



Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity

Special Edition

Sigma Pi House Recovery '24

SIGMA PI



**OVER 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING.
BUILT TO LAST!**

2024

Sigma Pi House Recovery

The fraternity has faced a string of significant challenges this year. However, the most pressing issue has been the fraternity house itself, which has been dealt with a severe mold problem and bedbug infestation. CSL Management and our disaster recovery team, including **David C. D'Orlando '79, John Haggerty '78, John Morrison '75, Peter Muth '74, Slater Goodman '18, Steve Pirozzi '80, and Jarett Wait '80**, quickly responded. The mold, discovered from the third floor down to the basement, became a focal point of concern and remediation work started immediately on September 16. On September 18, the City of Ithaca ordered an evacuation of the house, giving residents only 24 hours to leave. Thanks to the quick action of our alumni leaders and Cornell University, including Jenny Loeffelman (assistant vice president for student and campus life), affected brothers were rehoused promptly, and meal arrangements were coordinated. Brothers were relocated to Cornell housing, hotels, and temporary housing.

General contractors are currently on-site working on extensive repairs with a projected completion date after Thanksgiving. Thank you to the alumni who came by the house on rotation, including **John Haggerty '78, William Strusz '73, Peter Wright '77, and Thomas Wright '79. Michael Quaid '75** will have his finger on the pulse of the current construction project at the chapter house. Michael has a wealth of construction management experience. He will be getting a room in Ithaca to spend as much time as he can overseeing the work, with the goal of ensuring it is completed in a timely and efficient manner. The fraternity also filed an insurance claim to address the damages, though the complexities of fraternity insurance, especially concerning mold coverage, are being discussed. Weekly updates will continue to be sent to all brothers, parents, and alumni to keep everyone informed about the progress. Fundraising has been kicked off by **Jay Sacco '80**. Please see photos on page 6.

Sigma Pi House Recovery: The Undergraduate Experience

As a part of our fundraising efforts, we are developing an alumni outreach video with direct feedback from the impacted brothers. A summary of the interviews with four undergraduate brothers of Mu Chapter helps frame difficulties they have faced this fall. There is a mix of emotions, but there is also a sense of hope, resiliency, and strong bonds of brotherhood, all of which will help them through this difficult time. We believe Mu Chapter alumni will play an important role with the needed repairs to the chapter house and supporting the chapter's brotherhood events while brothers are scattered across campus.



Mitch Goldstein '27 expressed a range of emotions about the situation, starting with shock and disbelief at how suddenly he and his fraternity brothers were required to vacate the house. The abruptness of the move turned his life upside down, creating a sense of uncertainty about his living situation and finances. Although the fraternity's alumni stepped in to help with housing and meal plans, the disruption took a toll on Mitch's academic focus and social interactions. He noted many of his fraternity brothers, especially those living in isolation in single dorms, are struggling with feelings of loneliness and disconnection. Despite these challenges, Mitch appreciated the support from the university and remains hopeful the alumni will continue to help them. In reflecting on the incident, Mitch acknowledged the importance of resilience, communication, and staying connected with his brothers.



Ryan Frigerio '27 had to vacate his room due to bed bugs even before the semester started, and after briefly moving back into the fraternity house, he had to relocate again due to the construction issues. This constant moving, along with being isolated from his fraternity brothers on West Campus, has negatively impacted his mental health, leading to a sense of loneliness. The disruption has interfered with his academics, due to lost time and lack of proper sleep, as his temporary living situation is not as comfortable. While Ryan appreciated the support he has received from Cornell, he finds the overall situation difficult. Despite these challenges, he acknowledged the strong bonds he shares with his brothers.



Carter McClintock-Comeaux '27 was initially shocked to learn that he and his fraternity brothers would have to vacate their house, especially since he had envisioned spending the semester living there. Being relocated far from campus has disrupted his daily routine, making it harder to attend classes and spend time with his brothers. Academically, the disruption has affected his focus, due to stress surrounding the uncertainty of his living situation and the inconvenience of being far from campus. However, Carter has shifted his focus toward his studies as a coping mechanism, especially given the difficulties of fulfilling his role as social chair, with no access to the fraternity house. Despite this, he continued to do his best maintaining fraternity activities. Socially, Carter felt disconnected from many of his brothers, especially the juniors, as they are now scattered across campus. Carter remained optimistic that the alumni will continue to support them and that the renovations will ultimately benefit the fraternity in the long run.



Leo Alger '27, as a design major, was particularly affected because he lost access to important materials now locked in the fraternity house, making it hard for him to complete assignments. Academically, the move came at a critical time before exams, causing significant stress and distraction. Leo described the situation as a morale hit for the entire brotherhood, with members scattered across five different locations, making it difficult to stay connected. The sense of brotherhood, once nurtured by the fraternity house, has weakened, as members struggle to find time to meet. Leo remained hopeful the brotherhood can recover. He praised the dedication of his fellow brothers to staying connected and supporting each other, though he feared the loss of shared spaces during the winter months will further strain their relationships. He emphasized the importance of alumni support in securing alternative social spaces to keep the brotherhood alive during this difficult period.

To donate toward the Sigma Pi House Recovery Fund, please visit sigmapicornell.org/ways-to-give.

Calling All Pi Men to Support Sigma Pi House Recovery Fund!



