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P. PRIOR TO THE CLASS YEAR DENOTES THAT THE DONOR IS THE PARENT OF THE BROTHER FROM THAT CLASS.



story on page 4...

Mu Chapter Poised for Success

By Lev Katreczko '23, Sage

The 2021–2022 academic year has begun, bringing new challenges and opportunities for the brothers of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter to navigate and take advantage of. Cornell is in the process of transforming the student experience from the strictly regulated 2020–2021 year to a new, more open campus thanks to an overwhelming majority of vaccinated students. The brothers of Mu Chapter are eagerly taking advantage of these developments through participation in various intramural sports teams, clubs, and outdoor events. The chapter is especially excited to host the highly anticipated parking-lot party for the first time since the fall of 2019 and attend a Buffalo Bills game in November as a brotherhood.

In other news, the men of Mu Chapter have faced their first test this semester, coming in the form of an alleged recruitment violation related to the presence of potential new members at an event where alcohol was served. After an informal resolution, it was decided that our chapter would not be taking a fall pledge class. The brotherhood recognizes the magnitude of this loss and is working closely with Cornell and Mu Chapter alumni board in focusing on educating brothers on the importance of collective accountability and diligence in situations of this nature. Despite the unexpected change of plans, rush chairs **Tor Haugenes '24**, **Ricardo Melasecca '24**, and **Pablo Melasecca '22** have proven that hard work pays off in securing a strong group of potential new members eager to continue rush at Mu Chapter in the spring.

The brothers of Mu Chapter are known to give back to the Cornell community through positions of leadership, and our current members are actively contributing to this commitment. **Anders Jensen '22** and **Will Roth '22** are influential members of the International Business Consulting group, holding the positions of chief communications officer and director of recruitment, respectively. **Cosmo Gigante '23** is sector director at the Mutual Investments Club of Cornell. **Arthur Decker '23** is the president of Cayugas Watchers, working alongside **Mikhael Macallister '22**, vice president of finance and development, to promote safe drinking on Cornell's campus. Additionally, the brotherhood has been collaborating to coordinate philanthropy events like the 6K run to raise money for Big Brothers and Sisters of America, an organization dedicated to providing mentoring to underprivileged students.

Due to the complications of COVID-19 early in the semester, Mu Chapter was unable to host homecoming in full effect, which would have included a gathering at 730 University Ave. for the anticipated appearance of Band of Brothers. However, Mu Chapter made the most of the situation and spent wholesome time with the recently graduated class of '20 in the days preceding their official commencement ceremony, which had been postponed due to COVID-19. It was a triumphant weekend celebrating the return of the well-liked brothers, and an overwhelming feeling of Cornell returning somewhat to its "normal" ways.

As 2021 comes to an end, I am proud to say that Sigma Pi Mu Chapter is poised for success and eager to stride forward into a new year. The brotherhood continues to learn and grow as an organization and is actively supporting one another through these strange times.

SAVE THE DATE:
**REUNION
WEEKEND**

JUNE 9–12, 2022

Reunion weekend is fast approaching. We are hoping for a big turnout and look forward to seeing you there!

See our website
for details:
[www.sigmapicornell.org/
150-rsvp_reunion](http://www.sigmapicornell.org/150-rsvp_reunion)

Annual Meeting of the Board

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 23. 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 **132** proxies, representing almost 12% 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 was 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.



Left to right: **Jarett Wait '80**, **Michael Vernick '83**, **Yordi Goshu '18**, **Steve Pirozzi '80**, and **Slater Goodman '18**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Trevor White '07 Produces Hollywood Blockbuster King Richard

Undergrad Barron Brown '22 interviews former Sage Trevor White '07 after the release of his major film, starring Will Smith.

Congrats on your latest movie, *King Richard*. Could you tell the brothers of Sigma Pi a little bit about how you went from being an undergrad, just like everyone else, to being a successful film director and producer?

When I was in school, I always knew I wanted to get into the film business. So for me, I moved to LA right away. I graduated in 2007 and came out to LA, and my brother Tim was already here. We had talked for years at this point about starting the company together, and the truth is, we didn't really know what we were doing; like anything, you just learn as you go.



Trevor White '07

But, we learned about the business, and we learned about how certain kind of movies come together, and at that time, we were just really hungry to tell good stories. Like anything, I think, when you start, its about building momentum. Making your first film helps to get your second one made, and having two under your belt helps with your next, and so on. With each one, you learn the different ways you can package a film and put it together.

Fast forward ten years, and here we are. We have two movies coming out in November on back-to-back weekends around the holidays, and both of these films are in a lot of ways the culmination of all the work we've done up to this point. The thing I can say, especially for any of the guys who are looking to get into this business, is don't be don't be afraid of failure, especially

in the early part of your career. Often times, those failures provide lessons that are more impactful than anything else.

What advice do you wish you were given before you started your career as a creative and especially a producer.

I was always told to follow my passion. As a filmmaker, it's an incredibly important lesson. When you're creative, it's very easy to be told, "That type of story won't work, and this idea already exists in the world, and that's going to be impossible to get made."

I think ultimately, when you start trying to write something or to develop something into a box, it's when that idea loses all of its creative momentum. So, the best advice I can give is, if you want to write, write stuff that actually interests you, not because you think it's what's going to sell. Sometimes being naive about the business is the best asset you have as someone starting out in it.

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— Remembering DANIEL F. MAHANEY —

Reprinted from *The Centennial Book of the Mu Chapter centennial campaign.*

Daniel F. Mahaney epitomized the highest ideals of brotherhood, leadership, and professionalism while he was an undergraduate, between 1975 and 1980.

