



The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

FALL 2003

Chapter President Reports

Flourishing Brotherhood, High Campus Profile Bode Well For Sigma Pi

The beginning of the new school year marks an exciting time for the men of Sigma Pi. Last spring we initiated 28 new members—a great success for these young men, and an even greater success for the chapter. Our presence on campus is strong, our social standing is high, and our members continue to pursue leadership positions in all areas of academic life.

We have enjoyed much success inside the chapter as well. After months of deliberation, we have finally ratified a set of bylaws, giving structure to house operations and clearly defining leadership roles. We have created a committee designed with the purpose of examining our new member education program, focusing on defining the ideals behind the program, and proposing ways to implement them. Brothers have pulled together for many philanthropic ventures and have gathered often to celebrate the bonds of brotherhood.

Of course, it is a great time to be president of Sigma Pi. Although each day brings with it small struggles, the excitement of leading a flourishing brotherhood persists throughout. I would like to pause now for reflection. I will share some of my thoughts on our accomplishments and my vision for the Sigma Pi of tomorrow.

As the end of my term approaches, I have spent much time thinking about the impact I have had on Sigma Pi. Have I accomplished what I hoped to accomplish? Will I leave behind a positive legacy for those following me? I have asked myself these questions repeatedly.

When I first began as president, I had two overarching goals for my term. First, I

wanted to increase involvement: get everyone excited about chapter meetings, leadership positions, and general activities. Second, I wanted to strengthen the brotherhood by creating events that everyone was excited about and, in doing so, foster lifelong bonds between brothers. Both goals, I thought, would build upon each other, working in tandem to improve our chapter as a whole. You could call my philosophy “Leave no brother behind.”

I enjoyed many small successes during the term. Brothers came together often last semester for brotherhood events, setting a precedent for brotherhood chairs to come. The new class wanted to be involved in the brotherhood—so much that we needed to expand the minor board to accommodate them! It has been exciting to watch these developments unfold. My goals also evolved as my term continued, to include an examination of the new member program and a formalization of officer transition. Both of these goals are now also coming to fruition.

All of these I count as the mark I will leave on Sigma Pi—a positive one, I hope. Personally, I have Sigma Pi to thank for my growth as a leader. Because of Sigma Pi, I have been able to continue to pursue leadership opportunities on campus and even launch my own philanthropic initiative, “Potluck for the People.” I realize now how invaluable this experience has been; I only hope I have given as much as I have gained.

Fraternally,
Devan Musser '05
Chapter President

Alums From '70s-'80s Get Involved

Much has been happening with alumni relations for the past couple of months, and it is times like these that make my job enjoyable and engaging. This past July the alumni board met in New York City at Lehman Brothers to discuss a variety of issues. Steve Hobbs '80 joined us for the meeting as well. What came out of the meeting was a great deal of optimism and forward-thinking to engage a new generation of Sigma Pi alumni.

Many Pi men have been seen around campus, some dedicating their time to Mu Chapter and some dedicating their time to the greater Cornell community. Mike Rantz '81 has been in town as he is now serving on both the Cornell University Advisory Council and the Arts and Sciences Advisory Council. Joshua Weinreich '82 has built a home in Ithaca and is serving on the Cornell University Advisory Council. Meanwhile, Jarett Wait '80 continues to serve Cornell University and has begun to take an active role as the newest member of our alumni board. I look forward to continuing to work with him on creating a new focus for our alumni relations.

Finally, the Zoltan reunion was phenomenally successful (see article on page two). It was a great experience for all involved, and I thank both Tom Garr '76 and Sandy Kraker '74 for their efforts in making it happen at the Pi house. It was a great time for all of us.

Fraternally,
Matt Maloney '05
Alumni Secretary

Zoltan Reunites, Teaches An Alumni Secretary A Thing Or Two

The true standout on the alumni front this semester was the reunion concert of Zoltan. I feel lucky to have been here for this special occasion. It was a weekend that wildly exceeded the high expectations that everyone had for it.

