



## LIFE AT 730 DURING COVID



# UNDERGRADUATE REPORTS: Life at 730 During COVID-19

## SAGE

By Arthur Decker '22

As we near three months of life as full-time online students in Ithaca, I am incredibly proud of the work that Mu Chapter has done to adjust to the difficulties of the pandemic. To this point, we have remained COVID negative as a brotherhood and continue to improve our social-distancing policies and practices. The lack of social events and inability to meet in person could have caused a divide in the house, but I am proud to say that we have experienced the exact opposite. The house continues to grow closer while staying safe and taking part in philanthropic initiatives.

*This semester at Cornell has been unlike any other we've experienced.*

We were only permitted to have guests to 730 University Avenue beginning on October 5, so the majority of brothers' time has been spent together in smaller groups. While some adjustments were more difficult than others, I believe that we are now completely adjusted to the new normal inside the house and on campus. This couldn't be done without the help of our steward, **Christian Lippey '21**, and our new meal service, Greek House Chefs, who limit capacity in

the dining hall and serve us our food to reduce the spread of germs. Hand sanitizers and signage reminding brothers to wear masks populate the hallways and common areas, and brothers are making the best of the situation we find ourselves in.

Outside of the house, we've used our excess time and energy to better ourselves and our community. Recently, we completed a voter-registration drive with Kappa Alpha Theta, during which all brothers registered to vote. To commend us for our action and care, Philanthropy Chair **Colvin Duntman '22** bleached his hair after we reached 100% registry.

Overall, this semester at Cornell has been unlike any other we've experienced. With limited ability to go outside and be social, we have had to rely on one another like never before. Even so, the brotherhood remains strong, and we are all excited to finish out the semester. When parties return, Mu Chapter will be prepared, but for now, we continue to grow closer and stay safe at 730 University Avenue.

## STEWARD

By Christian Lippey '21

At the beginning of this school year, the brotherhood brought in Greek House Chefs to serve as our corporate meal provider. Chef Nick Destaffan has served as our head chef, with Chef Steven Srnka as his assistant. So far, they have prepared some delicious meals, including buffalo-chicken sandwiches, barbecue pulled pork and brisket, "taco Tuesdays," and custom burger bars, always with a side-salad option.



*New meal service.*

The grab-and-go has been stocked with fresh cold cuts, yogurt, carrots and hummus, individually wrapped bagels, and an array of chips and cereals. Overall, the brotherhood has been extremely satisfied with the quality of the food the chefs from Greek House Chefs has provided.

Not only has Greek House Chefs provided us with high-quality food, but it's also implemented numerous safety measures in response to COVID-19. All meals are served to brothers by masked Greek House Chefs employees behind a sneeze guard. In the grab-and-go, all bagels, condiments, and snacks are individually portioned. Additionally, masks are required in the kitchen, dining hall, and grab-and-go areas at all times.

## RUSH CHAIRS

By Aaron Angeles '22, Will Roth '22, & Justin Mandel '23

Though recruitment this semester has been different than any other semester due to COVID-19, we are confident that the process has nonetheless been a success. Through virtual events and, as of the final week, COVID-safe in-person gatherings, the brotherhood has met a number of potential new members. In the end, despite the challenges of the recruitment process during a pandemic, the brotherhood is eagerly awaiting its newest class

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## Mu Chapter Participates in

# ROCK THE POLLS

## 100% VOTER REGISTRATION

Sage Arthur Decker '22 keeps track of which brothers have registered and which haven't, consistently encouraging any of the eligible 56 brothers who have not yet registered to do so as soon as possible.

### Check out the buzz:

[www.instagram.com/p/CFsLRnFjW7S/?igshid=bktupquxawev](https://www.instagram.com/p/CFsLRnFjW7S/?igshid=bktupquxawev)

[cornellsun.com/2020/10/04/four-greek-houses-pledge-full-voter-turnout/](https://cornellsun.com/2020/10/04/four-greek-houses-pledge-full-voter-turnout/)



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of members from fall rush 2020.

The first rush week consisted of a Meet the Greeks session, as well as three virtual events. At Meet the Greeks, potential new members cycled around virtual stands with members from each participating fraternity represented. Brothers were introduced to rushees and vice-versa. It was a chance for us to finally meet the potential new members, and it gave us an insight into who might fit well into our house, as well as a direction for the rest of the recruitment process.



From there, interested recruits joined virtual sessions, in which we were able to show off our house and get to know potential new members better. Brothers who were available joined in the Zoom calls to meet the rushees and told of their experiences both as rushees and as brothers. We arranged breakout rooms so that we could have authentic conversations with rushees about what they wanted out of the experience and also so that we could evaluate whether Sigma Pi was the right place for them. These virtual events presented a tremendous opportunity for the brotherhood to get better acquainted with potential new members, as it was for them to get to know us better and to know what our fraternity is all about.

