



what's inside

Heritage Fund drive begins with \$500K goal

Recognizing the donors of the Heritage Fund

What a rush: Mu Chapter nets largest pledge class at Cornell

Remembering Paul Connell '73

Homecoming celebration highlighted by Zoltan's return

Former sage reflects on his experiences at Mu Chapter

Remembering Frank Abbott '42

Our alumni send their news

Above photo: Our alumni and undergraduates pose for a photo at our career seminar.

Sage reports on state of chapter

As of this writing, we again have another eventful spring semester planned for the brothers of Mu Chapter.

Now that rush week has passed, we are happy to welcome one of our biggest pledge classes in recent history—27 freshmen and sophomores. And we are excited to see them become part of our fraternity.

Aside from the usual brotherhood sports and other related activities, we are looking to become very active with our philanthropy on campus and in Ithaca. Our first planned event is an Easter egg hunt at the Pi house for the Big Brothers and Sisters of Ithaca Program, and later in the semester, we plan on volunteering with t-ball little leagues in Ithaca to teach the kids how to throw and hit the ball properly.



On another note, we are currently working with the Ithaca Fire Department to create an improved fire-safety manual for the house that we hope will be able to help the brothers for years to come.

Lastly, at the end of the semester, we will have our annual Orchid Ball Formal to finish the year and to bid our outgoing seniors good luck in their years to come away from Cornell.

We look forward to another exciting semester for Sigma Pi as we build our reputation among the Cornell community and our peers.

Fraternally,
Tristan Kouk '08
Sage

Brothers participate in successful career

On Thursday, February 1, 17 undergraduates journeyed from Ithaca to New York City for Mu Chapter's fourth-annual career seminar, hosted by Jarrett Wait '80.

The two-day event—which included alumni from more than 10 different firms across several industries—was again a tremendous success, as undergraduates developed relationships with eager and helpful alumni and honed career interests with their invaluable advice.

The seminar began Thursday afternoon, as the 17 undergraduates received advice on constructing résumés and performing during interviews from human resources representatives from Lehman Brothers. Armed with the knowledge of how to market themselves to captains of industry, the brothers moved to a cocktail reception to meet the many alumni who graciously gathered to help the undergraduates shape their career interests and network.

Dinner followed and between bickering about whether Don Motschwiller was at the head table or not, several alumni gave inspirational advice on how to approach one's career and the rest of one's life. Following the insightful comments at

dinner, Thursday night ended on a more sophomore note, as many of the undergraduates joined the alumni for a night out. On Friday, students attended breakout sessions with alumni who work in the fields in which the undergraduates are interested.

While the seminar ended Friday afternoon, the relationships formed over those two days have been sustained and will hopefully continue to be mutually beneficial. Events like career weekend are valuable in many ways—not the least of which is educating undergrads about prospective occupations. But much more than that relatively simple function, they serve to bridge the gap between the currently active brothers and the alumni, whose dedication to Sigma Pi never ceases to impress and whose desire to help the undergraduates cannot be lauded enough. Thanks again to the alumni whose efforts make career week possible.

If you are interested in participating in next year's career seminar or have questions regarding the event, please contact Daniel Holzwanger at djh67@cornell.edu.

DJ Mauch '08

Heritage Fund drive begins with \$500K goal

A January mailing of a booklet, *A Heritage Worth Preserving: A continuing appeal to the Brothers of Mu of Sigma Pi at Cornell*, kicked off the special 2007 drive, which aims primarily to provide the funds for a summer renovation of the bathrooms and windows at 730 University Ave. and to reduce the mortgage debt of \$400,000.

Have you read the booklet? Are you impressed with the importance of every brother stepping up to be counted among the supporters of Mu Chapter?

Are you one of the 641 alumni who have never supported the rebuilding efforts of the fraternity since its inception in 1991?

Mu Chapter once deteriorated—both as a building and as an organization—to the point where its very existence was severely threatened. The support of 374 alumni provided the funds to rebuild both the building and the organization to where Mu Chapter stands today—a top house at Cornell (some say number one). This support must continue; be a part of it!

