

# The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 1999

## Mu Chapter Welcomes Alumni, Parents, And Pledges In The Spirit Of Brotherhood

This is the first time that I have had the honor of writing for *The Muse* as sage of Sigma Pi, and I am proud to say that I have wonderful news to relate. We recently had back-to-back alumni and parents weekends that were both enlightening and a lot of fun. At the alumni weekend, our pledges and some of the newly inducted brothers had their first opportunity to meet many of our alumni and get a taste of the long-standing tradition of dedication to this house that so many of our brothers display. The following weekend, parents traveled from all over the northeast to see the organization that their sons had begun to pledge their loyalty to. I had the pleasure of speaking with many of them at length, and every parent I spoke to was impressed with our organization, to say the least. Fears of the "Animal House" that they had envisioned were dispelled, and I'm certain that they left with an appreciation for the valuable and beneficial journey of brotherhood that their boys have begun to embark on.

And speaking of our pledges, I realize that I have gotten ahead of myself. This year's pledges are among the best and brightest on campus. They are 24 strong and, with those numbers and the intensity that they bring to this house, they promise to continue Sigma Pi's rebuilding process and tireless pursuit of greatness. This collection of ath-

letes, writers, future business leaders, musicians, and all-around renaissance men never ceases to impress and amaze me. We will all be proud to call these young men our brothers after their initiation in early April (but don't tell them that).

All in all, our chapter continues to make strides onward and upward. I'd like to close this report by extending an invitation to all alumni to stop by at any time. Your presence in the house would be greatly appreciated. And to all the parents who receive this I would like to reiterate my statement made at dinner before parents weekend, and that is to be proud of your sons and the organization they have joined. It will be a powerful and positive influence on their lives, and I thank you for helping to add to the great chain of brotherhood that Sigma Pi has been for me.

Kyle Kozora '00



*Mike Sfat '43, Mike Polcari '02, Gijs deBoer '02, Andrew Sorkin '99, Liviu Rusu '98, James Keene '57, and Kyle Kozora '00 celebrate the first Alumni Dinner.*

## Alumni Feasted At First Annual Dinner

On February 27, the alumni board of Mu Chapter hosted the first annual Alumni Dinner at 730 University. The evening was intended to be a chance for alumni to meet the new pledges, socialize with their undergraduate brothers, and honor the outgoing officers. These intentions were met and far exceeded by a wonderful evening among brothers.

The evening started off with a cocktail hour, when our twenty-four pledges, some of the parents of the outgoing officers, the alumni, and the undergraduates all got a chance to get well acquainted. We made our way downstairs to the dining room, where we awaited a meal fit for a king. The main course was some of the best steak the state of Nebraska had to offer. We would all like to thank James Keene for the treat. The meal was expertly prepared by our chef, Patrick Spirawlk. Thanks and praise are also in order for our brother Alan Rosen. Al brought with him some of his restaurant's world-famous cheesecake. If you have not yet tried your brother's dessert, give Junior's of Brooklyn a call. I hear they deliver.

Following dinner was a presentation from the alumni board congratulating the undergraduates on a job well done. The outgoing officers were presented with plaques recognizing their service and leadership for Mu Chapter. (continued on page three)

# Chapter Reports

## Treasurer

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT, AFTER SOME years of rebuilding and financial instability, the Pi house will be completely full next year. With the addition of 24 pledges, the brotherhood looks forward to a year of enjoyment and financial success. Next year, the house will have an occupancy of 40 brothers, making it a place we are all proud to call home.

As our fraternity grows, new ideas have arisen in regard to the use of some of the rooms in the house. Many brothers have expressed interest in converting the Cave into a weight room. Currently, the Cave is used as a storage room, with items that can easily be stored in other closets around the house. Brothers have begun to research the cost of obtaining weight equipment so this idea can become a reality. The pledges, in particular, think this would be a great asset to the house and have expressed interest in making this conversion part of their pledge project. From a financial standpoint, this idea is quite feasible and within our existing budget.

