

Welcome to our Newest Members

the **MUSE**

SPRING 2022



Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity

www.sigmapi Cornell.org

Sage Report, Spring 2022

By Lev Katreczko '23

The spring of 2022 is coming to a close, and the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi is buzzing with excitement. New faces can be found walking the halls of 730, and Slope Day is just around the corner. In other words, it's a great day to be a Pi man.

The sun is out in Ithaca and is smiling down at our newly minted pledge class, 12 strong. Led by pledge class president **Emir Jerkencalken '24**, these new Pi brothers have already made substantial contributions to the fraternity and are eager to run for house positions in the upcoming elections.

In other news, a group of Sigma Pi alumni recently hosted an event,

welcoming the new pledge class, beginning with a gathering at a Cornell men's lacrosse game and ending in our very dining hall with a hearty four-course meal. This was the first event hosting alumni at the Pi house in several years and marks a new chapter in the state of our capabilities as a fraternity during the pandemic. The brotherhood expresses their upmost gratitude for the continued support and guidance provided by our alumni board and all of those who continue to contribute to the fraternity today.

Customarily, brothers of the Mu Chapter are extending their skills in leadership throughout various clubs, organizations, and sports teams at Cornell and beyond. Our graduating senior class landed

prestigious positions across their respective fields. It is with a heavy heart that we will be bidding them farewell as they enter the world as young professionals and alumni of the Mu Chapter.

I am proud to say that the fraternity is in a better state as I end my term as sage than it was when I began. I look forward to seeing my younger brothers grow into their roles on the executive board, and I believe that my mistakes and successes will be remembered and built upon in years to come. I would like to thank each and everyone who helped me along this journey, and I can assure you that, thanks in part to your guidance, the future of the Pi house is in good hands.

Sigma Pi Brings Undergraduates and Parents Together for a Memorable Weekend

By Dan Shapiro '24 and Arthur Decker '22

On the weekend of March 26, Sigma Pi hosted Parents Weekend for the first time in two years. The parents of brothers in all years came up to Ithaca to celebrate the festivities.

On Saturday morning, families toured various venues across the Finger Lakes region. Next, a formal steak dinner was hosted in the dining hall. Sage **Lev Katreczko '23** gave a warm welcome to all guests, senior brothers announced their post-graduation plans, and everyone joined together to sing the fireside song. To end the day,

everyone enjoyed participating in a parent-son pong tournament. Finally, a lavish brunch was held on Sunday morning to cap off a successful weekend.

The Mu Chapter looks forward to hosting the undergraduates' parents for more memorable events in the coming semester.



Spring Brotherhood Dinner

A spring brotherhood dinner was held on Saturday, April 23, to honor and thank the senior class of 2022 and to welcome the new incoming class of brothers to

Sigma Pi. A delicious four-course meal with a special cake for dessert made for a memorable evening. Lots of stories were shared and enjoyed by all!



Tailgating Returns

The alumni-senior tailgate returned after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. This year, it was held at the Cornell-Brown lacrosse game in beautiful weather. Despite a down day on the field by the Big Red, a great time was had by all who attended.



Undergraduate Elections

Sigma Pi had their undergraduate elections this spring. The following members were elected:

- Sage – Richardo Melasecca '24
- Vice President – Robert De Jesus '24
- Treasurer – Max Kanders '24
- Herald – Federico Sanchez '24
- House Manager – Matt Chin '25
- Steward – Jack Mogul '24
- Alumni Secretary – Ethan Wood-Thomas '23



Spring 2022 Treasurer's Report

By John Haggerty '88

As I sit here in Ithaca and look out the window at several inches of freshly fallen, heavy, wet snow, I am reminded of how late "spring" sometimes arrives in the Finger Lakes. I missed my spring-break trip to the Keys, so this hurts even more. But, Ithaca has its beauty, as all of you know; I just wish it would get here soon!