In the final week of rush, we were permitted to meet rushees in person at last. Needless to say, all participants wore masks and followed social-distancing protocols. These small gatherings of less than 10 people provided rushees the chance to come to 730 University Avenue for the first time

and to meet with brothers in a more intimate setting. From these events, we were able to narrow down our list of potential new members, identifying which ones would most benefit from joining our brotherhood. On October 11, we were thrilled to give out bids and welcome a new group of members. This recruitment process presented challenges to the whole brotherhood, but we are proud to have worked through these obstacles together in our successful effort to recruit another impressive rush class to Sigma Pi.

### SOCIAL CHAIR

**By Cosmo Gigante '23**

With the social-event moratorium due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the brotherhood has had to get creative with how we can keep our Cornell community close outside of our fraternity. We have taken opportunities to see friends in off-campus settings; however, as one could imagine, things have been slow from an events perspective. We have not been able to have events and, instead, the house has been more focused on our brotherhood.

After we were sent home early last semester, the new member class did not have much time to get to know some of their older brothers. Since everyone has been stuck in the house for most of the day on Zoom classes, we now have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time together, which has made the house a much closer-knit group of guys as a whole.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**By Dillon Razler '22**

As health and wellness officers, **Drew Mangan '21** and I are responsible for

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*Not a single one of our brothers has contracted COVID-19 since returning to campus.*

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monitoring the health of the brotherhood. We do frequent check-ins with brothers, both in Collegetown and at the house, to make sure everyone is feeling healthy and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19. When in the house, brothers must wear masks in common areas, as well as when being served food in the dining hall.

Additionally, house meetings are conducted on Zoom, so both Collegetown brothers and those at the house can attend reduced-capacity meetings instead of packing the West Lounge. PPE has been provided to every single brother, and hand sanitizer is present in every common space, the dining hall, bathrooms, stairwells, and the foyer.

The house has been doing great with these protocols. Despite the spike in cases during the first two weeks of classes, not a single one of our brothers has contracted COVID-19 since returning to campus.

### CAREER AND INTERNSHIP

**By Terry Sackett '21**

2020 has been a tumultuous year for everyone. However, the brothers of Mu chapter have stepped up to the challenge when it comes to finding full-time employment and internships. It's exciting that a

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# Mu Chapter Sigma Pi Day of Giving a Huge Success!

By Kurt Rasmussen '80

A new Sigma Pi tradition is born! On September 9, 2020, Mu Chapter held its inaugural giving day, receiving **127 gifts** and **raising \$31,598**. An appropriately special day was selected for this event: the 105th anniversary of **Adolphus C. Hailstork II's** birth. "Dolly" Hailstork was the cook at 730 University Ave. for over 30 years, but he was more than just our cook; Dolly was the soul of the enterprise. Dolly embodied the core values of brotherhood and Sigma Pi. He was kind, generous, inclusive, and supportive, all while knowing how to have a little fun.

Dolly was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1915. His family moved several times before settling in Elmira, New York. After a stint in the Army, Dolly returned to upstate New York and a joined his father in Ithaca. Dolly was hired as the cook at Sigma Pi in 1960 and continued to serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner to the brothers until 1992. While working at our fraternity, Dolly also helped run his father's laundromat, one of the first African-American owned businesses in Ithaca. Dolly loved fishing, bowling, the Mets, and the brothers of

Sigma Pi. Working with and teaching a conga line of wide-eyed stewards, waiters, kitchen-boys, and pot-washers, he ran the kitchen with kind authority, serving many iconic dishes, including "sloppy bobs," "veal barm," "hockey pucks," and the crowd-favorite, BCP (banana cream pie). At their 25th Reunion, the class of 1980 established the Class of 1980 Adolphus C. Hailstork Prize that annually recognizes and rewards the brother of the year. Sadly, The Doll left us on April 13, 2010. On a gorgeous autumnal weekend in October 2011, generations of Pi men gathered at the house to celebrate his life and posthumously initiate Dolly into our brotherhood.

On the newly established annual giving day, September 9, 2020, over 100



members of Pi nation joined a Zoom call to raise a birthday toast to The Doll. The celebration included a 10-min video montage of Dolly photos with a soundtrack supplied by Steely Dan and Green Day. Our alumni board president, **Jarett Wait '80**, updated the assembled on the state of the house, and brothers **Pete Wright '77**, **Steve Mongeau '78**, **Stu Strumwasser '88**, and **Mark Childs '88**

shared their fond memories of Dolly.

Over 100 donations, totaling over \$30,000, helped make the first giving day a grand success (*see honor role at right*). In future years, we hope to expand the festivities and include multiple live-gatherings of brothers, all connected virtually, to raise a toast to our beloved brother, Dolly Hailstork, for our new giving day tradition.

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large number of last year's graduated seniors (2020s) have been employed in jobs that excite them!

As for the prospects for undergrad brothers, the landscape looks different than it did a year ago. Fortunately, many companies have lifted their hiring restrictions and are looking for analysts to fill their classes. However, there are still more applicants applying for each role, because most firms are taking fewer entry-level employees. The landscape is competitive, but many brothers have still found success in securing full-time and internship offers.

