

SIGMA PI

ΣΠ

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

2025

Sigma Pi House Recovery: A Story of Resilience and Renewal

This past August, during move-in for the 2024–2025 academic year, our undergraduate members discovered extensive water damage throughout the Sigma Pi house at Cornell. Several resident bedrooms and other key areas of the home were affected due to undetected slow leaks within concealed plumbing lines. What followed was a significant chapter in our house's history, a months-long effort to restore, repair, and upgrade our beloved home.

The Sigma Pi alumni board, in collaboration with many trusted vendor partners, took swift action to identify the source of the water intrusion. Immediate remediation and demolition of the impacted areas were conducted to prevent further damage. Despite best efforts to keep the house operational during this process, the City of Ithaca ultimately required the house to be closed until repairs could be completed safely and to code.

The result was a six-month construction and renovation project that touched nearly every part of the house: most notably five bedrooms, four bathrooms, and several shared spaces. The scope and scale of this effort were significant, and the following provides an overview of the major work completed:

Key Repairs and Renovations

General Improvements:

- **Ventilation:** All bathroom fans were replaced or repaired. New ductwork and improved airflow systems were installed, particularly in the basement. The board continues to explore long-term HVAC upgrades.
- **Plumbing:** A major discovery was the poor condition of the main plumbing stack, which required full replacement, adding both time and cost.
- **Bedrooms:** Water-damaged ceilings, walls, and floors were repaired, with new paint and flooring installed as needed.
- **Structural Work:** Reinforcements started in summer 2024 were completed, including repairs to interior doors, fire safety systems, and structural framing.
- **Exterior:** Roof and front porch repairs were made to prevent future water intrusion.

Basement Highlights:

- **Bedrooms 19 & 20:** Floors replaced, walls repainted, drywall removed and reinstalled with water-resistant materials, and closets repaired.
- **Basement Bathroom:** Fully gutted and rebuilt with new water-proofing, ventilation, tile, fixtures, and privacy partitions.
- **Laundry Room:** Repaired and painted; dryer vents were brought up to code.
- **Grotto/Pit & Dining Room:** Addressed all water-damaged areas and repainted.

First Floor Upgrades:

- **Group Bathroom:** Complete overhaul of showers with water-proofing, new tile, fixtures, ventilation, paint, and privacy upgrades.
- **Bedrooms & Library:** All affected areas repaired and repainted; structural work completed in hallway corridors.

Second Floor Updates:

- **Group Bathroom:** Same as first floor, completely gutted and rebuilt with new tile flooring throughout.
- **Bedroom 209:** Added structural supports, repaired drywall, and repainted.

Third Floor Refurbishments:

- **Group Bathroom:** Full rebuild of shower areas with water-proofing, new tile, and fixtures.
- **Bedroom 309:** Water-damaged walls and floors repaired, with new paint and flooring installed.

While the summary above captures the bulk of the work completed, it does not encompass every detail. The board directed the contractors to ensure all repairs met the highest standards of quality and durability. Unfortunately, many hidden issues, ranging from prior faulty repairs to the natural wear of an aging structure, added considerable time and cost to the project.

We are incredibly grateful to the board members and alumni who brought their construction expertise to this massive undertaking. Many volunteered countless hours (some on-site) to oversee progress, coordinate solutions, and advocate for the best outcomes on behalf of our brotherhood.

Their tireless efforts helped ensure that the Sigma Pi house will continue to serve the next generation of Cornell Sigma Pi men. Though this recovery was unexpected and at times challenging, it reinforced what makes our brotherhood so strong: our commitment to each other and to the home that has meant so much to us all.



see page 10 for additional photos of the house project

Re-open the Doors Fundraising Update



Jay Sacco '80

Thanks to the outstanding leadership of our alumni board and many generous alumni donations, the Pi house re-opened in early January. The undergrads were welcomed back with a visit from none other than Cornell president Michael Kotlikoff, who wanted to spotlight our fraternity's vision and fortitude in overcoming a situation that might have ended over one hundred years of Mu Chapter success. Equally important was our successful fall rush, which added eighteen new brothers to our ranks. The future of Mu Chapter is secure as is the strength and spirit of Sigma Pi.

With our future assured, if you haven't yet donated, this is the perfect time to invest in your fraternity with zero default risk. We still need about \$300,000 as of May 1st to pay the bills. Though 79% of classes have made at least one donation, only 25% of brothers have given. With 1978 leading the way at 1003% of goal, 1975, 1979, 1980 and 1981 have also made it onto the campaign plaque having met/exceeded their class goal. With so many still sitting on the fence, some people got creative.

At this year's Rock 'n' Roll Ski, **Rick Rego '82** had the task of splitting a dinner check between 13 hungry skiers. After announcing the amount needed per person, Rick added he was

buying dinner and asked that everyone donate their share to the house instead. Not to be outdone, **Steve Kern '83** collected the money and ran those donations through his job for a generous two-time match from his employer. All told, the "vacation dinner donation" raised \$9,000. Some say it takes a village, but I say it takes a Pi man (or two). Thanks Rick and Steve for a master class in fundraising.

Recently, I realized that about a third of our brothers had not had the pleasure of receiving my fundraising e-mails, simply because we don't have an e-mail address for them. What a shame I said to myself, but how could they be reached? Enter current Sage **Manoc Joa-Griffith '26**. Together we organized a letter writing campaign with handwritten notes and hand addressed envelopes to over 400 lucky brothers. Thanks to Manoc, this year's pledges, and to all the undergrads who helped.

Surely there are more creative brothers out there; maybe you're one of them. We'd love to hear more fundraising stories so please go out, have some fun and create your own! Your participation, large or small, is needed to wrap up this campaign. Donate at sigmapic Cornell.org/ways-to-give.

Relentlessly Yours,
Jay "Sac" Sacco '80

ACKNOWLEDGING THE HEROES OF THIS PROJECT:

- John Morrison '75 – facilities
 - Bill Strusz '73 – on-site facilities support
 - Bert Hurlbut '74 – bathroom water-proofing input
 - Peter Muth '74 – legal adviser
 - Mike Quaid '75 – on-site coordinator, keeping the task force up to date
 - Fred Bassette '76
 - Matt Petti '77
 - Peter Wright '77
 - John Haggerty '78 – treasurer extraordinaire, handling finances and on-site work
 - Tom Wright '79 – construction supervision
 - Jarett Wait '80 – alumni board president, driving us forward at breakneck speed
 - Steve Pirozzi '80 – alumni board vice president, facilities
 - Aron Minken '80 – finances
 - Wayne Forman '80 – Educational Foundation president
 - Jay Sacco '80 – fundraising
 - Alexa Bosshart '81 – food service
 - Tom Owens '83
 - Marshall Gilinsky '92 – pro-bono legal work contesting the insurance claim denial
 - Slater Goodman '19 – alumni board secretary, RA manager
 - Mike Ayalon – consultant and former executive director of Sigma Pi Fraternity, International
 - Janet Conyette at Elevate – alumni relations support
 - Kassie Sinn at Sciarabba Walker – accounting
 - Liam Murphy at Shaw & Murphy PLLC – legal counsel
 - Brian Gill at Gill Grilling – food service provider
 - Woody Ratterman, Tim Scott, and Julie Jackson at CSL – property managers
 - Jenny Loeffelman at Cornell Student and Campus Life – university assistant vice president
 - Stephanie Baldwin and Kathleen White at Cornell SFL – university staff and advising team
 - Rhonda Mae at Pristine Cleaning – property cleaning
- Additionally, we owe our gratitude to the fine organizations supporting this effort:**
- Brotherton Construction – general contractor

We apologize if we missed anyone and truly appreciate everyone's contributions.

Why Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Will Endure



As we look around at the current national headlines questioning the future of fraternities, it's natural for some to worry. But at Cornell, the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi stands not at the edge of uncertainty but at the height of its resilience.

I first walked into Mu Chapter in 1995 as an undergraduate from another chapter. What struck me then and what has stayed with me ever since was how well the brothers treated me. Even as a visitor, I was welcomed as family. In 2012, I became the seventh executive director of Sigma Pi Fraternity International, and through visits to more than 120 chapters nationwide, I was able to benchmark Mu Chapter's excellence against the broader fraternity landscape. Most recently, as CEO of Greek University, I've had the privilege of working closely with the Mu Chapter alumni board to navigate a variety of challenges and I emerge stronger each time. One truth has become clear: fraternity, when rooted in purpose and supported by strong alumni, endures and thrives.