We continue to operate the fraternity well below the live-in capacity (44) and, for the last two semesters, below break-even with respect to costs. As you might recall, following a recruitment violation during fall 2021 rush, we were not allowed to take a new class. As a reminder, there are two sources of funds to operate the house: rent collected from the live-in brothers and donations from generous alumni (thank you!).

The small cushion of savings that we had built up is being eroded by the need to replace the entire beach roof membrane and decking system, work that is scheduled to begin as soon as the house is empty

after graduation. This cost will be in the neighborhood of \$60,000, but it is essential that the work be done, because damage to the interior of the West Lounge has already occurred.

One of the most significant recurring expenses of the fraternity is insurance. This year, our insurance premiums increased 30% on the heels of smaller but significant increases in the last three years. With help from **Dave D'Orlando '79**, we hope to identify alternative sources for insurance, including evaluating offerings from a group selected by Sigma Pi Fraternity, International. While all operating costs have been increasing, the rate of increase in insurance, on top of a very large base number, is concerning. Again, smaller new-member classes do not help with increasing costs.

Our collections experience this semester was much improved, with most brothers paying in full when bills were due, but the level of effort that went into achieving this result was unprecedented. We hope that, going forward, the actives will pay more attention to their financial responsibility to

the house.

I will end this report by asking again for help. The undergraduates need more financial guidance than I have been able to give them, strictly due to other demands on my time. The handoff from undergraduate treasurer to undergraduate treasurer has been inadequate. The primary need is help with budgeting and managing a budget. If you are an alumnus with a financial practice or background, there is a great opportunity to lighten my load by taking on an advisory role with the undergraduate brothers. We have professional accountants who keep the books, but the brothers need someone to provide them with guidance. If you want to discuss, send me an e-mail at JH56@cornell.edu, and I will reach out.

As always, thank you for your support of Mu Chapter. Your unrestricted gifts to the house corporation allow us to do the necessary maintenance and repair work, even during lean times! I am grateful on behalf of the active brothers. Happy Holidays to all.

Foundation Update

By Joe Zanetta '75, President

Nearly 150 years ago, Ezra Cornell stated so eloquently: "I would found an institution where any person can find instruction in any study." And that is the motto of our beloved alma mater. But, in addition to the inspiring words, he devoted most of his fortune to establishing Cornell.

Often, Sigma Pi brothers ask me what the foundation does; the short answer is we provide resources to enhance the undergraduate experience of our current brothers.

Philanthropy is defined as love of mankind, and the foundation seeks funds to support our beloved house on University Avenue.

Recently, it was discovered that some of the computer equipment in the Learning Commons needed replacement and new technology. In addition, the televisions were not the latest and greatest. Time for the foundation to show its love; we funded the improvements and bought the new television sets.

We are a small group of alumni, approximately 1,200 strong, and the foundation is not well-endowed. We are exploring ways to create a permanent source of funding. But in the meantime, we need your gifts and philanthropy to support our brothers. We have provided internships, funded visiting lectures, hosted career events, invested in technology, and awarded scholarships, including the David Harrop Memorial Scholarship.

None of these enhancements to life at Sigma Pi would be possible without the generosity of our dedicated brothers. So, please consider this a reminder of your obligation to support the young men who are current undergrads, and be generous with your means. We are a "fellowship of kindred minds," and we must continue to nurture and grow our alumni funding, which is the corpus of the foundation. Please feel free to reach out to any of the board members of the Educational Foundation, which is about to celebrate its 15th anniversary, with questions and ways that you can assist.

Please be sure to visit us and donate at: musigmapifoundation.org

Thanks for your generosity.

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Cletus A. Broecker & Richard Barnard Memorial Scholarship

Victor Bisbal '21

The scholarship recipient for the last week in April is **Victor Bisbal '21**, who received the Cletus A. Broecker & Richard Barnard Memorial Scholarship. This is awarded annually to an initiated sophomore or junior member (at the time of application) of an active chapter who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to philanthropy and/or community service. Congratulations, Victor!



