

# Sigma Pi Hotel Opens June 2023

Have you booked your stay or event?



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# Sage Report

By Ricardo Melasseca '24



It is with a strange sense of premature nostalgia that I write this report. Looming over said nostalgia, however, is a keen awareness that the job is not finished, nor do I believe it ever will be. For that is the entire purpose of what we call fraternities in my opinion: a perpetual process of reevaluation meant to challenge those involved in any given year. And, with that constant challenge comes infinite reward. This is because, when decisions are made in the face of adversity, lessons are learned and experiences are shared that create lasting bonds and indelible memories.

In my fall Muse sage report, I referred to a process of rebuilding in the Pi house. This semester has only been a continuation of it. The spring new-member class has amplified the energy of our recent fall class and allowed us to focus completely on our internal brotherhood. The house constantly buzzes with brothers hanging out and enjoying each other's company, what I believe to be the ultimate goal. When that is happening, every other operation of the house works much better because people actually want to be there for each other. I am proud to say I have seen this effect with my own eyes this semester.

One of the most important things we did that allowed us to make that progress this semester was thanks to **Liviu Rusu '98**. He arrived just after New Year's and began to restore and revamp the Pi house. Brothers slowly joined him throughout January, and

a team effort was made to have the house looking like one we could be proud of as we went into rush. Liviu helped us realize that the house itself and how we treat it is of utmost importance. We have been working to establish a sense of responsibility to the house in every brother and not just in a few. There is still a lot left to do in this regard. The goal is that every brother treats the whole house with the same care that they treat their own room. Only then can we free ourselves to reach our fullest potential.

Many other notable things happened this semester. I am perhaps most proud of the dinner we had with Jenny Loeffelman, Kara Miller McCarty, and the rest of the SFL staff. Brothers showed out in numbers to welcome these esteemed members of our administration, and we set the standard for how to bridge the gap between our brothers and the people who work so hard to create and preserve this space for us students. Along with this dinner, we also hosted a new-member dinner with the alumni board, which was followed by the senior lacrosse tailgate. Both of these events were instrumental in keeping up the connection between undergraduate brothers and the alumni and in making sure that the new members understand the scope of being a Pi man.

Yet again, our current brothers continue to be great in academics, extracurriculars, and professional development. Our collective involvement around campus, only expanded by the new members, still spans across many majors, project teams, business organizations, a cappella groups, and sports teams. Unfortunately, the time is coming where we must say goodbye to our seniors. I know they will

all do great things after graduation, and I will be sad to see them go. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that their time at Cornell has been riddled with adversity they could not control, namely COVID beginning their freshman year. I know and hope that it has helped them realize that nothing is promised and that we must cherish every moment. The brothers will certainly cherish the last month with the class of 2023 and wish them all the best in years to come.

As I write this, I must note that there is still about a month left in the semester. A month that will be full of more festivities, such as Parents Weekend, formal, and Slope Day. This month is an exciting time, and we hope to finish strong as we look to elect a new e-board. I could not be more confident that the future holders of positions will build upon the foundations we built this semester and will continue strengthening our institutions. My goal as sage, as I mentioned in my last report, has always been to leave the house better than I found it. I believe that the size and attitude of the brotherhood is a testament to that, and I look forward to seeing how we continue to grow next year. The Sigma Pi experience has been extremely rewarding and worthwhile for me, and I hope that every brother, in whatever capacity they contribute, feels the same way. As I look ahead, I challenge us all to keep pushing so that we can enjoy everything Sigma Pi has to offer to the fullest. Thank you all so much for supporting me in my time as sage and for continuously supporting the undergraduate brothers as we look to make the most out of our time at Cornell.

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## Hotel @ Sigma Pi

Attention all Sigma Pi alumni! If you're looking for a summer getaway to Ithaca, New York, look no further than your own fraternity. Hotel Sigma Pi is a joint venture between the alumni board and undergraduate chapter and is offering nine opportunities for you to relieve your college memories and create new ones with your family and friends.

With 24 air-conditioned bedrooms and up to 38 bed available in single, double, and family configurations, Sigma Pi has plenty of space to accommodate your group. Fresh linens, towels, and daily cleaning services are all provided for your comfort.

As a joint venture between the alumni

board and the undergraduate chapter, Hotel Sigma Pi is staffed through the summer by two undergraduate interns working alongside existing service providers to ensure a professional level of service. You'll feel right at home as you relive your memories in the Pi house.

If you enjoy cooking, you'll be thrilled to know that access is available to Sigma Pi's commercial kitchen and pantry, perfect for preparing your own meals. And of course, catering services are available for those who prefer to leave the cooking to someone else or for hosting special events.