By Jay Sacco '80

My fellow Pi men:
By now you're aware of the unfortunate circumstances that forced the Pi house to close abruptly this semester, and the Herculean effort made by the undergraduates and our alumni board to address the situation. The Pi house isn't just a place to live, it's the crucible that forges Pi men, one semester at a time. Without it, this semester will be a challenge for our undergraduate brothers. Let's make sure next semester the house will once again be the center of their Sigma Pi experience.



Sigma Pi House Recovery – Class Goals

Year	# Bros	Donation Per Bro	Class Donation Goal	Year	# Bros	Donation Per Bro	Class Donation Goal	Year	# Bros	Donation Per Bro	Class Donation Goal
1945	1	\$966.56	\$966.56	1971	24	\$966.56	\$23,197.49	1995	13	\$567.56	\$7,378.31
1946	1	\$966.56	\$966.56	1972	24	\$966.56	\$23,197.49	1996	5	\$548.56	\$2,742.81
1948	1	\$966.56	\$966.56	1973	19	\$966.56	\$18,364.68	1997	1	\$529.56	\$529.56
1950	1	\$966.56	\$966.56	1974	25	\$966.56	\$24,164.05	1998	14	\$510.56	\$7,147.87
1951	4	\$966.56	\$3,866.25	1975	18	\$947.56	\$17,056.12	1999	11	\$491.56	\$5,407.18
1952	4	\$966.56	\$3,866.25	1976	12	\$928.56	\$11,142.74	2000	12	\$472.56	\$5,670.74
1953	6	\$966.56	\$5,799.37	1977	24	\$909.56	\$21,829.49	2006	30	\$358.56	\$10,756.86
1954	6	\$966.56	\$5,799.37	1978	24	\$890.56	\$21,373.49	2001	18	\$453.56	\$8,164.12
1955	4	\$966.56	\$3,866.25	1979	28	\$871.56	\$24,403.74	2002	19	\$434.56	\$8,256.68
1956	12	\$966.56	\$11,598.74	1980	33	\$852.56	\$28,134.55	2003	25	\$415.56	\$10,389.05
1957	6	\$966.56	\$5,799.37	1981	25	\$833.56	\$20,839.05	2004	10	\$396.56	\$3,965.62
1958	7	\$966.56	\$6,765.93	1982	24	\$814.56	\$19,549.49	2005	25	\$377.56	\$9,439.05
1959	9	\$966.56	\$8,699.06	1983	30	\$795.56	\$23,866.86	2012	15	\$244.56	\$3,668.43
1960	12	\$966.56	\$11,598.74	1984	27	\$776.56	\$20,967.17	2013	22	\$225.56	\$4,962.36
1961	9	\$966.56	\$8,699.06	1985	21	\$757.56	\$15,908.80	2014	18	\$206.56	\$3,718.12
1962	10	\$966.56	\$9,665.62	1986	24	\$738.56	\$17,725.49	2015	20	\$187.56	\$3,751.24
1963	18	\$966.56	\$17,398.12	1987	9	\$719.56	\$6,476.06	2016	22	\$168.56	\$3,708.36
1964	16	\$966.56	\$15,464.99	1988	26	\$700.56	\$18,214.61	2017	18	\$149.56	\$2,692.12
1965	20	\$966.56	\$19,331.24	1989	32	\$681.56	\$21,809.98	2018	20	\$130.56	\$2,611.24
1966	17	\$966.56	\$16,431.55	1990	9	\$662.56	\$5,963.06	2019	20	\$111.56	\$2,231.24
1967	10	\$966.56	\$9,665.62	1991	16	\$643.56	\$10,296.99	2020	29	\$92.56	\$2,684.30
1968	25	\$966.56	\$24,164.05	1992	21	\$624.56	\$13,115.80	2021	22	\$73.56	\$1,618.36
1969	23	\$966.56	\$22,230.93	1993	20	\$605.56	\$12,111.24	2022	25	\$54.56	\$1,364.05
1970	25	\$966.56	\$24,164.05	1994	14	\$586.56	\$8,211.87	2023	17	\$35.56	\$604.55

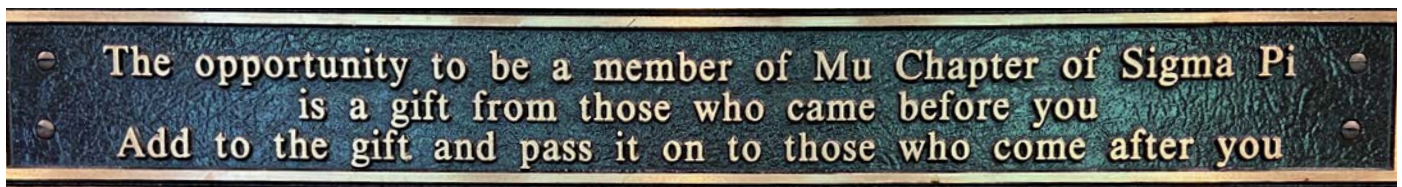
Over the years, many of us have paid our fair share, but we've also been lucky enough to have brothers who could and did make major contributions that got us over the finish line. For that, we're eternally grateful, but we can't assume this will always be the case. This year's Band of Brothers theme was "Unity," perhaps prophetic in light of the current challenge. Unity implies participation, and that's what we need now. Your participation is essential. To that end, we've set class goals based on how long you've been out of school and the number of brothers in your class; you might be surprised at how little you need to contribute, but this only works if we all participate. Large or small, please donate what you can. Together we'll re-open the doors to the Pi house so current and future Pi men will continue to be forged into the lifetime of brotherhood that has stood us well for more than a century.

