

The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2000

Have You Given Your Fair Share To Help Support Mu Chapter?

Perhaps one of the most encouraging things happening in the capital fund-raising business at Mu Chapter is that several recent graduates have made good-sized contributions and continue with payments intended to bring the total up to the Fair Share amount. Alumni can be 21 or 81! It is generally assumed that the older alums are in a better financial position to support the cause, but the younger alums have a great love of the fraternity also and are starting to show their support by helping financially. It is a testament to the strength of our fraternity!

In late fall an appeal went out to those members who had made gifts greater than the Fair Share amount, asking if they would support a special drive to panel the dining room and upgrade Internet access facilities in the house. The response was good in that we were able to go ahead

with the paneling, which was completed in time for the January 2000 rush. We still need more of these alums to help so that all the cost is funded by this special appeal. Many may have said to themselves, "I'll help with that," but just haven't gotten around to finding the letter and responding. Please give it some more thought and help!

The main Heritage Fund drive is devoted to reduction of the large mortgage loan. We will be concentrating on this special need in our future appeals. Remember, every alumnus who makes a Fair Share gift (\$1,000 or more) will find his name on one of the brass plaques on the Memorial Library wall. There are about 1,000 living persons who can call themselves Mu Chapter brothers; wouldn't it be wonderful if we had to find room for all those names?

The Memorial Plaque tribute continues to be a vehicle for encouraging support of the house while affording brothers the special satisfaction of celebrating the memory of classmates now gone. There are incomplete open funds to the memory of Professor William A. Smith, Richard Allan, Charles Hawkes, Martin T. Mace, Richard F. Fellows, Frank Conti, and Robert J. Henderson. All alumni received a brochure describing this program several years ago. If you would like to have one of the brochures so that you can consider establishing a memorial fund, please call Jim Keene at 402/397-2227, and one will be mailed to you.

Gift checks should be made payable to Sigma Pi Fraternity and mailed to Jim Keene, 740 S. 75th St., Omaha, NE 68114.

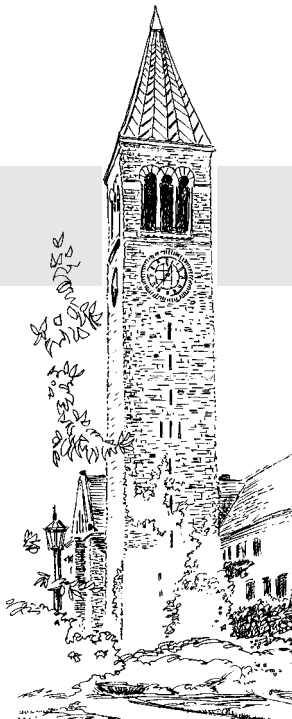
The Alumni Board

CORNELL REUNIONS June 8-11, 2000

Reception at the Pi house Saturday, June 10

A time has been reserved during Reunion Weekend festivities for members of the Greek community to visit their houses. The university has assured us that on June 10, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., no other activities will be planned, allowing all Sigma Pi men in Ithaca to drop by 730 University and see the lovely chapter house, catch up with old pals, and perhaps meet some of the actives still in town. The reception will be informal and open all day, with cocktails served for the duration.

Jonathan Coll
Alumni Secretary



Jim Keene Receives Award From Cornell

James H. Keene III '57 has been selected to receive the award for "distinguished service to the Greek system" from Cornell University's office of fraternity and sorority affairs. As Jim was unable to make the trip himself, undergraduate officers accepted the award on his behalf at the annual Greek Awards Ceremony on April 30, 2000.

The brotherhood would like to extend many thanks to Mr. Keene for his dedication and commitment to improving Greek life at Cornell and at Mu Chapter. We are proud to have such an honor bestowed upon an alumnus of our chapter because it reflects our own progress toward increasing leadership and the quality of brotherhood here at fair Cornell.

