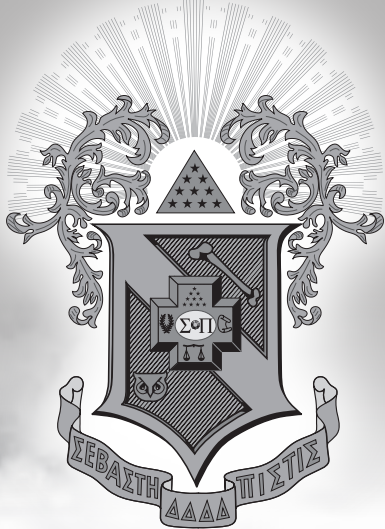




Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity

[www.sigmapicornell.org](http://www.sigmapicornell.org)



# the MUSE

FALL 2017



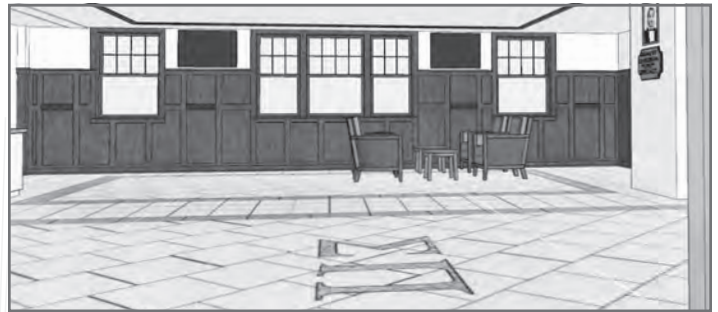
*Sigma Pi house on a calm September morning.*

# Broader Alumni Participation Needed To Complete Dining and Learning Campaign

By Steve Pirozzi '80

The Dining and Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century campaign continues to progress well. The committee has selected a contractor for the construction phase of the project. The target date for work to begin is June 4, 2018, one week after Cornell commencement ceremonies, and we anticipate final completion of the project later in the summer.

We expect to continue our successful fundraising up to and through the beginning of construction. We are asking all Sigma Pi alumni to contribute, especially those from class years that have yet to participate in the project. With new contributors and the continued hard work of many alumni and friends of Sigma Pi, we look forward to being able to fully fund this project before the work begins.



## LEADERSHIP GIVING LEVELS:

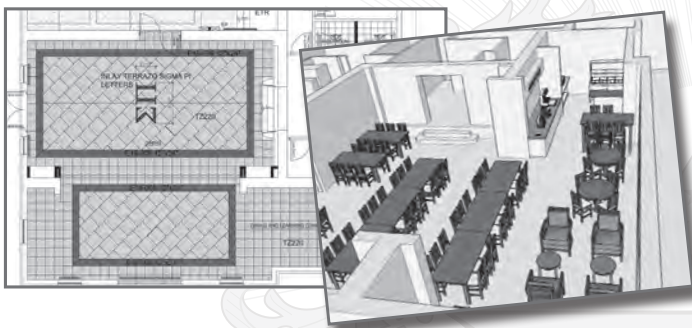
### Major Benefactors:

\$10,000 or more

### Leadership Gifts:

\$1,000–\$9,999

**Supporters:** \$999 and under



## REMAINING NAMING OPPORTUNITIES:

- + Kitchen (\$100,000)
- + Dining and Learning Commons (\$100,000)
- + Grab and Go (\$75,000)
- + Storage Room (\$50,000)
- + Bathroom (\$25,000: 2 opportunities)
- + 60-inch Gas Range with Oven and Griddle (\$11,000)
- + Digital Media Equipment (\$10,000)
- + Lighting (\$10,000)
- + Table and Chairs for Dining and Learning Commons (\$7,500)
- + Steamer (\$6,000)
- + Food Slicer (\$3,500)
- + Under-Counter Freezer (\$1,700)
- + Split-Pot Gas Fryer (\$1,500)
- + Cappuccino Dispenser (\$1,500)
- + Hands-Free Sink Unit (\$1,000): 2 opportunities

## CAMPAIGN AND PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- + Fundraising support from our alumni, parents, and friends continues to be robust, and momentum continues to build. However, to satisfactorily complete the project, we need to expand and increase participation across all alumni classes.
- + Total pledges and contributions as of October 31, 2017: **\$425,000** of the **\$650,000** goal.
- + Remaining fundraising needed: **\$235,000**.
- + The vast majority of funds that we have received to date have come from the classes of the late '70s and early '80s.
- + Many of our younger alumni have contributed as well. The main focus remains on increasing participation across the alumni population base. Mu Chapter has approximately **1,250** living alumni.
- + More than **170** alumni have contributed to the campaign, which is approximately **14%** of the alumni population.
- + We have **100%** participation from the undergraduates in giving to the campaign. We are also happy to report that parents of undergraduates have also been strong supporters of the project.
- + The undergraduates organized two fundraising phone-a-thons in September as part of their efforts.

We would like to thank all of our generous supporters and everyone who has worked on the campaign! We will continue to keep you updated on our progress throughout the coming year.

For those who have yet to contribute, we would really appreciate your support at whatever level you feel comfortable with.

## TOP TEN CLASSES' OVERALL GIVING (AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2017)

1978 (\$169,200)	1981 (\$34,951)	1984 (\$4,100)
1979 (\$57,250)	1985 (\$22,600)	1983 (\$3,550)
1980 (\$51,300)	1977 (\$18,500)	1975 (\$3,000)
	1982 (\$17,775)	

**Contributions and pledges** can be made online via the Sigma Pi website, using a credit card ([www.sigmapi.cornell.org/150-DiningLearning.asp#Xdonate](http://www.sigmapi.cornell.org/150-DiningLearning.asp#Xdonate)), or you can mail a check to the address below and write "Dining and Learning Campaign" in the memo field.

