

The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 1998

From The Alumni President Heritage Fund II Gets Under Way

Heritage Fund II kicked off in August with the special mailing of a flyer, "It Is Truly A Heritage Worth Preserving." The announced goal is \$250,000.

The goal is more than a target; it is the amount we must raise to get our indebtedness down to where it includes *only* the mortgage—with no side notes. The income from room rent and dues will service the mortgage and operating expenses. The side notes were necessary because of 1) the failure of the original campaign to reach its goal and 2) the fire.

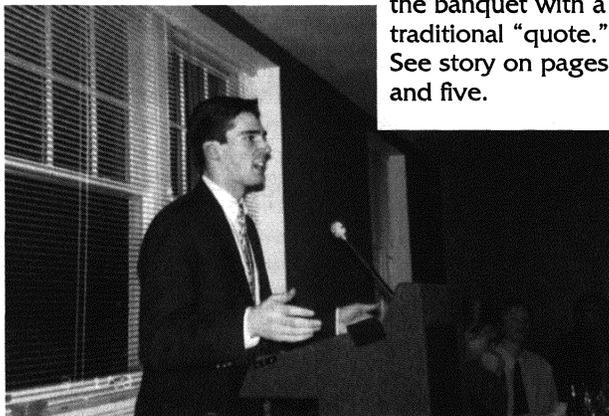
To date we have received \$55,000, mostly in the form of gifts from those who are already contributors. Contributions are starting to come in from first-time donors, which is encouraging! We have \$195,000 to go.

The undergraduates have their act together. They are now 43 strong. Let us, the alumni of Mu Chapter, show our support by quickly bringing the drive to a successful conclusion!

James H. Keene III '57
Alumni President

Alumni Board Hosts Banquet Outgoing Undergraduate Officers Honored

Sage Matt Pens '00 opens the banquet with a traditional "quote." See story on pages four and five.



Outgoing Sage's Report Eventful Semester Brings Many Positive Developments To ΣΠ

Last semester was one of the most eventful in recent Sigma Pi history, and I'm proud to say that all events were positive. Only three boarders live in the house this year, making the general atmosphere feel much more like a close-knit fraternity rather than a boarding house. That feeling of brotherhood is heightened by the increase in house security from the newly installed lights around the house, the re-keyed locks, and the beautiful wooden blinds on the first-floor windows. Other recent house improvements include the dining room blinds, rugs in the lobby and library, and tables in the lobby and foyer. The rugs and tables were kindly donated by Jim Keene at Homecoming.

On a Homecoming note, I thank all of the alumni who attended this year's festivities and hope many more of you can make it next fall. I also encourage all of you to stop by the house if you're in Ithaca. Five-thirty is the best time, as it's just before dinner, and most of the brothers are around the house. It's also a great honor to have one of you join us for dinner, which is served promptly at

6:00 p.m.

I would like publicly to thank Nick Reitenbach '57 for the experience I had last summer. I was an intern at Pinnacle Associates in New York, observing and learning from Nick as he dealt with the daily rigors of international money management. Altogether six of us worked in New York, and when we had the chance, we met for lunch and to catch up.

We took no pledges in the fall. Instead we focused our efforts on rushing, and I am happy to say that the fall rush was our most productive since I have been a brother.

(continued on page two)

upcoming events

reunion weekend
saturday, june 6, 1998
noon to 1:00 p.m.
open house tours
4:00-7:00 p.m.
cocktails

homecoming weekend
october 16-19, 1998
cornell vs. bucknell

Treasurer's Report

Mu Chapter Turns A Profit?

I am proud to announce that Mu Chapter is still free of debt. In fact, last semester the undergraduate chapter actually turned a profit.

This small profit, as well as the management of funds by the house managers (Jean Paul Simoes and Ray Shan), the social chairs (Jim Lauer and Matthew Pens), and the treasurer (me), has given Mu Chapter the ability to lower its chapter and social dues. This reduction in dues will help make Sigma Pi a financial option competitive with both other houses and housing options outside the Greek community. This will make the house more attractive during rushing and pledging in future semesters. Additionally, the reduction of dues has made it possible for the alumni board to raise room rates and cut down on losses.



