

The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2003

New Semester Brings New Ideas

Sigma Pi heralded in the new year with its most successful recruitment ever! We extended 31 bids, and 28 of those 31 signed with us; those numbers won us the honor of having the largest class on campus and the highest retention rate. Sigma Pi has evolved quickly into one of the most popular and selective fraternities on campus; over 200 people came through our house during rush week. The new class is shaping up quite nicely. I am sure they will uphold Sigma Pi's reputation of genuine chivalry.

Also with the new semester came an influx of fresh ideas and energy. The new executive board is working diligently and enthusiastically to implement our goals. The third counselor, Alex Metzroth '05, and I had the pleasure of attending Sigma Pi's national mid-year leadership conference in

Saint Louis. We spent the weekend at the Renaissance Airport Hotel enjoying the company of many other Pi guys and learning from keynote speakers about financial responsibility, motivation, delegation, and goal setting. The most important thing I gained from the weekend, however, was the sense of excitement I found from hearing other houses' success stories and knowing we could achieve the same at Mu Chapter. We returned with newfound focus and vision, which are spreading through the house already.

I group my goals as president into two categories: brotherhood and involvement. To strengthen the brotherhood, I plan to focus primarily on the seniors. As most seniors live in Collegetown, it has become a pattern in Sigma Pi that the older a brother is, the less

he is around. I have been gathering feedback from seniors as to what events they would like to attend, in hopes of changing the pattern. So far we are planning a senior bar crawl, senior roast, and a year-end brotherhood campout. As this is their last hurrah, I wish to create the atmosphere that the senior brothers are honored members of the house, whose wisdom and stories the younger brothers and pledges are eager to hear. I hope to send the seniors off with a great semester, one that stands out in their memory of Sigma Pi at Cornell.

My other goals concern involvement. Ideally, I would like every member in the house to contribute to the functioning of the house in some way. In the past, most of the work has fallen on the executive board and

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Come Back To Ithaca For A Relaxed Alumni Weekend At Sigma Pi!

Mu Chapter has hit the ground running this semester with a great pledge class and excited new leadership. We are continuing to make progress in philanthropy and brotherhood, and our new sage, Devan Musser '05, is bringing new direction to our house. All of this you will surely find to be true by exploring the other articles of *The Muse*.

The news that I have to report comes from the duality of my current positions in the house: alumni secretary and technology chair. By the time this newsletter is published, the alumni database should be fully functional online. This exciting piece of technology will be a section of the website devoted to the continuing and reforming of bonds among the past men of Mu Chapter. The database will be accessible from the alumni section on the website: www.musigmapi.org.

However, what I am really excited about this semester is our Alumni Weekend. It will be from April 4 to 6. On behalf of all the

Sigma Pi
ALUMNI WEEKEND
April 4-6, 2003
We hope you'll join us!

active brothers of Mu Chapter, I would like to cordially invite all of the alumni back to the Pi house for a weekend of fun and entertainment.

The theme this year will be less formal. In discussing past weekends with alumni, past Alumni Secretary Evan Gilbert '03 and I have decided that the number-one key to encouraging more guys to come back to the house will be relaxing the tone of the weekend. Friday night, April 4, will be spent relaxing at the house, getting in touch with guys whom we haven't seen in a long time. Saturday will start in the late afternoon and

lead into a less formal buffet-style dinner. And to wrap things up, on Sunday we'll be serving a continental breakfast.

The first weekend in April is a great time to visit Ithaca and to show off the beauty of Cornell to your family. And if it has been some time since you last visited Mu Chapter, let us assure you that with our recent reconstruction, you will be very proud to show off the Pi house as well.

To RSVP, please contact me by e-mail (mrm44@cornell.edu), phone (267/994-5622), or postal mail (730 University Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850). The weekend promises to be great fun—and like all such events, it will help to deepen the bonds between brothers old and new. I hope that many of you will join us.

