



SIGMA PI MU CHAPTER CENTENNIAL 1913 - 2013

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GARY WOOD '69	KEVIN KRUSE '79	LAWRENCE IRELAND '91	TURKEL ANWAR '15	ZANE MOKNIBER '17
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HOWARD ROSEN '73	ANTHONY MCMANUS '80	QUIN GARCIA '05	MAXIMILLIANO OLIVARES '15	
STEVEN BOOTH '74	DONALD MOTSCHWILLER '80	JONAH ALLABEN '06	ARAM SHRESTINIAN '15	



Centennial Plaque in the West Lounge and updated honor plaques in the Memorial Room library. See article on page 4.

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 to be 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.

We're 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.

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



Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/250850591718094



Instagram:

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



Twitter:

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



LinkedIn:

[/groups/Sigma-Pi-Mu-Chapter-Alumni-4734302](https://groups/Sigma-Pi-Mu-Chapter-Alumni-4734302)

Committee Develops Kitchen and Dining Strategy

Since our last report in the fall *Muse*, the alumni board launched a strategic initiative to develop a comprehensive plan focused on modernizing and enhancing the kitchen and dining facilities of Sigma Pi. A committee consisting of alumni industry leaders and undergraduate leaders was formed.

The committee communicated with representatives from Sigma Pi International and Cornell Fraternity and Sorority Life on kitchen and dining issues that impact Greek life to determine if "best practices" exist in the Greek system. Conclusion: best practices don't exist. This might be an opportunity for Mu Chapter to lead. In addition, the committee collected competitive market feedback on other fraternities.

In order to gain a better understanding of the issues around kitchen and dining, members of the committee (**Brian Finneran '81**,



New chef David Brown, John Wu '17, Steve Pirozzi '80

Steve Pirozzi '80, Alexa Bosshardt '82, and Greg Vojnovic '85) conducted multiple on-site visits to review facility infrastructure, to meet with undergraduate leaders, and to review dining and sanitation conditions. Additionally, a comprehensive survey with current

undergraduates and the class of 2015 was conducted in November 2015. A total of 53 responses to the survey were received, the majority of which were by current brothers.

The results of the committee's work were presented to the alumni board at a meeting that took place in New York City in late March. The alumni board authorized that a preliminary study be conducted with a reputable design firm that will present strategic options for considerations. This will lead to a comprehensive plan, which will be communicated to the alumni once it is complete.

Alumni Kitchen and Dining Committee

- **Brian Finneran '81:** CEO at Intermedia Events & Conference Group
- **Steve Pirozzi '80:** Food & Beverage Dept., The Hotel Plaza Athenee, New York
- **Alexa Bosshardt '82:** Corporate research chef at American Sugar Refining; culinary professional and registered/licensed dietitian with expertise in recipe/new product R&D, nutrition, nutritional labeling, and nutritional marketing
- **Greg Vojnovic '85:** Chief development officer at Arby's Restaurant Group
- **Kevin Kruse '79:** Chief development officer at Hurricane Grill & Wings; experience in franchise sales and operations, franchise law, business development, market mapping, and site selection
- **Dave Williamson '77:** President at Five Star Restaurants, LLC; entrepreneur, opening fast casual restaurants in Nevada and Southern California

Facilities Committee Making Improvements for Mu Chapter

By **John Morrison '75**

We have taken multiple steps to address window hardware and air leakage, which have been significant problems for many years. All third-floor windows were replaced in November 2015. Those windows were casement-type (crank-out) windows, which have contributed to most of the maintenance problems. The Sigma Pi Foundation replaced the windows in the Memorial Library in February. At that time, two additional windows were replaced: the one in the main stairwell to

the dining room and one in a bedroom. The original vendor had inspected those two windows and determined that they

(continued on next page)



Sigma Pi Entrepreneurship Conference

By Mike Vernick '83

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation sponsored the first-ever conference on entrepreneurship for undergraduate brothers on April 16 at the house. The conference was held in conjunction with the Entrepreneurship at Cornell celebration held on April 14 and 15. The event was attended by over 50 undergraduate brothers and alumni.

The keynote speaker was Felix Litvinsky, managing director of Blackstone LaunchPad at Cornell University. Blackstone LaunchPad is an experiential campus-based program designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path and to develop entrepreneurial skills and mindset through individualized coaching, ideation, and venture creation support. In addition, the director of Entrepreneurship at Cornell (E@C), **Zachary Schulman '87**, spoke about the Cornell entrepreneurship program that was created in 1992 to promote entrepreneurship education, experiential learning opportunities, programmatic activities, and events for the Cornell community.