Since our founding in 1913, we have faced and overcome every challenge history could throw our way:

- The Great Depression
- World War II
- Campus Unrest in the '60s and '70s
- Drinking Age Reform (from 18 to 21)
- The devastating fire that destroyed our house
- Chapter Suspensions in 2009 and 2013
- COVID-19
- Mold and housing displacement

Through it all, we have endured. Why? Because of the unwavering strength and dedication of our alumni and undergraduate brotherhood.

In the last year alone, our alumni have shown record-breaking support. In just four months, we raised over \$850,000 from 448 alumni, with a \$200,000 unsecured loan from Sigma Pi International granted in under 48 hours: a clear sign of trust in our long-term success. The loan will be repaid through alumni donations by the end of May. This level of alumni engagement is the highest it's ever been in our history.

We are now seen as one of the top three fraternities at Cornell, with

campus-wide support, including from the president of the University. Even without access to our house this year, we brought in a rush class of 18 quality men, underscoring the strength of our brotherhood and reputation.

Today, we are proud to say our house is debt-free and valued between \$8–\$10 million. We have four distinct entities in place, each designed to streamline operations, manage risk, and protect our future. From our Educational Foundation to our housing corporation, our infrastructure is not only sound; it's exemplary.

And, we're not just surviving; we're proving the value of the fraternity experience in real, measurable terms:

- Fraternity members have higher retention and graduation rates, aligning directly with Cornell's mission to educate the next generation of global citizens.
- Affiliated alumni are more likely to report strong faculty mentorship, experiential learning, and career readiness.
- They are more likely to recommend their university, believe it was worth the cost, and are more inclined to give back.
- Recent studies show fraternity-affiliated students report higher levels of positive mental health, and lower rates of depression and anxiety.

At a time when colleges are struggling with enrollment and engagement, we are the solution. Fraternity life, when done right, creates community, support systems, leadership development, and lifelong success.

So, will Sigma Pi at Cornell endure?

Absolutely.

Not just because of our past, but because of our people. Our legacy. Our impact. And our unwavering commitment to building the next generation of leaders, stronger communities, and a brighter future.

Faternally,
Dr. Michael Ayalon
CEO, Greek University
Former Executive Director, Sigma Pi Fraternity

Snail Mail with Heart: Undergraduates Launch Handwritten Fundraising Campaign

In early April 2025, the undergraduates of Sigma Pi at Cornell began a heartfelt letter-writing campaign as part of the Sigma Pi house recovery fundraising initiative. We had roughly 400 letters to send, and the focus was on reaching alumni for whom we have no e-mail address on file, ensuring every brother, regardless of digital connection, is included in this important chapter.

Each undergraduate volunteer personally hand-addressed envelopes, added a handwritten note and signature to the letter, and mailed out the two-page message along with a return envelope. The letter, written from the perspective of an undergraduate brother, shares the challenges we've faced since the unexpected closure of the Pi house

due to severe mold damage, and the inspiring resilience shown by both students and alumni in its aftermath. The message celebrates the successful reopening of the house, the recruitment of 18 new brothers, and the support that has raised over \$850,000 so far. The campaign's goal: raise the remaining \$300,000 to fully recover from the over million-dollar renovation and ensure Mu Chapter continues to thrive.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact of this personal outreach and hope it serves as a reminder that the Pi house isn't just a building; it's a symbol of brotherhood, perseverance, and shared legacy where our lifelong connections started.

“Rock ‘n’ Roll Ski’s Vacation Donation”



“Jay Sacco ‘80

The second annual Rock ‘n’ Roll Ski brought together a great group of Pi men and Pi woman for three days of skiing and culinary adventure at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. After a delicious Mexican feast on our last night, **Rick Rego ‘82** kicked off dinner announcements with the apportionment of the check: “that’ll be \$60 per person.” As usual, this led to a shuffling of wallets, negotiations for change, discussion of various cashless payment apps, and the apologetic proffering of credit cards. But Rick wasn’t finished. “I’m going to cover tonight’s check...” The payment commotion quickly subsided as everyone gave Rick their full attention. “All I ask,” he continued, “is that everyone put their \$60 toward the House Recovery Fund.” This was met with resounding assent and



*In the photo from L-R:
Larry MacLennan ‘79, Rick Rego ‘82,
Steve Novak ‘83, Wayne Forman ‘80,
Nancy Hollinshead ‘80, Jay Sacco ‘80,
Mike Sheinkman ‘80, Ford Fay ‘82
Steve Kern ‘83, Tom Best ‘80,
Patty Best, Owen McCarron ‘80,
Luc Chabot ‘80, John Stewart ‘83
took the photo.*

appreciation, only to be interrupted as **Steve “Kernman” Kern ‘83** rose to take the floor with another announcement. “My employer will match donations to the Sigma Pi Education Foundation, so I’m going to double my \$60; anyone want to join me for that match?” As luck would have it, Ed Foundation President **Wayne Forman ‘80** was in attendance and quickly confirmed that the money would be made available for house recovery under the 30% rule. Kernman was showered with twenty-dollar bills and Venmo payments. With thirteen donations, the Rock ‘n’ Roll Ski Vacation Donation started at \$780, but with many, if not most, joining Kernman’s match grew to \$3,000. With the company match, that added another \$6,000. Many thanks to Rick Rego for inventing and sponsoring this creative and fun fundraising event.

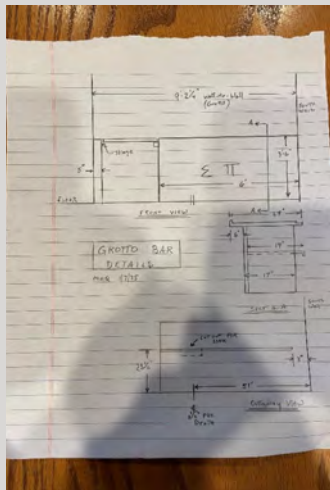
Rebuilding Tradition: Mike Quaid ‘75 Donates New Bar to Mu Chapter

Thanks to the generosity of **Mike Quaid ‘75**, Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi at Cornell University is proud to announce the installation of a brand-new bar in the fraternity house, replacing the old one that was lost due to mold damage during recent renovation efforts.

This thoughtful donation not only restores a key part of the house’s social and historical fabric, but it also reflects the strong and lasting bond our alumni maintain with the chapter. In the spirit of true brotherhood, Mike’s contribution has helped rebuild more than just furniture; it’s helped preserve tradition.

The new bar was brought to life with the help of **Matt Kodsi ‘27**, who took the lead in planning and organizing the materials needed for the rebuild. Drawing on his eye for design and attention to detail, Matt assembled a comprehensive list of cabinetry and building supplies, resulting in a functional and polished new setup that blends seamlessly with the renovated space.

The end result is a durable, beautifully crafted bar that’s



sure to serve as a central gathering space for brothers for years to come. Mu Chapter alumni extend a heartfelt thank you to Mike Quaid ‘75 for his generous support, and to Matt Kodsi ‘27 for his initiative and hard work. Together, they’ve helped restore a beloved piece of the chapter house and strengthened the ties between generations of Sigma Pi brothers.



Your Name, Your Legacy, Your House

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our alumni, the Sigma Pi house at Cornell has undergone a remarkable transformation. What was once a dream is now a reality; our beloved chapter home has been restored and rebuilt for the future.

From critical infrastructure upgrades to beautiful aesthetic improvements, every dollar raised in the Sigma Pi House Recovery Fund was carefully invested to preserve the character of the house while enhancing its function, safety, and appeal for today's brothers and tomorrow's leaders.

Now, we invite you to leave a lasting mark on the place that helped shape who we are.

As part of the Sigma Pi House Recovery Fund, select spaces within the house are available for **exclusive naming opportunities**. These iconic areas are central to the brotherhood experience, each one holding decades of tradition, laughter, and leadership.

By naming a space, you or your class will be permanently recognized for your commitment to Sigma Pi, while inspiring future generations of brothers.

