The plane landed in Orlando, Florida. Since one pledge, Shyam Sankar, lives in Orlando, he arranged for us to stay at his place for a couple of nights.

I was in complete shock the entire time. It was probably the most fun I have had in a single weekend. The highlight

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Alumni Events Planned On Campus, Elsewhere

It has been a busy semester at the Pi house. I have been fortunate this semester to meet a lot of alumni for the first time, get to know some alums better, and learn a good deal about what my job as alumni secretary and member of Mu Chapter's exec board entails.

Early in April, the actives held the annual Sigma Pi Alumni Weekend. It was a wonderful weekend, and the alums who made the trip had a great time. It was good to see a large number of recent grads as well as others such as Mike Quaid '75, Gale Brooks '54, Jim Palmer '58, and everyone else. Over the weekend, we made a lot of headway on the McGraw Place project, the alumni directory, and the housing situation.

You will notice an addition to this issue of *The Muse*. We have begun a new article called "Alumni Reflections." Ben Kellogg '40 was asked to write the first article about his Sigma Pi days in the late '30s. If you would like to recount a story from your days as an active in Mu Chapter, please contact me at jrs52@cornell.edu.

We are looking forward to Reunion Weekend, June 7-10. The class of '81 will be renting the house: Joe Ruocco, Jon Pettee, John Altmeyer, and Tom Silver are planning to come up and stay at the Pi house with an additional five to 10 others from that year. On Saturday, June 9, Sigma Pi will hold an informal open house and cocktail reception from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. All alumni and families are welcome. The house will be open for the whole weekend, so if you are around, we encourage you to stop in.

Additionally, I am hoping to plan an event over the summer in New York City. I think we will hold a barbecue in Central Park or something like that. Please watch your mail for details.

I am looking forward to another semester of service. Please note on your calendars that Homecoming 2001 is slated for October 12, 13, and 14. We hope to see many of you there.

Fraternally,
John Scagnelli '02
Alumni Secretary



Adam Brown '03 and John Scagnelli '02 enjoying a game of pool.

All Is Well At Mu Chapter

I hope you are as pleased as I am to see the editorial direction that the actives are taking with *The Muse*. I think John Scagnelli (alumni secretary) is on the right track by making the articles more informative about what is happening at 730 University Avenue and particularly what some of the members are doing. The current custodians of your fraternity are a fine group of young men and worth knowing about!

The alumni directory is nearly finished. All of the data and layout are complete, and all that remains is the printing and mailing. Watch for it in the next weeks and make sure it doesn't end up in your "junk mail" pile. I hope you will use the directory to make the effort to call, write, or e-mail classmates you haven't been in contact with recently.

It has been a particularly busy year for your alumni leadership. The key items are the McGraw Place project and dealing with the mortgage debt. The McGraw Place project is a major improvement to the land we own, including the extension of parking facilities and the solution to drainage problems. It is a joint undertaking with Cornell and involves changing the property line between us and Cornell through a land swap. It is a complex undertaking that is well along, and I have high hopes that it will be completed this spring. When it is done, we will report in detail to you—certainly in time for our annual meeting at Homecoming.

We continue to be concerned with the mortgage debt and plan to have another

go at fund raising to reduce our debt. We have made a big deal about getting every brother who has called 730 University Avenue home to participate. All who visit the house spend long periods of time studying the brass plaques on the Memorial Library wall. Every brother of whatever age should care that his name is there.

I receive many notes from alumni expressing their appreciation for the work of the alumni leaders and telling me of the great reception received by those who have visited the house. These communications are energizing to all of us (particularly when they are accompanied by checks)! Recently I had a conversation with an alum brother who told me that he thought it was a lost cause because of the problems with drugs, abuse of the house, and all sorts of other things. I was stunned that there are alumni who think that these kinds of problems that once existed in our fraternity still exist! It also made me wonder if most alumni read the communications they receive. It also heightened my resolve to continue to try to get the message out that all is well with your fraternity and that you should be immensely proud to identify yourself as one of the men of Sigma Pi!

Homecoming is October 12, 13, and 14. The main event at the house will be cocktails, dinner, and entertainment on Saturday night. It is worth the trip to Ithaca!

Jim Keene '57
Alumni President

Brothers Undertake Composite Project

Maintaining a record of house history provides the current brothers of Mu Chapter with a perspective of the past so we can act in the fraternity's best interests in the future. As the herald, I am continuing the composite project that was started last year. The goal is to ring the entire dining room with framed composites as a formal illustration of our house's longevity.

We are asking our alumni to let us know which composites you have in your possession and would be willing to donate to the house for a short time. If you have a composite that we do not have at the house, we will ask you to send it to us so that we can make a copy of it. Your original will be returned promptly.