### Mail checks to:

Dining and Learning Campaign  
 Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity  
 P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876



# DINING and LEARNING for the 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## Honor Roll of Contributors *(information as of October 31, 2017)*

### MAJOR BENEFACTORS

(\$10,000 and up)

Mu Chapter Educational Foundation

Kent G. Sheng '78  
Robert D. Novo '79  
Gordon G. Pugh '79  
Neal M. Douglas '80  
Jarett F. Wait '80  
Michael G. Rantz '81  
Joshua A. Weinreich '82  
Patrick Kevin Morris '85

### LEADERSHIP GIFTS

(\$1,000-\$9,999)

VanNess Robinson '57  
Bert Harrop '61  
Richard G. Frey '62  
Kevin Fountain '68  
Steven Sanford '73  
Michael H. Quaid '75  
Michael E. Anderson '77  
Craig F. Binetti '77  
Henry Dunnenberger III '77  
James R. Franz '77  
Stephen M. Ryan '77  
Mark A. Sullivan '77  
Victor Sung '77  
Mark Barmasse '78  
John J. Haggerty '78  
David P. Hanssens '78  
Stephen A. Mongeau '78  
Lawrence G. Paglierani '78  
Michael Reiner '78  
Robert Grant Ruhlman '78  
Sandy True '78  
John R. Welch Jr. '78  
Wayne Buder '79  
David C. D'Orlando '79  
James M. Horn '79  
Kevin C. Kruse '79  
Lawrence D. MacLennan '79  
Christopher B. Olie '79  
Luc G. Chabot '80  
Joseph Dervay '80  
Wayne F. Forman '80  
Robert Brian Fuchs '80  
Aron Minken '80  
Donald E. Motschwiller '80  
Randall J. Ottinger '80  
Stephen P. Pirozzi '80  
Kurt Rasmussen '80  
John J. Sacco Jr. '80  
Mark D. Sherwin '80  
John W. Altmeyer '81  
Edward A. Berlin '81  
Gary S. Derck '81  
Brian M Finneran '81  
Howard J. Gordon '81  
Joseph B. Ruocco '81  
Thomas M. Silver '81  
Nicholas S. Vojnovic '81  
Barry P. Weiss '81  
Ford B. Fay '82

James E. Garr '82  
Timothy M. Hawes '82  
Robert J.M. Pratt '82  
John D. Roche '82  
Michael A. Feiertag '83  
Dennis P. McNamara '83  
David S. Colville '84  
Frank G. Sposato '84  
Steven T. Decker '85  
Eric R. Hamburg '85  
Christopher S. Selland '86  
Jason Douglas Halio '93  
Craig J. Dewey '06  
Frederic W. Castellucci III '07  
Seth A. Mosner '10  
Tracey & Angelo Balestrieri P'20

### SUPPORTERS

(\$999 and under)

John I. Holden '43  
Peter P. Romeo '55  
James Keene '57  
Robert DeLaney '58  
Kenneth R. Meyer '59  
Kenneth T. Steadman '59  
Richard Boerner '60  
Thomas K. Smith '61  
Herbert R. Holden '63  
George L. Reeves '63  
William A. Stevenson '63  
Arnold D. Cary '65  
George Parker '65  
Dennis F. Kirby '66  
Robert A. Inslerman '67  
Peter A. Chase '70  
Walter Knox '71  
Gregory Ward Fisher '72  
Frederick C. Hoge '72  
James A. Boland '73  
William Ford '73  
Howard Rosen '73  
James Chase Forbes Jr. '74  
Peter Muth '74  
Jeffrey Craver '75  
Mark Cunningham '75  
John W. Morrison '75  
Frederick H. Parker '75  
John B. Stetson Jr. '75  
Thomas M. Garr '76  
Peter R. Cady '77  
John A. Christoforo '77  
James R. Myers '77  
William Cavanaugh '78  
Todd Peter Hasselbeck '78  
Larry W. Barstow '79  
Steven L. Bergh '79  
Wayne S. Buder '79  
Andrew Kantor '79  
Keith R. Molof '79  
Curtis A. Quantz '79  
Richard A. Bosshardt '80  
Jeffrey D. Brown '80  
Thomas C. Cherner '80  
Jonathan M. Fordin '80

Bradford L. Crooke '81  
Herbert Jay Ernst '81  
David G. Hagner '82  
John E. Mennell '82  
Richard T. Rego '82  
Aron W. Steck '82  
Kurt E. Bosshardt '83  
Dennis J. Ehrenberger '83  
John S. Schor '83  
Michael D. Vernick '83  
John Burger '84  
Jeffrey M. Lewis '85  
Gregory S. Vojnovic '85  
Stephen B. Parker '86  
Matthew S. Tobin '86  
George W. Rocklein Jr. '87  
Mark R. Childs '88  
Stuart J. Strumwasser '88  
Leonard Wolin '88  
Bruce E. Kornfeld '89  
Raymond Shing Shan '99  
Jonathan Coll '01  
Quin C. Garcia '05  
Jonah R. Allaben '06  
Matthew Bordegaray '06  
Nathaniel Bryce '06  
Alan C. Chan '06  
Alexander Mark Deyle '06  
Joshua D. Katcher '06  
John P. Zimmer '06  
Jeremy Kraker '07  
Stephen J. Yanchuk '08  
Tucker W. Whitcomb '10  
Andrew John Chatham '12  
Sean M. Fuoco '12  
Aaron M. Klein '12  
Matthew G. Davis '13  
Alex S. Rawitz '13  
Zachary P. Smith '13  
Bennet M. Heidenreich '15  
Alec Charbonneau '16  
Brandon Choi '16  
Connor A. Riser '16  
Justin Bredahl '17  
Benjamin Capasso '17  
Fernando Cevallos '17  
David DellaPelle '17  
Alexander Feldman '17  
Timothy Jalbert '17  
Danny Janeczko '17  
David Kogan '17  
Agustin Martinez '17  
William McGrane '17  
Zane Mokhiber '17  
Marko Nikolic '17  
Reid Paoletta '17  
Steven Siegel '17  
Samuel Strang '17  
Andrew Walsh '17  
Jonathan Wu '17  
Alexander Yablonovich '17  
Sanjay Banda '18  
Sam Barnum '18  
Matthew Blakley '18