The job search has also changed drastically in the past year. As expected, all networking events and interviews are online. Having online networking events makes it more difficult for students to get a feeling of culture that they might be able to at an in-person event. Furthermore, during interviews, a constant fear is that the wi-fi might cut out or buffer. However, though there are some drawbacks to this online recruiting process, it has in many ways been beneficial. Undergraduates now have the opportunity to attend events which they might not have before. Doing so allows them to experience new industries and possibly to develop new interests. Furthermore, scheduling interviews is also easier, because everyone is on their computer all day, which allows for the possibility to interview at many more places than before the pandemic.





Thanks to All Who Supported Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi on  
**Hailstork Annual Giving Day**  
 September 9, 2020

**127 gifts**

**\$31,597.89 raised**

**Over \$1000 Club**

Kent Sheng '78  
 Stephen Mongeau '78  
 David D'Orlando '79  
 Luc Chabot '80  
 Michael Rantz '81  
 Joe Ruocco '81  
 Nicholas Vojnovic '81  
 Dennis McNamara '83

**Top Donation by Class**

1980: \$5,836  
 1978: \$4,670  
 1981: \$4,155  
 1979: \$4,067  
 1977: \$1,702  
 1983: \$1,624  
 1988: \$1,176  
 1974: \$1,062

**Top Participation by Class**

1980: 20 GIFTS  
 1979: 17 GIFTS  
 1978: 10 GIFTS  
 1977: 9 GIFTS  
 1981: 9 GIFTS  
 1988: 9 GIFTS  
 1975: 5 GIFTS  
 1982: 5 GIFTS  
 1974: 5 GIFTS

**DONORS**

William A. Stevenson '62	Stephen M. Ryan '77	Thomas C. Cherner '80	David J. Knapp '83
Herbert R. Holden '63	Mark A. Sullivan '77	Joseph P. Dervay '80	Dennis P. McNamara '83
Karl F. Miller '64	Mark Barmasse '78	Jonathan M. Fordin '80	David M. Crandell '84
Christopher F. Hoeber '68	William Cavanaugh '78	Wayne F. Forman '80	Steven T. Decker '85
Richard A. Markham '68	David P. Hanssens '78	Steven A. Hobbs '80	Howard E. Epstein '86
Francis X. Canale '69	Stephen A. Mongeau '78	Owen Michael McCarron '80	Brian J. Schimmoller '86
Donald G. Rider '69	Lawrence G. Paglierani '78	Anthony R. McManus '80	Christopher S. Selland '86
David Ross Miller '71	Michael Reiner '78	Aron Minken '80	Christopher Vachris '86
Richard E. Fish '72	Robert Grant Ruhlman '78	Donald E. Motschwiller '80	Lloyd M. Robinson '87
Frederick C. Hoge '72	Kent G. Sheng '78	Randall Joe Ottinger '80	George W. Rocklein Jr. '87
James A. Boland '73	Alexandra True '78	Stephen P. Pirozzi '80	Dean S. Asofsky '88
Steven C. Sanford '73	John R. Welch Jr. '78	Kurt Rasmussen '80	Matthew S. Bromberg '88
William J. Strusz '73	Larry W. Barstow '79	John J. Sacco Jr. '80	Mark R. Childs '88
Thomas W. Brotherton Jr. '74	Steven L. Bergh '79	Mark D. Sherwin '80	Steve P. Muson '88
Bert Hurlbut '74	Wayne S. Buder '79	Douglas F. Uyeno '80	Michael E. Najjar '88
Sandy Kraker '74	David C. D'Orlando '79	Jarett F. Wait '80	Aaron M. Pollock '88
Peter Andrew Muth '74	Alan Douglas '79	John W. Altmeyer '81	Alan F. Riffkin '88
Jeffrey L. Craver '75	James M. Horn '79	Bradford L. Croke '81	Stuart J. Strumwasser '88
William D. Dougherty '75	Andrew L. Kantor '79	Gary S. Derck '81	Michael B. Weissman '88
John W. Morrison '75	Kevin C. Kruse '79	Herbert Jay Ernst '81	Bruce E. Kornfeld '89
John B. Stetson Jr. '75	Lawrence D. MacLennan '79	Brian M. Finneran '81	Bryan D. Happ '90
Joseph M. Zanetta '75	Keith R. Molof '79	Michael G. Rantz '81	Jonathan D. Broder '91
William M. Forman '76	Robert D. Novo '79	Joseph B. Ruocco '81	Miguel A. Ferrer '91
Thomas M. Garr '76	Christopher B. Olie '79	Thomas M. Silver '81	Christian B. Hansen '91
Michael E. Anderson '77	Gordon G. Pugh '79	Nicholas S. Vojnovic '81	Lawrence D. Ireland '91
Craig F. Binetti '77	Curtis A. Quantz '79	Alexandra Hart Bosshardt '82	Craig J. Dewey '06
John A. Christoforo '77	Steven M. Rosenzweig '79	James E. Garr '82	Jeremy D. Kraker '07
Charles Clark Jr. '77	Leo L. Timms '79	Gerald B. Leape '82	Kevin Lieber '10
Henry Dunnenberger III '77	Richard A. Bosshardt '80	John E. Mennell '82	Connor A. Riser '16
Glenn A. Mazzamaro '77	Jeffrey D. Brown '80	Richard T. Rego '82	J. Slater Goodman '18
Matthew Petti '77	Luc G. Chabot '80	Dennis J. Ehrenberger '83	Ryan Heasley

# 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 24. 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 120 proxies, representing almost 11% of our active membership (alumni and undergraduate). Thanks to all who participated.