Arriving on campus from Massachusetts as a freshman, Dan pledged Sigma Pi in January 1976. Ithaca and Sigma Pi quickly became Dan's home and, ultimately, his final home on earth. Dan was known as a Pi man whose fraternal relationships bridged several classes of our Mu Chapter brothers. His smile was broad, his laugh was deep, and loyalty was boundless. Dan was an especially caring friend and compatriot of our brother and friend Adolphus "Dolly" Hailstork.

Beyond the Pi house, Dan was well known on campus, having played many prominent roles in the Department of University Unions and Activities. He was chairman of the North Campus Union (now RPCC) policy board and of the Noyes Center program board. He worked as a desk attendant, night



manager, and program advisor at Noyes Center Student Union. He was the first manager of the Alfalfa Room and a member of the Department Student Wage Advisory and University Alcohol and Drug Education committees. In 1979, Dan was the recipient of the Outstanding Service award for his service to students at Noyes Center, and in 1980, he was awarded the Edgar J. Whiting Award, the highest honor recognized by the Department of University Unions.

Dan died in a tragic automobile accident in Ithaca in 1981. Dan's friends and family, including several of our Sigma Pi brothers, established a memorial fund in recognition of his service and accomplishments at Cornell. Mrs. Katherine A. Mahaney, Dan's mother, was crucial in helping establish the scholarship that would recognize the accomplishment of Cornell's campus leaders in Dan's honor. For over 40 years, the Daniel F. Mahaney Scholarship has been awarded to financially needy

Cornell students who show exemplary performance as voluntary leaders, student employees, or student managers in some aspect of student unions and activities. Several of our Mu Chapter brothers continue to contribute annually to the scholarship fund in memory of Dan as a part of their donation to the Cornell Annual Fund.

To designate that a portion of your Cornell University donation be applied toward the Daniel Mahaney Scholarship, you may do so on the response card you receive from Cornell in the mail or online. On the blank line before the word "Other," you should insert the dollar amount that you want to go toward Dan's memorial scholarship, and on the blank line next to "Other," you should insert "Daniel Mahaney '79 Scholarship Fund." If you instead make your Cornell Annual Fund donation by phone, simply let the phone-a-thon caller know what portion of your contribution to the annual fund you want specifically allocated to the Daniel Mahaney '79 Scholarship Fund. Designating a portion of your Cornell donation toward this scholarship does not increase your total donation amount.

Alumni Corp Treasurer's Report

By John Haggerty '78

As I outlined in the alumni corporation annual meeting, the transition away from the Cornell University bursar's billing system to a private company called "Greekbill" was completed at the beginning of the fall 2021 semester. We provide this company with our billing information for each student, and they produce bills and provide a payment facility that can handle credit cards, direct bank transfers, and checks. There is a per-student fixed set-up fee of \$10, and a cut of the transaction (3% for credit cards,

1% for wire). We have increased our billing to account for these new costs.

Mechanically the system seems to work well. Students are given access to their accounts through a web-portal, and they can opt to have their parents included as users as well. We receive weekly collections reports in simple excel spreadsheets that give us full visibility on payments and aging receivables.

However, this is a radical departure from the prior bursar system. In the past, shortly after we provided the Cornell bursar with the student billing details, Cornell sent us the full amount of cash we billed. Any unpaid bill or partially paid bill was an issue for Cornell, not for Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi. Many of you will remember the "bad-old-days" of the house leadership chasing delinquent brothers for money. We are suddenly and not happily now back in that business.

The number and size of delinquent accounts is larger than I anticipated. There are a myriad of reasons, from slow processing of scholarships and loans (by Cornell) to "I simply don't have the money". Matt Pens (Brotherhood Committee) and Slater Goodman (board secretary) are providing Jarrett and I with guidance on how to tackle this thorny issue. While we have some financial cushion to cover house operating

costs for the fall semester, if these bills remain unpaid, and more are added in the spring semester, we will run low on cash.

We established a significant line of credit a few years ago in anticipation of a potential fundraising gap on the Dining & Learning capital project. Thanks to your generosity and to the incredible support of Brother Kent Sheng, we have not needed to use that credit facility. I hope not to use it now, but I sleep better knowing it is there.

I will provide updates on this issue as we move forward in the new and more challenging financial reality of running a fraternity at Cornell. As always, your contributions to the alumni corporation (sigmapicornell.org/150-giving-heritage.asp) are a critical dimension of our financial health. Now more than in the recent past, we need your help!

LATE FALL UPDATE:

While everything above remains true, the effort required to provide financial oversight to the fraternity during the fall of 2021 is something that neither Jarrett nor I hope to ever repeat. We functioned as collection agents and fiscal responsibility stewards from start to finish of the semester. Countless Zoom sessions

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Alumni Relations Committee Report

By Chris Selland '86, Chair

I'm happy to say that our alumni continue to be both engaged and generous, and as the public health environment continues to improve, we are looking forward to restarting both virtual and live events.

We're looking for help. If you're coordinating any events, or even just thinking about it, post them to our Facebook group and/or our LinkedIn (*see links below*) and let us know. We'd love to help.

In these past few weeks, we had a highly successful Procrastipup.

We've also continued to hold online events including our annual Giving Day on Dolly's Birthday and a more career-oriented session on September 22, featuring Ali Hamed '15.

It was disappointing that homecoming had to be postponed as there was clear enthusiasm for a return to Ithaca but we are planning ahead to reunions next year.

As always, please contact **Chris Selland '86** (cselland@gmail.com) if you would like more information on any of our existing events or would like to make us aware of (or start) any new ones!



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www.linkedin.com/groups/4734302

Dining and Learning Plaque Update

By Steve Pirozzi '80

The plaque recognizing the Dining & Learning Project donors has been manufactured, delivered, and installed in the Pi house dining room.