Charles Byrnes '18  
Isaiah Duck '18  
Josh Even '18  
David Golding '18  
Zac Goldman '18  
Jacob S. Howell '18  
Drew Lord '18  
William Murphy '18  
Ezra Pak-Harvey '18  
Griffin Py '18  
Alex Rodriguez '18  
Gabriel Smuel '18  
Joshua Sones '18  
Alex Stotter '18  
Patrick Wang '18  
Alexander Wood-Thomas '18  
Hakim Ali '19  
Dexter Amadasun '19  
Brian Barr '19  
Landon Budenholzer '19  
Jonathan Caen '19  
Jack D'Agostino '19  
Jack Daly '19  
Abdo Dergham '19  
Shailen Doshi '19  
Connor Duffy '19  
James Goodman '19  
Justin LaClair '19  
Elliot LaGuardia '19  
Aaron Lauer '19  
Clouse Lee '19  
Christopher O'Dore '19  
Ari Perlmutter '19  
Onur Saglam '19  
Alex Santoriello '19  
Donovan Wright '19  
Ian Atkinson '20  
Luke A. Balestrieri '20  
Joseph Brogan '20  
Nico Capalongo '20  
William Colerick '20  
Maxwell Cook '20  
John DeMouilly '20  
Harrison Drazhal '20  
Alex Ewald '20  
Evan Fischoff '20  
Travis Fristoe '20  
Lucas Goldman '20  
Richard Greenbaum '20  
Cole Hunter '20  
Jonah Hutchinson '20  
Luke Klausner '20  
Andre Macallister '20  
Cal McKinney '20  
Jake Miola '20  
Alexander Schmack '20  
Jason Spector '20  
Devante Timms '20  
Amy & Howard Goldman, P'14,  
P'18, P'20  
Susan Howell, P'18  
Patti & David Sones, P'18  
Joanne McKinney, P'20



## Homecoming '17/Zoltan Reunion: Undergraduates and Alumni Have a Great Weekend Together!

By **Jarett Wait '80**

Homecoming weekend 2017 was a huge success, with a large alumni turnout coming back to the house to hear Zoltan.

Zoltan is a rock-'n'-roll band consisting of Sigma Pi brothers who played extensively at Cornell and in the region from 1973–1975 and has had reunion shows at Cornell over the years. **Reber Carroll '75**, one of the band's founders, recently passed, and the band made the unified decision that

Homecoming would become a reunion tribute to its fallen bandmate.

The weekend schedule started off with a Friday night reception on the beach. On Saturday morning, the brothers hosted a brunch with a sorority, prior to tailgating and the Homecoming football game, which Cornell won against Brown. Alumni and undergrads enjoyed drinks and dining together on the porch, followed by the Zoltan reunion concert on Saturday night. The undergraduates did an excellent job of

welcoming the alumni back to the house and made them feel comfortable.

A memorial plaque was presented to Reber Carroll's family in his memory. It will be hung in the Memorial Library. To honor his memory, **we ask that alumni consider a contribution to Sigma Pi for a memorial fund in Reber's name to support the Dining and Learning campaign project.** Visit the Dining and Learning for the 21st Century campaign page on the Mu Chapter website to make a contribution or to learn more.



## Musings on Zoltan and Homecoming

By **Matt Petti '77**

*The following is a letter from Matt Petti '77, which was shared with alumni on the weekly Name That Pi Man distribution, spelling out how memorable homecoming weekend was.*

Brothers:

I am sitting here at my desk (alas, not retired yet) on a Monday morning, still buzzing from Saturday night. For the last two days, "Locomotive Breath" and "Cross Eyed Mary" have been running around my head, and I swear when I looked in the mirror this morning I was 40 years younger. Thank you to Zoltan for giving us back those fantastic days for a long, loud, foot-stompin' night.

Kraker might be the coolest guy on the planet—as Sully said, probably the only person alive who can do *both* Ian Anderson

and Magic Dick; Tommy Garr: so much fun to watch his energy and power; Cunningham: still a rock god, making his guitar cry and scream and laugh and shout like it was possessed; Petrovitz: in as fine a form as the Zoltan of old. And you could feel Reber's gentle, driving presence blessing the proceedings—so special to meet his family and hear them play and sing.

All I wanted as I drove the six hours up to Ithaca was to hear the definitive versions of "Suffragette City" and "Rebel Rebel," and we got that and about 40 times more, including that fabulous rendition of "Thick as a Brick." So great to lift a glass or two with my older, younger, and twin brothers, like getting reacquainted with myself. Current brotherhood very welcoming. Thanks to everyone! Now back to work, but a couple of notches younger...

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# Sage's Report: Outstanding Start of the Year for Pi Men

By Griffin Py '18

The first months of the 2017–2018 year have been a great time to be a Sigma Pi in Mu Chapter at Cornell. The excitement of the start of a new year has brought energy to social gatherings, academics, and career pursuits, as well as to athletics and extra-curricular activities.

