

the MUSE

SIGMA PI
SPRING 2015



Above: Sage Nick Wint '15, Connor Riser '16, incoming Sage Fernando Cevallos '17, and Agustin Martinez '17 at Sigma Pi International Mid-Year Leadership Conference.

Below: Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi 2015 new member class.



Brothers Rise to the Top

By Nicholas Wint '15, Sage

The spring semester has been quite an adventure for the brothers of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter. A week before classes started, the brothers returned to 730 University Ave. to participate in new-member recruitment week. The 19 new members were initiated on February 19, and with them, we now have 72 active brothers!

Our brothers continue to excel in leadership positions all over campus, with numerous involvements in prominent organizations. Brother **Turkel Anwar '15** is keeping the Student Agency tradition alive as president of Cornell's oldest student-run business. Brothers **Connor Riser '16** and **James Alvarez '16** hold positions on the IFC (see article on page 4). College Mentors for Kids continues to be a huge success on campus, with several brothers holding positions on the executive board (**David Dellapelle '17**, **Joe Manzi '16**, **Reid Paoletta '16**, **Brandon Choi '16**) and many other brothers having roles as general managers and mentors.

Since the last edition of *The Muse*, there have been several high points, including

(continued on page 4)

Alumni Treasurer's Report

John J. Haggerty '78, Treasurer, Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Alumni Corporation

With the successful conclusion of the 2013–2014 Centennial Campaign effort, the balance of the outstanding mortgage on the house was officially paid off on October 28, 2014, and recorded as discharged with the Tompkins County Clerk on December 16, 2014. In February of 2015, using funds from the spring 2015 rent collection, a short-term line-of-credit note in the amount of \$30,000, borrowed during the period of low house occupancy in 2013, was also paid off. **I am pleased to announce that, for the first time in my eight years as alumni corporation treasurer, thanks in large part to the generous participation of both alumni and active brothers in ongoing fundraising, Sigma Pi Mu Chapter is not only debt free but also has a small positive savings balance.**

The mortgage and line of credit represented a drag of about \$3800 per month on the operating budget of the house. Through the end of 2014 and up to the present, we have been aggressively investing in visible improvements to Sigma Pi. We engaged a local landscaper (and a Cornell alumni) to design new plantings and to begin needed improvements to the lawns and gardens. **John Morrison '75** spearheaded an effort to completely refurnish the West Lounge. We have upgraded exterior lighting (efficient LED motion detectors for security) and instituted a regular program of bulk waste removal and general grounds cleaning. We are in the final stages of a complete re-engineering of the house IT infrastructure to support the massive proliferation of wireless devices, a full perimeter security camera system, and the planned addition of permanent video-conferencing capability to the Memorial Room. Our goal is to make Sigma Pi Mu Chapter a leader in technology among Greek

houses, with facilities as good or better than those provided in the Cornell dorms.

On the continuing capital improvement list is the **need to replace the windows** in the house, starting with the casement-style windows on the third floor, as well as to paint the house's exterior. The current windows were installed when the house was re-built in 1993, and they have not aged well. We are studying a number of options, including repairs by the original manufacturer or phased replacement of all 60+ windows. **Replacement estimates are in the \$130K–\$160K range, and the house painting will cost \$30K.** This investment would be recovered in fuel savings because many of the current windows do not seal well and draft complaints are common, resulting in thermostats being set higher to offset the heat loss.

We have been developing a priority list of infrastructure enhancements, including a keyless-entry system for the front door, card-key systems for the sleeping-room doors, and generally enhanced security. We have also established a committee to study the use and condition of the kitchen equipment and the layout of the dining room. With the mortgage eliminated, we have much greater financial security and the ability to take on significant projects. Continued giving to Sigma Pi will help us maintain our rightful place as one of Cornell University's best fraternity houses.

Please think about visiting the house if you can, be it for reunions in June or anytime during the year. We are proud of what we have been able to do with your substantial and continuing financial support. All alumni are always welcome. If an individual or group would like to help fund one of these initiatives, please contact **John Haggerty '78** (jjh56@cornell.edu) or **John Morrison '75** (johnmorrison236@comcast.net). Thank you for your generosity and support.

Mu Undergrads Referred to Judicial Review Board

On Friday, February 20, 2015 the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi was placed on interim suspension by Cornell, based on allegations of inappropriate behavior made during the new-member process. Mu Chapter alumni board and Sigma Pi International worked closely with the undergraduates to ensure complete cooperation with Cornell's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (OFSIL) in their investigation. On Monday, March 1, the interim suspension was lifted and the undergraduate brothers were referred to the Greek Judicial Board.

On April 8, 2015, the official Interfraternity Council Judicial Hearing took place. In

advance of the hearing, OFSIL conducted a thorough investigation. While we recognize Cornell University must take any allegation of misconduct seriously, it became clear that there was a great deal of contradictory evidence, as well as some individuals recanting their initial claims of misconduct.

However, one area of unintentional misconduct was the description of past initiation activities to the new members, who felt these obsolete practices might occur. Additionally, the use of a point system to determine house room selection was found to have resulted in a form of unintended intimidation of the new members.

On April 20, 2015, the results of the hearing were released, and Mu Chapter received an official warning. In addition, chapter education for new-member recruitment will be reexamined for next year's incoming class of new members.

Before this incident, efforts were already underway by the alumni board's Brotherhood Committee (led by **Matt Pens '00**), in partnership with Sigma Pi International and the undergraduate brothers, to create a positive and forward-looking new-member process. More information on the results of these efforts will be outlined in the fall issue of *The Muse*.

Mentorship Program Launched

By Tom Silver '81 & Rob Novo '79

One of the most frequent requests from undergraduates when they speak to alumni is for assistance with career planning, internships, mentorships, and job placement. They also want advice from alumni regarding graduate school and/or post-graduate degrees.

In response, the Career Development Committee, chaired by **Tom Silver '81** and **Rob Novo '79**, launched a pilot mentorship program in January. The pilot program matched alumni and undergraduates with similar career interests, academic backgrounds, and experience.