This puts a bow on the largest renovation project undertaken and successfully completed since the reconstruction of the Pi house.

Thanks once again to everyone who contributed, along with my personal gratitude to each member of the Dining & Learning Committee who contributed their time and expertise to make this project a resounding success. A special thanks to **Kent Sheng** and the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation. Due to their exceptional generosity, the Dining & Learning Project has been fully funded.



Trevor White '07 Produces Hollywood Blockbuster King Richard

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How has Sigma Pi helped you in your work, and where have you seen its effects come into play?

I think about it often. I think my experience at Sigma Pi was super instrumental in creating a foundation for me as a business owner. I chose to have various leadership roles in the fraternity, from rush chair to alumni secretary to president. I think a lot of the qualities that have helped me run a movie set and run a business came from my time in Sigma Pi. The truth is, it's very hard to get leadership opportunities like that when you're 20 years old. They taught me about organization and time management and all that stuff that trickles into what I do now.

Where did the concept come about to make a movie about the story of Venus and Serena?

This actually came from my brother, maybe seven or eight years ago. Tim was a competitive tennis player and was aware of Richard's larger-than-life personality from an early age. Years later, Tim said we should look into doing a movie about Richard Williams.

This is a man who came from nothing and had never picked up a tennis racket in his life. He had a vision for these girls that seemed crazy, but everything he envisioned ultimately came true. We were excited by the idea of telling one of the greatest coaching stories in sports history. Beyond that, Richard and Oracene not only made them great champions, but he made them even better people. It's about their perseverance, about their determination. It's about their love. And, I think all those things excited us. Telling the story of these women and their amazing family through a lens that very few people are actually aware of.

What's it like being so heavily involved with your brother, especially from the very beginning. You think that's a huge factor to why you guys are both where you are: because you guys had each other?

Neither of us would be where we are today without each other. Having that built-in trust is everything. It can be challenging at times, because we really keep each other in check. And, it's important to have a partner with whom there is a freedom to take chances.



Trevor and Tim White with Reinaldo Marcus Green on the set of King Richard.

How does it feel to be at a point where you're working with Will Smith?

We've been fortunate to work with many great actors over the course of the last nine years. But working with Will has been a dream. He's everything you hope he would be and much much more. When you're in the process of making a film, it can be hard to step back from it and appreciate all the steps it took to get to this point. Now that the film is out in the world and getting the responses it has been getting, it certainly feels incredibly rewarding. We poured ourselves into making the film and had to overcome many challenges, including getting shutdown due to COVID three weeks into a three-month shoot. So, we certainly feel lucky being where we are today.

I got some rapid fire questions:

- **Favorite movie you've made:** Impossible to name a favorite, but it certainly feels like *King Richard* is my proudest.
- **Favorite actor/actress you've worked with:** I definitely can't answer this one!
- **Favorite non-Trevor White movie:** *The Godfather* or *LA Confidential*.
- **Guilty pleasure movie or TV show:** I love *Ted Lasso*, but *Succession* is my favorite show on TV right now.
- **What are some things about movies or TV that only a film producer would notice and other people just kind of wouldn't catch or see?:** I can always see the "movie magic." So, I can tell when something wasn't shot on location but was shot against a green screen. If a movie is great, knowing that there was a visual effect involved never bothers me.

What are your goals in the future, people who you want to work with, or stuff like that?

The main goal will always be to continue to make content that we are passionate

about. We want to make things across all different kinds of genres and really stretch ourselves to take big swings. As you can tell from the kinds of films we've already made, we have a wide scope in the kinds of stories that interest us. *Ingrid Goes West* is certainly a different kind of story from *King Richard* or *The Post*. In fact, we have another movie out on HBO Max right now called *8-Bit Christmas*. We love this movie so much. It's a

film for the entire family and just has a ton of laughs and heart. Other than that, we've got a few projects we start production on at the top of the new year, and we're also beginning to dive into television as well. But again, the main goal is to find stories and characters that excite us and to find ways to shape those into films!

Find out more at:

tinyurl.com/TW-IndieWire
tinyurl.com/TW-Variety

Hailstorck Giving Day 2021

By C. Selland '86

I'm happy to let everyone know that our annual Giving Day on Dolly's Birthday was a great time and a big success.

This year, more than 30 brothers from a wide range of years participated and 35 donations were made to the alumni corporation and education foundation totaling \$16,340. Donors spanned a range of 40 years, showing the impact the Doll had on so many generations of Pi Men and the generosity of our brotherhood.

But most importantly, if you missed it this year, it's not too late to donate. See www.sigmapi.cornell.org/150-giving-dolly.asp for more details and to make a donation. As we move into the holiday giving season, please keep the Pi house in mind!

And make sure to mark your calendars for next year. September 9 is a great day to memorialize the Doll and join our brotherhood for a virtual (or, hopefully, live) toast.

Alumni Treasurer's Report

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to review the list of brothers in arrears, participation in a house meeting to provide the brothers with context and answer their questions, and too many one-on-one sit downs to encourage brothers to find ways to honor their financial commitment to the brotherhood. In Jarett's words, "this was a very heavy lift." And no fun for us or for the brothers.

As the semester ends, the undergraduate ledger (dining, social, and national dues, primarily) is in deficit. They owe significant amounts to the national executive office, and will also owe more to our food service provider. We (Jarett, me, and the incoming and outgoing undergraduate treasurers) continue to review the myriad of issues that had an impact on fall 2021 and to plan for a more fiscally responsible spring 2022. We have had to be very heavy handed. The undergraduate brotherhood has seized the opportunity to try to raise funds (tinyurl.com/SP-BroFund) to help a small group of brothers continue their affiliation with Mu Chapter. We have had one brother disaffiliate with Mu Chapter after recognizing that he could not come up with the money he owed. It has not been pretty or fun.