With a house chock-full of Pi men, 38 brothers living in the house and another 26 in Collegetown, there hasn't been a dull moment at 730 University Avenue. Orientation week was a blast for all, including **Slater Goodman '19**, who has been an integral leader within Cornell's Orientation Leader Program for the past three years. The social chairmen, **Caleb Klausner '20** and **Nico Capalonga '20**, have kept everyone entertained with a strong social schedule. The annual Parking Lot Party over Labor Day weekend started things off with a

bang. An estimated 700 students attended and were serenaded with electronic wonderment created by our own **Alex Rodriguez '18**, who has made a name for himself as a prominent DJ on campus and on SoundCloud.

The guys are also remaining extremely involved on campus, with College Mentors for Kids (see page 6), business fraternities, and a number of other ventures. **Lucas Goldman '19**, who followed in his older brother's (**Zac Goldman '18**) footsteps as general manager for Hired Hands Moving Company (a Student Agencies business), was recently selected as president for Student Agencies Inc., a highly competitive role to achieve and a very influential seat on campus. A number of other brothers have also achieved professional success, landing summer internships within finance and consulting as the grind of the recruiting process remains in full swing on campus.

We recently held our second phone-a-thon of the year to help raise money for the Dining and Learning campaign, which the undergrads are extremely excited about. Many thanks to **Steve Pirozzi '80** and the rest of the Kitchen and Dining Committee, who have taken on a huge task, and to all those who have contributed in any way, whether through funds, time, or advice.

Looking ahead, we're stoked for the approaching New York City Career Weekend on November 9 and 10, which was wildly successful last year and looks to be again this year, with a very strong list of alumni hosts and a group of bright-eyed and bushy-tailed undergrads.

I'm very excited about the start of the year for Mu Chapter. With strong position holders, good and honest Pi men throughout, and some great opportunities ahead of us, I am confident that this will be a hell of a year for the Pi house.

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## Alumni Gather To Celebrate Dolly's Birthday

By Kurt Rasmussen '80 and Stu Strumwasser '88

Several weeks ago, on September 8, 2017, a group of Pi men met for happy hour in New York City. **Kurt Rasmussen '80** and **Stu Strumwasser '88** had recently been introduced. Kurt mentioned that he would be in New York on business and was planning to connect with some old friends. That comment snowballed into a minor reunion that took place on a Friday evening at the Ginger Man on East 36<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. The basis for the get-together (or the "excuse," depending on whose wife one might ask) was one thing that binds all Mu

Chapter Pi men together. No, it was not the house at 730 University Avenue, the great friends we made, or the stories of parties, initiation, depravity, or solidarity we now sometimes tell about our formative years. It was something even dearer to many of us and certainly more legendary: The Doll.

**Adolphus C. Hailstork, III**, a.k.a. "Dolly" or "The Doll", our beloved brother who prepared our meals and dispensed sage advice from his basement lair for more than four decades, was born on September 9, 1915. We decided to meet in his honor and invited some of our friends in the area to join us. A few phone calls and an Evite later, we found ourselves surrounded by

nearly 30 friends, some of whom we knew but had not seen for a decade or two, and some of whom we met for the first time. In between solving the problems of the world, we shared memories and photos of Dolly and raised a toast to his memory.

Our best decision was to propose a new tradition: every year, on the first Friday after Dolly's birthday, there will be multiple meetings of Pi men for happy hour in various cities (NYC, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, etc.), at the same time, in honor of his eminence, The Doll. Next year, we hope to include video conferencing so each location can see each other at the magic toast moment of 10 p.m., Eastern. One brother located in each city will offer a toast. It should be easy to organize, and any number of other cities/groups can join in. Dolly lives on, and so does our friendship and brotherhood.



*Mike Weissman '88, Howard Braunstein '89, Erik Hamburg '85, Gordon Adelsberg '90, Joe Cohen '90, Kurt Rasmussen '80, Eric Gordon '89, Stu Strumwasser '88, Tim Camuti '90, Miguel Ferrer '91, and Steve Pirozzi '80 celebrate Dolly's birthday in NYC.*



*Celebrating Dolly Hailstork's birthday in NYC: (left) Bill Forman '76, Jarrett Wait '80, Gordon Adelsberg '90; (right) former Sage Miguel Ferrer '91 smiles for the camera.*

# Brothers Engage in College Mentors

By Sam Barnum '19

With fall semester in full swing, it's time again for more than half of the brothers of Sigma Pi to begin preparing for their roles with College Mentors for Kids, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that pairs elementary school students with college mentors in one-on-one relationships. I personally chose to assume a role in the organization almost three years ago, because, like over 100 other Cornell students, I have witnessed College Mentors for Kids prove itself time and time again as the premier opportunity for Cornellians to have a tangible effect on their community. While other organizations on campus offer the opportunity to participate through financial donations or singular events, College Mentors for Kids is special to me in that it creates a space for consistent, hands-on volunteering and has an immensely positive influence on both the little buddies and the mentors themselves.

I initially joined CMFK as a freshman, looking for a way to give back to the community, but, in its proven reciprocal form, the organization has never failed to give back to me. For three years now, my time



**COLLEGE  
MENTORS  
FOR KIDS**

at College Mentors for Kids has been an absolute joy, an escape from the stresses of being a college student, and a place where demanding professors are replaced by laughing third-graders. However, even with all of the enjoyment mentors get out of the program, the true beneficiary is, of course, the children. As a former bus monitor, a two-time mentor, and a former general manager for CMFK, I've gained insights into the children's home lives, collectively spoken with the kids for dozens of hours, and realized firsthand how much they can gain from exposure to strong role models in an educational setting. As much fun as it is to hang out with a third or fourth grader for a couple hours, the knowledge that I could be changing someone's life for the better is what keeps me coming back.