Nick Kruczynski '01, Sage

Reports From The Undergraduate Officers

Sage

Parents Weekend A Success

This year's annual Parents Weekend, March 3-5, was the most successful event of its kind in Mu Chapter's recent history. Unusually pleasant spring-like weather may have contributed to the overwhelmingly high attendance but was certainly not the only factor that motivated families to make the trip to Ithaca. For some families, Parents Weekend was the first opportunity to visit their sons at Sigma Pi and to allay any reservations they might have had about the organization their sons had decided to join. For others, it was an opportunity to visit their sons in an already familiar environment, surrounded by friends they have come to know over the past few years.

Unlike past years, events were planned for most of the day Saturday and for Sunday morning. House tours were given all day and allowed newcomers to see the condition and quality of life at a one-of-a-kind fraternity house. Many families attended an interesting and educational private tour of the Herbert F. Johnson Art Museum during the afternoon.

Cocktail hour on Saturday evening provided guests with ample time to meet many of the brothers and to discuss with them their concerns and impressions. Dinner promptly followed and was concluded with speeches by alumni board members James Keene III '57 and Dave Lefevre '60. Many families stayed at the house for several hours after dinner and continued to enjoy their stay at the Pi house. Brunch on Sunday morning concluded the events for the weekend.

This Parents Weekend was remarkable in that the house has never seen such a high number of guests for any formal event. Over 130 family members gave the newly remodeled dining room the recognition it deserved. The large attendance required special seating arrangements in order to fit everyone comfortably for dinner.

The weekend was a huge success for brothers because of the high interest and involvement of everyone in attendance. We hope families took away favorable impressions of Sigma Pi and the reassurance that Sigma Pi's brotherhood will have a positive impact on their sons' lives. For brothers, this weekend was evidence of our commitment to Sigma Pi and of our pride in working together.

Nick Kruczynski '01

House Manager

When the Pi men returned to Ithaca from winter vacation, we found ourselves returning to a much-improved house. The most noticeable changes occurred in our basement. Thanks to the efforts of the alumni, the white floor has been replaced with darker tiles, which not only improve the look of the room, but also are not dirtied as easily as the old tiles. Wood paneling was added to the walls, and the areas above the paneling were painted.

When I first walked into this new dining room, I was overwhelmed by the improvements, which give the room an entirely new feel. Other areas of the house also saw improvements. The wood floor of the first floor was stripped down and refinished. The walls of the Memorial Library and our pool room were painted dark green by Sean McEnroe and Jason Scimeme. Improvements have even been made to the outside of the house. Previous House Manager Paul Germain crafted a beautiful new sign to replace the old one, which was missing some letters.

All of these improvements have helped to ensure that the Pi house remains the finest structure on campus. We would like to thank once again all of the alumni for their donations and the brothers who helped with the project.

Craig Huemmer '01

Treasurer

Sigma Pi in Good Financial Standing

With an increasing number of brothers, Mu Chapter is handling a steadily growing budget. The larger membership has enabled us to enjoy good food and an exceptional rush program. With the help of Carolyn Austin from Sciarabba Walker, a house budget is strictly maintained, keeping us on track financially throughout the year.

The kitchen budget each year continues to grow, which gives us more flexibility with the menu. The brotherhood gathers Sunday through Thursday at 6:00 p.m. for a sit-down dinner together. Thanks to the efforts of our steward, Max Jaeger, and our chef, Patrick Spirawk, we enjoy fine meals every day. In recent weeks we have had such meals as teriyaki steak, tortellini alfredo, and champagne chicken.

Aside from the expenditures in the kitchen, large portions of the budget this year were dedicated to rush. By having a large budget with which to work, we were able to hold events for rushees that were entertaining and constructive, allowing them to meet the brotherhood in a fun, relaxed setting. Two of our favorite events were tubing at Greek Peak and attending the Syracuse-UConn basketball game. The rush program this

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Pledges, actives, and their parents dine in style in the newly renovated chapter house.

Reports From The Undergraduate Officers

(continued from page two)

year yielded us 17 pledges, who on April 19 became active members of the brotherhood. We will continue to budget generously for rush to ensure that we keep the brotherhood strong.