More than 20 undergraduates were matched with alumni, and, as of the end of March, approximately 80 percent have initiated contact and have had meaningful, productive conversations. The feedback on these conversations has been extremely positive, with both alumni and their mentors indicating they are excited about the relationship and have scheduled follow-up discussions and, in some instances, face-to-face meetings. The Career Development Committee continues to work through logistics to get the remaining mentor/mentee relationships established and expects more connections to occur before the end of the school year. Even though it is still in its early stages, there have been some successes. For example, through the connec-

tion made between mentor **Alan Portnoi '84** and his mentee **Adam Gottleib '15**, they were able to find a summer intern for Alan: none other than fellow undergrad Pi Man **Steven Siegel '17**.

Looking forward, the program hopes to take advantage of the developing Tech Center. This will allow easier and more frequent alumni/undergraduate communications, which can promote even more meaningful relationships between undergraduates and alumni, including potential career "days," specialized workshops, and other events to link alumni and undergraduates.

Thank you to all of the alumni who volunteered to be mentors. Your time and expertise is greatly appreciated. The Career Development Committee continues to be in need of alumni who would be willing to assist undergraduates in career planning, whether it be through a mentorship, offering career advice, linking undergraduates with internship connections or opportunities, providing assistance to undergrads in networking, or even participation in a formal or informal program to provide insight on your industry, job, or career path. Think of how helpful such a resource would have been when you were an undergraduate! If you are interested in participating in any of the above, please contact **Tom Silver '81** at tsilver10359@yahoo.com or **Rob Novo '79** at robn1979@gmail.com.

Young Alumni Q&A with Quin Garcia '05

Quin Garcia '05 is the founder of AutoTech Ventures. AutoTech bridges the space between transportation startup companies and investors seeking strategic or financial exposure to these companies. The company provides startups with capital to grow, hands-on transportation-sector expertise, and access to its network of corporate strategic partners. It provides corporations with access to leading transportation startups from around the world, expertise in evaluating these startups, and facilitation of strategic partnerships with these startups. More information about AutoTech Ventures can be found at autotechvc.com.

Muse: Can you talk a little bit about Autotech Ventures and how you got involved?



Quin Garcia: I was working in China with an electric vehicle startup, negotiating automotive tech partnerships with large corporations, and came to the realization that the transportation sector would soon be disrupted. I tried to find a money manager who could invest my money for me and give me pure exposure to transportation tech, but after a long search, I was unable to find any such money manager. So, I started trading in transportation tech stocks on my own, did really well at it, and eventually decided to move back to Silicon Valley to form Autotech Ventures as the first VC firm investing exclusively in road-transportation tech startups.

(continued on page 7)

NEW Mu Chapter Website & Social Media Outlets



In the fall of 2014, the alumni board worked closely with its communications partner to completely update the Mu Chapter's website, sigmapicornell.org. There were a number of requirements that were a part of the redesign process. The new website:

- increases the ability for our alumni to stay connected and kept up-to-date
 - has a robust section for our undergraduate brothers to enhance new member recruitment
 - has a section for parents to find the information they need, whether their son is a current or prospective member
 - has better support for mobile devices.
- With these factors, as well as the desire for a very aesthetically pleasing and highly functional site, a new visual design was created and new content was added.

I'm sure those who have visited the website would agree, both visually and content-wise, the new site is a major step forward.

If you haven't visited the site, please go, check it out, and register for the members-only section to gain access to the full range of content.

One fun element we've added is a link to Cornell's live campus cam. Just click on this icon (📹) at the top of any website page to check out the view from Barnes Hall.

In addition, the alumni board is keen to make the most of existing social media channels. Please visit our current social media outlets.

 **Instagram:**
[@cornellsigmapi](https://www.instagram.com/cornellsigmapi)

 **LinkedIn:**
[@groups/Sigma-Pi-Mu-Chapter-Alumni-4734302](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Sigma-Pi-Mu-Chapter-Alumni-4734302)

 **Twitter:**
[@CornellSigmaPi](https://twitter.com/CornellSigmaPi)

Mu Chapter Continues to Rise to the Top

(continued from page 2)

the 10th annual career-development weekend in NYC, our annual Super Bowl party, the brotherhood pool and ping-pong tournaments, and many more. You will hear about these in the fall 2015 *Muse*.

Just before going to press, we elected our new e-board (see page 9 for the list). And all of the current brothers have given in support of our annual giving campaign.

As always, I would like to thank the alumni for their continuous support of the house. Your efforts toward continuously improving the house are greatly appreciated. On behalf of the undergrads, I would like to personally thank **John Morrison '75** and the facilities committee for their hard work on ordering the new furniture, lamps, study desks, and desk chairs. These items have been a wonderful addition to the house, and we will continue to cherish them. I would also like to invite alumni back to the house whenever you can stop by. The brothers truly enjoy when alumni come back and share their anecdotes. Next time you're in Ithaca, stop on by, and any brother would be more than happy to tell you about the strides we are making as a house and on campus. Seeing that this is my last report as sage, I would like to thank every Pi man I have met during my undergraduate experience. Each and every one of you is a part of my life and has molded me into the person I am today. I am forever indebted to the brothers of Sigma Pi and look forward to giving back as an alumnus.

Sigma Pi Makes Its Mark on the Interfraternity Council

By Connor Riser '16

IFC Elections

Last November, Sigma Pi had two brothers elected to serve on the Cornell Interfraternity Council's executive board.

Connor Riser '16 was elected president of the IFC, and **James Alvarez '16** was elected vice president for judicial affairs. Connor is the first Sigma Pi to serve as IFC president since **Alex Deyle '06**. It is extremely rare for two members of one fraternity to serve on the IFC executive board at the same time; it is even rarer for both of them to hold two of the top positions.

Last year, Connor served as vice president for programming on the IFC, while James served as sage of Sigma Pi. They have had an extremely busy beginning to their terms this semester, but they are proud of the work they have been able to accomplish so far. Currently, they are both working on reforming the Greek judicial process.