Fraternally,
Matt Maloney '05
Alumni Secretary

Mu Chapter Draws Largest Pledge Class On Campus

Sigma Pi is pleased to welcome these 28 young men to our brotherhood:



Ben Alden
Amherst, MA
Biological Engineering



Jonah Allaben
Bloomfield Hills, MI
Gov/Econ



Alex Ballantine
Greenwich, CT
Hotel



Dia Beshara
Parlin, NJ
Elec & Comp Eng



Matt Bordegaray
Albuquerque, NM
Biology



Nathan Bryce
Lakewood, OH
Government



Alan Chan
Toronto, Canada
Economics



Craig Dewey
Lancaster, PA
Undecided



Alex Deyle
East Amherst, NY
Biological Engineering



Quin Garcia
Menlo Park, CA
Applied Econ/Mgmt



Aaron Green
Norman, OK
Undecided



Matt Greenberg
Meadowbrook, PA
Human Development



Hugh Hayden
Dallas, TX
Architecture



Alex Holiat
Havertown, PA
Human Development



Chris Jefferys
Media, PA
Mech Engineering



Josh Katcher
Fairfax Station, VA
Applied Econ/Mgmt



Dave Lederman
Syracuse, NY
Applied Econ/Mgmt



Tim Lim
Riverside, CA
Labor Law



Alex Loo
San Mateo, CA
Mech Engineering



Arnold Mahesan
Toronto, Canada
Biochemistry



Scott Melman
New City, NY
Biometry & Statistics



Zack Newton
Toronto, Canada
Government



John Rich
Scarsdale, NY
American Studies



Shawn Ronda
Strongsville, OH
Undecided



Mark Schwager
Baltimore, MD
Mech Engineering



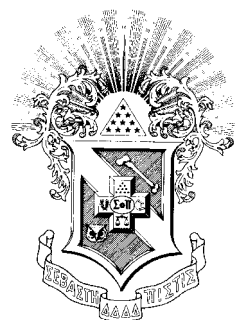
Jordan Turner
Kinnelon, NJ
Biology/Psychology



Matt Weaver
Fairport, NY
Biological Engineering



John Zimmer
Cos Cob, CT
Hotel



Alumni President Reports

Sigma Pi Is Exemplary Greek House, Says CU's Office Of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs

It was my privilege and pleasure to be in Ithaca on the day bids were turned in and to attend an impromptu dinner for the new pledges that night. I have met each of them and can report that they are an outstanding group. I was a bit jealous of what they were experiencing—the first day as a Sigma Pi—not knowing what lies ahead and full of excitement and anticipation. We all remember that day in our lives and should take great pleasure that because we care, these young men and many to follow them can have this experience.

On the same day several members of our board and the undergraduate leadership hosted Suzy Nelson for lunch. Suzy is associate dean of students for Greek life. She is highly respected and a very effective supporter and watchdog of the Cornell Greek system. In a luncheon comment directed to the undergraduates she said, "Sigma Pi is great! You are what I hope someday every Cornell fraternity will become!" (I asked Suzy if I could quote her in print, and she responded with an enthusiastic yes.)

After lunch I thought back to 1996 and could not help but feel good about how far Mu Chapter has come in the years since that time. The credit for the success and prestige that our fraternity enjoys belongs entirely to the students and their leadership. They are

deserving of our congratulations. However, the atmosphere and facility in which they operate would not be possible without the strong alumni support that we, as alumni, give the fraternity. Do your part! Financial support is essential. Do what you can. Send your alumni dues as a minimum. Respond to the requests for news to be printed in *The Muse*. Come back to campus whether it is a quick visit to the house or attendance at Alumni Weekend, Homecoming, or Reunion.

We expect to hear soon what Greek organizations have been selected to participate in the Cornell pilot "Chapters of Excellence" program. We are still a contender for selection. I hope to be able to report fully on this potentially wonderful opportunity to enhance and advance fraternity membership as a part of the Cornell experience.

April 4, 5, and 6 is Sigma Pi Alumni Weekend. This weekend is strictly for our brothers as it is not a part of a larger Cornell event. The undergraduates are our hosts, and they have planned a new, less formal weekend than those of previous years. It is always fun and well worth the trip to Ithaca! Come be a part of it.