Hopefully we have all learned valuable

lessons about operating a fraternity without the safety net of the Cornell bursar system. Some of us hope, although it is unlikely, that Cornell will permit the private fraternities and sororities to bill at least rent through the bursar system at some point in the future. This seems only fair, because Cornell counts our 44 beds in the new two-year mandatory on-campus living requirement. But even if that happens, the undergraduates will continue to need significant guidance and oversight on how to balance revenue and expenditures and how to forecast cash flows.

If you are an alumnus with a financial practice or background, there is a great opportunity to lighten my load by taking on an advisory role with the undergraduate brothers. We have professional accountants who keep the books, but the brothers need someone to provide them with guidance. If you want to discuss, send me an e-mail at jjh56@cornell.edu, and I will reach out.

As always, thank you for your support of Mu Chapter. Your unrestricted gifts to the house corporation allow us to do the necessary maintenance and repair work, even during lean times! I am grateful on behalf of the active brothers. Happy holidays to all.

Facilities Committee Report

By Liviu Rusu '98

We have a beautiful new parking lot that was finished in the nick of time before classes, thanks to much logistical support from this board.

Otherwise, the house is a mess! Clogged sinks in the bathroom, mold in the showers, rusty stalls, and garbage bins overflowing were reported in a letter sent by the visiting parents of our undergraduate treasurer, who've had older boys in the house.

And, to top it off, we continue to have two leaks in the beach membrane, deteriorating the ceilings below, and nobody to fix them locally. This is not just a matter of embarrassment for me, but it's an existential crisis for the house.

As Jim Keene would say: "A house that doesn't get clean, falls apart."

I am very grateful to Mr. Gigante for caring enough to speak out. I have asked him to join the Facilities Committee, as we negotiate this crucial time of COVID-19, cash flow, and culture, and the resulting effects on the house.

We have doubled the number of weekly hours that our cleaning service attends to the house and are working to fix the beach roof leaks and other maintenance-related issues even if it means going to Ithaca to get it done.

But the underlying challenge is bigger than that.

We as alumni have learned the value of the house being in top shape all the time: for insurance and risk management, recruiting, reduced maintenance, capital renovations, maintaining property value, the general enjoyment of the brotherhood, the building's ability to deliver on

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RA Report

By Luke Williams

Life is slowly returning to normal at Sigma Pi. This semester, classes are in person for the first time since March 2020. While masks are required in class and the undergraduates still receive COVID-19 tests twice per week, positive cases remain very low, and hopefully that trend will continue after fall break. I speak for Mu Chapter when I say it was a major disappointment to have homecoming canceled and miss the opportunity to meet the returning alumni. I have hope that next spring will see a vast improvement and the traditional alumni reunion can finally take place for the first time in three years.

The loss of a fall pledge class was a mistake for which I owe a large share of the responsibility. I want everyone to know that I will do whatever it takes to more effectively manage risk so that this does not happen again. Despite this setback, I still see a bright future at 730 University. With a large senior class graduating in May, continued success will depend on the younger brothers, and I have the utmost faith in the underclassmen. They have demonstrated leadership capabilities and a commitment to the values of the brotherhood. They have banded together during these trying times, and I believe they can overcome any challenges that lie ahead.

Warm regards.

Resident Advisor Search

At the close of the 2021–2022 academic year, we will be saying goodbye to our current resident advisor, Luke Williams, as he graduates from the Cornell Law school. We are currently looking for our next RA and would like to expand the search to include any and all Sigma Pi – Mu alumni.

As a former RA myself, this position is a fantastic opportunity to mentor and guide the next generation of Pi men. The position includes room & board, an apartment within the Pi House, and compensation. Responsibilities run from August through June. Additionally, you can have an outside job or take classes in conjunction

with the RA position.

If you are interested in learning more about the role or have someone you think would excel in it, please reach out to me at slatergoodman@gmail.com.

Fraternally,
Slater Goodman '18



Educational Foundation

By Brody Ehrlich '10

Like many of you, when I think about the house, I think about the great times I had in Ithaca (some, less ideal for public consumption), but also about what it gave to me and what I owe it back in return. We all joined Sigma Pi for different reasons, and I'm willing to bet that for most of us (certainly at the time), "education and leadership" were not on the top of the list.

Nevertheless, along with the packed party calendar, lifelong friendships, and great memories, we built a network of like-minded, competent, and reliable business partners and leaders (a "fellowship of kindred minds," if you will). That network is valuable. Many of us alumni use it in our daily business lives, and some wouldn't have been as successful without it.

It's exciting for me to join the Board of the Educational Foundation because this initiative is the best way to nurture and grow that network. Plus, it isn't just about us helping the undergrads; the value goes both ways. The scholarships, learning experiences, and events we offer to the undergrads help build the foundation of future business leaders. We can teach and build relationships with them. Then they become our interns, our deputies, and eventually the leaders of the industries we have all helped build. Altruistically, it's a great thing to pay forward what was given to us... but selfishly, it's an excellent way to mine and cultivate great talent we can use when they graduate and join our network.

I believe in the mission of the foundation. The thing is, without the ongoing support of the larger alumni base, that mission is not possible. It doesn't take much, just a contribution within our means, whether financial or with time and attention. It is our turn to pay it forward, but I'm confident in the ROI and excited to be personally involved in ensuring we achieve it. So, please reach out and try to get involved in whatever way works best for you.