Second Place finish in the 2014 IFC Incentive Points System Competition

This January, the Cornell Interfraternity Council recognized Sigma Pi for its second



James Alvarez '16, Nick Wint '15, and Connor Riser '16 hold Mu Chapter's IFC trophy. Alvarez and Riser hold leadership roles on the IFC.

place finish in the 2014 IFC incentive-points system competition. Sigma Pi came in second place out of thirty-five chapters. Points are earned through a variety of different activities and are designed to encourage chapters to participate in IFC events and worthy causes.

Sigma Pi earned points last year for a variety of different reasons. Some examples are for using Cayuga's

Watchers, for hosting a Cayuga's Watchers training session, for hosting a S.H.A.G. session, and for coming in second place at IFC sports trivia. Sigma Pi also received points for having **James Alvarez '16**, **Michael Adelstein '16**, **Greg Dgheim '16**, and **Connor Riser '16** serve on IFC committees. Michael served on the Quarter System Reform Committee, which was chaired by Connor. Greg and James both served on the Social Responsibility Committee. Points were also earned by having one member on the Greek Judicial Board (**Greg Dgheim '16**) and for having one participant in the Greek Leadership Academy (Connor Riser). Sigma Pi also received points for having a health and wellness chair in their house (**Rohun Gupta '16**).

Mu Chapter Hosts International Fellows

On Sunday, March 8, 2015, Mu Chapter graduate student resident advisor, **Mike Lieberman**, and **Alec Charbonneau '16** hosted a "Meet and Greet" with the Cornell's Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program. The Humphrey Fellows are a part of an exchange program that allows professional students from developing countries the opportunity to attend a university in the United States.

Ultimately, our hope is to create a friendship/partnership between our Sigma Pi Fraternity and the Humphrey Fellowship Program. Our goal is to connect these two very different



Humphrey Fellows and Mu Brothers enjoy a game of pool.

communities and to develop a program and individual relationships that promote

both cross-cultural exchange and personal improvement. Humphrey Fellows and Sigma Pi members would essentially grow together. Humphrey Fellows would be given another opportunity to perfect their English, while fraternity members could embark on the difficult journey of learning a second language. This exchange goes far beyond just language; it is an opportunity to expand our community's perspective and create lifelong friendships.

The event was featured in *The Cornell Daily Sun* the following day (March 3, 2015).

Brothers Benefit from Leadership Conference Experiences

Sigma Pi National's Mid-Year Leadership Conference

This January, four members of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter had the pleasure of attending Sigma Pi National's Mid-Year Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The four brothers who attended were Sage **Nick Wint '15**, **Connor Riser '16**, **Agustin Martinez '17**, and **Fernando Cevallos '17**. They were able to pay for the registration, travel, and all other expenses with funding from the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation.

While in St. Louis, the brothers had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities with brothers from all over the country. There were plenty of opportunities for networking, as well as great information sessions



Sage Nick Wint '15 and VP and IFC President Connor Riser '16 in the St. Louis Cardinal's Dugout

on how to be a better brother. There were also position-specific breakout groups that existed for sages, risk managers, treasurers, and rush chairs. The brothers who attended were able to learn a variety of new skills which they could bring back to Mu Chapter. During their free time at the conference, Nick and Connor were even able to make a quick stop at the St. Louis Cardinal's baseball stadium, where they received a world class tour.

The conference ended with the brothers having dinner in a large conference room, followed by all people in attendance standing in a large circle to sing "The Fireside Song." A strong sense of brotherhood was truly felt throughout the entire event, and the four brothers who went will never forget the amazing experience.

Northeast Greek Leadership Association Conference

On February 26, brother **Connor Riser '16** left with other members of the Cornell Interfraternity Council to go to the Northeast Greek Leadership Association Conference in Hartford, Connecticut. Brother **James Alvarez '16** was scheduled to go, but was unable to due to illness.

While in Hartford, Connor attended the advanced Greek Leadership Program, which was available for less than one percent of participants at the conference and had to be applied for. The best part of the conference, however, was the affiliation lunch.

At this lunch, members of Sigma Pi from schools all over the northeast were able to network and sit with each other. Executive Director of Sigma Pi **Mike Ayalon**, **Epsilon Omicron '97**, was in attendance, as was Director of Education and Leadership **Kevin Pons**, **Eta Omega '06**, and **Joe Turck**, **Delta Omega '98**, who also works for the national organization. It was an amazing opportunity to interact with Sigma Pi brothers from different parts of the northeast.

Educational Foundation Expands Growth Opportunities

By **Aaron Klein '12**

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation is proud to announce the creation of its own independent website, **MuSigmaPiFoundation.com**. The site includes information on the foundation's initiatives and a portal for undergraduates to apply for our newly established David Harrop Memorial Scholarship, which was set up by the foundation to honor the son of **Bert Harrop '61**. One of the missions of the Foundation is to help fund leadership opportunities for the undergraduate brothers of Sigma Pi.

In order to encourage the participation of undergraduate members at Sigma Pi International's educational programs, such as Sigma Pi University, the foundation will now be reimbursing certain expenses associated with the cost of attending the events. The foundation and alumni board believe that the undergraduate brothers will benefit greatly by being able to attend these events. On January 30, four brothers from Mu Chapter (**Fernando Cevallos '17**, **Agustin Martinez '17**, **Connor Riser '16**, and Sage **Nick Wint '15**) traveled to St. Louis for the annual Sigma Pi Interna-

tional Mid-Year Leadership Conference. The conference provided officer training and networking opportunities to over 500 undergraduate officers. During the two-day conference, the men from Mu Chapter had a jam-packed schedule, full of seminars with topics ranging from recruitment to new-member education. The learning experience was invaluable; fellow Pi men from around the country educated the four attendees on best practices from each of their individual chapters. They left St. Louis enlightened because they had an understanding of several methods to continue to move Mu Chapter in a positive direction.

