

The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2005

Mu Chapter Remains Strong, Focused

The year 2005 has given me the wonderful opportunity to step into the role of sage for Mu Chapter and to take charge of an ever-growing brotherhood of outstanding men. Ahead lay the challenges and rewards that come with such responsibility, and I could not be more willing and eager to accept them.

730 has gone under substantial physical changes in recent months, with more to come. New furniture now decorates the East Lounge, and the Pit has been repainted and completely refurbished—with the Grotto now serving as a small lounge for relaxing and brotherhood card playing. More improvements are in the works to update the Pi house and provide both undergraduates and alumni with an excellent facility full of great memories and tales of brotherhood camaraderie.

Previous work done by past Sages

Matt Maloney '05, Devan Musser '05, and Adam Brown '03 established a base for impressive improvement in facility management and financial responsibility, along with a procedurally smooth system of self-governance with our newly elected executive board.

In addition to their work with the chapter, we have currently active members who are incredibly involved with the university and the Ithaca community. Alex Deyle '06 is president of IFC, Joshua Katcher '06 is a student trustee, and Michael Taylor '05 is an Ithaca city councilman, to name just a few. Mu Chapter men are serving in other aspects of university life as well—such as the student assembly and class councils, the junior IFC, the SAFC, and countless more.

Service is taking a greater role within Mu Chapter. We are now involved with

the Boys and Girls Club of Ithaca and have hosted events at the chapter house for the children and brothers to both participate in. We are also in the process of developing a community-wide festival event in the fall. Our philanthropy has been strong and will continue to be, but we are pushing to add a greater element of service. Success is on the horizon.

Respect and character are of utmost importance to me. We are involved on and off campus and are highly respected for the quality of men who are part of this fraternity. Paired with this is the ability to develop a fantastic brotherhood sense of character; each member has the ability to bring something new and special to add to our brotherhood. We can learn from each other and strengthen the

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Undergraduate and alumni brothers pose for a photo at Career Day. (See related story, page two.)

**REUNION WEEKEND
JUNE 9-12, 2005**

Brothers Build Skills, Resources At Career Day

On January 27 and 28, a group of 21 brothers from the Pi house went to New York City to meet alumni who hold jobs in their field of interest.

The trip started off with a résumé workshop and an interview-skills session with two recruiting staff members at Lehman Brothers. These sessions became very interactive and even involved some mock interviews where students were able to receive constructive criticism about their interviewing skills.

At around 6:30 p.m., all the students and alumni sat at a round table and shared discussions ranging from business topics to humorous stories about their Sigma Pi experience. The alumni in atten-

dance were: Jarett Wait '80; Brian Finneran '79; Steve Hobbes '79; Alan Douglas '81; Jim Keene '57; Jim Palmer '60; Dennis McNamara '83; and Bret Winson '78. It was a great evening, and one in which both undergraduate and alumni brothers could enjoy each other's company.

The next day, groups of students went to their individual breakout sessions. The sessions were: investment banking at Lehman Brothers, hosted by Jarett Wait '80; human resources, hosted by Brett Winson '83; media and law, hosted by Steve Hobbes '79; equities and trading, hosted by Marc Rothenberg '87; and hospitality event planning, hosted by

Brian Finneran '79.

The students would like to offer their thanks to alumni who took the time out of their busy schedules to help with the event. We would also like to give a special thanks to Jarett Wait '80 for setting up the entire event for the second year.

If there are any alumni out there who would like to be involved next year, please contact Alumni Secretary Trevor White at tbw9@cornell.edu. We wish to increase both the job fields that are covered and the number of alumni and students involved. We hope to see an even better turn out next year.

Alex Ballantine '06

Mu Chapter Remains Philanthropically Strong

The brotherhood has been active in recent months in a number of philanthropic events.

Brothers David Gelinas '07 and Mike Eisner '07 lead the way for last fall's wonderfully successful acoustic café event. As the new couches filled in West Lounge and the guests enjoyed free cheesecake and coffee, the brothers of Sigma Pi sang to a large crowd of Cornellians. Some of the standout performances from this year's show included an O.A.R. cover—"A Crazy Game of Poker"—from Devan Musser '07 and Vince Curtin '05, which drew large applause as well as a number of laughs, and a wonderful performance from Mark Schwager '07, who wooed the ladies in attendance with an acoustic cover Pink Floyd's "Last Dance."

Additionally, a number of Pi men teamed up with their friends for some memorable performances. Brother Matt Greenburg '06 sang with Jess Herbalis from Kappa Alpha Theta, and Alex Metzorth '05 took the mic, with Josh Bronstein of Psi Upsilon accompanying. The event raised over \$750 for the Brittle Bone Foundation, the Pi house's philanthropic organization of choice.