To make your reservation, simply contact **Zack Cockerham** at

**[zcockerham@elevateims.com](mailto:zcockerham@elevateims.com)** for rates and availability. Please note that a minimum stay of three days is required for all bookings.

Don't miss this opportunity to relive your college days and create new memories with your Sigma Pi brothers. Book your stay at Hotel Sigma Pi today.





# Don't Miss Reunion 2023

Get ready to reunite with your fellow Sigma Pi brothers on June 8 for the highly anticipated annual Reunion! Last year's gathering broke records as the largest alumni turnout from any Greek-affiliated organization, and we can't wait to top it this year!

The festivities will kick off on Thursday with a gathering at the Pi house. On Friday, we are excited to invite all alumni to join us for the annual golf outing, followed by a happy hour and a mouth-watering pig roast back at the house.

Saturday's events will be nothing short of spectacular, featuring a young

alumni vineyard tour, a gathering to watch the Belmont Stakes game, and a delectable Chinese buffet dinner. And, that's not all: get ready to rock the night away with an unforgettable performance by the Band of Brothers!

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to reconnect with your brothers, reminisce about the good old days, and create new memories that will last a lifetime. Mark your calendars for June 8–11, and get ready for a weekend filled with laughter, great food, and amazing company. We can't wait to see you there!

## Reunion Registration

Scan the QR code to register.



## Schedule of Events

*(event details are still being confirmed)*

### THURSDAY, JUNE 8

7:00 p.m.: Casual gathering on the front porch of the house

### FRIDAY, JUNE 9

9:00 a.m.: Golf with ΣΠ alumni @ Robert Trent Jones Golf Course of Cornell University. If interested, contact Jarett Wait ([jwait@jfwaitadv.com](mailto:jwait@jfwaitadv.com)).

4:00–6:00 p.m.: Happy hour, Pi house.

6:00–8:00 p.m. Pig roast dinner, Pi-house front porch. Vegan option is available. (register above)

8:30 p.m.: Socializing, Band of Brothers unplugged, and open mic on the Pi-house front porch.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

10:00 a.m.: Young-alumni Airy Acres Vineyard tour. If interested, please contact Zack Cockerham ([zcockerham@elevateims.com](mailto:zcockerham@elevateims.com)) or Fred Bassette '76 ([fred@airyacresvineyard.com](mailto:fred@airyacresvineyard.com)).

1:00–4:30 p.m.: Class of 1963 Reunion lunch and afternoon activities. Please contact K.T. Mao ([kt@ktmao.net](mailto:kt@ktmao.net)) for further details.

4:30 p.m.: Sigma Pi Reunion photo, front porch.

5:00–6:00 p.m.: Happy hour on the front porch.

6:30 p.m.: watch the Belmont Stakes live in the Learning Commons, Pi house.

7:00–8:00 p.m.: Chinese buffet dinner, Pi house.

8:30 p.m.: Socializing, Band of Brothers live music in the dining room.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Open schedule, departures

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# Alumni Treasurer Report

By John Haggerty '78



Let me start with a nod to normalcy, something that has been rare over the last two years. The fraternity is current on all bills and likely to remain so in the short term. I am able to say this in large part due to the expanded team we now have and an amazing amount of work and attention to detail. Some thank-yous are in order.

First, **Ricky Melasecca '24** (sage) and **Matt Chin '25** (undergraduate treasurer) have been instrumental in keeping the issue of timely bill payment high on the list of brotherhood duties. Where necessary, they have been having the difficult conversations to get each brother in arrears to take ownership for their situation and to seek help from any and all sources. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside them to dramatically reduce the past due amounts from undergraduate brothers.

Next, **Aron Minken '80**, recently retired from PWC after a long and very successful consulting career, has stepped up to become an advisor to the undergraduate treasurer, focused not just on the collection of receivables but on the more proactive work of cash forecasting and accurate expenditure budgets. Aron has already developed a tool that allows **Matt Chin '25** to stay on top of critical metrics and in a position to report to the brotherhood on the financial shape of the house at every house meeting.

Zack Cockerham, our account partner at Elevate (our "back office" partner), has institutionalized the A/R record and chairs a semi-monthly Zoom session that keeps us focused on many moving targets. Angie Mansi from CSL continues to contact undergraduate brothers and alumni (and in many cases

their parents) in an attempt to keep debts owed to Sigma Pi top of mind. Angie is the last "friendly" step before we roll over to hard collections.

**Tim Hawes '82** has also joined our finance committee to lend his expertise with contract review and strategies that will help the undergraduate and alumni chapters reduce their spending. And of course, we have the full attention of **Jarett Wait '80**, **Steve Pirozzi '80**, and **Liviu Rusu '98** as we build the systems needed to manage the substantial risk that Cornell shifted to the fraternity system when it terminated our access to Cornell billing through the university bursar system.

