

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity - Cornell University

SPRING 2002 ITHACA, NEW YORK

Thoughts From Your Alumni President...

Among CU Greeks, Sigma Pi "Gets It Right"

The actives deserve a big snap of the fingers on their rushing success. The pledge class is large. I have now met most of the new pledges, and I can report they are a fine group-widely diverse, young, and eager to get on with the fraternity experience. I always feel good when I tell them they have made a good choice and that the experience and associations will continue for all of their lives!

Two of our brothers were elected vice presidents of the IFC. We are proud of you!

Many of you have heard of the McGraw Place project. It is essentially complete. We will include a major spread on the project in the next Muse. Those who visit the house in the future will see the impact of this very special project, made possible by the contribution of \$200,000 from a small group of our alumni who felt the project was important to the long-term future of the house. Full details in the next Muse!

The mortgage reduction effort of the Heritage Fund has received some good support—but thus far disappointing to me. The effort will continue, and I will continue to pitch the idea that every Mu member should have his name on the wall! It isn't so much the "plaque" but the idea that our fraternity is a very special organization, and the only source of support is our membership. There are approximately 1,000 of us; thus far about one third have responded. Remember that your contributions are cumulative since the fund began in 1990. I will be writing to those who have made contributions close to the fair share, founders, and major gift categories and encourage you to add the small amount to qualify for recognition in these categories.

Jim Palmer '60 (your alumni treasurer) and I recently attended the Andrew D. White conference for training of new undergraduate officers of the Cornell fraternities. It was a good experience. Once again, it reminded me of the high resolve of the Cornell administration to support and help the good fraternities, work with the mediocre ones to bring them forward, and to disassociate the poor ones from the Cornell community. I think it is fair to say that in Cornell's eyes Sigma Pi is one of the top 10 houses on the hill! It was close to embarrassing to see how often our fraternity was mentioned as an example of how to "get it right."

Elsewhere in this Muse there is an article on efforts that are being organized to offer financial help to Dolly Hailstork. Many of us never knew Dolly, but the plans to help him are not only a sign of the affection many of our brothers have for him but also an expression of the strength of the bond between all of us and of the meaning of membership in Mu Chapter. It's all about those with whom we spent our college days—and Dolly was a part of the brotherhood for over 30 years. Good luck with your fundraising, guys!

Lastly, I want to tell you about a recent evening I spent at the house as a guest at the Valentine formal. Several months ago Sage Steve Cerritelli '02 asked if I would come to one of the "regular" parties that are part of the social year to see what they do when the focus is not the entertainment of alumni. I explained that my wife, Ruth, would probably be reluctant to travel from Omaha to Ithaca to attend an undergraduate party. One of the brothers standing nearby volunteered that he could get me a date! When Ruth heard that, she agreed with enthusiasm to make the trip. It was a delightful time! The brothers and the pledges made us feel very welcome, and our new sage, Adam Brown '03, saw to it that all our needs were met. It was for me the first time at such a party since 1958. We hope to be able to do it again!

> Fraternally, Jim Keene '57 President, Alumni Board

Report From The Sage...

Mu Chapter Makes Strides In All Areas

Rarely have our brothers lived through so much change, in so many ways, in so short a time. For seven years now we have met the challenge of change by renewing the very idea of Sigma Pi: deepening the meaning of our brotherhood, strengthening membership, forging an updated infrastructure and facilities, and creating a more visible organization within our community. If the start of the year is any indication, we are not stagnant or yet completely fulfilled by our accomplishments. We are still working diligently to grow and develop as an organization.