Re-open the Doors 2024 Campaign

We need to raise **\$500,000**. Each graduating class has a fundraising goal. I'm asking you to work with your classmates to reach your class donation goal. Every class that meets their goal

will have their class year on a plate on the Re-open the Doors 2024 plaque. But wait, there's more. For each percent over goal, the length of the plate will increase commensurately, so size matters. Even better, the person in the class who makes the largest donation will have their name on their class plate as the class top donor. The overarching goal is to have every class year on the plaque, so please don't leave a blank spot where your class belongs. To help you connect with your class brothers, class contact information will be sent out to each class, but don't wait. You can make your donation today and follow the weekly class status updates. You can always donate again. Brothers, let us unite. Contact your close and long-lost brothers; encourage everyone to participate as best they can. Participation is all it takes to succeed.

Support the brothers of Sigma Pi:
sigmapicornell.org/ways-to-give.



Sigma Pi Brothers Adapt Social Events to Challenging Environment

By Mitch Goldstein '27



Despite the challenges of being without our beloved house, Sigma Pi has pulled off two very successful events since our forced move: a wine tour and a homecoming party. These have been standout moments for us, proving that even without a proper space, we can still come together and maintain the vibrant social life Sigma Pi is known for.

However, with Ithaca's frigid fall weather creeping in—today's 45 degrees being a clear reminder—the outdoor events we've managed at the annex are no longer feasible. The colder it gets,

the more difficult it becomes to host gatherings, and that's where we need to shift gears. Looking ahead, it's becoming clear the rest of the semester will require us to host events at rented locations. This presents new hurdles, and we will need support from our alumni community, both financial and planning. Your contributions will help us keep the spirit of Sigma Pi alive during this transitional period.

The success we've seen so far shows our resilience, but we can't do this alone. We hope to rally the strength of our brotherhood and alumni to ensure that even without a physical house, our events continue to embody what Sigma Pi stands for. Please see photos on page 7.

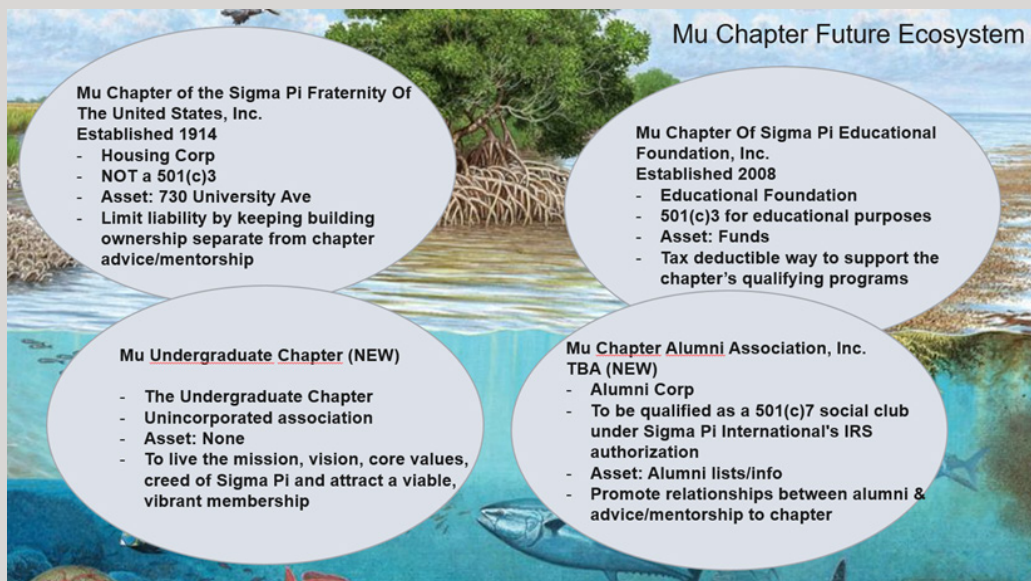
Summary of the Annual Meeting: Mu Chapter of the Sigma Pi Fraternity of the United States Inc.

On September 26, 2024: Alumni, undergraduates, and 126 proxies gathered for the annual meeting. The meeting was called to order by alumni association president **Jarett Wait '80**.

To mitigate future risks and ensure the fraternity's sustainability, the alumni association discussed plans to restructure the organization. One key focus was separating the fraternity's assets, particularly property and housing, into different entities. This restructuring is intended to protect the fraternity in the event of future incidents. While some of this restructuring is on hold due to the current housing emergency, we do hope to launch these new entities in early 2025. We still need alumni leaders for the key roles in these organizations.

A new alumni organization, Mu Chapter of Cornell University alumni association, will be led by **Jarett Wait '80**, while Steve Pirozzi '80 will take over leadership of the housing corporation. In a bittersweet moment, Jarett Wait '80 and **John Haggerty '78** announced their plans to step down from their leadership roles ahead of the 2025 annual meeting (see the related article below).

