

Jim Keene '57

A Sigma Pi Legend and Hero

A special edition of *The Muse* dedicated to the memory of Jim Keene '57



Jim Keene: A Sigma Pi Legend and Hero

By Matthew Pens '00

October 22 was a very somber day, as I made a last-minute flight to Omaha, Nebraska, to say goodbye to a dear friend and mentor. James Henry Keene III '57 had suddenly passed away after taking in an opera with his wife of 52 years, Ruth Ann Keene, near his home in Omaha, succumbing quickly to a cardiac event. Jim was a couple of months shy of his 83rd birthday.

Just a week before receiving the very sad news, I had the pleasure of spending an evening with Jim in New York City, as he treated my wife and I to the second night of the New York Cabaret Convention, at which Jim was a staple, enjoying the music and surveying the talent for his own music series back home in Nebraska. We enjoyed a nice casual dinner after the show at a local Cajun seafood spot that we thought Jim would enjoy, having heard so many tales of his time living on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, his loyalty to Tabasco sauce, and how he is famous in Omaha for the immense pots of gumbo intended for a 100 guests, which he often prepared at the requests of his family and friends over the holidays. Over dinner, Jim told us of his recent travels and was beaming over how he had just returned to Omaha for one night after having spent the prior week with his wife, four children, and two grandchildren all together in Williamsburg, Virginia, giving them all a tour of where he grew up.

Twenty-one years ago, my indecisive self made one of the most important and influential decisions of my life; I chose to join an organization that would make the two-term Sage James Keene my brother. A couple of years prior to signing my bid, our chapter house at 730 University Avenue, in which so many of you lived, burned to the ground. A short time before the fire, it was presented to Jim, when the house was already empty for renovations and not collecting any rent, that the insurance on the property was in danger of lapsing. Jim saw to the costs out of his own pocket to ensure that didn't happen—a fateful decision for sure.



Under Jim's watch, there was never a doubt that the house would be rebuilt and done so in such a way that history was preserved while bringing our chapter house into the 21st century. This was not Jim's first foray into construction at the Pi house, for it was he, as an undergraduate sage, who then determined the dining room was just "too damn small" and needed an expansion. He secured the funds, hired the contractors, and built out the extension of the dining room, which, as a byproduct, also gave us the front porch that we all enjoy to this day. As part of the recent Dolly Hailstork Dining Room and Learning Commons project, the Jim Keene touch was on display and impressed crews of workers and brothers at the site. When the ceiling was peeled back to its structure, it revealed an impressive I-beam spanning the width of the house, which was installed at Jim's demand to ensure no bulky support beams would be taking up precious dining space. No shortcuts. If it can be done, then it will be done, and done correctly... even as an undergrad.

Shortly after the reopening of the chapter house, Jim was faced with yet another defining moment in his leadership when he took a stand against a rising culture among the undergraduates that he viewed as a threat to the health and longevity of Mu Chapter. The actions were difficult, bold, and somewhat controversial, but from a place of love—in other words, very Jim—and it did set our Sigma Pi chapter on a very positive trajectory, with an alumni-undergraduate relationship that would be the envy of any fraternal organization. For over 20 years, Jim served as the alumni board president, devoting and investing so much of himself to the great fortune of us all, work he would often cite as some of his proudest, and all of it deeply fulfilling. To Jim, one of the best parts of his involvement in Sigma Pi was how he was able to make more friends as the brothers he first met as teenagers grew into adults.

I could write all day about Jim and my experiences with him. There is the time Jim invited the undergraduate officers to join

him and Dave Lefevre '60 out at his home in Crested Butte, Colorado, during spring break. Little did Jim expect that I had 18 other officers (from herald to recycling chair) flying in to Denver (apparently not close to Crested Butte) who all wanted more time with our favorite alums. He, of course, found us a way in from Denver and proceeded to hold court for the week with generous exuberance for what became an unofficial Mu Chapter annex for that week, Jim and Dave manning short-order breakfast in the morning and, oh, the many stories at night. Jim was a man who loved to entertain and bring people together. I'm sure we all wish we could go back.

There was also the time he masterfully negotiated with Cornell. Part of the McGraw Place project threatened to construct a windmill, which our previous contract with Cornell granted us the right to prevent. Jim's tact helped to give our chapter much more favorable property lines.

Jim was not beyond a good-natured lecture or two. He would try to teach about the arts and music with the importance of the Cornell songs. He would also remind us of how his mother enrolled him in dance lessons as a young man and how those skills, combined with owning a suit, guaranteed him invitations to the best parties. Some of his lectures revolved around drinking and how he thought our members drank too much, though somehow, in the same story, we would find him boasting how, in his day, the brothers would retreat to Zincks for "pitchers of whiskey sours every day after class."

Jim would admit he never was much of a committee man. If he saw something that needed to be done, he would just see it done. This is not to say Jim would not hear other opinions or even, from time to time, be swayed by them. All it took was for you to be a member of Sigma Pi, and you had his attention and respect.

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Alumni at the memorial service.

Get things done he did. Upon graduating from Cornell, Jim, following the advice of another brother and dear friend of his, Joel Van Wynen '58, he took a position with Peter Kiewit and Sons as an engineer. He looked forward to moving to Manhattan, a place he fell in love with while an undergraduate leader of the house, making trips to the city to meet with the alumni board... only to find out he would be placed in Trenton, New Jersey, and assigned to a project in Greenland, a richly rewarding experience Jim would go on to tell you. Jim went on to work for Kiewit for 32 years as a manager of the industrial division, president of several subsidiaries, and a member of its board of directors. With Kiewit, he built airports, Cold War radar installations, upgraded the Panama Canal, and built pipelines across Alaska "that didn't leak!"... all on time and slightly under budget. Retirement did not take to our brother Keene; he quickly reentered the working world when he took over a small manufacturing company in Humboldt, Nebraska. Over time, he would go on to reinvent this company, time and again finding new opportunities for the firm in different industries and specialties that, even into his 80s, excited the never ceasing boy in him to build the better mousetrap (or Snoot Loop™).

He was an engineer's engineer, a force of nature and a man of action. There was not a thing he could not find a way to get done. Rebuild a fraternity house in less than a year... sure. Rescue the Opera in Omaha... done. Purchase a historic church on one side of town, load it on a flatbed and deliver it to another, and have it be home to a successful concert series of his own design, all in rural Nebraska... he did that, too.

For me, Jim was the most impressive and accomplished man into whose sphere of influence I could ever hope to enter, to say nothing of being able to call this great man, 42 years my senior, a

dear friend and my brother. His openness, kindness, and devoted dogmatic work ethic, all wrapped in with a disarming, charming, and, yes, sometimes stubborn personality, made him a man with a big boisterous laugh who touched and influenced countless souls who, no matter their politics or squabbles, will lament in his loss and acknowledge one of the great ones has departed.

To the end, Jim lived his life to his fullest. He had a great passion and dedication for his family. He was immensely proud of his four children, with all they have achieved, but more importantly the by individuals they have become. He loved and supported the arts. Walking the halls of these cabaret conventions or other shows with Jim was a real treat; not only did he get the biggest kick out of introducing me

to all of his friends as his brother, in order to see their surprise giving the obvious age gap, but I had the pleasure of watching this man with admittedly no music talents turn into the impresario and visionary on the scene, with all the top talent of cabaret lobbying for that coveted invite to perform in his concert series far away in a small river town in Nebraska. Not exactly your typical destination for New York City elite talent, but Jim made it one.

His confidence and pride in his work, his family, and fraternity are unmatched. Some among us might show signs of sheepishness to boast away that we belong to a fraternity or are "frat boys" in today's climate, but for Jim, it was more like "damn right I belong to Sigma Pi

Fraternity, Mu Chapter, and it's a first class operation, and anyone who thinks otherwise is a fool."

Behind the polished engineer all-business exterior was such grace, kindness, and empathy, such a champion of diversity, level playing fields, and equal opportunities, and such a remarkable man with so many charms and talents... the textbook definition of a Pi man.

Upon hearing of her grandfather's passing, Jim's youngest granddaughter, Elizabeth, asked, "But who will tell the stories now?"

To honor this great man, this lion of Mu Chapter, let us do all that we can to preserve the grand, diverse nature and health of our fraternity, treasuring its history. We must tell the stories! Let us remember why it is we became involved to begin with and why we stay engaged to this day; we are brothers who can learn from and grow with one another far beyond those brief years on campus and for all the precious years we have together thereafter.

We will miss you Jim. We offer the deepest heartfelt thank you from all of us, for all you did for Sigma Pi and for us personally. Your favorite room in the house, which you built, will now and forever hold your name (the James H. Keene III Memorial Library), but it will never feel as complete as it did with you in it. Here's to James H. Keene III '57... he's a brother through and through.

SELECT REMARKS SUBMITTED AFTER JIM'S PASSING

Buck Cody '56:

Jim and I were good friends in 1955. I was one year ahead of him. Jim talked me into running for sage, something I had never considered. I was quite busy with crew, the Cornell marching band, and playing in Tom Sanford's dance combo, so, as an engineer, I had little free time. With Jim's fraternity leadership skills and popularity, I was a shoo-in for the job. During my term of office, Jim was true to his word and was the fuel behind the engine.

Evening Song

Cornell traditional

When the sun fades far away
In the crimson of the west,
And the voices of the day
Murmur low and sink to rest,

Music with the twilight falls
O'er the dreaming lake and dell;
'Tis an echo from the walls
Of our own, our fair Cornell.

Welcome night and welcome rest;
Fading music fare thee well!
Joy to all we love the best,
Love to thee our fair Cornell!

Music with the twilight falls
O'er the dreaming lake and dell;
'Tis an echo from the walls
Of our own, our fair Cornell.

"The opportunity to be a member of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi is a gift from those who came before you. Add to the gift, and pass it on to those who come after you." — Jim Keene '57



He did most of the work. He used to joke that he could perfectly forge my signature. He might as well have held the position. I remember our trip to NYC to hire a new cook and housekeeper to replace Freddie and John, who had retired. While in NY, Jim took us to his favorite pizza place, and we all ended up sick as dogs. Except for that experience, our visit was successful, and we hired Mr. and Mrs. Ripke: she as cook and he as houseman. The couple served us well. They lived in a refurbished room next to the Pit, where I roomed with Fred Jensen. There are not many fraternities that have had as dedicated and hard-working a member as Jim Keene, both as a student and as an alum. I wish him and his family peace.