Now I'll be teaming up with **Kurt Rasmussen '80**, **Tom Silver '81**, and **Sandy True '78** in an intersemester internship role to continue our goal to involve as many Pi men as possible and to keep the organization on a path toward success and growth.

Any alumni interested in learning more about the organization should visit [www.collegementors.kintera.org/cornell](http://www.collegementors.kintera.org/cornell) or reach out to me at [scb248@cornell.edu](mailto:scb248@cornell.edu).

# Mu Chapter Annual Meeting

By Jarett Wait '80

The annual meeting of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States was held on Thursday, September 28. Once again, the alumni board made an increased effort to garner alumni proxies submitted electronically, which would provide the alumni corporation the needed quorum to conduct the annual meeting in accordance with our bylaws.

I am happy to report that we received **185 proxies, representing 14% of our active membership** (alumni and undergraduate). Thanks to all who participated. Elections for alumni directors were held, and, by unanimous vote, the current alumni slate of directors was re-elected for another year. The alumni board also elected or re-elected its slate of officers for one-year terms: **Jarett Wait '80**, president; **Kurt Rasmussen '80**, vice president; **John Haggerty '78**, treasurer and faculty advisor; and **Rob Novo '79**, secretary.

# Treasurer's Report: Fall 2017 Update

By John Haggerty '78

Having eliminated the mortgage at the conclusion of the Centennial Campaign in 2015, Mu Chapter is now in a position to undertake projects of much greater significance to the maintenance and upgrade of the house without incurring debt.

We began with the installation of new high-quality windows for the entire third floor and selected windows on other floors, a project long anticipated but not possible while we serviced the mortgage. This past summer (2017), we completed the gutting and rebuilding of the second-floor bathroom and showers, utilizing modern building materials that are much easier to keep clean, increased ventilation to control moisture, and installed an electric hand dryer to reduce waste. This upgrade is particularly popular with the undergraduate brothers! Many other smaller but important projects were also completed to keep Sigma Pi among the best-maintained houses on the Hill. If you are coming back to

the chapter house to visit, please take some time to look around!

We are financially sound with no debt, and as long as the house remains near capacity (35-45 brothers living in), we will generate adequate revenue to continue to operate the house and to make reasonable improvements. Major changes, such as the Dining and Learning project, or unanticipated substantial repairs to the facility will require further fund raising.

Our relationship with our bank, Tompkins Trust Company, remains very strong. Should the fundraising efforts for the learning commons fall short, we are assured of a short-term line of credit to close the gap and to allow the project to be finished while the remaining funds are raised and collected.

If you find yourself planning a visit to Ithaca for any reason, please give me a heads up. I would be delighted to show you around your house! Thank you for all the support of our efforts to keep Sigma Pi a leader for another 100 years!

## Please Help Us Build the Mu Chapter Archives

By Kurt Rasmussen '80

We need your help to help build the Sigma Pi archives! Please send old issues of *The Muse*, house bills, event flyers, chapter composites, meeting minutes, photographs, Sigma Pi artwork, etc. We will add these items to both the archive section of our website and to our growing collection of historic documents and artifacts.

If you have any of these items, please email a copy to McClain Clotfelter ([alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org](mailto:alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org)) or mail a copy to Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi, Alumni Records Office, P. O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851. Alternatively, please feel free to bring these items to a Sigma Pi Reunion Weekend, annual meeting, or Homecoming to share, and we will preserve it for posterity.

Ultimately, we want Mu Chapter alumni and undergraduates to have access to a robust collection of documents and artifacts for its reference, amusement, and education. What's past is prologue.

# Continuing Work Improves Pi House

By John Morrison '75

In addition to dozens of minor repairs over the summer break, the following more significant items were completed:

- A card reader was installed on the front door to allow students access, using their Cornell ID cards.
- Holes in the waterproof membrane of the Beach were repaired, and metal flashing was installed to protect the membrane from wear.
- A fenced-in storage area was installed in the rear of the house for materials used outdoors by undergrads, such as reusable fencing for parties. This was done to improve safety and appearance.

The most significant work was the refurbishment of the second-floor bathroom. Mold and cleaning challenges have plagued the second-floor bathroom for years. New tile was installed in the shower

stalls and shower ceilings, and improved ventilation, new fluorescent lighting with LED fixtures, an electric hand dryer, additional electrical outlets, motion sensors for lighting and ventilation, and new stall partitions were also installed. **Liviu Rusu '98** laid a new, smooth concrete floor over the existing floor tile, which had badly stained grout. The project cost about \$40,000. We hope to come up with necessary funds to do the third-floor bathroom next summer.

The Facilities Committee maintains a list of repairs and upgrades that it is considering and distributes it periodically to board members. That list currently includes potential projects and purchases estimated to cost a total of about \$240,000. They are worked off as funds become available.

Liviu Rusu relieved **John Morrison '75** as Chair of the Facilities Committee on September 28, 2017.



# Chapter House Owned by Brotherhood

By Dennis McNamara '83

Almost 100 years ago, on December 13, 1917, the brothers of Alpha Chapter of Omega Delta Fraternity Inc. gathered at 730 University Avenue for the purpose of changing the name of their chapter. The result of the meeting was that our chapter became officially known as The Mu Chapter of the Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States Inc. The chapter was incorporated under the State of New York Member Corporation Law but is now subject to the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law (the corporation is not a federal 501(c)(3) entity and, therefore, not able to receive tax-deductible contributions). The corporation is owned by its members, both alumni and undergraduate. Each member is entitled to vote at the annual meeting of the corporation, which occurs in September or October of every year.