CONGRATULATIONS to this year's AWARD WINNERS

Adolphus C. Hailstork Brother of The Year Award Matt Pullano '21



Matt Pullano '21 served Sigma Pi as house manager and vice president throughout his time at the chapter. He served as the president of Cornell

Club Lacrosse team, where he met many future Sigma Pi members. Matt graduated in 2021 with a degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in business, which he will use to go into consulting with PwC after graduation. Sigma Pi is extremely proud to award Matt Pullano with the Brother of the Year award.



Above, L-R: Ermias Tadesse '22, Matt Pullano '21, Rob DeJesus '24; Below: Matt Pullano in the middle between #12 and #7. Chris Cavanaugh, #55, all the way on the left in the bottom row.



Harrop Memorial Scholarship Winner Barron Brown '22:



Every year, Sigma Pi awards one junior member of the fraternity the David Harrop Memorial Scholarship. This \$1,000 award is given to the brother who demonstrates academic excellence while leading and supporting Sigma Pi, as well as staying active and giving back to the local Ithaca community.

The 2021 David Harrop Memorial Scholarship Recipient: Barron Brown '22.

Barron Brown is a rising senior in Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences, pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in economics. While academics are Barron's top priority, his leadership skills and extracurricular involvement prove to be equally as compelling for him. He has served as Mu Chapter vice president (2020–2021), and his list of other involvements are just as impressive, such as being a former varsity pitcher for Cornell's baseball team.

To close, here are Barron's thoughts on his experience as a Pi man: "I've learned as a brother that the Sigma Pi fraternity gives back tenfold what one puts in. The reward of seeing fellow brothers thrive and succeed in their endeavors is worth the effort of giving to the house. This attitude of giving is why Sigma Pi continues to uphold these values after more than a century, and the men who do so take it with them through their entire lives. This can be seen in the supportive alumni giving their attention, time, effort, and advice to brothers. This ultimately continually inspires brothers to never stop giving back.



Class of 2020 Finally Walks in 2021

By Alex Ewald '20

After 16 months, the class of 2020 was finally able to properly celebrate their graduation during this homecoming weekend. Remarkably, all 30 brothers were able to return to Ithaca for the celebrations. Although many of us transitioned into the next phase of our lives apart from each other, the weekend truly felt like nothing had changed. The sounds of brothers filling the west lounge and die being tossed on the beach brought back so many memories that we all shared together. We were disappointed that the rest of the alumni were not able to share this momentous weekend with us, but we greatly appreciated the undergraduate brothers for hosting.

Beautiful Ithaca weather set the stage for a weekend filled with parties in Collegetown and time spent with family and friends. Tailgates began Saturday morning in preparation for the football game and culminated in a massive block party on Catherine Street, reminding all of us of some of our first parties at Cornell during our freshmen orientation week. Once the Catherine Street block party ended, a mob of family and friends, led by **Joe Brogan '20**, headed to Loco Cantina and toasted

to the last four years. After taking over the bar for a few hours, those with family in the area went to Stewart Park and enjoyed a large picnic and dinner. The night ended exactly the way it should, with all of us graduates soaking in the vibes only the Sigma Pi beach can provide until the early hours of the morning.

On Sunday, we were able to walk at graduation with the rest of the class of 2020, something that felt like an impossibility just a year prior. It was an awkward yet satisfying feeling to be walking across the field at Schoelkopf and feeling the closure that eluded our senior year. Walking off the field after the ceremony, the weekend felt like a blur. We all scrambled to fit in trips to our favorite restaurants, meetups with friends, and quality time with our brothers. I am so grateful we had this opportunity to feel back at home in Ithaca.

On behalf of the class of 2020, I want to thank all of our families, the alumni, and undergraduate brothers who made Cornell such a great experience for all of us during our over four years together. It was an unforgettable weekend, and we look forward to continuing to make memories and connections with past, current, and future members of the chapter. Stay well and stay safe.

Intramurals

By Spencer Balder '23

Sigma Pi intramural sports have been a huge success for their various teams, as well as the team environment of the brotherhood. Sigma Pi's two volleyball teams are doing extremely well as we approach the playoffs, and our soccer team is undefeated with hopes to win the fraternity league. The football team has faced its struggles but hopes to turn its season around and make a late-season playoff push. For all three of the current sports, there have been great turn-outs of players as well as brothers coming to support. We hope to continue the success in all aspects as we head into the basketball, softball, and indoor volleyball seasons.



Seniors' last game (L-R): Thomas Fierrara (#86, long snapper), Kyle Neputy (#10 tight end), Koby Kiefer (#33 punter).

Class of 2021 Celebrates Their Graduation



Graduation (L-R): TOP LEFT Chris Cavanaugh, Matt Pullano, Francisco Wagner, Peter Gribizis, Peter McGurk, Carter Gran, Kirk Hachigian; BOTTOM LEFT Chris Cavanaugh, Peter Gribizis, Matt Pullano; BOTTOM MIDDLE Chris Cavanaugh, Matt Pullano, Elvis Wambua '20, Francisco Wagner; BOTTOM RIGHT (back) Kirk Hachigian, Carter Gran, Matt Pullano, Peter McGurk, Francisco Wagner; (front) Peter Gribizis, Chris Cavanaugh.



Pi Man Bro'd Trip, Spring 2021

By Jay Sacco '80

It's 862 miles to Nashville, I've got a full tank of gas, half a pack of Red Bull, two doses of Pfizer vaccine, it's dark out, and I'm wearing sunglasses. The perfect start for a bro'd trip. HIT IT!

