

the MUSE

SPRING 2021

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity



www.sigmapi Cornell.org



Undergraduate Reports

SAGE

By Richard Benjamin '22



Hello, brothers. It is my honor to present this year's sage report. It will come as no surprise to learn that Mu Chapter has been through many challenges this past semester. The pandemic has presented challenges both academically and socially for the brothers. Despite all these interruptions, I am pleased to say our chapter's hearth has never been brighter.

We have taken on 14 more members in the spring, shattering any expectations we had for the year. In addition, we have had many seniors secure job offers in spite of the pandemic. It is only due to the constant support and guidance of active alumni that we have risen to the challenge of the past year. We were the last active chapter on Cornell's campus to have a positive case within the brotherhood. Over the past few weeks, we have achieved a 70% immunity rate for all undergraduates. We have maintained active relationships with sororities, even though we could not conduct events in person.

Our standing with Cornell has been maintained and even improved, I encourage you to read the rest of *The Muse* for a more detailed account on the chapter's activities. It is through the alumni that the brotherhood remains strong. I thank

you all for your constant support and am excited to continue the duties of sage.

SOCIAL CHAIR

By Cosmo Gigante '23



It has been another quiet semester socially, because Cornell has not lifted the social moratorium banning us from planning events and other gatherings. Although this might seem like a huge letdown to everyone in the house, we have been able to take advantage of the extra time on weekend nights to grow closer as a brotherhood. At this point, we are looking forward to fall 2021 and hoping we are able to plan social events then, as Cornell has just announced a vaccination requirement for the fall semester.

Moving forward, I am optimistic that we will be able to plan and host events as the pandemic becomes less of an issue. It is only a matter of time at this point as we wait for directions and rule changes from the university.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

By Will Nuga '22

For the last two semesters, **Nick**



Battisti '22 and I have served as diversity and inclusion (DNI) chairs for Mu Chapter. Despite COVID-related concerns, Nick and I are proud to announce our 12-week streak of consecutive, hybrid (zoom/in person) DNI office hours (dating back to last semester.) This streak is as much a testament to the work Nick and I have put in as it is a testament to the effort and consistent participation from our active brotherhood. Bravo!

Clearly we, as Pi men, want to learn about the issues that affect our local communities and global society. However, we, especially as Pi men, need to do more than just learn about issues; we need to create meaningful change. Therefore, from the combined efforts of Nick, **Teo Gomez '24**, **Victor Bisbal '24**, and me (DNI chairs of the newest spring class), along with the philanthropy chairs, I am excited to announce the Mu Chapter fundraiser with Friendships Donation Network (FDN), a local food rescue organization.

The goal of the fundraiser is to raise at least \$2,500 for FDN, and by the time you're reading this article, the fundraiser will be in its 11th hour. Please help Ithaca pantries and hunger-relief programs, like Loaves and Fishes, get the food they need to provide hot meals to the people in our community who need it most by donating any amount today!"

Building the Beach and Bonds

By Liviu Rusu '98



It was the spring of '96 when **Dave LeFevre '59** backed up his Suburban on the front lawn and asked me for a hand unloading the wood. The house had been newly rebuilt, and the pantry had no shelves. He had designed a system, purchased materials, and brought them to Ithaca to install.

I woke up to his phone call the next day. "It's the crack of noon, I thought we'd get going on building this thing."

I felt obliged to help, despite the inconvenience; he'd clearly been inconvenienced more just to be there. And let me tell you, he was impressed when I showed him my reverse nail punch trick to sink a nail. But the rest of the learning on that project was done by me. Some was about

carpentry; most was about leadership.

Dave passed away in 2002. I attended his funeral service in DC and ran into **Jim Keene '57**. He said, "I'm very sad that my brother has passed on; I will miss him. But as I looked around the church, I saw a whole row of Pi men and my heart lit up."

In 2014, I went to Ithaca to assist in the re-decking of the Beach, teaching and supervising the undergraduates brothers doing the work, with materials funded by alumni. We built some decking, and in the process, we built relationships.

In 2019, I made a social-media post from San Diego. **Alvaro Galan '15** quickly reached out to invite me over. We had become friends during the re-decking project, and we wound up spending



a week together in San Diego. I helped a bit, converting an old school bus to a home on wheels that would take him to Burning Man. He helped me work on my surfing. We helped each other through personal issues. Then, brother **Ian Leggett '15** came to visit from Argentina for an epic weekend. Alvaro and I continue to keep in touch.

It's 2021, and it's time to "deck the beach" again. This time, my focus was broader than the physical structure. I acknowledged the bonds we build while building, and I wanted to foster them. That's why I invited every brother, on the hill or in the world, to join me on this project during the weekend of April 16.

Jevo.

Keep in Touch with The Brotherhood



By Chris Selland '86

Brothers: just wanted to give everyone a quick update on alumni relations.

We've continued our regular series of Zoom events, most recently on March 4, featuring brothers **Steve Parker '87**, **Bruce Kornfeld '88**, and **James Alvarez '17**, entitled "Wanna Start Something" and focusing on starting a business or just initiating an idea. More than 25 undergrads and recent graduates participated, showing great enthusiasm for more career-oriented content. For anyone interested, there is a recorded replay available; drop me an email for details: cselland@gmail.com.

We're always looking for new topics and leaders. So for any of you who have ideas and are willing to lead or participate in an event, drop me a note or give me a call.

I also wanted to point to the spring alumni survey, which is still open for response. Please visit tinyurl.com/mu-alumnisurvey when you can, and tell us more about you!

And of course, join our Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/sigmapimu) and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/groups/4734302) groups. It's a great way both to keep in touch with the brotherhood and to give back by connecting for professional opportunities.

Reunion: Virtual for '21, GO BIG for '22: Last but definitely not least, though this year's Cornell Reunions are virtual, there is already momentum building for a *big* multi-class event in 2022. I'm going to propose that we use the aforementioned Facebook group as the primary place to coordinate who's planning to attend, who's staying where (rooms will almost certainly be at a premium; book early!), and of course, who's doing what.