I'm sure I am missing people on this list, but those are the major players. A sincere thank you to each.

I would be remiss not to point out the way that the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, under the guidance of **Joe Zanetta '75**, has stepped up to also help us navigate these financial challenges. As the demographics of the university have changed, one of the fastest growing areas has been "first generation" college students. Mu Chapter has always been a very diverse collection of young men, and the number of first generation students in Sigma Pi reflects the growing number in the larger campus population. While many of these young men are able to find the resources to pay tuition, room, and board, some are not. The foundation has developed an award to directly help those in need. Your tax-deductible contributions to the Educational Foundation ([musigmapifoundation.org/donate/](https://musigmapifoundation.org/donate/)) might very well help a deserving young man enjoy the lifelong benefits of fraternity life at Cornell.

Let me close with a little history. The house was rebuilt after the fire in 1994. Thirty years is the outside useful life for many

building components and features. Through your generous support and massive contributions of labor and expertise by Liviu Rusu, we have been able to replace the main roof and the flat roof membranes on the front porch and on the beach, upgrade the safety and the appearance of the beach "decking," replace all the windows on the third floor and in the Memorial Library and any other windows throughout the house that were failing; all this in addition to routinely replacing furniture and pool tables and light bulbs! But, the five boilers in the house are original to the new building, which makes them 30 years old and grossly inefficient by contemporary standards. We are fortunate to still be able to obtain replacement parts, but the boilers need to be replaced.

As we dig out of the bursar transition mess, my sights are focused on developing a plan to pay for a high-efficiency boiler each year out of rent proceeds. To do so, we need to steadily increase the number of brothers living in the house, minimize our unplanned expenses, and hope that no other deferred maintenance item takes precedent. As always, however, your support through gifts to the house corporation (not tax deductible) will help us accumulate the funds much sooner than we will be able to without your help. If you have not contributed in a while (many did not as COVID changed everything), now would be a good time!

Its 50 degrees and raining here in Aurora, so spring must be coming. If you find yourself headed to Ithaca as the weather gets better, please contact me ([jjh56@cornell.edu](mailto:jjh56@cornell.edu)). I'd be happy to show you around the house and introduce you to some of your brothers. I look forward to seeing many of you for the reunion blowout, featuring the amazing Band of Brothers in June.

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## Sigma Pi Alumni Board Communication on Rising Cost and Expenses

*The following communication was sent to all parents of Sigma Pi undergraduate members, regarding rising costs and expenses for college students.*

**Dear Parents of Sigma Pi Undergraduate Brothers:**

On behalf of the board of directors of

Sigma Pi, we hope you will try and attend Parents' Weekend at the fraternity on April 21–April 23, which is being organized by the undergraduate brothers.

The fraternity is celebrating its **110th anniversary** this year. We have **over 1,100 members** around the world and alumni support of the fraternity, the brotherhood, and

the facility has never been stronger. We are proud of our oversight of the undergraduate members, having been first to implement the residential-advisor position, which Cornell has recently made a requirement for all Greek-life organizations.

We thought it might be appropriate to talk about expenses and increasing costs as

*(continued on page 6)*



# Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Supports Undergraduate Chapter

By Joseph Zanetta '75



The alumni of Sigma Pi have been extremely generous to the foundation since its founding. What do we support?

We assisted in the funding of the expanded dining and kitchen complex.

We provide enhancements in technology, constantly monitoring the wi-fi and other technology.

We support career nights, which assists undergrads in gaining valuable summer

internships and jobs post-graduation.

This year, we worked with the alumni board and undergraduate leadership in launching the Greek Affordability Fund, which provides young men with the opportunity to experience Greek life and the unique brotherhood of Sigma Pi.

Please—our fiscal year ends on June 30—this is your opportunity to make a gift that also entitles you to a charitable income-tax deduction. Cornell University stands on the shoulders of many generous donors (Ezra Cornell, Herber F. Johnson, and Sandy Weill to name just a few); please make your gift to the foundation by June 30, 2023.

## Investing in the Future of the Brotherhood

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, in collaboration with the undergraduate chapter, recently established the Greek Affordability Fund on Dolly Day, September 9, 2022. Since its inception, the fund has raised over **\$110,000** in pledges and direct contributions from dedicated alumni who recognize the need for financial support for brothers facing rising college tuition costs and inflation. The fund has now expanded to provide financial assistance to new members, covering initial fraternity costs and supporting brothers living in the chapter house. Thus far, the fund has assisted six recipients with **\$34,000** in support. Three of these members currently reside in the chapter house and hold leadership positions, while the remaining three were new members who would not have been able to join the chapter without the support of the fund. The alumni board has observed a positive shift in the organization's culture since the fund's implementation, as it has provided much needed support to current brothers and has enabled the chapter to attract individuals who share Sigma Pi's values but might have struggled with the initial costs of joining.