The foundation also elected to fund the purchase of a one-year subscription to the academic service **TakeNote** for the entire brotherhood. TakeNote is an organization that provides high-quality supplemental lecture notes for Cornell undergraduates. TakeNote was founded at Cornell in 1985 and was cited by *The Chronicle of High-*

er Education as one of the best student learning tools in the country. The foundation hopes that this investment will help lead to an overall increase in the GPA of the brotherhood.

We continue to look for new ways to positively impact the brothers of Sigma Pi, and hope that, when you look to give back to Sigma Pi and its annual giving campaign, you will also consider making a gift to the foundation to help support our mission. In addition, please consider leaving a bequest to the Educational Foundation. A bequest costs nothing now, but it might give you a great deal of satisfaction to know that your future gift will live on. Please contact your financial advisor for more information about making a gift from your estate.

The foundation is actively seeking additional board members, especially individuals with legal, fundraising, or non-profit experience. Please contact me at amk282@cornell.edu if you would be interested in joining the foundation.



Aaron Klein '12, head of the Educational Foundation.

Technology, Social Media, & Career

Mike Vernick '83, alumni board member, was the principal organizer of the first annual Technology, Social Media, and Career Conference was held. In attendance were over 12 alumni and 40 undergraduates. The purpose of the conference was to bring together the undergraduate members and alumni and to discuss ways to use technology and social media to increase interaction among brothers, undergraduates, and prospective members. More specifically, the group talked about the kinds of technologies that will make the house both safer and more fun. By the end of the semester, security cameras will be installed, and the Wi-Fi infrastructure will be completely updated.

The conference also focused on helping undergraduates with career development. **Rebecca Joffrey, Director of Interactive Services at Cornell**, led one discussion on a new web-based service being developed to help undergraduates find jobs when they graduate. **Jarett Wait '80** and **Gordon Adelsberg '90** led career discussions on the finance and marketing/communications industries. As part of expanding the reach



Rebecca Joffrey, Director of Interactive Services at Cornell, leads the discussion.

of this conference and for alumni to give career development talks to undergrads, the **Technology Center** is going to be built within the Memorial Room at the house (see article below).

College Mentors For Kids meeting in the Memorial Room at the Pi house.



Sigma Pi Earns Chapter of the Year Award from College Mentors for Kids

By David Kogan '17 & Danny Janeczko '17

Sigma Pi Mu Chapter is making unprecedented strides in its philanthropy efforts, both at Cornell and beyond. Sigma Pi Mu Chapter's high-profile involvement and leadership in College Mentors for Kids at Cornell University helped propel the Cornell chapter to win the national Chapter of the Year Award. This year, eleven brothers of Sigma Pi served in leadership roles with the Cornell chapter of College Mentors for Kids, including **Robert Attia '16** serving as president for the fall semester and four brothers serving as VPs for the organization. The undergraduates also had fourteen brothers serve as mentors with the program. Commensurate with the brothers' robust engagement, the **Mu Chapter Educational Foundation made a \$4,800 donation to support the Cornell chapter of College Mentors for Kids.**

This spring, for the first time, we hosted **"Rock the CASA,"** in partnership with Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. CASA (Court

Appointed Special Advocates) helps children struggling in the foster care system by assigning them a trained volunteer whose sole mission is to make sure their child ends up in a safe, happy home. As one of the most well established and successful philanthropy events on Cornell's campus, we were very excited to have this opportunity. As such, we pulled out all the stops to ensure the event was a huge success. There was a sand volleyball court in the parking lot, cotton candy machines, plenty of barbecued food, and raffle prizes donated from local businesses to entice students from all backgrounds to attend and to donate to the cause. It is efforts such as these that demonstrate our chapter's dedication to helping children who need it most.

We also maintained our participation in other philanthropy events, most notably the new members' fantastic dance at Delta Gamma's annual fund raising event, Anchor Jam, and the annual Movember Campaign, which helps raise money for men's health issues.

Technology Center Project Officially Launched

The much anticipated Technology Center project was officially launched through a generous gift from **Richard "Dick" Cahoon '77**. The Technology Media Center will be housed in the Memorial Room. **Mike Vernick '83** is heading the project team. The project is currently in the design phase and will include a state-of-the-art video-conferencing system for undergrads to better interact with alumni. The project is expected to be completed by the start of the next school year. Everyone is excited for the new Tech Center and the way it will allow for one-to-one and one-to-many webcasts between alums and undergrads. Stay tuned for future updates and even the possibility of participating in one of our future teleconferences.



Recruitment Yields 19 Outstanding Men for Sigma Pi

By Nick Wint '15

New-member recruitment 2015 was a very competitive rush year. We continue to strive to differentiate Mu Chapter from the other houses on the hill. As such, after several days of meeting freshmen and sophomores at smokers and other organized events, includ-

ing a very competitive basketball tournament, I can confidently say that we recruited one of the best new-member classes on campus. We sifted through over 400 guys to pick 19 outstanding men. They represent guys from all over the US, as well as overseas, and represent all of the major academic disciplines at Cornell. In fact, **Andrew Lord won the OFSIL**

Outstanding New Member Award.

As outgoing sage, I want to emphasize that I personally believe in this new-member class. They are a dynamic group of young men who embody the values of Sigma Pi and are very motivated and eager to contribute to the house. I know, in the near future, they will take the reins of Mu Chapter in their own hands and continue to steer us further down the positive path we are already on.



Resident Advisor Returns

Mike Lieberman will be returning in the fall as the resident graduate leader in the house while he finishes his MPS in international agriculture and rural development.



Young Alumni Q&A with Quin Garcia '05

(continued from page 3)

Muse: When you started at Cornell, did you have a career path in mind?

Quin: When I arrived at Cornell, I knew I loved cars and technology but wasn't sure how to make a career out of it. I didn't know which career to pursue, so I chose to study applied economics and management with the hope it would give me a solid academic foundation in business, which could be applied to various industries. I only figured out which career to pursue after I graduated.

Muse: What at Cornell helped develop your interest in working at a tech startup?