As I am sure you will see in this publication, we are increasing our numbers with outstanding young men. At the beginning of the semester, 29 bids were given out, and 25 were accepted. Diversity continues to spread through the house with men from all corners of the country and world. Thanks to the great work done by our rush chairs, Ty Whilden '04 and Shyam Sankar '03, Mu Chapter continues to receive an outstanding yield that again includes Cornell's finest athletes, musicians, and scholars

Construction has halted to allow the winter weather to pass, but the McGraw Place project will resume in mid-March and will be complete by the end of March. Eight new parking places for lease have been created above the main entrance to the house to add revenue. In addition, parking spaces have been added to the lower lot for use by brothers. A food delivery ramp was built that winds from the top lot around to the back of the house. A retaining wall was erected behind the house along with cement paths that organize the back yard and direct traffic up from the bottom parking lot to the dining room. Finally, guard rails were built bordering the west side of the house to protect the slope

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Mu Chapter Welcomes 25 New Members



Michael Glicken Highland Park, IL Electrical Engineering



Sean Burke *Alexandria, VA*Philosophy/Government



Daryl Corral Somerset, NJ Hotel School



Dave ShortWellesley, MA
Economics



Ken Graham
Colorado Springs, CO
Industrial & Labor Relations



Kevin Dinstell *Oakland, CA*Human Development



Vince Curtin Elmira, NY Human Development



Matthew Maloney Yardley, PA Mathematics



Nicholas Lesser Pittsburgh, PA Biological Sciences



Michael Taylor Chevy Chase, MD Government



Miguel Mascaro Fairfax, VA Pre-Med



Raphael Rabin-Havt Port Washington, NY Industrial & Labor Relations



Michael Brandt
Cincinnati, OH
Industrial & Labor Relations



Andrew Magenheim Franklin Lakes, NJ Electrical Engineering



Bill Clausen Bethesda, MD Classics



Charles Strecker
Tulsa, OK
Economics/English



Chris Moran Clarks Summit, PA Pre-Med



David RosenPort Washington, NY
Applied Economics/Mgmt.



Jens Roman *West Babylon, NY* Neurobiology



Greg Roman *Boca Raton, FL*Theater



Dave Zisa *Doylestown, PA*Chemical Engineering



Carl Majette
Bronx, NY
Policy Analysis/Mgmt.



Fitz Collings Cleveland, OH Economics/Government



Alex Metzroth
Tiburon, CA
Hotel School



Devan Musser Lancaster, PA Pre-Law

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McGraw Place Project Nearing Completion

After a semester of brothers awakening to the sound of jackhammers and cement trucks, much of the work on the McGraw Place project is complete. The remaining work, which includes paving and landscaping, will be completed in the spring. Over spring break work will begin to convert the basement storage room into a bedroom, which will share bathroom facilities with the basement apartment.

Through consultation with the alumni board, the decision was made to switch to a new general contractor for house maintenance. We hope that the new contractor will be better able to help us maintain the physical structure of the house.

Special thanks go to Bob Nafis '49 for his guidance and vigilance over the past semester. He kept tabs on the progress of the McGraw Place project and as always made sure that all of our inspections with the City of Ithaca were up to date.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to visit the house for Alumni Weekend (April 5-7) and see the ongoing improvements firsthand

> Fraternally, John T. Szczepanski '02 House Manager

Come Back For Alumni Weekend, April 5-7!

With the semester just recently under way, there has already been a great deal going on with Mu Chapter and the active brothers. While the rest of *The Muse* should serve to enlighten you about recent events, I have the pleasure of announcing that Alumni Weekend will be April 5-7. On behalf of the actives living at 730 University and those out-of-house brothers, I encourage all alums to travel back to Ithaca for a very enjoyable weekend with other Pi men.

Alums are encouraged to stop by on Friday evening to meet some of the actives at an informal cocktail hour. On Saturday there will be a cocktail hour starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dinner at 7:00 p.m. After din-

ner alums are encouraged to stay and chat for the rest of the evening. On Sunday morning there will be an informal continental breakfast in our dining room.

To RSVP, please contact me by e-mail (elg28@cornell.edu), phone (607/745-2828), or regular mail (730 University Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850). I am very excited to be your alumni secretary for this coming year and hope to meet many of you that first weekend in April. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments regarding anything, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally, Evan Gilbert '03, Alumni Secretary



The new executive board.

Mu Chapter Makes Strides In All Areas _____

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going down from the dining room to the parking lot. In the coming weeks, ivy will be added to the retaining wall, and an additional double bed room will be built in the basement.

