



Above: Traditional brotherhood photo taken prior to the initiation dinner.

Calendar of Events!

June 5–8, 2014
CORNELL REUNION
 Celebrate the classes of '4s and '9s.

August 26, 2014
FALL CLASSES BEGIN

October 11, 2014
FALL BREAK

October 9–12, 2014
ALUMNI PROCRASTICUP
 Myrtle Beach, Florida
 Contact Mike Vernick '83
 (michael@giantface.com)
 for more information.

October 17–18, 2014
HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2014

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

Check our website for details:
www.sigmapicornell.org

Centennial Campaign Update

By Jarett Wait '80, Alumni President

I have exciting news to share with the brotherhood. I'm delighted to announce that, after completing this year's new-member recruitment drive, we have 18 new brothers, for a total of 70 undergraduate brothers. Next year, 2014–2015, we will have 41 brothers living at 730 University Avenue, with a majority being upperclassmen.

As an expression and statement of their appreciation for the ongoing support of Mu Chapter alumni, the undergraduate brothers have each contributed to the Heritage Centennial Fund campaign. **All 70 brothers (100% participation) have "skin in the game" with respect to this key fundraising initiative to extinguish the mortgage debt and to provide some additional funding for priority infrastructure needs.**

According to current undergraduate president, **James Alvarez '16**, "the active brothers were very pleased to participate in the Centennial Campaign as a mark of our current and future commitment to the brotherhood."

We are currently at the halfway mark of our Centennial Campaign, and we have raised or received pledges/donations in excess of \$136,000 toward our target fundraising goal of \$250,000.

Thank you to all who have contributed and supported this fund to date.

For those whom our undergrad brothers reached in our recent phone-a-thon, it was a pleasure to talk to you about supporting this important campaign.

For those who have yet to participate, you can do so online via our website, sigmapicornell.org, or by mailing a check with the enclosed gift form in the envelope provided. As a reminder, leadership gifts to the Centennial Campaign are donations of \$2,000 or greater. Leadership donors will be recognized on a Centennial Campaign plaque that resides in the Memorial Room at the house.



Undergrads present check to alumni board (l to r): current Sage Nick Wint '15, Alumni Board Treasurer John Haggerty '78, out-going Sage James Alvarez '16.

Attention, Brothers from the Classes of the 1990s

The alumni board is actively seeking representation from the classes of the 1990s to be a part of the alumni leadership of our fraternity. We do not have any alumni from the 1990s currently on any of the alumni committees, the alumni board, or on the board of the Mu Chapter Education Foundation. We are keen to make sure we have leadership from this decade involved and would welcome brothers

from the '90s to get engaged. If you're interested in exploring any of these opportunities further, please contact Kurt Rasmussen '80 (rasmussen_kurt@lilly.com), Chair of the Alumni Relations Committee. There are varying levels of time commitment involved, and we would welcome anyone who could dedicate some of their time, expertise, and passion to the sustainability of Sigma Pi, Mu Chapter.

Sage's Report

By James Alvarez '16, Sage

To begin the year 2014, the chapter held its yearly rush week. We attracted nearly 500 rushes to our first recruitment event: a record breaking number.

It was great to attract so many people, and it afforded us the ability to choose very valuable new members. The effort produced 18 new brothers. We are very excited to welcome them into the fold of Mu Chapter. They were initiated on February 22, 2014. This leaves us with a total of 73 active brothers.

All of the new members have jumped into the life of the house. They completed their pledge project and are planning their pledge party. Their project was to re-build the bar in the dining room. The new bar top is unbelievable; the pledges had the letters of "Sigma Pi", the radiant triangle, and the crest laser-engraved on the surface. You have to see it in person next time you visit. The spring party will be in late April and is "space" themed.

The ninth annual NYC Career Weekend took place in February and was a highlight of the semester for the brothers who attended. The full details of the event are covered in a separate part of this issue, but it will suffice to say that it was productive and memorable. I attended and gained valuable insights into the post-graduate employment world.

The brotherhood was also very busy during March. Brother **Liviu Rusu '98** brought his carpentry tools and skills up to Ithaca and helped start the renovation of the decking on the beach. Without Liviu's initiative, the project would not have happened. The brotherhood also adventured out into Ithaca for a day playing paintball at a local paintball battlefield. Spirits were high, and the bonds of brotherhood were tested and strengthened.

We also celebrated the initiation of our 18 new members at the annual initiation dinner, held at the Johnson Museum. It was a familiarly classy and heartfelt event as we welcomed new brothers and celebrated the seniors who will graduate later this spring.

Another highlight of the month was the "Omega Chi" camping expedition. It was cold and snowing, but we kept good company around the fireside and slept the night out in the woods. It was quite an adventure.

The pinnacle of our year will be during the month of May. It is the week of Slope
(continued on next page)

Meet the Newest Members of Mu Chapter: the Pledge Class of 2014

Reid Paoletta is an ILR major from Quogue, New York. He works as a general manager for Campus Promotions and is a statistics tutor with the student athlete tutoring service.

Tim Jalbert is a biology major from Bristol, Connecticut. He is a member of the Cayuga's Waiters and the club baseball team.