Now that we are financially sound, I have also taken responsibility for payment of items, such as the dumpster, that used to be an alumni expense. The rest of the undergraduates, like me, realize that these expenses may be nominal for the alumni board compared to our debt for rebuilding the house, but we know that any little bit may help, and we are willing to do all that we can. The final aspect of next year's budget is the introduction of a capital investment fund with the profits the undergraduates have from their social dues. This money can be used for capital costs or saved for the proverbial "rainy day."

Faternally,
Christopher G. Huemmer '99
(Chris served as treasurer last semester, and is currently vice president.)

Eventful Semester At Sigma Pi

(continued from page one)

We now hope spring rush goes just as smoothly and that the ensuing pledge class is one we will be proud of. Among the things that contributed to our rush success were the now famous light party and our birthday party. For the former, invitations were printed on transparencies, glow-in-the-dark drinks were served, and a 300,00 candle power Skytracker was set up on the front lawn. For the birthday party, Peaches T. Clown handed out cake, balloons, and invitations, and the house was wrapped in a giant red ribbon, like a present. On September 21, we brought the Samples, a nationally renowned band, to Bailey Hall for a concert.

As an experienced president, I enjoyed a very influ-

ential role on the Interfraternity Council last semester. The council made significant progress, both in accomplishing the objectives of the Strategic Plan and in its efforts to improve rush for the coming spring. Unfortunately, as a community we will face a bigger problem next year. University President Hunter Rawlings' new housing plan involves moving all the freshmen to north campus starting next year. We will face the same problems that plague the distant houses now.

Sadly, next semester we will be without the presence of three brothers. Andrew Sorkin, Dave Goodman, and Jim Lauer are taking semesters abroad. Andrew will be in London, Dave in Rome,

Social Co-Chairmen's Report

Concert At Bailey Hall Among Sigma Pi Sponsored Social Events

The brotherhood of Mu Chapter enjoyed a number of social ventures during the fall semester. We threw two large open parties, staged a concert in Bailey Hall, held a weekly happy hour, and enjoyed a Christmas formal.

The light party, our first open party of the semester, was attended by more than 1,000 people. I'm not sure if it was the band, the strobe lights, or the glow-in-the-dark drinks that attracted so many students, but we certainly did something right. We've been working with a new catering company that charges our guests less to get in the door and that is much more professional than the other companies out there. Our latest party, the birthday party (actually the house dog's birthday), also attracted a huge crowd. On a night when not a lot of people went out and a number of other parties flopped, the Pi house was packed. We tied a big red bow around the house and even served cake. Presents were optional.

On September 21, Sigma Pi presented the Samples in concert at Bailey Hall. A band from Colorado, the Samples have a pretty big name all over the U.S. Although it was a logistical

nightmare to get everything in place, a significant effort by each brother helped us persevere. We sold tickets through the Willard Straight ticket office, the band was pleased, and the event was well attended.

Our happy hours have been another important cornerstone in our social calendar. Geared primarily around rush, they have enabled us to bring a lot of new freshmen to the house.

One concern that I do have about the future success of our social agenda is the decision by President Rawlings to move all freshmen to north campus. This decision could possibly hurt us (and every other house located outside on west campus) not only socially but also during rush. A lot of people outside the Greek community are very upset by this decision, and I sincerely hope that our voices are being heard by the Cornell administration. Overall, however, I am extremely pleased with the success of our social schedule. We are continuing to build on our solid reputation as a top house on campus.

Cheers,
Jim Lauer '99
Matt Pens '00

and Jim in Sydney. We will, however, have James Hulvat back. James has been doing a co-op with an engineering firm in California.

The social highlight of the semester was the Christmas formal. In an all-out effort that has become typical of Sigma Pi, we put on a classy night of fun and romance that's still talked about on a daily basis. We're all very proud of the great semester

we had, our impact on Cornell, the improvements we made as a fraternity, and the promise we hold for the spring and the future.