Fraternally,
Jim Keene '57
Alumni President

Jazz Night Highlights Fall Philanthropy Events

After a semester as co-philanthropy chair alongside Sean Burke '05, I am proud to say that Sigma Pi is excelling in its philanthropic endeavors. Last semester, we managed a wide variety of events ranging from Habitat for Humanity contributions to the second annual Sigma Pi Jazz Night dinner, all of which were major successes.

To start out the year, many of the brothers hiked out to the middle of nowhere with the lovely girls of Theta to encourage the riders for "Ride for Life." Ride for Life is a long, undulating bicycle ride around Lake Cayuga. The riders raise money to help fund research for AIDS. Our task was to provide encouragement for these riders, and dressed in togas and filled with enthusiasm, we managed just that. No one can deny the numerous snickers and smiles of the riders as they passed us, screaming and hollering, all in the name of charity.

We enjoyed numerous activities sponsored by the other fraternities and sororities around

campus. There was the Phi Tug, where we earned second place and some extra intramural points. We also did the Theta Tip-a-Canoe, where we raced the sisters of Theta around Beebe Lake in a rickety old canoe. While we weren't victorious, at least we stayed somewhat dry. Also scattered throughout the semester were various social service events. We did the Habitat for Humanity house cleanup, as well as the Collegetown Cleanup organized by past Philanthropy Chair Paul El-Meouchy '04.

However, the most rewarding night, and a perfect cap to the semester, was the second annual Sigma Pi Jazz Night on December 7. With dinner entertainment provided by the Cornell Jazz musicians, an exemplary meal by chef Patrick Spirawk, cheesecake dessert donated by Alan Rosen '91, all followed up by the musical stylings of Jazz Sandwich, Jazz Night was a night filled with brotherhood and philanthropic spirit. The night featured music,

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New IFC VP Has Big Shoes To Fill

As the newly elected vice president for university and community relations on the Interfraternity Council, I have some very large shoes to fill. My big brother in Sigma Pi, Paul El-Meouchy '04, occupied that position last year and is now president of the IFC. Paul did terrific work as VP—university and community relations, designing new programs and working hard to project the best possible image of the Greek system to the Cornell and Ithaca communities. I hope to do the same.

However, as the number of freshmen opting to join the Greek system has fallen sharply in the last year alone, I feel a new sense of urgency surrounding my position. The debacle of lawlessness that overtook a few chapters in the fall of 2002 tarnished the image of the entire Greek system. The academic and philanthropic aspect of fraternity life was not visible for many freshmen, and thus they decided not to pledge anywhere. One of the main reasons Sigma Pi was so successful in our rush was because of the emphasis we place on academic and philanthropic excellence—in addition to our common desire to have a good time. Yet, the system as a whole needs a new image and needs to prove its commitment to Ithaca.

In order to do that, I am planning many large-scale service events, and I am also working to create and nurture relationships between individual Greek houses and the police. I am in the process of organizing a new program for the Greek system that would require house presidents to do a ride-along with the Cornell police during a weekend night shift. My hope is that this would help create a cooperative working relationship between Greek organizations and the police, putting an end to the adversarial relationship that existed during the fall semester. Additionally, I am organizing both a spring and fall Collegetown Cleanup and blood drive. But most importantly, I hope to be able to highlight and publicize the best aspects of fraternity life so that the incoming freshmen, the Cornell community, and the Ithaca community can have an accurate vision of what it is the Greek system here at Cornell is all about.

Fraternally,
Michael Taylor '05

After Many Adventures, Wayfaring Brother Returns To Campus

Many brothers have asked over the last year and a half, "Where is that shady, cheap, shirtless guy Ringewald?" This article for *The Muse* will give you a good idea of where I have been.

It all started almost two years ago right after Ty Whilden '04, Evan Gilbert '03, and the rest of pledge class 2001 became brothers. School ended, and I hopped in my truck with the mattress in the back and took a cross-country drive to San Diego via the South. Stops included DC, Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans (Dan Levy '03 and Drew Vogel '03 were there the same weekend, I found out later), Austin, Houston, and Phoenix. The trip was a lot of fun, and I recommend that everyone drive across country for the experience. The rest of the summer I did what any lazy Southern Californian would do. I surfed and played beach volleyball all day while working minimum hours at a dead end, low-wage food service job.

