

The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

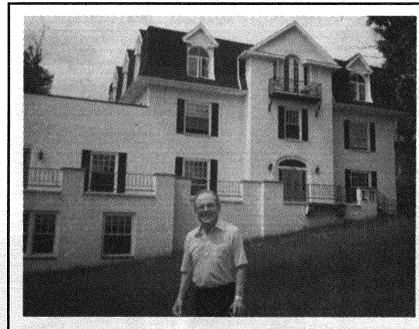
NOVEMBER 1996

Mu Chapter Enjoys A New Beginning

It was a pleasure to receive a call from Chris Huemmer, undergraduate alumni secretary, and be asked to contribute to this *Muse*. I certainly have had more than ample opportunity to write for *The Muse* in the last five years; the difference this time is that the undergraduates have, on their own initiative, reassumed responsibility for *The Muse* and asked me to write an article.

Several successful alumni events have occurred recently. The informal reception for returning Sigma Pis at Reunion last June drew a steady stream of brothers who stopped to see the house and have a drink on the way to their class reunion activities. Homecoming in September was a high-quality time together. The undergraduate brothers devoted the weekend to entertaining the returning alums, and they did an exceptionally fine job! I believe that any alum could drop into the house unannounced and find a building that was in good shape and a group of young men who would make him feel welcome.

At the annual meeting in September, much discussion occurred about how to ensure that the alumni brothers of recent years become active in the ongoing support of the chapter, since that responsibility will soon pass to them. The alumni board is especially interested in healing any wounds that may have been the result of alumni actions of the past several years.



L. K. Muller '46 in front of the new Mu Chapter fraternity house, June 1996.

The other topic of discussion in September was the difficult financial situation of the fraternity. David Lefevre '60, a member of the alumni board, is organizing an additional fund drive to raise at least \$200,000. This is the amount necessary to position the fraternity financially so that it can sustain itself, assuming successful membership recruitment. David's effort to raise \$200,000 must succeed! The remaining unpaid pledges from the Heritage Campaign drive must be fulfilled!

We started the school year with 10 members. These brothers are actively working to increase their numbers and plan for an intensive and successful rush during the formal rush period in January.

We have a new beginning. I believe it is a good one. Everyone needs to help!

James H. Keene III '57
President
Board of Directors

Sage Reports A Great Start For 1996

The semester has begun, and we're off to a great start. A construction company helping in the Sage Hall renovation rented the house for the summer, so we were fortunate enough to have an income during an otherwise stagnant period. I spent the last weeks of vacation in Ithaca renting rooms for the school year. The house now has the highest level of occupancy in quite some time—25 inhabitants. Of the 15 boarders, four have now become pledges. Additionally, we hope to have a second fall pledge class so that we can conduct spring rush with 20 men.

Each brother has given more of his time and energy than could have been hoped for, and the enthusiasm about being part of a flourishing organization is apparent at every event. Homecoming Weekend was

possibly the best ever, and Sigma Pi was a clear winner at Fun-in-the-Sun this year. We've also had two very successful parties.

Since all of the officers are new, we make our share of mistakes. But we're not just working to make it to the end of our terms; we're striving to define the future of this organization and even to create a vision that will inspire those who follow us.

Unfortunately, while energy, enthusiasm, and hard work are in ample supply, money is not. I know it's been made clear for quite some time now that our financial situation is bleak, but believe me that no one feels how tight the budget is more than the undergraduates. We have been approached by Excel Telecommunications with an offer that may help. Excel offers
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No Vacancy At Mu

Summer came and went, and now we're back at the Pi house—and it's a full Pi house. We spent the first couple of weeks of the semester literally picking up after the construction company that occupied the house during the summer, and we're still trying to work out a settlement for how much of their security deposit we should retain. They left behind a refrigerator, which we're in the process of fixing for use by boarders not on the house meal plan; however, they also left behind an asbestos vacuum, which has some of the brothers and boarders a little on edge and which we're understandably trying to get rid of. Most of the work we put into the house so far has involved minor paint touch-ups and good, old-fashioned floor scrubbing—
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Fiscal Forecast Improves

As treasurer, I am pleased to report that despite our small brotherhood, we remain a financially healthy fraternity. When I first inherited this job, the fraternity's financial picture looked bleak at best. We suffered from considerable debt that stemmed from a mismanagement of funds in the past.