Each major philanthropic event raises revenue for the Brittle Bone Foundation, which seeks to provide funds to research the causes, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and eventual cure for Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI).

Emily Balcetis, a graduate student, said the event "was really impressive. And it debunked many of my preconceptions about the fraternity system. I



Some of our new brothers with kids from the Big Brothers, Big Sisters group of the Ithaca Youth Bureau.

thought you guys were just about partying."

In addition to last fall's successful events, the Pi house has been active in a number of philanthropic projects that have been leading the way in the Greek system this spring. Many brothers organized an Easter egg hunt in the house for a number of kids from the Big Brothers, Big Sisters group of the Ithaca Youth Bureau. All involved had a great time, and we hope to continue to have a great relationship with some of the younger members of the Ithaca community.

Stay tuned later this semester for Murder Mystery Night, our yearly fundraising activity. All alumni are welcome to come to any of the events, and we would love to see you at the Pi house when you get a chance. For more information about any of the events, feel free to contact Giorgio Piccoli at gap26@cornell.edu.

Fraternally,
Giorgio Piccoli '07
Philanthropy Chair

And The Pledging Begins...

After a long and extremely exhausting week of rush, the brotherhood enthusiastically invited 16 new members to pledge Sigma Pi. All of the new members are excited about the opportunity to become our brothers and have proved their commitment in the first couple weeks of pledging. On top of all of their demanding schoolwork, the pledges have been learning about the history of the house, getting to know each and every current brother, and attending the weekly social events.

The past two weekends have been some of the most memorable experiences for the pledges thus far. First, they took our new member educator, Ken Graham '05, to Montreal, where they stayed in a hotel and spent the night getting to know Ken and each other.

Then, the following weekend, 15 of the pledges took our president, Craig Dewey '06, to New York City and spent

two days running around, trying to do as much as they possibly could.

The most intense weeks of pledging are yet to come, but these men have proven to us that they are ready for the challenge. With parents weekend and alumni weekend right around the corner, the new members are going to have a great opportunity to see why this house truly means so much to all of the brothers.

Even though watching over the entire rush process became overwhelming at times, overall we found it to be an extremely rewarding experience. We look forward to the rest of the semester and seeing our new members become our brothers and closest friends.

Fraternally,
Trevor White '07
Lance Fraenkel '07
Rush Chairs

Howard Dean Visits The Pi House



The executive board with Governor Howard Dean.

On Wednesday, February 23, Governor Howard Dean came to Mu Chapter for a Student Leaders reception.

The reception was co-sponsored by the Cornell Democrats and Chapters of Excellence. The Cornell Democrats sponsored Dean's visit. Governor Dean, who was recently elected as the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee, shared his thoughts on the role of young people in electoral politics.

Approximately 60 to 70 leaders in the political and Greek community came to

the reception and were able to meet Dean. Many Sigma Pi brothers asked to take a picture with Dean and were impressed with him—regardless of their ideology.

After the reception, Governor Dean held a rally with about 300 students and community members on Ho Plaza. He then gave a speech at Anabel Taylor Auditorium concerning reforms in the Democratic party.

Fraternally,
Tim Lim '06



Homecoming Weekend

Every year, Cornell hosts a reunion weekend for all of the alumni to come back to their alma mater. This year, reunion is June 9-12.

During this time, the Pi house will be open and available for all of the brothers and their families to reunite with past friends and relive old memories.

During reunion, most of the undergraduate members will be away for the summer, leaving the house empty for alumni to stay.

If you are having trouble making hotel reservations and would like to stay at the house instead, please contact me as soon as possible at tbw9@cornell.edu.

In addition to the events planned by the class of 1980, there will be a special informal reception at the house on Saturday, June 11, from 3:00- 7:00 p.m. This will be a drop-in affair, during a time when Cornell does not schedule conflicting events.

The more brothers who come back, the more successful and fun the reunion will be. Feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Fraternally,
Trevor White '07
Alumni Secretary

Dolly's 90th Birthday

If you can't make it back for reunion weekend, you will have another opportunity to see all of your old fraternity brothers at Dolly's 90th birthday bash.

The event will happen on the weekend of September 9-11. Come back to the Pi house and celebrate with all of the current members!

The Taca Diaries

Brothers Spend Vacation Exploring Central America and South America

It all started in San Salvador. What started? Why, only the greatest winter break trip in Sigma Pi history!