Just a week before, I found myself needing to drive from Austin, Texas, to Annapolis, Maryland, with a car full of tools and boat gear. As we all learned during spring break road trips, proper planning is essential, so I turned to my favorite planning tool. Not AAA or Waze, but the Mu Chapter World Map, in the member's only section of our chapter website. This is the gold standard for planning any trip anywhere in the world. It is one of our fraternity's greatest assets: the location and contact information for virtually every Mu Chapter brother. This is the key to unlocking and furthering the best asset any fraternity worth its secrets and mysteries has: brotherhood. I scanned the map for the location of brothers along my route and emailed them my travel plan. Some I knew, some I'd never met. My message was simple: let's meet up, and if a couch could be found, perhaps I could crash for the night.

Responses came quickly. Some had moved and were no longer there, others would be out of town, and the remainder would be there when I arrived. They all had one thing in common. Everyone welcomed me, no matter if we'd met or not, or if they'd graduated decades earlier or decades later than I did. This trip was no longer an arduous drive; it would be a cross-country sampling of what brought us all together in the first place: camaraderie and the desire to share and be a part of each other's lives.

I met **Stephen Fotopulos '95** and his family in Nashville, Tennessee. We relaxed in their backyard with drinks and a foosball tournament. I mountain biked with Alan Douglas (Neal's brother, IC '79) and **Mike Sheinkman '80**, both at Al's place in Kimberton, Pennsylvania, and Mike's place in Becket, MA. **Tom (TC) '80** and Lynn Cherner opened their doors to Mike and me for an

evening filled with stories of Mike's international exploits. We also found out that TC and I have the same car with identical license plate holders. Mike and I also visited

Tony '80 and Kris McManus in Westwood, Massachusetts, for one of Kris's gourmet Italian dinners, followed by a serious tasting in their 100-year-old oak room.

The trip back began with a stop in Pittsburgh, PA for dinner in the city center with Jim '82 and

Lisa Garr. Then on to Fishers, Indiana, for a night with **Kurt '80** and Jennifer Rasmussen. We drank pints in the Berkshire Hunt Pub, which is right next to the Indianapolis version of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, where we sat in the front row for live concert footage at full concert volume. Both venues happen to be conveniently located in Kurt's home. Stephen again hosted me on my way back. Every night was unique and special, thanks to my brothers and their families' generous hospitality.

What a trip! Miles driven: 5388. Hours behind the wheel: 92.25. Near-fatal semi collisions: 4. Cost of a tour of Mammoth Cave: \$23 (if only I'd made a reservation one and a half weeks earlier, which I hadn't).

Catching up with my brothers, and meeting some for the first time: priceless. If you're ever on a bro'd trip through Austin, Texas, you'll find me on the map. Jevo, **Jay "Le Sac" Sacco '80**.

Austin-Nashville 12 hours. Stephen Fotopulos '95 and his partner Sara Jane. Nice dinner with Stephen, spent the night in the town house and left early for Annapolis.

Annapolis — Kimberton, Pennsylvania, 3 hours. Mountain bike with Albo and Mike Sheinkman for a few days then on to Norwalk, Connecticut.

In Ridgefield, Connecticut — Mike Sheinkman, TC & Lynn. Jay and TC have the same car with same license plate holders

won at the P-cup. Dinner at sports pub without Lynn, then back to the house to hang out and catch up, spent the night. Had breakfast then Mike went back to Becket and I went to Dad's.

On to Becket MA, to meet Mike Sheinkman and we mountain bike then go to Tony McManus for fabulous Italian dinner made by Tony's wife Kris [sp?] and a late night of whisky tasting. After a nice breakfast we head back to Becket to meet Albo and we ride a couple of more days.

Heading back through Pittsburgh to stay with Jim and Lisa Garr, great evening full of conversation about our parents' health and care, guitars, reading, writing, etc.

West to Indianapolis to stay with Kurt and Jennifer Rasmussen. The Berkshire Hunt Pub, saltwater fish tank, and Kurt's personal rock and roll hall of fame were too full of stories to get through in one visit.

Back to Stephen's for a night in Nashville. Then on to Austin.



Facilities Committee Report

(continued from page 6)

its educational mission, and the long-term mental benefits of a psychological anchor and the bonds of brotherhood.

But "organizations fail because they fail to pass on lessons learned," says retired nuclear engineer and former chair of this committee John Morrison.

Perhaps we failed to pass on lessons learned to this group of young men.

COVID-19 and quarantine certainly played a large role in that, but we cannot let that be our undoing. I choose to think of Mr. and Mrs. Gigante's letter as the canary in the coal mine and we still have time to act.

This board has been working overtime to deal with this issue and the cash flow crunch.

We could use help and lots of it. We're hoping to get past the physical issues and foster a culture of caring.

It will take a village... or a fraternity. Please add your voice. Jevo.

"Passion precedes perfection."

Big Turnout for Quin Garcia '05 Wedding

By Craig Dewey '06

With in-person reunions on pause this year on campus, alumni across the country are finding other ways to gather and



Garcia wedding (L-R): (front) Eric Hoffman '07, Adil Abamed '04, Jarrett Wait '80, John Zimmer '06, Christopher Hayes '06; (middle) Jonah Allaben '06, David Gelinias '07, Mark Schwager '06, Quin Garcia '05, Alan Chan '06, Jordan Turner '06, Matthew Greenberg '06; (back) Craig Dewey '06, Devan Musser '05, Alex Deyle '06, Miguel Mascaro '05, Hugh Hayden '06.

celebrate their time at 730 University Avenue.

In early October, a large group of alumni from the classes of 2004–2007 flew to San Diego from all over the country to attend the wedding of **Quin Garcia '05**. The ceremony took place at sunset on the beach followed by a reception on the grounds of the Hotel del Coronado, a historic Southern California venue. Many of the alumni in attendance had not seen each other since 2016, during the 10-year reunion of the class of 2006. And for some, this was the first time in-person since graduating in the mid-2000s.