This is your opportunity to be remembered forever at 730 University Avenue. Whether honoring your own Sigma Pi experience, recognizing a loved one, or your class giving back in appreciation, your gift will make an enduring impact.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY:
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES
AT SIGMA PI CORNELL

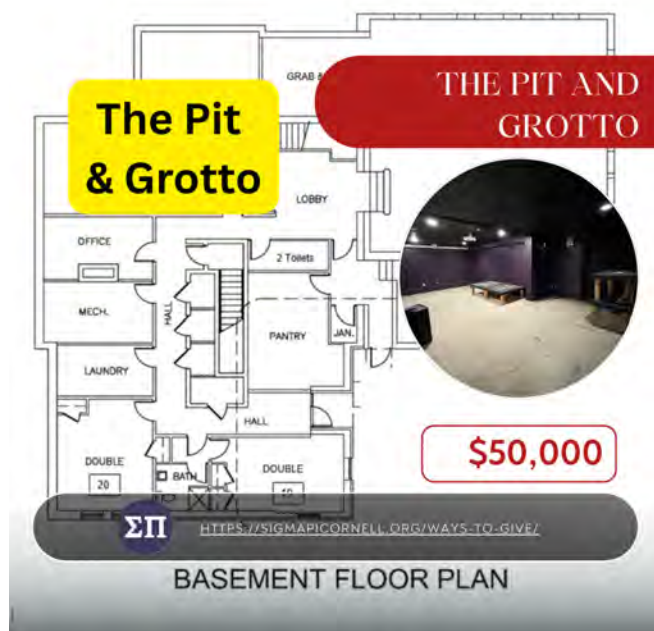
The following rooms have been named so far:

Adolphus C. Hailstork Class of 1978 Dining Room
Learning Commons
James H. Keene Memorial Library
Richard Cahoon Tech Center
Stephen P. Pirozzi Storage Room



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[HTTPS://SIGMAPICORNELL.ORG/WAYS-TO-GIVE](https://sigmapicornell.org/ways-to-give)



Alumni Treasurer Report



John J Haggerty '78

I begin this treasurer's report to you, our members tired and frustrated, but eternally grateful at the same time. Grateful for the leadership of my little brother, **Jarett Wait '80**, who has guided us through (almost now to the end) the single biggest threat to Mu Chapter since the fire of 1994. And equally grateful for the unquestioning support we have received from so many of our alumni brothers. We can see a light at the end of the black mold tunnel, and the promise of a more "normal" fraternity life for many years to come. What a long, strange trip it has been.

For the first time since we paid off the 1994 rebuild mortgage, we are no longer debt free. At end of 2024, after paying for the repairs and reconstruction, the cost of housing 38 brothers in a combination of Cornell dorms and Collegetown apartments, providing alternate meals, and supporting whatever social activities we could to help hold the brotherhood together, our cash ran out. We were simply spending money faster than we were able to raise, despite your remarkable generosity and Jarett's unbelievable fundraising skills. Fortunately, Sigma Pi Fraternity, International stepped in and after a simple phone call to explain our situation, they provided a loan of \$200,000 within 48 hours, with one signature. This infusion allowed us to get to the end of the construction phase and pay the ordinary bills like taxes and insurance. Thank you, Sigma Pi!

Our goal is to pay back Sigma Pi Fraternity, International with a combination of funds from you, our supportive alumni, and our

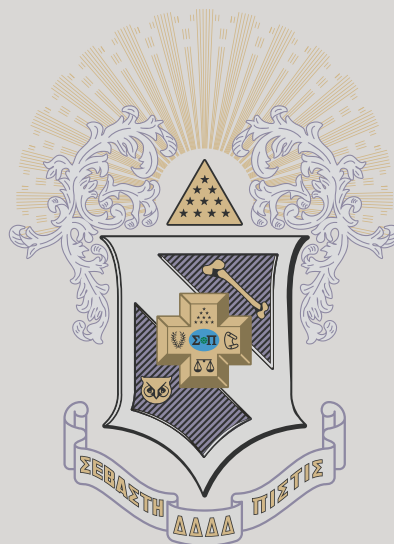
credit line at Tompkins Trust, at the end of May. The less we have to borrow from the bank, the smaller the cash drain monthly on the future operation of the house. Occupancy for the fall of 2025 and the spring of 2026 are projected to be below break-even, so the strain on the house will be real.

Once this chapter of rebuilding is over, there are many things the house needs. The heating systems are original to the 1994 fire rebuild, and they need to be replaced. There are still many windows original to 1994, and they are showing their age. Air conditioning and dehumidification are needed for both the comfort of the brothers and for insurance against any repeat of the mold situation. The list goes on.

To every brother who has contributed to this recovery project so far, my eternal gratitude. Some of you have given at an extraordinary level and many of you have given more than once. But as Jay Saco has pointed out a number of times, if every living brother just gave a little, we would not need to borrow any more money. If you have not given, please, now is the time.

On a lighter and much brighter note, we have an amazing series of events planned for Reunion 2025 in June. Please come back and see the work that has been completed and talk with the undergraduate brothers about what it felt like to be a fraternity without a home. We think it has made

them stronger. And if you see Jarett, thank him. It has been an incredibly challenging six months, and I know he will appreciate the positive vibes as much as we have all appreciated the financial support. I look forward to celebrating with all of you at 730 University Ave!



Passing the Torch: The Future of Alumni Leadership at Mu Chapter

John J Haggerty '78



Long-time alumni leaders **Jarett Wait '80** and **John Haggerty '78** have shared that this will be their final year serving as officers and board members of Mu Chapter alumni. Their decision, made public with a full year's notice, reflects their deep commitment to ensuring a smooth and successful transition of leadership for the future of Sigma Pi at Cornell.

For over two decades, Jarett and John have been cornerstones of Mu Chapter alumni community. Jarett, who has served 22 years on the board, including 11 as president, has provided steady vision and tireless support. John, Jarett's big brother in the fraternity,

has also served 22 years, offering essential guidance as alumni treasurer and chapter faculty adviser.

Their leadership has helped us navigate challenges, build strong connections between alumni and undergraduates, and most recently, lead the charge during the Sigma Pi house recovery effort.

Now, the torch must be passed.

To continue this legacy of service and to maintain the momentum of alumni support, it is critical that new alumni step forward to assume leadership roles within the alumni association. The stability and success of the undergraduate chapter depend on strong, engaged alumni who are willing to lend their time, talent, and perspective to our shared mission.

Mu Chapter Educational Foundation Critical Partner in House Recovery



Greetings from the board of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation! Like all the alums involved in Pi house activities, we've had a crazy busy last six months. First and foremost, we supported the remarkable efforts of the alumni corp. to raise funds for the House Recovery Fund. Thus far, the Foundation has contributed \$140,000 to that effort,

thanks to the generosity of our many donors. We received dozens of gifts towards that effort, both large and small, all of which allowed the Foundation to meaningfully support the restoration of the house and to contribute additional funds to help ameliorate the negative impacts of the dislocation on the educational pursuits of the undergraduate brothers. Prominent among those initiatives was the funding of speakers and events for the undergrads with a focus on mental health. The Foundation is also funding needed repairs and upgrades to the audio-visual system in the Learning Commons.

Please bear in mind that there remains a substantial financial need to fully fund the house repairs. You can make a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation, with instructions to direct that contribution to the House Recovery Fund. We would appreciate your continued support.

Also, we'd like to recognize **Chris Olie's '79** significant contributions to the Foundation as treasurer for the past several years and congratulate **Brody Ehrlich '10** on his election as the

Foundation's new treasurer. Thanks so much Chris for all your excellent work and Brody, we appreciate your willingness to step into this important role.

As we head into the tail end of spring semester 2025, the Foundation will be focused on soliciting applications for funding the Greek Affordability grants and the David Harrop Scholarship. We will also begin preparation for the 2025 NYC Career Day, which takes place in November. As the song goes, 'no rest for the wicked.'

With that in mind, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation to help fund these other initiatives. For many of you, it will be another donation. The Foundation provides critical assistance to make fraternity life affordable for those undergrads who need a bit of financial support and has recognized and promoted academic excellence and leadership skills within the chapter. We cannot provide this needed support without your generosity. Thanks so much for your past and future contributions.

All our best from 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

Sigma Pi Alumni: Your Brotherhood Needs You

The strength of our fraternity has always been rooted in the willingness of brothers to step forward and give back. Today, both the housing corporation and alumni association are seeking dedicated Sigma Pi alumni to help shape the future of our chapter at Cornell. Two recent volunteers exemplify this commitment to service.

Meet Our Newest Committee Volunteers



Jeffrey Bowser '10 has recently joined our team, bringing impressive professional credentials to the table. After graduating from Cornell with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering, Jeff has built a successful career in facilities management and construction. Currently serving as a business unit director at CBRE Global Workplace Solutions in San Diego, his expertise in project management

and civil engineering provides valuable insight to our housing efforts.