I am pleased to report that the fraternity has made significant successful efforts to decrease and eliminate our debt. We are now in a position to maintain a full social and rush schedule. With the addition of our new pledges this semester and an increase in pledges in the spring, our financial picture looks bright.

Andrew Ross Sorkin '99

The Muse News

Send best wishes to PETER Y. MATLOCK '31 at 2028 Mill Rd., West Falls, NY 14170-9710.

SAMUEL F. HERRICK '42 resides at 41 Main St. (P.O. Box 1401), Southampton, NY 11969-1401.

"I see SAM HERRICK '42 once in a while," writes JOHN I. HOLDEN '43, a civil engineer and surveyor (185 Elm St., Southampton, NY 11968). "Though I am semiretired, I still work for my old firm, in which I was a partner. My son, Lester, is now one of my bosses."

At the time of Homecoming in September, LORENZ K. MULLER '46 was on his honeymoon in California. Send him and Mary best wishes at 1211 N. 98th Court, Omaha, NE 68114.

Pens ADELBERT H. SAHLBERG '46, "I'm playing golf and just plain enjoying life. I have been compiling a scrapbook on my war service years and searching for some of my old comrades-in-arms. Also, I have picked up working on my family's genealogy (mother's side) where my grandmother and a cousin left off. My greatest thrill has been the finding of the village of DeHeydon, located about 14 miles north and a little west of Norwich, England. This was founded by my ancestors in 1185. The church warden also told me that the records show the family built Baconsthorpe Castle about six miles north of the village. Both are on Britain's list of historical sites. My work continues. Baconsthorpe was built in the 13th century." Get in touch with Del at 35 Glider Circle, Elmira, NY 14903-7939.

G. DAVID HARDY JR. '59 reports a new address of 6029 Flat Rock Rd., Apt. (continued on page four)

Culinary Quality Continues

After feeding Pi men for almost a year, our new cook, Patrick Spirawk, is still cooking excellent meals. Those of our alumni who were with us during Homecoming might testify to his talent for preparing savory dinners on a limited budget. Our pantry is stocked with food, and brothers look forward to each dinner with great anticipation. Jalapeño poppers, "mot sticks," and, last but not least, "rats" are in great demand.

Thanks to the generous contributions of our alumni, the Pi house kitchen is definitely the most well equipped kitchen in the Greek system. I might add that with the great interest the entire undergraduate brotherhood is taking in its affairs, it is also now the most well run kitchen here. We hope that in the future more and more of our alumni will drop by 730 University Avenue and experience our meals first-hand.

Saad Faruqi '98

No Vacancy

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simple maintenance.

Now that we're at the point where most of the work involves simple upkeep of the house, we've started to focus on the long-awaited general house beautification project. Our efforts actually began over summer vacation with the installation of decorative walkway lights and flag poles bearing the proud flags of our country, our fraternity, and our school. Current projects include refinishing the outside doors, buffing and sealing the dining room floor, painting the dining room and "the pit," and putting up blinds or curtains in the west lounge. These projects have all been set into motion with the help of the generous funds allocated by the alumni board during this past Homecoming Weekend, and we're dedicated to seeing them fully carried out. After all, we take pride in maintaining the Pi house as the jewel that it is for ourselves, those who came before, and those who'll follow.

Fraternally,
Jean Paul Simoes '99

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 at all times and should be sent to Sigma Pi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

"The Place To Be In 1996"

Socially, Sigma Pi is once again back on the "A" list of Cornell fraternities. Early in the semester, the "light party" attracted Cornellians from around the campus and colleegetown with high-intensity searchlights that lit up both the house and the sky above. We are also looking forward to our upcoming mixers with Alpha Epsilon Phi, Kappa Delta, Alpha Chi Omega, and Pi Phi.