Back in October 2004, two brothers decided that sitting around for five weeks was nothing more than a wasted opportunity. So, the question arose: Where could we possibly go? The obvious starting location was El Salvador, a small country in Central America where sophomore Richard Larin's family lives.

It was settled, and four months later—two days after Christmas—sophomore Ben Shlansky arrived in San Salvador, joining up with Richard and his family. Ten days were spent in this tropical paradise enjoying the beautiful beaches, mountain towns, and mangrove forests.

Morning sometimes found us waking up in a hammock to the waves crashing on the beach, and in the afternoon a hike through a coffee farm in the mountains of the Sonsonate region would not be out of the question. El Salvador was beautiful, but three weeks is a long time to spend in one country.

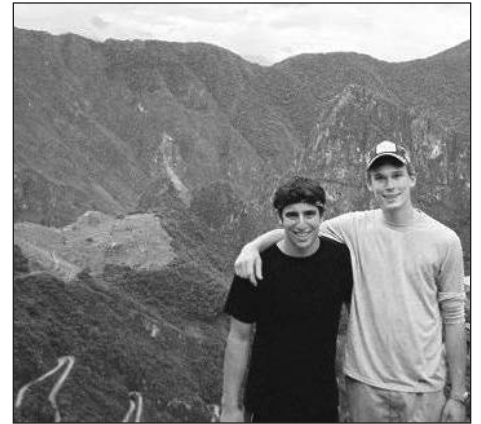
The bags were packed, and the next destination in our adventure south was Costa Rica. Upon arrival, we immediately rented a car and escaped to the amazing rainforest region of

Monteverde. The next day found us zip-lining through the incredible canopy of the region. The wet weather added an unreal element that one cannot put into words.

After getting our thrill out of the rainforest, we decided it was time to head to the beach. During the next four days, we visited many different beaches, starting on the northern pacific coast of the Nicoya Peninsula and heading over 300 miles south to the black sand beaches of Playa Hermosa.

Now one might think this trip could not possibly improve; however, we knew better, and the next night Lima, Peru was graced with the presence of two Mu chapter brothers. After spending the night partying in Lima, we managed to make our 6:00 a.m. flight to Cuzco, a city nestled 11,000 feet in the Andes.

One night was spent acclimatizing to the altitude of Cuzco, and the next day we hopped a train to the head of the Inca Trail. We then spent the next two days hiking the same path priests and kings of the Inca nation hiked over 500 years ago. This trail was not just a simple path through the mountains; this was the Incan trail of religious cleansing, along which Incan ruins are found.



Rich Larin '07 and Ben Shlansky '07 on their adventure.

At the end of the trail, after climbing the hundreds of steps leading up to the sun gate, we were struck with the awe-inspiring view of the religious capital of the Incan Empire, Machu Picchu.

This trip was an experience of a lifetime, and being able to share it with a brother made it that much more incredible.

Richard Larin '07
Ben Shlansky '07

Name That Pi Man

"Name That Pi Man" is a weekly e-mail containing a photograph of brothers engaged in various antics during the period of 1977-1981. The object is to guess the identity of the brothers in the photograph.

The weekly contest began over a year ago with an e-mail from Tony McManus '80 describing his chance encounter with the coach of the 1979 Harvard hockey team. Tony and the coach reminisced about the great rivalry between the schools' hockey teams, including one particular incident at Lynah Rink.

In 1979, as a prank, brothers from Sigma Pi threw a six-foot phallic symbol (previously used as a stage prop in an on-campus play) complete with a greeting to the Harvard team onto the ice between periods of the game.

Kurt Rasmussen '80 had photographs of the incident and circulated

them to Tony's distribution list. In one of the photographs, several brothers were preparing the prank in the East Lounge. One of the brothers had his back to the camera, and everyone was invited to guess the identity of the faceless brother.

People had so much fun with the photograph that Kurt began sending others. Photographs have included brothers at rock and roll tea, the Daytona Beach party, chimp and chump hockey, brother's banquets, sorority raids, road rallies, old flames, etc.

The distribution list has grown dramatically and has given all a chance to share fond—and not-so-fond—memories of special friends.

If you would like to join the distribution list, send an e-mail to Kurt at rasmussen_kurt@lilly.com.

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.

An Alum Can Be More Than A Source Of Money

If you read the newsletter, have any contact with student affairs at Cornell, or for that matter, believe anything I write in *The Muse*, you know that our fraternity is on the crest of a success wave, which it continues to ride!