Liviu Rusu '98
Past Sage

"With a great deal of confidence in the future of the fraternity, it was my pleasure, in late February, to hand over the job of Sage to Matt Pens '00."

Alumni Representative

Traditions Throughout The Decades At Sigma Pi Fraternity

To celebrate our 80th birthday, I figured that rather than simply write a synopsis of alumni activity that occurred last semester, I would compile a list of traditions that have come and gone through Mu Chapter's life at Cornell. I would like to thank Earle Elmer '35, Robert Olson '46, James H. Keene III '57, Leonard Taylor '68, John Stetson '75, Fred Parker '75, and Ken Balick '83 for contributing to this article.

*Fraternally,
Christopher G. Huemmer '99*

1930s

Back in the '30s, Mu Chapter had close to the same number of active undergraduates as the current chapter does. Back then all of the brothers slept in a large dormitory upstairs. During this time there were few cars and little money due to the Great Depression. People would walk everywhere, including downtown Ithaca. Hitchhiking was a common custom; in fact, Earle R. Elmer '35 used to travel to Syracuse and back every weekend by hitchhiking. It was mandatory that freshmen wear "beanies" and that there be a shoving match between freshmen and sophomores outside of Willard Straight every year. The place to be was Johnny's Coffee Shop, while dances were held in the Drill Hall. One part of Mu Chapter that has remained constant throughout the years was the drinking songs. I am willing to wager that some of the songs we sing together today originated back at this time.

1940s

The '40s were plagued by war, and Mu Chapter's numbers dwindled close to nothing when our own left Cornell to bravely fight in World War II. Those who remained behind at Cornell were forced to stay at various places, such as Delta Chi's house, since 730 University Avenue was used to house troops. One tradition that remained constant throughout the decade was that at least one member of Mu Chapter was a member of the Quill and Dagger Honor Society at Cornell.

1950s

The '50s saw the rise of "Ike" to the White House. Meanwhile, the white house of Cornell's campus was the "jock" fraternity, with the majority of the football, track, and fencing teams all gracing its halls. However, women were not allowed inside Mu Chapter's house. The only exception came during parties such as Spring Weekend, when the dates commandeered the rooms of the brothers for the entire weekend. Oh, don't worry, there were chaperones present during the parties to make sure no Sigma Pi would be able to go upstairs. As far as other social events are concerned, Cornell could thank Mu Chapter's own Bruce Clark '57 for the introduction of rock-and-roll to the Ivy League campus. You may ask what the Pi men of the '50s did on their Friday afternoons. Well, the answer for a group of Mu Chapter's men was the Saint James' Club. These guys would get together at a bar named Jim's (currently the Chapter

House) and have a few drinks before stumbling back to the house for dinner. The reason they did this on Fridays and not any other day was because that was the only day there was an informal dinner. During the '50s there was an emphasis on dress, such as going to class in a shirt and tie.

1960s

When I spoke to Leonard Taylor '68, he said that the major event that he remembered when he was an undergraduate was the fall party Hurlothrumbo. Hurlothrumbo consisted of the brothers looking through the freshman register for the better-looking of Cornell's women while the sophomore NIBs "acquired" a large number of pumpkins. The event was considered the best party on Cornell's campus and was enhanced by the mystery, "What does Hurlothrumbo mean?" If any brother knows what the name Hurlothrumbo is derived from, please let me know, and I will print it in the next *Muse*.

1970s

Uh-oh, it looks like we have some dirt on the alumni board's secretary, Mike Quaid '75. I just happened to get my hands on the phone number of your roommate, Fred Parker '75 (thanks to the help of my accomplice, John Stetson '75), and the undergraduates have found you out. How come you never told us about Road Rally or the dollar pitcher nights at the Creeker where you used to calculate how much beer was left in the spigot in order to win

the case of beer every week? The '70s continued the mysterious tradition of Hurlothrumbo, and added the Rock-and-Roll Tea. The place to be in the '70s was the "Ponderosa," which was a non-insulated house down on the lake where the seniors of Mu Chapter would live. While it was a really nice place to live in the warm weather, when winter struck it was more like an icebox than a house. Beer was kept in the refrigerator so that it would not freeze.

