

SIGMA PI
• UNITED •
AGAINST HATE



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Sigma Pi Stands United Against Hate

Following Hamas's brutal attack on Israeli civilians, the wounds of a long-standing and complex conflict have been repeatedly reopened. Today, the pain from those wounds has reached our campus in the form of hateful threats and calls for violence against members of the Jewish community. The brothers of Sigma Pi – Mu Chapter stand firmly against all forms of hate, including anti-Semitism, and offer our unwavering support to our Jewish brothers and the entire Jewish community at Cornell. The Sigma Pi Creed emphasizes the development of character as a core principle of our brotherhood. These moments are when character is truly tried, nurtured, and, ultimately, when it prevails. Hate, and the violation of fundamental human values which it represents, has no place within our brotherhood, on our campus, or in this world. Our doors are always open to those seeking safety, shelter, or support.

Mu Chapter of the Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States, Inc.

Hate of Any Kind Has No Place On Campus

I'm sure by now you have all seen the horrific headlines over the last few days regarding recent antisemitic threats at Cornell. Hate of any kind has no place on campus and I was horrified to see this happening at our alma-mater. I easily could have joined a "Jewish fraternity," on campus, but I didn't see a reason for my religion to be the sole driver of my Greek life experience. The thing I loved about Sigma Pi was that there was no singular stereotype for our brotherhood other than being largely recognized as a great group of down to earth guys. During my time in Ithaca, we supported each other in a broad range of on and off campus endeavors, and in the 20+ years since graduation we not only celebrated each other's milestone moments, but also were there to support one another during tougher times. I'm not particularly close to the house today, but for those of you that are I hope Mu chapter can lead by example and take a stand against antisemitism, terrorism, and hate of any kind.

Sincerely,
David Zackowitz '01

Andrew Ross Sorkin '99, anchor with CNBC, interviewed Mark Rowan Appollo, global CEO and chairman of Wharton Business School, leading the important discussion on fighting antisemitism on campus. The full interview is available on CNBC. Proud to have Sigma Pi Brother Sorkin bring attention to this matter.



Sigma Pi Brotherhood Confronts Hate

By Ricardo Melasecca '23



Since the horrifying Hamas attacks of terrorism on October 7, tensions have been high globally and on the Cornell campus. Despite all the chaos on social media, one thing remains clear: it is our duty both as humans and as brothers of a fraternity to support each other now, more than ever. Here on campus, humanity's strengths and weaknesses have both been poignantly evident. On October 11, the Cornell Jewish community came together to hold a vigil on Ho Plaza for student solidarity and to honor those whose lives have been lost in this crisis. The Jewish brothers of Sigma Pi were all in attendance along with supporting brothers. It was a powerful night that reminded us all that the best way to get through such a terrible time is to come together.

Other members of the Jewish community here at Cornell have been putting up posters and using their voices to make sure that the pertinent issues are not getting swept under the rug and that the community is being held accountable for any hate or avoidable ignorance. Even still, these posters are getting torn down as there are students and community members with differing opinions. The alarming language used, even by our own

faculty members, has added to the tension, stirring further division and leaving some of our brothers questioning their safety on campus. A vigil for Palestinian lives lost took place on Ho Plaza on October 18. From what I have seen Cornellians generally and certainly the brothers of Sigma Pi have remained grounded through their efforts to be as educated as possible, be as empathetic as possible, and form their own well-informed opinions. Terrorism should always be vehemently condemned, and, while it took two emails, President Martha Pollack and the Cornell administration have done so.

Sigma Pi and our fellow Cornellians have thus been in the process of digesting the situation as it unfolds and will continue to do so. As a brotherhood, we have joined other fraternities and sororities in a fundraising initiative for Israel's National Emergency Medical Service, Magen David Adom, and there has been a continued dialogue amongst our leadership on what the best next steps are to show solidarity within our local community. Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi has always been strong in the face of adversity and I am confident that, during this difficult time, our alumni and current students alike will uphold that strength and continue to educate ourselves, support each other, and lead our various broader communities.

Re-imagine Sigma Pi

By John Morrison '75

Director and Co-chairman of the Facilities Committee



We are at a crossroads.

If you paid attention to the annual report and the last Muse, you are aware that Facilities Co-chairman **Liviu Rusu '98** has spent a significant amount of his personal time, not only actually doing much of the work, but also supervising/coordinating the rest. The house appears better than it has in many years.

While the superficial appearance is quite good, much of the underlying infrastructure is old and in need of significant attention. Our first road in this "highway repair" is riddled with:

- **Old Bathrooms:** Other than the rework of the second-floor shower area in 2017, the rest of the bathrooms have been essentially untouched (other than minor repairs) for about 30 years. There are frequent leaks to lower levels. Poor ventilation causes mold problems. And the old design is simply not appealing. A significant amount of work is required to repair this pothole.
- **Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC):** In reality, we only have the "H." Our antiquated, gas-fired boilers with hot water radiators are 40 years old. Two of the boilers are past their expected lifetime and will have to be replaced soon. Multiple leaks over the years have caused water damage. There is no "V," ventilation: no forced air flow, filtration, or fresh air replenishment (other than windows which aren't very effective with the long Ithaca winters). And, the "AC," air conditioning, is limited to window-installed units. They are a fall hazard when installed by undergrads, inefficient, and an eyesore. Replacing the boilers and doing a better job of installing the window units could patch this pothole.
- **Doors:** There is a mismatch of wooden and metal doors. Most have some damage. Door hardware is not standard dimensions and there are limited spare parts. One vendor recommended replacing doors and doorframes instead of getting new doors. With 25 bedrooms and a dozen common rooms, replacing all of these fire doors is not an insignificant pothole to patch.
- **Front Porch:** After heavy rains, there is intermittent leakage from the porch into the dining room below. Attempts to locate and repair the leak have been unsuccessful. The supporting structure is partially degraded, a likely contributing cause of leaks. We need to rework the entire front porch: support structure, waterproof membrane, and deck material.