The foundation has made significant

efforts to streamline its scholarship application process. It has established a committee, comprising alumni members **Tom Silver '81**, **Brody Ehrlich '13**, and **William Murphy '18**, to oversee the vetting and interviewing of candidates to ensure that each applicant receives sufficient financial assistance.

We are thrilled to announce the three scholarship recipients for the spring 2023 semester: **Lucas MacCallum '25**, **Hayden Earl '25**, and **Fardin Chowdhury '25**. Please join us in congratulating our brothers on their awards and outstanding commitments to our fraternity!

Fundraising continues for the Greek Affordability Fund. It allows a unique opportunity for members to invest directly in the brotherhood by providing aid to future brothers in need. We have already surpassed the initial goal of **\$100,000**, but additional support is needed to ensure the fund continues to operate well into the future. We hope that you consider donating and investing in the future of our brotherhood.

If you have any questions regarding the Greek Affordability Fund, please contact **Joe Zanetta '75** at [josephzanetta@yahoo.com](mailto:josephzanetta@yahoo.com).



*Congratulations to the recipients of the Greek Affordability Program Award.*

(L-R): Fardin Chowdhury '25, Hayden Earl '25, Lucas MacCallum '25.

## The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation is Looking for a New President!

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation is excited to announce that we are actively seeking candidates for the role of the president of the board of directors.

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation has announced that Joe Zanetta, after five years, is stepping down as president of the board effective June 1, 2023. We would like to thank Joe for his hard work, dedication, and commitment to supporting Sigma Pi. As such, we are on the lookout for qualified and passionate brothers who can lead our foundation to new heights.

The ideal candidate for this role should possess a background in non-profit organizations, proven expertise in fundraising, and experience in business management. As president of the board of directors, you will play a pivotal role in shaping our foundation's vision and strategy.

If you are interested, we encourage you to get in touch with our steering committee members, **Tom Silver '81** ([tomsilver59@gmail.com](mailto:tomsilver59@gmail.com)) or **Wayne Forman '80** ([wforman@bhfs.com](mailto:wforman@bhfs.com)), for further details.

We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your interest in joining the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation and/or community service.



they relate to attending Cornell and your son being an undergraduate member of Sigma Pi. The university recently announced a **4.4% increase in tuition**. The fraternity's insurance underwriter recently notified us of increases to our policies with property insurance (+14%), liability insurance (+56%), and umbrella insurance (+167%). Regarding room cost, Sigma Pi benchmarks its room rate to be priced off Cornell dorm-room rates and is cheaper than Collegetown options. Similarly, the Sigma Pi meal plan is also benchmarked off Cornell's meal plan program.

This year, the alumni board announced to the brotherhood that rising seniors who decide to live in the fraternity—traditionally, many seniors opt to live in Collegetown—will be given a **20% discount** for a single room and a **25% discount** for a double room. If a rising senior is elected to sage (undergraduate president of the fraternity) they will live in the house for free. The simple math underlying the business model for the fraternity is the more brothers that live in, the more revenue

is generated to cover routine maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. For whatever reason, over the last number of years, undergraduates have preferred living in single rooms, which does not help reduce overall costs.

With increasing costs and inflation impacting tuition and expenses, Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi continues to work very hard in making fraternity life affordable for all who are interested. Through the generosity of our alumni, the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation launched the **Greek Affordability Fund**. The Greek Affordability Fund provides grants that aim to help new members and brothers living in the house offset the costs of being in a fraternity. Grants this year awarded so far have totaled **\$34,000** to six recipients. In addition, we would like to highlight the following awards, scholarships, or ways that your son might be able to find additional funding for expenses.

Mu Chapter also offers scholarships and prizes available to undergraduate members, including

the **David Harrop Memorial Scholarship**, an annual scholarship of **\$1,000**, awarded to the brother who best demonstrates academic excellence and service to the organization,

The Class of **'1980 Adolphus C. Hailstork Brother of the Year Award**, an award given to a senior class member in recognition of their contributions to the fraternity, and

Mu Chapter Educational Foundation internship position.

**Sigma Pi International** (SPI oversees all Sigma Pi chapters across the country) also has several scholarships awards available to Sigma Pi undergraduates. For further information, visit [sigmapi.org/foundations/scholarships](http://sigmapi.org/foundations/scholarships).

We would encourage you to speak with your son regarding these various options, and we are happy to answer any questions that you might have. We hope you will be able to attend Parent's Weekend.