Elections for alumni directors were held, and by unanimous vote, the following slate of officers were elected or reelected for



one-year terms: **Jarett Wait '80**, president; **Steve Pirozzi '80**, vice president; **John Haggerty '78**, treasurer and faculty advisor; **Slater Goodman '18**, secretary; and **Peter Muth '74**, general counsel.

We thank the following directors for their generous support and leadership of the fraternity while serving on the alumni board: **Eric Hamburg '85**, **Dennis McNamara '83**, and **Kurt Rasmussen '80**.

The alumni board, in recognition of Dennis and Kurt's valuable contributions to the fraternity, have asked both of them to continue on as emeritus directors of the fraternity. In addition, **Jonathon Fordin '80**, **Chris Selland '86**, **Yordanos Goshu '18**, and **Will Murphy '18** were all elected directors of the alumni corporation.

# Treasurer's Report

**By John J. Haggerty '78, Treasurer and Chapter Advisor**

Thankfully, very little has changed financially since the recent annual meeting. It looks likely that the university will be able to conclude the semester without interruption as the incidence of COVID in the community remains remarkably low. If students remain through Thanksgiving and then leave campus as instructed, there will be no question of rent refunds and no need to allocate cash to that purpose.

Expenses for the roof repair have gone up substantially but not altogether unexpectedly. There was considerable "hidden damage" below the 1994 roof that required repair before reroofing. Fortunately, again, the work is being performed by an alumnus (**Liviu Rusu '96**), and even with the overages, we are still below what the expense would have been had we hired a local contractor. The work should be completed well before the winter weather.

The recent **Dolly Hailstork** event was a remarkable success and raised a substantial amount of unrestricted gifts that will help to cushion the continuing impact of lower-than-optimal occupancy and the abbreviated spring 2020 (COVID shortened) semester. I regret that, as the last person in the brotherhood to see Dolly before he passed, I was unable to join you to remember him, but I heard most of the stories, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generosity that flowed from the evening. I have a feeling Dolly enjoyed it all from his vantage point as well.

Issues regarding the conclusion of the Dining and Learning Commons investment are unchanged, and I will let the Kitchen and Dining Committee provide that update. We remain current on all of our obligations and with sufficient cash to satisfy known expenses. Thank you for your continuing help and support.



# Mu Chapter House Gets New Roof

**By Liviu Rusu '96**

The house is okay. Currently, I'd give it an eight out of 10.

The roof replacement project is nearly complete. We've had some surprises and



*Liviu Rusu '98 on the crane that made it possible to comply with COVID restrictions of working alone.  
Photo by Mac Ritchie '22.*

some additions to the project, so two weeks has turned into two months. The roof is in three planes: a flat section above the staircases, a sloped section above the rooms, and a vertical section that encases the third floor on a steel superstructure. We knew the three infiltration points in the sloped section, because we have access in the attic. The seven infiltration points in the vertical superstructure were a surprise. So were our gutters: filled with ginkgo seeds and seedlings, sand from our prior shingles, and the leaves of the trees now maturing on McGraw Place. Beside cleaning the gutters and straightening them out from the bends imposed by prior cleanings from a ladder, we've also added gutter guards to prevent further accumulation and need for cleaning.

Each of the infiltration points in the vertical superstructure has been disassembled to the metal frame, re-sheathed, flashed, and meticulously sealed—after all, these shingles come with a 50-year warranty; the whole system should match.



# Kitchen & Dining Committee Nears Completion of Dining & Learning Campaign

By Steve Pirozzi '80

The new dining room exit door was installed on October 15. It replaced the original door, which was defective. Liviu supervised the work and supplied the pictures.

Aside from the installation of the door, all the construction work on the kitchen and dining project had been completed by the beginning of the 2018 fall semester. The brotherhood has been using the new facilities since then, and we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from them regarding the Dining and Learning projects' impact on life in the Pi house. The impact has been further enhanced by the introduction of Greek House Chefs this semester to handle the preparation of most meals.

Based on the cost being finalized for some items that had previously been estimated and the completion of negotiations regarding several items, we have revised our cost for the Dining and Learning projects to total approximately **\$700,000**. Even with our cash on hand from previous donations and money raised through the successful Dolly Hailstork III Mu Chapter Sigma Pi Day of Giving, we still need to raise approximately **\$118,000** to completely pay for the project. Fully funding the Dining and Learning project is the final step needed to make this project a complete success. The efforts of all Sigma Pi brothers and friends will be necessary to complete this task. Please go to the Mu Chapter website to make your donation.

I will work with our attorney and our contractors' representatives to complete all the remaining contractual obligations. The final payment will be made as soon as all of the outstanding items are settled.



*Installation of New Kitchen Door*

Thanks to everyone, especially all the members of the K&D Committee, for the work you all have done to bring the Dining and Learning project from the planning stage through the completion of all the construction work and to the point where it is now an integral part of everyday life at the house.