As I'm sure you all are aware, fraternity life is challenged on many fronts. While the reports to our members documented a few not-so-good years, our feeling is that we are currently on an upswing. However, we are still operating on a cash-in and cash-out basis. A little cushion after the good years; not so much after the not-so-good ones.

Our second road? Brother Liviu once again lit a bright light for us last summer by spiffing up many of the rooms and renting them out via Airbnb. We had multiple individual renters and rented the second floor to a youth group for a week (with the organizers indicating their interest in making this a recurring rental). Our house sits empty for a third of the year generating only utility, tax, and insurance bills. We are excited about the possibility of further developing this significant source of rental income.

However, communal bathrooms, little ventilation, and window air conditioners severely limit our rental opportunities. With improvements, we could be generating a significant income instead of the house sitting vacant, and at the same time making the rooms and house much more appealing to undergrads (i.e., providing significant help with rush).

And so to our crossroads: do we simply fix the potholes, or repave both roads with a good path into the future so we create a re-imagined Sigma Pi? We suggest the latter. With severely degraded boilers and bathrooms, it simply does not make sense to address them individually while we are considering significant improvements in the future.

Our plan:

- Replace the existing heating system with electric heat pump heating and air conditioning, and forced air flow and filtering. Financial incentives are currently available to convert to an electrical system. And Ithaca, which has already banned new gas installations for heating, is considering placing limits on future gas heating replacements.
- Redesign the bathrooms to provide private baths for the adjacent eight bedrooms.
- Remove the unused chimney for the east lounge fireplace, opening space to add private baths to six more bedrooms.
- With these changes, the boiler rooms on the second and third floors will become empty. By taking space from walk-in closets in adjacent rooms, the boiler rooms could be converted to singles, or simply kept for much-needed storage. This is a decision to make later.
- And we will still need to address the doors and front porch.

This is not a small undertaking and we are still in the planning stage. We're putting together a committee to manage this project because it is simply too much for Liviu and me to handle along with ongoing routine maintenance. We'd really like someone to step up to be our foreman on this one, along with "skill workers" who have experience in specific areas we are addressing. We are also looking for some utility players to simply help carry the load.

And of course, we will need to fund these improvements. All can help in that area.

Facilities Report

By Liviu Rusu '98



I'm thrilled to report that the house as a whole is in good shape. The culture of the brotherhood has shifted from prior years, led by Nevin, our current house manager.

The common areas have been kept in exemplary shape this semester, to the extent that Pristine Cleaning has had time to clean the grab-and-go area regularly, a welcome new development.

Overall, I'd give the house an eight out of 10. But that average is just that.

If we think of the house in layers, like an onion, the outer parts, the exterior and common areas, get a 10. The inner layers, like the mechanical systems and bedrooms, don't fare as well.

Despite our summer focus on individual rooms, we only addressed 10 of the 25 bedrooms, and the attention was strictly on the walls and ceilings. Those addressed were the ones that required the least input to bring to a rentable condition for Airbnb. The remaining rooms have extensive drywall damage. All the rooms have hardwood floors and doors that have been deteriorating since 1995. The same is true for our mechanical systems. Three of our four boilers have exceeded their service life and require replacement. Replacing the boilers is an option, but it still leaves us with radiators that freeze during winter break, creating floods and disproportionate building damage. On the flip side, window AC units that are used extensively in warmer months, are rarely installed properly and occasionally fall out.

There is an elegant and long-term solution to both of these problems: central HVAC powered by heat pumps. Currently the second and third floor boilers are housed in mechanical rooms near the bathrooms.

A new HVAC system would be housed in the attic, freeing up the mechanical rooms and allowing the space to be-reconfigured, creating an additional bedroom on each floor, as depicted here.

Although the theoretical occupancy is the same, we've rarely had most doubles used as doubles, with brothers overwhelmingly preferring private single rooms.

In a recent survey, we asked brothers to rate what factors they desire most. They answered: singles, soundproof doors, and air conditioning were highest universally, with older brothers also valuing more privacy in the bathrooms. These facts must be seen in the greater context of changes in the campus, Collegetown, and Ithaca.

Cornell has shifted from the fertile ground for fraternities, with no resident halls, to the completion of the North Campus renovation intended to provide a "unified experience" for freshmen and sophomores with the addition of 2,000 bedrooms and 1,000 dining seats of unparalleled student luxury. On the Collegetown side of the gorge, developments like "The Lux" lure students with amenities like saunas and high-end gyms. And the city of Ithaca has thrown us a curveball, legislating no new gas connections and no replacement of existing gas boilers or appliances in five years.

I don't think it's a matter of if but when we implement these changes and waiting only increases the construction costs and potential liabilities from radiator floods, falling air conditioners injuring someone and us struggling to keep the house full and the operational expenses covered.