Mu Chapter is as financially stable as ever. With the help of Sciarabba Walker and our alumni treasurer, Jim Palmer, you can be assured that Mu Chapter is on the straight and narrow.

Fraternally,
Steve Cerritelli

Steward

Chef, Kitchen Keep Pace With Growing Brotherhood

The newly renovated dining room of the Pi house has been pleasantly full at dinner time this spring. With the addition of 17 new brothers, dinners often exceeded 50 people!

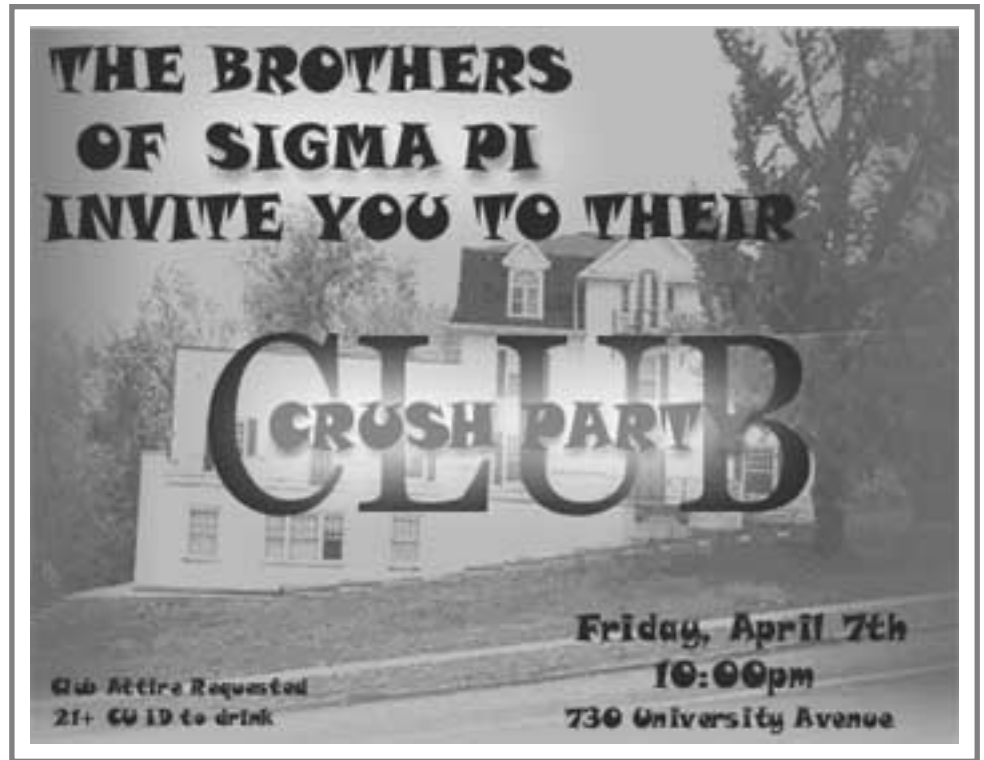
In spite of the greatly increased number of brothers, our chef, Patrick Spirawk, has done a great job keeping pace with the demands of the kitchen. We have enjoyed many steak, clam, and duck dinners over the course of the semester—and even so, Patrick has managed to stay reasonably under budget. Our social budget has also allowed us to have several formal dinners this semester, including Alumni Weekend, Parents Weekend, a winter formal, and several functions with sororities.

Overall, the semester has been a good one in the kitchen, and most brothers are quite content with the quality of meals. Visiting alumni are encouraged to attend a dinner to see the large brotherhood as well as experience the high quality of dining.

Social

Sigma Pi has had a great social semester. We started off with our annual Valentine's formal, at which the brothers, pledges, and their dates all had an incredible time. The annual Sigma Pi Sweetheart Award was presented to the long-time girlfriend of Matt Pens, Ms. Natalie Spano; we even got her to cry.