Doug Parker '56:

Jim Keene was a leader of ability, energy, and unflagging determination to get the job done. He saw Mu Chapter through its highs and its lows, and it is fair to say that, without his leadership, there would be no Sigma Pi at Cornell today, let alone the fine organization we have.

Frederick Krieger '57:

Jim was a good friend during our years at Cornell. We had some great adventures; during our junior year, we traveled to the national Sigma Pi convention in Los Angeles. Since the fraternity only paid one airfare, we flew out and hitched back. The brothers in California were so hospitable and arranged tours of the movie studios. We hitched all the way back to Ithaca, an adventure I'll never forget. Jim was a great traveling companion, resourceful and fun to be with. I miss him!

VanNess D. Robinson '57:

Dear family, friends, and brothers of our beloved Brother Keene:

On October 17, the Lord called home one of his most steadfast and loyal servants, our Brother James H. Keene III.

To have known Jim is, indeed, one of the dearest and truest blessings in my life. I had the extreme honor and pleasure of working very closely with Jim through the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi at Cornell University as he served as president and I as secretary. We worked diligently to continue the traditions and vision of the fraternity, and I couldn't have asked for a more sincere and honest man to accomplish and maintain all that has been achieved through the fraternity in formulating a

tremendous fellowship and unity through brotherhood. I can honestly say that Jim's disposition and nature defined Sigma Pi's mission: "To advance man's quest for excellence." Jim's life reflected this in his every endeavor.

To say I will miss this man tremendously does not even begin to express my sorrow, but to reflect on what an honor and gift it was to have known and shared so much with this man makes me realize how much richer and blessed my life has been because of this great human, Brother Jim Keene.

Deepest sympathies and love to Jim's wife, Ruth, and all those whose life he touched.

Until we meet again my friend.



K. T. Mao '63

(in Zhuhai, China):

I first heard about Jim Keene when I was a pledge at Sigma Pi in my freshman year in 1960. Jim was big brother to **Ken Meyer '59**, and Ken was my big brother. Ken was already telling me larger-than-life stories about Jim. According to Ken, Jim was *the* guy managing the construction of a US Air Force facility in Thule, Greenland, in a very challeng-

ing environment in the frigid north for Peter Kiewit, and Jim was only two years out of Cornell. Frankly, all that didn't mean much to me then. I was only a couple of years "fresh-off-the-boat" from China. Of course, Ken was impressing upon me the importance of my legacy at the fraternity.

Years raced past. Jim and I finally crossed paths. It was graduation and alumni Reunion Weekend in June 1991 at Cornell. It was on the Arts Quad, in the

midst of the beer tents and the booming rock music that we found each other. We located a table and chairs near the northern end of the quad, where we sat down and got to know each other. Serendipity was a word I would describe about our conversations.

In 1967-'68, I spent 18 months in Nebraska. I was assigned to manage a crew of up to 40 engineers and technicians to inspect the construction of Cooper Nuclear Station [CNS] in Brownville, about 80 miles south of Omaha on the banks of the Missouri River. The contractor was—you guessed it—Peter Kiewit [PK]. I was young, inexperienced, and "wet behind the ears." Jim knew all too well the PK people I worked with, and heavy-duty PK was one heck of a way to "baptize" me into heavy construction. Of all the places where Jim could have ended up owning, refurbishing, and upgrading a historic home, he was in Brownville, where I had practically lived. Then, two people came by to say hello. They were members of the graduating class of 1991, and they knew each other from their social circles at Cornell. One was Jim's daughter, Ruth Ann, and the other was my son, John—a very small world. John was probably the first ethnic Chinese ever born in Nemaha County, Nebraska. Jim talked about his career at PK. Like cream, and a giant among his peers, Jim rose to the top of the organization. It was an evening in which I came away even more awestruck by Jim's character as a man and the larger-than-stories that Ken had talked out.

Jim came to our class of 1963's 50th reunion at Sigma Pi at Cornell in June 2013, which was the last time I spent time with him. By then, Jim was already a legend among his fraternity brothers. His selfless dedication in service of the Mu

Rising From Ashes

In the spring of 1994, Sigma Pi Fraternity began a renovation project to replace windows and to bring the building up to code. The brothers had no idea what they were in for: a spectacular April fire, caused by a worker's cutting torch, reduced the 19th-century wood-and-brick structure to ashes.

But nine months later, the brothers were homeless no more. They moved back into their West Campus house in January, after an intensive six-month construction project by the Cortland-based P.S. Griswold Company. The contractor had worked under a strict deadline, having promised the brothers the fraternity would be ready in time for the spring semester.

The \$1.3 million rebuilding involved nearly 100 skilled workers, with the close cooperation of architect Jagat Sharma and the City of Ithaca building department. The 17,000-square-foot structure echoes the original, with fireplaces, heavy wood trim, and ornate paneling. Says Griswold's Ken Nichols, who managed the rebuilding: "This is the way every project is supposed to happen."



Chapter and his contributions are incalculable. My one regret is not making time to revisit and spend time with Jim in Brownville, something I have always wanted to do. I am going to miss him.

Deepest and sincerest condolences to Jim's family.

John Rumble '64:

Jim Keene and **Joel VanWynen '58** were two people who, in the late 1950s and 1960s, helped Sigma Pi through a number of rough times. The details of the problems they had to deal with are best buried in the past, but suffice it to say, brother behavior was not always up to snuff. Jim and Joel interacted with Cornell administrators many times to get the house out of trouble and back on track.

I know Jim continued on with these efforts over the full course of his life. Joel died in the early 1980s and was no longer an ally, but Jim did innumerable things to help Sigma Pi through many issues.

As someone who joined Sigma Pi over 57 years ago, I am probably one of the few who personally remember him from those days. He was a no-nonsense person when he had to be but, at the same time, had the capacity to see humor in even the most serious situations. When he visited the house in the early 1960s, he was always inquisitive about us brothers: who we were, what we were doing, what our plans were for the future, and always with suggestions for improvement.

He was mostly unflappable. One time he was crossing the Atlantic with Joel Van Wynen's two sisters during a major hurricane. Almost everyone aboard was sick, but Jim and one of the sisters danced away the voyage. His comment was "I paid my money, I am going to enjoy myself!"

Jim, you were a fine person. I am glad to have known you.



Pete Wright '77:

As a recent member of the Facilities Committee (a subset of the alumni board), I met Jim Keene for the first time three years ago. I certainly was aware of the tremendous work he had done in initiating, designing, building, and rebuilding the house and mentoring the character of the active brothers. Serving on the Facilities Committee with him, I was impressed with his patience but persistence in sharing his values and his knowledge. He was friendly to all and especially to the undergraduate brothers. Yet it was his long-term outlook in both the relationships he developed and his view of our fraternity that I admire most. His view of Sigma Pi looked forward as much as it looked back to his days as an undergraduate brother. This viewpoint is evident in the physical Pi house he built, in the relationships he developed, and most importantly, in the creation of an active but not intrusive alumni board. By involving the alumni, he helped create a lasting relationship that will help continue the joy we have in our brotherhood. This bond is a long-term commitment that Jim exemplified and one we each need to commit to. I am thankful for what he has done and for what will continue because of his lasting influence.

John Haggerty '78:

Jim Keene is a Sigma Pi Mu Chapter legend. But what I have admired most for the ten years I called him both friend and brother was his devotion to our undergraduate brothers. Jim lived for the opportunity to take a group of young brothers to dinner and to share with them his vivid memories of earlier times, both good and bad. He was a natural teacher and a true gentleman. I will miss our frequent quiet talks over breakfast at the Statler. Rest in peace, Jim. You made a difference.

Jarett Wait '80:

The brothers of Sigma Pi, Cornell University, mourn the passing of our dear brother, Jim Keene. Jim is a Sigma Pi legend and hero. Jim carried Mu Chapter on his back for many many years to ensure the fraternity's ongoing success for future generations. The directors of the Mu Chapter alumni board and Educational Foundation have unanimously elected to name the Memorial Library at the Sigma Pi chapter house as the "James H. Keene III Memorial Library" in recognition of his tireless leadership and contributions to the fraternity, to the chapter, and to its members. We are all proud to call Jim our brother. Please raise a glass in Jim's honor!

Kurt Rasmussen '80:

Jim Keene '57 was an impressive man who led a rich and accomplished life. Some of his many honorable attributes are on clear display in the simple words he penned for his beloved fraternity. In the following two sentences, Jim's loyalty to the people he loved, generous spirit, appreciation of others, and devotion to a cause bigger than himself, shine through:



"The opportunity to be a member of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi is a gift from those who came before you. Add to the gift, and pass it on to those who come after you."

We will desperately miss him.

Michael Alayon (past executive director of Sigma Pi Fraternity, International; alumnus from Epsilon-Omicron Chapter, University at Buffalo '97):

I remember meeting Jim on one of my first trips as province archon at the Cornell Sigma Pi house. Even though I joined Sigma Pi at the University at Buffalo, I had spent time at the Mu Chapter house as an undergraduate and had tremendous respect for the history of the chapter and what the alumni at Mu Chapter were able to build together. As I pulled up to the house as a volunteer for the fraternity, I remember thinking I'm probably a bit out of my element.

Jim was certainly very accomplished and had all of the credentials. I knew it

right away, the first time we met. We were able to bond out on the patio in front of the house, talking about the proud history of Mu Chapter, the current direction of the international fraternity, and where we thought the opportunities could be for Sigma Pi well into the future.

I'll never forget those conversations. Jim's depth of knowledge about everything Sigma Pi was impressive.

Later, I had the opportunity to become the executive director of Sigma Pi, and I had a much better appreciation for the role and responsibilities of the position because of my conversations over many years with Jim. I was very proud that Jim was the recipient of the Sigma Pi Founders' Award, the highest honor any brother can receive in Sigma Pi. It was well deserved. Jim's speech that night reminded me of all of our conversations over the years, and I was grateful that I could be there in person to see how proud Jim was. He earned it, every bit of it. His legacy at Mu Chapter and at Sigma Pi Fraternity, International, will live on for generations to come. That's what we should all be striving for as brothers. He did it.

Liviu Rusu '98:

It's been a numb two days on my end, as it probably is for many of you.

But among the communications I had with Ruth Ann Keene, I shared with her our unanimous vote to rename the library in her father's honor, to which she replied, "Oh you just brought me to tears. His love of Sigma Pi and of you guys was over the moon. Nothing—and I mean nothing—would make my dad more proud than to have the library named after him."