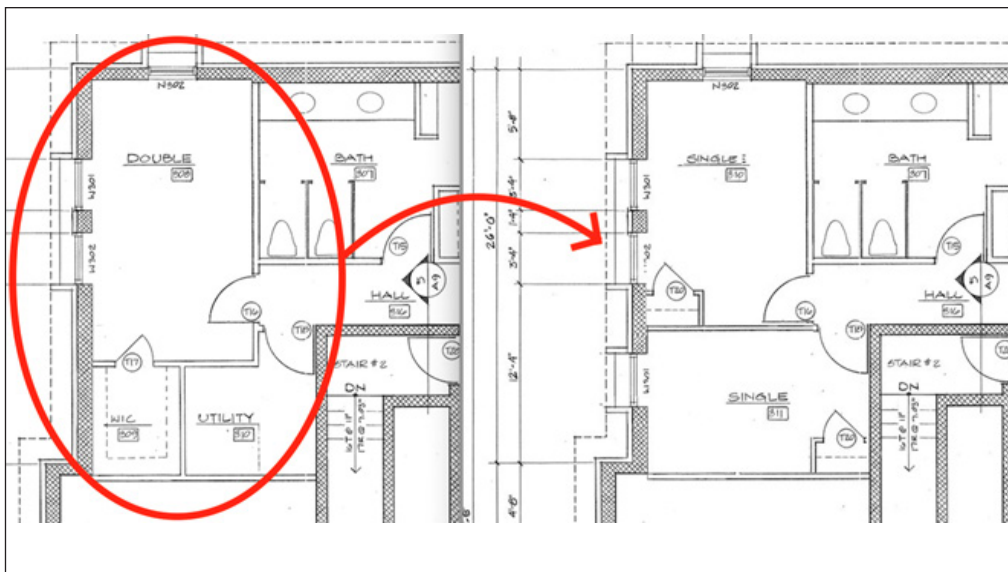
The Facilities Committee, headed by John Morrison and me, continually tracks the state of the house and we always have a list of projects to execute pending financial resources. Those resources have been slim in recent years with smaller pledge classes and many juniors studying abroad. That leaves us stuck between the proverbial rock and hard place.

Ultimately, we need to increase rent revenue, but there's a limit to school-year revenue, and until now, we've paid for summer expenses without the benefit of rent. I believe we must change that and make revenue year-round by doing what we did this summer with Airbnb, children's camps, and graduate students. We generated \$21K and we can do much better. We estimate between \$60K and \$160K in future

summers depending on the level of improvements we make. But we must "build it before they come" and the cost required to completely optimize rent revenue approaches one million dollars.

To that end, we're reaching out to all our alumni for help, be it with subject matter expertise, organizational skills, or financial contributions.

Sigma Pi has thrived on the hill for 110 years because of the love, support, and involvement of our alumni and that's the only way we'll make it through the next 110.



Sage Report

By Robert DeJesus '24



As I write this report from room 304 in our beloved home at 730 University Avenue, I cannot help but reflect on my past three years as a brother of Sigma Pi. It is often a rollercoaster of emotions, but I truly see us coming into our own this year. I served as **Ricky Melasecca '23** vice president last year, and our traction in reestablishing a strong culture and brotherhood has been paying off in dividends. This

past fall rush cycle, we welcomed 13 new members, all of whom come from various backgrounds and interests. Since signing their bids, they have gotten straight to work supporting the community through service projects. In their first week, they helped a local food-packing center pack food for the homeless community. They also have displayed an immense respect for our facilities and chapter. They formed a flag football team with some of our third-year brothers and took home the championship in the annual Interfraternity Council Flag Football Tournament.

These are the kinds of brothers we look for through recruitment. Our class was the largest among all IFC chapters and speaks to the strength of our current brothers in coming together to invest in the future of Sigma Pi. Our strong recruitment performance is especially important to me as it drives our fraternity's success for years to come. Although we have struggled in past years to perform well in recruitment and fill the house, I genuinely believe this can be our year.

With the help of the rest of the executive board, we have now shifted our focus to spring rush and plan on performing just as well. Our Rush Chairs, **Lakshman Sibal '26**, **Adam Dickstein '26**, and **Manoc Joa-Griffith '26**, have come into their positions with an exceptional attitude and have worked on bringing our brothers together internally while presenting a solid front externally. I would also like to thank Liviu Rusu '98 and our resident advisor, Zion Sherin, for all their hard work this past summer in getting the house prepped and ready for not only our live-in brothers but for those potential new members who roam the halls and envision themselves one day being a brother.

With that said, there is still work to be done. Although the culture is improving, we must still emphasize to every brother how their actions can affect their experience and those of fellow brothers. We must treat our home with the utmost respect as if our parents were to wander the halls the next day. In that regard, we must improve and maintain our momentum.

As we look forward to the rest of the semester, we have a lot of exciting events planned. Our brotherhood looks forward to the upcoming Career Weekend in New York City on November 2–3. It was great to see the event return last year, and it is a fond memory we still talk about amongst the brotherhood. We expect a strong undergraduate turnout and we look forward to reconnecting with and meeting more of the alumni network in the area. In other news, we are bringing back the Dinner Speaker Series and will host Cornell Athletic Director Nicki Moore on November 15. We plan on continuing this series throughout this year and for years to come.



IFC Flag Football Championship team (left to right): Ben Davis '25, Nevin Motto '25, Lakshman Sibal '26 (on one knee), Austin Saji '26, Lucas MacCallum '25, Andrew Gebicki '26, Nolan Wilbur '26, Jordan Rosenberg '26 (on one knee), and Andrew Haight '26.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my undergraduate brothers, the alumni board, and every parent of any brother who may be reading this. I am a senior still figuring out what I want to do after graduation. I say this because I want to emphasize that selflessness is one of the many skills we must learn as Pi men. The role is often demanding, but nothing brings me more joy than seeing the relationships and environment we have built within the walls of 730 University Avenue. I have seen this house nearly empty, and although it is not entirely full, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished. We have the most occupied double rooms since my first year. As I walk the halls and go to classes, it is clear that our brotherhood is strong and confident. I have seen young boys turn into influential Pi men. We are leaders on campus; our presence is felt throughout the Cornell community, whether in the classroom, professional clubs, or community leadership positions. I cannot stress enough how grateful and supported I feel as Sage. I look forward to what the future holds.



Sage Robert DeJesus '24 delivering a speech at "The Beach" date night.