The house has been very busy in the mixer scene as well. In addition to the



Brothers and their dates dressed up for a formal dinner.

houses we have mixed with in the past (Alpha Phi, Tri-Delt, KD), we have added Pi Phi, AChiO, and Theta. We also had a four-way mixer with Phi Psi, Tri-Delt, and Theta.

Sigma Pi's annual spring crush party on April 7 met with great success. Brother

Sean McEnroe's new business, Highball Catering, catered the affair, themed Club Sigma Pi. The brothers are all looking forward to a wine tour to take place in a few weeks and also to the annual Orchid Ball to be held this year at Wagner Winery.

Mu Chapter Sets The Standard For Efficiency

When picturing an average fraternity house on Cornell's campus, the first descriptor that comes to mind is not usually *efficient*. With brothers waking up just in time for dinner and others settling down for one of many mid-afternoon naps at the same time, perfect order is not always easy in coming. Recently, however, thanks in part to suggestions from our national representative, Sigma Pi brothers have made it a priority to ensure the efficient progress of our organization.

With the house at full capacity and the brotherhood numbering more than 50, Sigma Pi has now moved into the ranks of the largest houses on campus. With this building stage complete, it is now necessary for the brothers to set organizational standards that will allow the fraternity to run smoothly.

By scheduling executive board, minor board, and house meetings at the same times each week, brothers know when

they are required to be present and the issues that will be discussed. Strict attention to the rules of parliamentary procedure as well as fraternity ritual ensures that meetings run smoothly and predictably each week.

In addition to these undertakings, we have taken many steps to demonstrate our level of organization. This year we completed all of the official end-of-year reports for Cornell and have begun requiring officers to complete their monthly evaluation forms for national. These steps will be continued in years to come and set an organizational standard for future officers. So while some continue to spend more time in bed than may be healthy and others choose to watch more movies than Siskel and Ebert ever did, Sigma Pi remains a model of efficiency (as far as fraternities go) and plans to continue on the same path.

Why I Chose To Pledge Sigma Pi

Prompted by curiosity coupled with some internal drive, I and 16 other young men who comprise the "one pledge" of Sigma Pi's Mu Chapter continue to press onward in our search for something very rare: true brotherhood and true friendship.

Few of us knew what to expect going into fall rush. I personally hadn't planned or anticipated that I would continue any farther in the process. I had heard all of the stories and stereotypes surrounding Greek life and had vowed to myself that I would have to be completely impressed by and absolutely confident in any fraternity I might pursue.

At the end of all the events, all the hype, all the fun, and all the hanging out, I was left holding three bids in my hand and was faced with a tough decision. Was I willing to devote myself wholly to any one of these places and these guys? I'd had a lot of fun, but how was I going to feel when it wasn't all fun and games, and the business and responsibilities of the house were top priority?

I thought long and hard about all the houses I had visited and all the individuals I had met over the previous week, and realized one thing. Sigma Pi stood far above any other fraternity with which I had come into contact. There were no pretensions or false fronts, just an honest group of men who were seeking to add



Ready for the formal.

to their numbers. It was just incredibly easy to talk to and hang out with all of the brothers of the house. It was surely something different. When I visited, I felt welcome, and didn't need to put on any sort of act to win them over. Most important, I could see that we all shared one common trait: our desire for a closely knit group.

My account is just one of the many, but reflective of them all. The Sigma Pi man is singled out for his successes socially, academically, and athletically, for his character, and for his loyalty. I for one wanted to be a part of something like that, and that's why I chose to accept my bid for membership and begin the pledging process.

Bryan Rivard

The Muse Mailbox

"In January I had my first tour of the house since it was rebuilt," writes LOUIS J. CONTI '41 (185 Barra Lane, Inverness, IL 60067). "Thanks to the efforts of MATT PENS '00 and some other brothers, it was a most pleasant tour. Keep up the great work to restore the 'tool shed' to its rightful place as number one on the hill." Lou adds that he enjoyed a week of eating, drinking, and swapping old stories with FRED HAVERLY '42 and PETE MATHERS '41 at Pete's place in Mount Dora, Florida, in February.

