

The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2004

A Message From The Mu Chapter Alumni President

The Secret To Success Is Alumni Involvement

I have intentionally not included an article in the last several issues of *The Muse* as I sometimes think you hear too much from me, and most of what you hear is an appeal for money!

- The fraternity is in great shape at Cornell! Rush was very successful, and a large, high-quality pledge class is currently working its way to brotherhood status.
- Mu Chapter is part of the limited "Chapters of Excellence" program.
- The undergraduate programs are flourishing.
- Mu Chapter is well represented in campus leadership positions.
- Some of our New York City alumni have instituted a career counseling event. The first one was a smashing success.
- We have organized a 501(c)(3) foundation to benefit the chapter in those pursuits that qualify for tax-exempt support.
- We have the beginnings of a plan to increase the sleeping capacity of the house and make it very attractive for upperclassmen to "live in."
- The working relationship between the undergraduate and alumni leadership continues to be good.
- The house is in good shape.

- Our alumni board has expanded and now includes more members from recent classes.
- The reputation of the house on the hill is superb whether you are talking to students or to the Cornell administration.

All in all, we are doing well. The trick will be to keep it up! The secret ingredient is alumni involvement, whether it is through financial support, letters, visits to campus, attendance at Homecoming, Alumni Weekend, or Reunion, student mentoring, or simple things like responding with news for *The Muse*. Our alumni care, and it shows! Keep it up!

Jim Keene '57
President
Mu Chapter Alumni

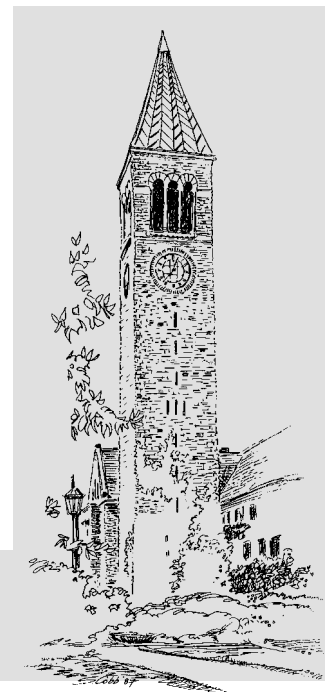
P.S. I would love to hear from anyone who has comments or questions. I can be reached at 720 N. 57th Ave., Omaha, NE, or by e-mail at jkeene@humboldtspecialty.com.

Make The Pi House Your Hot Reunion Spot!

Every year Cornell and Sigma Pi alumni return to Ithaca for Reunion Weekend. When coming back to visit your alma mater, why not stay at the Sigma Pi house? Most current members are away for the summer, leaving the house empty for the alumni. The house can serve as a meeting place, especially for those coming back for the marquee reunions (10, 20, and 25). These years will dominate, but the surrounding years will have visitors, too. It will be easier for alumni to organize non-Cornell activities and spend time with some old best friends. Friends and families are welcome in the house and should enjoy staying in their dad's fraternity.

Wayne Buder '79 has decided to take charge of organizing this year's house accommodations for this Reunion Weekend. Although this is his 25th reunion, the house can be used by a member of any class who wants to come back to Cornell for the Reunion Weekend. The more brothers who come back, the more successful this will be, and hopefully it will become the place to stay for all Sigma Pi reunioners.

Fraternally,
Alex Ballantine '06
Alumni Secretary



REUNION WEEKEND
June 11 - 13, 2004

An Expanding Chapter Faces Some New Issues

One aspect that I did not seem to count on in my time at Sigma Pi was the fact that I would be writing an article for every version of *The Muse* published while I have been a member! And now as our chapter's new president, while many of my past duties seem to follow with me, I must open my eyes to an even broader view of the operation of the Pi house. While I have been lucky enough to pursue the likely rise of technology chair to alumni secretary to president, I must say that I am extremely lucky to have had my brothers put their faith in me to lead them through 2004.