Another venture about to get under way is a lineage project. We are going to record all the known big brother/little brother lineages using family tree software. We hope to have this tree up on the Web site in the fall.

If you can contribute to our composite project, please call me at 607/277-2499 or 716/381-3873, or send me an e-mail at tra4@cornell.edu. Thank you in advance for your interest in the house and its active brothers.

Tim Altier

Report From The Sage

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was going to Disney World. We spent about 10 hours hopping from park to park. We visited three of Disney's parks, The Magic Kingdom, MGM Studios, and Epcot Center. We also experienced the nightlife of Orlando. Each night we went clubbing in Orlando and had a great time dancing and hanging out. This weekend was very successful in increasing the bonds both within the pledge class and between the pledge class and me. I got to know everyone much better, and I am now proud to call them my brothers.

I look forward to another semester of presidency, and I trust that the upcoming semester will be as eventful as the first. I hope all of you have a chance to come to Ithaca this coming fall. If you are in the area, please stop in to see us.

Steve Cerritelli '02
President



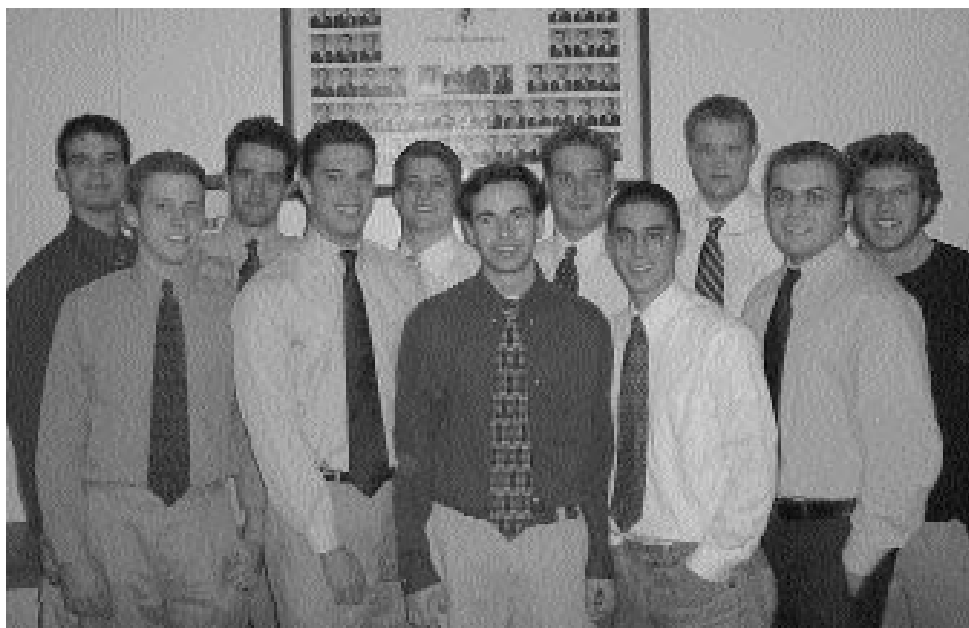
Brothers on spring break in Miami.

Senior Reflections

We're seniors, and we're old. I know it sounds weird, but if you say it a few more times, you begin to come to terms with it. I mean, it doesn't seem like we're old. It was only four years ago that we teenagers waltzed onto campus with the wind in our hair and the world at our feet. But now? Now the end of our undergraduate days has drawn nigh, and we don't get to be teenagers anymore. We blinked, and our worlds went from scrounging quarters to pay for laundry to scrounging quarters to pay for student loans. After we graduate we have to be grown-ups. We have to leave our friends and our brotherhood. We have to be *old*.

But there is an upside to graduating. We get to be *old*. The benefits of getting to be old are more than just the right to ride back onto campus on our high horses, inundating the current brothers of Mu Chapter with stories of "When we were your age...." Being old means we get to go out into the world and make something of ourselves. We're not old; we're "distinguished alumni." I can't help but look at the graduating seniors and marvel at how successful I know we're all going to be.

Three of our seniors—Adam Coen, Jonathon Coll, and Arnold Giedrimas—will be going on to medical school next year. Adam, who received his BS in biology, will most likely attend the University of Buffalo. Jonathan, who will receive his degree in history, will be at Wright State University College of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, and Arnold will head home to Connecticut to study at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Sean Sondej will stay at Cornell next year, where he will receive a master's degree in health administration. Eddie Perez-



Back row (left to right): Eddie Perez-Cortez, Dejan Grujic, Craig Huemmer, Brian Yasutis, Jonathan Coll, Dan Barber. Front row (left to right): Jeff Evans, David Zachowitz, Adam Coen, Mike David, Alex Rivera.