Board elections were also held, and the slate of directors nominated by **Slater Goodman '18** was unanimously approved. Jarett Wait '80 was re-elected as president, **Steve Pirozzi '80**



as vice president, Slater Goodman '18 as secretary, and John Haggerty '78 as treasurer. We want to thank those who are stepping down from the board for their service, including **Liviu Rusu '98**, **Craig Dewey '06**, and **Max Clouser '23**.

Committee reports were delivered regarding Sigma Pi house recovery status and planning.

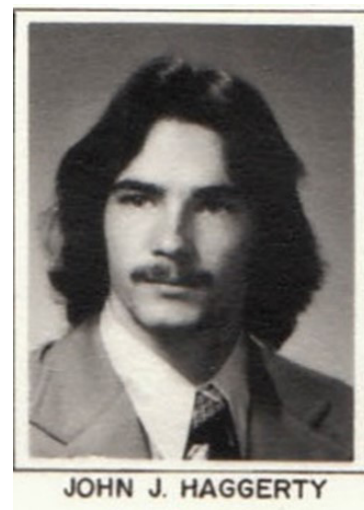
Notice: A board motion was made and approved to amend the bylaws to create an alumni at-large position to allow a non-member alumnus who brings leadership, passion, and select industry skills valued by the board, to join us in an official capacity.

Jarett Wait '80 and John Haggerty '78 Announce Leadership Transition for Alumni Board



As highlighted in the article on the annual meeting, **Jarett Wait '80** and **John Haggerty '78** notified Mu Chapter alumni that this will be their last year serving as officers and board members for Mu Chapter. John was Jarett's big brother in the fraternity. The announcement was made at the annual meeting to give the organization a one-year notice and pass the baton to the next generation of leaders.

Jarett Wait '80 served on the board for 22 years, with 11 years as president. John Haggerty '78 served for 20 years on the board, both as alumni treasurer and chapter faculty advisor. They were praised at the annual meeting for their long-standing dedication and numerous contributions to the fraternity.



The Time To Give Back:

A Conversation Between Mu Chapter Faculty Advisor John Haggerty '78 and Greek University CEO Michael Ayalon

Michael Ayalon: Welcome Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi fraternity. I'm Mike Ayalon, CEO of Greek University. I'm here today to meet with John Haggerty. He has been the chapter faculty adviser and alumni treasurer for 20 years. John, you've seen plenty of challenges over the history of Mu Chapter at Cornell, including a fire that once destroyed the entire chapter house. Today, we're dealing with a hidden mold problem in the walls of the bathrooms that forced the undergraduate members out of the house at 730 University Avenue. Talk to us a little bit about your reactions when you found out about it, and where we are today.

John Haggerty: My initial reaction, and sadly, it's still a big part of my reaction, was embarrassment, to be honest with you. Those of us who manage the house on behalf of our active brothers take great pride. You've been to the facility; you know it's a beautiful house. We have tried as much as possible with the resources we have to keep that house a showplace on the Cornell campus. Something happened in the last couple of years that I have not had the time to get to the bottom of. We had some issues that clearly had been going on longer than just the past couple of months. As you mentioned, it led to the discovery of mold and some significant structural damage, also caused by the same water that caused the mold.

So, my initial reaction was embarrassment, absolutely not a place where we wanted to be or thought we could be. The embarrassment has hung around because we had to close the house, and the brothers had to leave. That adds a substantial amount of disappointment on top of the embarrassment. A big feature of Sigma Pi is the beautiful house at 730 University Avenue, and the facilities the brothers get to use for social events and study, and we had no choice but to tell them to leave. We then had to work our way through something we've not had to deal with since the fire, which is finding another place for 30-something brothers to live. We hoped this would be on a short-term basis, but now it looks like it may last as long as the full semester.

Embarrassment and disappointment. We've been criticized, Mike, and I take that criticism, and I accept it. This is harder on them than it is on us, and it's really hard on us. Every time I get to the point where I feel frustration about how the undergraduate active brothers are talking to us, or notes we get from them, or calls from their parents, I remind myself that this is harder on them than it is on us. It's a bear for us. It's a tremendous amount of work on a group of volunteers who, quite honestly, have other things on their plate. But from a faculty perspective, it's the worst thing that can happen to a student, particularly a sophomore at Cornell, in the middle of an intense study period, to be told to go live somewhere else. We don't know where, and we don't know who you're going to be with. The brotherhood you chose is now dissipated across a lot of different places, and it's very difficult for them to have what they would have had in the house, which is the support of the other brothers.

So, embarrassed, disappointed, and hopeful. I try to get up every morning and remind myself that we've been through these kinds of

struggles before. I personally have shut the house down in the past for a variety of reasons and gone through membership reviews and had to come out the other side. Each time we did, I think we all looked at ourselves and said, "The brotherhood that survived the crisis was stronger than the brotherhood that went into the crisis." When I get up in the morning, that's what I tell myself. Sometimes by the end of the day, I'm thinking differently, but if I get up tomorrow morning, I'm going to tell myself we're going to be okay.

Michael Ayalon: Obviously, there's concern from the undergraduates about getting the job done as quickly as possible without delays. What are the alumni doing to ensure that the construction moves quickly and efficiently? And, what are the alumni doing to ensure that the chapter stays together during this difficult time?