Peter Sedivy '98:

Jim was my best role model for how to live a life with integrity, compassion, and inexhaustible positive energy. When I was a 20-year-old in Sigma Pi, he became my first "grown-up" friend. I'm grateful for the time I spent with him, both at Cornell and later in life while I lived in Omaha. He will be deeply missed.

Matt Maloney '05:

When I think of Jim, two words come to mind.

PURPOSE: I have known few people who have moved through this world with as much purpose as Jim. Everywhere he went, he found purpose. Whether it was



his family, his fraternity, his career, or the performing arts, at every stage of his life, he committed himself deeper.

FRIEND: Beyond purpose, what made Jim the bedrock of our fraternity for so long was that it had simply never struck him as odd to consider an 18 year old or an 81 year old as his friend. He saw friendship as devoid of generational boundaries. The power of that

idea, that we were all brothers in a very real way, meant that the ideal of Sigma Pi was just who he was. Nothing was ever forced, and his commitment was true.

I wish we had been in touch in these last few years. I miss my friend.

Seth Mosner '10:

My sincere condolences to Jim's wife, Ruth, and the Keene family. Jim left an indelible mark on Mu Chapter. He was a champion of the house: its advocate, protector, and historian. I am grateful to have spent time with Jim throughout the years and to have called him my brother. A great man, Jim will be missed.

Jonathan Morello (past Mu Chapter house resident advisor; alumnus from Eta-Gamma Chapter, Hofstra University '11):

It is deeply saddening to learn of Jim's passing. I send my heartfelt condolences to Ruth, all of Jim's family, and everyone else mourning this loss. I'm confident when saying I don't think I will ever meet another person like Jim Keene. When the brothers of Mu Chapter call him a legend, it is not an understatement. Jim was an incredible brother,

mentor, and friend. His ability to connect with people of all ages was unmatched. He opened up a lot of doors for me personally, and I'm incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to know him. I love you Jim, and we will never forget you.

Zach Smith '13:

I had the great privilege of getting to know Jim over the past 9 years. From meeting him as a freshman at Sigma Pi, to working with him closely as sage, to connecting during his annual visits to New York City, I learned to count on him for guidance, perspective, and countless great stories. He was a man who exuded the principles he preached: respect, hard work, strong family values, and unflappable dedication to Sigma Pi Fraternity. I was very fortunate to see Jim the week before he passed; we went to the NYC Cabaret Convention, a cause he was instrumental in supporting, and we enjoyed a great dinner afterward. A number of times that night, he introduced me to his friends as his "brother." Of course, he got some quizzical looks in return before clarifying "fraternity brother." However, Jim truly held that fraternal bond dear and treated every Sigma Pi, no matter what age, like family. He will be deeply missed.

James Alvarez '16:

Jim Keene was a larger than life figure, and I am still saddened to hear of his passing. I remember very clearly the first time I met Jim in January 2013. My class had just accepted our bids. Jim would traditionally visit Ithaca during the first week after bids were extended in order to meet every new member and to share the history of the fraternity with us. Jim taught us the importance of Mu Chapter and what it took to "pass on the gift" for future generations. His dedication to our brotherhood was immediately apparent to us all.

I was fortunate to share many more fond memories with Jim throughout the years. I spoke with Jim all the time while he was our alumni president and while I was living in the house. We shared many dinners at The Antlers and conversations in the West Lounge, on the Porch, and on the Beach. What I remember most fondly about Jim were his stories. I was continually amazed by what he had done in his life



and by how much he had given to Cornell and Sigma Pi. He was one of the best storytellers I have ever met. It felt like Jim had an encyclopedic memory. He could truly command a room and deliver a punch line. When Jim talked, everyone listened. He was a true leader.

My favorite memory with Jim was during the Centennial weekend in September 2013. Jim had spent an enormous amount of time and effort planning this gathering. The celebration was an enormous success, with hundreds of brothers visiting from around the world. After the banquet dinner in the Statler, we had a fantastic after-party in the West Lounge with a performance by Jim's friend, the famous pianist, Mark Nadler. I still treasure the copy of *The Centennial Book* Jim gave to me. He compiled and published this whole book himself. Jim always reminded me that few organizations at Cornell had ever reached 100 years of existence and that it took vigilance and effort to get there. Throughout it all, Jim was a driving force in the right direction.

I will always remember Jim as a mentor and brother who showed me the importance of being a selfless leader. We will miss you, Jim.

Connor Riser '16:

When I joined Sigma Pi during the spring of 2013, it did not take long to learn who Jim was. Jim made himself readily available to all new members of our fraternity and visited us quickly after we joined. Over the course of the past five years, I have gotten to know Jim better as a brother and friend. Over dinners at The Antlers Restaurant, working as members of the Centennial Committee to plan the celebration of our chapter's 100th anniversary, and more recently as Directors of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, I was able to learn from Brother Keene what it meant to be a brother of Sigma Pi and to live out our creed. Jim was proof that brotherhood extends long beyond our time at Cornell. I will carry those memories for life.

Alex Ewald '20 (sage, on behalf of the undergraduate chapter):

On behalf of the undergraduate brotherhood, I would like to express our utmost condolences to all the friends and family who had the pleasure of knowing Jim Keene. The current undergraduates

have all been lucky enough to meet Jim during our time in the house. Speaking from my personal experience, which was echoed by many in the house, the talk Jim had with each of our new member classes as freshman and sophomores is what first solidified to each of us what it meant to be a Sigma Pi at Mu Chapter. From the moment he began to speak to my class in the spring of 2017, we could sense his genuine compassion and how important he felt it was to pass on his wisdom to the next generation of Pi men. Through all the stories he told and



advice he gave, it was clear his most important message was to be selfless. Since I've been a part of this fraternity, I've heard and repeated the phrase: "No matter how much you give to the brotherhood during

your time as a brother, you will never come close to giving to the brotherhood as much as it will give you." Jim just might have proven us wrong. He helped all of us see the bigger picture, that being a Sigma Pi is about so much more than simply upholding the reputation of those that came before us. It's about spreading the culture of Sigma Pi everywhere we go and utilizing the gift of our fraternity experience to make a difference in the lives of those around us. While it will be extremely difficult to replace the presence Jim had within the brotherhood, I am confident that the next generation of Pi men will ensure his legacy, and messages of brotherhood and commitment to others will be shared with those who did not have the honor of meeting him.

Frank Robinson (director, Cornell Johnson Museum):

Everyone at the Cornell Johnson Museum was so sorry to hear this news. Jim was a staunch friend to us and to all of Cornell, a man of great integrity and character. I will never forget my visit to Omaha, when the Keenes were both so helpful.

SELECT REMARKS SHARED ON THE OCCASION OF JIM'S HONORARY DINNER IN 2012

Christopher R. Brown (Sigma Pi grand sage, 2010–2012):

Congratulations on 20 years of service as the Mu Chapter alumni board president. Your guidance, support, and vision for Mu Chapter has provided generations of Cornell undergraduates with a better fraternal experience by assuring them of both an outstanding living space and financial support.

Alumni volunteers are the life-blood of Sigma Pi. Our chapters might survive without them, but would rarely thrive. Your expertise and dedication has laid a foundation on which our second oldest organization can continue to build, succeed, and produce a new generation of leaders for years to come.

Congratulations again, and thank you for making real the fraternity's ideals in your own daily life.

Jim Palmer '60:

I wish I could be with you for the dinner in your honor, but I am far, far away.

I suspect that most of our brothers and guests gathered tonight know you for your contributions to our fraternity and to



Jim Keene: A Sigma Pi Legend and Hero (continued)

Cornell during the past 20 years. I remember you, in contrast, as an active, undergraduate member.

I remember your dining room project and how amazed I was that a teenager could pull off something like that with such business-as-usual aplomb. Then again, fellows like you and Joel were never "children."

I remember your time as Sage and how empty the house felt when you had graduated.

I took on the job as alumni treasurer in 1995 so that I could reconnect with you and Dave Lefevre after 35 years apart. A great reward to me!

I remember riding in a car with Harry Specht to some dinner during that long ago time when I was a pledge. He talked about the fraternity experience, how it could be a lifetime event. Just like Dave Lefevre would say decades after his military service, "I am a marine," you, Jim, are Sigma Pi.

Harry would be very proud of you tonight.

Steven E. Bacon (SVP commercial banking, Tompkins Trust Company):

I first met Jim Keene in the fall of 1993. The requested renovation loan for the fraternity house at 730 University Avenue, Ithaca, was not a typical loan for Tompkins Trust Company at that time; however, I liked the leadership team of Jim Keene, **Jim Palmer '60**, and **Dave Lefevre '60**. During our very first meeting, I found the team to be extremely capable. I knew they'd see the project through to completion.

Within a few days after the loan was approved, the fraternity had a fire that pretty much destroyed the entire building, and we quickly switched to plan B: a complete construction loan. It was then that I witnessed the team's true dedication to preserving the fraternity's legacy and the leadership and business savvy of Jim Keene. What was once a cause had become a full-time job, and Jim was on top of every detail of the reconstruction. He dealt with building departments, general contractors, architects, attorneys and insurance companies; all had to be pulled together to complete the project and preserve the fraternity.

Once the building was complete and occupied with new brothers, Jim invited me along to inspect the facility. Jim and the board had high expectations of how

the property should be maintained, and I had a chance to witness, first hand, Jim's interactions with the facility's residence on the subject. It was then that I knew the collateral was in good hands! After going to several of these inspections with Jim, I know that, if he ever comes to my house, the dishes will be put away, the floors swept, the beds made, and there will be no beer bottles lying around!

In the special edition of *The Muse* in the summer of 2001, Jim Palmer stated that the relationship between Tompkins Trust Company and

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi had been good, filled with rewards and challenges. I wholeheartedly second that statement, but it's been made that much better by Jim Keene's business sense, determination, and dedication. Bankers tend to overanalyze and complicate things, but when you look at the fundamental Cs of lending, character, in my book, is still number one, and there could not have been a better example of this than Jim Keene.

Jim, it has truly been my pleasure knowing you these past 18 years. I hope you fully enjoy this honor, and I'll look forward to seeing you whenever you're in Ithaca.

Jagat Sharma (architect for 1990s Sigma Pi house remodel and reconstruction):

I am very pleased that Jim Keene III is being honored for his 20 years of leadership as president of the alumni board of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter. I regret that I am unable to be present at this well-deserved ceremony.

During the early 1990s, Sigma Pi decided to renovate and expand the existing building at 730 University Avenue. I was selected to be the architect for the project. It became evident very early in the process that Jim knew exactly what he wanted in terms of programming and details. For Jim, there was no compromise when it came to scheduling or restoring existing finishes and details. He was involved in every detail of the project and provided constructive criticism in a timely manner.