Mu Chapter has entered the 21st century with the creation of a wireless network. A cable modem brings the bandwidth into the house while a router and hubs send the data zipping to pocket radio sized receivers in individual rooms and to cards in laptops. The wireless network allows laptop users to do work in any of the lounges or on the lawn. We are one of the few houses on campus to have such a network, which keeps the house on par with Cornell's Redrover Rover wireless network.

A larger presence on campus requires larger philanthropic events. The past semester saw our new era's most successful charitable event, Sigma Pi's Jazz Night. Organized by Jesse Corburn '03 and Paul El-Meouchy '03, a sit-down dinner followed by a professional jazz performance raised money for the Ithaca Fire Department's burn fund and the American Red Cross. Another visible, large-scale event hosted at the house is on the horizon for late April. Creating annual events that are culturally sophisticated and social and philanthropic in nature increases the house's

stature in the eyes of the undergraduate, Cornell, and Ithaca communities, especially when students, faculty, and residents congregate together within our walls.

During the second weekend in February, Mu Chapter hosted the Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council meeting. The FSAC is charged with advising key administrators on policy and planning issues and producing an annual report on the state of fraternities and sororities. The most powerful members of our community who are guiding the Greek system—trustees, alumni, faculty, and students—were briefed on the status of Sigma Pi during the day-long meeting and were shown our beautiful facility.

With the new calendar year comes a newly elected executive board for Sigma Pi and for the IFC. I am proud to announce that Evan Gilbert '03 was elected first counselor (alumni secretary and sergeant-at-arms), Ty Whilden '04 was elected second counselor (VP), Jason Klein '03 was elected third counselor (treasurer), Matt Liba '04 was elected fourth counselor (secretary), and Evan Andrews '04 was elected herald. I am excited to work with this wonderful group of leaders and dedicated Sigma Pi men. I am also extremely pleased to announce that two of our brothers will serve

on the Interfraternity Council e-board. Paul El-Meouchy '03 was elected vice president of university and community relations, and Ty Whilden '04 was elected vice president of communications. Having brothers in these positions on the IFC e-board will allow Mu Chapter to influence the direction of the overall Greek system.

The entire organization is working diligently to improve Mu Chapter. I can proudly boast that strides have been made in nearly all aspects of the house and that this is only the beginning of our ascendancy. I strongly believe in the saying that no matter what you are involved in, you should always leave your project in a better condition than you found it in. Mu Chapter makes a large campus smaller, gives undergrads a place to call home, offers lifelong bonds, instills leadership, cultivates scholarship, and promotes community service. I look forward to leading the undergrads through another great year, but most importantly, from the newest members to the eldest alumni, we are all working together so that Mu Chapter can provide a unique program that enhances the Cornell experience.

Fraternally, Adam Brown '03

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Cornell-in-Washington Program

Internships And Classes Provide Great Learning Opportunities

My name is Cory Sinclair, and I am currently a sophomore at Cornell. I pledged Sigma Pi last spring, and last semester I served as social chair. Currently, I am participating in the Cornell-in-Washington Program. So far, I am having a great time in DC.

About 50-60 Cornell students take part in the program every semester. We live in double and triple apartments, located on the corner of 22nd and O streets, right near Dupont Circle. In addition to working as interns three days a week, we take a full course load of 12 to 16 credits. The classes are taught by Cornell professors and are held on the bottom floor of the apartment building.

I am working for 20/20 with ABC News as an intern. So far, I am having a great experience in the news industry. I work with producers researching stories as well as pitching some of my own. I also will be taking part in actual shoots and meetings with the anchors. (I might even be going to the Academy Awards in L.A. in March!) For courses I am taking the history of Washington architecture and the Senate in the 20th century. They are excellent classes and extremely interesting. Also as part of this program, we take a research class where we write a thesis-level paper. I am very interested in film, so I am writing my paper on the film Forrest Gump, looking particularly at why the specific historical periods were chosen and how they are portrayed.

Washington, DC, is a great city, and I am enjoying myself—but I miss good old 730 University Avenue very much. I was able to get back to Ithaca for our Valentine's Day formal, which was a great time.