Sigma Pi alumni speakers included **John Zimmer '06**, founder and CEO of Lyft; **Quin Garcia '05**, managing director of AutoTech Ventures, a venture fund investing in ground transport startups that are focused on connected, autonomous, energy-efficient cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles, and services; **Randy Ottinger '80**, founder of Leader-2-Leader, a firm that helps founders, CEOs, and senior leaders build great companies with the strategies, cultures, and networks to accelerate growth, innovation, and financial value; **Ali Hamed '14**, co-founder, managing partner, and partner at CoVenture, a venture capital firm, specializing in seed and early stage startups and building software in exchange for equity; and **Dan Smalls '92**, founder of Dan Smalls Presents, a talent buyer, concert promotion, and event production company based in Ithaca, New York.



Zach Schulman '87, director of Entrepreneurship at Cornell, speaks at the conference.

Spring 2016 Sage Report

By Fernando Cevallos '17



To begin the year, Mu Chapter held its yearly rush week, where we attracted over 400 rushes to our first recruitment event. As always, rush week is incredibly competitive, and we are happy to announce that our efforts yielded 14 outstanding new brothers. Although this incoming pledge class is slightly smaller than previous ones, it's important to note that these new members are an extremely good fit for the house and have all contributed immensely since joining. Following the great success of last year's pledge party, the new brothers are diligently planning a second annual beach-themed pledge party called "Oasis." We will again fill up the bottom parking lot with sand. It is sure to be a great time.

The new members were initiated on February 28. This leaves us with a total of 70 active brothers. Given the problems we had last year with our new-member education process, I'm very happy to announce that we successfully completed the process without any issues this year. We all worked extensively with the university administration and new-member educators to make sure everything went according to plan.

Over the course of the spring 2016 semester, we've continued using the **Dick**

Tom Silver '81, incoming president of the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation, discussed the ways undergraduates could partner with the Foundation on entrepreneurship endeavors. **Brody Ehrlich '10**, and **Brian Lederman '10**, spoke about a new initiative to help secure funding for undergraduates' entrepreneurial and business projects. If you're an entrepreneur and would like to be involved in further promoting entrepreneurship with the undergraduates as a speaker or as a mentor to an undergraduate, please reach out to Rob Novo at robn1979@gmail.com.

Cahoon '77 Tech Center to host our alumni speaker series, where the brotherhood gets an opportunity to hear how being a member of Sigma Pi has positively influenced Mu Chapter alumni. One highlight of the semester thus far was our yearly brotherhood camping event, Omega Chi. We ventured to a campsite 30 minutes north from the Pi house and spent a night camping in the wilderness. Although it was cold and windy, we kept good company around the fire. Needless to say, it was quite the adventure.

We had our annual Parents Weekend from April 8–10, where the families of the current brothers partook in several activities with the brotherhood, including attending a Cornell lacrosse game, going on a winery tour, and enjoying a formal dinner at the Pi house with the whole brotherhood. Additionally, we hosted our first-ever entrepreneurship conference at the Pi house on April 16, where various tech industry leaders spoke to the brotherhood about relevant topics in tech and entrepreneurship. As always, we will wrap up the spring semester with Slope Day and the Orchid Ball, two of the most exciting events of the year.

As my term as sage comes to an end, I'd like to say that the Pi house continues to excel in all aspects of life on the hill, and I invite all, no matter the distance from Cornell, to share the same pride that results from seeing the house succeed.

Facilities Committee Making Improvements

(continued from previous page)

were beyond repair and required replacement. The original vendor has inspected and is in the process of making necessary repairs to all other windows. Work is scheduled for completion in late April.

In the early morning of December 26, vandals spray-painted graffiti on the front of the house. The attack on Mu Chapter was one of a half-dozen graffiti attacks in the Cornell area that morning. The Ithaca Police Department (IPD) investigated the incidents, but was unable to identify the culprits. The IPD reported that Ithaca has been suffering from a significant increase in graffiti over the past few months and that they had no reason to believe that the attack on Sigma Pi was due to any activities on the part of the brothers. The graffiti was covered with a tarp that day and painted over during the following week.

Foundation and Undergraduates Support College Mentors for Kids

By David Golding '18

The 2015–2016 academic year saw the brotherhood's continued involvement and success within the Cornell University chapter of College Mentors for Kids. From growth in community and campus relationships to continued brother participation, the brotherhood's involvement has enabled College Mentors for Kids to continue to thrive as a campus organization.

The Cornell College Mentors executive board, which consists largely of Sigma Pi brothers, efficiently and effectively led the organization with efforts to further improve the activities for the kids, to strengthen ties with similar organizations on campus and within the Ithaca community, and to secure appropriate funding in order to not only

meet our current goals of mentoring 80+ at-risk elementary school kids but also to fund expansion to Cayuga Heights Elementary School for fall 2016. However, success cannot be assigned solely to the executive board; rather, the general managers and the college mentors themselves have proven to be integral parts in the accomplishments of the organization. Because Sigma Pi brothers populate every echelon of this organization, it is no surprise that we have continued to see positive growth on all fronts.