Contrary to popular opinion, that fall I did not do a Semester at Sea à la Jeff Walwyn '02, but I participated in a study-abroad program through Gonzaga University in Florence, Italy. Mondays through Wednesdays I took classes, mainly art history and Italian; the rest of the week I traveled around with a posse of friends. During the school week I got a job as the school janitor to earn traveling money. Because I was in Europe after September 11, traveling was ridiculously cheap. For example, on Ryan Air one could purchase a round-trip ticket from Pisa to London for the equivalent of \$40. Additionally, the introduction of the (then) weaker euro made my dollar go almost twice as far as it would at home. I also saved a lot of cash on trips by buying my food in markets before I left town, and never paying for rooming accommodations. I (proudly) only paid for a hostel three times in an entire year, although I traveled every weekend. The three

times I did stay in a hostel were because it was snowing outside, but the international traveler chic they got goin' on in those places is pretty hip, I'll have to admit. Other than that, I slept on lawns, in alleys, on park benches, on beaches, in hotel rooms that were not mine, you name it.

In some strange town in Serbia, we randomly came across a giant landscape in the shape of an electric guitar. There were speakers everywhere blaring death metal music. It seemed we had found a monument to death metal, although we could not read the Serb description.

If you do not know the recent history of Corsica, a French island off the coast of Italy, last year the island went through some minor separatist revolts. I was visiting the island during one such protest and was tear gassed with a bunch of protestors. Moral of the story: stay away from tear gas. It really hurts. Even small amounts.

I was on the Greek island of Crete for New Year's Eve, and they believe that every year the past year's demons should be beaten out. So when the clock strikes twelve, everyone beats each other silly with plastic mallets. I joined in with gusto.

I met up with a buddy in Sweden, where we threw a party. Although Italian women generally hate Americans, Swedish women love us, and so I have particularly fond memories of this part of the trip.

You may have heard of the tomato-throwing festival in Spain, but every year the small town of Ivrea, Italy, does it one better. They have an orange-throwing competition where

people in coaches more or less get paraded around in several town squares, and all those in attendance pelt them mercilessly with an unlimited supply of oranges until they ride off and another coach enters the square. Italians who grow up without the sports of baseball and football have underdeveloped throwing arms, so Americans like me have a field day. Those in the coaches throw back, but because they are Italians, their throws are easy to dodge.

I only have so much room to write so I will stop there with the stories, but I was a euro-bum in many other cities including Paris, Dublin, Belfast, Rome, Vienna, Budapest, and Barcelona. I also visited some other countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Kenya, and Tanzania, where I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

After I got back from Europe I enrolled in the Cornell-in-Washington summer program to pick up some credits that I sorely needed. Luck would have it that Dave Rapasadi '03 had also signed up for the program and gotten us a great room. It was a fun summer, and there I hung out with new brothers from the DC area such as Noah Koretz '04 and saw visiting brothers such as Paul El-Mouchy '04. The program was so much fun that I stayed for the fall semester of this year. As during the summer program, I had an internship working for a Habitat for Humanity-like organization while I took classes.

This semester, I caught a ride across country from a friend driving to Duke and from there caught a ride to Cornell. It has been a lot of fun meeting the young guns in the fraternity, and it is good to know that the place has done well in my absence. It's good to be home.

Fraternally,
Chris Ringewald '03

New Semester Brings New Ideas

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minor board chairmen. To increase involvement, I propose expanding the minor board to form committees under some chairs: social, rush, philanthropy, etc. This will ease the load from the chairmen, allow more brothers to get involved, and strengthen our house overall. Most importantly, the more involved everyone is, the more excited we all become.

We must never grow complacent with our position; we must always strive for excellence. As Aristotle spoke, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

Fraternally,
Devan Musser '05
Sage

THE MUSE

Published regularly by the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are welcome and should be sent to Sigma Pi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

Moving? Be sure we have your new address!