John Haggerty: Yeah, those are both good questions. As you know, we have a management company, CSL, that we engaged two years ago. CSL has been the primary interface with the variety of vendors. We had a vendor in initially to do mold remediation. That work got done



Faculty Advisor John Haggerty

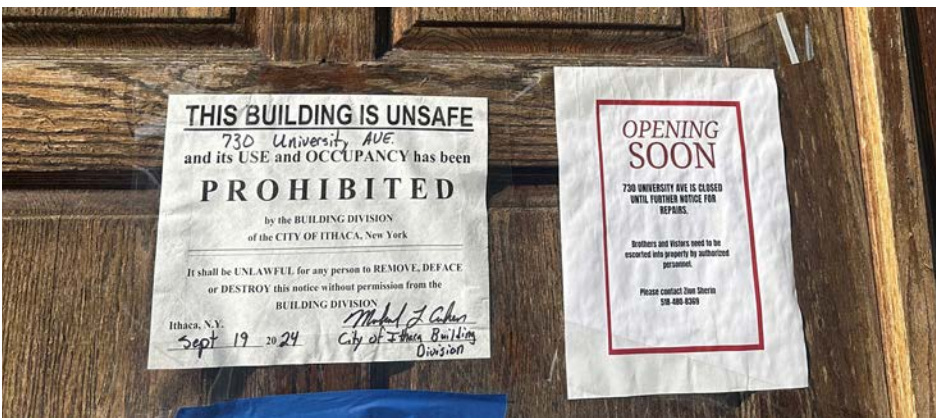
fairly quickly. When the second contractor came in to start doing the demolition and rebuilding work after the remediation, they discovered considerably more damaged areas, including mold and deterioration of the wood. So, it's been a chasing exercise to try to get to the point where we had enough clarity on the work scope to give us a timeframe, and that's been very frustrating.

As someone who's built a couple of homes, I understand this is not a science, it's an art. The company, from my perspective, has been doing a good job, but each time they opened up a new area of the house, even within the same bathroom, moving from where the shower stalls were to where the toilets were, there was a discovery of additional wood

that was compromised and would need to be reframed. When you make a discovery like that, you have to bring the inspector back in. The inspector has to approve the plan to replace the wood. So, it's a cycle. Would I like it to go a lot faster? Yes. If I had a magic wand, I would have waved it, and the brothers would all be back in the house. But we don't have a magic wand. We must rely on a competent, capable, local construction company and their crew. We're doing everything we can to push this along, but we want it done right. We want it done so that we don't have to revisit any of these conditions for many years to come. We're taking the advice of the construction company and the local inspector to say, "Okay, you have a choice: go fast, or get it done correctly. Let's get it done correctly." Right? I wish I could make it go faster, but I'm happy that they are doing what I think is a very competent and capable job. It's just taking longer than any of us would have wanted.

Michael Ayalon: I know we're working with Alexa to try to get some brotherhood events going; it could be IBC, it could be The Pines. There are all kinds of options there. Our hope is that we have those brotherhood events to keep the brotherhood together. I think that's going to be really important going forward. Is there any message

(Continued on page 9)



Brotherhood Social Events Adapts to Challenging Environment



Chris Hunter and Keagan Hayes in their temporary dorm housing.



Homecoming at annex.



Wine tour: Kevin Goldberg, Chris Hunter, Keagan Hayes, and Carter McClintock.



Homecoming at annex.



Homecoming at annex.



Wine tour: spring '24 pledge class.



Mykonos date night on the beach speech from President Manoc Joa-Griffith.



Mykonos date night on the beach prior to the house closing.



Wine tour: Matthew Kodsí, Harry Finch, Kevin Goldberg, Mitch Goldstein, Sami Steinberg, Noah Wishengrad



Mykonos date night: Mitch Goldstein, Aidan Kane, and Jason Cannistraro.



Bus ride to wine tour: spring '24 pledge class and their dates.



Wine tour: the brotherhood.

Treasurer's Report

By John Haggerty '78



While we remain current on our bills and have been able to avoid debt since paying off our mortgage some 10 years ago, that streak will come to an end in the waning hours of 2024. The events described elsewhere in this edition of the Muse describe the unfortunate

discoveries, and the steps being taken to bring the house back to an acceptable condition to house our active brothers. We do not yet have full visibility on all the costs associated with this situation, but it is clear our expenditures on several fronts will exceed our collections for the fall 2024 semester. Let me describe those expenditures as we see them.

First, when the City of Ithaca ordered the house evacuated in September, we scrambled to find alternate housing for more than 30 brothers. The sophomores, living in the house for the first time, were moved to available Cornell University dorm beds within a day. Many thanks for the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs for supporting us and working out the details with Cornell Housing. We are paying a daily rate of approximately \$55 per bed, which is higher than the house rent we collected from our brothers. Those payments will be made from the rent we collected in August until that source of funds is exhausted. Remaining rent payments will be made from savings, and from the funds collected from alumni for the Sigma Pi Recovery Campaign.