Quin: While I was at Cornell, I got involved in the Cornell Hybrid Electric Vehicle team as a hobby to satisfy my addiction to classic cars. Though it started as a hobby, it taught me about automotive technologies and the inner workings of the auto industry, which eventually guided me toward transportation technology startups.

Muse: Did you plan on pledging to a fraternity before you arrived at Cornell?

Quin: Fraternities aren't as popular in California, where I'm from, so I didn't fully understand them when I arrived at Cornell, but I decided to check them out during rush week. As a transfer student, I had no friends at Cornell and had never heard of any of the fraternities, so I just walked around to the houses near my West Campus dorm room.

Muse: What led you to join Sigma Pi?

Quin: I wasn't anxious to join a fraternity, so I decided that, no matter how entertaining or fun any fraternity could be, I would only join a house if I felt a deep respect for the brothers that could endure long-term. Of all the houses I rushed, Sigma Pi was the most genuine and kind group of people I met, and I knew I would respect them in the long-term, so my decision was easy.

Muse: What influence did your time at Sigma Pi have professionally on your time at Cornell and your time after graduation?

Quin: At Cornell, I spent my time in class, at the Cornell Hybrid Electric Vehicle lab, and with Sigma Pi. The classroom shaped my academic abilities, Cornell HEV shaped my career trajectory, and Sigma Pi shaped my personality. For a number of years after graduation, I was one of the lone Sigma Pi young alums living on the West Coast and working in tech startups, so I didn't have much professional overlap with Sigma PIs in the first five years of my career. However, more and more Sigma PIs have moved west and have gotten into the startup and venture capital business, and many of them have been my roommates out here, so there's now a strong West Coast Pi house diaspora.

Muse: Do you maintain much contact

with the guys you were in the house with, as well as alumni from other generations?

Quin: I'm still very close with the Sigma Pi brothers from the '00s, but for some time, I didn't have much interaction with the previous or subsequent generations. However, that's changed in the past year or two, because I've had the chance to get to know the brothers from the '80s and '90s who live here on the West Coast, and they're great people as well.

Muse: What advice would you give to current undergrads?

Quin: In both your personal life and professional life, relentlessly pursue happiness and follow your internal compass rather than succumbing to social pressure.

Muse: What advice would you give to those about to graduate?

Quin: Think twice about pursuing the cookie cutter jobs that many of your peers are pursuing, because many of them are doing it because they're afraid to pursue their true passion. Life is too short to work in jobs you don't absolutely love, so if you find yourself in an "ok" job, leave as soon as humanly possible to find or create your dream job.

Is there a Mu Chapter alumnus you'd like to see interviewed? Maybe you are that alumnus. Drop us a line at alumnirecords@sirgmapicornell.org and let us know.

What's Next for the Class of 2015?



Ben Dreier is using his computer-science degree to work as a product manager at a tech startup.

Alexander Eacker will be working as an English teacher through Teach for America in underprivileged communities in San José.



Turkel Anwar will be staying an extra semester to work as the president of Student Agencies Inc. (SAi). Turk hopes to get into consulting, specifically in the business and operations-strategy sector.

Jordan Karl Thompson will be working as a consultant/IBO with Organo Gold Inc.



Jacob Laufer will be packing his bags and heading west, taking a job as a brand specialist at Amazon.

Aram Shrestinian will be joining Towers Watson at their Boston office as an executive compensation analyst.



Maximiliano Olivares has an offer for sales and business development at Oracle and is looking into banking in Mexico as well.

Bryan Aristega will be working as a biomedical research assistant at Rockefeller University in New York.



Preston West will be back at Cornell in the fall to pursue additional courses.

Henry Morris will be a development associate for Sydell Group, a luxury hotel developer, fulfilling project management and acquisitions analysis roles for the company.



William Alford is going to work as a financial analyst for Disney Parks in Orlando, Florida.

Adam Gottlieb will be working at Perella Weinberg NYC, doing M&A and restructuring.



Alvaro Galan will be back at Cornell in the fall for another semester.

Nathan Winans will be working in a research lab, studying the human genetics of infectious disease.



Ian Leggett is working at a health services consulting company in Boston.

Chris Liendo will be pursuing tech consulting in NYC and preparing for an M. Eng in computer science from Cornell Tech.



Nicholas Wint will be heading to Fort Benning, Georgia, to attend the U.S. Army Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course.



Jerrell Torres. Undecided.

Bennet Heidenreich will be moving to London to work in finance.



Shayan McGee is working for a local hospital back in Wenham, Massachusetts. Also, he is working on getting his CNA license.



Thankathon

On February 3, 12 undergraduate brothers took part in their third annual thankathon phone event. Brothers made around 250 phone calls to thank donors to the Centennial Campaign and mentors, as well as to reach out to brothers from the 1990s, whom we hope to get more engaged. The brothers had a great time and had many excellent conversations with the alumni they reached. The brothers can't wait to call again next year.

The Chapter House

Just as we starting working on this issue of *The Muse*, The Chapter House, a major Ithaca landmark, which holds memories for many of us, was destroyed by fire. Fortunately, there were no injuries. However, the loss of this Ithaca icon has generated a flurry of memories from our brothers. Please share your memories of The Chapter House, life in the Pi house, or let us know what you are up to now by returning the enclosed newsform or by going online at sigmapicornell.org.



Parents Weekend A Great Success

By **George Chalhoub '16**

Parents Weekend was held the weekend of April 17–19. We were very excited to have hosted the parents of the brotherhood, both those who came in the past and those who joined us for their first time. This is always a very exciting weekend for Sigma Pi, and we had a great itinerary planned.

Friday night saw the vast majority of parents coming in, and, due to the weariness of travelling, we provided families the option of going on small dinners with other families or attending an *a cappella* concert. This night was really up to them, because the weekend at Mu Chapter started bright and early the next day.