Andrew Magenheim '05 has also stepped forward to serve. As a captain with the New York City Fire Department, Andrew brings leadership skills and a commitment to service that embodies the Sigma Pi spirit. A Cornell engineering graduate with a degree in electrical and computer engineering, Andrew has balanced his FDNY career with work as a lead carpenter at Hudson House & Garden, demonstrating versatility and dedication with a focus on fire safety.



Why Your Involvement Matters

The housing corporation and alumni association are critical to maintaining our legacy at Cornell. Your professional experience, whether in business, engineering, law, finance, or any field, contributes unique perspectives that strengthen our organization.

Volunteering is not only a way to give back but also an opportunity to:

- Reconnect with brothers from across generations
- Apply your professional skills in meaningful ways
- Help shape the future of Sigma Pi at Cornell
- Create lasting impact for current and future members

Join Us

Whether you can offer a few hours a month or take on a more substantial role, your involvement makes a difference. Follow the example of brothers like **Jeff Bowser '10** and **Andrew Magenheim '05** by stepping forward today.

Contact **Peter Muth '74** at: pmuth@roadrunner.com to discuss how your talents can best serve our brotherhood.

Together, we ensure that the Sigma Pi experience remains strong for generations to come.

New Mu Chapter Entities Strengthen Our Foundation for the Future

As we continue building a stronger future for Sigma Pi at Cornell, we're excited to share updates on the three legal entities that support our undergraduates at Mu Chapter, each with a distinct and important purpose.

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

Established in 1914, this housing corporation owns and manages the property at 730 University Avenue. This entity ensures that building ownership remains separate from chapter operations and mentorship, helping protect our assets while supporting a sustainable future.

2. Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Inc.

Formed in 2008, this 501(c)(3) nonprofit provides a tax-deductible avenue for alumni and supporters to contribute toward educational initiatives. Donations to the Foundation help fund leadership programs, scholarships, and other academic-related efforts for the undergraduate brothers.

3. Mu Chapter Alumni Association Inc.

Our newest development, Mu Chapter Alumni Association Inc., is being structured as a 501(c)(7) social organization under Sigma Pi Fraternity, International's IRS umbrella. This new entity is focused on strengthening alumni relationships and offering guidance and mentorship to the active chapter. We've already taken major steps: Attorney Liam Murphy of Shaw & Murphy, PLLC has reviewed the bylaws, submitted the certificate of incorporation to Albany, and drafted the minutes of first meeting to establish key operational procedures.

Together, these three entities create a comprehensive framework to support the long-term success of Sigma Pi at Cornell, preserving our house, enriching undergraduate experiences, and fostering alumni engagement.

We Are Home – Brothers Back at 730 University Ave!

"Being back in the house has completely changed my semester. Last fall felt disconnected; we all lived in different places and barely saw each other outside of classes or chapter. Now I wake up, grab breakfast in the dining hall with the guys, and we're all just constantly around. It feels like I'm living with 30 of my best friends again."

Josh Evans '27, Vice President

"Honestly, I didn't realize how much I missed the little things. Whether it's playing pong in the basement, watching movies in the West Lounge, or just hanging out on the beach, being back has brought the brotherhood together in a new way. We're not just roommates; we're a real community. That's something you can't get living scattered across campus. It's great to be back."

Carter McClintock-Comeaux '27, Social Chair

"The new renovations make a big difference too. It's great to have new bathrooms, spaces like the Memorial Library and certain rooms have been touched up as well. We've hosted a bunch of parties this semester, and everyone has had super high energy to be back. We missed out on a lot last semester, but it feels like we are making up for it now."

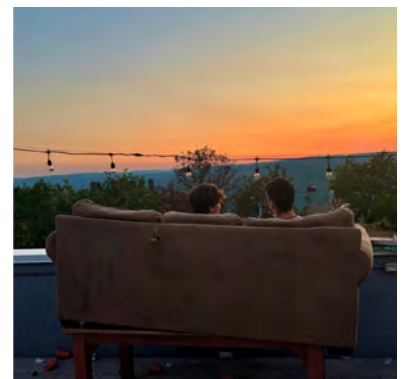
Chris Hunter '27

"Dinners are my favorite part of the day. We all come together after class, sit down, and catch up; oftentimes, we'll be there for an hour just hanging out. It's something we never got to do last semester when we were spread out. That shared time has brought the brotherhood to a whole new level."

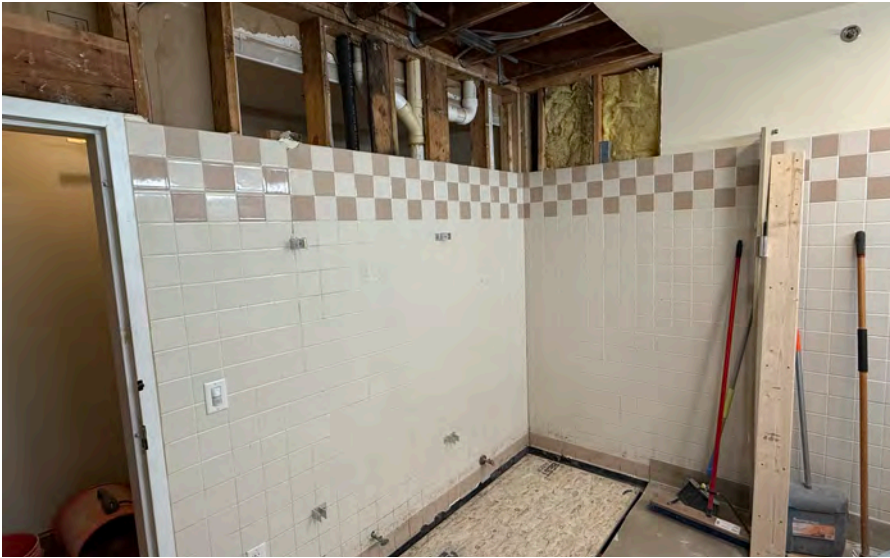
Nolan Wilbur '26

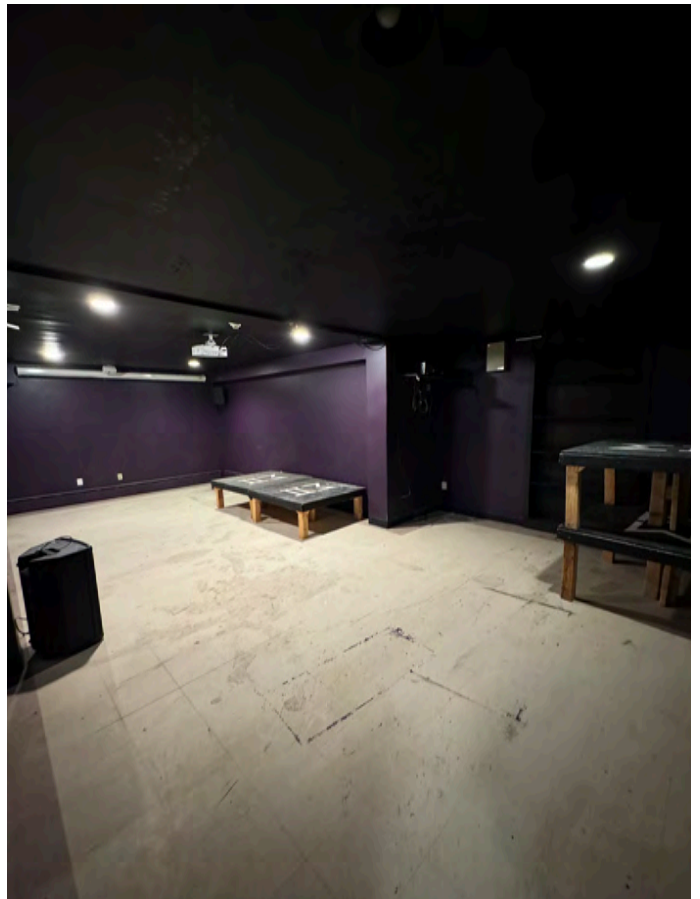
"Living in the house again has reminded me why I joined Sigma Pi in the first place. It's more than just a place to crash; it's where we support each other and make lifelong memories. Whether we're having a barbeque on a Wednesday on the beach or messing around in the lounges, there's always something going on. I couldn't imagine spending my spring anywhere else."