For now, if you're "going" or "interested", let us know: tinyurl.com/mu-reunion2021! And if you're unable to see these links and need to know how to get to any of these resources, drop me a note or give me a call; I'd love to hear from you: 617-216-4424; cselland@gmail.com.

RA Report

By Luke Williams



After a long two-month winter break, the members of Mu Chapter were eager to refill 730 University. Three members of the newest class moved in for the first time. The new semester also saw new house leadership emerge, led by juniors **Richard Benjamin '22** and **Barron Brown '22**. I applaud everyone who stepped up to the plate, either in an official capacity or otherwise.

Despite the absence of social events, the brothers have managed to strengthen relationships between each other and with the larger Cornell community. Considering the continued restrictions on regular Greek-life activities, our extraordinary new class of members is quite the accomplishment. Sigma Pi is poised for an exciting and memorable year to come.

I was offered the position of resident advisor almost a year ago. It has been nothing short of an absolute pleasure getting to know the men of Sigma Pi and helping them through these unprecedented times. I'm looking forward to returning next year and guiding this exceptional group of undergraduates toward a very bright future.

SAVE THE DATE: CORNELL VIRTUAL REUNION 2021

JUNE 10-13

alumni.cornell.edu/come-back/reunion

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cornell To End Bursar Billing



By John Haggerty '78

Greetings from a very strange Cornell campus. As we pass the one-year mark in this global pandemic, college life (and fraternity life) has changed drastically. Other articles in this *Muse* will give you more of a picture of those pandemic-related changes, but I want to focus on a change that has significant potential impact on our business model.

In the midst of the pandemic, Cornell quietly announced that it would soon (fall 2021) be ending the current bursar-billing system, which has been in effect for Greek organizations since before I became treasurer over 15 years ago. In a nutshell, we sent our student room, board, and dues/fees bills to Cornell, and Cornell sent cash to us. If a student did not pay, Cornell undertook the collections effort, and there was no charge-back system

to us for bad debt. This system gave us full visibility on revenue a semester in advance and certainly simplified the work of the treasurer.

My understanding was that this obviously valuable service was developed in part as an incentive for Greek organizations to accept the somewhat onerous provisions of the Cornell "Recognition Policy." In other words, you accept our rules, and we provide a very valuable financial tool to your organization.

Last year, for reasons I still do not fully understand, Cornell lawyers ruled that providing such support to Cornell affiliated entities is a violation of Title IV. Without much consultation, a timeline for the change was developed and communicated during the spring 2021 semester. There was and continues to be substantial push back from a number of Greek alumni organizations, but so far, there has been no change to the plan or the timeline as a result of that pressure.

The implications for the operation of the

fraternity are substantial. We will have to build a billing system, a collection and receipt system, and a bad-debt collection process, and we might need access to working capital from a commercial source to smooth out cash flow. Alternatively, as is currently being pursued, we can pay a third party to provide those services in part or in total. That will mean that a portion of the rent collected goes not to running the fraternity house but to the administrative process of billing and collection.

There are several groups working to change the university's decision, while simultaneously working with our shared accounting firm to build an efficient replacement for the bursar system we have enjoyed. Please stay tuned as we figure out if we will soon be living "life after bursar." For many of you who are more seasoned alumni, this is a return to the system you remember of brothers chasing brothers for cash. I have not missed those days at all.

Wouldn't it be nice...



By John Haggerty '78

I have a few recurring dreams. Most often, it's the one about waking up the morning of the final exam in a class that I only sporadically attended. In some iterations of this dream, I don't even know where the exam is being given. My day starts with a frantic search to find out where I am supposed to go to profoundly demonstrate my ignorance. But this dream never progresses. I always wake up before I get to the exam and quickly remind myself that the fear I am reliving is from 40 years ago. And I didn't miss any exams. Well maybe one...

Another recurring dream is the one that starts with a major financial upset to the delicate cash flow story that is Sigma Pi Mu Chapter. Some of our contemporaries on the hill operate their house with a substantial, well-invested endowment. While student rent is still a significant component of their budget, in many cases, if rent dropped to zero for

one or two years, for any reason, those houses have sufficient funds to mothball the house and to continue to pay utilities, taxes, and insurance with an eye toward reopening the house in the future. With two- and three-year suspensions now the default punishment for major violations of the university's rules for Greek life, this dream is occurring more often. Our NTPM master has included in recent email blasts the ever-increasing number of *former* fraternity houses, now "re-purposed." Many simply did not have the financial strength to weather a crisis.

We have been suspended for one year during my term as treasurer of the alumni corporation. That suspension caused us to eat completely through the \$75,000

line of credit we had with Tompkins Trust Company. With Jim Keene leading the way, we went down to the Trust Company and asked them to extend us another \$75,000 to keep the lights on. They obliged. But that debt, coupled then with the mortgage we were carrying, caused some very lean years on the facilities maintenance side. As most of you know as homeowners, delayed repairs do not generally get less expensive.

Today we operate with a \$300,000 line of credit, still from the Tompkins Trust Company. Such a credit facility, even if you do not tap into it (which we have not), brings costs (land surveys, appraisals, title and extract, renewal fee, etc.). But if something goes horribly wrong, I know that we

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"...it's the one about waking up the morning of the final exam in a class that I only sporadically attended."

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Inc.



By Joseph M. Zanetta '75

The Creed of Sigma Pi Fraternity states our goal so well:

I believe in Sigma Pi, a fellowship of kindred minds united in brotherhood, to advance trust and justice, to promote scholarship, to encourage chivalry, to diffuse culture, and to develop character, in the service of God and man.

The goals of the foundation are to support those efforts, with particular emphasis on promoting scholarship. During the past decade plus of our existence, we have funded internships, supported community service projects, assisted with career enhancement, encouraged speakers to address the brothers, and participated in programs in Ithaca and Manhattan to encourage education and networking. We manage the David Harrop Memorial Scholarship and also recognize scholarship and leadership at the house.