## Insurance Committee Report

By David C. D'Orlando '79, Chair

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi insurance policies for property, liability, and excess liability coverage remain in force through Tompkins Insurance Agencies Inc.

The fraternity house is insured for \$3,900,000, contents are insured for \$565,000, and loss of rents are insured at \$400,000 through Holmes Murphy/RSUI

Indemnity Company. The annual premium is \$16,087.

General liability coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence, and excess liability coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence are provided through Landmark American Insurance Co. and RSUI Indemnity Company, respectively. The annual

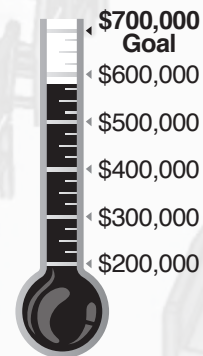
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## DINING and LEARNING

*update*

### Campaign and Project Highlights:

- + More than **\$582,278** (83% of total) has been raised out of the \$700,000 project goal
- + Mu Chapter's Educational Foundation has funded \$144,500 of the project.
- + More than 200 alumni have already contributed.
- + Remaining fundraising needed: **\$118,000** (only 17% to go!).
- + Building and renovation work includes upgrades to all kitchen and meal-service equipment, the new Adolphus "Dolly" C. Hailstork Dining Room, and the 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**



**Contributions** can be made online using a credit card through Sigma Pi's website ([www.sigmapi.cornell.org/150-DiningLearning.asp#Xdonate](http://www.sigmapi.cornell.org/150-DiningLearning.asp#Xdonate)), or you can mail a check to the address below and write "Dining and Learning Campaign" in the memo field. **Mail checks to:** Dining and Learning Campaign, Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876

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## Foundation Update

**By Joseph M. Zanetta '75, President, Educational Foundation**

It has been a distinct pleasure to have served as president of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation since January of 2020. Certainly, one of the highlights of my first year was reviewing applications for the 2020 David Harrop Memorial Scholarship, which is given annually to the brother who demonstrates academic excellence along with leadership of the fraternity. Although we had several outstanding applications, we selected **Chris Cavanaugh '21** for the scholarship. Chris served as Mu Chapter sage and also in many other leadership positions at the house and on The Hill. In his application, he wrote that "Sigma Pi provided me with a sense of community and connection... And Sigma Pi introduced me to excellent role models..."

In the end, that is the role of the foundation: to provide resources for undergrads such as Chris through the Harrop Memorial Fund, to offer a connection between the current brothers and the alumni, and perhaps to serve as role models.

How are we doing? We continue to be successful in securing funds to assist the brothers. This year, we provided internships to undergraduate brothers whose summer jobs or internships were interrupted by the COVID pandemic. We also have a robust mentorship program that links undergrads with alumni.

When you stand on the patio of the Pi house on University Avenue, your gaze is focused on several huge Gothic

structures: Willard Straight Hall, Uris Library, and Myron Taylor Hall, just to name a few. They all were made possible by generous benefactors. Many of us received scholarships, we ate meals and studied in libraries funded by alumni gifts, and we listened to the beautiful chimes from McGraw Tower, a gift in honor of Jennie. And that is one of the responsibilities of alumni: to "pay it forward." We all benefited from the generosity of alumni; now, it is our duty and obligation to give back to the house that gave us so much.

We shall continue to navigate the turbulent waters created by the national pandemic and the resulting economic downtime. Philanthropy—love of mankind—will continue to play an important role in Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi. I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the board of directors of the foundation, and particularly the officers: Vice Chair **Wayne Forman '80**, Secretary **Jim Franz '77**, and Treasurer **Connor Riser '16**. We have been energized by the addition of new board members **Craig Dewey '06**, **Alex Eacker '15**, **Peter Muth '74**, and **Nick Wint '15**.

We all contribute our time, talent, and treasure to a cause that is greater than one person, and we hope to continue to support the house from which we learned so much about friendship, relationships, and brotherhood.

Thank you for your continued support. And please consider a generous gift to the foundation, which provides you with a charitable income-tax deduction as well.



## RA Report

**By Luke Williams, RA**



The men of Sigma Pi are striving to strengthen and grow the brotherhood during this unprecedented semester. Everything has changed, but Mu Chapter continues to adapt as new habits replaced old ones. Chapter meetings are on Zoom. The house is quiet without guests and social events. The brothers have innovated to pursue the chapter's goals while living in the new normal.

Tremendous precautions are taken everyday. Mask wearing is practiced at all times. Hand-sanitizing stations were installed at every entrance and on every floor. A cleaning company sanitizes the bathrooms twice a week. Our new food-service staff, Greek House Chefs, sanitize the dining room area.

All residents of 730 University are tested by Cornell twice a week. We have made it most of the way through the shortened semester, and there have been no positive cases or contact tracing affecting Sigma Pi. With flu season and winter approaching, the brothers understand that now is not the time to be careless. It is necessary to be "my brother's keeper," now more than ever.

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## Insurance Committee Report

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premium is \$5,029.