Our most notable accomplishment this year is our finalization of plans to expand into Cayuga Heights Elementary School (CHES). This was a massive test of the efficiency of our organization on all fronts. It required us to raise more funds, while enabling us to expand our reach on campus to

find mentors for the 40+ new elementary school kids we would be bringing in. It also required us to expand our executive board to accommodate. Overall, the Cornell University chapter of College Mentors for Kids has experienced much growth this past academic year, largely due to the efforts of the brothers of Sigma Pi.

Successfully completing the expansion into CHES and developing meaningful mentoring relationships with 40 additional elementary school kids will be a large challenge for us in the future, but based on the devotion that involved Pi men have shown toward ensuring the organization's continued success, we are all confident that we will continue to develop positively in the future.



Dexter Amadasun '19 with mentee

Mu Chapter & Educational Foundation Initiatives Update Memorial Room Plaques

Mu Chapter alumni corporation, in partnership with the Educational Foundation, recently updated and added giving and scholarship-recognition plaques in the Memorial Room.

There is now a wall in the Memorial Room that highlights giving to the Foundation. The Centennial plaque is now hanging in the West Lounge.

The photos and layouts below provide a good sense of the changes that have occurred. The best way, of course, to view these is to visit 730 University Avenue and see them yourself.



Brother of the Year Donor Plaque



Brother of the Year Winners



Centennial Plaque in the West Lounge



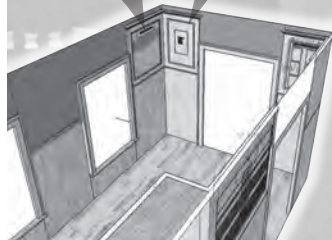
Harrop Scholarship



Educational Foundation Historic Donors



Updated Heritage Donors



Educational Foundation Reports a Very Busy Spring

By Aaron Klein '12, Foundation President

Since our last report in the fall *Muse*, the Foundation has been busy on many fronts.

We have added two new directors. **Wayne Forman '80** and **Jim Franz '77** were elected to the Board of Directors of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation at a board meeting that took place on Tuesday, April 5. These two gentlemen bring a wealth of experience to the Foundation, and we are most fortunate to have them as new board members.



Forman

Wayne Forman is partner at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, where he represents clients in all aspects of Colorado water law, land-use litigation, condemnation, and environmental law and litigation. He represents private and public clients throughout Colorado on water-rights matters and has extensive experience in land-use litigation and water-quality and wetlands matters. Wayne's clients include a national home builder, a natural-gas exploration and development

company, real-estate developers, special districts, and ranch owners.



Franz

James R. Franz is a member of Hinman, Howard & Kattell's Business and Corporate Law Group, Labor and Employment Group, Health Care Law Group, and Not-for-Profit Corporation and Foundation Practice Group. He also served as chairman of the firm's Business and Corporate Law Practice Group for nearly 20 years. Mr. Franz has been able to blend his work in corporate law with small-town general practice. His law license has allowed him to assist his friends and neighbors with the challenges that they face in the course of their daily lives, and he has always embraced opportunities to engage as a general practitioner, serving the individual legal needs of the people of his community.

In addition, the Foundation has been working hard to update the Memorial Room in the house. Since the addition of the **Dick Cahoon '77 Tech Center** last year, the foundation has replaced all of the windows with state-of-the-art, energy-efficient

units and added plaques to honor our donors. Please see the article on [page 4](#) for more information about the updated plaques in the Pi house.

Academics

After another successful round of recruitment for Mu Chapter, Cornell has made fraternity academic data public. Sigma Pi has the **4th highest GPA** out of the 41 fraternities at Cornell. We had 62 brothers in the fall with a house average **GPA of 3.533**. Sigma Pi is now one of the elite fraternities on campus in terms of academic achievement.

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation has had a very busy spring and is proud to continue to support the academic pursuits and career aspirations of the undergraduates. To foster continued success in the classroom, the Foundation recently funded the purchase of Chegg accounts for the fraternity and the procurement of a mobile whiteboard. Chegg is a California-based company that specializes in online textbook rentals, homework help, and online tutoring. The online platform will enable students to delve deeper into their studies in a broad range of classes, from financial accounting to linear algebra to fluid mechanics. The whiteboard will help foster a more collaborative learning environment in the Memorial Room library, a space that already is regularly home to a crowd of studying brothers.

The Educational Foundation is also proud to have sponsored the Sigma Pi Entrepreneurship Conference at the Pi house. Please make sure to read the article by Mike Vernick with more details on the event ([page 3](#)).

Mu Chapter Financial Update

By John J. Haggerty, '78, Treasurer,
Sigma Pi Alumni Corporation

The alumni corporation of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi is financially stable and has recently undertaken significant capital improvement projects, in large part due to the increased participation and generosity of the active alumni population.