During the past year, we provided

funding to undergraduate brothers whose summer plans were disrupted by the COVID pandemic. The support took the form of stipends to replace the internships lost due to the national crisis. We are grateful to the brothers of Sigma Pi for your generous gifts and support of the foundation.

What's ahead for the foundation?

We are in the midst of rebranding the foundation, enhancing our web site, and conducting initial planning for an endowment campaign. We are considering an endowment fund that is a separately invested fund, intended to remain intact in perpetuity and to support the various projects of the foundation. An endowment will enable the foundation to fund programs that encourage scholarship and leadership development.

To the right is the listing of the board of directors for the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Inc. for 2021. We welcome your comments and thoughts on the foundation and, indeed, on how we can continue to support our brothers.



President **Joseph M. Zanetta '75**
josephzanetta@yahoo.com

Vice President **Wayne Forman '80**
wforman@BHFS.com

Treasurer **Connor Riser '16**
car295@georgetown.edu

Secretary **James R. Franz '77**
jfranz@hbk.com

Past President **Tom Silver '81**
tomsilver59@gmail.com

Director **Craig Dewey '06***
craig.dewey@gmail.com

Director **Alex Eacker '15**
alexacker@gmail.com

Director **Aaron Klein '12**
amk282@gmail.com

Director **Peter Muth '74***
pmuth@roadrunner.com

Director **Nick Orintz '16**
nornitz@mba2021.hbs.edu

Director **Kurt Rasmussen '80**
rasmussen.kurt@comcast.net

Director **Mike Reiner '78**
mreiner@r-i-inc.com

Director **Nick Wint '15**
nickwint@protonmail.com

* Also members of the board of directors of Mu Chapter Alumni Corporation

Diversity & Inclusion Committee



By Slater Goodman '18

This year, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee worked to identify issues of

access and representation in Greek life. The addition of **Yordanos Goshu '18** and **William Murphy '18** to both the board of directors and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee has enhanced the progress

of the committee and brought fresh perspectives and experiences. We remain committed to ensuring that Sigma Pi is a brotherhood that can serve all members of the Cornell community.

Mu Chapter Condemns AAPI Violence and Racism

By Mu Chapter Sigma Pi Alumni Board and Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Board

The brotherhood of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter is disgusted and saddened by the increase of violence, hate, and racism toward the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. We strongly condemn these acts and any narrative that supports them.

We stand in solidarity with the AAPI community throughout this country, on Cornell's campus, and within our brotherhood. We have made a commitment as an organization to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for each of our members. We have also made a commitment to educate and to prepare our brothers to be antiracist and accountable as members of the broader community. Our Diversity & Inclusion Committee is working closely with the undergraduate brothers to create a brotherhood that is inclusive for all

Cornellians, as well to create avenues for allyship and growth.

Resources to serve as an Ally:

Educate yourself on anti-AAPI hate.

- Watch the series *Asian American* on PBS, which outlines the history of Asian Americans in the US: pbs.org/show/asian-americans.
- Read "Asian Americans Are Still Caught in the Trap of the 'Model Minority' Stereotype. And It Creates Inequality for All": time.com/5859206/anti-asian-racism-america

Support organizations driving progress.

- Cornell Anti-Racism Resources for the AAPI Community: asianamericanstudies.cornell.edu/anti-racism-resources-aapi-community
- Cornell Anti-Racism Resources: diversity.cornell.edu/our-community/anti-racism-resources
- Asian American Legal Defense Fund: www.aaldef.org

- Asian American Federation: www.aafederation.org
- Asian American Business Development Center: aabdc.com
- Chinese-American Planning Council: www.cpc-nyc.org

Be an active bystander.

- Report hate crimes at Stop Asian Hate: stopaapihate.org

Take time to empathize and reflect, regardless of your identity.

- For those of us who don't identify as part of the AAPI community, asking questions is a great starting point. For instance, "What would my life be like if I did identify as a member of the AAPI community?" or, "How has my identity influenced my life?" Having conversations with yourself and others to better understand people with experiences different than your own is a simple way to begin your journey as an ally.

Wouldn't it be nice...

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can "keep the lights on" for some period of time while burdening future Mu Chapter brothers with the cost of that debt. This thought creates nightmares.

So, the "wouldn't it be nice" idea is that, similar to other houses, Mu Chapter had a well-invested sum of cash that could be used as collateral for loans to lower borrowing costs and as a source of supplemental operating capital in lean years. We have had a number of discussions of late about the possibility of the Sigma Pi Mu Chapter Educational Foundation serving as the vehicle to create the first ever Mu Chapter endowment fund. The discussions are in the early stages, and there is not unanimity of opinion across the stakeholders, but I see some movement toward a shared understanding. Sigma Pi executive office does similar things through its foundation.

A tax-advantaged vehicle to accumulate gifts that will benefit Mu Chapter makes sense for many potential donors and makes possible longer-term planned giving. When we celebrated our 100th anniversary, many of us set as our goal positioning Mu Chapter to celebrate 200 years. The work done by Jarett Wait and the boards and committees he has empowered and encouraged are a dramatic step toward building resilience for any type of future. An important component of that resilience is greater financial independence. An endowment of a million dollars, given over 1,100 living alumni, is not a dream. We have the ability to create it and to leave future generations of brothers a house in which to continue to create the memories we all treasure and share. Think about it.

An endowment will also eliminate one of my recurring dreams. Wouldn't it be nice...

Cornell plans for in-person classes this fall and expects to require students to get vaccinated.

Cornell might be in its home stretch of Zoom school; the university will resume in-person classes this fall, shaped around plans to require students to be vaccinated to return to campus.

Widespread immunization among the student body would allow Cornell to resume in-person classes in the fall, President Martha Pollack and Provost Michael Kotlikoff wrote.

Read more about the decisions from *The Cornell Daily Sun*: tinyurl.com/CornellFall2021.

Introducing Our Newest Members

The brotherhood is proud to announce that the spring recruitment cycle was a resounding success, and we are excited to introduce 14 new members to Sigma Pi.