Aidan Kane '27



Sigma Pi House Recovery: Before and After Photos





Sage Report – Raising the Bar

Manoc Joa-Griffith '26



I don't claim to be superstitious or a man of religion, but there are certain happenings I attribute to predestination. Sigma Pi, at least in my life, felt like one of those beautiful, fated moments. I first met our house's previous sage, **Robert De Jesus '24**, at my high school graduation, and less than ten months later, I was proudly calling myself a Pi man. Within three months, I became rush chairman, and within a year, I was honored to call myself sage.

Now, as I approach the end of my tenure and prepare for my "last dance" at Cornell, I can't help but constantly ask myself the age-old question: Did I leave Sigma Pi better than I found it? While simple on its surface, it's a deeply complicated and loaded question. After all, "improvement" in a brotherhood like ours can mean many things: stronger recruitment, richer social connections, deeper brotherhood, or even physical house changes.

In each of these areas, I believe our chapter saw real, positive, growth. During my time as rush chair, we welcomed 32 new brothers, an impressive number by Cornell standards. These individuals showed, and continue to show me, what brotherhood truly means. That bond was tested when we unexpectedly lost our house to construction, just weeks into this school year. The resilience of this brotherhood during that time was unlike anything I've ever experienced, and likely ever will again. We stayed connected, moved as a unit, and upheld what Robert De Jesus once called our sacred "institutional knowledge."

It's also important to recognize the immense alumni support during this period. Under the guidance of **Jarett Wait '80** and the alumni board, we felt the love and strength of the broader Sigma Pi family. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who helped us navigate those turbulent waters; it reminded us that even without having met most of you, we had your unwavering support.

Even without a house, we raised thousands of dollars for philanthropic causes, maintained our place as one of Cornell's top social fraternities, and welcomed two exceptional new classes. I often recall one of my fondest memories: our fall wine tour. Seeing everyone together again, smiling, was an irreplaceable feeling. When we did return to home base this spring, the house felt like the sun after weeks of stormy skies.

This spring has felt like the culmination of all our hard work. Beyond recruitment and social events, we've cultivated an unfaltering culture of togetherness, and our corridors have never felt more alive. Something I've worked to foster during my time as sage is a genuine desire to give back to the house. In the past, we struggled with initiative; brothers often only stepped up when absolutely necessary. But this year, I've seen us leap forward in commitment, often without prompting.

Our newest class has built four new tables, two DJ booths, and is currently remodeling the grotto into a more accessible common space. Other brothers have taken it upon themselves to plan group trips, host networking and résumé workshops, and organize bonding events like camping and skiing. Two individual brothers alone planned our biggest social event of the past year. What makes these efforts powerful is that they are not fueled by direction or duty, but by personal investment and passion. We're not just upholding tradition, we're forging new ones.

Did I succeed in improving Sigma Pi? I'd like to think so. I hope I led with both wisdom and strength. I hope I've made a difference, that my legacy has contributed to more meaningful Cornell experiences in every one of my brother's lives. What I know for certain is that Sigma Pi has profoundly improved me. It gave me an irreplaceable community. It made me a better person. It taught me how to lead, how to be a brother, and how to be a kind, compassionate, member of society.

To my brothers current and future, my advice is this: My biggest critique of our institution is that most of our successes are the result of the continued effort of a few, rather than its collective. Only recently are we showing semblances of unity and collectiveness. Absolutely do not lose these values we've built. Always look for how you can leave your own mark, without waiting for a title or incentive. I truly believe you can never be too committed to this community; the rewards will always reflect the effort. Dive in. Trust in this brotherhood, and it will carry you further than you can imagine. And when the time comes, don't be afraid to ask yourself the same question I did. Recall that progress is our distinctive mark alone.

Where do we go from here? The answer is simple: uphold a standard and continuously raise the bar. Being here is a privilege, and it pains me when it's taken for granted. From the moment I stepped into this house, I knew I wanted to build something great, I knew I wanted to lead. For the past three years, I've poured every ounce of my energy into this endeavor, dedicating myself to its success. When I joined, I was told *this* is the mentality you need to have to be here, *this* is what it means to be a Pi man. With this mentality as your foundation, everything else (social, recruitment, self-improvement) will follow. Never embrace complacency, never cut corners, and never compromise a strong work ethic. This must be a fundamental mantra in life, starting right here, at Sigma Pi.

The bond we've made is real. It will bring you to my wedding, the birth of my first child, and even to my funeral, and I'll revel in the beauty of it all.

With love and loyalty,
Manoc Joa-Griffith
Sage of Sigma Pi, Mu Chapter

2025 Adolphus C. Hailstork Brother of the Year Award and Special Award



Every year, Sigma Pi awards the Adolphus Dolly C. Hailstork Jr. Brother of the Year award to a senior class member of the chapter. The Brother of the Year (or BOY) is awarded to honor a brother who has demonstrated his unwavering commitment and unparalleled leadership throughout his time as an active member of the fraternity. This year, the chapter voted unanimously for senior **Max Birger '25** for Brother of The Year Award. Max is the consummate BOY. The true lifeblood of the house for the past three years, Max has given more than we could ever have asked of him to this brotherhood. From working around the clock as social chair as a sophomore, to serving as vice president in his junior year and now taking on an advisory role that every brother would agree has been paramount to the success of the fraternity, Max has stopped at nothing to contribute to his brotherhood.

Max's most admirable trait, and the one that qualifies him most for

the award, is that he did not for one second do any of it for himself; his unwavering loyalty to his brothers and infallible commitment to Sigma Pi as an organization were consistently the drivers of his unparalleled work ethic.

We all could not be more proud to call Max Birger our brother and wish him nothing but the best in the next chapter of his life.



We are proud to announce that the Special Award is being conferred to **Manoc Joa-Griffith '26** in recognition of his extraordinary leadership during one of the most challenging periods our house and brotherhood have faced since the 1995 fire. Manoc's unwavering dedication and steady guidance were instrumental in helping us navigate the difficulties of the fall semester with strength and unity.

Brothers Study Abroad and Spring Break 2025



Jordan Rosenberg '26, Austin Saji '26, and Justin Simon '26 in front of the Florence Cathedral.



Spring '24 PC and spring '25 PC in Manhattan for the start of spring break.



Ellis Emouna '26, Adam Vasserman '25, Colin Del Toro '26, Seth Berman '26, Adam Dickstein '26, Jason Huang '25, and Manoc Joa Griffith '26 on spring break in Madrid.



Austin Saji '26, Adam Dickstein '26, Jordan Rosenberg '26, and Justin Simon '26 in Florence.



David Reid Garces '27, Luke Dolan '27, and Colin O'Brien '27 on a boat in the Dominican Republic for spring break.



Spring '25 PC in Puerto Rico for spring break.

Sigma Pi Welcomes Fall and Spring New Members

Luke Dolan '27

Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Hometown: New York, New York



David Reid Garces '27

Major: Economics & Management
Hometown: Penn Yan, New York

Colin O'Brien '27

Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Hometown: North Falmouth, Massachusetts

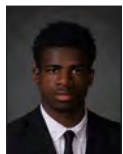


Aiden D'Alessandro '28
Major: Biology
Hometown: Weston, Massachusetts



Matteo de Marsily Viso '28

Major: Government & History
Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico



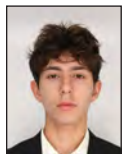
Dovany Estimphile '28

Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Hometown: Milton, Massachusetts



Theodore Ginstling '28

Major: Hotel Administration
Hometown: Potomac, Maryland



Alexander Gonzalez '28

Major: Economics & Computer Science
Hometown: New York, New York



Ray Gauer '28

Major: Biology
Hometown: Bronx, New York



Connor Hyde '28

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Walnut Creek, California



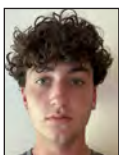
Jack Moucha '28

Major: Biological Engineering
Hometown: New Canaan, Connecticut



Luke Osmanski '28

Major: Industrial & Labor Relations
Hometown: West Seneca, New York



Lucio Pallordet '28

Major: Engineering
Hometown: New York, New York



Andrew Peene '28

Major: Mechanical Engineering
hometown: George Town, Grand Cayman



Alex Ramirez '28

Major: Economics
Hometown: Dallas, Texas



Max Sobel '28

Major: Economics & Philosophy
Hometown: Brooklyn, New York



Nolan Wu '28

Major: Operations Research and Information Engineering
Hometown: Pinecrest, Florida



Tobias Young '28

Major: Engineering
Hometown: Briarcliff Manor, New York

Meet Miguel Barrera: New Resident Adviser at the Sigma Pi House



We're excited to introduce **Miguel Barrera '24**, the new resident adviser (RA) living at the Sigma Pi house at Cornell this semester. Miguel is a recent graduate of Cornell

University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in plant sciences, graduating Magna Cum Laude and recognized as a Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholar.