Send your contributions to: Jim Keene, President Mu Alumni, 740 S. 75th St., Omaha, NE 68114.

thank you, donors

We would like to thank the below fund donors, who gave as of March 16, 2007.

Adelbert H. Sahlberg '46
David K. Felbeck '48
Donald E. Clark '53
Fred O. Jensen '53
David A. Dewey '54
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James F. Hulvat '99
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Updated donor lists will be published in each new *Muse* or fund mailing.



Members of Mu Chapter's pledge class pose for a photo.

What a rush!

Mu Chapter nets largest pledge class at Cornell

Rush week is not by any means the beginning of rush, but rather the end. Fall semester at Cornell is full of parties that some may see as just fun, but a rush chair knows that they are an integral piece of the rush process.

Our first-semester parties drew the largest crowds on campus and helped spread the Sigma Pi name throughout the freshman class. We instructed brothers to meet freshman guys and get their contact information, which we later entered into an Excel database.

We then called guys we liked and invited them to brotherhood dinners that we held every other week at a local burger restaurant. The brotherhood dinners not only allowed the rushees to see how we interact as brothers, but also did an excellent job of showing off our closeknit brotherhood.

Rush week is the culmination of all of the first-semester events, from the first party to the big Thanksgiving dinner. Our plan going into rush week was to follow up on first-semester contacts,

inviting them to bring all of their friends to Smokers, where we emphasized the diversity of our house to draw in rushees from different backgrounds.

Smokers are a great time for rushees to hang out with brothers in a relaxed—and sober—environment. At the same time, it is perfect event for us to get to know rushees, so that we can make contributions during brotherhood discussions that follow.

Our nighttime events during rush week started with laid-back parties, where rushees could just hang out with brothers. As the week progressed, our events focused on showing off the house and the brotherhood. By the end of the week, we had narrowed down the field to 40 rushees. After handing out bids, we got 27 to sign—the largest pledge class on campus this year.

As of this writing, pledging is going great. They are a strong class and one that will help catapult us to the top.

Remembering Paul J. Connell '73

Did you see his name in the *Muse*? Paul J. Connell. Smiley. The Governor. Always got there first. Must have known.

The kid from Pennsylvania coal country. Fed the Endwell boys from the crew chief slot at McDonald's. Two Cornell degrees, a wife, big-time consulting job, and a couple years living large in Canada. Couldn't have been 25. Maybe 30. Showed us how.

Law degree, four kids, three years in England. Made the international M&A thing work. Hit the long ball in Atlanta. Law firm partner. Chaired the Georgia State Bar International Society. Might have been 35. Maybe 40. Closed the big deals for the

long end.

Got the kids up and grown and strong and smart and sweet. Found new love and a new way. Making sure everybody's still OK. Must have been about 50. What'd Neil say? 54 and there's so much more. Wanted to see it, too, didn't we

My brothers and sisters, we lost him last year. Paul J. Connell. Smiley. The Governor. Always got there first. Must have known.

Jim Boland '73
John Connell '84
Howard Rosen '73
Bill Strusz '73

Homecoming celebration highlighted by Zoltan's return

Homecoming weekend was a great success, as Sigma Pi brothers welcomed back the alumni band Zoltan and alumni from several different decades for a weekend of stories, memories, and rekindling of old friendships.

With over 150 attendees ranging from those who graduated last spring to some of the house's more senior brothers, the weekend linked the current brotherhood with the past and was an important step in the alumni's continued increasing involvement in the house.

The weekend began with a lounge event Friday night and segued into Saturday's full schedule of festivities, highlighted by the reunion concert of Mu Chapter's greatest band.