17th Annual Sigma Pi NYC Career Event

By the time you are reading this, the undergraduate brothers will have returned from the 17th annual New York City career event. After last year's success, the undergraduate brothers were excited to return to NYC. For the class of '26, this was their first opportunity to take part in this event and connect with the wider Mu Chapter alumni base. With office visits to JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, and many more, the brothers gained a lot of wisdom from hearing about the professional experiences of Sigma Pi alumni. The highlight of the career weekend was the Thursday night dinner in the historical A.D. White Room of the Cornell Club. The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation sponsored the dinner for all undergraduate brothers.

Schedule of events:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

10:00 am–6:00 pm: Office Visits

6:30–8:30 pm: Networking Dinner with Alumni
Cornell Club of New York

9:00 pm: Gathering with Young Alumni

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

8:00 am–6:00 pm: Office Visits

Thank you to all who attended, hosted undergraduates, and everyone who continues to provide support for the undergraduate brothers. Special thanks to the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation for their sponsorship and ongoing support of the Annual Sigma Pi NYC Event.

This event is unique to the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi and demonstrates the ongoing commitment to past, present, and future generations of Pi men.

Successful Fall 2023 Recruitment

By **Brendon Royals '25**



This fall semester, the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi at Cornell proudly welcomed **13 new members**. This new class of Pi men offers a healthy mix of scholars, athletes, and prominent individuals within the Cornell community. These new brothers are already immersing themselves in various activities around Cornell.



Nolan Wilbur '26 is an ambitious transfer from Clemson who is currently conducting undergraduate research on campus and is a member of club baseball.



Matthew McCooe '26, a human development major from Greenwich, Connecticut, hopes to explore more of Cornell with either a physics or math minor.



Andrew Gebicki '26 hails from Westport, Connecticut, and actively participates in both club lacrosse and ice hockey.



From Manhattan, **Austin Saji '26** takes pride in his membership with College Mentors for Kids, which was notably founded by the Mu Chapter.



From left to right: Andrew Haight, Jeh Pandole, Matthew McCooe, Ayden Cinel, Ryder Jones, Andrew Gebicki, Austin Saji, Leule Ashenafi Next row: Jordan Rosenberg, Justin Simon, Henry Schecter, and Aaron Liebskind. Missing: Nolan Wilbur.



Representing Saratoga Springs, New York, **Andrew Haight '26** is an active member of both Phi Gamma Nu Business Fraternity and CIBC.



Leule Ashenafi '26 brings international flair from London, England. He plays a pivotal role in BlackGen Capital.



From Syosset, New York, **Justin Simon '26** is a member of the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity as well as Cornell Alternative Investments.



Ryder Jones '26, from Great River, New York, showcases his athletic prowess as a member of the Cornell Rowing Club.



Henry Schecter '26, coming from Dallas, Texas, is a member of Cornell Club Lacrosse.



Hailing from Plainview, New York, **Jordan Rosenberg '26** is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity as well as TAMID.



Jeh Pandole '26 represents Mumbai, India, and is a formidable presence on the Men's Varsity Squash Team.



Ayden Cinel '26, from Torrington, Connecticut, is a member of the Cornell University Design Build Fly project team.



Concluding our list of new members is **Aaron Liebskind '26** from Clarksville, Maryland. He is a member of the Big Red Sports Network.

Beyond their Cornell involvements, members from the newest class also assisted the Mu Chapter with winning the annual IFC flag football tournament and helped package meals for families in the greater Ithaca area. Our fraternity is enriched by the wide-ranging backgrounds and interests these new members bring. We are proud to call these new members our brothers and are enthusiastic about their growth over the next four years and beyond.



New Members Justin Simon '26 (left) and Leule Ashenafi '26 assisting the local food packing facility in providing meals to homeless people in the community

Mu Chapter Wins Grand Chapter Award

By Robert DeJesus '24



More great news from 730 University Avenue! In late September, the Sigma Pi Mu Chapter was presented with the 2022–2023 Grand Chapter Award on behalf of Sigma Pi Fraternity, International. The award recognizes chapters who achieved over 80% on their chapter report card. This is the first time the Cornell Sigma Pi Mu Chapter has received the Grand Chapter Award since 2006.

With over 100 Sigma Pi chapters operating internationally, this recognition speaks to the foundation and momentum we built upon this past year. We are currently on track to receive the award again this year with the completion of our final three quarterly reports and timely payments. This award provides a standard for undergraduate leaders for years to come and showcases the efforts toward building a strong relationship with Sigma Pi Fraternity, International. As we continue to strive for excellence, this provides motivation for the next generation of brothers. The plaque is proudly displayed in the East Lounge of the house.



The Grand Chapter Award on display in the East Lounge at 730 University Avenue.



Resident Advisor Report



By Zion Sherin

The Sigma Pi Mu Chapter had an excellent start to the fall 2023 semester. We began with a smooth move-in for 30 brothers, six of whom share double rooms. The brothers were respectful of the Airbnb guest whose planned stay overlapped with some of their early move-in dates. This respect helped conclude the summer at the Hostel on a high note with a revenue of over \$20,000.

The house has been running smoothly and is recognized as one of the most socially active on campus. Despite a packed social calendar, the brothers have ensured the house remains tidy. Both our chef and cleaners have noted that the house is maintaining higher standards than in previous years. Furthermore, we passed the certification of occupancy on our first inspection, a rarity for houses in the Ithaca area. The organized events and cleanliness of the house have attracted many students. Out of those, Sigma Pi identified 16 potential members. Impressively, 13 of them accepted bids, with two planning to rush next semester. This resulted in the largest pledge class in the entire IFC this semester.

I have been thoroughly enjoying my role as the resident advisor. From getting to know the brothers and attending events to ensuring operations run smoothly and assisting with projects like purchasing and installing new washers and dryers, my duties are varied. I constantly encourage the members to raise their standards, which is becoming increasingly challenging as they are consistently nearing the pinnacle of excellence. The brotherhood overall is doing great and is already preparing for next semester's rush. They aim to have a pledge class of 20.