According to our records, the corporation has almost 1,300 members: 63 undergrad members and 1,252 alumni members at the time of penning! Each year, the membership elects a board of directors, who are charged with overseeing the operations of the corporation. The board currently consists of 16 members who make up various committees of the board, divided by function: legal, facilities, brotherhood, etc. The board, in turn, elects officers to work with the undergraduate members to ensure that the work necessary to keep up the day to day operations is accomplished. The officers consist of the president (**Jarett Wait '80**), vice president (**Kurt Rasmussen '80**), treasurer (**John Haggerty '78**) and secretary (**Rob Novo '79**).

The corporation owns the land at 730 University Avenue, the house, and all of the personal property located in the house (except the personal property owned by the undergraduate members living in the house).

## Mu Chapter Website & Social Media Outlets



The Alumni Board continues to invest in enhancing our social-media outreach.

### The Mu Chapter 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.

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.com/groups/250850591718094



@cornellsigmapi



@CornellSigmaPi



/groups/Sigma-Pi-Mu-Chapter-Alumni-4734302

# April 2018 Entrepreneurship Conference

By Michael Vernick '83

Haven't been back to the house in a while? Need a great excuse for a visit to Ithaca to hang with some friendly alumni and undergrads? We have an event for you, and we need your help.

The third Mu Chapter Technology, Social Media, and Career Conference will be held on **Saturday, April 21, 2018**, in Ithaca. In conjunction with the Entrepreneurship at Cornell Celebration, the Sigma Pi conference will focus on social media and entrepreneurship. The last conference, held in 2016, featured six speakers and was extremely well received by the undergraduate brotherhood.

We are just starting to confirm plans for the upcoming conference, so if you'd like to speak at the conference, either in person or through our Tech Center video-conferencing system, or to volunteer to help plan, please reach out to Michael Vernick '83 at [michael@procrasticup.com](mailto:michael@procrasticup.com).

# Help Mark Lonski '93 and His Family Rebuild after Hurricane Irma

By Jason Halio '93



We're raising \$50,000 to help **Mark Lonski '93** and his wife, Julie, help rebuild their lives, along with their young son, Cruz. Hurricane Irma destroyed their home in St. John, Virgin Islands.

Mark and Julie left New York City after September 11, 2001, to start a new life in paradise, on the island of St. John. I visited them many years ago, and it truly was paradise. They started a business, Property King, putting Mark's Cornell-honed botany skills to work, while Julie's business acumen ran the office. Now their home is destroyed. Let's do what we can to help our brother get back on his feet.

Ninety percent of the structures on St. John were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Irma. Mark's landscaping business is imperiled because of this. The Lonskis' house disintegrated while they were taking refuge inside of it, and they are now looking for a home in which to live while they rebuild. There are no mail or banking services. Electricity will be unavailable for six to eight months.

Please give generously. Whether \$5 or \$500, every bit helps. Just seeing your name on the donor page will help to give Mark and his family a smile. To give or for more information please visit [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jason-halio](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jason-halio).



By Caleb Klausner '20

Sigma Pi social events this semester featured a wide array of Greek organizations, themes, venues, and activities. We've routinely engaged in social events of some sort, either by hosting or by invitation, Thursday through Saturday night of each weekend.

So far, our most notable event has been our annual Parking Lot Parking during Labor Day weekend. We cleared out the entire bottom parking lot and filled it with a local food truck, a DJ stand, a bar, and friends of the house. The party was a huge success, with over 500 people in the parking lot at peak attendance.

Aside from hosting mixers at the chapter house and in Collegetown, brothers have enjoyed a tour at Catherine Valley Winery, a date night at Plum Tree, Sweetie Pi dinners, Homecoming festivities that included the Zoltan reunion concert, hosting our annual Halloween party, and events at other fraternities.

At left and inset below: undergraduate members and guests pose for the camera before the spring 2017 Orchid Ball.



Undergraduate members and guests at the fall 2017 Parking Lot Party.



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# Phone-a-thon Connects Brothers To Support Dining and Learning

By Jonathan Caen '19

On September 13 and 26, a combined 22 undergraduate brothers participated in a two-evening phone-a-thon event. The brothers made more than 700 phone calls to potential alumni donors, appealing for gifts and pledges to the Dining and Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century campaign.

The first evening focused primarily on Mu Chapter alumni from the classes of 1978 through 2010, and the second evening added Mu Chapter alumni from the classes of 1945 through 1977 and

2011 through 2015, past sages, and past stewards to its focus. The phone-a-thon also aimed to inform alumni about the Sigma Pi activities during the Homecoming weekend, including the Zoltan reunion concert.



The brothers who participated had many inspiring conversations with the alumni they reached and hope to continue the tradition next year. If you would like to make a gift or pledge toward the Dining and Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century project, please visit the "Campaign" page on [www.sigmapicornell.org](http://www.sigmapicornell.org).



*Undergraduate members Luke Balistrieri '20 (left) and Logan Goddard '20 (right) make calls to Sigma Pi alumni during the September 13 phone-a-thon.*



## Mu Chapter Honored

By Tom Silver '81

College Mentors for Kids honored the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation at its unGALA event on October 14 in Indianapolis. The unGALA celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of College Mentors for Kids and the 25,000 kids and college students who have participated in the program over the last two decades. It was like a College Mentors for Kids homecoming, bringing together and celebrating the alumni, partners, and supporters for a fun night, filled with a silent auction, games, food stations, and an interactive program.

The Sigma Pi Educational Foundation was chosen as one of the MVPs (most valuable partner) in the history of College Mentors for Kids. Only 22 individuals, families, corporations, foundations, founders, and partners were chosen for this honor. Rest assured that this recognition is sincere; Sigma Pi is absolutely *revered* among the College Mentors for Kids administration and staff! According to Stephanie Kohls, regional director of development and community engagement for College Mentors for Kids, "Sigma Pi Educational Foundation has made a great contribution to our history and its commitment to mentoring and college student development."