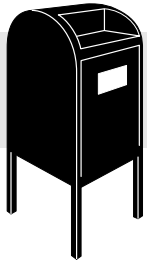
Our apologies to anyone who has tried to reach ADELBERT H. SAHLBERG '46 with the e-mail address we published in the last *Muse*. His correct address is delsahlber@aol.com, and "snail mail" reaches him at 35 Glider Circle, Elmira, NY 14903.

When he wrote in April, WILLIAM R. BROCKWAY '50 and his wife had just completed a six-week trip to Arizona. They spent two weeks in Phoenix, one in Sedona, and visited WARREN "Skip" LEACH '53 in Tucson. "We had wonderful weather on our trip," writes Bill. "Saw some tennis and spring baseball games as well as getting in several rounds of golf. I am still playing baseball; my goal is to keep it up until I am 80." Stay in touch with Bill at 12907 The Terrace, Hagerstown, MD 21742 (billb51949@aol.com).

LEO J. CHAMBERLAIN '52 is enjoying his retirement on "the big island." Write to him at P.O. Box 204, Captain Cook, HI 96704 or at leoc@kona.net.

In September 1999, after 40 years in Connecticut, MICHAEL T. LEIGH '52 and his wife moved to Colorado to be closer to their children—Chris, in private law practice in Jackson, Wyoming; Andrew, owner of a successful food business in Denver; and Katherine, who lives in Boulder and presented them with their first granddaughter in December 1998. "Our new home in Niwot (7692 Estate Circle, 80503) is just northeast of Boulder and 30 miles north of Denver," writes Mike. "Sigma Pi classmates are most welcome to visit anytime." On their way out to Colorado, the Leighs visited with ART

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The Muse Mailbox

(continued from page four)
JAGGARD '52 in Ohio.

ALVA A. APP '53 is retired but continues to serve on the Campbell Soup board. He makes his home at 95 Turtle Point Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

In the winter WARREN LEACH '53 lives in Tucson, Arizona, and in the warmer weather he returns to Lakeville, Pennsylvania (HC #1, Box 259B 18438). Send e-mail to "Skip" at wrlnj@aol.com.

THOMAS T. SANFORD '54 is retired after 40-plus years as a large-animal vet and dairy farmer. He has three children and seven grandchildren and keeps busy serving on the county planning board and farm land protection board for Dutchess County. Drop him a line at MacIntosh Farms, Frog Hollow Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570.

"I sometimes feel like an undergrad as my duties on the alumni board take me often to Ithaca," writes JAMES H. KEENE III '57 (720 N. 57th Ave., Omaha, NE 68132; jkeeneiii@aol.com). "I retired some years ago from industrial construction and ended up owning a small manufacturing company—like a kid with a new erector set, except mine has employees!" Jim also travels, is very active in community affairs, and has four children, all grown.

Drop a line to PETER E. EBERTZ '59 at bmwhog@aol.com or at 11529 Pebble Creek Dr., Timonium, MD 21093.

MANFRED W. HOFFMANN '60 has moved to Anacortes, Washington (4606 Cypress Dr., 98221), the first of the San Juan Islands. He writes, "My consulting practice in organization behavior and leadership training will now focus on the northwest U.S. only, except for existing clients." Send e-mail to Manny at manfred@dellnet.com.

Bonnie and JOHN SHERWOOD '66 recently enjoyed a hunting and photo safari in South Africa. For details, write to John at 413 Shane Creek Rd., Columbus, MT 59019.

VICTOR B. LEOVICI '70 lives at 29 Farmington Rd., West Newton, MA 02465 and is a partner in a patent law firm in Boston. He can be reached at vlebovici@aol.com.



KARL F. MILLER '64 sent us this picture of Dolly Hailstork, which he took while visiting Ithaca last fall. Karl's daughter, Sarah, is a Cornellian and a Pi Phi. Mail reaches Karl at 200 W. Chester Pike, Ridley Park, PA 19078 (kmiller@icdc.com).