Respectfully,  
Board of Directors of Sigma Pi

## Undergraduates Launch Dinner Speaker Series

The alumni board, in collaboration with the undergraduate chapter and the Educational Foundation, has initiated an exciting dinner speaker series, which aims to bring distinguished guests to share a meal with the undergraduate brothers and engage in conversation. This program has been a huge success so far, with inaugural speakers, **Kara Miller McCarty**, director of Fraternity & Sorority Life, and **Jenny Loeffelman**, assistant vice president for Student & Campus Life, enjoying dinner with the brothers in March, followed by a performance from the undergraduate capella group Last Call! The chapter will also have the privilege of hosting **Nicki Moore**, Cornell's first female athletic director, in the fall. The dinner speaker series will continue, with the chapter extending invitations to more prominent alumni and guests to attend.





# Annual Alumni / Senior Lacrosse Tailgate

This spring, the annual senior-alumni lacrosse tailgate made its return, and it was a huge success! Held at the Cornell-Penn lacrosse game on a beautiful day, both alumni and seniors enjoyed a great time, cheering the Big Red to victory! Mike French, Cornell Lacrosse legend, surprised us by stopping by the tailgate to spend some time with the brothers!



## New-Member Dinner

On March 25, a welcome dinner was hosted in honor of the spring 2023 new-member class, formally inducting them as brothers. The event featured a delectable three-course meal, with a special cake for dessert, making for an unforgettable evening. Many stories were shared, and a great time was had by all!





# Sigma Pi Welcomes 13 New Members in Outstanding Spring Rush

By Nevin Motto '25

This spring semester, 13 new members joined the Sigma Pi chapter at Cornell. The new class of Pi men is a healthy mix of intellectuals, athletes, and Cornell celebrities, such as **Seth Berman '26**. Our new brothers are already becoming active members of the broader Cornell community. Some organizations that they are involved in include **Lakshman Sibal '26** in Alpha Fund, **Jason Huang '25** in the business fraternity Pi Sigma Epsilon, **Trevor Fecko '26** in the bee club, **Colin Del Toro '26** in the prelaw fraternity

Phi Chi Alpha, **Adi Arora '26** in Last Call a capella, **Griffin Kowal '26** as the recruitment chair for Pi Chi Theta, and **Adam Vasserman '25** and **Adam Diskstein '26** in TAMID. New member **Cyrus King '26** is also currently running for the School of Hotel Administration representative. Beyond their Cornell involvements, the new members come from a variety of backgrounds all across the world, from Beijing to Hong Kong. We are proud to call these new members our brothers and excited to see their growth over the next four years and beyond.



## Senior Live-In Rates

Before you sign your lease in Collegetown for senior year, did you know you could also live in the Pi house?

While most undergraduate brothers decide to live in Collegetown for their senior year, did you know that you can continue to enjoy the benefits that living in the Pi house has to offer, including a meaningful discount to rent you would normally pay a landlord.

**Seniors will receive a 20% discount on single room rates and a 25% discount on double room rates!** Seniors also get priority in the annual room draft!

**Any senior who holds the position of sage and chooses to live in the fraternity will receive free housing for that academic year!**

Have you already committed to a lease in Collegetown but are possibly interested in living in the house?

Great news! If you are proactive, you still might be able to get out of the lease. In the past, Sigma Pi brothers have been able to negotiate a way out of Collegetown leases. If you need assistance, please contact Zack Cockerham ([zcockerham@elevateims.com](mailto:zcockerham@elevateims.com)) or **Rob De Jesus '24** ([rd444@cornell.edu](mailto:rd444@cornell.edu))

(L-R): Sean Albertson, Jason Huang, Adam Dickstein, Seth Berman, Lakshman Sibal, Adam Vasserman, Colin DelToro, Mukunth Gopalakrishnan, Adi Arora, Griffen Kowal, Manoc Joa-Griffith, Cyrus King.

## Undergraduate Elections

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

Sage – Rob De Jesus '24

Vice President – Max Birger '25

Treasurer – Benji Sliwka '25

Herald – Brendan Royals '25

House Manager – Nevin Motto '25

Steward – Lucas MacCallum '25

Alumni Secretary – Emir Erkenkalkan '24

## Sigma Pi Launches New Brotherhood Agreement

This spring, the undergraduate chapter unveiled a new brotherhood compact agreement that will be signed by all members joining Sigma Pi. The agreement details the expectations for members living in the house, including financial responsibilities, meal plan requirements, and general house rules.

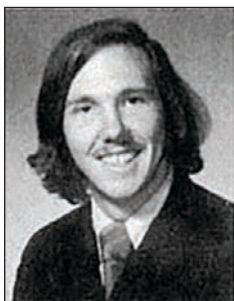
It's important that members are fully aware of their membership obligations when they join the fraternity, and the brotherhood compact agreement helps increase the transparency for potential new members. The alumni board and e-board have already noticed a positive cultural shift within the chapter house. Members are more aware of their responsibilities and the policies in place. Undergraduates have been taking better care of common spaces, communicating earlier regarding financial questions and issues and contributing more as brothers in Sigma Pi.