Over the past few weeks, the brothers have really enjoyed getting to know Miguel. His calm presence, impressive academic background, and genuine interest in supporting the chapter have already made a positive impact. He'll be living at the house through the end of the spring semester, helping to foster a safe and supportive living environment.

While at Cornell, Miguel was deeply involved in plant science research. He worked in multiple labs across campus, including the Gregory Vogel Lab and Virginia Moore Lab, contributing to studies on tomato and eggplant crops, sweet potatoes, and forage grasses. Miguel's research experience spans fieldwork, greenhouse experiments, and lab-based molecular biology.

In addition to his scientific work, Miguel held a leadership role in the Alpha Zeta professional fraternity, where he organized networking events and managed kitchen operations for over 50 members. He also designed and led his own research project focused on red clover performance in intercropped maize systems.

We're grateful to have Miguel living with the chapter this semester and look forward to the continued connections he'll build with our undergraduate members.

Chef Jeremy Yann Brings Culinary Excellence to Cornell Sigma Pi



We're excited to introduce a game-changing addition to the Cornell Sigma Pi experience: our new in-house chef, Jeremy Yann, through our partnership with Gill Grilling. Since stepping into the kitchen this semester, Jeremy has not only elevated every meal but also become a favorite face around the house, known for his warm personality and his dedication to creating a home-away-from-home environment through food.

With over 20 years of professional cooking experience, including more than seven years with Gill Grilling, Jeremy brings both passion and precision to every dish he serves. His track record speaks for itself: he's one of the most reliable chefs in the company and previously led a corporate chef team that traveled to campuses nationwide, delivering high-quality meals with consistency and heart.

Jeremy's excellence hasn't gone unnoticed; he is one of only a few team members to receive the prestigious Wanda Gray Award, an honor given to individuals who embody an extraordinary commitment to customer satisfaction. It's this same dedication that our undergraduates have quickly come to appreciate, whether through a perfectly cooked dinner or a fun conversation in the dining room.

Originally from Aurora, New York, where he currently resides, Jeremy is a proud local with deep roots in the area. When he's not in the kitchen, you can find him catching a game; he's a devoted Indianapolis Colts fan and a true sports enthusiast.

Jeremy lives by the quote: "Mistakes are the mothers of success," a sentiment that resonates in both his culinary approach and the positive energy he brings to Sigma Pi every day.

We're thrilled to have Jeremy as part of the Sigma Pi family and grateful for the impact he's already making. We look forward to many more incredible meals and memories around the table!

Understanding Group Liability: Liam Murphy Esq. Leads Workshop with Mu Chapter Undergraduates



Dr. Mike Ayalon

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, the undergraduate brothers of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University participated in an impactful Group Liability Workshop led by Liam Murphy, Esquire of Shaw & Murphy PLLC. This educational session was designed to enhance the chapter's understanding of legal liability, both individual and collective, and reinforce the importance of responsible decision-making within the fraternity setting.

Liam Murphy, a respected legal expert with deep experience in risk management and liability law, walked the members through key topics that directly impact fraternity operations. The workshop opened with a foundational overview of what liability means, breaking down the distinctions between personal liability (individual responsibility for one's own actions) and group liability (when the entire chapter can be held accountable for the actions of a few).

Several real-world scenarios were examined to help undergraduates think critically about their roles and responsibilities, including:

- **Damage to the house:** Who pays and how is accountability determined?
- **Slip and fall injuries:** When and how the chapter may be liable for guest or member injuries on the property

- **Alcohol-related incidents:** Understanding risk in hosting events and the potential fallout from underage drinking or overconsumption
- **Sexual assault allegations:** How incidents, whether involving a member directly or happening at a chapter-hosted event, can have severe personal and chapter-wide implications

Murphy also covered resources and strategies for holding each other accountable and avoiding liability, emphasizing the importance of shared responsibility, transparency, and proactive communication. He highlighted that the fraternity's conduct at social events reflects on the entire chapter, and poor decisions made by a few can result in consequences for all.

Finally, the workshop concluded with a discussion of event planning and social event management guidelines, offering practical advice to ensure that the chapter remains compliant with university and national fraternity policies while still enjoying a safe and fun brotherhood experience.

This engaging and informative workshop served as a critical reminder that every member plays a role in protecting Mu Chapter's reputation, safety, and future. The alumni board extends its gratitude to Liam Murphy for his time and expertise, and to the undergraduates for their commitment to growth, responsibility, and excellence in leadership.

Empowering Future Leaders: Dr. Michael Ayalon to Lead Executive Board Workshop at Mu Chapter

This spring, Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University will welcome Dr. Michael Ayalon, CEO of Greek University, for a specialized executive-board leadership workshop. designed to prepare both current and aspiring chapter leaders for impactful service.

With a wealth of experience advising fraternity and sorority communities across North America, Dr. Ayalon will guide Mu Chapter's executive board and future leadership candidates through a deep dive into the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of each position. The goal of this workshop is not only to train the current executive board but also to build leadership capacity within the chapter by empowering members who may run for positions in the future.

Key areas of focus will include:

- Understanding each executive board position in detail, including the specific tasks, responsibilities, and key deadlines associated with each role
- Leadership best practices and advice tailored to each position, encouraging accountability, communication, and initiative
- Ownership of roles, emphasizing the importance of taking full responsibility for the success of one's position and supporting the overall executive board

To ensure lasting impact, this training is recommended to continue beyond the semester, creating a pipeline of prepared leaders and maintaining strong institutional memory within the chapter.

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Join Us for Sigma Pi Reunion Weekend!

June 5–8, 2025 | Mu Chapter House, Cornell University

Reunion Weekend is fast approaching, and you won't want to miss it! Whether it's your official Cornell Reunion year or not, all Sigma Pi alumni are invited to return to Ithaca and reconnect at the Sigma Pi Annual Reunion Weekend, June 5–8, 2025. The Mu Chapter alumni board, undergraduate brothers, and Reunion class leaders are working together to make this year's gathering a fun, meaningful, and memorable experience for all who attend.

From relaxed porch hangs and delicious dinners, to yoga, museum tours, and live music from the Band of Brothers, there's something for everyone. We're expecting a great turnout and would love for you to be a part of it.

If you have ideas for events or would like to help coordinate an activity at the house, please contact Steve Pirozzi at spirozzi1@nyc.rr.com. We welcome your creativity and energy in making this weekend special!

Lodging Information:

All rooms in the Pi house have already been reserved by the classes of 2019 and 2020. If you're still looking for a place to stay, we've secured a block of rooms at The Dorm Hotel in downtown Ithaca. Call 607-319-4611 to reserve your spot.

Reunion Registration:

Please register using the link below so we can plan accordingly. Event details will continue to be updated on our website; check back often! sigmapicornell.org/wp-event/reunion-2025

Airy Acres Vineyard Tour & Tasting (Optional Activity):

Consider a scenic excursion to Airy Acres Vineyard, owned by Fred Bassette '76 and his family. Located about 35 minutes from the house on Cayuga Lake's west side, it's a perfect outing for a small group.