As you all know, the old building caught fire on the very first day of construction, and the entire building was destroyed. For most people, it would be a sad time to reflect and ponder what to do next. Not for Jim. He assumed a leadership role and instructed me to recreate the project from the ground up with only one condition: that the new building must be a replica of the old. Fortunately, we had a large collection of photographs of the old building and were able to do just that. Jim worked with us constantly to see that all decisions were made without delay. This was a great example of a true leader in a time of disaster.

We worked as a team on a fast track, and 257 days later, the new building was open. Jim was demanding and challenging but appreciative at the same time. He very graciously presented both me and the contractor with a plaque, acknowledging our mutual effort. What could have been a disaster turned into the beautiful building that you see today.

I send him my thanks, regards and best wishes for the future.

From the directors of the AIFC:

The board of directors of the Cornell Alumni Interfraternity Council (AIFC) recognize their esteemed fellow director Jim Keene '57 for his long-term contribution to the Cornell Greek system.

Over and above his leadership of the Cornell Sigma Pi chapter as alumni president, Jim has provided important advice and support for all Cornell fraternity and sorority alumni and undergraduates.

His participation over the past 20 years in the AIFC and his strong advocacy of the enriching opportunities provided through responsible self-governed chapter management has had a profound effect on legions of Cornell students and alumni.

Fred Harwood (Cornell '59; Delta Upsilon; past AIFC president):

Jim Keene personifies the ideals of the Greek system: character, fellowship, culture, and, most importantly, leadership, not only for Sigma Pi, but for all Cornell fraternities. During my tenure as AIFC president in the 1990s, Jim was an inspiration, source of wisdom and support, a visionary, and a valued friend.



Please Support **DINING** and **LEARNING** for the **21ST CENTURY**

CAMPAIGN AND PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- + More than \$512,000 has been raised out of the \$650,000 project goal
- + Mu Chapter's Educational Foundation has committed a \$60,000 grant toward the project
- + More than 200 alumni have already contributed
- + 100% of undergraduates have already contributed
- + Construction was completed in summer 2018
- + Building and renovation work includes upgrades to all kitchen and meal service equipment, new Adolphus "Dolly" C. Hailstork Dining Room, and new Learning Commons
- + Rooms, spaces, and equipment can still be named in honor of a class, oneself, or in memory of a brother
- + **Many alumni have made contributions in memory of brothers Jim Keene '57, Reber Carroll '75, and Ed Finnerty '82**

PROJECT TIMELINE:

- + **Ongoing:** Fundraising for project and meal service in the new kitchen and dining room began
- + **August 2018:** Construction completed
- + **September 22, 2018:** Ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for Adolphus "Dolly" C. Hailstork Dining Room and Learning Commons

REMAINING NAMING OPPORTUNITIES:

- + **Kitchen (\$100,000)**
- + **Dining and Learning Commons (\$100,000)**
- + **Grab and Go (\$75,000)**
- + **Bathroom (\$25,000)**
- + **60-inch Gas Range with Oven and Griddle (\$11,000)**
- + **Lighting (\$10,000)**
- + **Table and Chairs for Dining and Learning Commons (\$7,500)**
- + **Digital Media Equipment (\$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**



FALL PHONE-A-THON

By **Harry Drazhal '20, Alumni Secretary**

On October 23, the undergraduate brotherhood participated in its annual phone-a-thon event at the Elevate IMS office in Ithaca. At this event, the brotherhood called a number of alumni to raise funds toward the remaining \$150,000 of the fundraising goal for the Dining and Learning campaign. The 15 brothers at the event called over 300 alumni, getting the chance to speak with past sages and stewards and members from the graduating classes of 1957–2016.

The brothers who participated in the event had many insightful and inspiring conversations with alumni about their experiences in the house and post-graduation. **Patrick Angle '21**, one of the undergraduate brothers who participated in the phone-a-thon, described the event as a "great way not only to build up donations for the Dining and Learning campaign projects but also to get to know the brothers that came before us." The brotherhood hopes to plan another phone-a-thon event in the near future to continue to make these connections possible.

If you would like to make a gift or pledge toward the Dining and Learning for the 21st Century campaign, please visit the campaign page on www.sigmapicornell.org. Special thanks to **Jarrett Wait '80** and Elevate IMS for organizing the event!



Harry Drazhal '20 during the 2018 Phoneathon.

LEADERSHIP GIVING LEVELS:

Major Benefactors: \$10,000 or more

Leadership Gifts: \$1,000–\$9,999 **Supporters:** \$999 and under

Contributions can be made online using credit card through Sigma Pi's website (www.sigmapicornell.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



DONOR SNAPSHOT:

Total contributed to the Dining & Learning Campaign: \$512,856

THE TOP TEN FUNDING CLASSES:

1978: \$173,200	1981: \$35,451	1960: \$10,320
1979: \$60,861	1977: \$22,801	1983: \$7,900
1980: \$53,050	1985: \$22,700	1971: \$5,275
	1982: \$12,775	

Don't see your class represented? There are still opportunities to fund rooms and equipment! Opportunities can be funded as a group or class, and pledges can be made over three years. Show your brothers what Sigma Pi means to you. Check out our website for details: www.sigmapicornell.org/150-dininglearning.asp

Please Support **DINING** and **LEARNING** for the **21ST CENTURY**



THANKS TO STEVE PIROZZI:

By **Jarett Wait '80**

Steve Pirozzi '80 was honored at the recent ribbon-cutting and dedication for the new kitchen, dining room, and Learning Commons (@the Learning Commons) projects for his leadership, tieless contributions, and efforts over the last four years, spearheading the Kitchen and Dining Committee and project with the naming of the storage room to be called the Stephen P. Pirozzi '80 Storage Room. The brothers of Mu Chapter thank Steve for a job well done!



THANKS FROM THE UNDERGRADUATES:

Brothers of Sigma Pi, families, and supporters:

On behalf of the current brotherhood, we would like to thank all those who made the trip to the Pi house to take part in the official ribbon-cutting of the new Learning Commons. For those of you who couldn't make it, the dining facilities have been refurbished and transformed to include a new collaborative work space for the brothers. The creation of this new space, as well as the improvements made to the kitchen, grab-and-go, and other basement areas, could not have occurred without generous donations from our alumni, and we are honored that so many came to see the changes in person.

On any given weekday at Mu Chapter, brothers are found in the Learning Commons, working around the tables, using the monitors for group projects, and visiting the grab-and-go for late night snacks. The basement's use has increased significantly and will be a huge perk of living in the house for years to come.

Thank you again for helping to make all of this possible.

Fraternally,
The Undergrad Brothers of Sigma Pi

IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

The Kitchen and Dining Committee would like to thank the following alumni, friends, and organizational supporters for their help in making the kitchen and dining projects happen and for their continuing support in our efforts to complete the fundraising campaign:

K&D Committee Members

Steve Pirozzi '80, Co-chair	David G. Williamson '77
Brian Finneran '81, Co-chair	Kevin Kruse '79
Alexa Bosshardt '82, Co-chair	Greg Vojnovic '85

Alumni Contributors

Jim Keene '57	Kurt Rasmussen '80
Rob Colbert '71	Jarett Wait '80
John Morrison '75	Tom Silver '81
Jim Franz '77	Dave Knapp '83
John Haggerty '78	Dennis McNamara '83
Sandy "Meeker" True '78	Mike Vernick '83
Dave D'Orlando '79	Liviu Rusu '98
Tom Cherner '80	

Sigma Pi Undergraduates & Recently Graduated Alumni

Nicholas Wint '15	Jake Howell '18
Mike Adelstein '16	Griffin Py '18
Ben Capasso '17	Shailen Doshi '19
Fernando Cevallos '17	Harry Drahzal '20
Steven Siegel '17	Alex Ewald '20
Charles Byrnes '18	Travis Fristoe '20
Slater Goodman '18	Jonah Hutchinson '20
Yordi Goshu '18	Peter Gribizis '21

All Sigma Pi brothers who participated in the surveys and contributed their ideas to the design.

Support Companies & Contractors

T. Shaw: TJ Shaw, General Contractor
 Kingsley Quality Woodworking: John Kingsley
 B&W Supply Company: Randy Lawrence
 Link Multimedia: Paul Acosta
 Elevate Integrated Member Services
 Hinman, Howard, & Kattell LLC: Erica Lawson
 Jeanne Ruff, Dave Ruff, & Nathaniel Moore
 Patrick Spiraw & Becky Valone
 Sciarabba Walker & Co. LLP: Jacqui Durling
 Tompkins Trust Company



← Dolly Hailstork, honorary brother, former cook, and namesake of the new dining room, with Mishka.

Please Support **DINING** and **LEARNING** for the **21ST CENTURY**

Honor Roll of Contributors (as of November 16, 2018)

Total Raised as of November 16, 2018: \$512,856.00

Major Benefactors (\$10,000 and up)

Mu Chapter
Educational Foundation
H. Laurance Fuller '60
Kent Sheng '78
Rob Novo '79
Gordon Pugh '79
Neal Douglas '80
Stephen Pirozzi '80
Jarett Wait '80
Mike Rantz '81
P. Kevin Morris '85

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

VanNess Robinson '57
Bert Harrop '61
Richard Frey '63
Kevin Fountain '68
Robert Colbert '71
Steven Sanford '73
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Jesse Hammerman '83
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Lloyd Robinson '87
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Jonathan Coll '01
Craig Dewey '06
Federico Castellucci '07
Seth Mosner '10
Tracey & Angelo
Balestrieri, P('20)

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Miguel Ferrer '91
Christian Hansen '91
Jonathan D. Broder '91
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Raymond Shan '99
Matthew Pens '00
Bryan Rivard '03
Quin Garcia '05
Michael Glicken '05
Raphael Rabin-Havt '05

Jonah Allaben '06
Dia Beshara '06
Matthew Bordegaray '06
Nathaniel Bryce '06
Alex Deyle '06
Alan Chan '06
Christopher Hayes '06
Joshua Katcher '06
John Zimmer '06
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Timothy Horsburgh '08
Stephen Yanchuk '08
Tucker Whitcomb '10
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Sean Fuoco '12
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Alexander Wood-Thomas '18

Hakim Ali '19
Dexter Amadasun '19
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Landon Budenholzer '19
Jonathan Caen '19
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Jack Daly '19
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James Goodman '19
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Forest Colerick '20
Maxwell Cook '20
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Harrison Drazhal '20
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Evan Fischhoff '20
Travis Fristoe '20
Logan Goddard '20
Amy & Howard Goldman,
P('14, '18, '20)
Lucas Goldman '20
Richard Greenbaum '20
Adomas Hassan '20
Eric Hu '20
Cole Hunter '20
Jonah Hutchinson '20
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Alexander Tucker '21
Francisco Wagner '21

Sandy True '78 Award for Exceptional Volunteerism

By Landon Budenholzer '19

The Educational Foundation is excited and proud to announce that Family & Children's Service of Ithaca (F&CS) recently renamed its outstanding volunteer award after **Sandy True '78**, presenting the Sandy True Award for Exceptional Volunteerism at its annual meeting on May 17. Sandy is a Cornell alumna, Sigma Pi sweetheart, and current member of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation's board of directors.