1980s

The '80s were a time when Mu Chapter brought the sandy shore to Cornell for its annual beach party. Every year pledges would have to fill the dining room with sand, only to have to remove it two days later! The '80s also saw the addition of Boueymongers to the rush schedule, which remains the favorite of all future Mu Chapter brothers.

1990s

As for my decade, I do not know what to write. After all that has happened during the first half of the '90s, we have not really established our own tradition. We still do Boueymongers, along with pledge miles and the clown joke during pledging. I am sure that as we finish rebuilding we will find some new, exciting traditions to be carried on into the next millennium.



Alumni Board Hosts Banquet To Honor Outgoing Officers



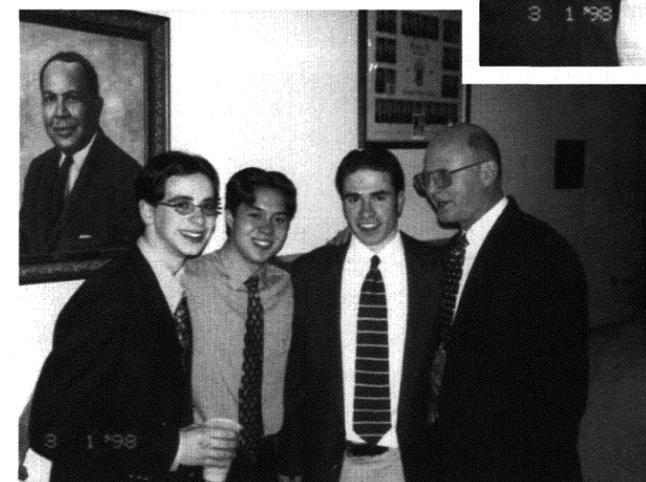
Mu Chapter alumni directors (left to right) Bob Nafis '49, Doug Parker '56, Nick Reitenbach '56, Jim Palmer '60, Van Robinson '57, and Jim Keene '57. (Director David Lefeve '60 is the photographer.)

A special event occurred in Ithaca on the evening of Saturday, February 28. The alumni board hosted a special banquet for the brothers and pledges to say, "Well done!" to those leaders who completed their terms of office in January as well as to honor Liviu Rusu, who has served as sage for the past three semesters.

The weekend was also Parents Weekend, so the parents were invited. It was a great evening! Seven of the 10 members of the alumni board journeyed to Ithaca for the occasion.

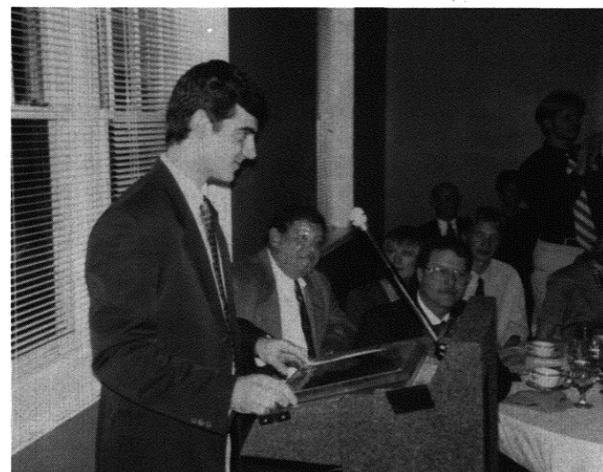
The newly installed sage, Matt Pens, did a fine job as master of ceremonies. There was a nice glow—especially from the alumni directors, who are immensely proud of what the fraternity is today; from the active brothers, who are having a great and successful time guiding the fraternity; from the new pledges, who feel a lot of pride in the group they have elected to join; and from the parents, who saw first-hand what a fine organization their sons are now a part of.

Left to right: Chris Huemmer '99, Kyle Kazora '00, James Hulvat '99, and Jim Palmer '60 discussing house finances.