Next on the agenda is a philanthropic event with AXO at our house in November. In the meantime, the events that we have held have been not only enjoyable to the brothers but also useful as rush tools. Word on the street about Sigma Pi is that we are "the place to be in '96." The freshmen we have been inviting to our Wednesday night semiformal dinners have been impressed with the brotherhood and what we stand for. In addition, upcoming fall smokers will allow us to interact with the freshmen whom we haven't yet had a chance to meet and afford us the opportunity of meeting potential members.

Fraternally,
David Goodman '00
Social Chairman

Upcoming Rush Is Key To Future

As with any other chapter, the future of Mu Chapter is clearly dependent on the successful initiation of new members. As one of the 10 brothers here today, I am watching as the face of this fraternity changes forever. Although it is somewhat difficult to rush in the fall semester, we have found a number of men who are enthusiastic about joining our brotherhood. Our current pledge class has four people, and we anticipate starting the next pledge class in three or four weeks.

The new pledge program that I have written is based largely upon the six-week program specified in the *Start* manual and is vastly superior to the program that I went through last year. It includes such events as big and little brother nights, song night, and a campout. We have also decided to include study hours, intramural sports, and an officer assistance program.

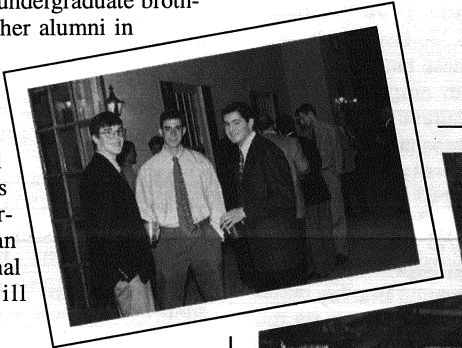
I am very excited about our new friends and am determined to create among them the same sense of chapter unity that exists within the current brotherhood. I have found it challenging but extremely rewarding to help direct the recent actions of our brotherhood and lead in the education of new pledges.

Jim Lauer '99

Homecoming Weekend At Mu Chapter

Good Times Roll For Young And Old

The past few months have been hectic ones for the 10 brothers of Mu Chapter, but they were made easier by our continued contact with the alumni. In June, Mu Chapter held its Alumni Weekend. This event allowed alumni who had returned to Cornell to visit the new house as well as to meet some of the new undergraduate brothers and to chat with other alumni in an informal setting. This event allowed me, the alumni secretary, to put faces with names from the alumni list of names I was given, but more importantly it allowed for an exciting and educational experience that I will never forget.



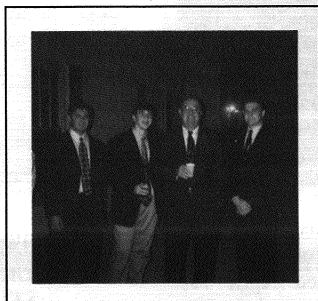
Upper left: Larry Keane '99, Jim Lauer '99, and David M. Goodman '00 having a pleasant time on Homecoming Weekend.

Upper right: James H. Keene III '57 and Christian B. Hansen '91 chat during Homecoming 1996.

Center: Alumni visit the house during Homecoming Weekend.

Lower left: David Goodman '00, Larry Keane '99, Grand Third Counselor David A. Lefeve '60, and Christopher Gerard Huemmer '99 enjoying a night at the Pi house.

Lower right: Michael R. Sfat '43 and Benjamin F. Kellogg '40 reminisce about the good old days at 730 University Avenue.



Likewise, the activities of Homecoming Weekend provided for similar experiences. The annual meeting of the alumni corporation provided my brothers and me with a different perspective on

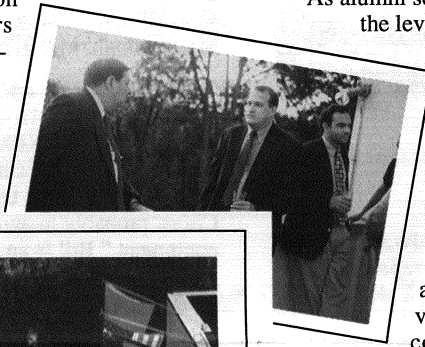
the recent occurrences at Mu Chapter. All in all, it has been an enlightening semester so far.