COVID-19 has made this cycle difficult, because we were required to conduct our whole recruiting process over Zoom, but brothers from all classes came together and made an extraordinary effort to ensure that the new members of spring 2021 were deserving of membership and would be a good fit into the tight-knit brotherhood. Without a doubt, our efforts were rewarded. We are thrilled with the new class and are eager to see what these 14 new members will contribute to our house.

Our 14 newest brothers represent a vast array of interests and experiences. The class includes 13 freshmen and one sophomore and features men from New York to Miami to Geneva. It is also a balanced class across academic disciplines, with six of Cornell's seven undergraduate colleges represented.

These men are bound for future success, and each brings a unique perspective to the brotherhood. We look forward to watching these men grow among our ranks and become everything a Pi man represents.

Along with five new brothers from the fall 2020 class, we have welcomed 19 new members into Mu Chapter during the 2020–2021 academic year!



Why I Joined Sigma Pi



By **Ricardo Melasecca '24**

Sigma Pi has been a part of my life since before starting at Cornell. My older brother, **Pablo Melasecca '22**, a junior in the house, joined as a freshman in 2018–2019. Since then, I knew I wanted to join the house myself. The first step was getting accepted at Cornell, but from then on, the desire to be a Pi man was there.

Coming into my freshman year, many factors were uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but I took comfort in knowing that there was an institution at Cornell I trusted and respected. During the rush process, though mainly virtual, I came in with an open mind, because I wanted to see if any place compared to Sigma Pi or if there was anywhere that was more for me. However, my mind kept going back to Sigma Pi, the only place that did not lower its standards for anyone and seemed to show you how it was rather than what you would want it to be. The brothers at Sigma Pi displayed a true balance of ambition, camaraderie, and fun, and I wanted to be a part of that.

I joined Sigma Pi because it is the epitome of a constructive, united fraternity, and I know that, with my commitment to the house and its values, it will reward me with a deep exploration and understanding of myself and community through the fraternity's many traditions and events.



Victor Bisbal '24
Miami, FL
information science

Christian Brauchle '23
Montclair, NJ
math, economics



Teo Gomez Cruchaga '24
Geneva, Switzerland
economics

Andrew Danziger '24
Larchmont, NY
policy analysis and management



Robert De Jesus '24
Bronx, NY
industrial and labor relations

Thiago Hammes '24
Rye, NY
communications



Tor Haugen '24
Little Silver, NJ
civil engineering



Ricardo Melasecca '24
New York, NY
undecided, arts and sciences

Jack Mieszkalski '24
Lancaster, PA
architecture



Ethan Mulroy '24
Huntington, NY
industrial and labor relations

Manuel Nores '24
Miami, FL
architecture



Federico Sanchez '24
San Juan, PR
hotel administration

Dan Shapiro '24
Chevy Chase, MD
economics



Max Trahan '24
New York, NY
industrial and labor relations

A Tradition of Support



By **Steve Pirozzi '80**

Mu Chapter has a long tradition of brothers stepping up to support the Pi house. This was demonstrated to me when I became involved in the Dining & Learning project. No matter the experience you have acquired, there are always aspects of a project where the expertise of others will be beneficial to that project.

Many people responded to our request

for help. They included every member of the D&L Committee, without whom this project would not have been possible: **Robert Colbert Jr. '71**, who helped evaluate local contractors, **Dave Knapp '83**, who helped with lighting, and **Leo Timms '79**, who was instrumental during our evaluation of the corporate meal provider. The alumnus whose contribution I'd like to talk about here is **Jim Franz '77**. Jim's legal advice, negotiating on behalf of Mu Chapter, and his referral proved to be essential

to this project. The legal work and advice provided by Jim and his colleague were essential to Mu Chapter avoiding multiple conflicts with our contractor and, as a result, significantly reducing our costs.

I will always be grateful to everyone who worked untold hours bringing their expertise to aid this project.

DINING and LEARNING
for the 21ST CENTURY

Seniors' Graduation Plans



Patrick Angle
 MAJOR: earth and atmospheric sciences engineering
 POST-GRAD PLAN: pursuing a career in the renewable energy industry
 FAVORITE MEMORY: brotherhood ski trip to Mont Tremblant



Drew Mangan
 MAJOR: hotel
 POST-GRAD PLAN: analyst at CHMWarnick
 FAVORITE MEMORY: spring break 2019

Chris Cavanaugh
 MAJOR: mechanical engineering
 POST-GRAD PLAN: masters in electrical engineering
 FAVORITE MEMORY: building our dye table



Peter McGurk
 MAJOR: material science
 POST-GRAD PLAN: masters in electrical engineering
 FAVORITE MEMORY: 4th of July party



Trevor Faulk
 MAJOR: applied economics and management
 POST-GRAD PLAN: business associate at Gartner
 FAVORITE MEMORY: ΣΔΤ mixers



Matt Pullano
 MAJOR: mechanical engineering
 POST-GRAD PLAN: undecided
 FAVORITE MEMORY: PLP 2019



Adi Ramachandran
 MAJOR: applied economics and management
 POST-GRAD PLAN: product analyst at PIMCO
 FAVORITE MEMORY: posting in 210



Alex Frank
 MAJOR: policy analysis and management
 POST-GRAD PLAN: undecided
 FAVORITE MEMORY: breaking things



Jack Samett
 MAJOR: applied economics and management
 POST-GRAD PLAN: investment banking at PJ Solomon
 FAVORITE MEMORY: fall break Montreal trip



Carter Gran
 MAJOR: computer science
 POST-GRAD PLAN: software development at Publicis Sapient
 FAVORITE MEMORY: sorry, kidding Trevor on the Arts Quad



Dan Sanderson
 MAJOR: information sciences
 POST-GRAD PLAN: consulting at Oracle NetSuite
 FAVORITE MEMORY: Pat's pesto smashers



Peter Gribizis
 MAJOR: operations research
 POST-GRAD PLAN: undecided
 FAVORITE MEMORY: Omega Chi