Revenue to the house takes two distinct forms: rent and alumni contributions. Over the last several years, a number of actions have been taken to create a positive and stable cash flow. First, Sigma Pi tied its rent to the published Cornell University room rates, which have been increasing in the range of 3%–5% annually. Second, Mu Chapter adopted a two-year lease for all entering brothers. It is now well established that joining Mu Chapter means living at 730 University Avenue for sophomore and junior years. Despite fluctuations in pledge-class size, we have been able to keep the house close to its designed occupancy of 35. With approximately 30 brothers paying rent, the house breaks even.

Alumni contributions increased dramatically through the last two fiscal years,

from a steady state of around \$20K per year to \$149K in FY 2014 and \$170K in FY 2015 (these figures include the cost of the Centennial Party, which was fully funded by the alumni). These contributions enabled the corporation to pay off **\$160K** in mortgage debt, and **\$30K** in short-term (LOC) debt, freeing up **\$4K+ per month** in cash. The additional cash and free cash flow has also allowed us to invest over **\$100K** in capital improvements, which will be highlighted in the facilities report ([see page 2](#)).

However, alumni contributions through six months of FY 2016 have returned to the pre-centennial level (\$8,975). This, coupled with a smaller than average pledge class of 14, which reduces rent, leads me to be cautious about FY 2017 and beyond. Under the worst case scenario, we will have sufficient financial flexibility to operate the house with 25–27 brothers in residence, but we will have substantially less cash to undertake major repairs or improvements.

Thank you for your support of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at jjh56@cornell.edu or to call at 607-255-6075.

2015–2016 ANNUAL GIVING

Heritage Fund

Total gifts: **\$8,975**

Number of donors: **47**

New donors: **3**

Educational Foundation

Total gifts: **\$18,895**

Number of donors: **39**

New donors: **1**

Alumni Career and Mentoring Initiates

By Tom Silver '81 & Rob Novo '79

The Alumni Career Development Committee thanks the dozens of alumni who helped make the mentor program and the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series successful this spring. Both programs have been very positively received, and participation has been steady. As we approach the end of the spring semester, we are starting to look at each program and how we can make them even better for the future.

Mentor Program

Earlier this spring semester, we asked for feedback from the 25 undergraduate mentees and their mentors. Overall, we received excellent reviews from alumni and undergraduates. Many undergrads commented on having an ongoing dialogue with their mentors and how they have found this interaction to be very meaningful and productive. Others, while having less interaction with their mentors, were also very appreciative of the feedback and advice they've received from their mentors.

We heard of two instances where the interaction wasn't as we had hoped. One was attributed to a mismatch and the other attributed to the undergraduate having unrealistic expectations of the program (he thought his mentor should find him a job). Alums commented that, once the conversations got started, they felt they were able to provide

useful guidance but some relationships took longer than anticipated to get going.

Given the diverse and varied nature of the undergraduate backgrounds that we were looking to match appropriately, we were very happy with the feedback and have received good recommendations for improvements. Alums and undergrads felt the program should more aggressively target sophomores, who are earlier in their career development process and less certain about their future.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your participation in the program. We are committed to modifying the program so that it continues to get better. That is why your feedback is so important. And frankly, there would be no program without each of you. So again ... THANK YOU!

Distinguished Speaker Program

Continuing from the success of the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series last semester, the second semester proved to be very exciting. In February, **Zach Crane '10** spoke about his career as a trader at Goldman Sachs and Moore Capital Management. Zach provided the brotherhood with advice about entering the finance industry and gave his insight regarding the current state of the markets. In March, **Grant LaFontaine '10** discussed his career as a marketing manager for YouTube, where he was selected for *Forbes* "30 under 30." Grant recently switched roles to a start-up company

and provided insight regarding working for a large company versus a small startup.

In April, **Jarett Wait '80** and **Steve Rosenzweig '79** spoke. Both brothers have held high positions in finance and were looking to educate the brotherhood on their various roles and how they were able to achieve such great success.

We are always looking for more alumni to Skype into the **Dick Cahoon '77 Tech Center** to share their stories about Cornell, Sigma Pi and their careers. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the program, please reach out to **Mark Luzzi '16** at mtl89@cornell.edu.



NYC Career event at American Flat



NYC Career dinner

LEGACY ALERT!

Do you have a child or grandchild who currently is, or will be, attending Cornell as either an undergraduate or graduate student? We are keen to welcome legacies to Cornell and to invite them to the house. Please send his/her name, parent/grandparent name, college, and email address to Kurt Rasmussen '80, alumni relations chair. (rasmussen_kurt@lilly.com).