Sandy has long been involved in leadership roles with F&CS, having served two terms on its board, chairing 1997-'99, and providing leadership for multiple promotional and fundraising campaigns. "This was especially important when demand for mental health services at F&CS exceeded the capacity of our old house. Sandy heard this loudly, and she co-chaired the Opening New Doors capital campaign. The campaign was a huge success and helped F&CS purchase the beautiful building that we call home today," a representative of the F&CS said. Sandy also chaired the Cayuga at Twilight Committee, which was the 2018

recipient of the Sandy True Award. This committee and event have raised hundreds



John Haggerty '78 and Sandy True '78, the new namesake of the Family & Children's Service of Ithaca outstanding volunteer award.

of thousands of dollars, all in support of children's mental health services.

The newly named award is "presented when there is a volunteer or committee of volunteers who, through exceptional volunteerism, have demonstrated devotion and commitment to advancing the mission of F&CS."

Sandy has spent more than 25 years as a volunteer for non-profit agencies in Ithaca in the areas of fundraising, event planning, major gift program development, and capital campaigns, including the last three years assisting Sigma Pi alumni in bringing the College Mentors for Kids program to Cornell University and serving as the liaison between the Ithaca City School District, Caroline Elementary School, Cayuga Heights Elementary School, College Mentors for Kids National, and Sigma Pi. In 2015, the Cornell Fraternity and Sorority Awards selected Sandy True as the recipient for the Distinguished Alumni Service Award for her work with the College Mentors for Kids program.

To learn more about Family & Children's Service of Ithaca, please visit www.fcsith.org. To learn more about Sigma Pi's work with College Mentors for Kids, please visit musigmapifoundation.com/foundation-initiatives/college-mentors.

Family & Children's
SERVICE OF ITHACA

Mu Chapter Earns Highest GPA

Mu Chapter was presented with the Most Outstanding Academic Achievement Award for the second year in a row during Sigma Pi's 54th biennial Convocation this summer. The award is given to the Sigma Pi chapter with the highest GPA among the more than 110 Sigma Pi chapters internationally. The chapter finished the spring semester with a 3.43 GPA, one of the highest among all fraternities at Cornell and has now earned one of the two highest GPAs among Cornell fraternities for two consecutive years.



With the Academic Achievement Award (L-R): Steve Pirozzi '80, Jim Keene '57, and Jarett Wait '80.



With the Academic Achievement Award (L-R) Sage Alex Ewald '20 and Connor Riser '16.

Over 75 Alumni at Reunion

By Slater Goodman '18, House Resident Advisor

The 2018 Cornell Reunion was an unequivocal success for Sigma Pi. Over 75 alumni from the reunion classes of 1958 through 2013 came back for a weekend of reminiscing and new memory making, including 10 Mu Chapter alumni from the class of 1963 (along with seven spouses)!

The Pi house was the focal point of Reunion Weekend activities. Highlights from the weekend included dinner on the front porch, sunsets on the Beach, watching the NBA finals in the West Lounge, and a comprehensive rundown of the now-completed, state-of-the-art kitchen facility, Hailstork Dining Room, and Learning Commons. We were also able to provide 29 brothers and their families with accommodations, which greatly added to everyone's experience.

For the undergraduate brothers still in Ithaca, this was an excellent opportunity to witness the enduring spirit of Sigma Pi. It was inspiring to see just how strong the bond among Pi men is across the generations.



On the porch during Reunion weekend (L-R): Steve Novak '83, Steve Kern '83, Bob Wirth '83 and Carlos Santiago '83.

Mu Chapter Educational Foundation Speaker Series

CHAPTER HOSTS MICHAEL AYALON, FORMER SIGMA PI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Landon Budenholzer '19



Michael Alayon.

The brotherhood of Sigma Pi had the pleasure to host Michael Alayon, CEO of Greek University and professional speaker, in the Learning Commons for a constructive discussion on hazing, alcohol abuse, sexual harassment, and a variety of other topics. The Learning Commons was utilized to seat the brotherhood, and the TVs were used by Mr. Alayon to display his PowerPoint presentations. During the four-hour discussion, brothers actively engaged in discussions on many subjects. Mr. Alayon offered us tremendous advice on recruitment, risk management, and chapter goals.

Furthermore, we spent much of the time discussing how to increase sexual-harassment awareness, to recognize and address alcohol abuse, and to learn from the hazing problems across America.

The brotherhood is very thankful for Mr. Alayon's time, for the new facilities provided by the alumni, and for the Educational Foundation's provision to help us host Mr. Alayon. The Learning Commons was an essential component of this successful event. We look forward to hosting more speaker events in the Learning Commons in the future.

Michael Alayon is a professional speaker, entrepreneur, and author. He has headlined over 350 presentations across 150 college campuses to bring light on pressing problems, such as sexual-assault

prevention, hazing prevention and campus safety, alcohol/drug-abuse prevention, and motivation in student organizations. He is the former executive director of Sigma Pi Fraternity. Mr. Alayon is a graduate of the School of Management at the University at Buffalo and has a master's degree from Cumberland University in public service management.



Michael Alayon speaks to undergrad brothers.

CHAPTER HOSTS DR. KURT RASMUSSEN '80

By Sam Barnum '19



Kurt Rasmussen '80

On October 14, the brothers of Mu Chapter were visited by Dr. **Kurt Rasmussen '80** PhD for a talk discussing "The Science Behind the Dangers of Addiction." Dr. Rasmussen is a director in the Division of Therapeutics and Medical Consequences at the National Institute of Drug Addiction (NIDA), and he shared his knowledge on a wide range of addiction topics during his talk. Whether it was the role of endorphins in neuroscience or the cultural implications of vaping, Dr. Rasmussen shared the data and experience to expand each brother's understanding of the field. It was a humbling experience to have such an accomplished Pi man give his time to the house, and the brothers took full advantage of this opportunity to ask him questions afterward. Dr. Rasmussen not only educated the brothers about the reality of addiction within the United States, he explained how to identify addiction in our friends and pointed us in the direction of resources, should we ever need help.

On behalf of the brotherhood, we would like to thank Dr. Rasmussen for giving us his time and for speaking about a topic so relevant to young men, and we would like to thank the Education Foundation for helping the chapter to host Dr. Rasmussen.

Dr. Rasmussen is an internationally recognized neuroscientist who specializes in basic addiction research and drug development. Dr. Rasmussen has extensive knowledge of neuropsychiatric and neurological therapeutics and is known for his expertise in pharmaceutical-discovery research, from hypothesis generation to clinical candidate evaluation. As director of the Division of Therapeutics and Medical Consequences, Dr. Rasmussen directs NIDA's Medications Development Program, evaluating the safety and efficacy of pharmacotherapies, behavioral therapies, and devices to treat substance use disorders through peer reviewed grants, contracts, and interagency agreements. Prior to joining NIDA, Dr. Rasmussen served as a senior research advisor, leading drug discovery research programs at Eli Lilly & Co.



Presentation by Kurt Rasmussen '80.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Reunion Weekend

June 6-9, 2019

All Mu Chapter alumni are encouraged to attend! There will be special events for alumni from classes ending in 9 and 4. Stay tuned to the Mu Chapter website, sigmapicornell.org, and to your email and mailboxes for more information, including registration options and event schedules, as the dates draw nearer.

Want to know more?

Need lodging options in the chapter house during Reunion Weekend?

Want to suggest Sigma Pi alumni to be "class agents" to help organize class events and attendance?

Contact Kurt Rasmussen '80, Alumni Relations Chairman, at rasmussen.kurt@comcast.net.

Please also visit the **Cornell University website** to view its schedule of Reunion 2019 events, information on lodging, and additional contact and social media information. You can also view more information about special events and programs that are in the works for Cornell classes ending in 9 and 4.

14th Annual Sigma Pi NYC Career Event

By Landon Budenholzer '19

The brothers of Mu Chapter are proud to report on the success of the 14th annual Sigma Pi Career Event weekend. This year's event saw the largest group of Mu Chapter alumni and undergraduate participants in the history of the event!



The weekend kicked off with a welcome dinner at Orsay Restaurant, with more than 60 undergraduate and alumni brothers. After a successful speaker last year, we continued the tradition this year, hosting Jeff Hanson, a graduate of the Johnson Graduate School of Management ('83). Jeff spoke about the value of creating and developing a personal brand and how to use that as a platform for future success. After a tremendous night of networking, storytelling, and introductions, the undergraduate brothers spent Friday visiting the firms of our generous alumni. Some of this year's visits included Lazard, First New

York Securities, CoVenture, and Riskified.

Throughout the weekend, the undergraduate brothers were fortunate to learn more about various industries, form meaningful connections, and garner meaningful professional advice. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of **Andrew Ross Sorokin '99**, 11 undergraduate brothers were able to attend the 2018 DealBook Conference. The conference offered unique insight into the success of featured speakers, such as Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Snapchat Founder Evan Spiegel, Goldman Sachs Senior Chairman Lloyd Blankfein, and many more. We would like to thank the alumni for their unparalleled generosity and commitment to the professional development of the undergraduate brothers, and we look forward to the continued success of Sigma Pi career weekends.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in all or part of the event!