My unorthodox Sigma Pi resume has given me a rather unique perspective on the vision of this house. I would like to put a great deal of weight on Alex Ballantine's shoulders to see a successful year in the realm of alumni relations. I think that we set a great precedent with Reunion Weekend last year, and we are in the process of developing a skeletal framework with which we can continue to easily

host Reunion Weekends going forward. Additionally, I can't emphasize enough the importance for us to continue to develop a more chronologically diverse alumni base. Many thanks are due to Jarett Wait '80 and Steve Hobbs '80 for their efforts in expanding our network in their era, and I would encourage anyone else who would like to get involved from their era or others to contact Alex and find out how they can help.

Another area that requires some attention during my tenure has to do with the size of our membership. Including pledges, we have a membership of 88 men, with a planned residency next year above "capacity." While my excitement for this is beyond measure, it is something of a Pandora's Box. I must expand on the efforts of my predecessor, Devan Musser '05, to reach out to all brothers and keep the focus of everyone, living in or not, here at 730 University. Additionally, it is becoming reasonable to consider making an addition onto the house to accommodate this

steadily increasing membership. And finally, we are beginning to notice a need for a ground-up restructuring of the budget and our financial management. The allocation of money is simply not reflective of the brotherhood's needs any more.

I am pleased with the headway that we are finally making as one of five IFC fraternities, two Panellenic sororities, and two MGLC chapters in the Chapters of Excellence program. We have created two major programs that will be sponsored by all nine chapters this semester, and I am continuing to work with our advisor, Lisa Blockus, to secure our identity as a model fraternity.

My hopes are high. My ears and eyes are open, and I am excited to accomplish all that I can.

Fraternally,
Matthew Maloney '05
Sage

ΣΠ Hosts Acoustic Café

On December 7, the first Sigma Pi Acoustic Café took place and was a huge success. Acoustic Café is a spinoff of the Jazz Night concept that was used in previous years. After discussing Jazz Night with various brothers, we decided that the fall semester philanthropy event needed to be more appealing to both the brotherhood and the Cornell public. We developed Acoustic Café as a philanthropy event that allowed brothers to demonstrate their various musical talents.

The night began at 7:00 p.m. with appetizer trays and soft drinks and light piano and guitar background music provided by Sigma Pi brothers. After about an hour, the 80 guests made their way to the dining room for dinner and classical guitar music provided by Bill Clausen and Devan Musser. After dinner the event moved into the West Lounge, which was lit by candles. While brothers played guitar and sang from a small stage, waiters served coffee and cheesecake to an appreciative audience. The event ended with a live band and a raffle.

Sigma Pi's first Acoustic Café demonstrated the strength and talent of the current Sigma Pi brotherhood and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. In addition, the event took in approximately \$1,300 to benefit the Children's Brittle Bone Foundation.

Fraternally,
John Zimmer '06
Philanthropy Chair

Pledge Program Hits The Ground Running

For the third year in a row now, we once again have a strong and large new pledge class in our fraternity. With 26 new members (the second biggest pledge class on campus), Sigma Pi is in the leader of the Cornell Greek system.

The pledging program began with a bang, and the new members were very excited to start their semester with Sigma Pi. During the first weekend, the pledges and I attended the American Red Cross Dance-a-thon. This was a Greek-supported event that did not

succeed very well, but we had more people there than any house on campus and had a great time.

Since that weekend, the pledges have been busy learning house history, attending social events, and proving to the brotherhood that they are worthy of their bids.

We just got back from a weekend trip to Niagara Falls, on the Canadian border. Nineteen of the pledges were able to attend, and they showed me a great time. We went out on the town, to the casino at the hotel, and got some great pictures in front of Niagara Falls.

The weeks to come are definitely going to be intense, but the pledges seem ready for the challenge. Parents' Weekend and Alumni Weekend are great times for the pledges to see what this house means to its brothers.