Jake Stein
 MAJOR: English
 POST-GRAD PLAN: undecided
 FAVORITE MEMORY: pit mixers



Kirk Hachigian
 MAJOR: computer information science engineering
 POST-GRAD PLAN: strategy consulting at EY-Parthenon's software strategy group
 FAVORITE MEMORY: hanging out on the beach after class



Sackett Terry
 MAJOR: information sciences
 POST-GRAD PLAN: wealth advisory at BlackRock
 FAVORITE MEMORY: formal



Jet Hardie
 MAJOR: information sciences
 POST-GRAD PLAN: business development representative at Adobe
 FAVORITE MEMORY: Oasis



Francisco Wagner
 MAJOR: operations research and engineering
 POST-GRAD PLAN: FRM analyst at Citi
 FAVORITE MEMORY: Oasis 2019



Christian Lippey
 MAJOR: hotel
 POST-GRAD PLAN: undecided
 FAVORITE MEMORY: tours around the wine region



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

DINING and LEARNING for the 21ST CENTURY

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Kent Sheng '78

Mu Chapter Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Inc.

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Kevin Fountain '68

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Dennis Kirby '66
Michael McAneny '66
John Sherwood '66
Robert Inslerman '67
Christopher Hoerber '68
Richard Markham '68
David Silverstein '68
Francis Canale '69
Henry Drexler '69
James Miller '69
Donald Rider '69
Douglas Soat '69
Whitney Garlinghouse '71
Walter Knox '71
David Miller '71
Richard Fish '72
Greg Fisher '72
Frederick Hoge '72
James Boland '73
William Ford '73

Howard Rosen '73
William Strusz '73
James Turner '73
Ted Chen '74
James Forbes '74
Bert Hurlburt '74
Frederick Reeg Jr. '74
Jeffrey Craver '75
Mark Cunningham '75
William Dougherty '75
John Morrison '75
John Stetson '75
Joseph Zanetta '75
Fred Bassette '76
William Forman '76
Thomas Garr '76
Peter Cady '77
Charles Clark Jr. '77
Kevin Mazzamaro '77
James Myers '77
Matthew Petti '77
Leo L. Timms '77
William Cavanaugh '78
Todd Hasselbeck '78

Larry Barstow '79
Steven Bergh '79
Wayne Buder '79
Alan Douglas '79
Andrew Kantor '79
Curtis Quantz '79
Steven Rosenzweig '79
Richard Bosshardt '80
Jeffrey Brown '80
Jonathan Fordin '80
Steven Hobbs '80
Lawrence Kantor '80
Owen McCarron '80
Anthony McManus '80
Douglas Uyeno '80
Bradford Crooke '81
Herbert Ernst '81
Alexandra Bosshardt '82
David Hagner '82
Gerald Leape '82
John Mennell '82
Richard Rego '82
Aron Steck '82
Kurt Bosshardt '83

Dennis Ehrenberger '83
Steven Novak '83
Carlos Santiago '83
John Schor '83
Michael Vernick '83
Thomas Barbaro '84
John Burger '84
David Crandell '84
Jeff Pine '84
William Fisher '85
Jeffrey Lewis '85
Gregory Vojnovic '85
Howard Epstein '86
Steven Parker '86
Brian Schimmoller '86
Matthew Tobin '86
Christopher Vachris '86
Brad Fortune '87
Dean Asofsky '88
Matthew Bromberg '88
Mark Childs '88
Steve Muson '88
Michael Najjar '88
Aaron Pollock '88

DINING *and* LEARNING for the 21ST CENTURY

HONOR ROLL OF CONTRIBUTORS: 2015–2020 (continued)

Alan Riffkin '88	Nathaniel Bryce '06	Michael Adelstein '16	Zachary Goldman '18	Ian Atkinson '20
Stuart Strumwasser '88	Alan Chan '06	James Alvarez '16	James Goodman '18	Luke Balestrieri '20
Michael Weissman '88	Alexander Deyle '06	Robert Attia '16	Jacob Howell '18	Joseph Brogan '20
Leonard Wolin '88	Christopher Hayes '06	Alec Charbonneau '16	Drew Lord '18	Nico Capalongo '20
Matthew Harrison '89	Joshua Katcher '06	Brandon Choi '16	William Murphy '18	William Colerick '20
Bruce Kornfeld '89	Arnold Mahesan '06	Zachary Gilbert '16	Ezra Pak-Harvey '18	Maxwell Cook '20
Andrew Sherman '89	Mark Schwager '06	Andrew Joseph '16	Griffin Py '18	John DeMouly '20
Bryan Happ '90	John Zimmer '06	Connor Riser '16	Colin Roche '18	Harrison Drazzal '20
Thaddeus Szarzanowicz '90	Matthew Dietz '07	Andrew Wald '16	Alex Rodriguez '18	Alex Ewald '20
Jonathan Broder '91	Jeremy Kraker '07	Justin Bredahl '17	Gabriel Smuel '18	Evan Fischhoff '20
Miguel Ferrer '91	Trevor White '07	Benjamin Capasso '17	Joshua Sones '18	Travis Fristoe '20
Christian Hansen '91	Timothy Horsburgh '08	Fernando Cevallos '17	Alexander Stotter '18	Lucas Goldman '20
Lawrence Ireland '91	Tristan Kouk '08	David DellaPelle '17	Patrick Wang '18	Richard Greenbaum '20
Liviu Rusu '98	Joshua Lewis '08	Alexander Feldman '17	Alexander Wood-Thomas '18	Cole Hunter '20
Peter Sedivy '98	Samuel Rosen '08	Timothy Jalbert '17	Hakim Ali '19	Jonah Hutchinson '20
David Houseman '99	Stephen Yanchuk '08	Daniel Janeczko '17	Dexter Amadasun '19	Caleb Klausner '20
Lawrence Keane Jr. '99	Jacob Slowik '09	David Kogan '17	Brian Barr '19	Andre Macallister '20
James Lauer '99	Kevin Lieber '10	Agustin Martinez '17	Landon Budenholzer '19	Calvin McKinney '20
Raymond Shan '99	Tucker Whitcomb '10	William McGrane '17	Jonathan Caen '19	Jake Miola '20
Jean Simoes '99	Jonathan Morello '11	Zane Mokhiber '17	Jack D'Agostino '19	Alexander Schmack '20
Jonathan Chew '00	Andrew Chatham '12	Reid Paoletta '17	Jack Daly '19	Jason Spector '20
Mark Lynn '00	Sean Fuoco '12	Steven Siegel '17	Abdo Dergham '19	Alexander Frank '20
Matthew Pens '00	Aaron Klein '12	Samuel Strang '17	Shailen Doshi '19	Amy Goldman P'14 '18 '20
Jonathan Coll '01	Tareq Ali '13	Andrew Walsh '17	Connor Duffy '19	Howard Goldman P'14 '18 '20
Brian Yasutis '01	Adam Cherubini '13	Jonathan Wu '17	Justin LaClair '19	Susan Howell P'18
Timothy Altier '03	Matthew Davis '13	Alexander Yablonovich '17	Elliot LaGuardia '19	Patti Sones P'18
Bryan Rivard '03	Samuel Hendrickson '13	Sanjay Banda '18	Aaron Lauer '19	David Sones P'18
Quin Garcia '05	Alex Rawitz '13	Samuel Barnum '18	Clouse Lee '19	Tracey Balestrieri P'20
Michael Glicker '05	Jake Sion '13	Matthew Blakley '18	Christopher O'Dore '19	Angelo Balestrieri P'20
Raphael Rabin-Havt '05	Zachary Smith '13	Charles Byrnes IV '18	Ari Perlmutter '19	Joanne McKinney P'20
Jonathan Rich '05	Jonathan Beckerman '14	Isaiah Duck '18	Onur Saglam '19	Jessica Sanderson P'21
Jonah Allaben '06	Felix Tabary '14	Joshua Even '18	Alex Santoriello '19	Blair Bosshardt '17
Dia Beshara '06	Bennet Heidenreich '15	David Golding '18	Donovan Wright '19	Ruth Ann Keene
Matthew Bordegaray '06				