It is amazing how many innovative ideas and suggestions our brotherhood contributes for social activities, rush functions, and so on. As treasurer, I am pleased that many of these ideas do not have to be placed on some sort of wish list. Instead, with guidance from each other and our alumni, Mu Chapter looks forward to propositions (like the Cave conversion) that will one day become a reality.

In conjunction with the memorabilia project started last semester, the undergraduates are asking you to go through your Sigma Pi memorabilia and see if there is anything you are willing to part with and donate to the house. Examples of what we are looking for include game balls, trophies, composite photos, ceremonial artifacts, T-shirts, and anything else related to our fraternity's history. Our ultimate goal is to construct an oak display case in the Memorial Library in order to showcase these items, so future brothers can observe the history

and tradition that make up the heart of Sigma Pi.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks to you, our alumni, for your continuing financial support and invaluable direction. We have come a long way and realize none of our successes could have been possible without your giving nature and belief in us. The next time you are in the Ithaca area, please stop by and see the positive changes we have made.

Mark Lynn '00  
Treasurer

Events were planned well in advance, and things were coordinated perfectly. Yet the most difficult aspect of rush was ahead: showing rushees why they belonged at Sigma Pi. The first day of smokers gave us 80 individuals to talk about, and the following day brought another 60. Long meetings and hours of debating brought us through the week as we narrowed the rush class to 27 outstanding candidates for entrance into Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi.

Our efforts were amazing. After handing out 27 bids, 24 were signed, giving the Pi house the largest pledge class for quite some time. These 24 pledges embody all of the qualities associated with Sigma Pi, and they will make the future of our beloved house an incredible one.

Sean Sondej '01

## Rush

LAST SEMESTER BEGAN WITH A DESIRE FOR A larger brotherhood. Still in our expansion time, we realized the need for a filled house of quality Pi men. And so began the task of achieving exceptional results. In the fall, we had near-weekly rush events for interested freshmen to introduce themselves to the brotherhood and for the Pi house to shine. As the weeks passed, the name of Sigma Pi spread, and our consecutive rush events were increasing in size. By the time winter break arrived, we had nearly 30 people to contact. As a reminder of the time spent at Sigma Pi, we gave these rushees T-shirts, which were also available to the brothers, before winter break.

Once rush week arrived, all the brothers were ready for our challenge.

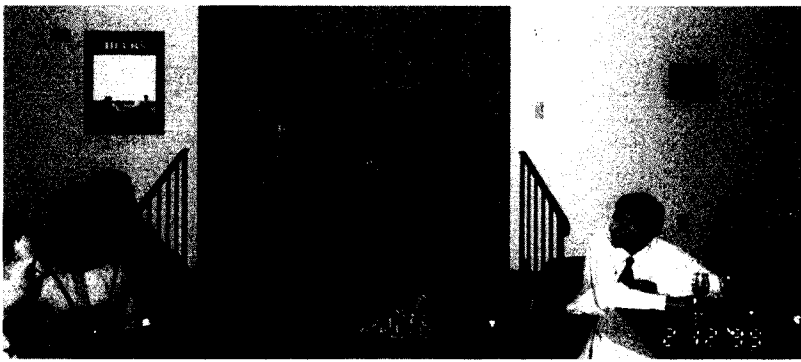
## Social

THIS SEMESTER BEGAN WITH A DYNAMIC DUO coordinating the social schedule for Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi. Alex Rivera '01 and Sean Sondej '01, with cunning and sheer genius, wooed and schmoozed with the sororities on campus and gained several mixers, while maintaining long-standing relations and beginning a few new ones. The annual Valentine's Formal went exceptionally well, as the house filled with nearly 120 brothers and their dates. The Pi house is now looking into chartering a dinner cruise for the Orchid Ball, as the house may no longer be able to accommodate the larger brotherhood.

Sean Sondej '01

Brothers  
celebrate  
New Year's  
Eve in  
Times  
Square.





*Ray Shan '99 helps house sweetheart Alison Hsieh support the brothers' roses and admiration.*

## Alumni Feasted

*(continued from page one)*

Fine words were spoken about the undergraduates, and the house's achievements were celebrated. Following the conclusion of the alumni portion of the evening, we, the undergraduates, had a presentation to make. James H. Keene III '57 was given a plaque in recognition of his tireless service and dedication to the brotherhood that we all cherish. This part of the evening gave our pledges a better understanding of what it really means to be a Pi man.