As alumni, our job is to use our wisdom and experience to assist in keeping the momentum going. You have heard much (and will hear more) about the need for your money to support the enterprise, but in this short article, I would like to suggest several other ways you can help. Being involved in the success of Mu Chapter is a very personally rewarding thing—and it can also be fun!

• “As alumni, our job is to use our wisdom and experience to assist in keeping the momentum going...Being involved in the success of Mu Chapter is a very personally rewarding thing—and it can also be fun!”

• Participate! There are several times a year when alumni are encouraged to visit the chapter—Homecoming, reunion, and alumni weekend. Aside from enjoying your time at the event, your presence can send a very strong message to the actives that the fraternity bond extends beyond undergraduate days.

• Make visiting the house a priority when visiting Ithaca. I am often surprised and saddened when I learn that some visits by alumni brothers to cam-

pus do not include a stop at 730 University Ave. I know that a simple phone call to the sage or alumni secretary to learn the best time to visit will result in an appointment that will be worth the effort. (With changing student schedules, if you drop in unannounced, you may find the door locked and no one at home.)

• Make your professional expertise available to the students. The career forum held in New York is an event that helps foster the spirit of brotherhood across the years. You may feel motivated to volunteer to help expand this program, now in its second year. Such an undertaking could be a great project

for a retired brother. Nothing ever happens unless someone decides to make it happen!

The career forum has captured the imagination of the university; they want to find a way to seed similar programs in other fraternities. If you are an undergraduate who participates in the forum, you are probably going to feel pretty good about your choice of fraternities, and you are quite likely going to repay the fraternity in some

way when you join the alumni ranks.

• There is a project afoot to facilitate housing for our upper-class brothers outside of the house in “annexes.” Annexes are nothing new, but the idea of a chapter-owned, safe, comfortable, financially independent facility is new. You will hear more of this, and the idea may seem far-fetched. But maybe the idea of the group organized as Omega Delta lasting for 93 years (and counting!) seemed far-fetched, too. If annexes are to happen, it will take some heavy volunteer alumni involvement.

You have a small group of alumni brothers who have agreed to serve as alumni leaders (your Mu Chapter board). A board should be the citadel of good ideas and good judgment. Think of our alumni body as a whole—approximately 1,000 of us—and make your suggestions and thoughts known. You can make a difference!

Stay tuned for a special edition of *The Muse* that will address our financial needs, but for now think about how—in whatever large or small way—you can make a difference in the college experience of the young men with whom we have a special bond of brotherhood.

Fraternally,
Jim Keene '57
President Mu Chapter Alumni

CHAPTER STRONG

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fiber that runs through us and connects us to Sigma Pi. Respect within our brotherhood allows each man to develop his own character in a great environment and then venture to make his mark in the world.

There is a plaque in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall with a quote from Mr. Willard Straight. It reads: “Respect of your fellows is worth more than applause.” I could not agree more. I have the utmost respect for the members of all ages of Mu Chapter, and I am grateful for the honor to lead these men.

Fraternally,
Craig Dewey '06
Sage

ALUMNI MAILBAG

GEORGE G. READER '40, a professor emeritus at Cornell Medical College, writes, “I’ve been fully retired for the last five years. I travel into the office at CUMC two times a month or so. I’m living now in a retirement community in Rye, New York. I’m still involved in community affairs, some committees at CUMC. I’m a member of the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, and other medical organizations.” Write to George at 5006 Theall Rd., Rye, NY 10580. Send him e-mail at ggr5006@yahoo.com.



Keep in touch with JOHN D. MAS-TERS '48 at 84 Old Street Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458. E-mail him

at vmasters@webtv.net.



“Last November, Lee and I celebrated our 53rd wedding anniversary (having eloped at Cornell in 1951),” writes LEO J. CHAMBERLAIN '52. “I retired in 1982 from the Rolm Corporation and moved from California to Hawaii. I’ve been in Kona ever since.” Write to Leo at P.O. Box 204, Captain Cook, HI 96704; leoc@kona.net.