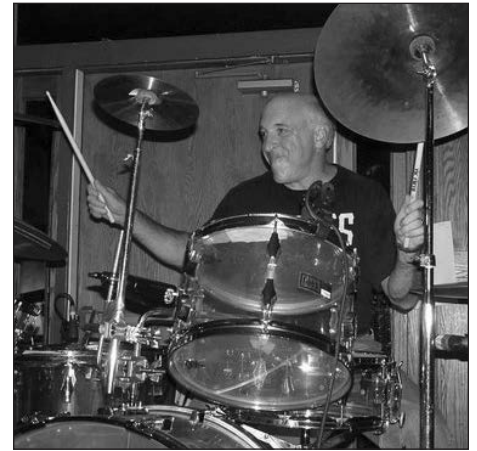
After tailgating, brothers returned to the house for the annual house meeting and dinner. In addition to updates on the status of the house and its financial situation from the alumni executive board, the meeting featured the return of a restored composite that had been damaged from the house fire a decade ago. Following the meeting and dinner, everyone made their way down to the basement, where members of Zoltan were preparing for their first show since 2003 and their biggest performance at the Pi house since their heyday.

Following a few days of practice, Zoltan returned to top form in time for the performance, and they blew the crowd away with a blend of rousing covers and several original songs. For the undergraduates—the vast majority of whom had never heard Zoltan play before—the show was an incredible surprise. Most expected the concert to

be fun, but few were ready for the high-quality, high-energy, exciting performance that Zoltan delivered.

For the older crowd, Zoltan was a triumphant return to their college days, as alumni danced youthfully with their wives, who, in many cases, were the same women they had danced in the Pi house so many years earlier.

Homecoming weekend 2006 was a fantastic experience thanks to the efforts of the Zoltan members and all the alumni who made the trip to Ithaca. Hopefully, next fall's Homecoming weekend will build upon the lessons we learned at this event, and alumni will return with the same energy and dedication to Sigma Pi as they did this October.



Former sage reflects on his experiences at Mu Chapter

I wanted to take this opportunity to tell the alumni how excited the undergraduate brothers were with this year's homecoming.

Zoltan's return to the Pi house was a memorable experience to say the least. As always, we were thrilled to see brothers who have not been around for a while, as well as reconnect with those who are often here.

The house remains in great shape. In fact, at Sigma Pi's national convention held in New Orleans, Mu Chapter took home the honor of highest GPA and was recognized as one of the top 20 chapters in the nation.

In addition to this national honor, Cornell continues to recognize the Mu Chapter as one of the

elite organizations on campus. And as a result, it maintains the highest expectations of us to serve as a model for other chapters.

Leadership—both on and off campus—remains one of our top priorities. Lance Fraenkel '07 continues to serve as the IFC judicial chair, and David Gelianas '07 serves as councilman for Ithaca's Fourth Ward. Both of them have an enormous amount of influence on the Cornell community, as well as the greater Ithaca community at large.

Currently, we are looking to get more involved in philanthropy and community service. The house has put together another trip to a senior citizens' home, as well as pledged to serve in Cornell's Day of Demeter—an all-day cleanup of the

campus and Collegetown. Also, in addition to the annual pie-eating contests and car washes we sponsor with different sororities, we are beginning to look into an amazing college mentor program, which would bring at-risk kids from the community onto the campus.

It has truly been a privilege to serve as the president of this fraternity. There have been a lot of ups and a lot of downs, and through it all, I have learned so much.

Thank you to all of the alumni who have given their support over the years. We will continue to move in a great direction.

Trevor White '07

our executive board

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mu alumni send their news & notes

John D. Masters '48 writes, "After 22 years in New Hampshire, I moved to a condo on Lake Champlain. Downsizing is hell!" Catch up with John at his new address: 47 Claire Pointe Rd., Burlington, VT 05408.

"I'm still spending six months each in Yarmouth, Maine, and Charlotte, North Carolina," writes **Joseph W. Calby '51**. "I plan to visit you folks on one of my trips with a short visit to the School of Chemical Engineering. Have a good year!" Joe's Southern address is 4852 Cameron Valley Pkwy., Charlotte, NC 28210. He can also be reached by e-mail at calbydih@aol.com.

"The biggest news of 2006 for us was the birth of our second grandson, Ramsey Sinclair," announces **Michael T. Leigh '52**, "who joins older sister, Eliza, and older brother, Reid. I hope the SPers appreciated their exposure to the joys, pleasures, advantages, and opportunities of Colorado lifestyles, as reported in the last issue of *Muse*." Catch up with Mike at 7692 Estate Circle, Longmont, CO 80503; papwt@aol.com.