Workers compensation insurance is provided through the State Insurance Fund.

Directors and officers liability coverage of \$1,000,000 is provided under the Sigma Pi Fraternity, International, insurance program. In addition, a separate policy with limits of \$2,000,000 has been procured specifically for Mu Chapter from the Great American Insurance Company to provide directors and officers and employment practices liability coverage.

The Facilities Committee continues to make loss-control safety inspections of the fraternity house on a regular basis.

The alumni board is continuing to focus on loss control as it relates to compliance with recent Cornell University policy changes and COVID-19 protocols.

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## Introducing the Diversity and Inclusion Committee

**By J. Slater Goodman '18**

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was started in June of this year with two primary goals. The first is to work closely with the Educational Foundation's new diversity and inclusion intern on undergraduate programming, volunteer opportunities, and issues of access

and representation within the fraternity. The second is to engage alumni brothers on issues of diversity and inclusion and to provide a forum and platform for those alumni seeking to take a more active role on these issues. We welcome any and all ideas from brothers and parents as we develop our action plan and programming.





## Veterans Day

**By Joe "Dash" Dervay '80, Captain, United States Navy (ret)**

Veterans Day is an important opportunity to honor and recognize those men and women who have served our armed forces.

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi has established a webpage listing our veterans and servicemen. Currently, there are 44 names listed. If you realize a brother has not been acknowledged, please provide their name, class year, and branch of service to [alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org](mailto:alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org).

We ask those brothers listed on the veterans and servicemen page to consider sharing a few paragraphs and insights on what your service entailed: your duty assignments, community (surface, air, infantry, legal, medical, engineering, etc.), and what prompted you to serve (i.e., ROTC, former draft, personal call to service, a career change). If you have a formal military bio already in hand, we can link that to your name. Whether serving active duty or reserve duty, be it only a few years or an extended career, *all service is significant and honored*.

We would also appreciate you sharing a few key principles of leadership, integrity, and commitment that you learned and witnessed from your military experience that has aided you throughout your military days, professional career, and personal aspects of life.

It is our earnest hope that undergraduate ROTC brothers, those contemplating service, and recent graduates currently serving might be inspired, after reading the background and experiences of alumni veterans, to reach out and connect for mentoring and advice.

For those brothers who have served our armed forces, it is indeed a great honor to have worn the *cloth of our nation*. When a veteran or current service member hears a friend or stranger kindly state, "Thank you for your service," those words are meaningful and appreciated. It is an acknowledgment of commitment, sacrifice, time away from home and family, and the potential to be in harm's way in service of our nation.

God bless America, our veterans, Sigma Pi, and all who currently serve!

## Zoom Video Series Launched To Bring Undergrads and Alumni Together

Mu Chapter alumni board and Educational Foundation have launched a Zoom video program for undergraduates and alumni to promote dialogue and discussion during this time of pandemic. A set of virtual workshops for undergraduate brothers on career planning and skill development are also being planned.

The first Zoom event was hosted by

Sage **Arthur Decker '22**, House Manager **Ethan Wood-Thomas '23**, and Steward **Christian Lippey '21**, with the topic being "Sigma Pi undergraduate experience during COVID-19." Future topics being discussed include "diversity and inclusion," "leadership during times of turmoil," "stories of resilience in times of adversity," etc.

## Meet Newly Elected Board Member Chris Selland '86



**By Chris Selland '86**

It's an honor to have been asked to join the board of the alumni corporation and to take over the alumni relations reins—to some degree at

least—from **Kurt Rasmussen '80**.

For those of you who enjoy Kurt's weekly "Name That Pi-Man" email, fear not; Raz assures me he intends to keep it going full force. If you're not already on his list, drop him or me a note.

We're going to keep building on the work Kurt, **Jarett Wait '80**, and the alumni corp. have done. I've also begun working

with **Matt Pens '00** and **George Rocklein '87** to use our Facebook and LinkedIn groups more regularly. Facebook has become the main way I've kept in touch with brothers from my mid-to-late-'80s classes, and I'm excited to do more with LinkedIn to help keep us all in touch for networking, career opportunities, internships, etc.

So, expect to see and hear more from me. For those of you who wish to set up get-togethers in local areas once the world gets back to normal (or even virtually), I invite you to contact me to help spread the word.

Drop me a note at [cselland@gmail.com](mailto:cselland@gmail.com) or call 617-216-4424 anytime. I look forward to hearing from you!

## Consider Joining the Mu Chapter LinkedIn Group

[www.linkedin.com/groups/4734302](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/4734302)



I wanted to encourage each of you to join the Mu Chapter LinkedIn group. This group has been around for a few years; Matt Pens set it up and has been administering it with George Rocklein (and now me). Some of you are already members.

It's become apparent to me that one of the best ways we, as alumni, can "give back" to the brothers in the house and to each other is to be a resource for internships, career opportunities, advice, and coaching. Especially in these stressful and unusual times. I strongly encourage you not just to join but to reach out to the brothers you know and to those you don't (yet).

Check it out and let me know if you have any questions!

## Mu Chapter Website & Social Media Outlets



The alumni board continues to invest in enhancing our social-media outreach.