Reunion 2023



Band of Brothers at Reunion 2023 (left to right): David D'Orlando '79, Chris Ollie '79, Tom Garr '76, Brian Finneran '81, Kevin Kruse '79, and Jay Sacco '80.



Kurt Rasmussen '80 and Jake Howell '17 enjoying reunion.



John Haggerty '79 and Zack Smith '13 enjoying Reunion.



Class of 1963 celebrates 60th reunion



Reunion 2023 at the Sigma Pi house.



Reunion 2023 at the Sigma Pi house.



Band of Brothers performing at Reunion 2023.



We Need New Directors For Mu Chapter Alumni Board!

By **Jarett Wait '80**



The Mu Chapter Alumni Board currently consists of **15** directors whose collective experience serving on the board totals **112** years. We have a number of directors who will be rotating off this year, and we are seeking **4-6** new members.

The alumni board has a committee structure to provide for more active directors and interested alumni serving on committees to oversee the operation of the house. The committees will do the work that several individuals have done heretofore. We are always looking for new participants, so if you are interested in becoming involved, please e-mail **Peter Muth '74** at pmuth@roadrunner.com

Committee assignments are made based on the following criteria:

- Preference of the board member or alumni as to the committee he preferred.
- Consideration of required professional knowledge or equivalent experience.
- Desire to have a larger participation on committees of a general but important nature (Brotherhood, History, and Alumni Relations).
- Membership determined by the by-laws of the fraternity (Executive).

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the officers of the corporation and the chair of the Legal Committee. The Executive Committee serves as an advisory group to the president. When necessary, the Executive Committee may act on behalf of the board.

Executive Committee Members: Wait (chair), Rusu, Haggerty, Muth, and Goodman

Facilities

This committee is responsible for the state of the fraternity house. They will be expected to visit the facility often enough to be aware of physical problems and see that remedial action is taken. The members should be capable of recognizing problems. The chairman is responsible to monitor and supervise the activities of the hired services performing maintenance. The committee will be responsible for identifying future expenditures to maintain the building and furnishings and advise the board of such needs. Membership on this committee will require visits to Ithaca.

Facilities Committee Members:

Rusu (chair), Morrison, Haggerty, and Wright

Insurance

This committee is responsible for monitoring the insurance coverage of the corporation. The members must be able to certify that systems are in place to ensure insurance is adequate, premium payments are made on time, and to advise the board of any special conditions that could compromise coverage. The corporation currently pays a retainer to an Ithaca insurance agency senior agent to assist in this work.

Insurance Committee Members:

D'Orlando (chair)

Legal

This committee advises the board as to legal concerns that may arise. This committee also ensures that all notices, filings, fee payments, etc. necessary to maintain the active status of the corporation with the State of New York.

Legal Committee Members:

Muth (chair) and Jon Fordin

Alumni Relations

This committee will be responsible for monitoring the overt actions of the fraternity to connect with its alumni including the Muse, the Mu Chapter website, and use of The Emerald. The committee will work to see that certain actions are traditional and predictable, including traditional practices such as Homecoming and Reunion. The committee will also oversee and assist the undergraduate philanthropic activities and coordinate with the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation as appropriate. Significant interaction with the undergraduate chapter members will be necessary to carry out the mission of this committee.

Alumni Relations Committee Members:

Pirozzi (chair)

Brotherhood

This committee will assist the president in ensuring that undergraduates take responsibly for the fraternity's actions, particularly regarding rushing, pledging, and initiation. Currently, there is a committee of board members and undergraduates called the Committee of Seven that is performing this function.

Brotherhood Committee Members:

Pens (chair), Morrison, Haggerty, and Dewey

Nominating

The Nominating Committee is tasked with identifying and recommending candidates for the alumni board. The committee will seek potential interested directors through discussions with other board members, members of the alumni, and undergraduate members, and will make recommendations to the board concerning plans for succession for both executive and non-executive directors.

Nominating Committee Members:

Muth (chair) and Pens

Kitchen and Dining

The committee will work with the house steward on the overall food and beverage strategy for the house, including coordinating the meal service plan, overseeing the corporate meal provider's performance in partnership with the RA, and monitoring the kitchen infrastructure.

Kitchen and Dining Members:

Pirozzi (chair)

Technology and Social Media

The committee is responsible for managing the Mu Chapter website, social media, multimedia, and technology infrastructure, with a priority focus on enhancing interaction between undergraduates and alumni through technology.

Technology and Social Media Members:

Vernick (chair)

Special Purposes Committees

The board and/or the president will identify special needs from time to time for special purposes. Such committees will include members of the board and may also include non-board members. An example of such a committee is the Centennial Committee.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Members:

Goodman (chair), William Murphy, and Yordanos Goshu

Educational Foundation Report

By **Wayne Forman '80**
Foundation President



Greetings from Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Board, whose members are **Wayne Forman '80, Tom Silver '81, Zach Gilbert '16, Chris Olie '79, Joe Zanetta '75, Mike Reiner '78, Roger Carroll '76, Peter Muth '74, Craig Dewey '06, Brody Ehrlich '10, Alex Eacker '15, Justin Bredahl '17, and Matthew Blakley**

'18. We are particularly proud of the number of younger alumni who are willing to take time from their busy lives to give back to the Pi house.

Following a successful 2022–2023 fundraising year, the Educational Foundation has been pursuing its mission to promote education and leadership opportunities at Mu Chapter. Since our last update, we've engaged in several important initiatives.

Chapter President **Rob de Jesus '24** was awarded the \$2,000 2023 David Harrop Memorial Scholarship from among three stellar applicants. This scholarship, named for the son of Bert Harrop, one of the founders of the Educational Foundation, honors an undergraduate brother who has shown academic excellence and service to Sigma Pi and the Ithaca community. Congratulations, Rob!