Cortez and former Sage Nick Kruczynski will also be staying at Cornell next year and will try to earn their master of engineering degrees. Val Elbert, who has yet to celebrate his 21st birthday, has already earned his master of engineering degree and plans to work for Verizon eBusiness next fall. Electrical engineer Brian Yasutis, after receiving many job offers, finally decided to work for a company called Acterna in Washington, DC, where he will work on coast-to-coast fiber optic networks. I know you're impressed, but I'm not even closed to finished.

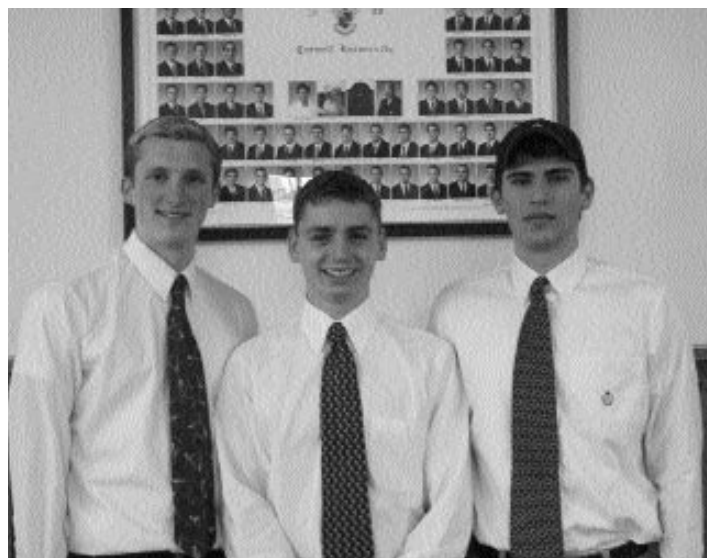
Alex Rivera will travel to Philadelphia next year to finish up his degree in communications at the University of Pennsylvania. Michael Van Ingen, who studied four languages at Cornell, is still deciding which law school he will attend in the fall. Daniel Barber, a classics major, will spend the upcoming summer months in Greece and then return home to California, where he will finally decide which career he wishes to pursue. Jeff Evans, a biological sciences major, will be on a science writing internship this summer at Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago, where

he later intends to seek employment. David Zackowitz will receive his BS in policy analysis and management and is employed as an investment-banking analyst at Lehman Brothers in New York City. Peter Hernandez will work at Abercrombie and Fitch headquarters in Ohio until he returns to business school to earn his MBA. In two interesting moves, Dejan Grujic plans to hitchhike across America after graduation before he interns for the writers of Family Circus comic strip. Craig Huemmer will be graduating with a BS in fiber science from the human ecology school and will be looking for employment in the fiber science field.

As for me, next year I'll be just down the road from Mu Chapter at Cornell Law School. People often ask me how I can handle another three years at Cornell. The truth is, it's because Cornell is where my brothers are. Maybe I'm not ready to be old just yet. Maybe if I stay near Sigma Pi just a little longer, I can retain a part of my youth while secretly getting old at the law school. I look at some of my fellow seniors in awe of how courageously they are beginning the rest of their lives.

Yeah, we're seniors, and yeah, we may be getting old, but look at the senior class and really grasp the things we've accomplished and the goals we set out to achieve. We've spent our four years here at Cornell the best way we possibly could, and now we're off to conquer the world. We're seniors, and we're proud.

Mike David '01



From left to right: Arnoldus Giedrimas, Nick Kruczynski, Val Elbert.

The Muse Mailbox

Retired from Monroe Community College in Rochester, JOHN W. LLOYD '49 writes that he and his wife follow Big Red men's ice hockey. "Had a great trip to Lake Placid for the ECAC championships. We didn't win it all, but we did 'dust' the Crimson!" The Lloyds reside at 77 Miles Circle, Fairport, NY 14450.

WILLIAM E. FORD '73 works for SONY International in Stuttgart, Germany, where he lives at Hauptstaetter Str. 61 (D-70178). E-mail reaches him at ford@sony.de.

DEREK MINIHAINE '91 and his wife, Susan, welcomed a daughter, Lauren, on March 19, 2001. "Everyone is doing very well," writes Derek, adding that other Pi-men to have children early in 2001 include ADAM GALOWITZ '90 and MARK LANGDON '91. Send congratulations to Derek and Susan at 1468 Flamingo Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

KEITH WEINGARDT '95 is a staff emergency clinician at the Pet Emergency and Specialty Center in La Mesa, California. Stay in touch with him at 10862 Tierrasanta Blvd., San Diego, CA 92124 (kwpecs@hotmail.com).