A mailman and the father of two great kids, Mary and Wilson, WILLIAM R. DAVIS '71 resides at 502 Moore St., San Marcus, TX 78666.

STEPHEN A. MONGEAU '78 reports that alumni from his era had a great time at a New England Pi-house gathering recently. "Prompted by MARK BARMASSE '78 and his wife, Joanne, MIKE NAKA '78, LARRY PAGLIERANI '78,

DAVE HANSSENS '78, JACK WELCH '78, TODD HASSELBECK '78, BRIAN MURPHY '78, MIKE REINER '78, MATT KELLY '78, DOUG D'ORLANDO '79, GORDY PUGH '79, KURT RASMUSSEN '79, TONY McMANUS '80, and I celebrated Labor Day Weekend at a town pool club in Chelmsford. The crowd topped 40 people. It was great to share old memories and loads of laughter, and it was also pretty cool to see the kids mingle so well, especially the teenage crowd; they look like they are well on their way to enjoying some Pi-house parties soon." Steve's address is 11 Danforth Lane, Chelmsford, MA 01824 (steve.mongea@staples.com).

A senior manager at Arthur Andersen in L.A., LAWRENCE J. KANTOR '80 writes that he's "still loving life in Southern California" with his wife, Diane, and 10-year-old son, Tyler. He stays in touch with MARK SHERWIN '80 and WAYNE FORMAN '80 and looks forward to hooking up with all classmates who come back to the house for their 20th reunion this June. Write to him at 6735 Alta Vista Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 (lawrence.kantor@hotmail.com).

"I'm currently coordinating a golfing trip to St. Andrews, Scotland, for August 2000," writes TIMOTHY M. HAWES '82 (8157 Seven Mile Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082; thawes@pgatourhq.com). "Anyone know how to make a quality ale out of haggis?" On the tour will be JO RUOCCO '81, MIKE VERNICK '83, NICK (continued on page six)



A minireunion of late-'70s alums in Chelmsford, MA. (See Steve Mongeau's news note.)

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

We'd like to thank the following alumni for supporting Sigma Pi with their alumni dues during the 1999-2000 giving year:

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Frank C. Abbott '42*	Gregory W. Fisher '72	James W. Palmer '60*
Albert M. Beck '51	J. Chase Forbes Jr. '74	Douglas M. Parker '56
Craig F. Binetti '77	William E. Ford '73	Fred M. Peterson '71
William R. Brockway '50	Robert B. Fuchs '80	George G. Reader '40
Thomas E. Cayten '64	H. Laurance Fuller '60*	Nicholas Reitenbach '56*
Leo J. Chamberlain '52*	Thomas M. Garr '76	Lloyd M. Robinson '87
Lawrence D. Chase '58	Vance Harrison Jr. '75	VanNess D. Robinson '57*
Donald E. Clark '53*	Mark J. Hausknecht '75	George W. Rocklein '87
Richard G. Clark '51*	John L. Hitzel '59	Peter P. Romeo '55
Winthrop B. Cody '56	Howard W. Hulford '44*	Alan Rosen '91
Paul J. Connell '73	Fred O. H. Jensen '54	Howard M. Rosen '73
Louis J. Conti '41*	Walter C. Johnsen '73	Marc A. Rothenberg '87
Jeffrey L. Craver '75	James H. Keene III '57*	Michael R. Sfat '43*
John P. Diamond '58	Walter L. Knox III '71	Kent G. Sheng '78
Peter E. Ebertz '59	David A. Lefeve '60*	Bruce A. Vanicek '86*
Earle R. Elmer '35*	John W. Lloyd '49	V. James Vanicek Jr. '55*
David K. Felbeck '48	Stephen A. Mongeau '78	Harlan R. Wengert '49
Richard E. Fish '72	Robert A. Nafis '49*	Charles E. Wille '50