### The Mu Chapter website:

- + increases the ability for our alumni to stay connected and to be kept up-to-date
- + has a robust section for our undergraduate brothers to enhance new member recruitment
- + has a section for parents to find the information they need, whether their son is a current or prospective member

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

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



facebook.com/groups/250850591718094



@cornellsigmapi



@CornellSigmaPi



www.linkedin.com/groups/4734302

# Cornell Campus Teaching

By John J. Haggerty '78, Treasurer and Chapter Advisor

To say that the fall semester of 2020 is unusual is an enormous understatement. Fully two-thirds of Cornell's course roster is being offered via technology mediation only. Where in-person classes are offered, such as the two courses I am teaching in the ILR school, a room designed for 60 students is limited to only 20 so as to maintain social distance. And while 20 might be enrolled, I have a handful of students in each class, some local and one as far away as Jakarta, who have elected to take the class virtually. While all of the students are wearing face coverings in my classroom, behind me on the large projection screen is a small "Brady Bunch Box" of remote learners who are not masked in the comfort of their home. We are jealous.

This is "hybrid Learning," and while it gives students choice and is an appropriate response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult for me to manage. My teaching style is sometimes called "combative" in my student reviews. I push students to apply what they learn and to be critical consumers of theory. I provoke discussion and frequently play devil's advocate. In the past, I used small, randomly selected teams to stage actual debates in the classroom, with each team taking a side in the argument after a few minutes to prepare. I

often used pairs exercises to get people to share their reactions to sometimes dense readings. My classroom was anything but quiet and attentive.

But none of these tactics translate to a pandemic-restricted world. Students cannot sit close enough to have private conversations or do group assignments. Masks cause everyone to shout to be heard, even in a relatively small room. Students participating virtually either see me (camera one), or they see their classmates (camera two), not both. And those who are virtual are only visible on the screen behind me as I face the rest of the

class. The reality of hybrid learning is that I have to adjust nearly everything I do to conform to the restrictions of the space and the technology. It takes considerably more effort to teach this way, and I can only hope that the students are able to digest the information I present.

Office hours—always one of the most pleasant parts of my week—are, by rule, now also virtual. I try to make use of some limited outdoor space to hold one-on-one (distanced) meetings, but the weather will put an end to that soon. Too much of my informal student interaction is now relegated to e-mail, a less than optimal way to really gauge student interest and learning. Zoom helps, but I find that I have Zoom fatigue, as most of our non-teaching work interactions are now Zoom

*To say that the fall semester of 2020 is unusual is an enormous understatement.*

## Fall Rush Class



Carter Robertson '23  
Mclean, VA  
Dyson



Lev Katreczko '23  
Brooklyn, NY  
ILR



Max Clouser '23  
Ithaca, NY  
Hotel



Spencer Balder '23  
Needham, MA  
Hotel

No photo: Pablo Zubillaga '23  
New York, NY; Government



# Mu Brothers' News & Notes

"Almeda Curch Riley and I are really enjoying our retirement," writes **John Riley '55**. "We are living at Woodlawn Commons in Saratoga Springs, New York. They really pamper us here!" Reconnect with John at [riley5558@gmail.com](mailto:riley5558@gmail.com) or at 156 Lawrence St. #203A, Saratoga Springs, NY 21866.

**Tom Cayten '64** had a knee replacement last June and reports that he is healthy and still playing golf five days a week. His son (26) is now working as a chemical engineer for Triumvirate Environmental and also volunteers as an EMT during the COVID crisis. His daughter (28) is "still looking to use her master's degree in public administration research and analysis." Get in touch with Tom and let him know what you're up to: [tecauten@comcast.com](mailto:tecauten@comcast.com); 21 Carroll St., Exeter, NH 03833.

**George F. Parker III '65** is living in an apartment down the street from where he and his wife, Nancy, raised their two boys. "In July, I moved to 25 Farmers Cliff Road in Concord, Massachusetts. I am building an apartment beside my son's house. I still play golf, ski, and tap maple trees into the spring. I am still having fun!" Write George at his new address, or email him at [georgefp3@gmail.com](mailto:georgefp3@gmail.com).

**Michael McAneny '66** retired in 2018 after 52 years of architectural practice in the private and public sectors in New York City, Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and Albany. He began teaching architecture at the State University of New York in Delhi in 2016, having moved from Manhattan to

Oneonta in 2006. Let Michael know what you're up to; write to him at [mcmcaneny@aol.com](mailto:mcmcaneny@aol.com) or at 124 Cemetery Hill Rd., Oneonta, NY 13820.

Congratulations to **Jason Halio '93** for starting a new position as partner at Rainmaker Group Holdings.

**Aaron Klein '12**, inside sales manager for the Chicago Cubs, writes of the beginning of the season: "With the start of this unique MLB season, our front office staff pitched in to help the grounds crew. It was exciting and humbling to be able to paint the lines at Wrigley Field with Chicago Cubs senior leaders Michael Lufrano and Colin Faulkner before an intrasquad scrimmage!"