Current legacies on campus:

Class of 2016

Will Petee (Arts): Jon Petee '81

Class of 2017

Blair Bosshardt (Hum Ec): Alexa '82 & Kurt Bosshardt '83

Class of 2018

Charlotte Leape (Eng): Gerry Leape '82

Class of 2019

Jack Kantor (ILR): Andy Kantor '79

Jackson Cherner (Arts): Tom Cherner '80

Jack Burger (CALs): John D. Burger '84



Entrepreneurship Summit 2015: Brian Lederman '16, Mike Anderson '77



CU Silicon Valley event: Jarett Wait '80, Ben Drierer '15, and Quin Garcia '04



NYC Career event at Lazard Freres



Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi 2016 Class

Mu Chapter welcomes the class of 2016, which consists of 14 new brothers. These gentlemen represent all of Cornell's colleges and schools with a wide variety of majors and interests and hail from California, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Top row (from left to right): Isaiah Duck, Shailen Goshi, Jack D'Agostino, Sam Barnum, Griffin Py, Ari Perlmutter, Elliot LaGuardia, Slater Goodman; **bottom row**: Dexter Amadusun, Jon Caen, Niko Nikolic, Matthew Blakley, Josh Even, Josh Sones.

Brothers Make 400+ Calls

On February 21, 12 undergraduate brothers participated in the fourth annual thankathon phone event. The brothers made more than 400 phone calls to thank active alumni and those who have donated, as well as to reach out to brothers from classes dating back to the 1950s. Additionally, the thankathon aimed to inform alumni about the upcoming Sigma Pi reunion weekend from June 9–12 at the Pi house and the entrepreneurship conference on April 16 at the Pi house. The brothers who participated had many inspiring conversations with the alumni they reached, and they hope to continue the tradition next year.



Brothers at phone event

2016–2017 Resident Advisor

The alumni board recently hired **Alec Charbonneau '16** as the resident advisor for the 2016–2017 academic year. We would like to thank Michael Lieberman for his two years of leadership and service to the fraternity and to wish him well in his postgraduate endeavors.



Alex is from a small suburb in Ohio called Powell. He is currently fulfilling his Bachelor of Science degree at Cornell in mechanical engineering, with a minor in business. Next year, he will be attending Cornell's Master of Engineering program in biomedical engineering.

Mu Chapter Calendar 2016

May 11, 2016
**last day of spring classes/
Slope Day**

May 12–15, 2016
spring study period

May 16–19, 2016
spring exam period

May 29, 2016
Commencement

June 8, 2016
Foundation Annual Meeting

June 9–12, 2016
Reunion Weekend 2016

September 23–24, 2016
Homecoming Weekend

September 23–25, 2016
Procrasticup

Foundation Risk Management Seminar

By Mark Luzzi '16

The Educational Foundation funded a presentation from Shaw & Murphy law firm on March 8. **Bill Shaw, CU'69**, and Michelle Abruzzo presented in the Memorial Room library to educate the brothers about the risks and social stigmas that could be associated with being a fraternity member. The team of lawyers covered topics such as the dangers of alcohol at fraternity parties, properly managing risk, common protocols in the event of a crisis at the fraternity house, and sexual assault and the appropriate response if one finds oneself wrongfully accused of such a crime.

The brothers, especially the new members, found this information to be very

useful. This information will be used to ensure the safety of future events at the Pi house. While we currently have a strong reputation on campus for abiding by the rules set forth by the Interfraternity Council, this information will further improve our risk-management practices to ensure the utmost safety at our events.



Introducing the Incoming E-Board

Sage: Jake Howell '18

Vice President: Alex Wood-Thomas '18

Treasurer: Sanjay Banda '18,

Alumni Secretary: Chaz Byrnes '18

Steward: Patrick Wang '18

Herald: Bill McGrane '17

Social and Intramural Update

By Alexander Rodriguez '18

This past semester, the brothers enjoyed a variety of social functions. From several weekly sorority mixers to date nights, there were many opportunities to go out and have a swell time.

A few highlights from the fall include a great Halloween party and the widely successful "parking-lot party," which is becoming a house staple. This day-long event featured a wading pool, 50 bales of hay, and various food trucks for patrons to enjoy. Another highlight was the boat formal, where brothers took their dates on a three-hour cruise around Seneca Lake with a full dinner.

Looking to late spring, the brothers are preparing for another "Oasis" beach party, which is becoming a new tradition, following the huge success of last year's revival of the Sigma Pi beach parties from back in the day. The brothers will continue to have an accessible social schedule and plenty of events to enjoy with each other.