If anyone visits DC this spring, please get in touch with me. I would love to meet with a fellow brother. My Cornell experience is not the same without Sigma Pi, and I cannot wait to be back in Ithaca next semester.

Fraternally, Cory D. Sinclair '04

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

Semester At Sea Program

Around The World In 100 Days

I was incredibly excited. I had just started the Semester At Sea program—the only way that I know to get college credit for traveling around the world. We left from Vancouver, 700 students put together on a cruise ship porting into nine different countries. We were scheduled to go around Southeast Asia and then up through the Suez Canal, visiting countries across the Middle East and Northern Africa before finally crossing the Atlantic and ending in Miami.

I remember my second day vividly because it was the first glimpse I had that this voyage was going to be full of surprises. Rough seas in open water are something that is really hard to imagine until you actually encounter them. Only a few hours under way, we were subjected to the worst storm of the voyage. As the ship was madly tossing everywhere, I turned green and made a quick dash for the bathroom. After my stomach had had enough, I trudged back to my cabin to ponder the realities of being stuck on a ship for the next three months.

Of course, the most drastic surprise was yet to come. The day before arriving in Japan we learned of the September 11 attacks. Without TV or access to news, we couldn't imagine the impact that the events would have on our families at home or that they would continue to color nearly every interaction we had with people in foreign countries across the world. The reactions were widespread and varied; in Japan everyone seemed to want to apologize and help us. In a club in China my friend was all of a sudden taken to an upper room to talk with a group of Chinese who could only be described as gangsters. Scared out of his mind, it took him a few minutes to realize that all they wanted to do was apologize for the attacks and buy us all a round of drinks.

At the Taj Mahal in northern India I had an entirely different experience; the man sitting next to me started asking me what I

thought about the attacks, and a few minutes into the conversation I realized that he was a devout Muslim. He didn't support the terrorist acts (although he claimed to understand them), but he was extremely angry at the U.S. intervention into Afghanistan and the problems that the people there were suffering as a result. He considered them all his brothers since they shared the same religion. Keep in mind that the Taj is 200 miles away from the Kashmir border, where a Muslim-majority Pakistan was at war with a Hindu-majority India. That same day I talked to a Hindi cab driver who wanted to invade Pakistan and felt that the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan was the start of the next world war.

I would have had many more chances to talk with Muslims, but our voyage was completely changed. The Suez and the Middle East were no longer safe, and so we rerouted around Africa. Hardly a hardship, since I would get to go on a safari in South Africa and scuba diving in the Seychelles. It was the most incredible three months of my life. From visiting the Taj Mahal to seeing a lion take down an impala 10 feet away from me, my experiences were incredible, and I will reminisce about them to the end of my life. Fidel Castro even came to speak to us while we were in Cuba.

Strangely, one of the biggest adjustments I made was coming back into the U.S., where I was no longer surrounded by beggars or accosted by merchants. It felt unnatural not to haggle over prices in stores. I must admit, though, that after eating in India, China, and Vietnam, it was truly a divine experience to recognize everything on my plate!

I have no idea what the lasting effects will be from this incredible semester. All I know is that it is great to be home and back with my family, my friends, and my Sigma Pi brothers.

Jeff Walwyn '02

Send In Your Newsform

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



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Valentine's Formal Features Special Guest

The social calendar this semester has been packed and very successful thus far. Amid multiple mixers and other events with numerous sororities, we recently held our annual Valentine's Day formal, which was hugely popular, as always. This year we were fortunate enough to have Jim Keene '57 and his lovely wife, Ruth, in attendance, who both managed to show the undergrads they can still move on the dance floor.

The rest of the semester will continue to be exciting for Mu Chapter as it holds more mixers and social events, including several philanthropy-oriented events with Pi Beta Phi and Delta Gamma. To round out the spring, the brothers are also looking forward to the annual Orchid Ball at a local winery early in May.

Fraternally, Noah Koretz '04, Social Chair

"Living The Dream"

As a December graduate of the college of arts and sciences, I am currently enjoying a "semester" of being at school with no academic pressures. I currently spend my days engaging in such activities as lounging, passing the time, and annoying brothers who are trying to get work done. In a sense, I'm living the dream for the next three months—quite a liberating feeling.