Band of Brothers 2022 Reunion Party Preview

By Jay Sacco '80

It was the fall of 1979, one of those rare sunny afternoons in Ithaca that belied the long cold winter to come, when the heavy-metal sound of Rush's breakout 1976 release 2112 burst from the West Lounge at 730 University Avenue. Curious brothers, drawn to the concert volume music, looked in expecting to find Geddy Lee and company on the turntable. Instead, Jay "Sac" Sacco '80, was standing in front of a refrigerator-sized amplifier stack, blasting out the opening power cords of the epic first track on a Les Paul electric guitar. Howie Gordon '81, feet pounding and hands a blur of wooden sticks, hammered out the complex rhythm on a full drum kit. The two, inspired by legendary Pi-house band Zoltan, resolved to form a band with a goal to play a Pi-house party. There was even talk of headlining Rock 'n' Roll Tea. Sac and Howie, now big brother and little brother, sought out other musicians and rehearsed in the basement of the coop on the corner of Stewart and University, but the dream remained elusive during their time at Cornell.

Post-graduation, Jay went on to form Spectre and Reckless in the mid-Hudson valley before moving to Austin, Texas. Howie, coincidentally with Dave D'Orlando '79, jammed with rock royalty at Rock and Roll Fantasy Camp in NYC in 2006. Howie returned in 2007 to share the stage with Paul Stanley of KISS. After stints as percussionist with the Charlie Van Pelt Band and as keyboardist for 11 Ways, Howie currently drums for NYC-based Men With Big Hips, an Allman Brothers-influenced jam band, and the Long Island classic rock band Beach

Drive. Jay and Howie would not cross musical paths again for years to come.

2011 was a tough year for Pi men all over the world. We lost The Doll that year, and a big tribute was planned to celebrate his life. Howie's Men with Big Hips was booked to play the party. The largest gathering of Pi men in the history of the Pi house began to take shape. Phone calls were made and an idea took root. With Howie and Sac together once again, the dream could be realized. Men with Big Hips would play the first set, and a few Pi musicians, led by Sac, would play the second set, backed by the Hips.

That summer, a set list was developed, but there was no opportunity to rehearse. Undeterred, the Pi musicians took the stage. Anchored by Howie on drums and the Hips on the back-line, the hybrid band, fronted by Zoltan founding member Sandy Kraker '74, rocked the house. "Tribute to the Doll: Live and Unrehearsed," Oct 22, 2011, was the culmination of a life-long love of music and brotherhood. The Doll had once again been the life-changing catalyst that forged every Pi man who'd known him. Howie and Sac's dream, 31 years in the making, had been realized.

2013 was a banner year for Mu Chapter. The centennial celebration would be another blow-out event, featuring Men with Big Hips. It would also provide another opportunity for Sac and Howie to build on past success. The Pi band grew as other Pi musicians volunteered their talents. Band of Brothers was born.

On September 7, 2013, still live and unrehearsed, the musical talents of Jay Sacco, Owen McCarron '80, Brian Finneran '81,

Dave D'Orlando '79, Howie Gordon, Kevin Kruse '79, and Sandy Kraker took the stage, once again backed by the Hips, and brought the house down. One of Kevin's sons, Garrett Kruse, sat in on drums for a song—he was still in high school at the time!

Fast forward to 2021. Cornell had canceled the past two Reunions and Homecomings due to the global pandemic. This year, Homecoming would go ahead and BoB was to be Saturday night's headliner. Unfortunately, with Howie unable to make the date, BoB needed to find a drummer and bass player. Enter Tom Garr '76, drummer extraordinaire. With Zoltan on his resume, BoB snapped him up. He and Sandy had played well over a hundred shows during Zoltan's tenure, and it would be an honor to share the stage with them. Zoltan alumni have played the house three times since 2000, one of which was a tribute to Sandy's little brother and Zoltan's bass player, Reber Carroll '75. Zoltan played Rock 'n' Roll Tea in the mid '70s, and Sandy played RnRT with his band, Intrigue, in the early '80s.

But who would play bass?