Join Us for REUNION: June 9–12, 2016

The Sigma Pi Reunion Committee (**Joe Ruocco '81, Miguel Ferrer '91, Gary Derck '81, John Altmeyer '81, Craig Dewey '06, and Nick Vojnovic '81**) has crafted a full schedule of events. Brothers will be welcomed at the Pi house, beginning Thursday afternoon. On Thursday night, there will be a "horseless" happy hour and dinner on the venerable Pi house porch. The "horseless" refers to the infamous 1981 western party at which a horse (borrowed from the vet school) was stationed in the front yard. Friday night will feature the

same DJ (Elephant Sound and Bob Higgins) that worked the house in the '80s. On Saturday, Mischka's happy hour and dinner (Mischka was the house dog for many years in the '70s and '80s) will be followed by a performance of the NYC-based band, Men with Big Hips, at the sandless beach party. **Howie Gordon '81** is the drummer for this talented band, which previously performed at the Pi house for Dolly's initiation. "Sandless" beach party refers to the ineffable beach parties held in the '80s in which tons of sand were spread in the dining room.

There are currently 32 people attending from 7 classes.

Make your reservations and reunion gift now!

To sign up, go to the online enrollment webpage via the following link: sigmapicornell.org/150-rsvp_reunion. Please contact **Craig Dewey '06** if you would like information about staying in the house: craig.dewey@gmail.com.

Make your reunion gift online by visiting cornellsigmapi.org.

Thursday:

noon–6:00 p.m.: Welcome and Arrivals at the Pi House

6:00 p.m.: Horseless Happy Hour & Dinner on the Pi House Porch.

Friday:

8:00 p.m.–midnight: Turkey & Elephants party, featuring Elephant Sound & Bob Higgins

Saturday:

6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.: Mishka's Happy Hour & Dinner

8:00 p.m.–midnight: Sandless Beach Party, featuring Howie Gordon '81 and Men with Big Hips



Mu Chapter brothers are intramural hoops and flag football champs!



Parents Weekend Brings the Mu Family Together

By Gabriel Smuel '18

Parents Weekend 2016 was held the weekend of April 8–9. We had an exciting time hosting the parents of the brotherhood, both those who came in the past and those who joined us for their first time.

On Friday night, the vast majority of parents arrived, and due to the weariness of travelling, we provided families the option of going on small dinners with other families. This night was really up to them, because the weekend at Mu Chapter started bright and early the next day.

On Saturday, parents came to the house around 11:00 a.m. and headed off to one of two options. Families of the pledge class of 2015 hiked to one of the tallest waterfalls in the northeast in Taughannock Falls State Park and then had a barbecue. For the remaining families, a barbecue was held on Sigma Pi's Beach.

That night, all families returned to the fraternity house for a reception and a dinner prepared by the Pi house's chef.

On Sunday morning, we held a brunch at the fraternity house. Afterward, we said goodbye to our parents. It was a great weekend, and we were very excited to see returning parents and to meet those who were newcomers.



What's Next for the Class of 2016?



Michael Adelstein is interested in pursuing a career in hospitality development, specifically within the realm of restaurants and hotels. His interests include real-estate acquisitions, concept development, and project management. msa96@cornell.edu



Tim Jalbert is looking for neurosurgery research in Connecticut and will see if he can also be an EMT or medical scribe part-time. He is planning to apply for the Health Professions Scholarship Program under the US Army for when he does apply to medical school. tlj38@cornell.edu

James Alvarez hopes to continue defining his interests as a business development, sales, or marketing strategist in a start-up or as an investment analyst in venture capital. In several years, he will consider business or law school. jfa74@cornell.edu



Jisoo Kim is undecided. jsk352@cornell.edu



Benny Johnson plans to go into the consulting industry after graduation. Eventually, he would like to attend business school. bwj25@conell.edu



Robert Attia will be working at Optimity Advisors, a boutique management consulting firm in New York City. rja238@cornell.edu

Andrew Joseph has accepted an offer to join JPMorgan Chase next year. He will be working in New York City in the global real-estate group as part of a two-year rotational program called the Corporate Analyst Development Program. ajj@cornell.edu



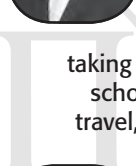
George Chalhoub will be moving to New York City and working as a clinical information manager at Jersey City Medical Center. gac95@cornell.edu



Mark Luzzi has accepted a full-time offer as a development analyst at JBG Companies, a commercial real-estate development firm in DC. mtl89@cornell.edu



Alec Charbonneau will be attending graduate school at Cornell to get his Master of Engineering degree in biomedical engineering. He will simultaneously be serving as the Sigma Pi residential advisor. aleccharb21@gmail.com



Joseph Manzi is planning on taking a gap year before applying to medical school. Gap year options include research, travel, or clinical work. jem487@cornell.edu



Brandon Choi will be working in the transportation industry as a product development analyst for Transdev North America, first in Phoenix, Arizona, and then in New York City. bc443@cornell.edu



Zane Mokhiber is interested in working in the international human-/labor-rights community and eventually coming back to Cornell to receive a master's degree in industrial and labor relations. zpm5@cornell.edu