Special thanks to the following alumni for sponsoring undergraduate brothers for dinner on November 1:

John Rumble '64	Steve Pirozzi '80	Frank Sposato '84	David Zackowitz '01
Kent Sheng '78	Jarett Wait '80	Steve Decker '85	Nathan Bryce '06
Rob Novo '79	Brian Finneran '81	David Hogan '86	Giorgio Piccoli '07
Tom Cherner '80	Tom Silver '81	Tim Donohue '87	Brody Ehrlich '10
Aron Minken '80	Michael Vernick '83	Marc Rothenberg '87	Felix Tabary '14
Donald Motschwiller '80	David Colville '84	Miguel Ferrer '91	Bennet Heidenreich '15

Special thanks to the following alumni and supporters for hosting undergraduate brothers at their places of business on November 2:

John Rumble '64	Frank Sposato '84	Jason Halio '93
Donald Motschwiller '80	Marc Rothenberg '87	Felix Tabary '14
Howie Gordon '81	Alan Riffkin '88	Brian Harwit

Recognizing Mu Chapter Veterans and Servicemen

The Mu Chapter alumni board recently launched a page on the Mu Chapter website to honor our brothers who have served in the United States Military: www.sigmapicornell.org/150-veterans.asp.

With this dedicated page, we would like to list and thank our brothers who have served. This will also help the undergrads who are ROTC candidates or who are contemplating serving in the military to connect with our alumni veterans for mentoring and counseling. If you know of anyone who is missing from the list, please email alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org with the brother's name and any other information you can share.

Sigma Pi Fraternity, International, established the Sigma Pi Veterans Committee in 2014. Sigma Pi Fraternity, International, recently honored alumni veterans of Sigma Pi, in particular, those who made the ultimate sacrifice, with the establishment of a veterans memorial at the Sigma Pi executive office, The Mitchell House, located in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Cornell University has a long and proud history of military service by undergraduates and alumni. Cornell announced a renewed effort to memorialize those Cornellians lost in military service to our nation by updating the War Memorial, located in Anabel Taylor Hall. Cornell is trying to make sure appropriate recognition is given to fallen service members from 2001 through the present.

If you are a current member of the military or a veteran, we also invite you to visit military.cornell.edu. The site has helpful links to programs and services especially designed for veterans.

Thanks to our Mu Chapter veterans and servicemen (see Mu Chapter's website for a complete list; *URL above*.)

Congratulations to Joe Dervay '80

After 34 years of active and reserve service to the Navy and Marine Corps, it was time in June for Brother **Joe "Dash Derv" Dervay '80** to formally retire! (Though he will be staying on at NASA.) If you have not witnessed the time-honored traditions of a Navy retirement, it is special indeed. (It was also a good excuse for friends and family to see the Johnson Space Center.)

Joe was joined by family, US Navy,

USMC, and NASA colleagues, and a number of friends at the new Lone Star Aviation Museum near Ellington Field (South Houston). Because June 16 was also Joe's 60th birthday, the ceremony and reception were followed by a dinner and bash that night at a local country club. Mu Chapter brothers **Jay Sacco '80**, **Luc Chabot '80**, and **Tom "Tuna" Owens '83** were among those present to honor Joe at the event.



Joe Dervay '80 during his 2005 service with the Marine Corps in Iraq.

Work Continues on Pi House alongside K&D Projects

By **Liviu Rusu '98, Facilities Chair**

The Facilities Committee planned for a big summer at the house, but we were met with several challenges. The annual house inspection unveiled a few surprises:

- the roof was leaking and severely deteriorated on the southern facade
- the beach decking had warped so significantly it posed a trip hazard, despite being replaced four years ago
- all staircase carpets had become noxious beyond steaming
- both shower valves on the third floor developed internal leaks that made their way to the basement
- lighting and ventilation in the first- and third-floor bathrooms required updating.

Our original plan of renovating the third-floor bathroom was delayed. Those funds became stop-gap for the surprises we were seeing with the kitchen and dining projects: a new grease trap, electrical service, and insulation. As **John Haggerty '78**, our treasurer, so eloquently put it to me amid my concern about affording a new decking on the Beach: "I can't pay current bills with future donations!"

We worked throughout the summer to address each item. The leaking shower valves were replaced with updated ones and retiled. New carpet was installed on the two long staircases, while, on the short staircase leading from the dining room to the west lounge, we installed a cement coating in tan to hold up to the heavy foot traffic. New LED lighting was installed in the first- and third-floor bathrooms, and the existing ventilators will be replaced with new brushless sensor units. The Beach decking has been addressed on a piece-by-piece basis, and the roof has been patched only in the sections with active leaks.

These two issues now constitute our biggest upcoming projects. The undergraduate brothers have agreed to put forth the labor required to re-deck the beach, and the Facilities Committee is awaiting funds to proceed with composite decking, which should extend the service life of this project—we hope eight to 10 years. As in the last Beach redecking, I will be present during the project and will take the opportunity for a teaching moment, as well as brotherhood building.

The roof is proving to be more challenging. The first bid we received to repair the

urgent leaks was for \$10,000. This came out to \$200 per square foot for just the roofing, which is disconcerting when I have worked on building projects in Tribeca for \$108 per square foot from the ground up.

We are soliciting bids to reroof the entire sloped portion of the roof. I specify sloped because the flat portions on the front deck, the Beach, and the main roof are doing well at this point. We considered "going solar" and have conducted a solar audit. Given the current and forecasted electricity rates, the payback period would exceed the service life of the system. This puts us in the market for a conventional shingle roof, and we are hoping that work can proceed during the spring semester so we don't have to seek bid pricing in the tight summer construction season.

We have spent much and done much at the Pi house recently on worthy and forward-looking projects. We now have two urgent projects to address. As a capable committee, we will deliver value at the best price, but we must heed John Haggerty: "I can't pay current bills with future donations!" And so, I ask, as your facilities chair, please donate now.

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity Inc. Annual Meeting

By **Jarett Wait '80, Alumni Board President**

The annual meeting of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States was held on Thursday, September 27. 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 148 proxies, representing 13% 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.

Dick Frey '63 stepped down from the alumni board. We wish to thank Dick for his generous support and contributions to Mu Chapter. **Steve Pirozzi '80** was elected to the alumni board to fill the vacancy. We are also happy to announce that **Alexa Bosshardt '83** will be joining **Brian Finneran '81** as co-chair of the Kitchen and Dining Committee. Alexa brings a wealth of experience as a culinary professional and a registered/licensed dietitian, with expertise in nutrition, nutritional labeling, and nutritional marketing.

SAGE'S REPORT: The Future Looks Bright

By **Alex Ewald '20, Sage**

It was an eventful start to the 2018–2019 school year for the undergraduate Pi men. 730 University Avenue is completely packed, with 43 undergraduates residing at the Pi house this year, the most ever at Mu Chapter. A busy orientation week kicked off the year as socials **Alex Tucker '21** and **Cameron Peterson '20** christened the new Pi annex on Cook Street with a full slate of social events. They followed that up with another successful rendition of the annual Parking Lot Party, which brought together over 750 students on campus over labor day weekend.

The renovated kitchen and dining facilities were the talk of the brotherhood all summer, and everyone was extremely impressed by the results. The

dining hall is now always filled with brothers studying in the Learning Commons, watching football and enjoying the commodities of the new grab-and-go station. All the renovations were completed in time for the ribbon cutting ceremony on September 22, which was held to honor **Stephen Pirozzi '80** for his efforts in coordinating the construction throughout the summer, as well as to give a sincere thank you to the alumni for their continued support of the brotherhood.

The rush success from prior semesters continued with the completion of a fall rush campaign, led by chairmen **Max Cook '20**, **Jake Newschaffer '20**, and **Omar Nesheiwait '20**. The effort resulted in the addition of six sterling Pi men, led by pledge-class president **Jet**

(continued on next page)

The Future Looks Bright

(continued from previous page)

Hardie '21 from Zimbabwe. Herald **Justin LaClair '19** guided these young men through the new-member education process, teaching them about the history of Sigma Pi and developing their relationships with the brotherhood. The new members were initiated on October 14 and have already prove to be exemplary additions to the house

While thriving academically and within Sigma Pi, the brotherhood has sustained its mark across campus as well. **Peter Gribizis '21** was elected president of Student Agencies Inc. (SAI), filling the shoes of **Lucas Goldman '20**, who, along with **Forest Colerick '20**, **Harrison Drahzal '20**, **Jonah Hutchinson '20**, and **Nico Capalongo**

'20, has represented Sigma Pi at SAI. The brotherhood has continued its involvement in College Mentors for Kids, with a strong presence across project teams, business fraternities, and club sports as well.

I am also pleased to report that the 14th Annual NYC Career Event, held November 1–2, was a huge success. A strong contingency of alumni and undergraduates participated in the weekend's events, and we are incredibly grateful for the support and guidance offered to us during the weekend. We have many undergraduate brothers looking forward to next year's event!

It has been a strong year for the undergrads at 730 University Avenue, and the future continues to look bright here at Mu Chapter.



Student Agencies' Leaders

Mu Chapter has had a long history of service to the Cornell community during our 105 years. One organization that has had a large number of brothers from Sigma Pi in leadership positions is Student Agencies Inc. (SAI).

SAI was founded in 1894 and is the nation's oldest independent student-run corporation. Serving the greater Tompkins County community, SAI provides diverse services, ranging from summer storage to campus marketing. SAI's mission is to provide Cornell undergraduates with the extraordinary opportunity to gain practical experience starting and running businesses, to earn a substantial portion of the cost of

a Cornell education, and to provide valuable products and services to the Cornell and greater Tompkins County community.

We are in the process of making our records of Mu Chapter alumni who have been a part of Student Agencies more complete. **If your name is missing from the list below, or if you know of other Mu Chapter alumni whose names are missing, please send names and any other information you can share to alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org.**

Mu Chapter brothers who have served in or are serving in executive or operational positions with SAI:

David Gelinis '07	Seth Mosner '10	Turkel Anwar '15	Jack Daly '19
Nicholas Jette '07	Tucker Whitcomb '10	Alvaro Galan '15	Alex Santoriello '19
Gabriel Long '09	Andrew Chatham '12	Jacob Laufer '15	Forest Colerick '20
Robert Olivieri '09	Tyler Ramsden '12	Brandon Choi '16	Harry Drahzal '20
Nathaniel Weiss '09	Adam Cherubini '13	Andrew Wald '16	Lucas Goldman '20
Jeffery Bowser '10	Matthew Davis '13	Isaiah Duck '18	Jonah Hutchinson '20
Peter Cherubini '10	Ryan Haid '13	Zachary Goldman '18	Peter Gribizis '21
Hugo Genes '10	Alex Rawitz '13	Jack D'Agostino '19	

STEWARDS' REPORT: Spectacular New Facilities

By **Jonah Hutchinson '20**, Steward

The new kitchen and dining facilities have been nothing short of spectacular for the brotherhood of Sigma Pi. I had the opportunity to stay in Ithaca this past summer and saw the project unfold. Being able to work with **Steve Pirozzi '80** to put together a multi-use area that caters to what the brotherhood looks for in their daily lives has been very rewarding, and the final result looks great.