Brian "FinDog" Finneran stepped up, volunteering to put down his classic '70s Fender Telecaster and don another classic, a Rickenbacker bass. BoB's lineup was complete. We worked out the song list and practiced on our own all summer. One week before Homecoming, with the pandemic surging, Cornell canceled the event. BoB was left hanging, all dressed up but nowhere to play. But not for long.

We were saved by a music visionary. No, not records CEO Barry Weiss '81 of RCA/

Live records fame, who'd totally missed

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2013 Centennial Party.
L-R: Brian Finneran, Owen McCarron, Dave D'Orlando Garrett Kruse,
Howie Gordon, Hips Bass player, Jay Sacco, Kevin Kruse

Band of Brothers Reunion Party

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the boat by not signing BoB when he had the chance. Instead, the man with a plan was Alumni President **Jarret Wait '80**. Jarrett proposed the band take a chance and reschedule for 2022 Reunion. By then, the COVID wave should have passed and the show could go on. Schedules were checked, plans for an upcoming US summer tour were scrapped (though a fall European tour is still a possibility), and the show was booked. The new schedule allowed more time to hone the set list, but with members scattered from Texas to Georgia, New York to Maine, Boston to Florida, rehearsal was still an issue. New technology would provide a solution of sorts.

Sandy had been using an online service called JamKazam to safely jam with friends during the pandemic. JK is an online environment designed to allow musicians to collaborate over the internet. The boys in the band jumped at the opportunity to rehearse for the first time ever. At least once a week, we got online to work out arrangements, settle on song order, and learn how to play with each other across hundreds of miles. While JK has many drawbacks over in-person rehearsal, it worked well enough to get the job done. We will be more than ready come show time.

BoB's Reunion 2022 lineup is Brian "FinDog" Finneran: vocals, bass; Jay "Sac" Sacco: guitar; Kevin "Krusematic" Kruse: guitar; Dave "D'O" D'Orlando: vocals, guitar, harmonica; Sandy Kraker: vocals, keyboard, flute, harmonica; Howie Gordon:

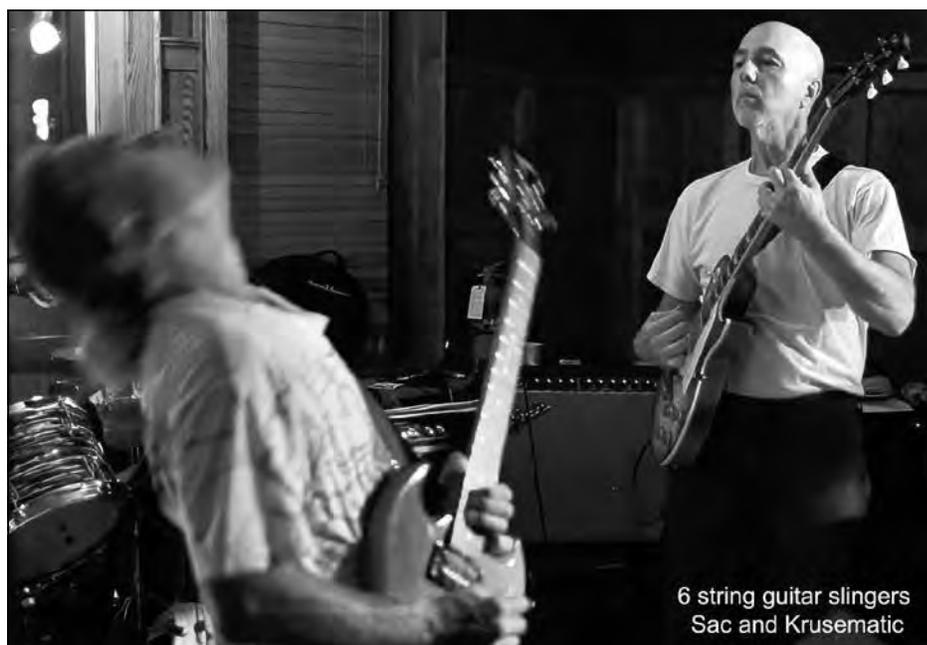
vocals, drums, percussion; Tom Garr: drums, percussion, **William "Biff" Strusz '73**: vocals, guitar. There will be special guest Pi musicians appearing during the show. BoB will play two sets packed full of rock and blues, including classics from the Stones, Dave Mason, Eddie Money, David Bowie,

Darius Rucker, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Pink Floyd, Tom Petty, Traveling Wilburys, and many more.