David Dellapelle is an ILR major from Morris, New Jersey. He is also a member of Phi Alpha Delta (a pre-law fraternity), Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Cayuga's Watchers.

Jsouo Kim is studying psychology with a minor in business. He is from Fairfax, Virginia and plans on pursuing a career in business consulting.

Zane Mokhiber is an ILR major from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. He is a member of the Cornell Commitment, with a prestigious Hunter R. Rawlings III Presidential Scholarship. He is also a member of the club soccer team.

Fernando Cevallos is an AEM major from Weston, Florida. He is a research analyst in the Mutual Investment Club of Cornell. Over the summer, he will be working as a sales and trade analyst at Morgan Stanley.

Steven Siegel is an AEM major from Manhattan, New York. He is also a research analyst in the Mutual Investment Club of Cornell. He is a member of the launch team for a new form of social media, called Chatter, to be offered to Cornell students next year. Over the summer, he will be working as an intern with the Interactive Data Corporation.

Mark Luzzi is an ILR major from Litchfield, Connecticut. He is a head research analyst with the Mutual investment Club of Cornell. He is also a member of the Cornell

Real Estate Club. Over the summer, he will be working as an analyst at Terra Capital Partners.

Marko Nikolic is an economics major from La Jolla, California. He is a member of the Cornell water-polo club.

Alexander Yablonavich is from Englewood, New Jersey and is undecided about his major. He is a member of College Mentors for Kids and a member of the club basketball team.

Jonathan Wu is an engineering major from Palos Verdes Estates, California. He is a member of Cayuga's Watchers and the Cornell water-polo club.

David Kogan is an engineering major from Manhattan, New York. He enjoys playing chess and basketball.

Andrew Walsh is an AEM major from Huntington, New York. He will be working as an Orientation leader next year.

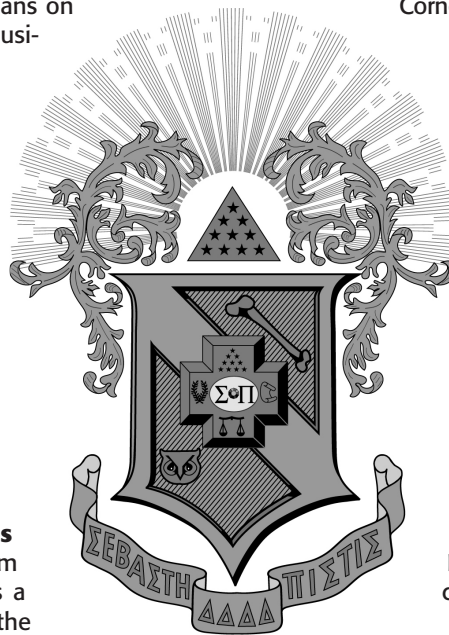
Sam Strang is a hotel management major from Rocky River, Ohio. He is a member of the club hockey team.

Daniel Janeczko is an engineering major from Clifton Park, New York. He is on the varsity lightweight rowing team. He is a member of the Red Carpet Society and will be working in a horticulture lab this summer.

Samuel Adam Schreiber is an engineering major from Tineck, New Jersey. He is a member of College Mentors for Kids.

Justin Bredhal is a hotel-management major. He is a member of both the Red Carpet Society and the Cornell Commitment.

Agustin Martinez is an engineering major from Weston, Florida. He is on the club soccer team and is a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.



Ribbon-cutting at Mitchell House for the dedication of the new headquarters of Sigma Pi International. Jim Keene, back row, second from left.



Sigma Pi International Dedicates New Headquarters

In late March, **Jim Keene '57**, alumni board member, attended a special weekend celebration to dedicate the new International Headquarters of Sigma Pi International in Lebanon, Tennessee. Lebanon is about 20 miles from downtown Nashville.

The headquarters is a 1906 mansion known as "Mitchell House." It was restored by the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain and served as its corporate headquarters until re-

cently. The first floor, which is a truly impressive space, remains as it was in 1906 and is elegantly decorated and furnished. The second floor of the mansion was remodeled into an imposing modern office suite that handily accommodates the staff of the fraternity.

The first floor is completely equipped with a catering kitchen, a formal dining room and table that will seat 20 persons, foyers, a ladies parlor, porches, and a library that

houses the Sigma Pi Museum's collection of items important to the history of Sigma Pi.

If you find yourself in the Nashville area, it is worth a trip to see the new home of our fraternity!

The address is 106 North Castle Heights Avenue, Lebanon, TN. Mike Ayalon, executive director of Sigma Pi, can be reached at (615) 921-2300 to ensure the office is open when you visit.

Sage's Report

(continued from previous page)

Day and the Orchid Ball. Slope Day will surely be one to remember, and the new Sigma Pi beach will be showcased in all its glory. Orchid Ball is also looking to be as elegant as always. The seniors have been busy planning the event, and it will be at The Barn again this year.

As my term as sage is nearing a close, it's grown more obvious to me that, as residents of 730 University Ave, we are only stewards of the heritage which is Sigma Pi. None of us built the chapter, and none of us are the sole owner. We can live here for four or five years at most. We simply arrive at Cornell and inherit this prize, then leave and bequeath it to those who follow. It is a privilege few are afforded. That is why the memories and sensations of this time hold strong and dear to our hearts. They hold us together.