House Manager Reports

Updating Computer Network, Painting Head List Of Recent House Repairs

This semester has seen its fair share of updates and improvements to the physical structure of the house. Beyond the daily upkeep and general maintenance of the house, I have been busy working on four new projects. The first project was for the most part organized by our current technology chair, Matt Maloney '05. He had the final stage of our wireless internet project completed when conduit was installed. The conduit is important because it allows us to discretely run cabling to the various wireless access points scattered throughout the house. The successful completion of this project has enabled all the brothers living in to have reliable wireless internet access.

The second project is currently under way. The interior of the house is in the process of being repainted. So far the painters have completed most of the common rooms and should be finishing up before the end of February. The fresh coats of paint have certainly added a new brightness to the inside of Sigma Pi.

The third work in progress has just been

contracted, and it involves the installation of two specialized door handles. These handles will be installed in the basement and foyer stairwell doors and will allow for better house security during social events.

The fourth and final project is the creation of a senior tower committee, of which I have been the appointed chairperson. This committee has been set up with the intention of becoming a liaison between the active membership and the alumni board. This committee will assess the needs of the current brotherhood and also address other key issues involving the construction of such an addition. This project will help to alleviate the needs of an ever-expanding brotherhood. Once the needs evaluation is complete the committee will be able to work in conjunction with the alumni board so that the new addition may potentially enter the stages of official planning for the future.

Fraternally,
Mike Brandt '05
House Manager

Jazz Night Highlights Fall Philanthropy Events

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dancing, and a raffle, and at \$25 a plate, we were able to net \$2,000 and cut a check to the Children's Brittle Bone Foundation for \$1,200 with negligible assistance from the philanthropy budget.

This semester, with Raphi Rabin-Havt '05 as my partner in crime, I anticipate no let-down. We have already begun to plan for the Sigma Pi/Pi Beta Phi Murder Mystery Night

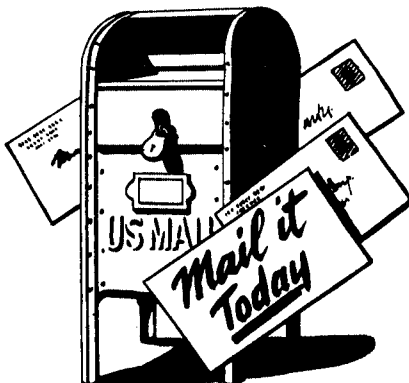
scheduled for April 26 and are getting requests from other sororities to assist with their events. No doubt, with the aid of our pledge class of 28, we should be well equipped to tackle any task that is thrown our way.

Fraternally,
Michael Glicken '05
Philanthropy Chair

SEND IN YOUR NEWSFORM!

The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of our alumni.

Please take a moment to fill out your newsform and return it to the address on page four. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest fraternity memories or thoughts on what Sigma Pi means to you. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of The Muse.



Stay tuned...

In the next *Muse*, we will highlight one of our own, Paul El-Meouchy '04, newly elected president of the IFC.

Today's Greek Community

- 123 fraternities and sororities
- 66 NIC men's fraternities
- 26 NPC women's fraternities
- 9 NPHC groups
- 22 NALFO groups
- 9 million members total
- 750,000 undergraduate members
- 12,000 chapters
- Located on 800 campuses in the U.S. and Canada

Today's Greek Relevance

- Largest and most visible values-based organizations on campus
- Most successful leadership development program for college students
- Largest network of volunteers in the U.S.
- 10 million hours of volunteer service a year
- Largest not-for-profit student landlord
- Own and manage \$3 billion in student housing
- House 250,000 students in 8,000 facilities

Did You Know?

The most accurate statistics of Greek membership ever compiled show:

- 48% of all U.S. presidents have been Greek
- 42% of U.S. Senators are Greek
- 30% of U.S. Congressmen/women are Greek
- 40% of all U.S. Supreme Court justices have been Greek
- 30% of Fortune 500 executives are Greek
- 10% of all listed in *Who's Who* are Greek

...Greeks make up only three percent of the U.S. population.

Alumni Mailbag

"In March of 1943 I was called to active duty," writes ADELBERT H. SAHLBERG '46 (35 Glider Circle, Elmira, NY 14903; delsahlber@aol.com). "I returned to Cornell in 1946 but was not allowed to change to hotel administration, so withdrew and completed my education at Albany College. I received my Sigma Pi life membership card in France in the fall of 1944. During my professional career I served on the boards and as an officer of several corporations, retiring from the F.M. Howell & Company here in Elmira in 1990." Del and his wife, Adele, have been married for 54 years, and they have two sons, Bill and Rick.