- Groups under 6: book online at airyacresvineyard.com/bookings.
- Groups of 6 or more: e-mail Noah Bassette at noah.bassette@airyacresvineyard.com.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (SUBJECT TO UPDATES)

Thursday, June 5

6:00 pm – *Class of '80 Welcome Dinner – Venue TBD*
7:00 pm – *Welcome gathering on the front porch of the Pi house*

Friday, June 6

4:00–6:00 pm – *Happy Hour, Pi house*
6:00–7:00 pm – *Buffet Dinner, front porch (vegan option available)*
7:30 pm – *Open Mic Night with Band of Brothers, socializing to follow*

Saturday, June 7

9:00–10:00 am – *Yoga Session with Devan Musser '05 (Dining Room – bring a mat!)*

10:30am–11:30am – *Tour of Johnson Museum, Featuring the exhibit of Suzi Ferrer (class of '62), the mother of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter Brother, Miguel Ferrer '91. Meet in the main lobby for tour.*
11:45 am–1:00 pm – *Alumni brunch, sponsored by the ΣΠ alumni corp. and the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation. Hear about the House recovery project, state of the undergraduate chapter, and the important role of the Educational Foundation.*
3:00–6:00 pm – *Band of Brothers Live! Mu Aid 2025: Welcome Back World Tour*
4:30 pm – *Sigma Pi Reunion Photo, front lawn*
6:30 pm – *Belmont Stakes Viewing in The Learning Commons*

6:30–7:30 pm – *Buffet Dinner, Pi house (vegan option available)*

8:00 pm – *Evening Socializing*
10:00 pm – *Band of Brothers Headlines Redstock, Rawlings Rhodes auditorium in Klarman Hall (behind Goldwin Smith). Free but Reunion Badge required.*

We can't wait to see you back at the Pi house, sharing stories, laughs, and good times with brothers new and old. **Mark your calendar, make your travel plans, and get ready for an unforgettable weekend back in Ithaca!**

Class of 1980: 45 Years of Leadership and Giving Back to the Mu Chapter

As we celebrate Reunion Weekend and the incredible legacy of our alumni, one class continues to stand out as a shining example of leadership, service, and dedication to Mu Chapter: the class of 1980.

Now celebrating their 45th Reunion, the brothers of 1980 have not only maintained strong bonds with each other, they've also gone above and beyond to ensure the continued success of Sigma Pi at Cornell. Their impact has been felt across every corner of the alumni Board, the Educational Foundation, and the day-to-day chapter operations.

At their 25th Reunion, the class of '80 brothers established the Adolphus C. Hailstork Prize for Brother of the Year Award in honor of their longtime chef, mentor, and friend, Adolphus "Dolly" Hailstork.

- **Jonathan M. Fordin '80** lends his legal expertise and serves on Mu Chapter's board.
- **Wayne Forman '80** is the president of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation.
- **Steven Hobbs '80**, who has served on both the alumni board and the Educational Foundation board, generously contributes pro bono legal counsel to support contracts and to advise on key legal matters affecting the chapter.
- **Steve Pirozzi '80**, vice president of the alumni board and facilities chairman, draws from his background in hospitality

to support kitchen and dining operations at the chapter house.

- **Kurt Rasmussen '80**, an emeritus board member, has served as vice president of both the alumni board and the Educational Foundation.
- **Jay Sacco '80** is playing a pivotal role in organizing fundraising efforts for the Sigma Pi House Recovery Fund. His leadership is helping to ensure that Mu Chapter can continue to provide a first-class living and learning environment for generations to come.
- **Jarett Wait '80** currently serves as president of the alumni board. Served as President for the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation before the last sentence for him. His commitment to both Mu Chapter and Cornell is unmatched.

These outstanding brothers exemplify the spirit of service and brotherhood that defines Mu Chapter. Their efforts have shaped the present and future of our organization.

Where is the next class of 1980?

As we look ahead, we hope this legacy of leadership inspires other classes to rise to the occasion. Whether you have a few hours a month or professional skills to lend, your involvement can make a lasting impact.

Let's build the future of Mu Chapter together!

Dave Dellenbaugh '75 Inducted into National Sailing Hall of Fame



Dave Dellenbaugh '75 is now officially a sailing legend. Growing up in Clinton, Connecticut, he sailed out of the Pequot Yacht Club on the north shore of Long Island Sound before heading off to Cornell University. After graduation he built an impressive list of victories winning the Canada's Cup two times, the Thistle Nationals Championship seven times, the Prince of

Wales Match Race Championship three times and the Congressional Cup two times. But as Dave would tell you, his greatest sailing experience was defending the 1992 America's Cup aboard America3 with his hero Buddy Melges. Bill Koch, Melges and Dellenbaugh faced a well-prepared Italian crew led by another National Sailing Hall of Fame inductee, Paul Cayard. Dellenbaugh was the tactician and starting helmsman. America3 and Il Moro di Venezia raced five

times in May 1992. Dellenbaugh got America3 off the starting line cleanly in each race and expertly guided Melges and Koch (who alternated steering) to win the match 4-1.

Throughout his career, Dellenbaugh has coached hundreds of young Optimist Dinghy sailors and youth sailors preparing for major championships. He is the editor of a newsletter, Speed & Smarts. Dave and his wife Susan, have two daughters, Rebecca and Emily, who have excelled at sailing and were named All American sailors in college. Raise a hearty wassail to National Sailing Hall of Fame Inductee Dave Dellenbaugh!

Read the full article:

thesailingmuseum.org/inductee/david-kent-dellenbaugh.

Mu Chapter Honors Legendary Hockey Coach Mike Schafer

Sigma Pi will be hosting a special dinner next fall to honor and thank the legendary Cornell hockey coach, **Mike Schafer '86**, on his recent retirement.

Coach Schafer has been a friend of Mu Chapter for more than 40 years and is excited to celebrate his illustrious career with the

brothers and alumni of Sigma Pi.

Further information on date and event details will be forthcoming. The event will be held around a home football game next fall. If you are interested in assisting with organizing this event, please contact Jarett Wait jwait@jfwaitadv.com



Young Mu Chapter Alumni Brothers Launch AI Tech Company Lucite

What began as a brotherhood formed at 730 University Ave in rooms 309 and 310, has transformed into a powerful business partnership shaping the future of the insurance industry.

Jason Spector '20 and **Richard Greenbaum '20**, both proud Mu Chapter alumni of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell, are the co-founders of Lucite, the first AI-native platform designed to help insurance brokers and advisors automate their most time-consuming and complex workflows. Lucite ingests unstructured insurance carrier documents to extract and analyze key data, generate insights, and build deliverables, saving firms countless hours every day.

Their journey didn't begin in Silicon Valley or on Wall Street. It began in Sigma Pi.

"What drew me to Sigma Pi was the ambition of the brothers," Jason recalled. "It was a special group: driven, successful, and supportive. It inspired me to think bigger."

For Rich, one key conversation during Sigma Pi rush week changed his entire career path. After a dinner with an older brother who had pivoted from premed to computer science, Rich gained the confidence to make the same leap, transferring into the College of Engineering and igniting a passion for technology that would eventually fuel Lucite.

After graduation, Rich headed to Meta, while Jason went into investment banking and growth equity. Throughout that time, the two friends, living across the hall from one another at Sigma Pi (Rooms 309 and 310), kept brainstorming startup ideas, mostly joking at first. But in early 2023, Jason, frustrated by the repetitive task of building presentations from PDF documents, had a revelation: could AI do this better?

He called Rich. They started building.

Lucite was born.

They moved quickly, launching their first product to automate PowerPoint creation. It immediately gained traction, validating the

need for their solution. Early clients included one of the world's largest consulting firms. But they soon realized custom work for each customer wasn't scalable. That insight pushed them to pivot to the insurance industry, where they could build standardized high-impact workflows. Today, Lucite has automated four key insurance processes and is rapidly expanding.

"We want to power the back office of nearly every insurance broker in the US and Canada within five years," Jason said.

Their path wasn't easy, and success required trust and sacrifice, including leaving comfortable jobs to join Y Combinator, one of the world's most prestigious startup accelerators. But, what gave them the courage to take the leap?

Their Sigma Pi bond.

"Neither of us would've done this without the other," said Rich. "We trust each other completely, and it all started with a friendship built at Sigma Pi."

In true brotherhood fashion, they even hired their first employee, another Mu Chapter brother.

When asked what advice they'd give to current Sigma Pi members at Cornell interested in startups, they offered this:

"Start building projects that excite you, even if they're small," said Jason.

"Work hard, and stay open to unexpected opportunities," added Rich. "You never know when the right idea or the right partner is going to walk through that chapter house door."

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi continues to be a launching pad for ambitious entrepreneurs. We're proud of Jason, Rich, and all the brothers making their mark on the world.

Where will the next 309 and 310 lead?



Richard Greenbaum '20



Jason Spector '20

continued from page 16

In addition to role training, Dr. Ayalon will facilitate strategic planning exercises including:

- A SWOT Analysis to assess the chapter's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
- Development of SMART Goals for 2025: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound objectives to keep the chapter focused and goal-oriented
- A review of the top three accomplishments of the

outgoing executive board to celebrate progress and build on past successes

This workshop represents a meaningful investment in the future of Mu Chapter, reinforcing a culture of strong leadership, accountability, and long-term planning. The alumni board is proud to support this initiative and commends the undergraduates for their commitment to excellence in leadership and fraternity operations.