Lorenzo De Simone plans on pursuing a career in corporate government affairs or political and economic risk analysis in the US or the UK. ld356@cornell.edu



Nicholas Ornitz will be starting with McKinsey & Company as a business analyst. He will be working out of the Stamford, Connecticut, office and has plans to live in New York. nmo5@cornell.edu



Greg Dgheim is currently pursuing positions at various consulting firms and larger investment groups that operate in global markets. gbd28@cornell.edu



Reid Paoletta plans on attending law school for the next three years and then practicing entertainment law with a focus in the music industry. rmp236@cornell.edu



Zachary Gilbert will be working at J.P. Morgan, doing investment banking in the public finance group. zwg4@cornell.edu



Connor Riser is planning on teaching in Charlotte, North Carolina, through Teach for America. car279@cornell.edu



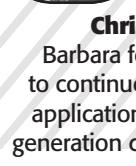
Rohun Gupta will be pursuing a master's in biology for a gap year before medical school. rg537@cornell.edu



Andrew Wald will be moving to New York and working for Barclays in their equity research department. abw77@cornell.edu



Ian Harris will be working as an investment banking analyst in the Financial Institutions Group at UBS in New York City. iah26@cornell.edu



Christian Zollner will be going to UC Santa Barbara for a PhD in materials science. He hopes to continue his research in solid-state physics with applications in sustainable technologies and next-generation computer processing. cjz33@cornell.edu



Brothers Summit Kilimanjaro



This past September, Sigma Pi colors flew on top of the world. Brothers **Adam Cherubini '13**, **Peter Cherubini '10**, and **Zach Smith '13**, along with two other friends, summited Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's largest free standing mountain and the highest point on the African continent.

It was a challenging six-day journey that pushed them to their physical and mental limits, but they all successfully reached the peak and now have that accomplishment to hold on to for the rest of their lives. Before making their way down the mountain, they were sure to get a few photos of themselves holding up Sigma Pi gear. "Our shared experiences in the Pi house have kept us in touch since graduating Cornell and made for a great deal of conversation to pass time during the trek, so it was only fitting to pay homage to the fraternity at the top."



Nick Wint '15 (left) on duty.



Hanging out in Ft. Lauderdale: Agustín Martínez '17, Kurt Bosshardt '83, Fernando Cevallos '17.

Daniel Gerson '88: In Memoriam

By Mark "Woody" Childs '88

I am incredibly honored to have known an understated yet bigger-than-life friend, **Dan Gerson '88**. He was the funniest brother of our era, class of '88, and saved many of us from rotating on a barrel.

He lived in California for some time after graduation before attending NYU Film School. He returned to California to begin a career as a writer. He wrote movies we and our kids have seen over and over: *Monsters, Inc.*, *Monsters U.*, and *Big Hero Six*, which won an Academy Award, among many others.

If you were lucky enough to get quality one-on-one time with Dan, you learned that he had the ability to truly communicate. Courteous pleasantries were quickly replaced with real conversation. He would share the good, the bad, the fears, and the anxieties and expect the same from you in return. He pulled them out of you just as he shared with you. This was his gift, and for that, I always loved him.

There are so many stories—the Hollywood stories. There was the Steve Jobs, the Steve Martin, the Will Smith, and the Disney boardroom story. He was charming and irreverent no matter who was sitting across the table. The bigger the talent, the more excited Dan was to remind them they still got up and put underwear on everyday.

I still have a bunch of postcards Dan wrote me over the years, including some from his honeymoon. Who writes postcards

to their buddies while on their honeymoon? A person who has this joke he just has to share and must get it down and shared right away. That was Dan, always sharing and always making us laugh.

Dan was extremely modest about his success. His litmus test for success was his family. His children, Claire and Asher, are incredibly beautiful young adults, both in-



side and outside, and his wife, Beau, is a saint, particularly putting up with Dan and his antics.

There are two great achievements that, in combination, make Dan the most unique person I have ever known (these are not in order of priority).

First: early on, Dan made the conscious decision to follow his passion, despite

the lucrative money in the CAA mailroom or the risk of choosing a writer's career. Ultimately, he got to get up every single day and do what he loved with the bonus of being paid. I know that might not be that unique to Hollywood, but when combined with the following, Dan stands out.

His second greatest achievement is that he loved his wife, Beau. I mean he really loved Beau. He was in love with Beau from beginning to end. Out of that love, they produced two incredible children, Claire and Asher, who share the same capacity for love as their father.

So while Dan's legacy will touch millions in the future through timeless monster movies, his most important legacy, his true "body of work," is his family.

Aaron Klein '12 Joins Chicago Cubs



Aaron Klein '12 started his career as the youngest director of football operations in Division I. He recently accepted a new position, joining the Chicago Cubs' front office as a member of the sales development program. Launched in 2013, the Cubs Sales Development Program (CSDP) is responsible for outbound efforts in corporate outings, flex packs, and all new season-ticket sales. The program's goal is to sell tickets and build relationships with local businesses while providing team members with training

and development to evolve their career in sports sales and the business of baseball.