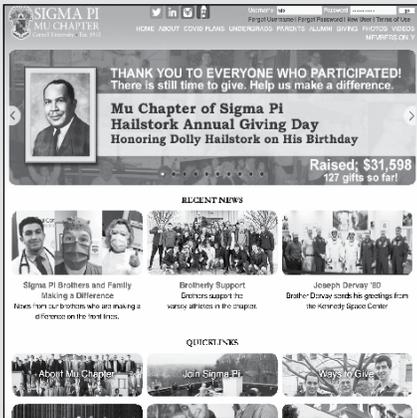
They say the third time's a charm. If there's any truth to that, you won't want to miss this latest evolution of the Pi-house Band of Brothers.



Jammin' on JamKazam: Clockwise from top left: Jay Sacco, Kevin Kruse, Bill Strusz, Sandy Kraker. Center: Tom Garr taking photo of his laptop



Mu Chapter Website & Social Media Outlets



The alumni board continues to invest in enhancing our social-media outreach.

The Mu Chapter website:

- + increases the ability for our alumni to stay connected and to be kept up-to-date
- + has a robust section for our undergraduate brothers to enhance new member recruitment
- + has a section for parents to find the information they need, whether their son is a current or prospective member

If you haven't visited the site, please go, check it out, and register for the members-only section to gain access to the full range of content.

In addition, the alumni board is keen to make the most of existing social media channels. Please visit our current social media outlets.

 **Facebook:**

facebook.com/groups/250850591718094

 **Instagram:**

[@cornellsigmapi](https://www.instagram.com/cornellsigmapi)

 **Twitter:**

[@CornellSigmaPi](https://twitter.com/CornellSigmaPi)

 **LinkedIn:**

www.linkedin.com/groups/4734302

Alumni Spotlight: Randy Ottinger '80

Co-Founder, OKR Advisors



Randy Ottinger '80 is the cofounder of OKR Advisors. They are a community of expert advisors and practitioners on a mission to help entrepreneurial leaders and their organizations achieve superior strategy execution through the effective use of OKRs and related methodologies. They believe there is a better way to build and connect mastery of practice in OKRs with the strategy execution needs of leaders and organizations via a community of certified practitioners and independent expert advisors. Ottinger has over 30 years of experience as an operator with P&L responsibility and as a management consultant, strategic advisor, and executive coach.

Ottinger has 18 years of operating company experience, culminating as a president and EVP of a public company. He is also a cofounder of a management consulting firm

with Harvard Professor John Kotter, advising Fortune 500 companies on leading strategic change and successfully helping them increase financial value and market share. He is a strategic advisor to dozens of VC and PE backed companies

that have raised hundreds of millions of dollars in investor capital, and many of whom have achieved positive exits. He is the author of *Beyond Success: Building a Personal, Financial, and Philanthropic Legacy*, and *iInnovate: An Entrepreneur's Guide for Engaging in the Innovation Economy*. He is currently writing a book titled, *Leveling Up: A Business Leadership Guide for Scaling Venture Capital and Private Equity Backed Companies*. Ottinger earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and an undergraduate degree in psychology from Cornell University.

You can contact Randy at: ottinger.rjo@gmail.com

Resident Advisor Report

By **Luke Williams**

I can't believe this is my last semester as the resident advisor of Mu Chapter. The past two years flew by, in large part because the Pi men have made this job so much fun. It has been an honor to work with these young men. The residents of 730 University exceeded my expectations due to their leadership, generosity, and strong morals.