I look forward to the rest of the semester in my position as new member educator.

Fraternally,
Cory Sinclair '04
New Member Educator



The new members' first dinner at the house.

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.

Help The Undergrads With Four House Improvement Projects!

Although, for many of you, it has been a long time since you visited the building at 730 University Avenue, I know that Sigma Pi probably continues to be a part of your life. Whether you attend a yearly gathering with a few other guys from your undergraduate years or just enjoy hearing about the fundraiser for Dolly in New York, it is likely that Sigma Pi is still present in your life today.

As many know, in 1994 the Pi house was rebuilt after a fire and is currently in a pristine state. Along with this, the brotherhood is thriving. We can all be proud of the condition of the chapter.

However, we must continue to update the house in ways that we feel might assist us in drawing more large pledge classes in the future, full of the future leaders of Cornell. In addition to making life easier for the guys who are already brothers, we feel that these sorts of improvements are intangible rush tools. Cornell has begun its West Campus Initiative, in which the old West Campus dormitories are being torn down and residential colleges built in their place. This is of great concern for us because we will be forced to compete with the residential colleges for the same students.

We have identified four projects that would greatly improve the Pi house and help us remain competitive. What the brotherhood is hoping to see is an alumnus get behind each project to spearhead it and gather a group of perhaps 10 (maybe more, maybe less) to raise the funds. Money contributed will be counted toward the Heritage Fund plaques. If you are interested in getting behind one of these projects or contributing, please contact Alumni Secretary Alex Ballantine, who can assist you with communication. Alex can be contacted at rab58@cornell.edu or at 203/561-7454. The funds will be received and disbursed by Alumni Board President Jim Keene.

PROJECT #1

We propose to remove the current furniture in the pit and replace it with new and more aesthetically pleasing sofas. The current plan is to make the optimal use of the space in the pit by being able to fit as many guys as possible, which will be done with the following:

- Four (4) Chesterfield-style sofas~\$700 each
- Two (2) five-piece sectional sofas (corner-shaped)....~\$1,500 each
- Total estimated capital expenditure:.....~\$5,900

PROJECT #2

Every year, Sigma Pi spends a great deal of money to repair locks and make copies of keys. The integrity of the building has been com-

promised numerous times through attempted break-ins and lost keys, and there are often issues regarding access to the house for temporary guests, residents, and alumni. This past spring there were a few instances where alumni had stopped by and were around the campus for a day or two, and this would certainly be a great option for allowing them a way to get in and out of the house without having to have a key. It is with these issues in mind that we propose a redesign and upgrade of the current lock systems on the house:

- Four (4) electronic door locks~\$800 each
- One (1) master controller for entry lock system~ \$2,300
- One (1) expansion controller for entry lock~\$2,000
- Total estimated capital expenditure:.....~\$7,500
- Total estimated cost of installation:~\$3,000

PROJECT #3

We propose to remove the current washers and dryers and corresponding laundry company and replace with permanent, non-coin operated machines. It will be necessary to purchase two commercial grade washers and two commercial grade dryers at the following costs:

- Two (2) commercial Maytag washers\$550-\$650 each
- Two (2) commercial gas Maytag dryers\$450-\$650 each
- Two (2) five-year washer service plans\$149-199 each
- Two (2) five-year dryer service plan\$139-\$159 each
- Total estimated capital expenditure:\$3,300

PROJECT #4

We propose the following security system be purchased because over the course of the last three years, there have been an inordinate number of acts of vandalism on the property of Sigma Pi. It has gone far beyond the antics of fraternity men playing pranks, with thousands of dollars' worth of damages.