The juniors living in the house were largely ineligible for dorm rooms, and CSL (our property management partners) searched for hotel rooms while they tried to identify more long term off-campus housing options. This was particularly challenging, as during mid-semester there is little available housing stock. One group of brothers was able to secure a property in Collegetown and quickly moved in. To do so, they had to sign individual leases and pay the landlord (who refused to bill Sigma Pi directly). A second group of brothers was able to move into a temporary "hostel" owned by another landlord. They hope to move into a newly renovated apartment building as soon as the landlord secures clearance from City of Ithaca codes department. Rent check refunds were issued to each of those brothers the following week and will be issued each time rent is due, until the brothers return to 730 University Avenue. Once again, the rent and fees paid to the landlords exceed the rent we collected for our closed house.

In addition to rent, there are a myriad of other costs we are reimbursing related to housing, including

insurance fees (for liability, not personal property), internet connections, utilities, etc. Every displaced brother who was on a house meal plan is either receiving a Cornell meal plan (primarily the sophomores in the dorms), or a weekly meal per diem. This is being paid for by the funds the brothers collected for their in-house meal plan, and when those funds are depleted, the alumni corporation will pick up the cost of meals until the brothers are back in the house.

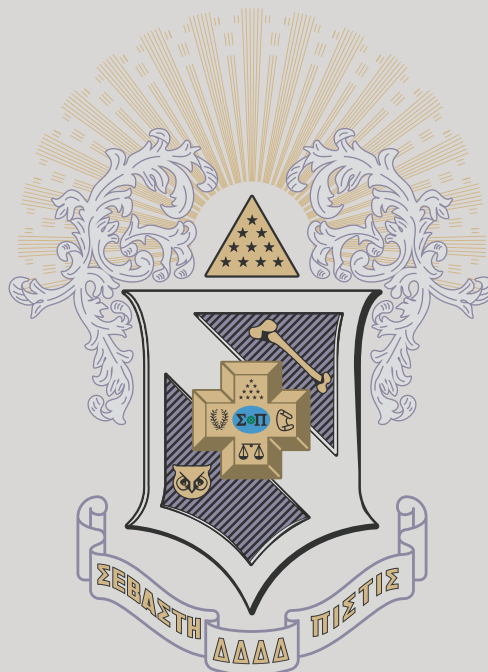
Since the house is not available for social functions, we have credited back the parlor fee to those (mostly seniors who live out) who were charged a fee for use of the common areas of the house. In addition, to try to provide some semblance of brotherhood activity while the house is unavailable, the alumni corporation and the Foundation have agreed to fund meals and activities that provide an opportunity for the now widely dispersed brothers to gather.

I'm sure I am missing some of the cost lines associated with rehousing and feeding more than 30 brothers, but the message is simple. It is the right thing to do, and it will cost substantially more than the sum total of the fees we collected to operate the house for this fall semester. This does not include any of the costs for the repair of the house, described more fully elsewhere in this Muse, which will easily exceed \$350,000. Those expenditures will quickly eliminate the small savings cushion we had remaining in the bank, after running two full years at a deficit due to low occupancy.

There are multiple requests for your financial support, and multiple ways to give. A dollar given to the house corporation (alumni), while not tax deductible, will go 100% to the recovery activities necessary to re-open the house. 100% given to the newly created Cornell managed fund will go to

offset the costs of Cornell housing and meals for the sophomores. And approximately 30% of the dollars given to the Education Foundation can be used for operating expenses in the house, while the remainder will help fund programs to build back a stronger brotherhood after this immense challenge. So please, give generously. Give more. Give again. The need has not been greater since the house was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1994.

I can't show you the house if you come by now, but if you come in the spring, it will be restored to its prior condition and vibrant with more than 30 active undergraduate brothers. Thank you for supporting Sigma Pi, Mu Chapter in this crisis.



The Time To Give Back:

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you want to send to the alumni of Mu Chapter? How can they best help the chapter during this difficult time?

John Haggerty: I just wrote the article for The Muse, and it ends with: "Give generously. Give more. Give again." If you've given, give again. If you've never given, give now. When I say we tell the contractor to do it right, it comes at a significant cost. We have not let the cost get in the way of our desire to get the house back in the shape it should have been when this group of undergraduates moved in, back in August. It's an incredibly expensive undertaking. The numbers range all over the map. By the time we're done paying for substitute housing, paying for meals not available in the Pi house, whether it's Cornell meals or a per diem for brothers who are not on Cornell meal plans, the cost of rehousing brothers, the cost of moving brothers, and the cost of the insurance for the brothers in their new locations, it's an incredibly significant amount of money. Pick a number; \$350,000 to \$500,000 is the estimate right now. We don't have that in savings. You know, I've been able, over the last 20 years, to hang on to a small cushion in savings, which helped balance the years where our occupancy in the house was lower than the norm, but we will blow through that this month. That will be gone.

We're already seeing tremendous support from, frankly, the brothers who always support us. The ones who have come in early are the brothers whose names I've seen in previous crises. They understand.

What I'm hoping, given the breadth of this crisis and the need to spend a lot of money to make it right, is that we can encourage some folks who, for whatever reason, have not been supporters of the house up until now, because the house needs this investment in order to get back to where we were, and where we should be.

Michael Ayalon: Fantastic, John. Thank you so much for your time today. I know you're super busy here trying to help move this process forward as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time; thank you for your dedication to Mu Chapter. It doesn't get said enough to the volunteers like you who are doing this work day in and day out, so thank you for everything that you've done, and we appreciate the time.