One of the largest additions was a grab-and-go area, complete with induction heat burners, two sinks, and refrigerators. Previously, this area was used as a bar. In the past, brothers were able to drink, eat, and work around the bar. As the house developed, this area became less commonly used. With these new developments, I can walk downstairs at any point throughout the day, and people are cooking, eating, or doing homework.

My responsibilities as a steward have changed with these new developments. Due to all of our brothers' busy schedules, the grab-and-go area serves as a perfect place to grab a bite to eat on the run. Coming up with new, innovative ways to use the grab-and-go has been challenging but highly rewarding. I love seeing the brothers of this house come together to utilize such a dynamic, multiuse space.

DO YOU HAVE A CORNELL LEGACY?

Jackson Cherner '19: A&S, son of **Tom Cherner '80**

Jack Kantor '19: ILR, son of **Andy Kantor '79**

Jack Burger '20: CALS, son of **John D. Burger '84**

Bryan Fuchs '21: Eng, son of **Rob Fuchs '80**

Uno Wait '21: Hotel, son of **Jarett Wait '80**

Arthur Decker '22: Hotel, son of **Steven Decker '85**

Elijah Gordon '22: HumEc, son of **Howie Gordon '81**

Peter Mao '21: A&S, grandson of **K.T. Mao '63**

Carolyn Rantz '22, daughter of **Mike Rantz '81**

Please let us know of any Mu Chapter legacies that we might have missed: alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org.

Six New Members

By Max Cook '20, Omar Nesheiwat '20,
& Jake Newschaffer '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 (lunches, Monday Night Football, and hangouts on the Beach), the men of Sigma Pi met a number of quality prospective brothers. Early on in the process, we had a feeling this year would be different. Fall rush can be a difficult time. A restricted rush pool, combined with a reduced timeline and increased outside brotherhood commitments, makes it hard to form the bonds that are necessary for an informed and complete bid process. As we know, this house has only taken one fall class in its history. But those eight men, now in their senior year, have become extremely strong and influential presences. So, with the right combination of prospective members and a collective push by the entire brotherhood, great things can happen.

It is, therefore, with tremendous excitement that we announce our newest class of Pi men: pledge class '18.5. Our six newest brothers represent a vast array of interests and experiences, from a varsity athlete to a native South African to engineers and "hotelies," these men undeniably make us a more diverse and complete brotherhood. Remember, we did not *need* a fall pledge class, but what we did need is these six men with our letters on their chests.

From here, our rush efforts continue, and we look forward to expanding the brotherhood further come spring.

Meet the Fall 2018 Pledge Class

By Jet Hardie '21, 2018 Fall Pledge
Class President

The Sigma Pi 2018 fall pledge class consists of six new, distinct brothers. Half of our pledge class members originate from the East Coast states of New York and Massachusetts, while the other half come from further afield: California, Colorado, and South Africa. The new brothers come from strikingly different hometowns, and each new brother is driven by different interests. This is most poignantly demonstrated by each new brother majoring in a distinct field. The majors include material sciences, AEM, environmental sustainability sciences, economics, hotel administration, and philosophy.

This pledge class is distinct, because it is the smallest pledge class accepted into the brotherhood in recent times and because two thirds of the group is made up of transfer students. By virtue of being a small pledge class, we have been afforded the opportunity to spend most of our time together during the past few months and, in doing so, have been able to forge incredible friendships. We six individuals, united by common respect and affection for Mu Chapter and Sigma Pi, while inspired by our differences, have become close brothers. These are people I trust and hold in the highest regard, people I know I will always be able to rely on.

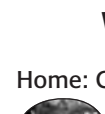
Although some of the members of this pledge class are new to Cornell's campus, we are incredibly involved as a pledge class. Members of this pledge class are involved in project teams on campus, have founded their own businesses, and are varsity athletes. Each new member is

determined and focused on improving the environment around him. I believe it is the combination of the aforementioned and the following factors that make all six of us feel at home within the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi. We have determination to excel in college and as alumni. We have the want to be innovative and caring for the communities of which we are members. We are keenly aware of our differences, yet we are united in our common interests and determined to add to this brotherhood. We are the Sigma Pi 2018 fall pledge class.



Jet Hardie '21

Majors: economics & philosophy
Home: Cape Town, South Africa
Transfer from Northeastern U



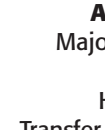
William Hrabchak '21

Major: economics
Home: Concord, Massachusetts



Peter McGurk '21

Major: material science
Home: Sudbury, Massachusetts



Adi Ramachandran '21

Major: applied economics & management
Home: Tustin, California
Transfer from UC, Santa Barbara



Sackett Terry '21

Major: information science
Home: Denver, Colorado
Transfer from Hamilton College



Jacob Wigdor '21

Major: hotel
Home: Manhattan, New York
Transfer from Washington U



Go Slack and Keep in Touch

By Michael Vernick '83

The alumni board and volunteers have recently been discussing an efficient and centralized way for alumni and undergrads to communicate about events, careers, industry news, house activities, Name That Pi-Man, etc. via Slack, an easy-to-use desktop and mobile application. Slack will enhance the interaction, collaboration, and sharing of knowledge between undergraduates and alumni. Think of Slack as text messaging on steroids.

Slack is currently being used by the Procrasticup participants, and it has been an excellent communication mechanism for

the event. We expect this success and usability will translate well to other Sigma Pi projects and endeavors, especially as we aim to bolster career, internship, and networking opportunities. According to Slack's literature, the app is: "a collaboration hub that connects your organization—all the pieces and the people—so you can get things done. It brings the right people and information together in one place, to communicate efficiently and to stay connected." Please check the demo of Slack at slackdemo.com. Although Slack was designed for work environments, it is also suitable for social organizations like ours. For those who prefer to

communicate by email, we are also planning to setup a way for people to use emails to communicate through the Slack system without having to use the Slack App.

As we move forward with the implementation of the app, each Mu Chapter alumnus and undergraduate will be invited through email to sign up for a Slack account and to join the Mu Chapter workspace. The email will contain information on how to use Slack and links to complete the registration process. If you have any questions or ideas about how Slack can be used most efficiently within our fraternity, please feel free to reach out to me at michael@procrasticup.com.

Near Record Attendance at Procrasticup

By Joe Ruocco '81

Nineteen Pi men travelled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in October for the 2018 Procrasticup. The attendance level makes this year's event one of the top two in participation in the 35-year history of the P-cup.

The extended weekend included: five-star lodging at the newly renovated Caravelle Resort, multiple rounds of golf, including the very first P-cup scramble, refreshments courtesy of **Dennis Ehrenberger '83**, great dinners, including our annual trek to Cali Baker's Wing House, several Yankees-vs.-Red Sox games on the TV in the P-cup social room, boat loads of laughs, and many, many old Pi-house stories that get better every year.

Mark your calendar for the 2019 Procrasticup, which is scheduled for Columbus

Day weekend (October 9–13, 2019) at our home base of Myrtle Beach. Also, in 2020, the Procrasticup will be traveling to Ireland. More to follow, but if you are interested in learning more about the 2019 or 2020

P-cup, contact any member of the executive committee, including brothers Vernick, Hawes, McNamara, or Ruocco. Whether or not you play golf, Sigma Pi alumni are always welcome to join us.



Front row: Joe Ruocco '81, Tom Cherner '82, Dave Colville '84, Dave Knapp '83, Mike Vernick '83, Brian Finneran '81, Jay Sacco '80, John Burger '84, John Altmeyer '81; back row: Tim Hawes '82, Tom Silver '81, John Stewart '83, George Rocklein '87, Dennis McNamara '83, Nick Vojnovic '81, Jimmy Garr '82, Mike Feiertag '83, Eugene McKenna '83, Jon Pettee '81.

Remembering Brother Mark Hausknecht '75

By John Morrison '75

You might have heard this past July about the shooting death of a cardiologist, Dr. Mark Hausknecht, in Houston, Texas, who had treated President Bush. You might not be aware that he was one of our brothers, Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi, class of 1975.

I remember Mark as a smart, happy guy, with just a little bit of the wild side. My fondest memories are of a road trip

he, **Dick Priester '75**, **Steve Lozier '75**, and I took during winter break of our senior year. We spent a couple of weeks driving across the country and spent a few nights at Sigma Pi houses along the way, including in Salt Lake City and Los Angeles.

Mark was a renowned cardiologist—you've got to be pretty good to be treating presidents. He was also a pilot, chef, DIY repairman, beekeeper, urban gardener, cyclist, and lover of music and the arts. When his two sons were in the Boy Scouts, he was their scoutmaster.

That's what he did, but how did he do it? President Bush made a statement about being grateful for Mark's exceptional, compassionate care. You'd expect presidents to get such care. However, in the statements posted on the online obituary site, there were hundreds of similar comments by regular patients. He treated the regular guy with

the same kindness as he had the president.

Mark was last back here at the house for the centennial celebration. Many of us hadn't seen him in years and did a lot of catching up. When I first saw a national news flash about the shooting of a doctor Hausknecht who had treated President Bush, I was not sure if it was Mark. You see, he made no

mention of that during our conversations at the centennial. It would have been very easy for him to have patted himself on the back by slipping into the conversation how he had treated the president. But he was also just a humble guy.

More than 30 brothers from the '70s and **Jim Keene '67** donated over \$6,500 collectively to the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation to honor Mark's memory with a plaque, which was dedicated at the house on September 22. It will be hung in the James H. Keene III Memorial Library.

The following is a consolidation of emailed comments, compiled by **Ted Chen '74** and posted on the obituary website: *I am writing on behalf of many brothers of the Sigma Pi fraternity at Cornell University. Mark attended Cornell from 1971 through 1975. Many memories of Mark have been shared among his fraternity friends over the past week. I would like to share a few of them, since they capture the college-aged man that we got to know*

and love. In these memories, which have been edited, "The Ponderosa" refers to the house on Lake Cayuga, near the Cornell campus, where a number of the fraternity brothers lived, including Mark, or "Knecht," as a number of his friends called him.