On Saturday, we asked that parents come to the house around 11:00 a.m. If they were early risers, a trip to the Ithaca Farmer's Market was planned around 9:00

a.m. Regardless, at 11:00 a.m., the weekend kicked off with one of two options: a driving tour of the beautiful Cayuga Lake Wine region or, for those who prefer to hike, a nature walk/barbecue in Taughannock Park. The nature walk took a tour of the park and visited the largest waterfall in the Northeast, followed by a barbecue in the park. This is always a great time and has been a fun tradition in the past few years.

That night, all families returned to the fraternity house for a cocktail hour before dinner. Our chef prepared dinner, and, when it concluded, families were brought upstairs for a musical performance by an *a cappella* group.

Sunday morning saw a brunch at the fraternity house around 9:30 a.m. Afterward, we said goodbye to our parents. It was a great weekend, and we were very excited to see previous parents and to meet those who were newcomers.

Educational Foundation Funds New House Furnishings

By **Mike Adelstein '16**

We are happy to announce that the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, funded by a generous gifts from **Dick Cahoon '77**, has funded a number of needed furniture upgrades.

Each of Mu Chapter's 25 bedrooms is now equipped with a new, durable, and functional office chair to complement the new desks that were received a year ago. Each desk also has a new desk lamp. In the West Lounge, four new sofas and five armchairs provide comfortable places for brothers to sit during all times of the day. Finally, in the Memorial Room, two custom-made

tables, lamps, and new leather work chairs now provide a comfortable yet practical and inviting place for brothers to do their work. The study space in the house has been significantly expanded with these investments, and many brothers now prefer to do their work in their rooms or in the Memorial Room rather than walking up the slope.

Many of the new brothers who rushed this year said that the recent investments to the physical living conditions were what attracted them, and it signaled a strong desire by alumni to keep the house updated and in good shape. A visiting alumnus recently posted that the "new furniture in the house looks great!"

Introducing New UNDERGRAD OFFICERS

Sage: Fernando Ceballos '17

Vice President: Agustin Martinez '17

Treasurer: Andrew Walsh '17

Secretary: Reid Paulette '16

Alumni Secretary: Nick Ornitz '16

Herald: Brandon Choi '16

Join Us for REUNION 2015 June 4–7

The Mu Chapter is celebrating Reunion and expects a large turnout! We are keen to reach out to brothers from the reunion classes who would like to join the celebration. We are planning a few events, in addition to Cornell-related events, and hope you can join us.

On Thursday, June 4, we will have a barbecue dinner and drinks on the Pi-house porch, and on Friday, June 5, a Collegetown excursion and casual dinner. Both events kick off at 6:00 p.m.!

Sign up by visiting our web page at www.sigmapicornell.org/150-rsvp_reunion

For further information, please contact: Kurt Rasmussen '80 at rasmussen_kurt@lilly.com or Jarett Wait '80 at jwait@jfwaitadv.com.

See also Cornell's Reunion page for information on events and registration: www.alumni.cornell.edu/reunion.

Below: Class of 1980 at its 25th Reunion



Lorrie Muller '47 Remembered

By Jim Keene '57

Lorrie was an involved and generous alumnus. Lorrie and his family owned and operated the largest dairy company in Omaha. It no longer exists but was known as Alamito Dairy. Lorrie was one of only four brothers of Sigma Pi that were on campus during the Second World War. Those brothers who attended the Centennial Dinner or have otherwise seen the video of the presentation I gave during that dinner will recognize Lorrie as the alumnus who was interviewed in the video and who was a part of the presentation. He was the older brother who was agast that girls now sleep over at the house. Lorrie was a very prominent citizen of Omaha.

10th Annual New York City Career Event

By Nick Wint '15

On November 19, the 10th annual Sigma Pi Career Development Workshop, hosted by Mu Chapter alumni in New York City, took place. This year was the largest event to date, with the largest number of undergrads and many new alumni participating for the first time! Highlights of this year's event included a two-hour career workshop lead by **Alan Riffkin '88** and hosted at Lazard Frères & CO. LLC.

Sigma Pi's Career Development Workshop has become the model other Greek and non-Greek groups, such as Cornell Lacrosse, have used for their programs. Past alumni participants include **John Zimmer '06**, CEO of Lyft, and **Andrew Sorkin '99**, who shared their invaluable knowledge about the real world with the undergraduates.

2015 Alumni Participants: **Jarett Wait '80**, **Nathan Bryce '06**, **Tom Silver '81**, **Frank Sposato '84**, **Alex Deyle '06**, **John Haggerty '78**, **Steve Pirozzi '80**, **Andy Kantor '79**, **Brian Finneran '81**, **Howard Gordon '81**, **Gordon Adelsberg '90**, **Chris Garavente '77**, **Dennis McNamara '83**, **Mark Childs '88**, **Jeff Walwyn '02**, **Alan Riffkin '88**, **Dean S. Asofky '88**, **Jonathan Rich '05**, **Jason Halio '93**, **Don Motschwiller '80**, **Marc Rothenberg '87**, **Govind Nagubandi '09**, **Jason Nordlicht '12**, **Giorgio Piccoli '07**, and **Zach Zelikovic '10**.

Undergrads & Alumni Work To Enhance Dining & Kitchen

By Steven Siegel '17

Today, undergraduate brothers living in and out of the house want flexibility when they eat, given their busy schedules. We serve 10 distinct meal periods every week, Sunday through Thursdays. On Mondays through Thursdays, lunch is offered, starting at approximately 11:30 a.m., and dinner is served, starting at approximately 5:30 p.m. On Sundays, brunch is offered, starting at approximately 10:00 a.m. In addition to these daily meals, the kitchen is also fully stocked with ready-to-cook frozen foods, cereals and oatmeal, milk and OJ, breakfast bars, breads, and a deli bar with vegetables, deli meats, and salads. Dining facilities can accommodate 50–75 people at one time. Brotherhood dinners, during which the majority of the brotherhood makes time to eat together, occur on Sundays after chapter meetings and on Thursdays.