As alumni secretary, I will try to keep up the level of alumni events that have occurred already this year. As always, our door is open to all of our alumni, for it is as much your house as it is ours. Feel free to drop by anytime, and the undergraduate brothers will be happy to show you around. For those alumni who are unable to visit, please feel free to contact me at 607/277-8656 or via e-mail at cgh5@cornell.edu. I will do my best to answer all of your questions and listen to any of your comments.

Mu Chapter continues to strive for excellence. Just recently, we received a New York State Employer Recognition Award from the governor of New York, George Pataki, and we have been recognized by Cornell as a model fraternity for our recent achievements against drugs and hazing. The undergraduate brother-

hood is proud of these achievements and will continue to work to make Mu Chapter a better place.

Fraternally,
Christopher G.
Huemmer '99



Brothers Adopt Aggressive Rush Strategies

The rush is on.

With such a small brotherhood, the brothers of Mu Chapter have taken an aggressive approach to rush this semester. We already have four pledges, and we hope to start a second fall pledge program after the conclusion of our first. But, more importantly, we are making great efforts to attract an enormous pool of possible spring rushees. Both parties we've thrown thus far have been smashing successes. At the parties, the brothers made a concerted effort to meet as many freshmen as possible (not just women, either) and assemble a guest list of freshmen men whom we can personally

invite to parties, smokers, and rush events.

In addition to our parties, Sigma Pi made a very impressive showing at Fun-in-the-Sun, an event sponsored by the IFC and the Panhellenic Council to give freshmen a positive view of fraternities and sororities. We sponsored one of the most popular booths at the event, having three card monte and a ring-the-bell-with-the-hammer event. Many a freshman went home wearing Sigma Pi T-shirts that they'd won as prizes.

Aside from the events that are making us popular and respected on campus, a lot of promising rush prospects have been

brought in by the brothers at the house. On Wednesday nights, the brothers invite guests for a jacket-and-tie dinner. These events introduce freshmen to the entire brotherhood, which can't help but leave a favorable impression.

As the rush chair, I am filled with optimism for the growth of our house. Our goal is a spring pledge class of 20 to 30 high-quality men. This goal is definitely attainable, and I hope it will set the standard for the rushing strategy of this house.

Peter J. Sedivy '99



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#18, Columbus, GA 31907.

A stockbroker with Edward Jones, THOMAS K. SMITH '61 reports a new address of 8800 Sage Valley Rd., Longmont, CO 80503.

Software engineer HAROLD L. PIERSON JR. '63 works for Thomson Technologies and resides at 6205 Loch Raven Dr., McLean, VA 22101.

"I have several new subdivisions in Montana," writes JOHN W. SHERWOOD '66 (HC53, Box 31C, Columbus, MT 59019). John is a real estate developer. "The area is growing, and my business is an active part of it. I also have an outfitting business and take people hunting and fishing."

PETER A. CHASE '70 is a project manager with Clark Construction. "I'm working on the World Bank headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. They will move into the building at the end of the year. I was recently promoted to project executive and will lead construction of the last station on the Washington, DC, subway system. I also worked on the first station in 1971." He adds, "We recently stayed with Mary and CARL SCHELLHORN '66 in Dobbs Ferry, New York. My wife and I were nearby visiting our daughter, Stephanie, who is a first-year cadet (plebe) at West Point." Drop a line to Peter at 13 Cherbourg Court, Potomac, MD 20854.

Attorney DAVID R. MILLER '71 is now vice president of labor relations at Merck-Medco Managed Care, Inc. "I got to see a few other '71s at the 25th reunion in June, and to see and tour the new house. Impressive. Also I got together with DON RIDER '69 in May for a getaway to Ocean City, Maryland." Write to David at his new address of 7 Clover Lane, Randolph, NJ 07869.

Keep in touch with GREGORY W. FISHER '72 at 1009 Highland Way, Rock Springs, WY 82901. He works in mining for General Chemical. "RICK FISH '72 is on the reunion committee for the class of '72 for the 1997 reunion. Should be a good time. I hope to see lots of brothers there."

A self-employed manufacturer's representative, JAMES R. BRAITHWAITE '74 reports a new address of 1386 Spreading Oak Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

The chief operating officer for the Eastern Casualty Insurance Company, DAVID W. MYERS '74 welcomes correspondence from brothers at 293 Stearns Rd., Marlborough, MA 01752.