- Eight (8) Provideo infra-red outdoor cameras
- Eight (8) 100-foot BNC to BNC video coaxial cables
- One (1) 16-channel digital recorder
- Eight (8) power supplies/mounting brackets for digital recorder
- Total estimated capital expenditure:\$3,600
- Total estimated cost of installation:\$3,000

New York City And The Sigma Pi Career Connection

Usually brothers take road trips to attend concerts or movies or just to get out of Ithaca. The intentions were different this past January, however, when three carloads headed to New York City for the first Mu Chapter Career Fair.

The event began at the Lehman Brothers Investment Bank where Jarrett Wait '80 had set up workshops on interviews and resumes with human resource officers within the firm. This gave the brothers valuable tips from the inside at a time when many of them are conducting their first serious job searches. After these constructive meetings, we had the privilege of dining at Lehman Brothers with sever-

al other prominent alumni from the city, including Jarrett Wait '80, Steve Hobbes '80, Brian Finneran '81, Dennis McNamara '83, Alan Douglas '82, Michael Vernick '83, Marc Rothenberg '87, and Bret Winson '78. Each of these men explained his unique career path and gave us insight into his profession. After the alumni spoke, we were treated to a storytelling session that not only bridged the generation gap but left many wondering how the house was left standing after some of the infamous parties of the 1970s and '80s!

The next day all the students awoke early after a night on the town to attend various workshops for different professions. These

included law with Steve Hobbes '80, hospital-ity services with Brian Finneran '79, and investment banking at Lehman Brothers. Finally, everyone met at Goldman Sachs with Marc Rothenberg '87, and we learned more about banking and corporate finance. The brothers then headed back to Ithaca with a better understanding of various professions, new friendships, and the knowledge that they had just had a great experience in New York City.

Fraternally,
Zach Newton '06
Brotherhood Chair

ALUMNI MAILBAG



JOHN I. HOLDEN '43 wrote to inform us of the death of JAMES L. HALSEY '44. "Jim joined Mu Chapter in 1940, stayed for a year in pre-med at Cornell, and left in 1941 to join the Army Air Force. He served as a bombardier in the European theater during World War II and received the distinguished flying cross. A very popular guy at the Sigma Pi house, I'm sure he will be fondly remembered by his Mu brothers who were there at that time." Share your memories of Jim with John at 185 Elm St., Southampton, NY 11968.

BENJAMIN F. KELLOGG '40 was sorry to miss Homecoming last fall—the first one he hasn't attended in 15 years. A retired hotel manager, Ben makes his home at 207 Garfield St., Nanticoke, PA 18634.

At 75 years of age, WILLIAM R. BROCKWAY '50 still plays baseball! "I play three to four times a year in about five to seven games over a five-day period. Playing in Coopers-town, Texas, and Fort Myers, Florida. It keeps me young." Bill has nine children and 15 grandchildren ("and still counting") and can be reached at 12907 The Terrace, Hagerstown, MD 21742, or at billb51949@aol.com.

Stay in touch with MANFRED W. HOFFMANN '60 at P.O. Box 588, Anacortes, WA 98221-0588.

KENNETH R. RAND JR. '60 sold his home of 28 years in Bernardsville, New Jersey, and bought a winter home at 5 Marsh Elder Lane, Savannah, GA 31411. He is now president of his own financial services company and is enjoying being out of the corporate world. E-mail reaches him at 104224.663@compuserve.com.

Please note this new address for CEPHAS B. ROGERS '59: 12501 E. Amherst Circle, Aurora, CO 80014 (kip@gis.net).

Stay in touch with ROBERT LONGAKER '61 at robert.longaker@celanese.com or at 131 Ely Crescent, Robbinsville, NJ 08691.

"Free at last!" writes PAUL R. AARNIO '65, who retired in February 2003 and now devotes himself full time to dance touring and the duties of president of the Willis Ballet. His wife, Dr. Peggy Willis Aarnio, retired after 31 years of the faculty of Texas Tech University as the head of the dance program. Paul writes, "We are building a new company headquarters in Panama City Beach, Florida, where we will work and sail in retirement." Mail reaches Paul at 8006 Durham Ave., Lubbock, TX 79424,

and e-mail at wiballet@msn.com.