HOWARD W. HULFORD '47 wrote in October that after renovating the entire property and adding 24 junior suites, he was ready to open his Caribbean resort, Curtain Bluff, for its 41st year. Check out the website at curtainbluff.com, or contact Howard by mail at Curtain Bluff Resort, Antigua, WEST INDIES.

The county supervisor for Rockingham County, Virginia, CHARLES W. AHREND '51 can be reached at 5679 Snapps Creek Rd., Singers Glen, VA 22850, or at webbq4u@aol.com.

WARREN R. LEACH '53 is looking forward to his 50th reunion in June and hopes he'll see other brothers from his era. Stay in touch with "Skip" at wrlnj@aol.com or at HC #1, Box 259B, Lakeville, PA 18438.

E-mail reaches DOUGLAS M. PARKER '56 at dmparker@capecod.net and "snail mail" at Box 89, South Orleans, MA 02662.

H. LAURANCE FULLER '61 is a Cornell trustee and serves on the supervisory board of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. He spends winters in Spring Island, South Carolina, and summers at 25W 451 Plamondon Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187.

PETER M. KENNEL '61 receives mail at P.O. Box 2148, Crested Butte, CO 81224, and e-mail at pmkennel@mindspring.com.

After retiring from the mechanical engineering department at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, WILLIAM G. OVENS '62 moved back to the U.S. He's now living in Lady Lake, Florida (6042 Spinnaker Loop, 32159), where he's doing intellectual property litigation consulting and restoring old carriages at the Austin Carriage Museum. Send e-mail to Bill at williamovens@hotmail.com.



Guest of honor Dolly Hailstork surrounded by members of the class of 1977 at a fundraiser last April. Standing, left to right: Charlie Clark, Pete Cady, John Christoforo, Craig Binetti, Mike Anderson, Chris Garavente, Glen Mazzamaro, and Matt Petti.

JOHN A. CHRISTOFORO '77 reports that the class of '77 was well represented at the April 2002 fundraiser for Dolly Hailstork (see photo above). John makes his home at 51R School St., Andover, MA 01810.

LEO L. TIMMS '79 teaches at Iowa State University, and his wife, Deb, is a nurse at a local hospital. They have four children—one in college (Rob), one in high school (Sam), one in grade school (Sadie), and one not yet in school (Josh). Visit Leo at 3721 Pleasantview Rd., Ames, IA 50014, or send him e-mail at ltimms@iastate.edu.

Please note this new address for JON-ATHAN M. FORDIN '80: 19901 E. Country Club Dr., #2-204, Aventura, FL 33180; jfordin@shutts-law.com.

MICHAEL G. RANTZ '81 lives at 25 E. 92nd St., New York, NY 10128, and e-mail reaches him at mikerantz@aol.com.

"Try this one on for size: 'Hawesamatic' is a grandfather!" writes TIMOTHY M. HAWES '82 (8157 Seven Mile Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082). "My son, Lance Corporal Christian D. Hawes, USMC, and his lovely wife presented Sharon and me and Mason James Hawes on November 23, 2002. The whole family is doing great. Please stop by and see us if you're in northeast Florida."

Eve and KENNETH D. BALICK '83 welcomed their third child in spring 2002 when daughter Caroline joined Lara (5) and Julia (3). Ken would love to hear from old friends at kbalick@comcast.net or at 52 Gray St., Montclair, NJ 07042.

BRIAN S. DUNKIEL '91 resides at 144 Ledge Rd., Burlington, VT 05401.

Write to MARK A. CLAUSS '92 at 7917 Sleaford Place, Bethesda, MD 20815 or at markclauss@yahoo.com.

JAMES M. LAUER '99 can be reached at 421 W. Saint James Place, Chicago, IL 60614, or at james@djlauer.com.

STEVE CERRITELLI '02 reports a new address of 9610 Sun Meadow St., Highlands Ranch, CO 80129.