Attending guests included **Adil Ahamed '04, Devan Musser '05, Miguel Mascaro '05, Jonah Allaben '06, Alan Chan '06, Craig Dewey '06, Alex Deyle '06, Matthew Greenberg '06, Christopher Hayes '06, Hugh Hayden '06, Arnold Mahesan, Mark Schwager '06, Jordan Turner '06, John Zimmer '06, David Gelinias '07, Eric Hoffman '07, and Jarrett Wait '80.**

The Pi men, along with their spouses and significant others, arrived from New York, Miami, Toronto, Vancouver, San Francisco, Seattle, and Los Angeles. Professions were just as varied, with representation in medicine (including plastics and fertility), finance, law, engineering (aeronautical, mechanical), entertainment (feature films and television), and fine art. The entrepreneurial spirit was alive and well, with several brothers having founded their own companies, including Joy, Lyft, and Monarch Tractor.

With shots in arms and the kids left at home, we spent the weekend catching up about the past five years, reminiscing about our time living in the house, and reveling in the camaraderie and brotherhood that is still strong 15 years after graduation.

The day after the ceremony, we boarded a rented yacht and spent a beautiful day out on the San Diego Bay. There were special performances by friends of Quin Garcia's from around the world, including a set by Arnold Mahesan and a sing-along hour led by Eric Hoffman.

Hugh Hayden created an art installation that featured custom pillows with every guest's name arranged in a word search, mirroring a shirt he designed for a Sigma Pi/Delta Gamma car wash fundraiser fifteen years ago. His work has been met with critical acclaim and was featured recently at Art Basel in Miami and can be viewed in galleries around the world.

While this was just a portion of the alumni from the mid-2000s, it is an example of the strength of the brotherhood that still exists among graduates years after leaving Ithaca. We hope to have more events over the next year and to create a regular gathering of Pi men from the 2000s, inspired by the success of events like the annual Procrasticup.

We look forward to the future, as our Sigma Pi family continues to grow and prosper.

Procrasticup Myrtle Beach

By Tim Hawes '82

Ryan: here is the PCUP article for 2021. I will send photos under separate cover:

Another tremendous gathering of the Sigma Pi brothers took place in Myrtle Beach October 1–4. A total of 24 brothers managed to participate despite the challenges of the pandemic. Obviously, golf is at the core of the Procrasticup, but the time together is remembered for so very much more. Reestablishing friendships, telling and embellishing old stories and living out new stories, catching up on family activities, and sharing the joys of our Cornell bonds are all at the true heart of the event.

This year we welcomed back into the fold two participants who had not been able to attend for many years: **Gerry Leape** and **Brad Crooke**. We all hope their attendance becomes an annual event. On the golf side of things, we had shots that went

forward, backward (yes...backward!), and sideways. Putts were holed from 50 feet (yours truly), shots were chipped in from 25 yards (DMac is THE MAN!!!), and drives were bombed more than 300 yards (**Dennis "Bomber" Ehrenberger**). Of course, some drives were bombed four feet (multiple names withheld to protect the guilty), and best of all, no one, and I mean NO ONE, was hit by a flying golf ball; although it was close (sorry Burg!!!). We welcome one and all to come and join us in October of 2022, which will mark 38 years since the first Procrasticup gathering in Houston. If you have any questions, reach out to anyone on the Procrasticup Executive Committee: **Joe Ruocco, Mike Vernick, Dennis McNamara, or Tim Hawes**. Jevo to all!



L-R: (front) Mike Vernick '83, John Burger '84, John Altmeyer '81, Tom Cherner '79, Brian Finneran '81, John Roche '81, Dave Knapp '83, Brad Crooke '81, Gerry Leape '82, Joe Ruocco '81; (middle) Tim Hawes '82, Steve Novak '83, Frank Sposato '84, Nick Vojnovic '81, Jimmy Garr '83, George Rocklein '85, Tom Silver '81, Dennis Ehrenberger '83, Mike Feiertag '83; (back) Jay Sacco '80, Jon Pettee '81, Dennis McNamara '83



L-R: Joe Ruocco, John Stewart, Tim Hawes, Tim Silver, John Altmeyer, Brad "I don't own a red shirt" Crooke, Brian Finneran, Jimmy Garr.



Garcia wedding (L-R): Jarrett Wait '80, John Zimmer '06, wife Cristina, Quin Garcia '05, Craig Dewey '06, Eric Hoffman '07.

Mu Brothers' News & Notes

Winthrop Cody '56 lets us know that he is "88 and still on the preferred side of the ground."

Richard Pew '56 reports that he is "88 and still thinking straight (mostly)."

Joseph Torre '68 reports that he has retired from clinical practice. He adds: "Pleased to see that the Pi house I enjoyed has been restored and nicely enhanced, that Dolly's influence persists, and that the brotherhood has continued its cultural diversity, integrity, and leadership role in the Greek community at Cornell. Best wishes!"

"Life is good," exclaims **Charles Ladd '75**. "I ended up working for the army in various capacities for 40 years. At 62 years old, in 2014, my wife said enough. We tried cattle ranching in Waco, Texas, for two years, but family brought us back to Georgia for the near future. We have been COVID-free so far and just got vaccinated. If and when this crazy country gets some semblance of normalcy again, I might finally decide what I want to do with the few years remaining."