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of GERALD P. BAUER '38 and CHARLES M. BONZEY JR. '41 (January 11, 2001).

Alumni Reflections

It is an honor to be chosen as the first alumnus to write for this new column. I will do my best to describe Sigma Pi in the late '30s. Although my undergraduate days were over 60 years ago and the details are somewhat hazy, the wonderful memories still linger on.

In the late '30s, Sigma Pi had a total of 32 members. Though small, we were a close-knit, ambitious, and proud group of young men. Academically, we were ranked in the top five, and, like many of our present actives, we served on a variety of Cornell student committees.

Some of the more outstanding men of these days were Ben Andrews, Frank Abbott, George Reader, Mike Sfat, Bill Huff, Lou Conti (varsity football), Paul Mather (150 football), and Bob Mathers (intercollegiate wrestling champ).

The men of Sigma Pi excelled in sports.

As A Sigma Pi Pledge, CU's Much More Fun

Last semester was my first semester here at Cornell—and boy, did I hate it. I live in a very unsocial dorm, and I was incredibly unhappy. I considered transferring immediately, and I called and had applications sent to me. I was ready to get out of Cornell as soon as possible.

For some reason, however, I decided to come back for rush week. I was not really into the whole fraternity thing, and I am far from your average "frat" guy. But I decided that it could not hurt, and if things did not get any better, the applications would be in the mail before you could say "Big Red."

And, yes, things did change for the better. I went through rush, and I fell in love with Sigma Pi. I felt at home at 730 University Avenue, and I knew this was where I belonged. All of the brothers made me feel welcome, and I loved spending time with them.

The Greek life was what I was missing, and I now love Cornell. I did not find my social group last semester, but the fraternity is that now for me. Sigma Pi was the niche I was looking for. I am having a great time pledging, and I know that for every minute I put into the house, I will get an hour out. I spent my spring break with guys from the house, and I plan on spending many more with them as well.

Sigma Pi is great. The brothers, the laughter, the relationships, the jokes, the memories—these are things I will look back on when I think of my Cornell career. And I am only a pledge. I hope I have a chance to meet all of the alumni at some point or another in my lifetime. I am having a great time, and I am still at Cornell because of Sigma Pi.

Cory Sinclair '04

Brothers Succeed In Business

Last fall, three of Mu Chapter's brothers began a business venture on Cornell's campus. Initially, Alex Miranda, Irfaan Lalani, and Sean Sondej began Liquid Productions, a company that hosts alcohol-free events at various locations on campus, in order to expand the social options available to younger students. Over the past six months, the company has hosted four events on campus, all of which could be considered successful.

Liquid Productions is now expanding to include a catering company to rival the

current monopoly in this market. The expanded company will be open for business in the fall. Due to the extensive success of Liquid Productions, all of those involved are very confident about the success of the expanded business.

Alex, Irfaan, and Sean realize that a substantial portion of the company's success relates directly to the help and support that the brothers of Sigma Pi provided this year, and they would like to extend fraternal thanks to everyone who helped.

SPORTS UPDATE: *This year the Sigma Pi house finds itself among the leaders in campus athletics. With the infusion of new talent, we are currently sixth in all-sports standings of the fraternity division. Our volleyball team won the fraternity league, beating Phi Sig in the championship, and Gijs de Boer '02 won the campus-wide foul shooting contest.*

—Arnoldas Giedrimas '01

We continually won the university football, baseball, softball, tennis, and wrestling titles.

In later years, the men of this era learned that we owed a great deal to our fraternity for the guidance we received from Harry Specht '12 and Prof. Smith. These men were always there when needed. When a brother was failing, we closed ranks and helped in all possible ways until the problem was rectified.

As we prepared to graduate, war clouds were beginning to loom on the horizon. Soon Uncle Sam called, and we answered. Four years later, most of us returned and went on to outstanding careers. Some, unfortunately, had paid the ultimate price.

On one of my visits to Mu Chapter, I

was asked how the old house got the name "The Tool Shed." Everyone got quite a charge; it was really an affectionate name on campus, and we had great times. As the song goes, "Oh, the joys and the strife of my ol' college life/Ah, those days were the best I have known." Surely the new house can not be called the same. Thanks again, and my best wishes to all of the brothers past and present. See you all in the fall.

Fraternally,
Ben Kellogg '40

Alumni Reflections will appear in every issue of The Muse. If you are interested in writing a reflection, please contact John Scagnelli at jrs52@cornell.edu.