I feel all these emotions, but, most of all, I am proud. The house continues to excel in all aspects of life on the hill. I have a few more years left at Cornell, and I want these good things to continue. More so, I hope you can summon your own memories, despite your distance from Cornell, and share with me the same vivid pride that stems from seeing the house succeed.

Mu Unites to Rebuild the Beach

By Turkel Anwar '15

From the countless barbecues under the rare Ithacan sun to the late nights we find ourselves gazing out into Cayuga's waters, the "beach" has always been a place where brothers have been able to form many lasting memories. However, it was recently learned that, in order to maintain the beach's functionality and aesthetic quality, the old deck must be replaced with newly constructed palettes every 20 years. Fortunately for us, Brother **Liviu Rusu '98**, former sage of '97, generously offered to use his expertise and lead the construction project.

To our surprise, the work was a lot more physically taxing than we had initially thought. Moving the lumber onto the beach, removing the old palettes, cleaning the membrane of the roof, and spraying down rubber support pads were all steps completed solely in preparation. The second half of the work consisted of measuring and cutting up the new lumber to construct exact replicas of every old pallet that we were throwing out. Within a couple of hours, the beach had transformed into a construction site, manned by determined brothers.

Despite the expert leadership from Brother Liviu and involvement of over 20 of the brotherhood, only about a quarter of



the entire beach was completed during the two-day timeframe. Brother Liviu was kind enough to leave behind his tools for us to use in the completion of the project. As we move forward into the spring, we plan to finish the entire beach by early April.

This project, as clear-cut as it might seem, was no walk in the park. Despite its complexity, this task was ultimately able to draw the brotherhood closer than it has ever been. After seeing how willing all the brothers were to drop their things and dedicate their time toward helping the fraternity, I can confidently claim that I have never been more proud to be a brother of Sigma Pi and that I hope we can continue to instill this level of commitment and passion in our future pledge classes to come.

*Announcing Our
Newly Elected
2014–2015
EXECUTIVE BOARD*

By James Alvarez '16

SAGE: Nicholas Wint '15. Nick is a rising senior and will bring unmatched experience and leadership to the position. He has already served as steward and alumni secretary and will do an amazing job next year as president.

VICE PRESIDENT: Connor Riser '16
Connor is a rising junior and will also be an invaluable leader for the house this upcoming year. He brings experience as a two-term philanthropy chair and as the vice president of programming for the IFC.

TREASURER: Brandon Choi '16.
Brandon is a rising junior and a fantastic addition to the executive board as treasurer. He has served as academic chair and philanthropy chair this past year, and he is one of the most dedicated and hard working members of the chapter.

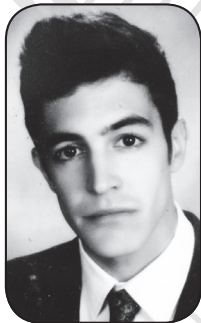
ALUMNI SECRETARY: George Chalhoub '16. George is a rising junior and also a highly experience past position holder. He has been social chair and brotherhood chair and will continue to serve diligently and to expand the position of alumni secretary.

HERALD: Michael Adelstein '16. Michael is a rising junior and one of three returning executive board members from last year's board. In 2013–2014, Mike did a fantastic job as vice president. His goal is to bring continuity and experience next year as herald, while optimizing our pledging process to be sustainable and effective.

SECRETARY: Alex Eacker '15. Alex is a rising senior and has had a wide array of experience in the house. Last year, he was herald and did a great job leading the pledging process. He will provide a valuable voice on the board as an additional senior member.

These new officers will undoubtedly provide steady and bold leadership to the house. I am greatly looking forward to the transition and to working alongside them next year. Congratulations guys!

What's Next for the Class of 2014?



Felix Tabary is graduating from the hotel school and plans on working for Bloomberg in New York City.



Andrew Luzzi is graduating with a degree in human, biology, health, and society and hopes to attend medical school one day.



Jeff Baker is graduating from the ILR school and will be working in real estate development for JBG Companies in Washington, D.C.



Jonathan Beckerman is graduating from the ILR school and will be working in LA doing talent representation with major agencies.



Josh Benamram is graduating from the ILR School and will be taking his talents to Bessemer Ventures as a Venture Capital Analyst.



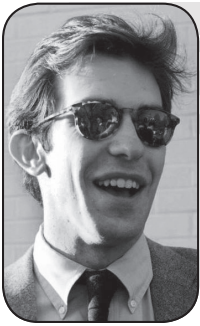
Brendon Viña is graduating with a degree in AEM and will be working at JPMorgan Chase in NYC, doing private wealth management.



Anthony Alvarez is graduating with a degree in AEM and will be working in investment banking for Guggenheim.



Nick Dawson is graduating with a degree in government and economics and will be teaching English in South Korea through Adventure Teaching.



Mateo Hernandez-Ysasi is graduating with a degree in AEM and plans on pursuing business roles with New York City startups.

Wassim Sanhaji is graduating from the hotel school and will be working as an F&B general manger at Tacombi.



Roscoe Balter is graduating from the ILR school and will be working in sales at Oracle in Boston.

Jonathan Hernandez will be graduating with a degree in psychology and will be working as a teacher and student interaction analyst, performing research on the New York City public school system.



David Baker will be graduating with a degree in agricultural science/AEM. He will be somewhere in the world, seeking adventure and gaining perspective. He is not sure what will happen but is certain with the uncertainty.

Tom Riccardi will be graduating with a degree in biology and will be applying to medical school over the following year. He is currently in the process of deciding what he will do during his gap year.



Nate Goldman will be graduating with a degree in biology and will be working on a start-up kibbutz in Israel.

Harim Choi is graduating with a masters degree in engineering management. He will be working as a real estate investment intern at Capstone in Englewood, New Jersey.



Three New Directors Join MU CHAPTER ALUMNI BOARD

Craig Dewey '06, Steve Ryan '77, and Dick Frey '62 were recently elected as directors to the Mu Chapter Alumni Board.

Craig Dewey '06, a former sage, recently relocated to Berkeley, California. Craig is writing screenplays and working on his first novel. He is a member of both the alumni relations committee and brotherhood committee.

Steve Ryan '77 practices law in Washington, D.C., at the international law firm, McDermott Will & Emery, where he heads the firm's lobbying, congressional investigations, crisis management, and government contracts lawyers. Steve married Lisa Ryan, and two of his three sons, John Lincoln '10 and William '14, also attended Cornell, while son Matthew played soccer for nearby Binghamton. Steve is a member of the alumni board's legal committee.

Dick Frey '62 retired in 2005 and volunteers with a number of criminal justice related non-profit agencies in the Rochester, New York, area. Dick was a full-time college professor since 1974, teaching law and political science courses at Lake Superior State University, Washington State University, and, from 1980–2005, at the State University of New York College at Brockport in their Department of Criminal Justice. Dick is a member of the legal committee as well as the facilities committee.

The alumni board is delighted to have the leadership and dedication of Craig, Steve, and Dick added to the alumni board.



Get Involved with Sigma Pi!

Join a Committee of the Alumni Board.

The alumni board has created a committee structure to allow more active directors and interested alumni to serve on committees that oversee the operation of the house. The committees will do the work that several individuals have done heretofore. We are always looking for new participants, so, if you are interested in becoming involved, please email Jarett Wait at jwait@jfwaitadv.com.

Committee assignments are made based on the following criteria:

- Preference of the board member or alumni as to the committee he would like to serve on.
- Consideration of required professional knowledge or equivalent experience.
- Desire to have a larger participation on committees of a general but important nature (brotherhood, history, and alumni relations).
- Membership determined by the by-laws of the fraternity (executive).

Executive Committee

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Wait '80 (chair), Rasmussen '80, Morrison '75, Haggerty '78, and McNamara '83

Facilities

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

FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Morrison '75 (chair), Haggerty '78, Frey '62, Keene '57, and Winans '15

Insurance

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

INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
D'Orlando '79 (chair), Robinson '57

Legal

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

LEGAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
McNamara '83 (chair), Ryan '77, and Frey '62

Development

This committee will work to facilitate adequate fundraising activity to ensure the financial needs of the fraternity. The alumni board as a whole will determine the financial goals of the fraternity. In the past, fundraising has been initiated in response to specific needs, such as the Heritage Foundation to help pay for the building we now occupy, the McGraw Place Project and the Beach Project, the poet laureate appearance, and the Class of 1980 Adolphus C. Hailstork Prize. A new fund, The James H. Keene III, Class of 1957, Sage Endowment Fund, has recently been set up to subsidize the sage to live in the house. The development committee will also now be responsible for increasing alumni support of the Heritage Annual Fund.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Wait '80 (chair), Haggerty '78, Robinson '57, and Finneran '81

Alumni Relations

This committee will be responsible for monitoring the overt actions of the fraternity to connect with its alumni, including *The Muse*, the Mu Chapter website, and use of the Emerald. The committee should work to

see that certain actions become traditional and predictable. Currently, the undergraduates appear to be unaware of any traditional practices, such as Homecoming and Reunion. Significant interaction with the active chapter's responsible members will be necessary to carry out the mission of this committee.

ALUMNI RELATIONS COMMITTEE:
MEMBERS: **Rasmussen '80 (chair)**, White '07, Dewey '06, Pens '00, D'Orlando '79, Vernick '83, and Rocklein '87

Brotherhood

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

BROTHERHOOD COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Pens '00 (chair), Morrison '75, Haggerty '78, Rasmussen '80, Finneran '81, Dewey '06, Keene '57, White '07

History

For details, see "History of Mu," page nine.

HISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Keene '57 (chair), Frey '62, Finneran '81, Haggerty '78, Rawitz '13, Alvarez '16

Nominating

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
McNamara '83 (chair), Pens '00, Rawitz '13

Special Purposes Committees

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

Mu Chapter Alumni Board Visits Ithaca

By Kurt Rasmussen '80
Vice President Alumni Board

In mid March, leaders of the alumni board trekked to Ithaca for several days of important meetings to help ensure the future of our fraternity.

We first met Cornell's associate dean of students, Travis Apgar, and Kara Miller in their Willard Straight Hall offices. The group discussed the current challenging environment for the Greek system and the most recent travails of other chapters, including Chi Psi (hazing) and ATO (loss of charter). Travis was quick to praise Sigma Pi for its leadership role on campus and was impressed that five directors were visiting him to discuss fraternity issues.

Next, we convened with Stewart Howe at their offices on Triphammer Road. Stewart Howe is the organization contracted by Sigma Pi to provide various membership services (e.g., publish *The Muse*, maintain the website and membership database, etc.). In an open and honest discussion, we reviewed the services provided to our fraternity by Stewart Howe. Together, we forged next steps and agreed on a course of action to improve alumni communications.

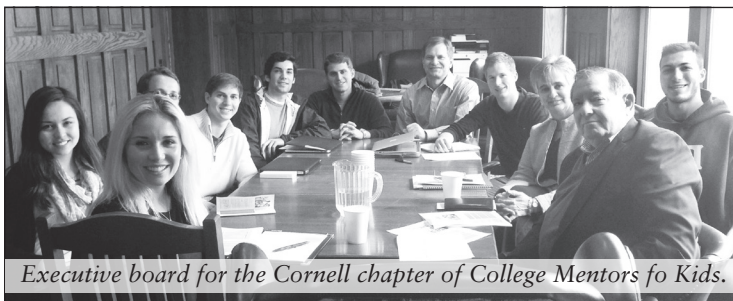
Later that day, we huddled with the house exec-board in the Memorial Library. The e-board members discussed their responsibilities and ongoing activities in the house. Strong positive feelings were expressed about the brotherhood and Sigma Pi's improving reputation on the hill. Specific topics of discussion included the parameters of the new two-year housing lease, the performance and pay of the house cook, the ideal way to conduct meal services at the house, and how to access and redress damage to the house. Actions for each discussion item were assigned. Importantly, it was agreed that all current undergrad brothers would contribute to the Centennial Fund.

Additional key meetings were held with our accountants, Sciarabba-Walker, at their new offices on East Upland Road and with our bankers, Tompkins County Trust Company, over breakfast at the State Diner (yes, *that* State Diner).

Our favorite "meeting" was to break-bread with the undergrads at dinner at the house. Patrick provided an enchanting repast of ham, green beans, and a Dolly-inspired, unidentifiable bread/potato mix-

ture. Interestingly, meals are now generally served buffet-style, without waiters. After the meal, during announcements, each board member shared his personal view on matters important to the house and the brotherhood. On a personal note, I was pleasantly surprised to see that finger-snapping is still the accepted means of expressing approval at a gathering of brothers.

The alumni board devoted a fair amount of time to observe the progress of the new Cornell chapter of College Mentors for Kids. This inspiring, non-profit organization is headquartered in Indiana and provides one-on-one, on-campus mentoring (see collegementors.org). At 25 different college



Executive board for the Cornell chapter of College Mentors fo Kids.

campuses, mentors help first- through sixth-grade kids understand the importance of education, show them the benefits to cultural understanding, and teach them ways to give back to their community. The Cornell chapter is the first one founded in a state that is not contiguous with Indiana.

The Educational Foundation of Mu Chapter Sigma Pi identified College Mentors for Kids for the philanthropic and leadership opportunities it could provide to the brothers. In addition to directly benefitting the brothers, establishing and leading this new organization could help showcase the true potential of the Greek system to positively influence campus life. The initiation of this effort was proudly announced on Centennial weekend. Bringing this organization to campus has been a genuine team effort. The Mu Chapter Educational Foundation provided the seed-money, **Sandy (Meek) True (House Sweetheart '78)** opened-doors with her extensive network of connections in the Ithaca community and school system, **John Haggerty '78**, in his position on the ILR faculty, helped us navigate the labyrinth that is the Cornell administration, and Sigma Pi current-active brothers stepped up to the plate and provided the undergraduate leadership.

During our visit, the alumni board attended the executive-board meeting for Col-

lege Mentors (which is always held in the Pi house!) to offer its sage advice. Following the meeting, the directors were joined by Ithaca community leaders and members of the Cornell administration at the weekly on-campus "activity." Over 30 second-grade "little buddies" from Caroline Elementary School met their Cornell student "big buddies" at the Robert Purcell Community Center on North Campus. The highlight of the activity was a presentation by Prof. Bruce Monger, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Prof. Monger, whose Introduction to Oceanography class has replaced Psych 101 as the most popular course on campus, entertained the gathering with an introduction to the world of oceanography and the path he took to become a scientist.

Later that evening, the alumni board hosted a special dinner at the Statler to honor and thank the invited guests and the undergraduate leaders. I am very proud to say that, thanks to a strong group-effort, Sigma Pi Fraternity is leading the way for the Cornell

chapter of College Mentors for Kids. The organization is well on its way to providing an avenue for philanthropic and leadership opportunities for many generations of Pi men!

Oldest Living Sage

By John Stetson '75

John Masters '48, sage in the late 1940s, lives near Burlington, Vermont, and is the oldest living Mu Chapter sage. I had the pleasure of meeting with John Masters. He could not have been nicer or sharper. I hope that I can be nearly as sharp at 90! We talked for about 90 minutes and both look forward to getting together again. He is a real gentleman.

John was officially the class of 1945, but he enlisted in '43 or '44. He returned from his tour in the military in November of 1945 and finished college in '48. As he says, "The house had been rented to government people, and it had nearly been destroyed. They even built a fire in the front hallway." After significant renovations, the brothers moved back in March of '46.

As sage, John Masters was one of the key leaders of Mu Chapter at the time and helped guide the chapter through a key period of Mu Chapter history.

The Power of a Unified Brotherhood

By **Nick Ornitz '16** &
Andrew Joseph '16, Rush Chairs

Following last year's recruitment of 29 new members, we continued the growth of Sigma Pi by securing 18 additional brothers this year. While some might look at the decrease in quantity of accepted bids as a misfortune, this year's recruitment truly represents the continued progress of the Sigma Pi Mu Chapter brotherhood. Stemming from the advice of the senior class on the impor-

tance of brotherhood unity during the recruitment processes, there were several distinct qualities that helped us overcome the many challenges to the 2014 recruitment period, which stemmed from Cornell's new rules governing rush and initiation.

The most defining feature this year was the collective contribution and participation by the entire brotherhood. Rush chairs **Andrew Joseph '16** and **Nick Ornitz '16** recognized the importance of full-house involvement. By continuing to collaborate

rather to allow pure seniority control, the brotherhood, as a whole, truly worked together. Leading up to the recruitment period, graduate student **Aaron Klein '12**, seniors, juniors, and fellow sophomore pledge-class brothers each voiced their suggestions for events and preparations. While it would have been easy for the older brothers in the house to want to regulate the decisions of the two sophomore rush chairs, we instead saw them a lending hand. As a whole, the brotherhood worked to encourage the importance of recruitment and to inspire what it means to be a brother of Sigma Pi.

Another significant characteristic of this year's recruitment process was the record-breaking turnout. Nearly 500 potential candidates attended the house's first smoker. While this was a great sign for the progress of the house, it resulted in a more difficult selection process. As sophomores, we were unsure if we would be able to take control of meetings and run through the pool of candidates in a timely manner. However, the senior leadership of brothers, such as Aaron Klein, brought a voice of experience and encouraged productive and efficient discussions.

After experiencing and leading rush week from the inside, it was clear what "brotherhood" and "unity" truly mean. This was a week in which each brother voiced his opinion and encouragement, resulting in a successful recruitment process. Next year is our chance to pass on our knowledge and experience of the process to the future rush chairs.

Educational Foundation Looking to Increase Impact on Sigma Pi Undergraduates

By **Aaron Klein '12**

As the newly elected president of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, I am excited and proud to say that 2014 has and will continue to be a year of great progress for our foundation. This includes our continued support of the College Mentors for Kids program at Cornell, which has provided the opportunity for Sigma Pi brothers and the Cornell student body at large to mentor local Ithaca children.*

In order to continue to expand our outreach and to diversify the makeup of the foundation board, we recently added three new members: **Tom Garr '76**, **Sean MacGregor '07**, and **Joshua Goldman '07**.

Moving forward, we will be increasing our efforts to promote improved academic achievement in the undergraduate brotherhood. The need for new initiatives is illustrated by Sigma Pi's lackluster performance in terms of grade point average, which, at 3.326 for the fall of 2013, was the 25th ranked fraternity on campus. The foundation board is currently working to establish an annual scholarship for academic achievement and for other programs to motivate brothers to excel in their studies. Additionally, the James H. Keene III, Class of 1957, Sage Endowment Fund will now be managed by the Educational Foundation to ensure that Sigma Pi can continue to incentivize undergraduates in their senior year to run for sage and to live in the Pi house.

The Foundation board is currently working with the undergraduate executive board to develop a speaker series where the brothers of Sigma Pi would regularly welcome scholars and business leaders to the Pi house to talk to the brothers on a variety of topics. The speaker series would also provide an opportunity for Sigma Pi alumni to return to the house and to share their expertise, experiences, and life lessons with the undergraduates. Any alumni who would be interested in taking part can reach out to me at amk282@gmail.com.

We look forward to finding new ways of impacting and improving the educational experience of the brothers of Sigma Pi and of welcome ideas and feedback from our fellow Pi men on how we can achieve these goals.

**For more information on the College Mentors program, please read "Mu Chapter Alumni Board Visits Ithaca" on page seven.*

THE NEW BOARD OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Aaron Klein '12
President & Treasurer

Sean MacGregor '07
Vice President & Secretary

Joshua Goldman '07
Vice President & Assistant secretary

Tom Garr '76

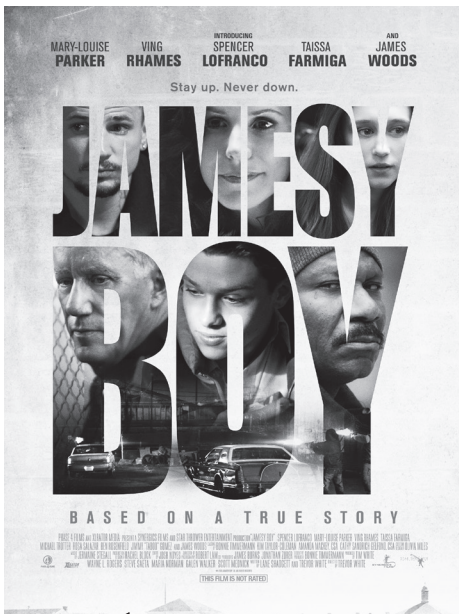
James Keene '57

Bert Harrop '61

Kurt Rasmussen '80

Jarett F. Wait '80





Career Weekend a Fantastic Success!

By James Alvarez '16

The ninth annual Sigma Pi NYC Career Weekend was again a fantastic success. As a sophomore, it was my first time attending, and I greatly enjoyed it. There are many people to thank, but, first and foremost, I'd like to acknowledge **Jarett Wait '80** for his indispensable role in the program. The program went smoothly and was successful thanks to him.

The event itself took place on Thursday, February 6, and Friday, February 7. After arriving on Thursday, we attended a session on networking, resume building, interview skills, and presentation skills. Jarett, **Steve Pirozzi '80**, and **Tom Silver '81** all led the

skills session, and I'd like to thank them for putting this together. Also, **Gordon Adelsberg '90** taught the undergrads about effectively communicating, both as a professional and in everyday life. That night, we walked to **Al Rosen's ('91) restaurant, Enduro**, and enjoyed drinks and a delicious dinner with our alumni guides for the next day.

On Friday morning, the students dispersed across the city to meet their various alumni hosts. The array of career fields represented this year was vast and included finance, consulting, IT, and more. All the students spent the morning shadowing at different offices and workplaces. The ability to see firsthand what professionals within your desired career path actually do every day and to ask them any question you want was one of the best parts of the trip.

I'd like again to thank all of our generous alumni hosts for volunteering their time to let us shadow them for a day. It means so much to us as we continue to define and discover our interests. I am looking forward to next year for the opportunity to participate again and to see how the event will continue to evolve and improve.

Alumnus Directs a Feature Film

After graduating from Cornell in 2007, **Trevor White '07** moved to Los Angeles and co-founded the film production company Star Thrower Entertainment, along with his brother, Tim.

Trevor just completed co-writing and directing his first feature film, *Jamesy Boy*. The film was released in theaters on January 17 and is available now on iTunes, Amazon, and On Demand, as well as on DVD.

Jamesy Boy is the story of teenager James Burns, who goes from the suburban street gangs to a maximum-security prison cell surrounded

by hardened criminals. In prison, he forms a friendship with a convicted murderer who becomes his mentor and helps him turn his life around. In this unlikely setting, James ultimately emerges with hope and a brighter future. It stars Mary-Louise Parker, James Woods, Ving Rhames, Spencer Lofranco, Taissa Farmiga, and Taboo (of *The Black Eyed Peas*).



Trevor White directing Ving Rhames.

Trevor currently has several film and television projects in different stages of development and production. He lives in Los Angeles and is a director on the Sigma Pi alumni board.

Brendon Viña: 2014 Brother of the Year, Recipient of the Class of 1980 Adolphus C. Hailstork Prize

By James Alvarez '16

I am honored to announce **Brendon Viña '14** as the winner of the 2014 Class of 1980 Adolphus C. Hailstork Prize-Brother of the Year Award. Brendon has distinguished himself as someone who continuously strives to be an exceptional brother. He generously has given to the brotherhood, and, for that, we would like to thank and recognize him.

He has served a position in the house every year that he has been in Sigma Pi (brotherhood chair, pledge-master, and secretary),

proving that he is dedicated to the fraternity and is interested in improving the lives of the brothers around him. However, he is much more than just the positions he has held. Brendon is also a great friend to his brothers. Whenever one of his brothers needs a favor, he is always willing to go out of his way to help out, and he never expects anything in return for it. Brendon's reliability, dedication, and positive attitude are what set him apart as this year's winner. It is clear that he has an enormous passion for Sigma Pi and wholly deserves this prize. Congratulations, Brendon!

History of Mu

By Jim Keene '57

A new committee, chaired by **Jim Keene '57**, has been formed to research and compile the history of Mu Chapter and its members. Anyone wishing to help with this project should let his interest be known.

The goal is to publish a coffee-table book that reports on events that occurred and that tells the story of Mu Chapter, of the culture of the times over the 101 years we have been in business, and of the personalities that gave life to the fraternity and continue to sustain it. The goal is to publish the book in the fall of 2017, the 104th year of our existence and the centennial of our chapter's association with Sigma Pi as Mu Chapter. (Perhaps we could justify another centennial party!)

Over the coming months and years, there will be requests made to alumni brothers to furnish information from their files or to volunteer information they think should be considered in the compilation. Some will be asked to agree to a video interview, which will become a part of the research basis of the history.

Take a few minutes to reflect on your memory of the fraternity, and to think about what you can contribute!

mu alumni send their news & notes

"Try to play golf three times a week," writes **Charles Ahrend '51**. Chuck also enjoys water aerobics and is living in an apartment at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. "I have three great-grandchildren so far and hope to get to Cornell next fall for Homecoming." Write to Chuck and catch up: webbq4u@myvmrc.net; 1491 Virginia Ave., Apt.201, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

"Two kids in college and I'm 70. Wow." **Thomas Cayten '67** continues: "Sorry to hear about Steven Corrie; he was my best friend in college." Catch up with Tom by writing to him at teccayten@comcast.net or by sending him mail to 21 Carroll St., Exeter, NH 03833.

In spring 2013, **Frank Canale '69** retired from full-time practice of law and from his position as a managing partner of a law firm. "I now represent several foundations and a museum and act as trustee of several District of Columbia trusts that principally invested in real estate, all from my iPhone. Mary Jane and I look forward to traveling in the next few

years to Argentina, Europe, and China." Frank has worked with the Cornell alumni group on several projects and plans to do more with them in the future. Reconnect with Frank at frank@francisxcanalepc.com, or at 3932 Military Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Gary Wood '69 retired in September 2012 after a 31-year career practicing municipal law, the last 22 years of which he spent as a corporation counsel (a.k.a., city attorney). "My ex-wife, Jane, and I have one son, Ben, who lives in Lexington, Kentucky. After retiring, I bought a house in Portland, Maine. Last April, I visited Jim Lyman '70 and his wife, Laura, in Chicago and Doug Soat '69 and his wife, Lynn in Janesville, Wisconsin. They are all doing well. 'Lymie' looks the same, whereas 'Dooger' and I are in desperate need of hair implants. So far, I have spent my retirement time relaxing, exercising, getting outdoors as much as possible, and traveling. Last June, I made my initial foray into Europe by going to Ireland for three weeks, and, this June, a

three-week trip to Italy is on the agenda. I would enjoy hearing from my fraternity brothers and seeing them, if any of them are in or would like to see Portland, which is a beautiful small city." Let Gary hear from you: garyclarkwood@gmail.com; 104 Van-nah Ave., Portland, ME 04103.

Deceased

Louis J. Conti '41
February 14, 2014

Adelbert H. Sahlberg '46
November 23, 2013

Edward J. Finnerty '82
January 27, 2014

Remembering Ed Finnerty '82

By Tom Silver '81



The brothers of Sigma Pi were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of **Ed Finnerty**, class of 1982. Ed passed away in late January due to complications arising from heart failure.

One of seven children raised in Watertown, New York, Ed's life was characterized by his selflessness and willingness to put his own needs behind those of his friends and colleagues. His years at the Pi house will be remembered fondly for their adventurousness and camaraderie. There were ski trips, road trips, late nights goal tending for SP2 Hockey, and countless other activities that Ed was involved with. He was an active brother with a huge heart and a big laugh and smile, and he was knowledgeable about life itself.

Ed's travels led him to Oregon, where he settled in the late 1980s. He said that his family was wondering why he was moving from the New York area: "Don't they have dinosaurs and Indians still roaming around Oregon?" While in the Portland area, he continued to pursue an active and outdoor lifestyle: skiing, hunting, bicycling, boating, and, on occasion, a cigar and a good glass of wine.

Ed, also known as Fred or Eddie, will be remembered as kind, generous, helpful, and, above all, a gentleman. May he rest in peace.

In Memory of Louis J. Conti '41

By Jim Keene '58



Lou Conti '41, one of the more well-known brothers of Mu Chapter, passed away on February 14, 2014. Lou was initiated in 1939 and was an active supporter of Mu Chapter for many years. Lou's brother, **Frank Conti '53**, who passed away several years ago, was also a Mu Chapter brother.

Lou was one of the few alumni brothers mentioned by name in the Centennial dinner program in September. Lou played football and was a member of the 1939 undefeated Cornell team, which was voted national champions. Lou was inducted into the Cornell Athletics Hall of Fame in 1981.

Lou served his country during WWII as a Marine lieutenant, flying dive bombers in the Pacific Theater. He flew photo missions over Japan to prepare for a U.S. invasion. Lou and a group of other Mu alumni who had participated in WWII gathered every fall at Howard Hulford's Curtain Bluff Resort in the Caribbean.

In 1949, he joined the Cornell football

coaching staff. He returned to active military service in 1952 and flew 102 combat missions in Korea. Lou returned to Cornell football from the Korean War and served until he began a business career in 1956, first with GATX, and then as chairman and CEO of Marine Transport Lines.

Lou was a director of Emerson Electric Company, whose management was largely made up of Cornell alumni athletes. Lou and four friends at Emerson, along with former Cornell athletes, provided the bulk of the funds to build Friends Hall on campus. The name they chose for the building commemorates the friendship cemented in Cornell athletic participation.

Lou was awarded the Distinguished Public Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The Cornell Football Association named its most prestigious award the "Lou Conti Lifetime Achievement Award." It recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the program over many years. Lou will be missed, but never forgotten.

Mu Chapter is proud to have had such men as members. We celebrate that he was a brother.