Paul Brenner '78, regarded as one of the best all-around ultimate frisbee players of the 1970s, has been inducted into the Ultimate Hall of Fame by USA Ultimate, the nonprofit governing body of the sport in the US. Congratulations! Paul played for the Cornell Buds from 1975 to 1978 and on other teams in upstate New York, and he is known as the first to perfect the hammer throw. On the induction, he said "It means a lot to me. I gave up on ultimate years ago, but I played on a high level. It was very touching." Paul is currently the board chairman for the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and a staff member for Tompkins Cortland Community College.



Luc Chabot '80 sends us a picture of the Kiewit Offshore at Ingleside, Texas. "It's the largest offshore fabrication yard in North America. Why this might be of interest?"



Brother **Jim Keene '57** was responsible for the establishment of this facility in his days as an executive with Kiewit Corp. We talked about it whenever we met up. I know many of the people here."



Mike Rantz '81 and daughter Carolyn (Cornell '22) at Lynah rink, watching Cornell play Alaska Fairbanks on Parents Weekend.

The International Foodservice Management Association has announced that **Nick Vojnovic '81**, president of Little Greek Fresh Grill, is the winner of the 2021 IFMA's Silver Plate Award in the category of chain limited service. Find out more at bit.ly/3jFdUYw.

"With heavy heart, I leave my friends and colleagues at JW Player," writes **Michael Vernick '83**. "It was an amazing ride. I've been lucky enough to find a new product management role that combines my passion for golf and video tech and have moved to the golf division within Discovery Inc. It's sad to leave such a great team, but I'm excited to join another great team and build great digital golf products together (e.g., GolfTV and Golf Digest)."

DipJar, a company run by CEO **Chris Selland '86**, was recently recognized as

one of the 10 best financial technology firms in Boston in 2021.

Michael Weissman '88 lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his family, and he sees many friends from Sigma Pi (late 1980s era). He works as a wealth advisor for Aspiriant.

Kevin Finneran '89 was one of 10 players inducted into the 2021 class of the National Lacrosse League's Hall of Fame. Kevin played a total of 143 games over 13 seasons, with teams from Detroit, New England (Blazers), Philadelphia, and Toronto. As a forward, he is sixth in all-time goals, third in all-time assists, fifth in all-time points, and eleventh in loose ball recoveries. He is a five-time champion: four with Philadelphia (1994, 1995, 1998, 2001) and one with Toronto (2003).

Congratulations to **Alan Rosen '91** for being added to the dean's advisory board for Cornell's School of Hotel Administration (sha.cornell.edu/about/deans-welcome/deans-advisory-board).

"So, this year, I've decided to take the big step of venturing out on my own," writes **Larry Keane '99**. "On St. Paddy's Day 2021, LJK Associates LLC was born. If anyone is looking for consulting services within manufacturing, I'd love to chat with you, and if you're big in consulting and looking for a change, reach out because I'm looking to build my bench of experienced change agents who want to work out the grind and get back to doing real work with clients versus project management. To my potential future clients, I promise you that we are cheaper than the big guys but still bring the same, if not more, experience to the table because we don't believe in a leverage model."

Congratulations to **Sam Miller-Little '09** for starting a new position as the deputy CFO for the US at Revolut.

Congratulations to **Aaron Klein '12** for being promoted to manager of ticket sales for the Chicago Cubs.

Felix Tabary '14 is the CEO of Troop, a company he co-founded.

Congratulations to **Turk Anwar '15** for

(continued on next page)

Mu Brothers' News & Notes

(continued from previous page)

starting a new position as a senior product manager at Gametime United.

Bennet Heidenreich '15 writes: "After six years in investment banking, I am excited to announce that I have joined Celonis, the hottest startup coming out of Germany. Building upon its world-leading process of mining capabilities, the Celonis Execution Management System (EMS) takes process excellence to the next level, generating unprecedented insights, uncovering hidden inefficiencies, and enabling businesses to take automated action, unlocking billions of dollars. If you are curious and want to discover how the EMS generates value for our customers, there is no better opportunity than the Celonis World Tour (Inkd.in/dC8FyQFU)."

Congratulations to **Jacob Laufer '15** for starting a new position as senior expansion manager at Ohi.

Congratulations to **Maximiliano Olivares '15** for starting a new position as product manager at Intuit.

Steven Siegel '17 started as an MBA candidate at Harvard Business School.

Griffin Py '18 celebrated the completion of his first year at Apollo Global Management Inc. this past August.

Congratulations to **Landon Budenholzer '19** for starting a new position as a private-equity associate at Levine Leichtman Capital Partners, LLC.

Congratulations to **Joshua Even '19** for starting a new position as senior software engineer at Bloomberg L.P.

Congratulations to **Connor Duffy '20**, who started a new position as an associate for Citadel.

Congratulations to **Omar Nesheiwat '20** for starting a new position for the Fordham International Law Journal.

Congratulations to **Max Cook '21** for starting a new position as a business analyst at Deloitte.

Congratulations to **Christian Lippey '21** for starting a new position as a programming strategy and operations intern for TBS/TNT/truTV at WarnerMedia.

Congratulations to **Matthew Pullano '21**

Deceased

Charles W. Taylor '51
December 3, 2020

John M. Kreuttner '57

Peter H. Crosby '69
January 1, 2019

*Honor a deceased brother with
a memorial plaque; visit*

sigmapicornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp

for starting a new position as a management consulting associate at PwC.



Adolphus Hailstork, the son of **Adolphus "Dolly" Hailstork II**, composed *Tulsa 1921 (Pity These Ashes, Pity This Dust)*, an online concert program

on Juneteenth in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre. The program was performed in partnership with The Greene Space, Harlem Stage, and the Harlem School of the Arts.

Hugh Hayden '06 Exhibits at Prestigious Art Basel in Miami



More information at:
artbasel.com/miami-beach
www.lissongallery.com/artists/hugh-hayden
hughhayden.com



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