My time at Sigma Pi was unfortunately marked by the pandemic. However, we were still able to strengthen the fraternity while abiding by public-health best practices. I

sincerely hope that the pandemic ends soon, Cornell relaxes restrictions for the next academic year, and Greek life can finally get back to normal.

It was great to see many of you parents at Parents Weekend in March. You all should be very proud of your sons for joining a stellar fraternity at a world-class university. They have bright futures, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish. It was my pleasure to watch the men of Sigma Pi grow over the last two years. The future of this fraternity is in good hands.

Alumni Candidates for Sigma Pi Resident Advisor Position

By **Slater Goodman '18**

At the close of the 2021–2022 academic year, we will be saying goodbye to our current resident advisor, Luke Williams, as he graduates from the Cornell Law school. We are currently looking for our next RA and would like to expand the search to include any and all Sigma Pi – Mu alumni.

As a former RA myself, this position is a fantastic opportunity to mentor and

guide the next generation of Pi men. The position includes room and board, an apartment within the Pi house, and compensation. Responsibilities run from August through June. Additionally, you can have an outside job or take classes in conjunction with the RA position.

If you are interested in learning more about the role or have someone you think would excel in it, please reach out to me at slatergoodman@gmail.com.

Mu Brothers' News & Notes

Paul Reszel '51 shares the following: "Retired from practice of orthopedic surgery 22 years ago. Rosemary (wife) died January 8, 2020. Five children with spouses, 10 grandchildren, 3 spouses, 1 great-grandchild. Member of St. Vincent's Catholic Church daily mass and adoration chapel Mary Magdalene. Participated in tennis, line dancing, skiing, tae kwon do, golf, and scuba diving before retirement; no longer now! Was treasurer of Reform Party in Indiana when Ron Paul and Pat Buchanan were candidates."

Carrol Robinson, Van's wife, provided this update on **VanNess Robinson '57**: Van is suffering from Alzheimers and is in a memory care unit. It was his honor to be a part of this fraternity.

Thomas Smith '61 writes: "No real news. Enjoying retirement: more than 10 years and counting. Two book clubs keep me reading a good variety of fiction and non-fiction. Like many, we have taken up pickleball."

George Parker III '65 provide this update: "I am retired, my wife, Nancy, has died, but I am fine. Love you guys!"



Congratulations to **Mark Sherwin '80** on starting a new position as principal at Sherwin Hospital-ity Advisors.

Congratulations to **Michael Vernick '83** for starting a new position as senior technical product manager at Warner Bros. Discovery.



Jeffrey Lewis '85 writes: "So thrilled to be joining the world-class team at Pantera to spread the gospel of the next technological revolution. The old line from Diner where Kevin Bacon asks Mickey Rourke, "Do you ever get the feeling that there is something going on that we don't



know about." That is certainly how most of us feel about the world of digital assets. Don't try this at home, folks, but if you want to go with a guide into this new world, we would love to help."



Congratulations to **David Hogan '86** on starting a new position as head of sales and distribution for Securitize Capital at Securitize.

Congratulations to **Stuart Strumwasser '88** and his colleagues at Green Circle on the launch of their new venture capital division with an anchor investment from Hormel Foods.



Congratulations to **David Rosen '05** for being promoted to senior vice president at Blackstone.

Congratulations to **Hugh Hayden '06**: on his first exhibition at an New York City museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Congratulations to **Josh Katcher '06** for being promoted to deputy commonwealth's attorney at Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County, Virginia.

Jordan Terner '06 was highlighted on Good Morning America. See clip here: <https://tinyurl.com/2sds28y> Dr. Terner comments start around 2:05 mark.



John Zimmer '06: Cofounder of Lyft, rang in 2022 as he's done for the last 10 years: driving with Lyft. "Lots of fun driving with Lyft for the 10th New Year's Eve! Big thanks to the driver community for helping everyone get around tonight and making millions of these moments possible."



Congratulations to **Joshua Goldman '07** who is a Director and counsel at Stone Point Capital.



Congratulations to **Sam Miller-Little '09** for starting a new position as CEO and cofounder at Stealth Startup.