The Foundation granted four \$5,000 Greek Affordability Awards for the 2023–2024 academic year. This program serves multiple purposes including promoting diversity and

fostering the collegial and educational experience of living in the Pi house. This year's recipients are **Manoc Joa Griffith '26, Griffen Kowal '26, Lucas McCallum '25, and Fardin Chowdhury '25**. Congratulations!

The Educational Foundation is always looking for ways to support the Pi house and the brotherhood, consistent with our mission. Toward that end, the Foundation made a grant of \$15,000 to the Pi house.

The Foundation is also underwriting the Sigma Pi Speaker Series. First up on November 15, 2023 is Cornell's first woman Athletic Director Nicki Moore. And the Foundation has offered to fund all undergraduates who attend that annual Sigma Pi NYC Career Day, scheduled for November 2 and 3.

And last but far from least, the Foundation funds an intern each year who helps facilitate our programs. This year's super intern is **Benji Michael Sliwka '25**, whose work has been invaluable to our efforts.

It's clear that the Educational Foundation plays a key role in enriching the lives of Mu Chapter undergraduates and promoting a robust Pi house experience. We are thankful for the many donors who have contributed in the past to make these program possible. We hope that many of you will continue this important tradition and make a generous year-end donation to Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation.

Alumni Treasurer's Report

By **John Haggerty '78**



Greetings on a gloriously sunny fall afternoon in Aurora, New York, home of Wells College and its men's football team, undefeated since 1868. It must be true; I have the shirt.

The house remains current on all its bills and is debt-free. The small financial cushion we were able to build pre-COVID and before the elimination of our access to the Cornell bursar billing system has

allowed us to withstand two consecutive fiscal years of an operating deficit. The deficits are driven by two realities. First, fewer brothers are living in the house, and second, not every brother with a bill has paid or paid in full. We continue to work hard at the beginning of each semester to impress on our undergraduate brothers the need to pay their bills. While the number in arrears is smaller this semester, it is still more than a dozen and as of the halfway point of the semester, more than \$50,000 had yet to be collected.

I am pleased to say, however, that the

current house leadership team has stepped up big time and taken a lead role in the unpleasant "collections" activity. **Sage Rob DeJesus '24** and **Treasurer Benji Michael Sliwka '25** have been on point, and what started as over \$100,000 in arrears has been cut in half through their efforts. We hope the remaining brothers will make good on their debts soon and next semester will be even better.

Speaking of next semester, we anticipate a number of newly-initiated brothers will be moving into 730 University Avenue thanks to a change of policy by Cornell.

(continued on page 13)

Annual Meeting / Director Elections

The annual meeting of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States was held on Thursday, September 28. Once again, the alumni board made an increased effort to garner proxies who would provide the alumni corporation with the needed quorum to conduct the annual meeting in accordance with our bylaws. I am happy to report that we received 134 proxies, representing almost 10% of our active membership, including both alumni and undergraduates. Thanks to all who participated.

Elections for alumni directors were held, and by unanimous vote, the following slate of officers was reelected for one-year terms: **Jarett Wait '80, President; Liviu Rusu '98, Vice President; John Haggerty '78, Treasurer and Faculty Advisor; Slater Goodman '18, Secretary; and Peter Muth '74, General Counsel. Jeremy Kracker '07** stepped down from the board. Thank you, Jeremy, for your service to Mu Chapter. Joining the alumni board are **Max Clouser '23** and **Ricky Melasecca '23**. We are delighted to add Max and Ricky to the leadership team. We hope that with the addition of Max and Ricky, we will improve communication with the undergraduate leaders and chapter.

Alumni Board Appoints Two New Directors



rlm389@cornell.edu

Ricardo “Ricky” Melasecca '23

Professional Experience: Ricky Melasecca spent the past two summers as an intern at EY-Parthenon and MediaOcean. He will be returning to EY-Parthenon next year as a full-time generalist first-year associate.

Cornell Involvement: As an undergraduate student, Ricky was his Sigma Pi pledge class president, a recruitment chair as a sophomore, and sage for the 2022–2023 academic year. Additionally, Ricky served as an orientation leader and the vice president of judicial Affairs for the IFC. He was also a member of the a cappella group, Last Call, and a business consulting club, International Business Consulting.



Ricky Melasecca '23 joins student leaders in making a presentation to Cornell trustees on Greek life at Cornell Trustee Weekend.



mmc276@cornell.edu

Maxim Clouser '23

Professional Experience: Max grew up working in the hospitality industry and has experience in software engineering. He interned at a hospitality tech startup, worked at Student Agencies, Inc. for Big Red Shipping and Storage, and interned at a cloud-based medical health record company as a software engineer.

Cornell Involvement: Max graduated from the Hotel School in 2023 and is pursuing his MEng in computer science at Cornell Tech. As an undergraduate, Max was a brotherhood chairman and was involved with Student Agencies, Inc. and the Cornell Blockchain Club.

Summer 2024 Sigma Pi Airbnb/Hostel Reservations Now Open

Hello, brothers of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter. We are very excited to announce that we will be opening the house again next summer with the business model being Airbnb/Hostel/events.

For planning purposes, the summer will consist of three components: graduation (May 24–26), Reunion (June 6–9), and the rest of the summer (June 11–August 11) for Airbnb, Hostel, and events.

Sigma Pi Seniors are being given the option to stay at the House with family members during Graduation Weekend (May 23-26). The charge for Graduation weekend (3 nights) \$700 Single / \$900 Double. The main kitchen will be closed but grab & go will be available. If you are interested, please reach out to our Residential Advisor, Zion Sherin at zns3@cornell.edu by 12/01/23. Reserve with a deposit by 12/01/23 and Save 25%! If there is insufficient demand, we will begin offering rooms via Airbnb starting in January. Why spend a weekend in Ithaca for graduation anywhere other than Sigma Pi?