The evening was not quite complete. We headed upstairs, where the group was entertained by the talented voices of Cornell's a cappella group, the Hangovers. On request, they performed a set of all-Cornell songs. Following the professional display of the Hangovers, the brothers and new members gave the Alma Mater a try. It came out a little flat, but not bad.

All in all, the evening was a huge success. Everyone left the house with a great feeling about the organization and the bright future that it has.

For more alumni events, mark your calendars for this year's reunion weekend. A number of undergraduates and members of the Mu Chapter's class of '79 will be staying at the house, so please come and share in the experience.

Fraternally  
Matthew Pens '00



*Past sage Matt Pens '00 and present sage Kyle Kozora '00 present James H. Keene '57 with a plaque commending his service and dedication to ΣΠ.*

## House

TAKING OVER THE REINS AS HOUSE MANAGER this semester, I've already been bombarded by requests to make the house better. As always, things here break, and some things just need to be made better.

As my first order of business, I helped to paint our west lounge before the hardwood floors were redone, so our house would be in tip-top shape for rush. It seemed to work, with the addition of 24 great pledges. Since then, it has been a non-stop roller coaster of fun in the house management department! "What about the inevitable leaky faucets, broken light bulbs, problems with heat, and replacement of windows?" you ask. Don't worry, it's all taken care of to make sure that this house remains presentable for decades to come.

More important, we Pi men have been looking toward the future. Some of our current plans involve placing Plexiglas over the Sigma Pi crest, painting the remaining common areas of the house, and (with luck) building a

solid organizational system within the house manager's closet. All of these things should help protect the house from wear, tear, spilled drinks, and problems arising when we can't find our hammer (hammers fix everything).

Finally, I'd just like to thank all the alumni. Without your support, this house wouldn't be here today. With your continued support, we are certain to continue to grow and improve far into the next millennium.

Sean McEnroe '00

## Steward

AS SOON AS I TOOK OFFICE, I KNEW THAT I was going to have my work cut out for me. After all, last semester's steward is nicknamed Meat. Patrick Spirawk, the house chef, and I immediately got things cooking (no pun intended) in the kitchen and began organizing the brotherhood's daily meals. With menu planning, I have tried to cater to everyone's healthier desires. This has resulted in more salads and a larger variety of vegetables. Yet I still manage to sneak the occasional steak or fried chicken into the menu. In the kitchen itself, a new dishwashing system will automatically add the correct amount of liquid soap and will save us money in the long run.

Although Patrick makes every dinner delicious, he is at his best on special occasions. We took advantage of this during rush by inviting our rushees to a nice dinner, where we served a savory combination of steak and salmon. Also, at our annual Valentine's Day Formal, Patrick was called upon to make his legendary champagne chicken. It was no surprise that it lived up to expectations. That's all from the kitchen for now!

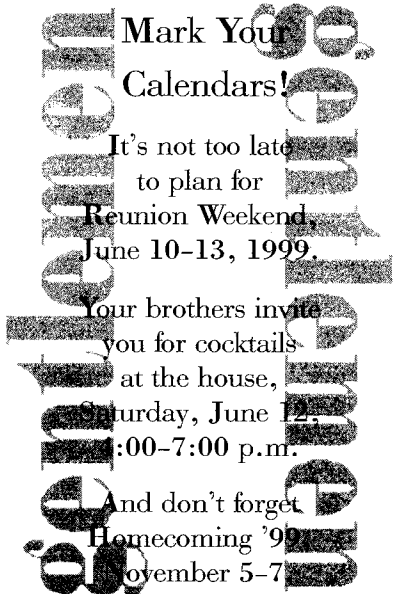
Craig Huemmer '01  
Steward

Mark Your  
Calendars!

It's not too late  
to plan for  
Reunion Weekend,  
June 10-13, 1999.

Your brothers invite  
you for cocktails  
at the house,  
Saturday, June 12,  
6:00-7:00 p.m.