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## Meet Landon Budenholzer '19, New Career Services Intern

By Landon Budenholzer '19

Dear Mu Chapter:

My name is **Landon Budenholzer** (Hotel Admin '19), and I will be the career services intern for the 2017–2018 academic year. Professionally, I have interned in various areas of finance, including wealth management, buy-side advisory, and investment banking, and I am looking forward to bringing my understanding of professional processes to the chapter.

The professional development and mentorship opportunities are two integral

resources available to Pi men that I plan to enhance during my time in this role. The incredibly supportive and available alumni base is an unrivaled resource that the undergraduate brothers have expressed a keen desire to utilize. As the link between the alumni and active chapter, I plan to build upon the previously successful speaker series, pair undergraduate students with alumni mentors in their desired industry, and, most importantly, develop a standardized process to expose undecided brothers to the industries in which our alumni have thrived. As many of the brothers before us

utilized Sigma Pi to springboard their careers, I hope to continue the strong tradition of professional excellence in the chapter.

As always, we couldn't have the kind of meaningful and productive programs that we do without an active and involved alumni base. We thank all alumni who have participated in the past, either as mentors or as spokespersons, as part of our Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series. As we look ahead to this academic year, we ask everyone to consider becoming involved or increasing involvement as we build the program. We hope all alumni will consider helping this year.

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## Recruiting the Best

By Lucas Goldman '20

Brothers from all classes of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi came together to make a strong effort during the fall recruitment cycle. Between the several IFC events (West Campus Hangout, Meet the Greeks, and formal smokers) and informal brother efforts, including getting lunch, watching football, and inviting fall rushes to various social events, the men of Sigma Pi met a number of quality prospective brothers. By Tuesday of bid week, the brotherhood honed its list of six to eight fall rushees, who would make great additions to the brotherhood.

The brotherhood did ultimately have to consider several pragmatic concerns that would come with taking a new class of brothers in the fall. Housing posed perhaps the biggest issue. With 22 sophomores already in the house, adding another eight in the fall would prevent many of the spring 2017 class from living in the house next year. Brothers expressed further concern for how this physical separation in the brotherhood could detract from the brothers' valuable bonds within and between classes. After a vote, these considerations outweighed the potential benefits of taking another fall class.

Rest assured, brothers have made and will continue to make a strong effort to maintain their connections with the group of fall rushees, with whom the brotherhood has bonded, so that our spring 2018 recruitment class will be among the strongest on campus!

## Meet Jeff Hughes, the New R.A.

By Jeff Hughes



Greetings, everyone. I'm Jeff Hughes, the R.A. in the Sigma Pi house for the 2017–2018 year. I'm currently in the second year of the MBA program at the Johnson School, focusing on finance. Prior to business school, I studied mechanical engineering and then worked as an operations consultant in Boston and London. I am also a member and past

R.A. of Phi Delta Theta at the University of Missouri.

I interned in strategy consulting last summer and have accepted a full-time role with the same firm to begin after graduation next May. Lately, I've been enjoying getting to know the guys, running through some practice cases with those interested in consulting, and finding some running trails while it's still warm in Ithaca.

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## Sigma Pi Tech Internship

By Michael Vernick '83

**Isaiah Duck '18** will be the tech intern for the 2017–2018 school year. Isaiah is a computer science major in the College of Engineering.

At Cornell, he was an R.A. for two years, and he currently works as a field manager for Student Agencies. He spent several summers in the tech

sector, most recently working for IBM as a software engineer. As the tech intern, Isaiah will be responsible for the Dick Cahoon Tech Center, will co-chair the Tech, Career, and Entrepreneurship Conference at the Sigma Pi house in April, and will work with me to develop a technology framework to better connect alumni and undergrads for social, career, and *Name That Pi Man* activities.

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## Alumni Gather in Myrtle Beach for Procrasticup 2017

By Michael Vernick '83 and  
Tim Hawes '82

During the weekend of September 8, 14 Sigma Pi alumni convened in Myrtle Beach for the umpteenth annual Procrasticup. This year's event featured brothers from the class years of 1980 through 1985, including first-timer **John Burger '84**, and was dedicated to our amazing brother **Nick "Serb" Vojnovic '81**, because he inspires us all with his positive attitude and enthusiasm during his health battle. We were "Serb's Army" this year and can't wait to have him join us in 2018.

Although the event's status was touch-and-go because of Hurricane Irma, Myrtle Beach was spared from the brunt of the storm, and the group was able to get in three gorgeous days of golf. The Procrasticup trophy was reclaimed by the **Dennis McNamara '83** and **Mike Vernick '83** team, after a hard match against the **Tim Hawes '82** and **Jim Garr '82** team, stepping in for **Joe Ruocco '81**. Evenings consisted of long dinners around large tables, a visit to the perennial supper destination,

Calli Baker's Firehouse, for wings, and refreshments back at the hotel to tell and retell stories from the day and from the past.

Whereas some golf groups actually go on trips and focus on the golf, our trips are

about reminiscing and figuring out when the refreshment cart will be by to quench our thirsts. Whether or not you play golf, Sigma Pi alumni are always welcome to join us.



Participants of the 2017 Procrasticup pose together near the final hole (L–R): Michael Vernick '83, George Rocklein '87, Tom Cherner '80, Dave Colville '84, Eugene McKenna, John Burger '84, Dennis McNamara '83, John Altmeyer '81, John Roche '82, Tim Hawes '82, Jay Sacco '80, Jim Garr '82, Tom Silver '81, Jon Pettee '81.