**Maximiliano Olivares '15** is working on his MBA at the Anderson School of Management at UCLA and has acquired an internship with Intuit in the Technical Product Management Division.

Congratulations to **Zachary Gilbert '16** for starting a new position as an associate at Mercer Park LP.

Congratulations to **Charles Byrnes '18** for starting a new position as senior software engineer at Bloomberg LP.

Congratulations to **Yordanos Goshu '18** for starting a new position as a machine-learning engineer at Goldman Sachs.

**Omar Nesheiwat '20** started studying at Fordham University School of Law.

## Deceased

**Robert A. Nafis '49**  
August 12, 2020

**John C. Shearer '52**  
September 14, 2019

**Warren R. Leach '53**  
March 3, 2020

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

## SAVE THE DATES

**Reunion 2021**  
(classes of 1s and 6s)  
June 10–13, 2021

**Future  
Homecoming Date**  
September 17–18, 2021

See the details on Cornell's Reunion page:  
[alumni.cornell.edu/come-back/reunion](http://alumni.cornell.edu/come-back/reunion)

*Please check back for updates*

# 2020 Procrasticup a Resounding Success

**By Tim Hawes '82, Procrasticup Co-Founder and Executive Committee Member**

The 2020 Procrasticup was a resounding success, despite the challenges of our current times. The men of Sigma Pi did not allow the necessity for socially distanced dining and imbibing and face coverings in public places to put a damper on the more-than-35-year tradition of this annual gathering.

Although a smaller group this year,

due to travel restrictions imposed on some regular attendees, we nonetheless gathered with a hearty group of 10 for three days of golf at the Legends Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Old stories were recounted (and no doubt embellished), new memories were created, friendships were rekindled, and our dear brothers who were unable to attend were sorely missed but frequently toasted.

Three days of spectacular golf included "miraculous" shots of all lengths, heights

(or lack thereof), and directions. There were even shots that would have made the PGA Tour pros scratch their heads in disbelief (I would like to see one of those guys hit the ball backward). And yes, we even managed to have a hole-in-one. Unfortunately, it was **Brian Finneran '81** making a hole-in-one into a drain in the middle of the fairway.

We will do it again in October 2021, and as always, we encourage anyone interested in participating to reach out.



*Breakfast (L-R): John Altmeyer '81, Mike Vernick '83, Tim Hawes '82, Dave Knapp '83, John Stewart '83, Steve Novack '83, John Burger '84, Mike Feiertag '83, Tom Silver '81.*



*The suspects (L-R): Tim Hawes '82, John Stewart '83, Tom Silver '81, Steve Novak '83, John Burger '84, Mike Vernick '83, John Altmeyer '81, Mike Feiertag '83, Dave Knapp '83; (missing) Brian Finneran '81.*

## In Loving Memory of a Devoted Pi Man



**Robert Allen Nafis '49**, a long-time board member and dedicated Sigma Pi brother, died August 12, 2020. Bob worked very closely with Jim Keene '58 and was instrumental in helping

to rebuild the fraternity after the fire. Bob was an emeritus director for the last 15 years.

He was born in Rockville Center, Long Island, son of Elsie and Frederick Nafis, and grew up in Lynbrook New York, attending the Malverne School system and Cornell University (BEE in electrical engineering, 1949). He married June Christian-sen of Huntington, New York, in 1951.

Bob spent his entire career with Grumman after winning a Grumman scholarship and starting as a systems engineer. In 1957, he was responsible for the design and development of the Digital Integrated Attack and Navigation Equipment for the Navy A-6 series all-weather carrier aircraft, followed by the E-2 AEW series. After attending MIT

Sloan industrial master's program from 1964 to '66, he was appointed as director of ASW programs at Grumman. In 1969, he became the program manager for the F-14 Tomcat Navy fighter. In 1972, he was a founder of the Grumman Data Systems Corporation, serving as vice president and then president. In 1982, he moved to vice president of Grumman corporate development. In 1984, he was named president of the Grumman electronics division. He retired in 1990, remaining as senior management consultant until 1993.

In 1999, he joined the board of startup Princeton Optronics. He also served on the advisory committee to the Cornell School of Electrical and Computer Engineering for many years. Bob was campaign manager and then president and chairman of the board of the United Way of Long Island for a period of 20 years and coach of the Huntington Kickers U18 soccer team for 10 years. He sang tenor in UMC choirs for over 40 years. He has been a mentor to the Cornell men's and women's soccer teams since arriving in Ithaca in 1996 and was **active**

**with Sigma Pi Fraternity.** He served nine years on the board of Kendal at Ithaca and as chair of the property committee for seven.

He is survived by his wife June, daughter Dian Nafis-Reed of Corvallis, Oregon, son Douglas of Mt. Prospect, Illinois, son Christopher of Vischer Ferry, New York, and granddaughters Danielle Reed, Debra and Heidi Nafis, and Sarah, Rachel, Kathryn, and Laura Nafis.



*Bob with the new sign that he made for Sigma Pi in 2001, with wooden letters glued and screwed on a tow-sided formica panel. Someone took a chainsaw to the posts in 2004 and stole the sign, so Bob replaced the wood with steel I-beams in 2007.*