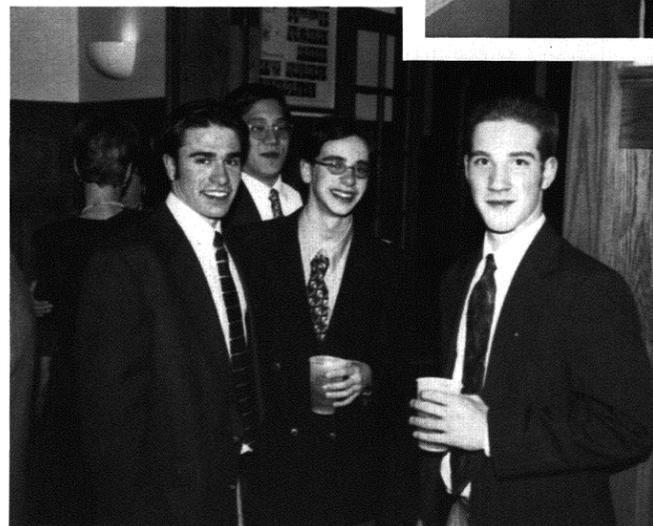
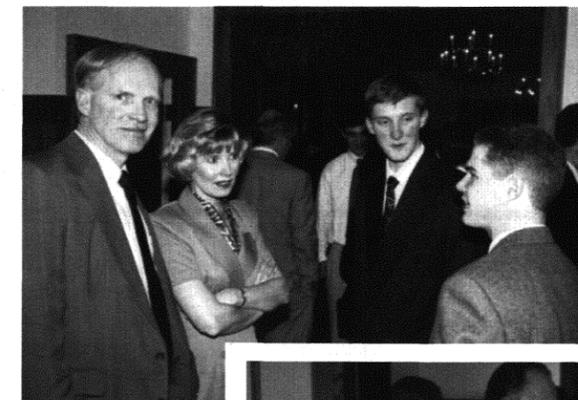


Left to right: Adam Coen '01, Jon Chew '01, Jon Campbell '01, and Dr. Kozora (father of brother Kyle Kozora '00) mixing with parents in the west lounge before dinner.

Former Sage Liviu Rusu '98 speaks to acknowledge the special plaque he was presented with by the alumni board.



Arnold Giedrimas '01 and Jason Cimeme '00 getting to know ΣΠ parents.



Left to right: Jon Campbell '01, Adam Coen '01, and Brian Yasutis '01. In back, Ray Shan '99 mingles in the Memorial Library.

Larry Keane '99 and his family with Craig Huemmer '01 and his family.



Mike David '01 and his parents before dinner.



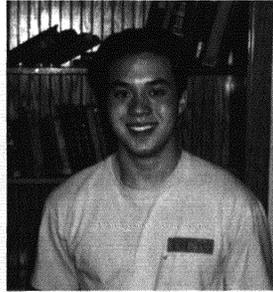
Fall Pledge Class '98: Diverse In Background, United In Brotherhood



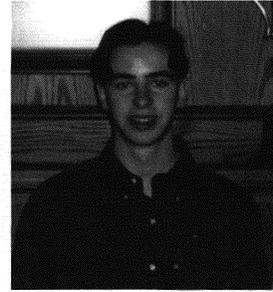
Name
Hometown
School
Major



Jon Campbell
Gloucester, Rhode Island
Arts and Sciences
Economics



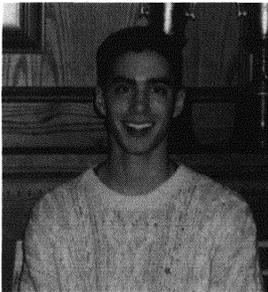
Jon Chew
Honolulu, Hawaii
Arts and Sciences
Economics



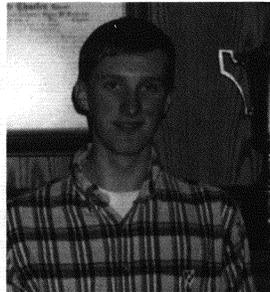
Adam Coen
Port Washington, New York
Human Ecology
Biology and Society