Congratulations to **Alex Rawitz '13** for starting a new position as founder at Digital Infrastructure Inc.

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Mu Brothers' News & Notes

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Congratulations to **Robert Attia '16** for starting a new position as associate product manager at PwC.

Congratulations to **David J. DellaPelle '17** for being promoted to senior growth strategy and operations manager at Perimeter 81.



Congratulations to **Andrew Walsh '17** for being promoted to senior associate at Evercore.



Congratulations to **Travis Fristoe '20** for starting a new position as asset management analyst at Jamestown.

Congratulations to **Logan Goddard '20** being promoted to associate scientist I at Element Biosciences.



Congratulations to **Jonah Hutchinson '20** for starting a new position as senior analyst of asset management at Life House.

Alex Schmack '20 shares: "I joined Cerberus Capital Management in New York City in their Technology Strategy Group. Have also been traveling in Columbia with fellow Pi men." See photo below. Caption: In Medellin, Colombia (left to right): **Jake Miola, Alex Schmack, Andrew Macallister** (all class of '20).



Congratulations to **Christian Lippey '21** for starting a new position as agency track program at Creative Artists Agency.



Dillon Razler '21 writes: "I'm happy to share that I'm starting a new position as a medical assistant at Cayuga Medical Associates. PC!"

Deceased

Paul S. Morton '42

Fred O. Jensen '54

January 29, 2022

Frederick W. Krieger III '57

January 16, 2022

Grant L. Gregory '58

December 4, 2020

Robert W Stevens Jr '59

January 4, 2022

Thomas D. Foster '60

December 24, 2019

Kevin M. Gleason '78

November 1, 2021

Honor a deceased brother with a memorial plaque; visit sigmapicornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp

Trevor White '07 Hollywood Blockbuster Update

BEST PICTURE

WINNER

CODA

Philippe Rousselet, Fabrice Gianfermi and Patrick Wachsberger, Producers

NOMINEES

KING RICHARD

Tim White, Trevor White and Will Smith, Producers

www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/2022

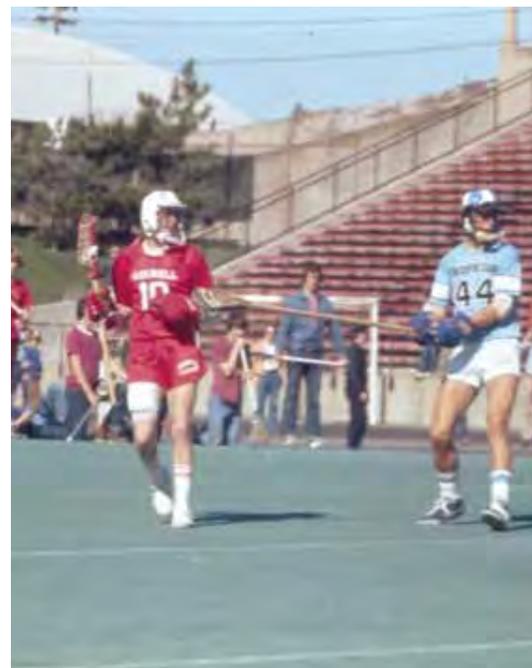
In the last issue of **The Muse**, we spotlighted **Trevor White '07** and his work on the Hollywood Blockbuster *King Richard*. We are excited to share that the film was nominated for Best Motion Picture of the Year, and Will Smith took home an Oscar for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for his work in the film.

King Richard also won over 30 industry awards, including the Outstanding Motion Picture award by the Black Reel Awards and was honored by the American Film Institute as one of the top ten films of the year. Congratulations to Trevor and his brother for their outstanding work and well-deserved recognition.



Remembering Cornell Coach Moran

50+ years of friendship and memories



the **MUSE**

is published regularly by Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University for its friends and members. Alumni news is always welcome and may be emailed to alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org, or sent to: Alumni Records Office, Mu Chapter of the Sigma Pi Fraternity, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

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