Aaron grew up in upstate New York and graduated from Sweet Home High School. He then enrolled in Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and began working for Cornell football as a student manager. Upon graduation, Aaron was immediately accepted into the Johnson School, something that is very rare and only happens to top students. He continued to work for the Cornell football program during his two years of business school. He holds a BA in industrial labor relations and an MBA from Cornell.

Mu Alumni News & Notes

"Many thanks for your congeniality at the time of my visit in June 2015 during Reunion," writes **Peter Romeo '55**. "I had a delightful reunion with seven of the eight Mu men on the main-level terrace overlooking University Ave. It was the best 'suds' (and only 'suds') I enjoyed that day. There was no charge for one verse of 'Twas in the Merry Month of May,' which I sang solo. I was amazed that it was unfamiliar to the young lads. Another tradition that needs to be restored. Again, thanks for your hospitality and great sunny afternoon, which totally destroyed my antiperspirant. Carry on!" Keep in touch with Peter. Write to him at ppromeora@yahoo.com or at 309 Canterbury Rd., Rochester, NY 14607.

"Sticking close to home these days," writes **Richard Pew '56**. "I play bridge once a week and am working on writing a memoir." Find out all the details by writing to Dick at pew@bbn.com or at 27 Wellington Ln., Belmont, MA 02478.

The year **Anthony D'Amato '58** became a brother (1955), he wrote a rousing and memorable march for Sigma Pi. He sent in the lyrics: "Hail to thee, Sigma Pi / As we sing with our hearts beating / In our bond-

ed meeting / With the brotherhood repeating / Through the year, Sigma Pi / Bonded by our cross of gold / Marching forward, as of old / Hail to thee, Hail to Sigma Pi!" He adds that "the music is even better." Get back in touch with Anthony at 5807 Lakeshore Dr. N., Holland, MI 49424.

John Boldt '70 recently returned from a three-week trip to Peru. "We spent the first week with a driver/guide, visiting pre-Incan civilizations on the west coast north of Lima to learn more about their rich cultures, innovative architecture, and fantastic artistic abilities. We view many of the premier artifacts in museums near the sites and/or in Lima. Another week was spent on a Lindblad/National Geographic expedition to the Upper Amazon, where we viewed 79 species of birds and 12 species of mammals. We also met local people to learn how they lived on/with this mighty river. Brother **Peter Hellmold '70** with his girlfriend visited us in Santa Fe, and we had a great time showing them some of the history, natural beauty, amazing artwork, and marvelous food our hometown is known for. We also visited Brother **James Klock '70** in Evergreen, Colorado, in conjunction with attending a Fleetwood Mac concert. I

Deceased

Daniel R. Gerson '88

February 6, 2016

Honor a deceased brother with a memorial plaque; visit sigmapicornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp

am also the engineer for our local fire department and respond to medical and fire (structure and wildfire) calls." Share some of your stories with John; write to him at boldt505@gmail.com or at 71 Camino Pacifico, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

After 30 years in the "Great(?) State of New Jersey," Erica and **Michael Reiner '78** have moved and have begun their next chapter in Weston, Connecticut. Michael says: "Come visit!" Drop him a line to plan a visit: mreiner@r-i-inc.com; 187 Steep Hill Rd., Weston, CT 06883.

Tom Owens '83 has been nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate as a brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve. Don't forget to salute! Congrats TO!



Gift From Sigma Pi Alumnus David Picket '84 to Cornell

A gift from **David Picket '84** and his wife, Rona, to the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, and its creative writing program funds summer writing fellowships for MFA students and other initiatives in the department.

The Pickets were honored on September 11 when the college renamed the English department offices in honor of the Picket family.

David is the president of Gotham Organization, Inc., a fourth-generation, family-owned, real-estate firm that has developed and/or constructed more than 35,000

apartment units. Since joining the family business in 1991, he has overseen the company's new project-development business through a period of unprecedented growth in the firm's 80-year history. David has a BA from Cornell University and a JD from Columbia Law School. In 2015, David and his wife made gifts to the College of Arts and Sciences and to the Department of English and its creative writing program to fund summer writing fellowships for MFA students and other initiatives in the department.



Sean MacGregor '07 writes in: "My wife just gave birth to twins, so I have been a bit tied up. Thanks! It is our first: one boy, one girl. All are doing well, but it has been a crazy week." Send your congratulations to Sean at macgregor.sean@gmail.com.



Cornell-Hobart lacrosse game in Florida (L-R): Kurt Bosshardt '83, Coach Moran, Chris Kane '78, Jon Fordin '80, Jarett Wait '80, Alex Bosshardt '82, Tim Hawes '82