Special Recognition

Stephen Pirozzi '80	Alexandra Bosshardt '82	Gregory Vojnovic '85	James Franz '77	David Knapp '83
Brian Finneran '81	Kevin Kruse '79			

Project Fully Funded: Total Cost Just Under \$690,000

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN FUNDED

Kent Sheng '78: **Adolphus "Dolly" C. Hailstork Dining Room**, from the class of 1978

Howie Gordon '81: **Countertop Double-Deck Pizza Oven**

Joe Ruocco '81: **"The Procrasticup" 30-inch Radiant Charbroiler**

Jarett Wait '80: **New Ceiling**

Federico Castellucci '07: **Soda Dispenser**

Bennet Heidenreich '12: **Sandwich (Panini) Grill**

Steven Decker '85: **Reach in Cooler**

Eric Hamburg '85: **Three-Pan Electric Hot-Food Table**

Reflection on The Passing of Prof. Walter LaFeber



By Steve Ryan '77

In 1977, I knew Walter LaFeber was the muse of my Cornell experience. I had taken his courses and urged all the Pi men who would listen to take his course, bearing the stares about the Saturday morning lecture.

We used to have Thursday night "date night" at the house, and we wore ties and jackets (dressing up would not be accurate), and Prof. LaFeber and his lovely wife Sandi consented to join us for one evening dinner. During dinner, it occurred to me for the first time how the dining experience of that era appeared to adults; we had table cloths and Dolly's food, but the general lack of proper sanitary aspects became more apparent if you looked. Walt (which was not what I called him then) gave some great remarks, and I was as always grateful.

But we need to reflect more carefully on Prof. LaFeber's importance to Cornell. In 1969, the faculty had a handful of rock-star young history and government professors, like Walt, who watched the 1969 takeover of the Straight by Black activists, the tumult of the resulting decision of the administration to not authorize a forceful expulsion from the building or

of the students involved from the university, and the departure of the president of CU. It was a watershed moment, and Walter was then on the cutting edge of his work on reinterpreting US diplomatic history and the Cold War. He was heavily recruited to leave. His decision to stay (along with many other fine peers) ensured the Cornell we attended less than a decade later was the Cornell we expected. Walter loved Cornell, and when I explored his decision to stay long after the event, he described, for example, his close personal relationship to Dr. Hans Bethe, a German refugee and one of the group of inventors of the atomic bomb. LaFeber thought only Cornell could put together the arts and science in the same manner, and his relationship with Dr. Bethe was emblematic of all Cornell offers to a faculty member or a student.

My personal relationship with him grew after I graduated. I went on to work

in the Senate and to serve the US in Eastern Europe in rule-of-law efforts. I saw Walt every time I visited Cornell, every time we could arrange it, and every year after my boys went to Cornell to study history under Walt's successors (the oldest missed him teaching by one year). Walter and Sandi hosted my sons at faculty student cocktail parties, and the bond of friendship was extended by the LaFeber's to a new generation. I can



say I own every book Walter wrote, and some have been reread so hard they are shabby from use. All are signed by him.

I find it hard to shed tears anymore, but losing Walter was a pretty good tissue session. I am sad COVID robbed us of that last breakfast and lunch, where he could review public events with me. His house on the edge of the gorge might someday be the house of another faculty member, but McGraw Hall ought to be renamed for Walt.

Thank You, Kent Sheng '78

By Alumni Board

In these challenging times, we have seen so many brothers step forward with gifts of generosity, but this year, we would like to thank Brother **Kent Sheng '78**, who has just given Mu Chapter a tremendous present by pledging to close out the Dining and Learning for the 21st Century campaign.

We all know Kent as a polite and soft-spoken brother, and he now has a new status as one of the most important and consistent benefactors of the Pi house in its history.

So let's find out more about Kent; he is a dad with two children, Ben and Julia, and with characteristic humility, he labels himself as an "investment officer." In addition to Cornell, where he is currently the president of the Cornell class of '78, he also attended Harvard University, earning a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government.