For Reunion in June, the house is reserved for young alumni classes, 2014–2024, who receive priority booking and a 25% discount if registered by January 1, 2024. Rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Single rooms are \$100 per night, with a two-night minimum. Doubles, also with a two-night minimum, are \$500 for the weekend. If interested, please reach out to Zion, zns3@cornell.edu, by January 1 to receive the discount. Thereafter, we will be taking reservations on a rolling basis until fully booked.

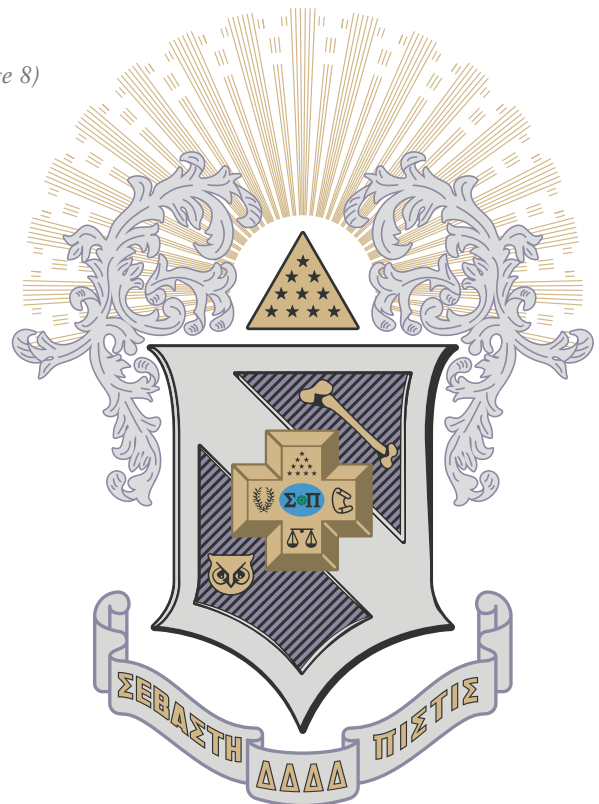
We will offer the Sigma Pi Hostel/Airbnb from June 11 through August 11. If you are visiting Ithaca over the summer, it's a great way to enjoy Cornell in an affordable and fun way. For the summer, rates will vary based on the day and time and will be booked through Airbnb, but if you reach out to zns3@cornell.edu, we will set up a 30% brotherhood discount for your stay.

Alumni Treasurer's Report *(continued from page 8)*

Students will be given releases from their Cornell dorm commitments and will be free to start their experience as live-in members of Sigma Pi. This will at least partially, perhaps fully with some luck, offset the financial hole that will be created by brothers going abroad for the spring semester. The new brothers had until October 31 to notify Cornell of their decision. At our "new brother orientation" meeting in October, most indicated that they intended to exercise the option to live in the house.

The "cushion" I referred to above is largely a function of alumni generosity. Your contributions to the alumni corporation have been the difference between taking on debt at a time of rising interest or remaining debt-free. If you have been thinking about making a gift of any amount, please take the next step. If you have recently given, thank you on behalf of a grateful brotherhood!

As always, let me know if you plan to be in the Ithaca area in the months ahead. Or at least between now and December. After that, you are more likely to find me in the Florida Keys until the ice goes out in the gorges!



Sigma Pi Reunion June 6-8 2024

Steve Pirozzi '80



Cornell resumed in-person Reunion two years ago. Since then, Mu Chapter has seen an increased interest, across many graduation years, to attend Reunion. The alumni association is encouraging Mu Chapter alumni from all years to attend.

The alumni association works to assist alumni in finding a room for Reunion. The Pi house is made available to younger alumni on a first come, first served basis. The Pi house RA, Zion Sherin, is coordinating the allocation of the Pi house rooms. If you are interested in reserving a room at the Pi house please email Zion at zns3@cornell.edu. For young alumni, there is a 2-night minimum at \$100 per night. The 2024 reunion will be held June 6-8, 2024.

The alumni association has also reserved a block of rooms at the **Dorm Hotel**, thedormhotel.com, 607-319-4611. We have been staying with the Dorm for a couple of years, since they completed their ground-up renovation. The Dorm's location is great, it is very clean, the facilities are almost new, and it's well-run by a Cornell alumnus. The Dorm is the closest hotel to the Pi house; it is about a two-minute drive or a short walk. It's just across West Campus, on Stewart Avenue. To make a reservation, simply call and tell them you want to reserve a room from the Sigma Pi block of rooms for Reunion 2024. There will be a

three-day minimum, starting Thursday, June 6, when reserving a room at any hotel in Ithaca for Reunion Weekend.

We ask all Mu Chapter alumni attending Reunion to make a donation to the house. The funds are used to provide alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the weekend, pay for cleaning throughout the weekend, and for the supplies necessary for the weekend. Please complete the registration process when you register for Reunion at the Mu Chapter website, www.sigmapicornell.org.

The alumni association, working with the class organizers, hosts additional events at the Pi house and in the surrounding area. The events at the Pi house include buffet dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings following the cocktail hour each night. For the past two years, there has been an afternoon wine tasting at a local winery.

We encourage everyone who is interested to visit the 2024 Reunion webpage on the Mu Chapter website to find out the menu details and to sign up for any or all of the events offered.

For the past two years, the weekend has been highlighted by the Saturday night performance of the Band of Brothers, a band exclusively made up of Mu Chapter alumni. You can see them performing in previous years by visiting www.sigmapicornell.org/150-videos.asp.

Procrasticup Invitational Goes to the Emerald Isle!