CONTRIBUTORS

John R. Adams '60	Samuel F. Herrick '42	Stephen G. Pieretti '83
Charles W. Ahrend '51	Manfred W. Hoffmann '60	Stephen P. Pirozzi '80
Michael J. Allen '82	Frederick C. Hoge '72	Roger B. Poeppel '63
Alva A. App '53	Herbert R. Holden '63	Michael H. Quaid '75
Richard A. Bosshardt '80	James M. Horn '79	Curtis A. Quantz '79
Jonathan D. Broder '91	John E. Hough '37	Richard E. Ragold '53
Joseph W. Calby Jr. '51	Lawrence Ireland '91	George L. Reeves '63
Brian C. Cannon '91	Lawrence J. Kantor '80	Liviu V. Rusu '98
Peter A. Chase '70	Benjamin F. Kellogg '40	John J. Sacco '80
Thomas C. Cherner '80	Peter M. Kennel '61	Adelbert H. Sahlberg '46
John A. Christoforo '77	David J. Knapp '83	Thomas T. Sanford '56
Steven L. Closter '91	Kevin C. Kruse '79	Ralph C. Schutt Jr. '41
Vincent G. Crane '52	Warren R. Leach '53	Peter Sedivy '98
Joseph P. Dervay '80	Nicholas T. Long '68	Christopher S. Selland '86
David P. Dirksen '53	Michael D. Malfitano '70	Steven D. Silbermann '72
David C. Dorlando '79	Harold C. Mallery '52	Robert K. Slusser '38
Carl E. Dukes '71	John D. Masters '45	Richard S. Smith '57
Daniel P. Emerson '93	William P. Mathers '41	Theon C. Smith Jr. '80
Scott Fabozzi '86	Dennis P. McNamara '83	Thomas K. Smith '61
Richard D. Fisher '55	Harold C.M. Miles '40	Kenneth T. Steadman '59
David Franz '63	David R. Miller '71	Robert F. Stephens '48
James R. Franz '77	Karl F. Miller '64	Jan H. Suwinski '64
Richard G. Frey '62	Derek E. Minihane '91	James R. Unckless '66
James E. Garr '82	Keith R. Molof '79	Marc Warm '95
Daniel R. Gerson '88	Paul C. Mountan '64	J. Benjamin Watson '62
Michael P. Grady '83	Thomas J. Owens '83	John R. Welch Jr. '78
Thomas B. Hager '65	Frederick H. Parker '75	Clifford J. Wengert '53
Eric R. Hamburg '85	George F. Parker III '65	Morton P. Woodward '20
Timothy M. Hawes '82	Jeffrey P. Phillips '72	Sonny T. Yau '72

**In addition to being current on alumni dues, these alumni have made capital gifts during the 1999-2000 giving year.*

The Muse Mailbox

(continued from page five)

VOJNOVIC '81, JOHN ALTMAYER '81, TONY McMANUS '80, DENNIS McNAMARA '83, KURT BOSSHARDT '83, Alexa Bosshardt (house sweetheart '82), and GERRY LEAPE '82. Tim adds that his son, Christian, got married in February "and is now off to protect our country as a PFC in the Marine Corps. No father was ever more proud of his son than I am."

MICHAEL P. GRADY '85 and his wife, Pam, are pleased to announce the arrival of MacKenzie Patricia Grady on June 29, 1999. Congratulate the Gradys at 2818 Oak Point Lane, Richmond, VA 23233 (Mike_Grady@fac.com).

GEORGE W. ROCKLEIN '87 recently bought a home near the lake, north of Chicago, and welcomes visitors at 944 Timber Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045. His e-mail address is rocklein@worldnet.att.net.

BRIAN C. CANNON '91 writes that he now has a son, Aidan Colin Cannon—"Cosmo Junior." Send best wishes to Brian and his family at 725 Lincoln Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 (bccannon@aol.com).

Please note this new address for MICHAEL G. LIPPMANN '95: 250 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

WILLIAM A. BEDDOE '45
December 15, 1998

ALBERT B. BISHOP III '51
February 25, 1999

WALTER P. NAQUIN JR. '38
September 14, 1999