John Haggerty: One final note. When I hang up with you, I'm going to go grade a paper from one of the seniors in the house, which he gave me yesterday. I'm in a very good mood when it comes to Sigma Pi brothers, so I won't let that affect my grading, but I always enjoy having Sigma Pi brothers in my classes.

Michael Ayalon is the CEO of Greek University and the former executive director of Sigma Pi International.



New Leadership Needed on Alumni and Housing Boards

The fraternity now looks to new leadership to step up and carry the mantle moving forward.

SIGMA PI MU CHAPTER
Cornell University • Est. 1913

Functional skills needed in the Housing Corporation:

- ✓ Property and Facilities Management
- ✓ Real Estate Law
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ HVAC
- ✓ General Contractors
- ✓ Security

Functional skills needed in the Alumni Corporation:

- ✓ Undergraduate Outreach
- ✓ Programming
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Risk Management
- ✓ Health and Wellness
- ✓ Career Planning
- ✓ Coaching
- ✓ Resume Building

Interested? Contact **Peter Muth '74** on the Nominating Committee by email at: pmuth@roadrunner.com

What is the difference between Sigma Pi and Sigma Phi besides the “h”?



SIGMA PI MU CHAPTER
Cornell University • Est. 1913

Independent Housing (Sigma Pi, Alpha Delt, Chi Psi, ZBT):	Cornell Owned Housing (Sigma Phi, Psi U):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Governance: full autonomy over property, rules, renovations, tenants✓ Freedom over events (socials), programs✓ Property appreciation✗ Full financial responsibility over property (management, repairs, utilities, taxes)✗ Potential risk of legal liability✗ Potential risk of bad debt✗ Harder to raise after tax dollars✗ Professional oversight of the house required✗ Lack of access to bursar system creates financial counterparty issues with the undergraduate chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All gifts are tax deductible✓ Bursar system✓ Project management assistance by Cornell✗ Union workers for renovation or repairs✗ Project waits for pre-approved contractors✗ Slow response, more expense on repairs or maintenance✗ Bureaucracy✗ Scrutiny on social events promotes Collegetown as central social gathering space

The answer is: Sigma Pi is a private, independent, fraternity house and Sigma Phi is housed in a Cornell-owned facility. At Cornell, there are 29 fraternities, and 12 of these fraternities are in Cornell-owned properties. In speaking with various fraternity house corporations at Cornell, the general consensus was that independent housing allows full control over how donated funds are used without university-imposed restrictions. It also allows for more control over maintenance without adherence to Cornell’s guidelines or labor agreements. Furthermore, independent housing is not subject to

new operating agreements with stricter terms, and the alumni retain control of the house and all updates that have been made to date thanks to generous alumni donors. Those fraternities with university-owned housing benefit from tax-deductible donations and the use of Cornell’s bursar office to collect student payments for rent (although they do not collect other fees such as dining). This comes at a cost, because some maintenance issues can be neglected for too long and become larger issues.

Mu Chapter Educational Foundation Update



By Wayne Forman '80

Sigma Pi’s Annual Giving Day, in honor of Adolphus “Dolly” C. Hailstork, was celebrated this year with support and generosity directed towards the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation. Brothers and supporters came together to contribute to the Foundation, helping to further its mission of enhancing the educational experiences of the undergrads.

Live events were hosted across the country, with gatherings in New York City by **Mike Vernick '83**, Austin, Texas, by **Luc Chabot '80**, Chicago by **George Rocklein '87**, and South Florida by **Gordon Adelsberg '90** and **Alexa Bosshardt '83**. We’re hopeful this is the start of an enduring tradition that fosters the connections of all Sigma Pi brothers across the country.



New York City Dolly Day celebration left to right: Tim Hawes, Jon Pettee, Tom Cherner, John Stewart, Brian Finneran, Tom Silver, John Roche, Dave Colville, Mike Vernick, Dennis McNamara, Steve Novak, Doug Uyeno, Jim Garr, Owen McCarron, Dave Knapp, Eugene McKenna.

The Educational Foundation board would like to thank all the brothers who have contributed to fund the Pi house repairs and mitigate the impact on the undergraduates of having to find alternative housing and dining options on short notice. We’re off to a great start thus far. If you haven’t contributed, please do so. Your donation to the Foundation is tax deductible and will go towards providing critical assistance to the undergraduates and essential funding for house repairs.

All our best from the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Board:
Peter Muth '74, Joe Zanetta '75, Roger Carroll '76, Mike Reiner '78, Chris Olie '79, Wayne Forman '80, Tom Silver '81, Craig Dewey '06, Brody Ehrlich '10, Zach Gilbert '16, Justin Bredahl '17, and Matt Blakley '18.

18th Annual NYC Career Event

The 18th annual NYC Career Event was held on November 7–8, 2024. The event consisted of a Thursday night dinner at the AD White room in the Cornell Club, courtesy of **Wayne Forman '80** and the Educational Foundation. The AD White room is a 760 square foot historical library named after the co-founder of Cornell, a tribute to the AD White library here on campus. Overlooking 44th Street, this room hosted the 18th annual career event and set the stage for another productive and rewarding night of conversation and collaboration. Keynote speaker Thursday night was **Barry Weiss '81**.