Casey Forbes '74:

Knecht had an uncanny ability to gracefully and confidently get himself into and out of trouble. He loved driving the Cass Park "Expressway" in his little Vega. This was the walking path in Cass Park on the way to the Ponderosa, complete with wooden bridges up and over the small streams. His car just barely fit between the hand rails of the bridges. **Dick Priester '75** and I picked him up at LAX to attend Bert's wedding. Knecht was a part of the wedding party and due at the rehearsal and the rehearsal dinner. He was deep into medical school at this time and had just flown in from Houston. 'I'm taking a break, no one is telling me what to do.' So, a trip to Venice Beach, some food, a few beers, then watch a long UCLA-based parade. We got separated somehow; Dick and I lost him. We searched through the crowd; we climbed on top of a bus shelter to look for him and hoped he would spot us. He found us all right. He had climbed onto one of the last floats, which was sponsored by the UCLA alumni. He was entertaining the crowd and waving to everyone: a fun-loving, brilliant man, a life well lived. I cherish my memories and my time with him.

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Steven Sanford '73:

I sat down this morning to catch up on my emails and was shocked to hear such sad news. I'm trying to shake it off and remember Knecht. He was a caring person whom I was fortunate to have as a brother, a friend, and a housemate at the Ponderosa. I'm so glad that we all got to see him again at the centennial celebration. I remember Knecht thinking he could eat three dozen glazed donuts in one sitting. I think he just saw the movie Cool Hand Luke, where Paul Newman tried to eat three dozen eggs. Many more memories will come back as I think about him. We all lost a great person.

Sandy Kraker '74:

After sitting down and shedding tears over the loss of our brother and fellow housemate at the Ponderosa, I, as I know many of you are, am numb. Knecht's intellect, wit, and friendship was so special to all of us in that mid-'70s group. Where does one begin to describe such a comrade that carried himself with eternal 'still water runs deep' demeanor and class? He could recite chapter and verse of Firesign Theater, play cards until dawn with 'pecker,' the delusional caged bird, close by and then proceed to ace all of his pre-med Big Red courses. Correct me if I'm wrong, Ponderosans, but he had the third-floor attic room on the lake and was one of the more active participants in water ballooning passing tour boats... I'm just saying—the same first-class derelict who treated G.H.W. Bush... God's speed, Dr. Knecht. It was a privilege to know you, be your friend, housemate, and brother.

Peter Phillips '75:

I was so sorry to hear this news. I had the privilege of being Mark's roommate our sophomore year in the house. He was incredibly bright and hard-working and had an incredible sense of humor. I remember when he was a math major, before he decided to

switch to pre-med. There was never a doubt in my mind that he would make it all the way and be successful. What a great loss.

Jeff Craver '75:

I'm stunned and saddened by the tragic loss of our friend and brother. As a pre-med, I recall taking classes like organic chemistry with him. He aced it—that was Mark. My deepest condolences to his family.

Pete Cady '77:

Knecht was a compassionate derelict-scholar who was always happy to see me, to impart humorous wisdom, and just to be his loveable self as I struggled to find myself at Cornell. I am sad at his untimely death and upset at gun violence in our country.

Mike Quaid '75:

I guess I'm in good company with George H.W. Bush; Mark Hausknecht saved my life once also. One spring day back in '75, after getting properly 'prepared,' Mark and I took off from the Ponderosa in my Sunfish. The wind was probably blowing 20 knots. Even though the weather was nice, the water was still about 35 degrees. We tipped the boat over on a tack and probably flipped it three more times before Mark was able to climb on and stay on. I had on a heavy sweatshirt and by then was so waterlogged and enervated that I couldn't pull myself up onto the boat. Somehow, Mark had enough energy to pull me back on, and we reached back over to the west shore, ending up half a mile or so south of the 'Rosa. We begged some kind lady to let us in and use the phone, and **Sandy Kraker '74** came and took us back to the 'Rosa. Thank you Mark; we will miss you.

Willy Dougherty '75:

I am so sorry to hear about Mark: such a tremendous person, with so much to offer, and has given so much, and such a senseless act. Mark, our prayers are with your

family. I am proud to have known you. I just talked to Knecht a couple months ago when we drove through Houston on the way to see my son. It was great to reconnect. I also was a part of many a Cass Park "Express" adventure in the Vega, with the additional adventure of an icy night coming in from the 'Rosa and fishtailing on 89—might have been the last Vega adventure.

John Stetson '75:

"So many great memories, albeit a few a little fuzzy as well. Although not ever a resident of the 'Rosa, I did appreciate the many rides back and forth to the house. One of those was with Mark and included a shortcut on the Cass Park "Express" in a little car. Great ride! Great wit and dry humor. I will always look up to Mark. So sad, indeed, and an absolutely senseless loss. He made us all proud to know him. He will be missed.

Mu Alumni News & Notes

Having retired 20 years ago, **Paul Reszel '51** is now living in Fort Wayne. He has five children and 10 grandchildren. Drop him a line at pavewek1@frontier.com or at 1618 Autumn Run, Fort Wayne, IN 46845.

"Just turned 85," reports **Winthrop "Buck" Cody '56**, "and continue in good health." He and Marilyn celebrated their 60th anniversary in October and continue to spend winters in Florida and summers in Connecticut. "It's been over 20 years since I retired from KT-Swasey Corporation as president. How time flies. Although I found my working career enjoyable and rewarding, the retirement life has been the best: travel, golf, and all the rest." Buck adds that he is very impressed with what Sigma Pi is doing. "Keep up the good work." (buckcody@orlandotelco.net; 7024 Pelican Bay Blvd., Apt. 203, Naples, FL 34108)

John Sherwood '66 submitted the following recap of his life's work to date: "I had a successful real-estate investment and subdivision business in Cobleskill, New York. I moved to Columbus, Montana, about 35 years ago. I have started several businesses there, including real-estate investment and subdivision, cattle ranching, storage units, general contracting (building over 50 homes), bulk water supply, Montana guide and outfitter, and licensed pheasant

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Left to right: Rob Ferry '74, Mark Hausknecht '75, Bert Hurlbut '74, Steve Lozier '75 (standing), Casey Forbes '74, Ed Haas '74, Dave Myers '74 (standing), and Sandy Kraker '74.

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and quail hunting. All are successful. I have been trying to retire for years but can't seem to get the job done. Still working every day and enjoying it." Catch up with him at johnwsherwood@aol.com or 413 Shane Creek Rd., Columbus, MT 59019.

"Leslie and I just celebrated our 34th anniversary, and Sigma Pi gets some of the credit," begins **David Silverstein '68**. "We only met because one night after dinner at the house, instead of letting me go back to the law school library, some brothers convinced me to join them at a campus-wide party hosted by Sigma Alpha Mu. The rest is history." They've moved from Andover to Mashpee on Cape Cod and enjoy being close to beaches, the ocean, swimming, biking, and other outdoor activities. Although he retired from teaching business law courses in Boston, David maintains a small law practice specializing in intellectual property law. "Older son Scott (Cornell Engr. 2008) recently married, lives in Vermont, has opened a structural engineering consulting business, and skis every chance he gets. Younger son Brett (Cornell MMH-Hotel 2014) lives in Denver, works in hospitality/multi-family real estate, and also skis every chance he gets." David would love to hear from any old friends visiting Cape Cod or living nearby. (hihosilver@comcast.net; 53 Twin Oaks Dr., Mashpee, MA 02649)

A Gutsell endowed professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, **Don Fullerton '74** writes, "Let me know if you are ever in Champaign-Urbana during the school year while I'm teaching—or if you are in British Columbia, where we have a house on Mayne Island (in the Straits between Vancouver and Victoria) from mid-May to mid-August." At Illinois, Don is in the finance department, the Center for Business and Public Policy, and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. He is also editor of the *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*. His research analyzes economic effects of public policies, including distributional and efficiency effects of environmental policy. After receiving his PhD in economics from UC Berkeley in 1978, he taught at Princeton, the University of Virginia, Carnegie Mellon,

and the University of Texas before joining the University of Illinois in 2008. From 1985 to 1987, he served in the US Treasury Department as deputy assistant secretary for tax analysis. Don has authored numerous articles about economics and finance, which can be read at works.bepress.com/don_fullerton. (dfullert@illinois.edu; 305 W. Indiana Ave., Urbana, IL 61801)

Howie Gordon '81 has a son in Cornell's College of Human Ecology. Elijah started as a freshman in this 2018–2019 academic year. He writes, "We had a great visit with **Griffin Py '18** at the Pi House when we went to the admitted students day. The entire trip went well and convinced Eli that Cornell was the best place for him." Drop Howie a note at hgordon2@optonline.net or 1 Fox Meadow Lane, Lloyd Harbor, NY 11743.

As senior user experience designer, **Tim Camuti '90** works on delivering an innovative user experience, product strategy, and development of mission critical, transactional digital products for JPMorgan Chase in New York City. Congratulate him on the new job: timothy@camuti.com or 42 Cumberland Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

A shareholder and partner at Anderson Kill PC in New York City, **Marshall Gilinsky '92** was honored in July by HospitalityLawyer.com as its Attorney of the Week for his work in the hospitality industry. Then in August he was recognized in the 2019 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, along with several colleagues. Catch up with him at mgilinsky@andersonkill.com.

"I finally tied the knot," announces **Jonathan Coll '01**. "The bride is Jennifer Chang, a fellow radiologist from San Diego by way of Huntsville, Alabama. Brothers **Nick Kruczynski '01**, **Mike David '01**, **Brian Yasutis '01**, **Sean Sondej '01**, and **Alex Rivera '01** were kind enough to journey to La Jolla, California, to share in the festivities. It was a fantastic day, made even better by my buddies from Mu Chapter." (coll.jonathan@gmail.com; 4608 T St., Sacramento, CA 95819)

We're pleased to pass along the news that **Zachary Smith '13** is now a senior strategy consultant, digital strategy, for IBM

Congratulate him at zpsmitty4@gmail.com or 126 Pebble Creek Lane, New Hartford, NY 13413.

Jeff Baker '14 started a new job as development manager at Weller Development Company in November. Send congratulations to him at jrb366@cornell.edu or 6720 Scherff Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127.

In August **Bennet Heidenreich '15** started a new job as mergers and acquisitions associate at Perella Weinberg Partners. (bmheidenreich@gmail.com)

Zachary Gilbert '16 has a new position as business development analyst at iAnthus Capital Management. Send kudos to zwg4@cornell.edu or 127 E. 30th St., Apt. 14B, New York, NY 10016.

Now working as an investment analyst at AECOM Capital in New York City, **Andrew Joseph '16** can be reached at andrewjayjoseph@gmail.com or 100 Park Ave., 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

Deceased

James H. Keene III '57
October 17, 2018

Anthony A. D'Amato Jr. '58
March 24, 2018

Paul V. Woolley III '61
November 28, 2017

Mark J. Hausknecht '75
July 20, 2018

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

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