Celebrating K.T. Mao

K.T. MAO – AUGUST 9, 1942 – MARCH 25, 2025

K.T. Mao, an adventurer, storyteller, and lifelong seeker of knowledge, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2025, at the age of 82. He spent his final moments surrounded by his loving family, closing a chapter on a life filled with curiosity, generosity, and an unrelenting drive to connect with people across the world.

Born in 1942 in Shanghai, China, during the final years of World War II, K.T. came into a world of uncertainty, where the echoes of air raid sirens and the upheaval of war shaped the city's landscape. He was the son of Margaret Mao and Teng Siao (T.S.) Mao, and the proud younger brother of Kwan Hai (K.H.) Mao. As China became embroiled in civil conflict between the Nationalists and Communists, T.S. made the difficult decision to move the family to Hong Kong, and later the United States. When K.T. was 14, Margaret and the boys immigrated to San Francisco, and tragically, Margaret passed away from leukemia shortly after their arrival, a loss that profoundly shaped his outlook on life.

Determined to forge his own path, K.T. was accepted to Cornell University sight unseen and drove across the country to his new home. His connection to Cornell would become a defining aspect of his life, ultimately creating a generational legacy that would see 15 family members attend the university. He earned his degree in civil engineering in the university's rigorous five-year program and began his career at Woodward Clyde Consultants, initially building bridges, dams, and power plants, but eventually spending the next 20 years building a preeminent environmental consulting practice. His work was pioneering—especially in the area of nuclear energy and waste—at a time when the field itself was still emerging.

In later years, K.T. pursued a wide range of careers that took him across Africa, Europe, China, and Mongolia, where he returned to his roots as a civil engineer and helped launch a large-scale coal mine. He was also deeply interested in exploring and honoring his ancestral roots, making multiple trips to his family's village, contributing to the preservation of the family temple, and helping to document the Mao Family lineage.

K.T. was larger than life, with a magnetic presence that could turn strangers into lifelong friends. A gifted storyteller, he could hold court for hours, spinning tales of global adventures or engaging in spirited discussions about China and the U.S. Whether talking to a Sigma Pi fraternity brother or his local postman, K.T. took a genuine interest in people's lives and never forgot a detail. His love language was, unequivocally, acts of service—if you needed help, he was there, even if it meant hopping on a plane halfway across the world. A schemer in the best sense, K.T. was always pushing boundaries, reinterpreting rules (or simply ignoring them), and embracing new challenges.

He lived in California, Colorado, Beijing, and finally, Harpswell, Maine—but for him, home was never a single place. It was wherever his heart and his next great endeavor took him.

His sense of belonging wasn't tied to geography but was woven into the people he cherished and the projects that captured his restless curiosity. Whether it was a bold new venture, an idea that only made sense to him, or simply the pursuit of something that sparked his passion, he threw himself into each one with relentless energy, always building, always moving forward.



K.T. is survived by his four children, John, Jeffrey, Justin, and Jennifer, five grandchildren: William, Christopher, Peter, Nathan, and Ishaan, and third wife, Kexin Li. His relationships with his children were rooted in love, pride, and an enduring bond. John's self-made path and determination stood out to K.T., who took deep pride in his achievements. Jeffrey had creativity and the kind of heart that K.T. deeply admired. Justin's thoughtful, brilliant mind was something K.T. respected immensely. And Jennifer's dynamic spirit and big dreams reflected K.T.'s own adventurous heart. He was especially proud to see his legacy carried forward in their lives and in the lives of his grandchildren. He was thrilled to celebrate Jennifer's wedding just three days before his accident, bringing his entire family together one last time.

K.T. was a lifelong tennis player, a sport that became a rite of passage in the Mao Family. Fittingly, just days after Jennifer's wedding, K.T. returned to the court one last time. While chasing a ball, he stumbled and fell, suffering severe skull fractures and brain hemorrhaging. He spent nearly six months in Maine Medical's system, fighting with the same tenacity and unpredictability he brought to everything in life. Ultimately, he passed away peacefully at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House, surrounded by family.

If there's one thing K.T. would want to be remembered for, it would be his unwavering belief in the power of connection—his ability to build bridges, both literal and metaphorical. In honoring K.T.'s memory, let us celebrate the legacy of an extraordinary man who was a force of unity, weaving connections across continents, cultures, decades, and generations. A man who made life an adventure, who never stopped learning, and who gave his heart fully to those lucky enough to be in his orbit.

May his spirit live on—not as a memory, but as a living inspiration in all of us that continues to challenge, to connect, and to transform.

Mu Brothers' News & Notes

ΣΠ

Connor Duffy '20 was recognized by Citadel as the Thrive Scholars' Mentor of the Year for his impact volunteering as a mentor and supporting scholars over the last three years.

Cal McKinney '20 is happy to share that he started a new position as a law clerk with Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel LLP.

Landon Budenholzer '19 has started a new position as associate director at Levine Leichtman Capital Partners, LLC.

Griffin Py '18 started a new position as principal at Apollo Global Management, Inc.

Steven Siegel '17 shares that he is returning to his CPG roots and joining the rocket ship that is Happy Dad Hard Seltzer & Tea as director of strategic finance.

Connor Riser '16 is looking forward to his wedding in July 2025. The Sigma Pi house will be used for brothers attending the wedding to stay at.

Felix Tabary '16 is the US director for The School for Moral Ambition and shares "My first few weeks reminded me of my first start-up experience with Troop. Our wild ambition back then was to leverage the collective power of small shareholders to hold big companies to higher standards."

Connor Riser '16 is happy to share he has started a new position as associate at Proskauer Rose LLP.

Alex Rawitz '13 was at Cornell Tech to talk about DIMO, DePIN and building an open ecosystem.



Quin Garcia '04 and **Mike Rantz '81** after a recent dinner in Portola Valley. Insert Garcia Rantz photo

Andrew Ross Sorkin '99: I'm excited to share a secret I've been keeping: For the past eight years, I've been working on a follow-up to my book, "Too Big to Fail." I've written what I think of as a prequel: a nonfiction, character-driven, behind-the-scenes account of 1929, the year of the most infamous market crash of all time. It

will be out in October. You can pre-order it now. www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/665634/1929-by-andrew-ross-sorkin.

Ford Fay '82: I am happy to announce that I am retiring from full time work in Telecom to focus on some board work, some part-time consulting and things people do in retirement! Ford has recently joined the Mu Chapter Alumni Board.

Luc G. Chabot '80: Despite having reached the age of 66, I have chosen to keep the doors open for my company of 22 years, LGChabot Inc., and remain professionally active as technical advisor for Deepwater Oil and gas developments around the globe. With that said, I have relocated with my wife Janet ('81) to Lake Travis near Austin to our retirement home. It's my way of transitioning professional life to the next thing. The next thing includes more time with my Sigma Pi brothers. What else do we need in life!

R. Joe Ottinger '80 started a new position as partner at AI Leadership

Class of '80 – Then and Now



Top L to R: Kurt Rasmussen, Peter Dreyfuss, Jim Horn, John Burger, Jeff Brown, Steve Hobbs, Owen McCarron
Bottom L to R: Aron Minken, Karl Westbrook, Jay Sacco, Doug Ueyno, Joe Dervay.



L to R: Kyle Bosshardt, Mary Dervay, Joe Dervay, Jay Sacco, Luc Chabot, Neil Douglass.

Winthrop B. Cody '56: Still above ground and am able to keep a reasonably active schedule. Golf only twice a week with an elevated handicap. I lost my wife of 62 years of marriage three years ago. I have a 96-year-old significant other, and we keep a very active social schedule. She's quite a lady, a Powers model in her younger years. I'm considering attending the 2025 homecoming. I wonder if anyone from the 1955–56 years is thinking about attending. Perhaps we could rent a multiseat golf cart for transportation. I assume no one in our generation can navigate the Libe Slope.



In Memoriam

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

John P. Diamond '58

May 4, 2024

Kwan-Tai Mao '63

March 25, 2025

Reed V. Sallak '63

June 14, 2024

Mario M. Tama Jr. '63

June 14, 2024

Roger N. McEnnis '68

December 31, 1990

John M. Finley '68

Coleman R. Koltsch '69

Honor a deceased brother with a memorial plaque; visit

sigmapicornell.edu/150-giving-memorial.asp

the MUSE

is published regularly by Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University for its friends and members. Alumni news is always welcome and may be emailed to alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org, or sent to: Alumni Records Office, Mu Chapter of the Sigma Pi Fraternity, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

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