# Reunion 2017: Alumni of All Generations Reconnect and Reminisce in Ithaca

By Kurt Rasmussen '80

A large gathering of alumni, family, and friends returned to Ithaca for Reunion Weekend, June 8–11, 2017. Especially large contingents from the classes of '77 and '07 gathered on and around campus for the weekend. Many thanks to all the reunion captains who helped coordinate their class activities: **Mike Anderson '77, Gerry Leape '82, George Rocklein '87, Marshall Gilinsky '92, Trevor White '07, and Aaron Klein '12.**

Activities included tunes and refreshing beverages on the front porch of the Pi house, tours of campus, a road-trip to the Pines, a lecture from Bill Nye (the Science Guy; Cornell '89) in Baily Hall, tent parties, and hikes in Buttermilk Falls and Treman State Park. Thanks to all the current undergraduate brothers for all their help in hosting the alumni and making the weekend successful!



Jeff Stambough '07, Matt Dietz '07, Nick Jette '07.



Front row: Tyler Ramsden '12, Dan Lopez '12; back row: Alex Rawitz '13, Sean Fuoco '12, John Morello '11 (Eta-Gamma Chapter of Sigma Pi, Hofstra, and R.A. of Mu Chapter, F'11–S'13), Rob Dicker '12.



At the Pines, left table: Matt Dietz '07, Rich Larin '07, Kevin Reyes '07, Giorgio Roccaro '07; right table: Nick Jette '07, Sam Wang '07, Mike Eisner '07, Fred Castellucci '07, Lance Fraenkel '07.



Members of the class of '77 celebrates their 40<sup>th</sup> reunion at Glenwood Pines (L–R): Henry Dunenberg, Mark Sullivan, Mike Anderson, Graig Binetti, Jim Franz, Glenn Mazzamaro, Steve Ryan, Matt Petti, Doug Williamson, and Pete Wright.



Back row (L–R): Trevor White '07, Fred Castellucci '07, Nick Jette '07, Rich Larin '07, Sam Wang '07, Giorgio Roccaro '07, Kevin Reyes '07, Mike Eisner '07, Eric Hoffman '07, Matt Dietz '07; kneeling: Lance Fraenkel '07, Jeff Stambough '07, Giorgio Piccoli '07.

# Mu Alumni News & Notes

Last fall, **Douglas Parker '56** and his daughter traveled from California to attend game four of the Cubs' World Series with fellow Sigma Pi **Aaron Klein '12**. Aaron works on marketing in the Cubs' front office and was able to get tickets for the game. Doug adds "Aaron and I became acquainted a few years ago through an email exchange initially about the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation. Getting the tickets was a big deal for me, and I was very grateful to Aaron for his help. I have been a lifelong Cubs fan ever since I went to game four of the Cubs' 1945 World Series versus the Detroit Tigers. Sadly, the Cubs lost that game four, and darned if they didn't lose game four again last year before going on to win the series. But who knows, maybe they'll make it again this year and, if so, I might ask Aaron to try for tickets for something other than game four." Catch up with Doug; write to him at [dmparker74@gmail.com](mailto:dmparker74@gmail.com) or at 410 Church Rd., No. 46, Ojai, CA 93023.



Mark Sullivan '77, Tony McManus '80, Dave D'Orlando '79, and Steve Ryan '77 root for the Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston.

Erica and **Michael Reiner '78** send their thanks to Brother **Larry "Pags" Paglierani '78**, who conceived and hosted the Pagalooza reunion at his home in Stowe, Vermont for well over a decade. Michael writes: "This annual event has been so meaningful in our lives and has brought so many of us and our families together in love, friendship, and, of course, brotherhood. We will forever be grateful to him for his extraordinary hospitality and his beautiful nature. The fact that Pags is a hotelier—now retiring—makes him even more deserving of the honor. Thank you Pags...and JEVO!" Keep in touch with Michael at [mreiner@r-i-inc.com](mailto:mreiner@r-i-inc.com) or at 187 Steep Hill Rd., Weston, CT 06883.



Barb and Todd Hasslebeck '78, Janice and Steve Mongeau '78, and Laurie and Kevin Kruse '79 celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Janice and Steve's lake house in Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire.

**Jay Ernst '81** and **Jon Pettee '81** attended the wedding of Brooke Harwood, daughter of **Dean Harwood '81** (deceased), and Kathleen Cullen Harwood (Cornell '81). Brooke married Charles Blackwell on October 14<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. As many of you remember, Dean died prematurely of a heart attack at 38 years old in 1999. Kathleen and Dean have another daughter, Molly, and two sons, Cullen and Graham. While in Chicago, Jon and Jay met with fellow Pi men **Jim Draddy '81** and **Tom McHugh '81**.



Sigma Pi alumni and friends enjoy themselves at Brooke Harwood's wedding: Jon Pettee '81 (far right), Jay Ernst '81 (next from right).

Looking for a good read? Try *The Organ Broker* by **Stu Strumwasser '88**, the thrilling story of an underground black market organ dealer known as "New York Jack." The book was a 2015 finalist for the Hammett Prize



## Deceased

**Howard P. King Jr. '47**  
January 20, 2017

**Richard E. Knoblock '55**  
April 10, 2017

**John L. Hitzel '59**  
April 17, 2017

Honor a deceased brother with a memorial plaque; visit [sigmapicornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp](http://sigmapicornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp)



for literary excellence in crime writing. Find out more by writing to Stu at [stustrum@yahoo.com](mailto:stustrum@yahoo.com) or at 1 294 Smith St., Apt. 2, Brooklyn, NY 11231.



Joe Slesar '86, Chris Vachris '86, George Rocklein '87, Ted Kruk '85, Chris Selland '86, and Stu Strumwasser '88 gather for Chris Selland's wedding in Lexington, Massachusetts, on July 15, 2017.



Michael Sones '13, Jarett Wait '80, Aaron Klein '12, and Ed Berlin '81 at the Cornell Sports Conference.