Jonathan Coll
Lancaster, Ohio
Arts and Sciences
Biology/Premed



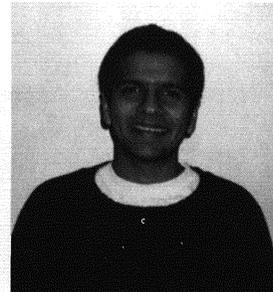
Mike David
Richboro, Pennsylvania
Arts and Sciences
Philosophy, History



Arnold Giedrimas
Newington, Connecticut
Arts and Sciences
Biology



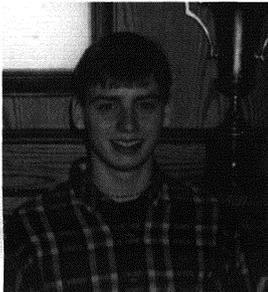
Craig Huemmer
Farmingville, New York
Human Ecology
Fiber Science



Sid Jain
Karachy, Pakistan
Engineering
Electrical Engineering



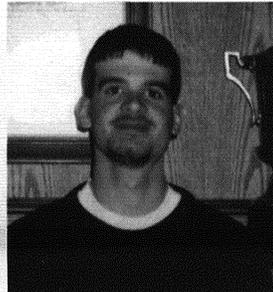
Noah Kanter
McLean, Virginia
Arts and Sciences
Chemistry



Nick Kruczynski
Newtown, Pennsylvania
Engineering
Mechanical Engineering



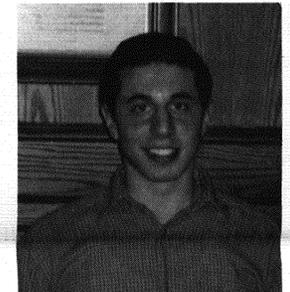
Sean McEnroe
Millerton, New York
Agriculture/Life Sciences
Neurobiology



Eddie Perez-Cortes
Flushing, New York
Engineering
Computer Science



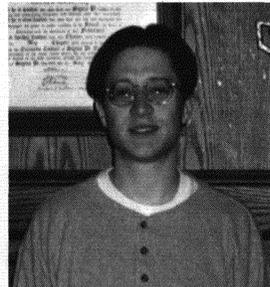
Alex Rivera
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Industrial/Labor Relations



Kevin Schagen
Staten Island, New York
Agriculture/Life Sciences
Animal Science



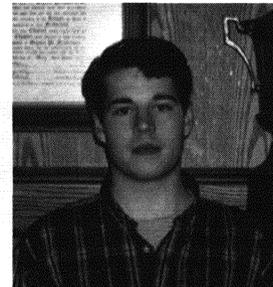
Sean Sondej
Vestal, New York
Arts and Sciences
Biology/Premed



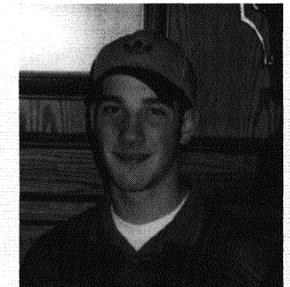
Eric Swenson
Lower Merion, Pennsylvania
Engineering
Civil Engineering



Sujay Turakhia
Liverpool, New York
Engineering
Electrical Engineering



Michael Van Ingen
Pittsford, New York
Arts and Sciences
Linguistics



Brian Yasutis
Absecon, New York
Engineering
Electrical Engineering

Rush Co-Chairmen Report Brothers Organize A Strong, Proactive Rush Week, Results: 19 New Pledges

The rush program of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi was a success. Rush Co-chairs Mark Lynn and Kyle Kozora worked closely together with senior brothers to ensure that this year's pledge class will continue to strengthen our chapter both through their increased numbers and by diversifying our brotherhood.

Activities such as social get-togethers with freshmen, rush expos, smokers, freshman orientation, and even trips to go-cart tracks were

actively participated in by every member of our chapter, establishing ties and friendships with new students. A lot of work went into organizing the rush schedule by the rushing co-chairs. We are proud of the results, in that we have a pledge class that will advance our fraternity and make all of our current members and alumni proud.

Fraternally,
Kyle Kozora '00
Mark Lynn '00



Because our last issue of The Muse was published in November 1996, much of the following news is somewhat dated. We hope you find it enjoyable and informative nevertheless. Send us your news today.

Best wishes can be sent to HOWARD CRITCHLOW '36 at 309 Bridgeboro Rd., Rm. 2406, Moorestown, VT 08057.

Make a note of this new address provided by WINTHROP "Buck" CODY '56: 8453 Abbingtion Circle, Unit 821, Naples FL 34108.

WILLIAM "Sandy" STEVENSON '62 is general man-

ager of the architectural and engineering firm URS Greiner, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. URS Greiner specializes in institutional building, such as hospitals and schools. It is the architect for Butterworth Hospital and Calvin College and has designed several new schools, including Rockford High School and East Grand Rapids Middle School. News will reach Sandy at 1225 Winterwood Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Scratch out your old address for JOHN THORNE '62 and put this one in your book instead: 405 Overview, (continued on page eight)

*Did
You
Know
That...*

◆ Two-thirds of all presidential cabinet members since 1900 have been Greek.

◆ Since fraternities began in 1825, all but three U.S. presidents belonged to a fraternity.

◆ 85 percent of the Fortune 500 chief executives belong to a fraternity.

◆ Today, 65 fraternities, with over 6,000 chapters on more than 800 campuses in the U.S. and Canada, include 400,000 undergraduates and a total living membership of over 4.5 million.

◆ There are 26 sororities, with over 2,660 chapters in the U.S. and Canada and a total membership of more than 2.5 million women.

◆ Well over 7 million dollars and a million man hours are contributed to charities and social service agencies each year by fraternities alone.

◆ 43 out of 50 of the nation's largest corporations are led by Greeks.

◆ 75 percent of our nation's congressional representatives and senators are Greek.

◆ 85 percent of U.S. Supreme Court justices since 1910 have been Greek.

◆ 100 percent of Apollo 11 astronauts are Greek.

ΣΠ

UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

SAGE

MATTHEW PENS '00

VICE PRESIDENT

CHRISTOPHER HUJEMMER '99

TREASURER

KYLE KOZORA '00

SECRETARY

MARK LYNN '00

ALUMNI SECRETARY

JAMES HULVAT '99

HERALD

JASON SCIMEME '00

HOUSE MANAGER

RAY SHAN '99

.....

ALUMNI OFFICERS

ALUMNI PRESIDENT

JAMES H. KEENE III '57

TREASURER

JAMES W. PALMER '60

DIRECTORS

DAVID A. DEWEY '54

DAVID A. LEFEVE '60

DENNIS P. McNAMARA '83

ROBERT A. NAFIS '49

DOUGLAS M. PARKER '56

MICHAEL H. QUAID '75

NICHOLAS REITENBACH '56

VANNES D. ROBINSON '57

ALAN ROSEN '91

MICHAEL R. SFAT '43

ΣΠ



(continued from page seven)
Prescott, AZ 86301-2171.

Make a new entry in your address book for HERBERT HOLDEN '63: 2108 River Rd, Seneca Falls, NY 13148.

Residing at a new address is BRUCE HULL '63: 6556 Worthington Rd., Westerville, OH 43082.

We have a new address for HENRY SCHUMACHER '63: 9 Coltsway, Wayland, MA 01778.

Keep in touch with PAUL KANE '68 at 243 Arbutus Ave., Staten Island, NY 10312. Paul is a vice president at Merrill Lynch.

JIM LYMAN '69 has recently been involved in the design of a new elementary-level magnet school that will allow students to become competent in both Spanish and English. "I have also dusted off my old percussion skills and am applying them, on a regular basis, in a rock band. Fortunately, we sound a lot better than my college rock band, The Orange Apple, did during our practices in The Grotto." Send your regards to Jim at 911 Lindan Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091.