We look forward to seeing these positive trends continue as the brothers continue to take more ownership of the chapter house.



# In Memoriam: Remembering Rick Fish '72

By William Strusz '73



*Rick Fish '72*

Rick Fish died on March 11 in a biking accident near his home in Raleigh, North Carolina.

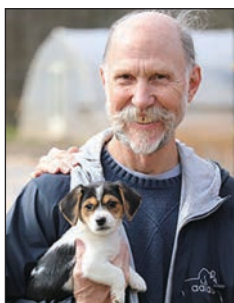
Remember his well-worn, mid-'60s maroon Mustang? Pinned to the visor above the driver's seat was a button that read "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

Rick lived his life as a teacher, a mentor, a tutor, and an advocate, always focused on lifting others. Part of the solution.

Remember when he was social chair? He wasn't at Cornell to party, yet he made it easy for us. Big things like Hurlthumbo and Rock 'n' Roll Tea, and regular live music weekend events were routine in those days.

He was at Cornell to get an education, and he got it. Doors opened for additional learning and work at Rutgers (MS), Tennessee (DVM and PhD), LSU New Orleans (post-doc and university vet) . . . taking him ultimately in 1999 to the esteemed North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where he served as director of lab animal resources until his retirement in 2018.

Rick Fish: the barbecue grill master, the microbrew aficionado, the physical fitness buff, the accomplished sailor. He and wife Peg Hogan would often sail Mugsy, their 34' Beneteau, out of Oriental, North Carolina, into Pamlico Sound. Go ahead, Rick, sail on.



## Resident Advisor Report

By Alex Kokka '24



As we reach the end of the 2022–2023 academic year, it is important to reflect and to acknowledge the great progress Mu Chapter has made as an organization. Fall and spring recruitment have been successes, and the new brothers are part of the ongoing effort to ensure that the culture of Mu Chapter remains strong. I want to commend our current undergraduate leadership for their hard work this year as we all transitioned to normal life post-pandemic.

Although we faced challenges, I had the opportunity to work closely both with the alumni board and our sage to meet those challenges and reach solutions. I believe that our close coordination and teamwork has been integral to our shared success. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of CSL management in keeping the house in good order.

This will be my last semester as resident advisor, but it has been an honor. I believe that the strong leadership and culture in place means that whoever follows will have similar success.

## Best Wishes to our Graduating Seniors

By Nevin Motto '25

Best wishes to the senior class as they get ready for graduation. Below is a highlight of some of our graduating seniors.

Alex Dworetzky will be attending Teachers College at Columbia University in September. He will be studying for a Master of Arts in

education policy from the Department of Education Policy and Social Analysis.

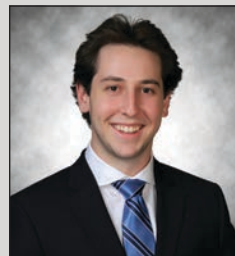
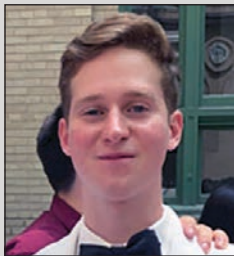
Nathaniel Wood will be working at Houlihan Lokey as an investment-banking analyst in the real estate, leisure, and lodging group after graduation.

Cosmo Gigante will be working at Bank of America as an investment-banking analyst on

the real estate structured-finance desk.

Spencer Balder is still on the hunt for a job in real estate finance. Until then, he will be going on birthright to Israel over the summer and then on a trip to Italy, Croatia, and Greece.

Max Clouser will be pursuing a Master of Engineering in Computer Science next year at Cornell.



*(L–R): Alex Dworetzky, Nathaniel Wood, Cosmo Gigante, Spencer Balder, Max Clouser.*

# Alumni Facilities Committee & Undergraduates Partner To Make Needed Enhancements to the House

By **Liviu Rusu '98**

Over the course of winter break, our younger brothers wore me out, trying to stay simultaneously a step ahead and a step behind them. In all, I tallied 170 hours, and the boys way more. But, it was worth it.

The good news: the house looks amazing. **Rob De Jesus '24** and **Ricardo Melasseca '24** are my heroes. Four of the guys learned the basic electrical skills of changing fixtures and outlets. Twelve or so guys have learned the basics of plas-



*The brothers relax in the newly enhanced West Lounge.*

tering and painting. Everyone has learned to take more pride in our house.

The hallway closets on the second and third floors have been cleaned out. Both were full of closet doors, AC units, paint, desks, and trash.

We removed graffiti from the door of room 208.

The second-floor toilet has been reinstalled and is now fully functional.

The first-floor bathroom ceiling has been closed and plastered.