EDMUND BAUERNFEIND '67 makes his home at 10074 SE Osprey Pointe Dr., Hobe Sound, FL 33455. Send e-mail to Ed at bauern@adelphia.net.

The director of Americas field marketing for Hewlett-Packard, JOHN R. BOLDT '70 can be reached at john.boldt@hp.com or at 1540 Kahler Court, San Jose, CA 95132.

JOHN B. STETSON '75 is the preconstruction manager at Engelberth Construction, Inc., in Colchester, Vermont. He writes, "It was great to see everyone at the Zoltan reunion!" Drop him a line at 411 Barstow Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482, or at jbstets@msn.com.

"The Zoltan reunion was tremendous, and the brothers were great," writes JOHN A. CHRISTOFORO '77 (51R School St., Andover, MA 01810). "It's terrific to see the house doing so well." We thank John for sending along this photo of Dolly Hailstork taken at the fundraising event for him in New York City.



JOHN J. HAGGERTY '78 writes, "After 'practicing' HR for 25 years, 20 of them with GE, I returned to Cornell as a PhD candidate in the fall of 2003. My wife and I bought a home on the lake within walking distance of the Fargo. Now what was a 'road trip' is my daily commute! Send mail to jjh56@cornell.edu." The Haggertys' new home is at 1825 Honoco Rd., Aurora, NY 13026.

Congratulations to DAVID W. FELD-BAUMER '80, who married Melissa Kruse in Sedona, Arizona, in October 2003. The newlyweds reside at 15935 E. Jericho Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

JONATHAN M. FORDIN '80 reports a new address of 20401 NE 30th Ave., Apt. #314, Aventura, FL 33180. He works for Shutts & Bowen, LLP, where e-mail reaches him at jfordin@shutts-law.com.

ROGER M. LEVINE '81 is having a great time in Pittsburgh, where he's holding down three jobs—managing Dingbats City Tavern, running an antique shop, and teaching at the Art Institute. "Very stimulating—it's nice to exercise the mind again. Am also coaching

Special Olympic basketball, which allows me a weekly reality check. Life is good." Stay in touch with Roger at levineroger@aol.com or at 1018 N. Negley Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

MATTHEW R. SCHNEIDER '84 has moved to 29 Floral Dr., Hastings, NY 10706.

LEONARD B. WOLIN '88 has a new address: 22710 Wildcat Rd., Germantown, MD 20876 (llwolin@yahoo.com).

Drop a line to BRIAN C. CANNON '91 at bcannon@fishneave.com or at 713 Charleston Court, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

"In what I hope to be my final career move, I am now part of a new team starting the Morgan Stanley sales trading desk here in Boston," writes JASON D. HALIO '93 (112 Revere St., #32, Boston, MA 02114). "Brothers can contact me at jasonhalio@morganstanley.com."

JOSHUA M. RICHTER '94 makes his home at 3941 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94118.

MICHAEL G. LIPPMANN '95 observes that 2003 was a banner year for his Sigma Pi peers to get married: "ALEX SHAW '96, JASON OPPENHEIMER '94, JOSH LANDMAN '93, and VINCENT NICOLETTA '95 all tied the knot. Many great stories will be told for years to come from the huge crew at JazzFest in New Orleans, to wine tasting in Sonoma Valley, to Philly cheesesteaks at 6:00 a.m. before Josh was married. Only time will tell who will walk down the aisle next..." Michael's address is 250 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002; mlippmann@blueraster.com.

GREGORY I. KORN '98 has moved from DC to Southern California to work for West Edge Architects in Marina del Rey. Write to him at 2464 Penmar Ave., #12, Venice, CA 90291; greg@westedgearchitects.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

E. GILBERT BARKER '51
October 29, 2003

JAMES L. HALSEY II '44
October 18, 2003