“Thanks for the great *Muses*,” writes FRED O. JENSEN '54. “They’re

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ALUMNI MAILBAG

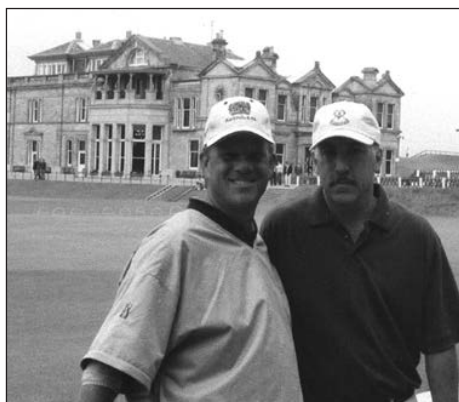


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informative and interesting. It's fun to read about the happenings with the undergraduates, as well as the alumni mailbag. Here on Cape Cod, I enjoy getting together with DOUG PARKER '56, who lives in nearby Orleans. I also visited RICHARD RAGOLD '53 in Vermont recently, but he just moved to Virginia. Although full retirement is at my heels, I still keep my hand in the university teaching activity, which I enjoy. For the past several years, I've spent a week at Vilnius Technical University in Lithuania, where I teach some seminars on entrepreneurship and business strategy." Write to Fred at 110 Lakeshore Dr., Chatham, MA 02633; fredjensen@comcast.net.



RICHARD W. KUBIAK '68 writes, "I've spent 28 years as a pharmacist with five years to go. I moved from Florida 18 years ago and never looked back, especially with this year's winter snowstorms. Yes, we do get hurricanes, but luckily I've survived them all. I have two granddaughters, one here in Florida and one in Massachusetts. Life has been good, and the future looks bright!" Write to Dick at 8281 Cedar Hollow Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33433. E-mail him at rwk923@adelphia.net.



Tim Hawes '82 and Jim Garr '84 pose for a picture on their golf vacation in Scotland. (See related news item.)

"After 32 years of work, I have determined the real world to be over-rated," writes WILLIAM J. STRUSZ '73. "According to my thesis, the solution appears to be retirement—some time in 2006, I project. In retrospect, an extended period of undergraduate tenure would be recommended—perhaps seven to 10 years—followed by a period of leisure and reflection. Question: Which has a greater value: an education or a trust fund?" Write to Bill at 94 Mountain Rd., Rochester, NY 14625; cstutz@rochester.rr.com.



JOHN "JAY" SACCO '80 writes, "I've been doing a lot of sailing over the past few years. The most exciting being the 2003 Transatlantic Race—Newport, Rhode Island to Hamburg, Germany. I got a new job in Purchase, New York and now live aboard my 42-foot sailboat, *Bell'Avventura*, in Stamford, Connecticut three weeks a month. The other week I live at my house in Austin, Texas. Looking forward to taking the local Pi men sailing this spring. E-mail me at jaysacco@sbcglobal.net." Write to Jay at 7205 Holly Fern Cove, Austin, TX 78750.



"JIM GARR '84 and I had an amazing golf vacation in Scotland in July. (Yes, we did bring our wives)," writes TIMOTHY M. HAWES '82. "The golf, the Scotch, the food (OK, not the food) were all amazing!" Write to Tim at 8157 Seven Mile Dr., Ponte Verda Beach, FL 32082; hawesome@comcast.net.



Write to JONATHAN R. ZIRN '82 at 47 Steep Hill Rd., Weston, CT 06883; jrzirn@msn.com.



MORGAN U. LANG '98 writes, "I started up an interactive design firm with BRIAN WEISENTHAL '02 three

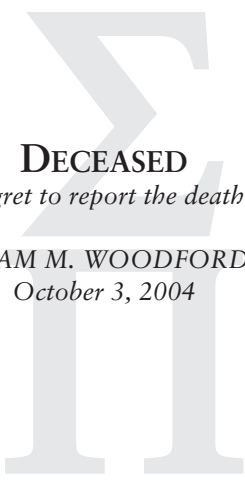
years ago. Looking for programmers and Flash designers to help build applications for Jet Blue, Sports.tv, and Panacya. Other than that, I've got a great lady, been doing some cool paintings, and am in love with New York City." Write to Morgan at 45 Wall St., #922, New York, NY 10005. E-mail him at mul1@cornell.edu.



JONATHAN COLL '01 writes, "Well, I've almost finished up an arduous stay in Dayton, Ohio. I'll earn my degree in medicine in May of this year. Next up is residency training in radiology." Write to Jonathan at 4220 Camargo Dr., #D, Dayton, OH 45415; coll.2@wright.edu.



BRYAN H. RIVARD '03, who works as an integrated project team leader and design engineer, writes, "Things have been busy here in Connecticut. Between work and the wedding to Anne Marie (Sigma Pi sweetheart '03), we haven't had a chance to get to Ithaca recently, but we will soon. Hope all is well and give a call or drop an e-mail anytime." Write to Bryan at 600 Meridian St. Ext., #1323, Groton, CT 06340; bhr6@cornell.edu.



DECEASED
We regret to report the death of:
WILLIAM M. WOODFORD '45
October 3, 2004