The Sigma Pi kitchen is open for all brothers to use throughout the day, at night during the week, and during the day over weekends, conditions permitting.* During weekdays in which the house chef is on staff (9–5), hot meals are prepared for brothers, and thus, the kitchen facilities, such as the flat top, grill, and range, are not available for use. However, after dinner hours and over night, these facilities are available for brothers to use with the food that is stocked in the kitchen. During weekends, the kitchen is open for typical

meal periods during the day but is typically locked at night.

As stated above (*), the kitchen is open for brothers to use on their own under permitting conditions of cleanliness. If certain areas of the kitchen do not meet the cleanliness standards that are set forth to the house by the resident advisor and the steward, they are permitted to close and lock the kitchen until brothers step forward to clean. Areas of importance for cleaning include the following: sanitizing and cleaning all kitchen equipment and food preparing surfaces, taking out trash, and cleaning dirty eating utensils and plates in the dishwasher. These tasks are fulfilled on a daily basis by 3–4 brothers who are assigned to dinner duty to keep the kitchen cleanliness in daily order.

Two significant house positions that deal directly with the kitchen facilities are the in-house resident advisor and the steward. The steward is a house-elected position that is fulfilled by one of the active brothers. Primary jobs of the steward involve coordinating with the chef on stocking kitchen inventory, planning and deciding what the 10 daily meals of the week will be, and organizing the cleaning of the kitchen by scheduling brothers to do dinner duty and ensuring that cleanliness standards are being met. The resident advisor oversees the steward's position to make sure that the position's standards are met, and in addition, acts as an important liaison in dealing with the chef's administrative issues.



New York City Career dinner.

Alumni Get Together Nationwide

By Kurt Rasmussen '80

The bonds we forge with our brothers are life-long. This is exemplified by alumni gatherings, big and small, formal and informal, that occur throughout the year all over the world. Here are but a few recently held.

Last November, a group of brothers living in Texas assembled for a sublime weekend of golf. The inaugural Texas P-Cup was organized by **Luc Chabot '80** and **Jay Sacco '80**. Denise and **Brad Molof '81**, Carol and **Jon Petee '81**, Lilian and **Rob Fuchs '80**, **Bruce Kornfeld '89**, **Dave Knapp '83**, **Joe Dervay '80**, Janet Chabot, Bridget Lane, Elyse Rosen, and Lisa Porter all joined Jay and Luc for a relaxing weekend in Austin.



Dave Knapp '83, Rob Fuchs '80, Luc Chabot '80, Bruce Kornfeld '89, Brad Molof '81, and Jon Petee '81 celebrate the inaugural Texas P-Cup in Austin. No one counted above five all weekend.

In April, the Florida Chapter of the Procrasticup celebrated the 30th anniversary of the 1985 Procrasticup golf outing. Both 1985 and 2015 events were held in Clearwater Beach, Florida. **Mike Vernick '83**, **Mike Fiertag '83**, and Sharon and **Tim Hawes '82** joined new Clearwater residents Lynne and **Joe Ruocco '82** for some fun in the Florida sun.



Mike Vernick '83, Tim Hawes '82, and Joe Ruocco '82 take a break from hitting divots to see a Yankees vs. Phillies spring-training game in Clearwater.

In February, **Jarett Wait '80**, **John Haggerty '78**, **Jim Franz '77**, and **John Morrison '74** cheered for the Big Red against Quinnipiac College at Lynah Rink. Cornell took ECAC leader Quinnipiac to overtime,

only to see its upset bid fall short 1-0. The boys watched the game from a familiar perspective; Jim's season tickets are located in the heart of the old Pi house block of seats.



Jarett Wait '80, John Haggerty '78, Jim Franz '77, and John Morrison '74 cheer for the Big Red against Quinnipiac College at Lynah Rink.

In March, **Larry Paglierani '79** hosted his annual Pagapalooza Ski Weekend in Stowe, Vermont. A horde of brothers, wives, and kids flocked to the slopes, including Claire and **Larry MacLennan '79**; **John Stetson '75**; Kay and **Dave D'Orlando '79**;



Larry MacLennan '79, John Stetson '75, Dave D'Orlando '79, Keith Molof '79, Maura Barstow, Larry Barstow '79, and Kay D'Orlando enjoy some lift-line levity at Pagapalooza in Stowe.

Keith Molof '79; Maura and **Larry Barstow '79**; **Michael Quaid '75**; Connor, Laurie, and **Kevin Kruse '79**; Janice and **Steve Mongeau '78**; **Bill Cavanaugh '78**; Andrew, Joanne, and **Mark Barmasse '78**; Michelle, Cindy, and **Chris Olie '79**; Erica and **Mike Reiner '78**; Jack and **Andy Kantor '79**; and **Kent Sheng '78**.

In March, several Pi men journeyed to rain-soaked New Haven, Connecticut, to see the Cornell lacrosse team defeat Yale 14-7. **Tony McManus '80**, **Brian Finneran '81**, **Tom Cherner '80**, **Steve Pirozzi '80**, **Jarett Wait '80**, **John Roche '81**, and **Steve Bergh '79** rooted the Big Red to victory.



Rain in the streets in the town of New Haven ... couldn't dampen the spirits of Tony McManus '80, Brian Finneran '81, Tom Cherner '80, Steve Pirozzi '80, Jarett Wait '80, John Roche '81, and Steve Bergh '79, as they root the good guys to victory over Yale.

In May, a throng of brothers reconnected in San Francisco at the inaugural West Coast alumni gathering. The brothers enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, a light dinner, and drinks at the offices of Hub/San Francisco at the San Francisco Film Center. This great event was organized by event committee: **Wayne Buder '79**, **Randy Ottinger '80**, **Jay Ernst '81**, **Mike Rantz '81**, **Craig Dewey '06**, and **Trevor White '07**.