Barry is a partner and co-founder of RECORDS, a Sony Music Entertainment venture. He has an extensive career with over 40 years in the music industry. Barry served as chairman and CEO of The Island Def Jam Music Group and Universal Republic Records from 2011 to

2014 and RCA/Jive Label Group from 2008 to 2011. He was also the CEO of its constituent Jive Records from 1991 to 2011. Barry is best known as an important force in the careers of Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, Backstreet Boys, and 'N Sync, A Tribe Called Quest, among numerous others.

Office visits were held with several alumni on Thursday and Friday.

Thank you to all Sigma Pi alumni who attended the dinner and all who hosted but weren't able to attend this year. We hope that you will be able to make it next year, not only to meet the undergraduate brothers but also reconnect with other alumni from around the country and have valuable conversations and share your experiences.



Schedule of events:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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 8

8:00 am–6:00 pm: Office Visits

Procrasticup



By Michael Vernick '80

Another tremendous gathering of the Sigma Pi brothers took place in Southern Pines, North Carolina, September 25–28 at the Talamore Golf Resort. A total of 16 brothers participated in the

Procrasticup, despite the challenges posed by Hurricane Helene. The Procrasticup Golf Event, which started in 1984, has two outings per year, usually in March and October.

Memorable moments from this year's event included a surprise appearance by **Tom "Stony" Aronson '84**. A "lowlight" was **Tim Hawes '80**, who found himself standing on a dirt mound on the first hole only to discover it was full of red fire ants. It wasn't

pretty! There was a golf ranger who suggested that a group of 60-year-old-or-older men, armed with weak bladders and many beers, hold off from peeing on the course except in the two portapotties provided. And, of course, there were lots of pictures with foursomes and llamas (one of the courses we played used to employ llamas to carry golf bags, and they still maintain a llama farm on the course).

On the golf side of things, we had shots that went forward, backward, and sideways. Putts were holed from all over the green, chips were sunk from off the green, and some drives were bombed more than 300 yards. In reality, most of us aren't very good at golf. There were plenty of horrible shots, but we absolutely love playing together. We welcome golfers of all—and I mean all—abilities.



Left to Right: Tim Hawes, Jon Pettee, Tom Cherner, John Stewart, Brian Finneran, Tom Silver, John Roche, Dave Colville, Mike Vernick, Dennis McNamara, Steve Novak, Doug Uyeno, Jim Garr, Owen McCarron, Dave Knapp, Eugene McKenna.

While golf is at the core of the Procrasticup, the time spent together is remembered for so much more. Re-establishing friendships, telling (and embellishing) old stories while living out new ones, catching up on family activities, and sharing the joys of our Pi house bonds, are what truly define this event.

Special thanks go to **Tom Cherner '81**, who organized the trip.

We welcome one and all to join us in the fall of 2025 in the Phoenix area. (The spring 2025 trip is already full.) If you have any questions, please reach out to Michael Vernick at michael@procrasticup.com.

Jevo to all!!!

Mu Brothers' News & Notes



Herbert R. Holden '63 writes: Becky and I are still healthy and busy. We also have a home in Greensboro, North Carolina, where we spend winters with no snow! My two sons are contractors there, so I get to see big projects and also seven of our nine grandchildren. We still travel but less and less with each passing year.

George Edmunds '72 retired from Burlington Industries in 2009 and now lives in Roanoke, Virginia. He would love to hear from his brothers, and can be reached at george@4LLC.net.

William J. Strusz '73: Come on brother alums! By the time anyone reads this in The Muse, I know we'll be proud of what we did and are doing to save and preserve what we've built.

Jeffery Craver '75: I still enjoy working, but now on 80% of a full-time schedule since November 2023. Looking to using the abundant time off the rest of 2024 and next year traveling abroad and in the US, visiting friends and family and enjoying new adventures.

Frederick H. Parker '75: Loving living in Hilton Head. More guests since we moved down here.

David C. La Pier '78: I retired from corporate America in February after many years in computer networking as a product manager and security architect. I plan to work on my art and sailboat racing for a while. If you wish to reach out, I live in Palo Alto, California, and would love to hear from you all. Contact me at dealap@icloud.com.

Mark Childs '88 shares his new role as CEO at Rightpoint, a Genpact company.

Larry Keane '99 is the senior manager, manufacturing at dss+.

Alan Rosen '91 Sigma Pi brother and CEO of Juniors Cheesecake is considering running for New York City mayor: www.foxbusiness.com/video/6355615380112.

Vince Curtin '05, Jon Rich '05, Jonah Allaben '06, and Quin Garcia '05 in New York City June 2024 – Insert Alumni1 photo

Aaron Klein '12 started a new position as director, group sales at Chicago Fire FC.

Jacob Laufer '15 shares that he is the founder of Aisle.

Max Cook '20 shares after three plus years at Deloitte, he is starting a new position as senior deployment lead at Axion Ray.

Thiago Hammes '24 started a new position as analyst at Accenture.

Tor Haugenes '24 started a new position as analyst at Deloitte.



Vince Curtin '05, Jon Rich '05, Jonah Allaben '06, and Quin Garcia '05 in New York City, June 2024.

In Memoriam

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

Venceslaus J. Vanicek Jr. '55

April 27, 2024

Willard N. Belden Jr. '58

February 19, 2021

Honor a deceased brother with a memorial plaque; visit

sigmapicornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp