



Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity

[www.sigmapi.cornell.org](http://www.sigmapi.cornell.org)

# the MUSE

FALL 2014

730

ΣΠΙ

*"The opportunity to be a member of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi is a gift from those who came before you. Add to the gift, and pass it on to those who come after you." — Jim Keene '57*

# Centennial Campaign Summary

Total Gifts:  
**\$270,000**

Total number of leadership donors:  
**68**

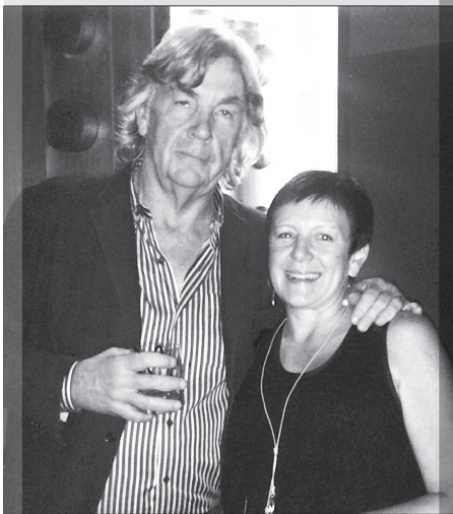
Total number of undergrad donors:  
**70**

How many class years gave:  
**52**

Class that donated the most:  
**1978**

Total number of alumni donors:  
**219**

Total number of leadership pledges paid in full:  
**38**



Doreen and Dick Cahoon '77

## Centennial Campaign Exceeds Goal

By Jarett Wait '80

Over the past year, the Centennial Campaign has been a vital and ongoing program of your alumni board that will insure the continued success of the chapter. This campaign was designed to retire the mortgage on the fraternity house, and in so doing, free significant revenue from rent for use in support of the house, including maintenance.

We successfully raised \$270,00, exceeding the stated goal of \$250,000. Thank you to the board and class officers, who all worked extremely hard on this vital effort. However, we could not have been successful without the help of the over 219 alumni, undergrads, and parents who gave their financial support to the campaign. In addition,

100% of the undergraduates contributed to the centennial appeal, showing their commitment to the long-term success of the brotherhood.

Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to Mu Chapter. Your support allowed the Centennial Campaign to exceed its goal and raise \$270,000 (see campaign summary to left for full details).

A special thank you goes out to **Dick Cahoon '77** and **Kent Sheng '78**. Both gentlemen stepped and made significant leadership pledges during the final stages of the campaign to ensure its success (see Kent's letter on p. 8).

If you need additional information about your Centennial Donation or your giving history, please email [alumnirecords@sigmapicorstell.org](mailto:alumnirecords@sigmapicorstell.org) or call 607-533-9200.

## Dick Cahoon '77 Gives \$100K to Educational Foundation

To Fund West Lounge Tech Center

By Zach Gilbert '16

Last fall, Sigma Pi celebrated its centennial year at Cornell, not only highlighting all the fraternity has accomplished and produced in the last 100 years, but also signifying that the transition of the Mu Chapter into the 21st century is well underway. Coinciding with this transition into the technological age, one alumnus, **Dick Cahoon '77**, jumpstarted the fraternity's high-tech capabilities with a recent pledge of \$100,000 to the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation. This is in addition to his \$25,000 contribution to the Centennial Campaign.

Among other things, Dick's gift will go toward a Technology Center in the West Lounge with a state-of-the-art portable video-conferencing system for undergrads to better interact with alumni. The money will also fund a wireless speaker system throughout common areas of the house, a security system around the outdoor perimeter, new furniture for dedicated education space, and an endowment for rainy-day technology maintenance and updates.

Undergrads and alumni alike are excited for this Tech Center, which will allow for one-to-one and one-to-many webcasts between alumni and undergrads. Alumni Board President Jarett Wait expressed his belief that "the possibility of significantly

enhancing the technology, multimedia, and the living experience at Mu Chapter will be a real catalyst to differentiate Sigma Pi from the rest of the fraternities at Cornell." The current undergrads could not agree more. Everyone is excited that Sigma Pi will be focusing on meeting the academic and career needs of members in addition to social needs. The undergraduate Pi men believe that this will be a real distinguishing factor for potential incoming members.

In discussing his motivation for supporting the Educational Foundation, Dick explained: **"although I only spent two years at Cornell, my time at the Pi house was the best time of my life up to that point. I believe that the Pi house has a lot to offer to young men who are learning their way in society. It helped me understand group dynamics and the real meaning of community. For us to attract the best of the best, we have to be prepared to be 21st century ready."**

Dick believes that the easier it is for undergrads to network with alumni, the better opportunity undergraduates will have as they prepare to enter the job market and work place. For Sigma Pi to be meaningful in the future, Dick envisions the fraternity being competitive by providing the most opportunity both on campus and with ca-

(continued on page 8)

# Alumni Volunteers Needed to Assist Undergraduates in Career Planning, Internships, Job Placement, & Mentorship

## Sigma Pi Raises the Bar with Tech Center, Mentoring Program

By **Tom Silver '81** and **Rob Novo '79**

The most frequent requests from undergrads when they speak to alumni concern assistance with career planning, internships, mentorships, and job placement. They also want advice from alumni regarding graduate school and/or post-graduate degrees.

In response, the alumni board has established the Career Development Committee, chaired by **Tom Silver '81** and **Rob Novo '79**, to provide programmed activities to help undergraduates gain greater access to alumni for support in career planning, internships, job placement, and mentorship.

This effort will seek to build on the annual NYC career event that has taken place over the last 10 years. **This year's NYC career event is going to be held on November 20 and 21.**

### Career Planning, Internships, & Job Placement

Sigma Pi undergrads have requested that alumni run similar events in other cities around the country and broaden the industry focus to include finance, engineering, consulting, technology, and marketing, among other things. We've also heard that meeting logistics are a challenge, so to improve and facilitate communication between alumni and undergraduates, the Technology Committee, chaired by **Mike Vernick '83**, will be establishing a Technology Center in the West Lounge, funded by the generous donation of **Dick Cahoon '77** to the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation (see "New Plans for Technology Center" on p. 2).

The Tech Center will include high-quality communications equipment, allowing for virtual, face-to-face, one-to-one, and one-to-many webcasts between alumni and undergraduates. The webcasts will cover a wide range of topics, including industry updates/overviews with alumni in various industries, introductory meetings with alumni and their respective contacts, introductions to managers in start-up opportunities, and more. For those interested,



L to R: Gary Wagner '81, Joe Ruocco '81, Brian Fitzgerald '82, Brad Crooke '81. Photo courtesy of Kurt Rasmussen '80, taken in 1979.

alumni can also help review resumes and cover letters and help undergrads get started in the internship/job search process.

For those of you looking to hire entry-level employees, look to hire Pi-Men first. Your participation in this program will help you get a jump on hiring the best.

### Mentorship

Undergrads have also expressed interest in a more formalized mentorship program, which we are also looking to initiate soon. Therefore, the newly founded Career Development Committee is working with undergraduate brothers to initiate a one-on-one mentoring program between actives and alumni. Think about it as continuation of big and little brothers! We want to tap into your professional experience to help undergraduates in the recruiting process and to connect them with alumni. This is an easy but extremely impactful way to get involved and leave your mark at Sigma Pi. It gives you the opportunity to catch up on what is happening in Ithaca and at Cornell, while sharing experiences of your career path with a brother. This program is unique among fraternities at Cornell and has the potential to make our brotherhood stronger.

We will help provide a relevant match for alumni and undergraduates, based on the relevance of each person's background. We'll also help coordinate the initial communication between the two. Afterward, you both decide on how often and in what way you want to communicate.

If you are interested in being a mentor or are interested in becoming involved in any element of this career initiative in

any way, please contact **Tom Silver '81** ([tsilver10359@yahoo.com](mailto:tsilver10359@yahoo.com)) or **Rob Novo '79** ([robn1979@gmail.com](mailto:robn1979@gmail.com)), the Career Development Committee co-chairmen. Once we have received your information, we will match you with an undergraduate based on your background and his career interests. We're looking to get started by year's end, so if you're interested, please let us know soon.

#### Q: How often do I have to interact with my assigned mentee?

After initial contact, the program is very flexible and depends on your and the undergraduate's expectations. We suggest communicating at least every other month by phone or e-mail. *Note:* The undergraduates carry the primary responsibility to reach out to alumni.

#### Q: What are my responsibilities as an alumnus?

We hope you can share insights of the industry you work in, especially around recruiting. *Note:* You are obviously not responsible for finding your mentee a job, but we hope that you can help him find one or help him network.

#### Q: What is my time commitment as an alumnus?

After initial contact, the program is completely flexible; the more time you put in, the more you and your mentee will get in return. We suggest interacting at least every other month. We believe the technological enhancements coming to the house through the efforts of the Technology Committee will facilitate interaction between alumni mentors and their undergraduate mentees. We are hoping that some communication takes place at least every other month.

#### Q: What if I prefer a different undergraduate?

We do our best to find good matches based on industry, career interest, and personality. However, if you feel uncomfortable with the undergraduate we assigned to you, feel free to reach out to us, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

## Sigma Pi Key Dates 2014–2015

November 26–December 1, 2014  
**Thanksgiving Break**

November 29, 2014  
**Big Red Hockey**  
Cornell vs. Penn State  
at Madison Square Garden, NYC

December 5, 2014  
**Fall Classes End**

December 18, 2014  
**Fall Exams End**

January 15–21, 2015  
**Recruitment Week**

January 21, 2015  
**Classes resume**

January 22–February 22, 2015  
**New Member Education**

February 14–18, 2015  
**Break**

February 2015 (TBD)  
**Alumni Phone-a-thon**

February 23, 2015  
**Initiation Dinner**

March 28–April 6, 2015  
**Spring Break**

April 17–April 19, 2015  
**Parents Weekend**

May 2015 (TBD)  
**Adolphus C. Hailstork Brother  
of the Year at Orchid Ball**

May 6, 2015  
**Classes End**

May 7, 2015  
**Slope Day**

May 24, 2015  
**Graduation**

**Check our website for details:  
[www.sigmapicornell.org](http://www.sigmapicornell.org)**

## Educational Foundation Continues to Thrive

By Aaron Klein '12

The Educational Foundation has also received a generous gift from **Dick Cahoon '77** that will be used to fund the Technology Center in the West Lounge (see "New Plans for Technology Center" on p. 2 and "Alumni Volunteers Needed" on p. 3). In addition, we wish to acknowledge the following gentlemen who donated to the Educational Foundation this year: **M. Dudley Smith '48, Peter Wright '77, Craig Binetti '77, Winthrop Cody '55, Jarett Wait '80, Harlan Wengert '48, and Richard Frey '62.**

As stated in the last issue of *The Muse*, the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation is committed to providing scholarships that will incentivize and reward Pi men who excel in the classroom and in leadership positions on campus and within the fraternity. This year, for the first time, the Educational Foundation awarded the James Keene III Sage Scholarship. The award was initially established by James Keene to provide free rent to the sage, given that he was a senior living in the house.



Earlier this year, the endowment was brought under the control of the Educational Foundation, and this year's recipient is the incoming sage, senior Nicholas Wint.

This year, the foundation will award the first David Harrop Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was created in recognition of the gift of **Bert Harrop '61** to the Educational Foundation and is named after his son, David. David was a generous spirit, a devoted son, brother, and friend who is missed by everyone who knew him. A scholarship of

\$1,000 will be awarded by the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation annually to the junior living in the house with the highest grade-point average for the academic year. Applicants will also need to submit a description of their extracurricular activities, including positions held in Sigma Pi and an essay of 500+ words explaining how living in the house has complemented their academic performance.

The foundation is constantly looking for new avenues to better the lives of the undergraduates of Sigma Pi and would love to hear your suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at [amk282@cornell.edu](mailto:amk282@cornell.edu).

## College Mentors for Kids

By Aram Shrestinian '15, VP Marketing

A little over a year ago, the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation generously donated the seed money needed to establish a College Mentors for Kids chapter at Cornell University. Since then, our organization has doubled in size and now serves 80 elementary school students from the Ithaca area.

Our weekly activities are centered on the principles of community service, higher education, and cultural diversity. Our mission is to connect elementary students with mentors who will serve as role models and foster their aspirations. Hosting the students on Cornell's campus gives them early access to the world of higher education. We often

bring in distinguished professors to speak with the students and to enrich their growing understanding of the world.

Sigma Pi Mu Chapter plays an integral role in the functioning of this organization. Five brothers serve on the executive board, four more serve as general managers, and 10 brothers participate as mentors. Brothers in our house bring strategic leadership and operational capacities critical to the organization.

Continued expansion plans are underway as our chapter works toward serving even more students from a greater network of elementary schools. Support from

Mu Chapter alumni is always greatly appreciated, so please be on the lookout for our upcoming "Friends and Family" donation initiative.



**COLLEGE  
MENTORS  
FOR KIDS**

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# College Mentors for Kids National Leadership Conference

By Nick Wint '15

On September 6 and 7, three brothers from Sigma Pi joined other Cornell students to represent the university at the national College Mentors for Kids Conference. They were joined by nearly 100 students from 25 other chapters, including the leaders from the newest chapters, University of Virginia, Columbia University, and University of Missouri.

The students worked from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. The following are highlights of the very full and impactful agenda.

- Telling the Story: Messaging our Impact
- Poverty Simulation
- Safety Policies and Procedures Workshop
- Position Breakout Workshops:
  - Presidents
  - Vice Presidents of Programming
  - Vice Presidents of Fundraising
- Cool, Calm, and Classified: MBTI (Personality Indicator) in Action
- Position Break-Outs:
  - Presidents and VPs of Fundraising: Financial Policies



Brothers (l to r): Robby Attia '16, Brandon Choi '16, and Aram Shrestinian '15.

- VPs of Programming: Recruitment and Crisis Management
- Presidents and VPs of Fundraising: Using our New Program Database
- VPs of Fundraising: Campus-Based Fundraising
- Accounting Training: Using Your Credit Cards
- Branding and You
- Meet the Board Lunch
- Automatic Leadership: The Foundation of Building Your People
- Alumni Speaker: Changing the Story for Our Kids

A highlight of the weekend was a poverty simulation designed and donated by St. Vincent's Health and staffed by volunteers

from the board, staff, and local companies.

Students were put in the position of people with very challenging economic means and required to simulate four weeks of economic activity like buying food, paying rent, seeking public assistance, using a pawn shop, banking, and paying for transportation. It had a tremendous impact on the student leaders' understanding of the circumstances many of our little buddies face daily.

The national office is still processing student evaluations, but both the verbal and written feedback are that the conference was extremely valuable, well organized, and content-rich. It was especially consequential for the newest chapters. The weekend was a great lesson in leadership for the Cornell chapter. Six of the student leaders represented their university and fraternities/sororities well. They were and will continue to be a shining example of excellence in the College Mentors for Kids community!

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## Proudly Supporting Cayuga's Watchers

By Connor Riser '16, Vice President

Cayuga's Watchers is a "student-led independent organization that is designed to mitigate the harms associated with high-risk drinking while promoting student safety at Cornell." Sigma Pi has taken a very serious role in its relationship with Cayuga's Watchers.

According to Sarah Reitman, president of Cayuga's Watchers, "Sigma Pi has been an integral part of Cayuga's Watchers' operations and support system. Specifically, **Connor Riser '16** and **Nick Wint '15** are always advocating on our behalf, and our executive board includes **James Alvarez '16** as PR manager and **Ian Harris '16** as vice president of outreach." At almost every event we have as a brotherhood, we invite members of Cayuga's Watchers to come and work. We have also recently made it a mandatory rule that all brothers living in

the house for the first time must go through Cayuga's Watchers' training so that they are better equipped to serve as sober monitors and active bystanders.

Not only are we currently the fraternity that has used Cayuga's Watchers the most, but we also have many brothers involved within the organization. Connor Riser serves as the Interfraternity Council's Liaison to the organization, while **Robert Attia '16**, **Joseph Manzi '16**, **Christian Zollner '16**, and **Benny Johnson '16** are fully trained and registered Watchers. Currently, **Brandon Choi '16**, **Andrew Joseph '16**, **George Chalhoub '16**, **Agustin Martinez '17**, **Samuel Strang '17**, and **Andrew Walsh '17** are going through the necessary steps toward becoming fully employed Watchers.

We are very proud of our brotherhood's commitment to such a worthy cause! For more information, visit [cayugaswatchers.org](http://cayugaswatchers.org).

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## James H. Keene III '57 Sage Endowment Fund

**Managed by The Sigma Pi Mu  
Chapter Educational Foundation**

James H. Keene III Sage Endowment Fund initiative was formerly established at the January 2012 New York City dinner honoring Jim. The purpose of the fund is to raise a permanent endowment to subsidize the living expenses of the sage while he resides in the house. Along with the directors of the Educational Foundation, Jim has been vocal about the importance of having upperclass leaders (in particular the sage) live in the house. The James H. Keene III, Class of 1957, Sage Endowment Fund also permanently recognizes Jim Keene for his 50-plus years of service to and leadership of the brotherhood of Mu Chapter. We wish to acknowledge the following gentlemen who donated to the Sage Fund this year: **Mark Cunningham '75 (Hon.)**, **John Holden '43**, **Peter Romeo '55**, and **Richard Frey '62**. To donate to the fund, please use the enclosed giving card or give online at [www.sigmapi Cornell.org/150-giving.asp](http://www.sigmapi Cornell.org/150-giving.asp).

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# Sage Reports an Active Semester for Sigma Pi

By Nicholas Wint '15, Sage

The fall 2014 semester has been another eventful semester for the active brothers of Mu Chapter. We are currently a brotherhood of 57, and I am proud to report that we have 36 brothers living in the house, with the majority being upperclassmen. With three years of undergraduates represented in the house, the sentiment of brotherhood continues to grow among the brothers. It is a fun and exciting time to be a Pi man.

The highlight of the fall semester has been our annual voyage to Ralph Wilson Stadium to watch the Bills take on the Chargers. Almost 30 brothers jumped on the bus to Buffalo for a great afternoon of football and tailgating. The trip certainly made some memories that will last a lifetime.

On the social side, we continue to throw some of the greatest parties on campus. In September, our bold social chairs (Brother **Steven Siegel '17** and Brother **Justin Bredahl '17**) decided to host our very first park-

ing-lot party. Members of the Greek community flocked to 730 University for a beautiful afternoon of music and outdoor fun. Greeks on campus quickly deemed it the party of the semester, and we hope to keep the tradition alive next year. We also look forward to hosting a similar event for Oktoberfest.

Our brothers continue to make great strides on the hill with robust involvement in prominent organizations. I'd like to highlight/congratulate a few brothers on their hard work and continued success. Brother **Turkel Anwar '15** is keeping the Student Agency tradition alive; he was recently elected the next president of Cornell's oldest student-run business. Brother **Connor Riser '16** continues to balance being our second counselor and being vice president of programming for the IFC. College Mentors for Kids continues to be a huge success on campus, and Brother **Rob Attia '16** has been spearheading the organization as president.

As the semester rolls along, the chapter enjoyed the Alumni Technology Conference

in November, and looks ahead to the 10th annual career fair in New York City and our annual Movember campaign. Recruitment week is quickly approaching, and we look forward to becoming an even more selective house in terms of the quality of men we pledge and initiate. I am hoping we can have alumni back this spring to welcome our new members, so please stay tuned for announcements regarding initiation events.

Lastly, I'd like to take one more opportunity to thank the alumni for their continuous support of the house, including participation in The Big Fall Cleanup, which has helped the house and grounds look beautiful. Without your help, we wouldn't be the thriving brotherhood we are today. Being a senior living in the house, I have felt their efforts particularly poignantly this semester, and I am personally (as is the house) indebted to many of them. Sigma Pi is truly an experience that makes Cornell extraordinary, and we hope to keep it that way and to improve it for many years to come.

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# James Keene '57 Awarded Highest Fraternity Honor by National

By Nicholas Wint '15, Sage

I had the pleasure of attending the Sigma Pi International 52nd Biennial Convocation this past August in Orlando. I'd like to give a huge thank you to the Educational Foundation and the alumni board for making the trip a possibility. Brothers **Bryson Graves '16**, **Alec Charbonneau '16**, and I had the pleasure of representing Mu Chapter in the front row at all the conferences. I won't bore you with too many details on the international conference,

but we found the trip extremely rewarding because we were able to connect and learn from brothers from chapters across our nation.

More important, we were able to witness Brother **Jim Keene '57** being awarded our fraternity's highest honor, the Founders' Award. The Founders' Award is the highest and most prestigious honor that the fraternity bestows upon an individual brother. The

selection is based on outstanding contributions or exceptional service in business, a profession, education, or humanitarianism, including service to Sigma Pi or the fraternity system as a whole.

Please join me in congratulating Jim on winning such a prestigious award. Jim has supported the house for many more years than I have even been alive. Words cannot express how grateful and thankful the brotherhood is for all he has done, and we wish him continued success. Jim has



*Jim Keene '57 received the Founders' Award at Convocation in August 2014.*



*Jim Keene '57 holding the trophy he won for best Fall Weekend lighting display. Fall Weekend Formal, October 1955.*

always been a fatherly figure full of knowledge and advice that the undergraduates love to soak up. Congrats, Jim!

With Jim putting us on the map for the Founders' Award, one can only wonder who will be representing Mu Chapter next? I'd like to point out that one thing I noticed at the international conference is that our alumni board is much more involved than other chapters, and having such a strong alumni network is what makes us Mu Chapter.

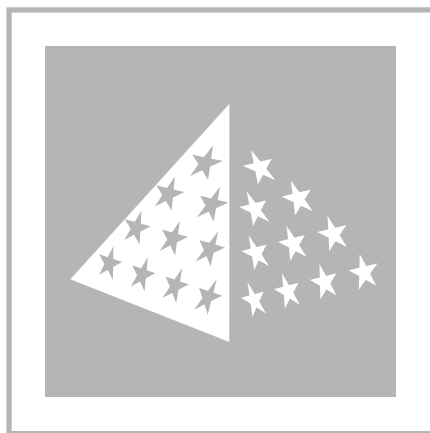
# Meet the New Committees of the Alumni Board

By **Jarett Wait '80**

## TECH AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

**Mike Vernick '83** (chair), **Matt Pens '00**,  
**Tom Silver '81**, **Nick Ortiz '16**

The committee is responsible for managing the Mu Chapter web site, social media, multimedia, and technology infrastructure, with priority focus on enhancing interaction between undergraduates and alumni through technology. The committee will work closely with the other alumni board committees, including the Career and Mentorship Committee and the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation. The establishment of an innovation competition/award, in partnership with and sponsored by the Educational Foundation, is under discussion. Digitization of records, archives, etc. is also a priority.



cess to alumni. This effort will seek to build on the annual NYC career event that has taken place over the last 10 years. Sigma Pi undergrads have requested that alumni run similar events in other cities around the country and broaden the industry focus to include finance, engineering, consulting, technology, and marketing, among others.

As described in the article on page two, the Technology and Social Media Committee, chaired by Mike Vernick, will be establishing a Technology Center in the West Lounge, funded through a generous donation by **Dick Cahoon '77** through the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation.

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMMITTEE

**Steve Pirozzi '80** and **Brian Finneran '81** (co-chairs),  
**Michael Adelstein '16** (steward)

The committee will work with the house steward on

the overall food and beverage strategy for the house, including the meal service plan, overseeing the house cook's role and performance in partnership with the RA, and monitoring the kitchen infrastructure

*For reports from the existing committees, please see the annual report insert.*

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Tom Silver '81** and **Rob Novo '79** (co-chairs)

The committee will support undergraduates in career planning, internships, and job placement in an attempt to provide more structured and programmed activities to help undergraduates gain greater ac-

# Michael Vernick '83 Joins Alumni Board

By **Jarett Wait '80**

After spending three years as "Milkboy" at Sigma Pi, **Michael Vernick '83** left the dairy business and Cornell for a career in technology. Six years at a startup interspersed with two round-the-world trips was followed by another six years back in graduate school. After receiving his doctorate in computer science at SUNY Stony Brook, Michael spent time at Lucent Bell Labs and Avaya Labs as a research scientist, primarily working in the

area of video communication systems. He recently left the industrial-lab environment to work for Worldnow, a small technology media company in New York City. Michael lives on the Jersey shore with his wife and two children. He is the organizer of the Sigma Pi Procrasticup Golf Tournament.

At the annual meeting on September 30, 2014, **Steve Ryan '77** was elected to the position as secretary. Our former secretary, **John Morrison '75**, will focus on chairing the facilities committee.

## MU CHAPTER ALUMNI BOARD

**PRESIDENT: Jarett Wait '80**  
jwait@jfwaitadvisors.com

**VICE PRESIDENT: Kurt Rasmussen '80**  
rasmussen\_kurt@lilly.com

**TREASURER AND CHAPTER FACULTY ADVISOR:**  
**John Haggerty '78**  
jjh56@cornell.edu

**SECRETARY: Stephen M. Ryan '77**  
sryan@mwe.com

**James H. Keene III '57**  
jkeeneiii@aol.com

**VanNess Robinson '57**  
vrobinson@nycm.com

**Richard (Dick) Frey '62**  
rafrey@rochester.rr.com

**David C. D'Orlando '79**  
ddorlando@comcast.net

**Brian Finneran '81**  
b.finneran@iecgny.com

**Dennis McNamara '83**  
dennis.mcnamara@opco.com

**John Morrison '75**  
johnmorrison236@comcast.net

**Matt Pens '00**  
matt.pens@gmail.com

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

**Trevor White '07**  
trevor.white@sthrower.com

**Michael Vernick '83**  
michael@giantface.com

## UNDERGRADUATE BOARD 2014

**PRESIDENT: Nicholas Wint '15**  
nickwint42@gmail.com  
646-472-9002

**VICE PRESIDENT: Connor Riser '16**  
car279@cornell.edu  
919-740-7871

**SECRETARY: Alex Eacker '15**  
ale39@cornell.edu  
347-249-9594

**TREASURER: Brandon Choi '16**  
choibx@gmail.com  
860-519-4648

**ALUMNI SECRETARY: George Chalhoub '16**  
gac95@cornell.edu  
606-231-6048

**HERALD: Michael Adelstein '16**  
msa96@cornell.edu  
201-290-3983



**Sigma Pi  
ALS Ice Bucket  
Challenge**

Sigma Pi kicked off the 2014-'15 school year by supporting the ALS Bucket Challenge with alumni and undergraduates together. **Mark Lippman '94** matched all gifts raised by this effort.

Next? The brothers went on to nominate some members of Cornell's administration who all took the plunge:

**David Skorton** – President

**Travis Apgar** – Associate Dean of Students for the Office of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living

**Kara Miller** – Assistance Dean of Students for the Office of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living

Watch all of the icy fun online:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsD\\_cmpufA4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsD_cmpufA4)

## A Letter from Kent Sheng '78

**Kent Sheng '78** stepped up in a significant leadership position and matched all donations between September 1 and the end of the campaign to ensure we reached our \$250,000 goal.



*Please read Kent's campaign message below.*

"Hey, Pi men:

"You might think that, because I ate so generously at the Pi house back in the day, piling in Dolly's sloppy Bob's and BCP and nearly bankrupting the kitchen, I feel a little guilty and want to pay for my excesses. That's part of it. Looking back, I see I was just one in a wondrous line of Sigma Pi food inventory controllers. I took over from ravenous **Bob 'Bernie' Bernstein '77** and kept the dining room seat warm until **Rob 'Now-a-jock' Nawojchik '79** could get there.

"That tradition aside, I am motivated because I do miss the old house. I liked the massively creaky stairs and the old dining room, where Zoltan used to play and the newbies stood after dinner and tried to make us laugh. I liked the bar we had, which really smelled like a bar and where Naka and **Dave Lapier '78** would hold court late, late at night. I miss the 'old' Grotto, where the '78 pledges did rookie penance, pretending to be masons for our pledge project.

"For me, the third floor was the happening place. I miss the Circle Inn, but not so much that third bunk suspended from the ceiling. I do remember the single hallway phone outside the shower. A real

party line. Maybe if you were lucky, your girlfriend could call you there, unless you were **Rob Ruhlman '78** where, in dead winter, calls would come telling him to get his butt down to Ecuador or whatever sun-drenched destination the U.S. yacht team needed him. And the third floor had the Balcony Room, which warmed the house with Skynyrd, Zeppelin, and Tull in winter and did the same for West Campus in the spring. Tunes 101, Sigma Pi-style.

"So when the house burned down, I was sorry. But the real loss would have been if there had been no new one. I know everyone must have been relieved that alumni like **Jim Keene '57** had stepped up to lead in the rebuild. I have sat in on volunteer organizations where no one stepped up in crunch time. (You don't hear about those organizations for too long.)

"So when it comes to the mortgage, I am all for putting it to bed. I paid \$70 rent (some things an assistant treasurer never forgets) and was happy about that. The cost of tuition and housing has soared since those days, but now we have a board and the Centennial Campaign leadership who are doing the right thing. And each of us has an opportunity to help out for a host of good reasons—past and future.

"It takes a little optimism to join a fraternity in the first place and probably an equal amount to invest in sustaining one, but it is worth it. That is why I will match any contributions to this goal.

"Jevo, Kent Sheng '78"

## Dick Cahoon '77 gives \$100K to Educational Foundation

(continued on page 2)

reer outreach. Dick sees his contribution as an investment in the future, hoping that the coming generations of Pi men will be better equipped when they leave Cornell.

When asked what advice he would give undergrads as they prepare to pursue their own careers, Dick said he would encourage undergrads to remember that **"the world is not about you but how you fit into the world. A Cornell degree does not make you better than anyone else. See how you can fit in first, and effect change second."** Dick explained that this reflects his own philosophy—to find a place in the world and to create value.

## Technology, Social Media, and Career Conference

was held on November 8, 2014, at the house in Ithaca. The purpose of the conference was to bring together the undergraduate members and alumni:

- 1) to discuss ways to use technology and social media to increase interaction among brothers;
- 2) to discuss technologies for making the house safe and fun;
- 3) to understand the undergrads' needs for alumni help with career development; and
- 4) to allow alumni to give their career perspective on focused industries pertinent to the undergraduates.

If you are interested in reading more about the conference or the Tech and Social Media Committee, please contact Mike Vernick '83 at [michael@giantface.com](mailto:michael@giantface.com).



# Cornell Names Sheng '78 as 20th-Anniversary Exemplary Alumni Service Award Recipient

By Kelly Brown, President, Cornell Alumni Association

The Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award honors alumni who have given long-term volunteer service to Cornell throughout the broad spectrum of alumni organizations. Up to six alumni receive this prestigious award each year.

It is my pleasure to share with you the list of the FHTR Exemplary Alumni Service Award recipients for 2014:

- Ms. Elaine Mead Alexander '77 and Mr. John Edward Alexander '74, MBA '76
- Mr. John Dyson '65
- Mr. Charles F. Feeney '56

- Mr. James C. Hanchett '53
- Mr. **Kent Sheng '78**
- Ms. Ginger K. So '79

FHTR award recipients are one of the treasures of our great university. They exemplify the spirit of Cornell volunteerism and serve as an inspiration to us all. Congratulations to Elaine & John, John, Charles, James, Kent, and Ginger as they join the ranks of this remarkable and accomplished group of individuals. The awards were presented at an awards ceremony/dinner on Saturday, October 18.

Should you have any questions, please contact Loreal Maguire in the Office of Volunteer Programs at llm94@cornell.edu.

# Meet Our Resident Adviser!



Please join us in welcoming Mike Lieberman.

Mike Lieberman is currently beginning his first year at Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, where he is earning his MPS in international agriculture and rural development. He graduated from Stony Brook University in 2011 with a BA in environmental studies and has spent the past two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Saint-Louis, Senegal. As a Peace Corps volunteer, Mike worked alongside various NGOs, Senegalese government officials, and embassy personnel to bring attention to the plight of young street children in Senegal.

You can contact **Mike Lieberman** at mlieberman1989@gmail.com; 631-278-3474

# Procrasticup Raises Money for the Centennial Fund

By Joe Ruocco '81

Another successful and fun packed Procrasticup took place in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on October 9-12. In addition to golf, a few drinks here and there, and countless old stories being embellished upon, the 2014 Procrasticup participants also chipped in to donate an additional \$500 to the Centennial Fund.

## Take a Virtual Tour of 730 University Avenue

Go to [www.sigmapicornell.org/150-virtualtour.asp](http://www.sigmapicornell.org/150-virtualtour.asp) to explore 730 University Avenue in our new virtual tour. This tour has been set up to allow prospective brothers (and their parents) to explore what living in Mu Chapter's house might be like. We also hope alumni will visit to see what the house looks like today!



Front row (l to r): Frank Sposato '83, Tom Cherner '80, Jay Sacco '80, Joe Ruocco '81; middle row: Jimmy Garr '82, Mike Vernick '83, Tom Silver '81, Mike Feiertag '83; back row: Eugene McKenna '83, Dennis McNamara '83, George Rocklein '87, Tim Hawes '82.

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# Name That Pi-Man Continues into its 10th Year

By Kurt Rasmussen '80

*Name That Pi-Man* is a weekly e-mail containing a photograph of brothers engaged in various antics during their undergraduate days. The object is to guess the identity of the brothers in the photograph. The "then" photos are often paired with "now" photos of the same brothers. Photographs have included brothers at formals, on sorority raids, with old flames, etc. The photos and subsequent responses have given all a chance to share fond memories of special friends. The weekly contest continues unabated into its 10th year!

To expand the user group and take advantage of new technology, George Rocklein '87 has created a Name That Pi-Man website ([namethatpiman.org](http://namethatpiman.org)). The website will allow the weekly posts to be sent out via e-mail in a newsletter format. (Current *Name That Pi Man* participants are already registered. Users always have the option of unsubscribing from a newsletter by clicking on a link provided at the bottom of the e-mail or by managing the subscriptions for their account on the website.) Important to note, except for the initial login screen, all website content is walled off from internet search engines, so Google searches won't turn up photos and/or comments you'd rather keep out of the public domain.

## Other features include:

**Pi-Man Map:** Accessible via the navigation menu at the top of the site, there's an

interactive Google map showing the last reported location of every Pi man in the world.

**Forums:** There is a forum section where users can create topics for discussion.

**Chat Messages:** This allows users who are logged in to have instant chats with each other individually or all together in a group chat room (no special software required.)

**Subscription to Comments:** Users are able to subscribe and unsubscribe to the comments on any individual newslet-

ter or forum. At the bottom of a post, click on "subscribe to comments" and you will receive an e-mail notification anytime someone adds a comment related to that thread. The e-mails will contain the text of the latest comment, as well as a link that will take you directly to that comment thread on the site. The link will log you in seamlessly.

**E-Mail Link Auto Login:** With few exceptions, links within e-mails will take you to the website and automatically log you in. (There is a unique token appended to the end of every link. For security purposes, this token expires after one week.)

**Newsletter for different generations of Pi men:** The website is configured to allow for separate newsletters for different generations of Pi men. So, besides the current *NTPM* newsletter that roughly covers the 1975–1985 era, we can have newsletters covering 1985–1995, 2005–2015, etc. Any user can subscribe to as many different newsletters as one wants. There is a subscription block on every page that lets you check boxes for which newsletter(s) you want to subscribe to.

**How to get access:** If you currently receive *Name That Pi Man* e-mails, you're already registered. If you've forgotten your pass-

word, you can request a new password on the login page. (With few exceptions, your username is a concatenation of your first initial plus your last name. So Dolly Hailstork would be dhailstork.)

If you don't have access, just send an e-mail to George at [grocklein@gmail.com](mailto:grocklein@gmail.com) and he'll set you up!



Then: Bert Hurlburt '74, Sandy McNeil '77, Joline Hemminger '77, Sandy Kraker '74



Now: Mark Hausknecht '75, Sandy Kraker '74, Garry Wicks '75, Bert Hurlburt '74.

## It's a Small Pi World

### Steve Rosenzweig '79 writes in:

"I was in Pittsburgh on business in late August, and the team member I was with thinks 'baseball is boring'—absolute heresy—so I headed to PNC Park myself. I bought a field-level ticket on the third-base side.

"At the top of the first inning, a foul ball went into the stands to my right. It ended up being caught by a young man in the section to my right—nice grab, by the way. I looked over, and lo and behold, I saw that the said young man was with his mom and dad, and the dad looked familiar—**Jim Garr '82!**

"I waited until the half-inning was over, walked over to them, and said, 'You're Jim Garr aren't you?' He answered with a somewhat puzzled look, 'Yes...!' I put it into context for him who I was.

"I ended up spending the evening in the company of Jim, Lisa, and Michael Garr, catching up. Pirates won 5-2 to make it a perfect evening."

### Larry MacLennan '79 writes in:

"I was down in Pittsburgh visiting friends from New Hampshire who moved there. The occasion for my visit was to see the Asia/YES tour event in Pittsburgh. We arrived at the venue, found our seats in the very center of the main seating area, and about 10 minutes later, I saw a familiar face edging down the row toward me. It was **Jim Garr '82** with his wife. They had the two seats *exactly next to me* at the show.

"So Keith, what are *those* odds?"

"I also saw the same show with D'O [**David D'Orlando '79**] two days later, outside Boston."

### Ford Fay '82 writes in:

"Below is a picture of current Sage, **Nick Wint '15** (left) with my son, Sean Fay (Dickinson College, class of 2015) at Fort Dix last weekend during ROTC Challenge.

"Sean introduced himself to Wint by screaming across the parade ground, 'Hey, Cornell, you got any fraternities?' Wint said he was the Sage of Sigma Pi. Your dad will know what that means!"



*Nick Wint '15 and Sean Fay*



*David D'Orlando '79 and Larry MacLennan '82*

## CORNELL at 150

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi has just celebrated our 100th anniversary. Around the globe, Cornell is celebrating its 150th birthday. For more information, please visit, [150.cornell.edu](http://150.cornell.edu).

### SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

#### HONG KONG

December 15, 2014

#### BOSTON

January 17, 2015

#### WEST PALM BEACH

February 14, 2015

#### SAN FRANCISCO

March 6, 2015

#### LOS ANGELES

March 8, 2015

#### LONDON

May 14, 2015

If you are going to attend one of these events, please email Kurt Rasmussen '80 at [rasmussen\\_kurt@lilly.com](mailto:rasmussen_kurt@lilly.com) to let us know. We'll let you know which other Sigma Pi brothers will be there.



*Jim Garr '82 and Larry MacLennan '79*

# Mu Alumni Send Their News & Notes

In 1998, **Paul Reszel '51** retired after 38 years of orthopedic practice. He left Cornell in 1950 after only three years, heading to medical school at New York University's Bellevue Hospital. After an internship in Buffalo, he went on to spend four and a half years at the Mayo Clinic studying orthopedics. He celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary on June 12, 2014, and has five children and 10 grandchildren. Reconnect with Paul at 1618 Autumn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845.

**Nicholas Long '68** retired from Rhode Island College on December 1, 2012. Write to him to find out more details: nicholas@ntlong.com; 54 Taylors Ln., Little Compton, RI 02837.

**Don Rider '69** is a full-time professor at the University of Maryland, University College, teaching mostly online. He is also an avid tennis player. "My wife just retired as a congressional aide and is doing freelance writing. Saw **David Miller '70** for a men's beach weekend in May." Catch up with Don at drider1@verizon.net or at 18604 Tanter-ra Way, Brookeville, MD 20833.

**Jeffrey Craver '75** reports that he has recently changed positions. Previous to June 2014, he worked for Boyce & Dylum Pathology Laboratories in Columbia, Missouri. "Now, instead of commuting there and living in an apartment during the week, I live at home in St. Louis with my wife, Anne. We have lived at 401 Edgewood Drive for 30 years now, and we really enjoy the comforts of our home after all the renovations. Five years ago, we had major construction and infrastructure repair performed following a 100-foot-tall post oak tree falling on the house. My new position is very rewarding, and I enjoy working at a hospital run by nuns: The Order of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. The CEO and COO are nuns. A phlebotomist in my lab is a nun, and I often enjoy my conversations with her. I am the only pathologist, replacing three part-time workers who retired in June. St. Louis University is my employer. My family is doing very well. My wife and I traveled to Ireland at the end of September with her mother, who won a trip for two with a raffle ticket. Our daughter, son-in-law, and grandson are enjoying Middletown, Wisconsin. Charlie,

our grandson, likes trucks and tractors and can name all the different kinds." Keep in touch with Jeff at jlcpth@gmail.com or at 401 Edgewood Dr., Saint Louis, MO 63105.

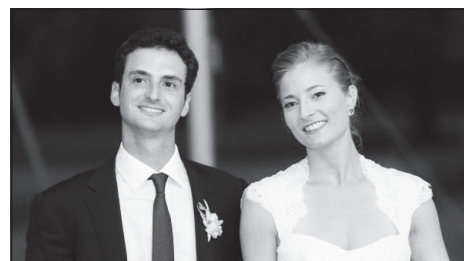
**Robert Fuchs '80** writes: "Moving half-way around the world and getting settled in a new home and job have kept me preoccupied this past year. I'm hoping to make a pilgrimage to the house in the not-too-distant future." Find out how he's doing by writing to him at robfuchs1@gmail.com or at 2815 Demona Dr., Austin, TX 78733.

"Took a job in Boston at the first of the year," writes **Mark Sherwin '80**. "Have become a part-time member of the New England contingent: drinks and dinner with D'O [**David D'Orlando '79**] and Tony MAC [**Tony McManus '80**]; missed the Boston Marathon with **Tim Hawes '82**." Reconnect with Mark at mdsherwin123@gmail.com or at 10696 Oakton Ridge Ct., Oakton, VA 22124.

"In 2013, I returned to Silicon Valley after the better part of five years in China, Israel, and Japan," writes **Quin Garcia '05**. "Together with a group of venture capitalists and automotive execs, I've formed a new venture-capital firm, which invests exclusively in transportation startups. We've raised some of the needed capital from strategic and financial investors and will soon start investing in technology related to self-driving cars, connected car software, and personal mobility services. Much of the Pi house diaspora has landed in San Francisco, so I often see many of our brothers out here, but hope to visit the Pi house in 2015." Keep in touch with Quin: garcia.quin@gmail.com; 698 Menlo Oaks Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**John Zimmer '06** is the co-founder and president of Lyft, the on-demand ride-sharing platform that was founded in 2007 with Zimride as its first of two products built to create a more social, sustainable, and affordable transportation system. John was recognized in 2009 as one of *Businessweek's* Top 25 Entrepreneurs Under 25, and has spoken at top-tier events such as SXSW, The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) International Conference, and Stanford Business School. With Lyft, John hopes to fix the current state of transportation across the country, and

eventually around the world, to make cities safer, more affordable, and better connected. Since unveiling the product in June 2012, Lyft has quickly become one of the fastest-growing tech companies with more than \$80 million raised and has been featured in *The Economist*, the *New York Times*, and on NBC's *TODAY Show*. Lyft is currently available in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego, Chicago, Boston, and Washington, D.C., with more than a million rides shared on the platform to date. Get more information at [www.crunchbase.com/person/john-zimmer](http://www.crunchbase.com/person/john-zimmer), or write to John at [John@lyft.com](mailto:John@lyft.com).



Congratulations to **Trevor White '07** on his marriage to Derby Anderson on September 6, 2014. They were married in Annapolis, Maryland, with several brothers in attendance. Trevor recently completed co-writing and directing his first feature film, as mentioned in the spring 2014 issue of *The Muse*. Send your congratulations to Trevor at [trevor.white@stthrower.com](mailto:trevor.white@stthrower.com).

**Please help us find lost and deceased brothers by contacting us at the address or email below. The alumni board is keen to reach out to a deceased brother's family and express our condolences for their loss and our loss of a brother.**

## Deceased

**David P. Dirksen '53**  
August 1, 2014

**F. Peter Knight '56**  
August 4, 2013

**Frank C. Sorochinsky '54**  
June 18, 2014

**Lee M. Werner '45**  
June 19, 2014

**Frank R. Vadney '56**  
April 18, 2014