Maura Barstow, John Stetson '75, Larry MacLennan '79, Chris Olie '79, Mark Barmasse '79, Kay D'Orlando, Larry Paglierani '79, Mike Quaid '75, Keith Molof '79, Laurie Kruse, Kevin Kruse '79, Connor Kruse (kneeling), Larry Barstow '79, Dave D'Orlando '79, Andy Kantor '79, Andrew Barmasse, and Jack Kantor raise a toast on Pi-day (March 14, 2015) at 9:26 and 53 seconds.

Mu Alumni News & Notes

Doug Parker '56 writes in that he has started a blog called Rinocracy (www.rinocracy.com). You can follow Doug on online, or just get in touch with him at dmparker74@gmail.com or at 410 Church Rd., #46, Ojai, CA 93023.

"I'm still happily retired (since 2006)," writes **Herbert Holden '63**. "Becky and I divide our time between Seneca Falls, New York, and Greensboro, North Carolina. Our oldest son, **Wilbur Holden '91**, and his family live in Greensboro, where he owns his own firm, Holden Building Co. Our youngest son and his family live in Charlotte, North Carolina, so we see seven of our nine grandchildren in the winter and our daughter and her family in San Francisco. I stay busy working in the yard and doing charity work when we're not traveling." Write Herb a note at rholden2@rochester.rr.com or at 2034 Gravel Rd., Seneca Falls, NY 13148.

"I went with my two sons, Paul and Edward, to the Patriots game to see the Lions," writes **George Parker III '65**. "We had a great time. Paul has two sons, and Edward (Ned) is living at home right now after having lived in Las Vegas, VIP hosting for about seven years. He is awaiting an offer from a bar/restaurant in Allston (Tavern on the Square?). Nancy and I still get around. I had my knee replaced about five years ago and play golf about three times a week. I ski occasionally in winter. **Huge Snyder '65** and I are trying to organize a 50th reunion of the Mu Pi men who might be available for Reunion in June. I miss the Pi men and look forward to returning for Reunion!" Keep in touch with George at 480 Lawsbrook Rd., Concord, MA 01742.

"Just a few words to say I'm still among the living and living in southern Florida," writes **Richard Kubiak '68**. "I'm retired and enjoying it tremendously. Hope to hear from others." Let Dick hear from you; write to him at rwk923@comcast.net or at 8281 Cedar Hollow Ln., Boca Raton, FL 33433.

Stephen Taylor '68 has retired from his long-time position as president of the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce after suffering a traumatic brain injury in 2011. He resides at an assisted living facility in Dallas and enjoys keeping up with baseball, hockey, and football. He especially enjoys visiting with friends. Reconnect with Steve and let him

know what you're up to, care of Carol Short at 1070 Preston Rd., Dallas, TX 75230.

"I continue to be active with the Hondo Volunteer Fire Department," writes **John Boldt '70**. "I am now the engineer, after previously serving as secretary/treasurer. We respond to about one and a half calls per day, ranging from structural and wildland fires to car accidents, fire/smoke alarms, and medical emergencies." John and his family visited with brother and fellow mechanical engineer **Jim Klock '70** outside of Denver, prior to seeing a Fleetwood Mac concert in December 2014. "Fellow Brother **Mike Young '68** was envious and just returned to Hawaii from Atlantic City after arranging to see Fleetwood Mac there. My wife, Barbara Runser, and I returned from a three and a half week trip that included cruising through the Panama Canal, from Los Angeles to Miami." Reconnect with John; write to him at boldt505@gmail.com or at 71 Camino Pacifico, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

John Christoforo '77 and his wife, Chris, hosted a wonderful dinner reunion with Fran and **Steve Booth '74** and Gwen and **John Stetson '75** in Ipswich, Massachusetts on the occasion of the Stetsons' 35th wedding anniversary. Keep in touch with John at john@christoforo.org or at 36 North Ridge Rd., Ipswich, MA 01938.

Jim Draddy '81 and his wife chaired the Chicago Rita Hayworth Gala for Alzheimer's on May 9. **George Rocklein '87**, **Kurt Rasmussen '80**, and other Pi men addended.

Michael Linowes '84 is relocating to Los Angeles from Brooklyn, New York, to work for Paramount Pictures. While living in Brooklyn, Michael helped give back to youth in his community by actively supporting the growth of the Brooklyn Lacrosse Club. Michael looks forward to reconnecting with Pi men in the LA area, including **Kevin Morris '85** and Neil Sacker. Get in touch with Michael at mjlinowes@gmail.com.

Dave Hogan '86 is a managing director at CrossBay Capital, based in New York City. At CrossBay, Dave works with private-equity and private-debt managers. He also looks at one-off opportunities and funds, such as real-estate, solar, and

real-asset funds. Please contact Dave at dhogan@crossbaycapital.com or at 7 Turtleback Way, #37, Chappaqua, NY 10514.

Billions is a new Showtime drama series set in the world of high finance, is co-created by journalist **Andrew Ross Sorkin '99** and stars Emmy winners Paul Giamatti and Damian Lewis. The for-pay cable channel has ordered it to series, with a 12-episode first season to debut sometime next year. Sorkin, who knows this world well from his reporting (including *Too Big to Fail*, the movie version, which featured Giamatti) and is writing and producing *Billions* with Brian Koppelman and David Levien. Reconnect with Andrew at 118 W. 79th St., Apt. 4B, New York, NY 10024.

Daniel Barber '01 finished his PhD in classics at the University of Virginia in 2010 and currently teaches classics at Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts. Drop Dan a line to say hello: PO Box 9122, Concord, MA 01742.

Where are you involved at Cornell?

Marc Rothenberg '87, **David Picket '84**, **Steve Hobbs '80**, and **Jarett Wait '80** serve on the board of College of Arts and Sciences. Let us know where you're involved by contacting us at the address or email below.

Deceased

Lorenz K. Muller '47
March 26, 2015

Harlan R. Wengert '48
January 10, 2015

Michael T. Leigh '52
November 26, 2014

Howard M. Rathbun '55
October 23, 2014

Please help us find lost and deceased brothers by contacting us at the address or email below. The alumni board is keen to reach out to a deceased brother's family and express our condolences for their loss and our loss of a brother.