And don't forget  
Homecoming '99  
November 5-7.



## Support Works For Alumni And Actives

**O**n February 27, your alumni board hosted a dinner in Ithaca to honor the outgoing officers and to welcome the new pledges to the fraternity. Perhaps the most concise way that I can report to you on the state of undergraduate affairs is to say that your alumni leaders felt it was a good investment of our time and resources to travel to Ithaca to say to the undergraduate leadership, "Job well done!"

Homecoming weekend this year is November 5-7. The format of Homecoming at Mu Chapter is very different from what you may have experienced in years past! For the last three years, all of the activities at the house have been geared to the alumni. The undergraduates have done an excellent job of designing events that allow the alumni to meet and get to know them and to be together with their alumni classmates. It is not a "blasty" undergraduate party where alumni are tolerated. It is a party designed for the enjoyment of all. This year we want to put a special emphasis on Homecoming by encouraging a large number to return to Ithaca. This is best done by one brother encouraging others to make the trip to Ithaca. The appeal of Homecoming is universal, in that there are numerous Cornell events, including the football game, and of course the special times at Sigma Pi. Now is the time to make hotel reservations!

Your alumni board is working on a plan to reinforce the importance of the alumni dues program. The funds generated by the voluntary \$25 dues payment support the alumni relations program. You will receive more information about the initiatives in this regard prior to the November annual meeting.

The need for fund-raising has not gone away. We hope to have at least one more brass plaque installed by Homecoming to recognize the next 25 brothers who have made Fair Share gifts (\$1,000). Other memorial plaques could be unveiled, also. There are uncompleted memorial funds already established to the memory of Frank Conti '53, Richard F. Fellows '60, Charles Hawks '61, Richard Allan '56, Martin T. Mace '57, Professor Smith

## A Mountainous Good Time: Alums Host Undergraduate Brothers On Spring Break

**I**t wasn't exactly spring break MTV-style. There were no sandy beaches or girls bopping around in revealing bikinis. Forget about Caribbean islands or foreign accents. And don't even think about 90-degree heat.

It was even better.

Nineteen Sigma Pi men trekked from Ithaca to Crested Butte, Colorado, for a week of skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. Alumnus James H. Keene III '57, along with his sidekick David Lefevre '60, hosted the week-long party at his home in the foothills of this quaint mining town.

Not surprisingly, spring break '99 was an enormous success. The weather was beautiful (it may have been even better than Cancun), and the skiing was terrific. And if that's not enough, the views were to die for. Surrounded by mammoth mountains, you couldn't look the wrong way.

"This was one amazing week," said



*Brothers use the first school closing in 25 years to pretend they're back in Crested Butte.*

'29, and Robert J. Henderson '58.

The fraternity is solvent. We are, however, operating with a huge debt. Your alumni board is committed, however long it takes, to convincing every brother that he should be counted among the Fair Share givers. You may send your contribution to me at 2828 Woodmen Tower, 1700 Farnam St., Omaha, NE 68102.

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to serve as president of the alumni group. Your elected directors are active and committed brothers who as a group are making a difference!

James Keene '57

Kyle Kozora '00, sage of Sigma Pi, reflecting on the experience during the plane ride back. "We really bonded as a group, not only among ourselves, but with the alumni."

Besides spending 24 hours a day with Jim and Dave, the brothers enjoyed some time with another alumnus, Peter Kennel '61. Peter invited the group to his home for a wonderful evening of cocktails and dinner.

Speaking of dinner: The brothers quite happily learned that Jim and Dave could easily pass as master chefs. The duo cooked breakfast, lunch, and dinner almost every day, seemingly with ease. On the menu: waffles, French toast, and omelets for breakfast; cold-cut sandwiches for lunch; steak, turkey, fried chicken and chili for dinner. And dessert was especially good: strawberry shortcake one night, chocolate cake the next. Clearly, everyone was spoiled silly.

While some brothers missed Kayla, our house dog, all feelings of homesickness soon subsided when the group was introduced to superdog "Bud," who spent the week slobbering all over everybody and desperately trying to run away. (He seemed to enjoy watching everyone run after him.)