Over the past three and a half years, Sigma Pi has been an integral part of my Cornell experience. The house has served as a sanctuary from the academic rigors at Cornell. My brothers have always been able to provide welcome relief from the many pressures of school. However, with academics out of the picture (for the time being), I have been able to make the fraternity my primary focus.

As a pledge three years ago, I often wondered what compelled brothers from the 1950s to come back to Sigma Pi for functions like Homecoming and Alumni Weekend. Over the past three years, though, I have come to realize that my Cornell experience was so enhanced by Sigma Pi that the two are almost inseperable in my mind.

Next year, when I return to Cornell to pursue a master's of engineering, I will move out of the house for the first time in three years. Although this will be my first true step away from the fraternity, I know that my bond to the house will only grow stronger throughout the years.

Max Jaeger '02





Valentine's Day formal.

Brothers Plan Fundraisers For Dolly Hailstork

Over the last year, some Sigma Pi alumni have visited Dolly in Ithaca. Unfortunately, they found his living conditions and financial situation to be less than livable. Although Dolly is a vivacious and active 87-year-old man, his health does not allow to him to do all the things he used to do for himself. His home has serious structural problems and is in dire need of a cleanup. His monthly allowance from social security allows for nothing more than basic sustenance.

Sixteen years ago, a fundraiser for Dolly raised a few dollars to help subsidize his expenses. He was younger—and so were we. Our ability to make a real impact on his financial situation was limited. Today our friend Dolly again needs some help, and this time many of us are in a position to make a real difference.

A committee has been formed to raise funds for Dolly. The money will be placed in trust so no one but Dolly will be able to benefit from it. Once the trust is no longer needed, the remaining funds will be passed on to the house. The primary function of the trust will be to provide monthly income to Dolly for better living conditions and the assistance that he needs.

We are organizing three events: kick-off cocktail parties in New York City and Boston in April (see insert), and a large event that will mark the culmination of the fundraising campaign to take place in New York City in September. It will be a wonderful reunion for all of us and a great chance to see (and be entertained by) our beneficiary—Adolphus Cunningham Hailstork III.

We have set up a web site to provide information about the fundraiser and associated activities. Please go to http://www.dollyhail stork.com. For more information, or if you'd like to help organize the fundraising, please e-mail Mark Wood '88 (mrcwoody@yahoo.com).

Michael Vernick '82

Jazz Night Benefits Ithaca Fire Department, Red Cross

The fall semester for our chapter was very successful for philanthropy. Our chapter hosted two campus-wide events in addition to participating in a few others. In October, as part of a safe sex education campaign, the brothers of Sigma Pi distributed information on Ho Plaza about practicing safer sex. In late November, Sigma Pi hosted Jazz Night, which raised money for both the Ithaca Fire Department and the local chapter of the American Red Cross. This event, which featured a classy benefit dinner and jazz entertainment all night long, attracted a broad array of people representing the diversity of our campus, including faculty and students, Greeks and non-Greeks. A big success, Jazz Night raised over \$1,000 for the two organizations.

In early December, Sigma Pi sponsored, with Gannett University Health Services, "Advertising AIDS," a poster exhibit depict-

ing the history of HIV and AIDS over time through advertisement. The display held posters from all over the U.S. and around the world depicting the different views that people have had about the disease. This educational event was held in conjunction with World AIDS Day, and during the exhibit we collected donations for a Peace Corps AIDS education mission in Zambia. Hundreds of students came to the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall to view the collection.

Sigma Pi's involvement in philanthropy has been on a steady rise—a trend that is expected to continue this spring. We hope this will become our signature on campus, with Jazz Night and the AIDS poster exhibition as annual Sigma Pi events.

Fraternally, Paul El-Meouchy '04 Co-Philanthropy Chair PAGE SIX THE MUSE

HERITAGE FUND NEWS

Alumnus Offers \$5,000 Challenge To The Classes Of 1990-'99

One of our major donors has offered an additional gift of \$5,000 to his already generous support of the Heritage Fund. His conditions are simple: he will match any gift from members of the classes of the 1990s up to a total of \$5,000. He feels that it is not too early in a young person's career to remember the experiences of recent years and the benefits derived. Here is a chance to bolster the mortgage reduction fund by \$10,000!