"Peggy and I and our four kids will move to China in June 1996," wrote WILLIAM H. AHRENS '76 last March, "to begin two years of Chinese language study followed by long-term employment in China, probably in agricultural chemicals or equipment." Bill is an associate professor at North Dakota State University. Write him at 2017 9 1/2 St. N., Fargo, ND 58102.

Darlene and THOMAS M. GARR '76 were expecting twins in September. They have a six-year-old son named Bradley. Ask after their newborns at 4245 Paran Walk NW, Atlanta, GA 30327.

A vice president of sales and administration for Staples, Inc., STEPHEN A. MONGEAU '78 resides at 11 Danforth Lane, Chelmsford, MA 01824. His oldest daughter, Lilly, headed off to high school this fall, and his youngest, Rosey, went to kindergarten.

Offshore engineer LUC G. CHABOT '80 writes, "My work on the Hibernia project will be completed in November. My family will relocate/return to the Houston, Texas, area, while I continue contributing to the needs of the world's energy guzzling population. It's about time to head back to the Lone Star State. I haven't had a good sweat since I have been in Newfoundland." Our most recent address for Luc is 10 Dollard Place, Mount Pearl, Newfoundland A1N 4K5, CANADA.

Good news abounds from ROB FUCHS '80. Rob, an oil trader for Westport Petroleum, Inc., is now married (April '95) to Gan Li Lian of Singapore, and their first child was due in October. "The door here is always open, if anyone makes it out this way." Rob provides an e-mail address of fox95@singnet.com.sg. His mailing address is 47 A Nim Rd., Nim Park, SINGAPORE 807571.

Boasts MARK D. SHERWIN '80, "We celebrated the birth of our second child and first son, Jordan Reese, on March 15, 1996. Our daughter, Ansley, is two and a half." A cluster general manager with Marriott, Mark keeps in touch with NICK VOJNOVIC '81. Send congratulations to the happy family at 1685 Ashebark Court, Marietta, GA 30068.

"Try your brew in a shoe." JON PETTEE '81 informs us that this is the new marketing slogan for Viking Manufacturing.

"I reported on the success of Viking Manufacturing in the last issue of *The Muse*. Early indications are favorable, as we have seen a marked increase in sales among younger consumers." Send your regards to Jon at 14 Colchester Rd. Weston, MA 02193.

Send greetings to STEVEN G. SCHERZER '89 at 220 E. 32nd St., Apt. #4F, New York, NY 10017.

Write STEVEN D. SIMMS '89 at 225 E. 63rd St., Apt. #6K, New York, NY 10021.

LAWRENCE IRELAND '91 reports a new address of 72 Strathmore Rd., #12B, Brookline, MA 02146.

Moving from coast to coast, attorney DEREK E. MINIHANE's ('91) new business address is 525 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301. Derek, who recently changed law firms, promises to update us soon with his new home address.

We congratulate ANDREW YARMUS '94 on his July 9, 1995, wedding to Danielle Schmelkin. "She is the sister of ALEX SCHMELKIN '98." Andrew is running the family engineering practice. Send best wishes to the happy couple at 3 Top of the Ridge, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

"I have started my own computer consulting firm," writes MICHAEL G. LIPPMANN '95 (P.O. Box 192, Ithaca, NY 14851-0192). "I create web sites for individuals and companies that desire a presence on the World Wide Web. My firm also designs security systems, firewalls, and complete telecommunications solutions."

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

BENJAMIN R. ANDREWS JR. '40
GORDON B. HOFFMAN '31
STEPHEN L. SINDEN '60

Sage Reports

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some of the lowest long distance rates in the country, 30-50 percent lower than AT&T's. Since we are a not-for-profit organization, they will refund to us five percent of the new, lower long distance bills of all our members who sign on as customers. The brothers and pledges have already transferred, and we may soon be calling you to ask you to do the same. We will answer any questions you may have. I urge you to sign up; you will be doing yourself and your fraternity a service.

Fraternally,
Liviu Victor Rusu '97