The planning started in 2019 for the Procrasticup to go to Ireland in 2023! Due to Covid, 16 Pi men landed in Dublin in July 2023. Of the 16, six brothers were of Irish heritage. Graduation years ranged from 1980 to 1984. After a walking tour of Dublin and sampling multiple pubs on the first day, the 16 Pi men boarded the McPi bus for a trip to the coast of Northern Ireland. After two days of golf in the wind and rain along the coast of Portstewart and Portrush, and some local sightseeing, the group headed back toward Dublin.

The weather finally broke, and on the third day of golf, the group played in the sun at Royal County Down along the Irish Sea. After three straight days of golfing, the McPi bus parked back in Dublin for a day of recuperation. The day off included tours of the Jameson Distillery and Guinness Factory. The final day of golf was played in good weather at Portmarnock. After some extremely mediocre golf, many Irish whiskeys and Guinness drafts, and tons of Pi house stories, the group agreed it was a trip of a lifetime ... until the next one.



Sigma Pi Supports Cornell Lacrosse



Alumni attended a lacrosse game. Top row, left to right: Tom Owens '83, Mat Wigsten '80, Joe Dervay '80, Jarett Wait '80, and Jim Franz '77. Front row: Tom Wright '77 and Pete Wright '77.



Top row, left to right: John Alkaya '81, Jim Franz '77, Barry Weiss '81, Aron Minken '80, Mike Vernick '83, and Steve Pirozzi '80. Front row: Donald Motschwiller '80 and Jarett Wait '80.



Alumni at the Ivy League Lacrosse Championship Game.

Grateful Red

Alumni celebrate the Dead & Company return to Barton Hall on May 8 with commutative Grateful Red T-shirts as a fundraiser for CityLAX. The shirt highlights the year of the most famous Grateful Dead show of all time, on May 8, 1977, and the success and tradition of Big Red lacrosse!



Forty-six years to the day Cornell welcomed back Dead & Co. for an excellent reunion show.



Photo taken by Larry MacLennan '79 the day after the May 1977 show. All the Dead Heads freaked out when it started snowing at the conclusion of the concert!



Mu Brothers' News & Notes

KT Mao '63 Remembers **John Hax '60**: Haxie, as we affectionately knew him, along with **Charlie Hawks '60** and **Dick Paulson '60**, were upperclassmen in mechanical engineering and brothers whom I looked up to in my early years at Sigma Pi. They have all passed away. When I was a student, Haxie stood out because he was married to Liz, already with young babies, living off campus, yet always returning to the house for social functions. I added a treasured photo I took of Haxie and Liz dancing at the house to my condolence in the commentary section of the obituary posting, which I wanted to share. Haxie's youngest daughter, Carolyn Hax, is a prominent columnist in the daily advice column of The Washington Post.



Mark Barmasse '78 has been promoted to national technical manager at Arcadis-US Inc.

James Horn '79: Enjoying retirement as of July 2022. Blessed with three grandchildren (ages 5, 4, and 2): two grandsons (Milo Jeffrey and Atticus James) and one granddaughter named Josephine—we call her "Josie".

Keith Molof '79: I retired in 2022, because I qualified for Medicare and could take more ski trips. My wife, Wendy, is a physical therapist who is working part-time. We have two grandchildren with another hopefully coming in early October. My three daughters now all live in Illinois. They are married, and all three bought houses during the pandemic. Looking forward to the class of '79 reunion next June.

Mike Rantz '81: "In my neighbor's backyard, across the street from me, I have watched many Niners and Warriors games with neighbors at Jack's Bar!"



Mike Rantz '81 and Quin Garcia '05 enjoying libations.

Chris Selland '86 I'm excited to share that I have joined TechCXO as a Boston-based partner within the firm's Executive Operations practice. It is my privilege to collaborate with boards, investors, and senior leadership teams, offering my services as an interim or fractional chief executive officer and chief strategy officer. Throughout my journey, I have been deeply engaged in crafting and executing go-to-market and growth strategies, ushering several teams to impressive hyper-growth stages that culminate in IPOs and strategic acquisitions. My experience spans startups to turnaround scenarios, highlighting a strong emphasis on strategic alliances and M&A transactions. In today's dynamic business environment, agility and strategic partnerships are crucial. Drawing from my diverse experiences from startups to turnarounds, my mission is to help organizations unlock their potential. Partnering with TechCXO's resources, I'm poised to craft strategies that resonate with your company's vision and objectives.

Tim Camuti '90 shares that he is now the director of design and user experience at interop.io.

Marshall Gilinsky '92 was recognized as a Super Lawyer in 2023 by Thomson Reuters for insurance coverage in Boston, Massachusetts, Denver, Colorado, and New York, New York.

Steven Siegel '17: I am happy to share that I'm starting a new position as an investment banking associate with the Consumer & Retail Group at Bank of America.

Christian Lippey '21 started a new position as an assistant to a motion-picture literary agent at Creative Artists Agency.

Jeffrey Baker '14 has had an incredible career and has been a rising star in luxury hospitality and branded residential development. Discover his insights into real estate, sustainability, and creating vibrant spaces in our recent web story. lnkd.in/eGcZRPeQ



Quin Garcia '05 and fellow brothers attend the Barbie movie! Left to right: Trevor White '07, Craig Dewey '06, Quin Garcia '05, Matt Dietz '07, Eric Hoffman '07, and Chris Ringewald '03.



Rick Bosshardt '80 and Johnny Alkaya '81 enjoying a game of billiards.

In Memoriam

The alumni board has been notified with the passing of our dear departed brothers.

Horace I. Bush '52

November 5, 2022

Harry Laurance Fuller '60

May 15, 2023

John H. Hax '60

August 7, 2023

Bruce L. Hull '63

May 5, 2023

Curtis S. Fullmer '67

November 24, 2022

Fred A. Knaysi '73

July 11, 2022

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