About 40 or 50 Pi men of the mid- to late '70s show up for this fantastic event. Zoltan came on around 9:30 p.m. and played nearly straight through to 12:30, with only about a 20-minute intermission. Afterwards, Reber Carroll stayed on stage, switched to the guitar, and was joined by his five children, who took over the drums, bass, and vocals. "Reber & Rebettes" then proceeded to rock the Pi house in their first public performance ever.

We saw a lot of new faces this weekend, and we were happy to see so many guys setting foot back in the Pi house for the first time in a long time. We hope that this sets a standard for future gatherings, and I would like to remind everyone that our doors are always open for guys to stop by. It's probably too much for many of the guys of the '70s and '80s to take time away from their

families every semester to come up for Homecoming or Alumni Weekend, but once in a while it can be a really great time, especially if it's coordinated with a small group of five or 10 guys! And I encourage everyone to use the resource of the electronic alumni database at www.musigmapi.org. It has current listings for our almost 1,000 living alumni.

Another great thing about the Zoltan concert was that it proved that a fraternity reunion could be a family thing. Bring your wives, bring your families: show off the Pi house. Sigma Pi truly is a great thing. I look at all of this alumni activity and look forward to the future, knowing that I am part of something that will always be here: something that I will always be a part of, no matter where life may take me. I would like to thank all of the alumni for teaching me more in the past year as alumni secretary than Cornell has taught me in almost three years.

Fraternally,
Matt Maloney '05
Alumni Secretary

Annual ProcrastiCup Meets in Myrtle Beach

A few weeks ago, 23 guys from roughly 1979 through 1982 showed up for their annual ProcrastiCup golf weekend in Myrtle Beach. The Pi men show up on Thursday for three or four days of golf and reminiscing. But make no bones about it, this isn't some group of 40-somethings who play a few rounds of golf and go home. No way. After golf, they head back, or out for that matter, and begin a night of poker or partying. For instance, one night a few of the guys went to an Allman Brothers performance at the House of Blues.

One thing is certain: all these Pi men are exactly the same as they were the day they left the Pi house. Randy Ottinger '80 recalls, "We lost Tim Hawes one night, but he showed back up the next morning. We aren't quite sure where he spent the night...." Randy, himself, made the trip from Seattle, and others arrived from Los Angeles as well as all over the East Coast. It seems like despite pouring rains, putting through puddles, the Pi men managed to do what we have always done best: have a great time.



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Recruitment Gets Under Way

Something struck me as funny; no sooner do I become a brother of Sigma Pi and become used to life as a newly initiated brother, but do we begin to prepare and plan to recruit the next pledge class. I suppose it's a logical progression, so I shouldn't be surprised that after a month and a half as a resident at 730 University Avenue, our recruitment is fully under way.

My enthusiasm is shared with much of the brotherhood when I say that we have had an extremely successful recruitment period thus far. Our ever-increasing presence on the Cornell campus has significantly boosted interest in the house. We have seen extraordinary numbers for our social events, and the phrase "You guys have the best house" is not uncommon to hear as people leave. In addition, before the weather forced us to simultaneously run for an umbrella and winter jacket, we held Thursday barbecues. This provided us the valuable opportunity to get to know some potential members right from the start of the semester, many of whom have continued to stop by the Pi house.

Another highlight of the semester was the performance Zoltan gave on October 4. We have heard nothing but positive responses from those who attended the concert, and many have asked when they will be playing again. As for the rest of the semester, we will hold another Thanksgiving dinner and invite those in whom we have taken a specific interest to come enjoy some good food with the brotherhood.

Finally, it's that time in the semester that we begin to make plans for rush week,

which will take place the week before the spring semester starts. Alex Deyle '06, the recruitment co-chair, and I have spent many hours researching past rush weeks and coming up with some new ideas in order to put together an exciting week not only for those who will potentially become the next members of Sigma Pi, but for the brotherhood as well. Some events include a trip to Turning Stone Casino in Syracuse, paintball, and snow football on the arts quad.