All in all, it was quite a memorable week for everyone. From reading Kurt Vonnegut (half a dozen brothers read *Breakfast of Champions*), to (sometimes) gracefully shooting down the slopes, to soaking in the hot tub, the brothers of Sigma Pi gave the week a round of snaps.

Andrew Ross Sorkin '99

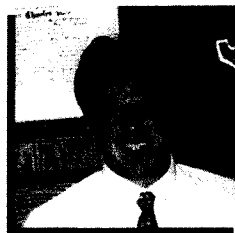
### THE MUSE

*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.*

# Congratulations And Welcome To The Pledge Class Of 1999!



Eric Arinsburg  
New City,  
New York  
ARME



Dan Barber  
San Jose,  
California  
English



Steve Ceritelli  
Denver,  
Colorado  
Hotel  
Administration

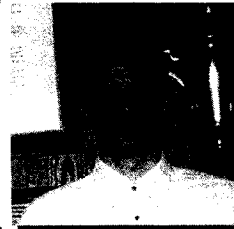
Jim Cheng  
Smithtown,  
New York  
ILR



Gijs deBoer  
Guilford,  
Connecticut  
Meteorology



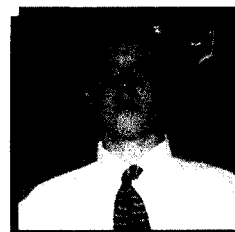
Val Elbert  
Baltimore,  
Maryland



Jeff Evans  
Omaha,  
Nebraska  
Pre-med

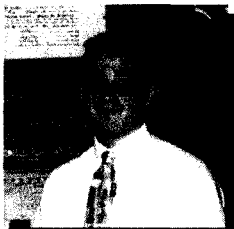


Zach Foster  
Clinton,  
New York  
Engineering

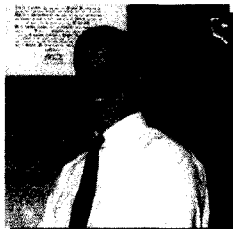


Paul Germain  
Springfield,  
Massachusetts  
Engineering/  
aerospace

Greg Glickman  
Marlboro,  
New Jersey  
ILR



Mike Greeley  
Billerica,  
Massachusetts  
Civil engineering



Dejan Grujic  
Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania  
Microbiology



Peter Hernandez  
San Antonio,  
Texas  
Economics

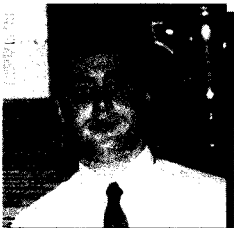


Mark Iwanicki  
Brooklyn,  
New York



Max Jaeger  
Washington,  
D.C.  
Economics and  
math

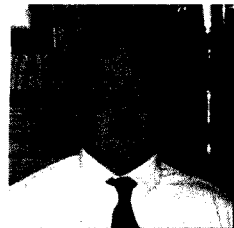
Andrew Janis  
Ithaca, New York  
Arts



Mike Polcari  
Westchester,  
New York  
Computer science/  
engineering



John Scagnelli  
New City,  
New York  
Biology and  
society



Adam Silver  
Carmel, Indiana  
Economics

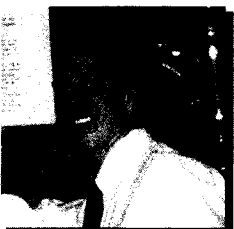


James  
Strangeland  
Seattle,  
Washington  
Aerospace



Brian Weisenthal  
Syosett,  
New York  
Engineering

David Zackowitz  
Flemington,  
New Jersey



NOT PICTURED:

Fabrizio Muzzio  
Palm Beach, Florida  
Hotel Administration

Jeff Walwyn  
Seattle, Washington  
ARME

# The Muse News

CHARLES AHREND '51 writes, "Retired from farming but still active in community events and currently serving 11th year as county supervisor. Had both knees replaced last year and doing just great. Spend lots of time on the golf course." Write to Chuck at 5679 Snapps Creek Rd., Singers Glen, VA 22850, or at webbq4u@aol.com.