The first-floor hallway has been plastered, sanded, and painted (Behr Scuff Defense in "Roman Plaster," aka beige).

The first-floor hallway has brown carpet runner (only \$98, I won't cry if it doesn't last).

In the entry, we repaired ceiling tape marks around the heat detector, changed overhead bulbs to LED BR40 (proper size for fixture), relamped sconces to LED, and removed ballasts and rearranged the furniture and rugs.

The front door has a new doormat and a remounted keypad and the postmaster box has been fixed.

In the east lounge, we opened locked glass cabinets and rearranged the contents and resealed them. We also shifted the furniture, photos, and composites in the room, as well as purchased two matching table lamps and shades. The glass case on the right is visible from the entry foyer, so I chose it as the one that tells our story in

three stages: founding charter, burning down and rising from the ashes, to outer space.

I mounted the space picture, high and angled to create the same viewpoint for the observer as the cameraman. It also didn't fit otherwise, and the other two items I can't alter.

In the foyer, we relamped the sconces, replaced overhead bulbs, cleaned the run, replaced the antiskid mats, and shifted the tables and music system.

In the west lounge, the piano is now gone. We cleaned the stains off the ceiling, vacuumed all cobwebs, fixed the chandeliers, found and moved all good leather furniture, and fixed three tables lamps and bought them matching shades. It makes such a difference to the atmosphere of the room.

The memorial library was the big surprise. The far wall with the tech center had some bubbling paint, which turned out to hide some long-term water damage from the old beach membrane. I removed the compromised portions, treated with mold control, and plastered with setting plaster for strength. But with each iteration of plater, more paper would bubble further out, so this is a temporary solution, and we'll need to change that piece of sheetrock in the summer. It has all been painted with matching green.

Also, the two wall sconces have been relamped to LEDs, so no more humming, and the lights have been changed to BR40 LEDs. I would have liked to add a dimmer but couldn't find it in brown.

The furniture layout has also been optimized to have the conference room table at the widest point, at the end, and the four chair group at the narrowest, in the middle.

The pool room has a new pool table in green, which looks perfect with the lights and walls. Out of the three wide seating stools, which were all broken, I managed to salvage components from one to repair the other two. New composites hang throughout; they were in the closet, which has been cleaned out.

In room 101, **Lucas McCallum '25**, one of our new sophomores, came in early and learned quite a lot. And, he has one of the coolest rooms in the house to show for it.

Noteworthy: **Max Kanders '24** came to help with set-up and rush before he departed for his semester in Amsterdam...and he worked hard!

The stairs from the foyer to the dining room have been half painted; as in, we taped a line at the 82-inch height of the doors and painted below it: for both looks and lack of time.

In the pit, all walls have been plastered, sanded, and painted purple. Furniture has been rearranged, with all gym equipment found around the house. Worn leather couches have

been moved to the front-facing the wall to make a game room set up. Behind the door, there was a hole in the wall with the magnetic door holder inside. I cut out the sheetrock and replaced with plywood so we won't be fixing the same problem again. The old air vent was bent shut; I removed and replaced with a new vent that doesn't close.

The grotto has been cleared and cleaned and is now arranged as a card room with a card table built as a pledge project two years ago (formerly in the east lounge).

The social closet has been cleared, cleaned, and organized. We did not get to address the camera system, now that it is accessible, whereas I couldn't even open the door to the room before.

The three closets in the basement hallway have been organized, cleaned out, and will now be used for Pristine Cleaning so they can store cleaning tools on site. The house manager's closet has been partially cleared but still needs about two hours worth of work.

The backyard has been cleared, muddy spots have been filled with gravel, and the shed has been rearranged.

The beach had several posts installed to support party lights.

In the dining room, we repaired ceiling water damage.

The grab-and-go has been rearranged to have all necessary items properly displayed, and we replaced the missing cable box cover on the wall. The table tops have also been sanded and refinished.

We installed two solar-powered motion-sensing lights on the stair to the parking lot to make the area safer at night. The stair railings near the front door and from the parking lot to the front of the house have been loose and held in place with temporary wooden braces for about a year. Permanent repairs are being completed as this goes to press.

In all, nine dumpsters of trash were removed, and the house is better for it. My goal was to prepare the house for rush and to foster ownership in the brotherhood. I'm quite happy with the results, and I'm proud of our younger brothers. Having seen how they came together the last few days, I think they'll do great this rush.