BRYANT YOUNG '70 started his own business law firm six years ago. "My wife, Betsy, and I have three daughters, ages 12, 10, and seven. I have seen RAY POWERS '98 several times in the last year or two. He and

his wife live in the Silicon Valley. We got together one evening with STEVE HOCHHAUSER '68 and ED BAUERNEFEIND '67." Send your regards to Bryant at 64 Bridge Rd., Box 319, Ross, CA 94957.

KEVIN KRUSE '79 writes, "Laurie and I have recently relocated to Chagrin Falls, Ohio, with our sons Conner (5) and Garrett (2). Fellow '79er, CHRIS OLIE, lives nearby and visits often to drink my beer. I attended STEVE BERGH's ('79) 40th birthday party, which was also attended by DAVE D'ORLANDO '79, WAYNE BUDER '79, ANDY KANTOR '79, and LARRY PAGLIERANI '80. Several awards were given out: most gray hair (Buder), least hair (me), and biggest belly (a tie between Buder and Bergh). We all agreed we still can't figure out how we ended up with such great wives." Drop a note to Kevin at 111 Fox Trail, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.

Keep track of the whereabouts of LUC CHABOT '80: 15014 Ridge Lake Dr., Houston, TX 77082.

Another brother on the move is TOM SILVER '81: 15 Pengilly Dr., New Rochelle, NY 10804.

"On a recent trip to Ithaca," pens JOHN MENNELL '82 from his home at 3569A S. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22206, "I stopped by the house. Even

with all the changes, it still feels like home—right down to the check-off milk in the kitchen!"

Write to TED KRUK '85 at 85 Victoria Dr., Binghamton, NY 13904.

BRYAN HAPP '90 writes, "CRAIG TOMSIK '91 and I are on my back porch at Lighthouse Point, Florida, working on this newsform. He wants to know why pledges are turning left, and I would like to know why the pledges don't seem to know the clown joke. But, most importantly, former ΣΠ sweetheart, Jackie Hoyt Tomsik, says hi to the 'Doll,' and she wants to know if STEVEN COOPER's ('89) barm record still stands." News will reach Bryan at 4400 NE 27th Terrace, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064.

MIGUEL FERRER '91 has this to say: "I am well, but I want to remind all alumni not to deprive others of the same freedoms they themselves were given as undergraduates in Mu Chapter." Catch up with Miguel at Calle K#22, Villa Caparra, Guaynabo, PR 00657.

When we last heard from DEREK MINIHANE '91, his business address was soon to be 525 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

Make a note of this new address provided by DAREN BEDELL '92: 408 Kenwood, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Scratch out your old address for JOSEPH HELLERSTEIN '92 and put this one in your book instead: 3750 Hudson Manor Terrace, Apt. 4-GW, Bronx, NY 10463.

Residing at a new address is PHILIP SIVIN '93: 111 E. 30th St., New York NY 10016.

DECEASED

We regret to inform you of the following deaths:

LOUIS P. CALLAN '26
April 19, 1997

ROGER A. COULTER '57

JOHN K. FETTEROLF '59

ROBERT J. HENDERSON '58
August 1996

JONATHAN A. HUMPHREY '69
September 17, 1996

WILLIAM R. JOHNSON '67
July 2, 1997

FRANCIS J. LEMBO '45
October 7, 1996

RUSSELL W. MUNKENBECK '42
December 16, 1996

STEPHEN L. SINDEN '59
July 6, 1996

CHARLES K. STOVER JR. '28
July 24, 1996

EDSON C. STRANGE '24
January 1992

EDWARD J. WOODHOUSE '54
October 12, 1996

WELLS S. WORKMAN '43
October 19, 1993

Included in a list of deceased brothers recently published, were SCOTT FABOZZI '86 and EDGAR HOAG '63. We are happy to report that these brothers are alive and well!

THE MUSE

Published regularly by the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are welcome at all times and should be sent to Sigma Pi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.