WARREN LEACH '53 has had a busy year. "Moved to Pennsylvania after 40 years in New Jersey. Spent winter in Arizona (where I am again as I write). Engaged to be married in January 1999. Reunion (45th) with Sheila and DICK RAGOLD '53 great, and was impressed with ΣΠ house. Fiftieth reunion at Nottingham High School in Syracuse also a blast. Looking forward to hearing from or seeing anyone at any time." Anyone can write "Skip" at HC#1, Box 259B, Lakeville, PA 18438, or at wrlnj@aol.com.

KEN MEYER '59 is still a professor and research mathematician at the University of Cincinnati, "with no thought of retirement." Write to Ken at 6355 Shorts Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45230, or at ken.meyer@uc.edu.

H. LAURANCE FULLER '60 reports, "I have been chairman and CEO of Amoco since 1991. We are in the process of merging with BP (London), and I will be co-chairman of BP Amoco shortly. We will be spending more time in London but will keep our house in Illinois. Very exciting times for all of us. We have three 'children' in their 30s and one grandchild so far. I am a trustee at Cornell and delighted that ΣΠ is rising from the ashes. I hope to stop by when I am there for a trustees' meeting." Write to Larry at 25W451 Plamondon Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187.

JAMES McCULLOUGH '63 retired last September, after 33 years with Exxon USA. "Moved to eastern Tennessee when we found our four and a half mostly wooded hillside acres. Enjoying on-line investing, gardening, and woodworking. Looking forward to serious fishing and hiking come spring." Write to Jim at 579 Laurel Rd., Crossville, TN 38555, or at sne1290@multipro.com.

JOHN SHERWOOD '66 writes, "I have expanded my land development business to include two dealerships for manufactured homes. The new business, Stillwater Homes, has done quite well, with over a million dollars in sales the first year. I got remarried in '96 and we had a new baby boy (John Michael) in '97. He is now a year old and very, very busy. I still run my guiding business and take people hunting and fishing when time allows." Write to John at 413 Shane Creek Rd., Columbus, MT 59019.

RICHARD FISH '72 is now director of University Animal Resources at North Carolina State's College of Veterinary Medicine. "Peg Hogan and I married last spring after a brief (10 years) courtship." Write to Rick at 3304 Alslee Oaks Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606, or at rick\_fish@ncsu.edu.

FORD FAY '82 moved to Denver two and a half years ago, after 10 years in Rochester. "My wife, Kathleen Flynn, and our three kids, Ryan (10), Sean (six), and Cassie (four), enjoy the sun and outdoor lifestyle of the Rocky Mountains: skiing, hiking, biking, rollerblading, and soccer! I work as vice president of operations at the start-up long distance division of U.S. West. We're always looking for talented people with some telecom experience." Write to Ford at 9879 S. Clairton Court, Highland Ranch, CO 80126, or at ffay@aol.com.

Write to JEFFREY MELNICK '86 at 107 Reed St., Cambridge, MA 02140, or at melnick@babson.edu.

Write to TOM BARBARO '88 at 118 Meadbrook Rd., Garden City, NY 11530.

## DECEASED

*We regret to report the death of the following alumnus:*

WILLIAM COATES '41  
August 5, 1998

# ΣΠ

## UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

**SAGE**  
KYLE KOZORA '00

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
NICK KRUCZYNSKI '01

**TREASURER**  
MARK LYNN '00

**SECRETARY**  
JONATHAN COLL '01

**ALUMNI SECRETARY**  
MATTHEW PENS '00

**HERALD**  
MIKE DAVID '01

**HOUSE MANAGER**  
SEAN McENROE '00

.....

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

**ALUMNI PRESIDENT**  
JAMES H. KEENE III '57

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
DAVID A. LEFEVE '60

**DIRECTORS**  
DENNIS P. McNAMARA '83  
ROBERT A. NAFIS '49  
JAMES W. PALMER '60  
DOUGLAS M. PARKER '56  
MICHAEL H. QUAID '75  
NICHOLAS REITENBACH '56  
VANNESS D. ROBINSON '57  
ALAN ROSEN '91  
MICHAEL R. SFAT '43

# ΣΠ