Alex and I are constantly trying to improve rush week and recruitment in general. With that said, we have been extremely grateful for all the work the rest of the brotherhood has done to aid us with our efforts. Without the cooperation of everyone, our jobs would be much more difficult. The tremendous interest of the rest of the house with the recruitment process has made Alex and me work even harder to create events that are not only enjoyable, but enable the brotherhood to meet as many potential members as possible.

As we continue to grow as a brotherhood, so do our expectations of recruitment. Even though most of this process involves fun and games, recruitment is a serious period for any house. I know I speak for the entire house when I say that we are looking forward to the rest of the semester and are eager to meet the next members of Sigma Pi.

Fraternally,
Matt Weaver '06
Rush Co-Chair

Brotherhood Chair Stresses Strong Ties Within The Pi House

Recently Mu Chapter has been able to celebrate many successes as our house becomes more popular. We had one of the largest pledge classes in our history, our parties are among the best attended on campus, and we have been excelling in athletic competition. Unfortunately, however, the pressure of these new activities has greatly decreased the time that the brotherhood as a whole has spent together.

To remedy this, the executive board decided to create a new minor board position that focuses entirely on planning events designed to strengthen the already passionate brotherhood. This position received a fairly substantial budget as it was deemed to be one of the most worthy allocations of house funds. Events this semester have ranged

from watching Monday night football to road trips.

The reaction of all of the brothers has so far been very positive. Although every event is not perfectly suited for each brother, there are at least a few every semester that each brother attends. This has also meant that many of the less active brothers have found a way to get to know some of the people that they were not as close with. Overall the brotherhood position has been successful in planning events that bring all of the brothers together, which is in essence the purpose of Mu Chapter.

Fraternally,
Zack Newton '06
Brotherhood Co-Chair

House Manager Keeps Busy

As house manager, it has been my job to get the house back together for the fall and upcoming semesters. Certain issues, including the havoc wreaked by our favorite summer guests, the bowlers, as well as the wear and tear of normal, everyday use have kept me busy for the first couple of weeks.

On a lighter note, the lights around the circumference of the house are up and working again, along with the majority of the doorknobs in the house. Further, a conscious effort has been made to keep only the vehicles of brothers in the house parking lot. A permit system has been established, and in-house brothers have each been assigned one to keep their vehicles from being towed.

Progress is also being made to update the pipe insulation in the boiler rooms, an issue that has been brought to our attention by the Department of Health. This and repairs to a

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Philanthropy Remains High Priority

has become an increasingly vital element of Sigma Pi Fraternity. As this year's philanthropy chairs, we are continuing in this tradition. We have already participated in several successful events including Tip-a-Canoe with Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority as well as Into The Streets. Funds raised for Tip-a-Canoe supported CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), which aids abused and neglected children through the judicial system. The event involved teams participating in a canoe relay race on Beebe Lake. It was a lot of fun, and only one of our four groups tipped into the lake's cold waters.

Into the Streets is an event focusing on giving back to the local Ithaca community. Our hard work at the Sciencenter's Einstein sale got us a front-page picture in the Cornell Chronicle. We are currently working on the third annual Jazz Night, which will take place the evening of Sunday, December 7. We hope it will be an even bigger success than in the past.

Our current and future success can be attributed to the united effort from our chapter's strong brotherhood. We look forward to continuing the fraternity's history of strong philanthropic commitment.

Fraternally,
Jordan Turner '06 and John Zimmer '06
Philanthropy Co-Chairs

Alumni Mailbag



JOHN I. HOLDEN '43 writes, "I'm semiretired, working two or three days a week as a consultant in a land surveying-engineering business where I was a partner until 1983. Find time for a little golf, some hiking, and some travel. Was at Cornell in June for my 60th class reunion and dropped by the fraternity house. Met JIM KEENE '57 and some of the brothers and enjoyed a fine visit and a look at the fine job done to the house. Would like to get up more often and will try harder to do so." John lives at 185 Elm St., Southampton, NY 11968.