Belated Thanks To These Donors

Recently our donor records for the Heritage Fund were transferred from a manual listing to an electronic listing. As a result, the following names were inadvertently left off the donor list:

MAJOR GIFTS — Francis R. Fowler '36

FOUNDER GIFTS — Jarrett F. Wait '80

FAIR SHARE GIFTS — Thomas E. Cayten '64

If you know of other omissions, please let us know.

Alumni Mailbag

GEORGE G. READER '40 makes his home at 5006 Theall Rd., Rye, NY 10580.

For 40 years, HOWARD W. HULFORD '44 has been running the Curtain Bluff Resort in the Caribbean. Drop him a line at P.O. Box 288, Antigua, WEST INDIES.

"Very glad we moved in '99 to Niwot, Colorado, to be closer to our two children and two grandchildren in Boulder and our eldest son in Jackson, Wyoming," writes MICHAEL LEIGH '52. "Enjoyed a weekend visit in September with former Sigma Pi roommate ART JAGGARD '51 and his wife and have been in touch with HOWARD RATHBUN '55 in nearby Fort Collins." Classmates in or traveling through the area are invited to drop by at 7692 Estate Circle, Longmont, CO 80503.

LINCOLN C. PEIRCE '52 reports a new address of 26 Mendum's Landing, Barrington, NH 03825 (lpeirce@totalnetnh.net).

For the last five years, Marilyn and FRED O. JENSEN '55 have lived on Cape Cod at 110 Lake Shore Dr., Chatham, MA 02633. They often see brother DOUG PARKER '56 and his wife, Angela, who live nearby in Orleans. In the fall, DICK RAGOLD '53 and his wife, Sheila, came down from Vermont for a visit, and so Fred, Doug, and Dick enjoyed a Sigma Pi minireunion. Fred writes, "Marilyn works part time as a consulting nutritionist, and I keep busy as president of the board of trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House in Chatham and

chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee of Chatham's Wastewater Management Study. We love Cape Cod and would welcome visitors."

Stay in touch with RICHARD KNO-BLOCK '55 at 158 Bristol St., Canandaigua, NY 14424 (knoblockr@ aol.com).

CHARLES H. HILL '59 (chil12@home. com) lives at 1332 S. Lakeshore Dr., Sarasota, FL 34231.

The president of the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, STEPHEN E. TAYLOR '68 can be reached at staylor@ndcc.org or at 15923 Archwood Lane, Dallas, TX 75248.

HOWARD M. ROSEN '73 resides at 91 Old Farm Rd. N., Chappaqua, NY 10514.

"All is well here in New Jersey over the holidays," wrote STEVEN L. BERGH '79 in late December. "Saw DAVE D'ORLANDO '79 back in November; he's doing great. We continued our dialogue about the sorry state of Eastern and national politics and wished we had WAYNE BUDER '79 around to continue the discussion about what a fine leader Bill Clinton was!" Write to Steve at 6 Manchester Court, Morristown, NJ 07960 or at stbergh@dc.com.

ROBERT RENE '79 (235 N. Carmelina Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90049) notes that his e-mail address was printed incorrectly in the last issue of the newsletter. The correct

address is r.rene@gte.net.

HERBERT ERNST '81 works for Lehman Brothers and lives at 104 Furston Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Please note this new address for ALAN PORTNOI '84: 175 Western Dr., Short Hills, NJ 07078.

PHILIP SIVIN '93 and his wife, Lara, are pleased to announce the birth of their first daughter, Dylan Alexis, on August 9, 2001. Congratulate them at 61 W. 62nd St., New York, NY 10023 (psivin@mdsass.com).

Stay in touch with MICHAEL J. VAN INGEN '01 at 4959 Butterworth Place NW, Washington, DC 20016 (mjv10@cornell.edu).

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of CALVIN C. CUSTER '48 on March 2, 2001.