Kent is currently the president and chief investment officer for Tandem Capital

Management and has more than 25 years of experience in the investment management field. Before founding Tandem Capital Management, Kent was at Dean Witter (now Morgan Stanley), where he made investment recommendations to high-net-worth investors, pension plans, and corporate executives.

In addition to being a benefactor of the Pi house, Kent is a benefactor of Cornell's Asian & Asian American

Center (A3C), a second campus home for thousands of students each year. From programming that celebrates the importance of Asian cultures to a space for students to explore their identities, the center offers a strong sense of community and family and takes a crucial role in starting difficult but necessary conversations about bias, culture, mental health, and much more. Kent sponsored a professorship that bears his name, held by Nancy Martinsen, the "Kent G. Sheng '78 Associate Dean of Students

and Director of the Asian & Asian American Center."

When Kent was awarded the Frank H.T. Rhoades Exemplary Alumni Service Award, there was a feature story on him, and some portions are excerpted here:

"I set off for Ithaca both hopeful and fearful," Kent Sheng recalled. While academics were strenuous, he discovered himself outside the classroom. Starting out running the projector at events for the Cornell Chinese Students Association, he eventually became president his senior year. He polished his skills as a writer for the *Daily Sun*, and as a fraternity brother at Sigma Pi, "I learned to show up, ease up, and speak up. Years later, I've to come realize that these non-classroom activities improved my personal confidence."

His dedication to student life has guided his role as an alumni volunteer. He was a leader with the Student and

(continued on page 12)



Mu Brothers' News & Notes

Paul R. Aamio '65 retired to Panama City, Florida, where he spends his time at a waterfront property, enjoying his car collection and his new wife, Lisa: "...my beautiful German War bride! I found the girl of my dreams at the age of 74. There is always hope for a happy ending. Don't give up looking until someone throws a shovel full of dirt in your face! To keep from getting bored, I found a construction company whose mission is to repair storm damaged homes, allowing working-class people to afford to move back in to the local area. Life is always interesting if you look for opportunities." Keep in contact with Paul at wiballet@msn.com or at 205 Sunset Ln., Panama City Beach, FL 32407.

After 50 years in the heavy-construction business, **Peter Chase '70** will likely retire in 2021—for the second time. He is currently building a senior home for a non-profit firm associated with the Greek Orthodox church. The group has been working for 30 years on the project, and they break ground in October. Get all the details from Peter at peterchase80@gmail.com; 13 Cherboung Ct., Potomac, MD 20854.

David R. Miller '71 reports that, after 33 years of living in New Jersey, he and his wife, Debby, moved to the Berkshires in Massachusetts. "The move has enabled us to make day trips to visit with our daughters and grandchild. We have also enjoyed heading to our summer house in the Finger Lakes on Lake Owasco, so visiting Ithaca is an annual thing." He stays in contact with **Don Rider '69** and some of his brothers in the class of '71. Stay in contact with David: drmiller347@gmail.com; 436 Gale Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

After 24 years in China, **Bill Ahrens '76** transitioned back to the US in September 2020, and he will likely be settling in Fargo, North Dakota. Bill can be reached at anweiliang@gmail.com, or at 1208 23rd Ave. S, Moorhead, MN 56560.

Kent Sheng '78 and **William Cavanaugh '78** take over prominent leadership roles in their graduating class as president and vice-president respectively.



Joe Ottinger '80, a 25-year technology business executive, management consultant, and author of books and articles about leading change, innovation, and organizational agility, has teamed up with two technology innovators to form a new firm called OKR Advisors. The mission of OKR Advisors is to equip entrepreneurial leaders and their organizations to master OKRs (objectives and key results) and other proven agile strategy execution methodologies in order to succeed in today's rapidly changing business environment and, in the process, to disrupt the traditional management consulting model. "We are not following the old management consulting model that hires full-time MBAs and charges on an hourly basis", says Joe. Our goal is to reimagine the traditional management consulting firm by building a global network of independent consultants and internal company experts, whom we certify as masters in agile strategy execution methodologies, such as OKRs, and equipping them with an extremely comprehensive set of assets and support to rapidly improve financial and operational performance. Furthermore, our values are to do well and good with the highest integrity by building thriving and sustainable leaders, companies, and communities. We want to make a positive impact on the world that really matters." OKR Advisors is headquartered in the Seattle area.



Restaurant industry executive **Greg Vojnovic '85** has acquired The Hot Dog Shoppe, a brand headquartered in Warren, Ohio. Gerg, a longtime executive of Popeye's, Arby's, and Inspire Brands, acquired the three-unit fast-casual restaurant group, which was founded by Paul Treveline in 1946, with his brother, fellow restaurateur **Nick Vojnovic '81**. The transaction was finalized on March 17, and the company will now be known as Hot Dog Shoppe Limited Holdings LLC. "Hot Dog Shoppe was founded early in the post-war golden years of the creation of the fast-food restaurant boom," says Greg. "It has survived through many of the ups and downs of the last 75 years by staying true to Paul Treveline's vision: high-quality



simple food sold at a pleasing price. We will remain true to that vision and make sure that Hot Dog Shoppe remains as vibrant a part of the communities as it is today." Ray Treveline, a founding family member, says "My family and I founded the Hot Dog Shoppe in 1946 and have put everything into our restaurants. We wanted to make sure we chose the right person to carry on our traditions. We could not be happier that Greg will steward the company going forward." Dirk Doverspike, a second generation family member, remarks, "After reviewing numerous candidates, we are confident that Greg is the right person to carry on our family legacy. His experience and deep knowledge of the restaurant industry, as well as his care for our people, our business, and our communities, were the key factors for us." Greg adds, "I am honored that the Treveline and Doverspike families selected me to continue their restaurant's legacy." In addition to co-ownership of Hot Dog Holdings, Nick is president of Little Greek Fresh Grill and involved in franchise development for Green Market Cafe. Hot Dog Shoppe currently has three units in the greater Youngstown, Ohio, area.