"I'm still working as a stockbroker—for 47 years now!—and I hope to continue for a few more years!" says **Richard H. Cooper '54**. "Coop" can be reached at 1 Bartram Court, Moorestown, NJ 08057; rcooper@lanebridgers.com.

G. Bert Harrop '61 (759 Carlingford Lane, Houston, TX 77079; bharrop@houston.rr.com) writes that he is semi-retired at Harrop Construction Co. Inc. and at Sterling Bank as a construction loan underwriter. He has four children: David (deceased), Susan, Sarah, and Rachel. His wife, Val, graduated from Cornell in 1963.

"After 37 years, I sold my practice (Seneca Falls Veterinary Hospital) in March 2006," reports **Herbert R. Holden '63**. "I worked there part time until August. The summer was such that the grass never stopped growing, plus my wife, Becky, volunteered me to maintain the grounds of our historical society. Since then, we have traveled and doubled our already busy volunteer schedule. Luckily, we have two grandchildren here in town to spoil, and we can now get to North Carolina to spoil the other five more often—three in Greensboro and two in Charlotte." Send greetings to Herb at 2034 Gravel

Rd., Seneca Falls, NY 13148. Send him e-mail at rholden2@rochester.rr.com.

John R. Rumble '64 writes that, after leaving the government with 24 years of service, he has become technical director of an IT company in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. "I still live in Maryland and commute two to three times a month. Spare time, if any, is spent playing golf and being editor of a scientific journal. I would love to hear from Mu members from the '60s." John resides at 11 Montgomery Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877. E-mail reaches him at jumleusa@earthlink.net.

"I retired from the federal government after a 30-year career in union-management relations," announces **Donald G. Rider '69**, "and assumed a position as full-time college professor in the department of business and management at the University of Maryland University College." Don's mailing address is 18604 Tanterra Way, Brookeville, MD 20833; drider1@verizon.net.

Derek E. Minihane '91 writes that he has accepted a new position as vice president of intellectual property at Intermolecular, a start-up IP model company conducting research related to semiconductor fabrication. Find out how he's doing at 1468 Flamingo Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

"I've followed a dream of mine into a career in sports," reports **Timothy R. Altier '03**. "I'm working for the High Desert Mavericks, a minor league baseball team in the California League, and I'm currently the director of group sales. Send me an e-mail to keep in touch: traltier@hotmail.com."

deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

Frank C. Abbott '42

August 2006

Robert M. Lind '54

February 26, 2006

Remembering Frank Abbott '42

We have only recently learned of the death of Frank Abbott in August of last year.

Frank's contributions to Mu Chapter continued without pause from the time he accepted his bid to pledge Sigma Pi until he died. His prominence as an alumnus, his love of the fraternity, and his willingness to help whenever asked prompted the request that he contribute a piece for the 2007 Heritage Fund kickoff booklet which was published in January. (It was not known that Frank had died when the booklet was printed).

Frank's love of the fraternity may have been inherited, as his father Clark Abbott '15 was a member of Omega Delta. Frank's father was in the first group of Omega Delta brothers to be initiated into Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi.

Upon graduation from Cornell, Frank served in the U.S. Navy. After the war, he returned to Cornell and worked in the office of both the provost and the president. He earned his master's from Cornell in 1949. Frank went on to Harvard for his PhD. He served as assistant dean at Bucknell University, then moved to the University of Montana in Missoula as vice president of academic programs and graduate dean.

After leaving Missoula, Frank served as the first executive director of the Colorado Commission of Higher Education, where he was responsible for developing the community college system for the State of Colorado. Frank returned to New York State and worked for the Board of Regents of the State University of New York in Albany. He returned to Colorado with the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. He retired in 1991 but remained active in the field of education.

Mu Chapter is about to complete its 100th year at Cornell! Ours is a great fraternity. It is a great fraternity because of brothers like Frank C. Abbott.

A fund has been initiated to accept contributions to place a plaque in Frank's memory in the Memorial Library of the chapter house.

If you wish to contribute, please send your gift identified as being for the Frank Abbott Memorial.