J. PERRY BARGER '49 can be reached at jpb@reboxx.com or at 4 Central Green, Winchester, MA 01890.

FREDERICK W. KRIEGER JR. '57 lives near his five grandchildren at 6666 Odand Rd., #138, Madison, WI 53719. He's a principal in Creative Alternatives, Inc., and also enjoys working in missions and U.S. aid projects overseas. Earlier this year he was a volunteer on projects in the Philippines and the Ukraine.

"I moved to Florida as a retired person," writes JOHN L. HITZEL '59 (4375 Albacore Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948. "It didn't take, and I have opened Charlotte Income Tax Service." Send e-mail to Jack at yourtax@daystar.net.

Please note this new address for RICHARD J. BOERNER '62: P.O. Box 473, Saddle River, NJ 07458.

KARL F. MILLER '64 was recently elected president of the Cornell Society of Engineers, the alumni organization of the College of Engineering. Write to him at P.O. Box 492, Ridley Park, PA 19078, or at kfm6@cornell.edu.

BRYANT L. YOUNG '70 has been busy practicing business and real estate law in San Francisco. He has three girls in high school, the oldest of whom is considering Cornell for next year. Bryant's wife, Betsy, is a real estate agent in Marin County, where the Youngs live. Mail reaches Bryant at P.O.

Box 319, Ross, CA 94957, and e-mail at bly@ebzlaw.net.

FREDERICK H. PARKER '75 attended Zolton Weekend, which he reports was "fantastic." He writes, "I look forward to seeing the current brothers again soon." His address is 12537 Belfield Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192; parkers05@comcast.net.

"We were blessed with a third child this year," writes JOSEPH P. DERVAY '80 (4510 Masters Dr., League City, TX 77573; jder-vay@ems.jsc.nasa.gov). "Courtney Marie joined her sister, Casey (8), and brother, Ryan (6)." Joe has been serving as a NASA flight surgeon in Houston since 1994. With over 19 years of active duty and reserve service to numerous Navy and Marine Corps units, he was recently selected as the wing surgeon—4th Marine Aircraft Wing. He is a reserve Navy captain.

DAVID FELDBAUMER '80 makes his home at 15935 E. Jericho Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

DOUGLAS F. UYENO '80 reports a new address of 2827 Fernside Blvd., Alameda, CA 94501.

Drop a line to JONATHAN S. PETTEE '81 at 4357 San Carlos, Dallas, TX 75205.

After being laid off from Goldman Sachs last winter, JASON HALIO '93 took a new job on the derivations desk at Miller Tabak & Company in Boston. While "on vacation," he caught up with MARK LONSKI '93 in Saint John. Jason can now be reached at 112 Revere St., #32, Boston, MA 02114, or at jhalio@millertabak.com.

MARC H. WARM '93 and his wife, Meredith, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Sasha Jordan Warm, on June 15, 2003. Send best wishes to the new mom and pop at 40 Spring Lane, Chappaqua, NY 10514 (marc.warm@rsfb.com).

JASON WHITNEY '94 works for Rosetta Marketing Strategies in Princeton

House Manager Keeps Busy

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recurring leak in the basement bathroom have kept us in constant communication with our friends over at the plumbing company.

Fortunately, vandalism is down significantly this semester, and we haven't seen any attempts to break into or deface our house. Our only major concern so far this semester has been getting our fire door from McPherson's, which we hope will happen soon.

All in all, the physical state of the chapter is strong.

Fraternally,
Dia Beshara '06
House Manager

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 below.

and lives at 11 Furlong Dr., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003. E-mail reaches him at jasonwhitney@comcast.net.

ERIC ARINSBURG '02 resides at 201 S. 13th St., Apt. 202, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Employed by Exxon Mobil, DREW VOGEL '03 can be reached at andrew.d.vogel@exxonmobile.com or at 3245 Arrowhead Circle, Apt. G, Fairfax, VA 22030.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of CHARLES V. HAYES '39 on April 11, 2003.

THE MUSE