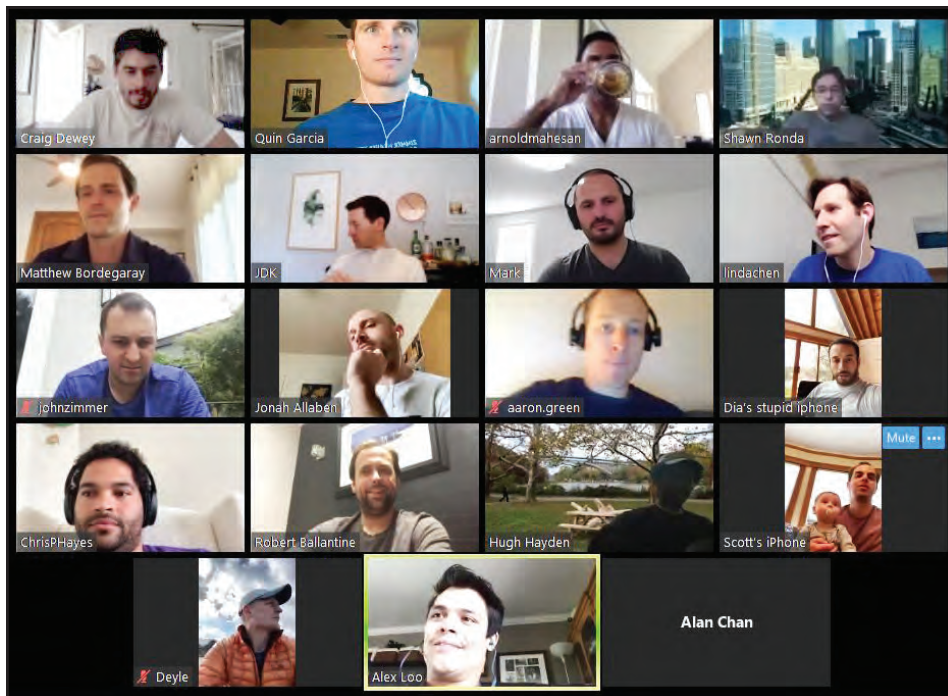
New York Times columnist and DealBook creator **Andrew Ross Sorkin '99** will join #ThisIsWorking to talk about the ways in which companies are rethinking their responsibility to society. His book, *Too Big to Fail*, became an 11-time Emmy nominated HBO film, and he co-created Showtime's hedge fund drama, *Billions*.

Quin Garcia '05 says of the 2003 pledge class: "I believe it was the largest gathering of our 2003 pledge class since we graduated. Over the course of three hours, I think we had 22 out of our 28 pledge brothers join the virtual reunion. One of the silver linings of coronavirus is its unexpected ability to bring us closer to the people we most care about. There are some similarities between pledging and coronavirus in that they both involve several months of spending an inordinate amount of time in a house with people you care about, helping each other endure the challenges, and emerging on the other side with lifelong memories and stronger bonds.

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Mu Brothers' News & Notes

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Virtual reunion of the 2003 pledge class.

This small window in history might be the best chance we'll have in our lifetimes to reconnect with so many of our brothers. Please feel free to share our experience with the brotherhood if you think they'll appreciate it. I hope other pledge classes also take advantage of this short window of opportunity to reunite virtually during the lockdown. Maybe we could even arrange a full brotherhood Zoom call during the lockdown to create the largest virtual gathering of Mu Sigma Pis in the history of the fraternity.



Congratulations to **Alex Rawitz '13** for being promoted to chief cooperating officer and co-Founder at DIMO. He wrote after an amazing 2.5 years at Chainalysis Inc., "I'm leaving to start working on a venture of my own. I have lived and breathed startups since graduating college, so it was time to finally take the leap myself. Looking forward to sharing more in time. Wishing all my dear colleagues, friends, and customers the best as they work to secure cryptocurrency networks and help bring them in the mainstream."

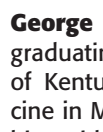


Congratulations to **Jeffrey Baker '14** for starting a new position as managing director at Weller Development Company.

Ben Dreier '15 started a new position with Marketplace at Faire as a group project manager.



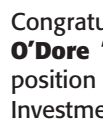
Maximiliano Olivares '15 will be graduating from UCLA Anderson School of Management this May with an MBA.



George Chalhoub '16 will be graduating from the University of Kentucky, College Of Medicine in May and will be starting his residency this June at Albert Einstein College of Medicine—Montefiore in New York City.



Congratulations to **David J. DellaPelle '17** for starting a new position as account manager at Perimeter 81. He also is an MBA candidate, in addition to being an Andre Koo Tech Scholar at NYU Stern School of Business.



Congratulations to **Christopher O'Dore '19** for starting a new position as associate at Lateral Investment Management LLC.



Congratulations to **Travis Fris-toe '20** for being promoted to lead economics teacher at Success Academy Charter Schools.

Deceased

John M. Richards '40
February 16, 2017

Herbert W. Mishler '51
November 24, 2020

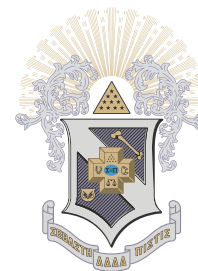
David A. Dewey '54
February 4, 2021

John L. Riley '55
January 30, 2021

Manfred W. Hoffmann '60

G. Bert Harrop '61
December 25, 2020

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



Thank You, Kent Sheng '78

(continued from page 10)

Academic Advisory Council Interest Group and, as chair of the SAS Major Gifts Committee, has been instrumental in promoting the West Campus housing system to alumni. In 1990, Sheng was one of the co-founders of the Cornell Asian Alumni Association (CAAA) and was co-chair of its first formal reunion in 2010. "You don't have to be an alumni volunteer for very long to know that Cornell is blessed with talent..."

On behalf of the Pi house, a hearty Jevo to a brother who is a "man for others" and now resides in Allendale, New Jersey!

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.