*(continued on page 12)*



*The East Lounge has also received some much needed attention.*



# Mu Brothers' News & Notes

**Donald Rider '69:** Enjoyed a great weekend getaway at Cape May, New Jersey, with **Dave Miller '71** and his wife Debby in mid-October

**David Silverstein '68:** It was great to read the detailed alumni news from fellow pledge class member **Chris Hoeber '69** in the fall '22 Muse about our other pledge class brothers **Steve Hochhauser '68** and **Nick Long '68**. Thank you Chris for the update. My wife, Leslie (HumEc '73), whom I met during my third year at Cornell Law School, and I now split our time between Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and our second home in Vermont, close to Sugarbrush and Mad River Glen ski areas. We have two sons with Cornell degrees, Scott (BS'08) and Brett (MMH'14), both avid skiers who live respectively and appropriately in Vermont and Colorado. We also have an adorable three-year-old grandson in his third season on skis and already skiing independently! Unable to decide what I wanted to be when I grew up, I juggled two enormously satisfying but hectic parallel careers as a Boston intellectual-property attorney, serving a diverse international client base, and as a tenured professor of business law and ethics in Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School. Along the way, I also managed to complete a PhD in international business at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy—an incredible experience! One of my clients was successful enough with the patents I secured for him to endow several buildings at a local university, and I am proud to have contributed to that success. Please let us know if you will be visiting Cape Cod or Vermont; we'd love to catch-up!

Congratulations to **Chris Selland '86** for starting a new position as CEO of Squark!

Congratulations to 2021 National Lacrosse League Hall of Fame recipient **Kevin Finneran '89** as the Philadelphia Wings announced they will retire his no.11 jersey to the rafters of the Wells Fargo Center!

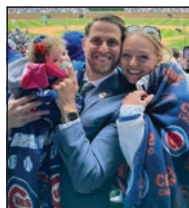


Congratulations to **John Zimmer '06** on a tremendous run with Lyft! John founded Lyft 1.0 (Zim Ride) at 730 University Ave. before

he helped grow Lyft into a multi-billion-dollar company that transformed the transportation industry. Lyft expanded into new markets, launched innovative services, and remained committed to social responsibility under John's leadership! Mu Chapter wishes you the best of luck on future endeavors!

Congratulations to **Joshua Goldman '07** for being promoted to managing director and counsel at Stone Point Capital.

Congratulations to **Aaron Klein '12**, who celebrated his eighth opening day as the manager of ticket sales for the Chicago Cubs! Aaron was able to celebrate by bringing his daughter Jenna to her first baseball game!



Congratulations to **Zachary Smith '13**, who was invited to speak at Retail Summits in downtown LA!

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Baker '14** for being promoted to partner at Weller Development Partners!

Congratulations to **Fernando Cevallos '17**, who was promoted to principal at KKR & Co. Inc.!

Congratulations to **Andrew Walsh '17** for being promoted to vice president at Evercore!

Congratulations to **Jonah Hutchinson '20** for being promoted to senior analyst of hotel investments at London & Regional Properties!

Congratulations to **Colvin Duntelman '22** on starting a new position as a global, corporate, and investment-banking analyst at MUFG!

Congrats to **Felix Tabary '14** for being selected for the 2023 Byron Fellowship!

Congrats to **David Zackowitz '01** for starting a new position as managing director and head of real estate at Greenbacker Capital Management.

Be sure to send in your alumni news using the enclosed form. You can also submit alumni news to [alumnirecords@sigmapic-cornell.org](mailto:alumnirecords@sigmapic-cornell.org) or login and submit online at [sigmapiccornell.org/submitnews.asp](https://sigmapiccornell.org/submitnews.asp).

## In Memoriam

*The alumni board has been notified with the passing of our dear departed brothers.*

**John E. Andresen '63**

October 9, 2021

**William S. Birkhead '63**

July 7, 2021

**Richard J. Boerner '60**

September 2, 2022

**Roger B. Poeppel '63**

August 18, 2022

**Donald R. Cowles '60**

September 12, 2022

**Mark C. Lippmann '94**

**Daniel G. Cadiz '51**

July 20, 2022

**Richard E. Fish '72**

March 11, 2023

*Honor a deceased brother with a memorial plaque; visit [sigmapiccornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp](https://sigmapiccornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp)*



## Undergraduate Brothers Study Abroad

**Ethan Mulroy '24** has been studying for his Bachelor of Science in industrial and labor relations in Sydney, Australia. He's had the privilege of traveling throughout the eastern coast and exploring all the natural beauty the country has to offer. In his free time, he has been volunteering at the University of New South Wales and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

**Max Trahan '24** had always dreamed of getting the chance to visit Australasia and, after discovering an opportunity to study in Sydney, knew he had to capitalize on this unique experience. He traveled to the Great Barrier Reef, New Zealand, and went to the Australian Open in Melbourne. He greatly misses his brothers back in Ithaca and is excited to see them soon!



(L-R): Max Trahan '24 & Ethan Mulroy '24 in Australia.



Ethan Mulroy '24

## Facilities Update *(continued from page 10)*

