

# The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SUMMER 2004

## Another Strong Year Draws To A Close For Mu Chapter

The men of Sigma Pi are wrapping up another successful year here in Ithaca. For the second straight year we enjoyed a number of triumphs at the Greek Awards Ceremony, and we're riding high on another successful pledge program and significant achievements in philanthropy. We're also looking hopefully to the future as we have recently made great efforts to improve our financial management.

At the Greek Awards Ceremony on April 25, we were successful in a number of areas. A member of Mu Chapter was recognized with the Outstanding New Member Award: Trevor White was awarded this distinction in honor of his dedication to our pledge process, his pledge brothers, the Cornell academic community, and the community as a whole. Additionally, five years of dedicated service were finally, fully recognized as Paul El-Meouchy '04 was awarded the Edwin Fitzpatrick Award for Outstanding IFC Leader. This is the highest distinction that an individual can receive in the IFC community and is given for outstanding dedication to the im-

provement of the Interfraternity Council. Finally, our chapter was recognized with the Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award for the second straight year. This award distinguishes a chapter for overall excellence in all aspects of Greek life.

On April 18, we initiated 26 young men into Sigma Pi. We are proud to see such a strong pledge class brought into the house once again and to see this chapter continue to grow so strong. Mu Chapter now boasts 88 men, and with only 12 graduating in May, we will return to campus with a roster of 76—a number that I think we can all be proud of. Which then begs the question: will the next pledge class push us to the century mark?

On May 5, Sigma Pi hosted its third annual Murder Mystery Night, which was hugely successful. This philanthropy dinner raises money for our charity, the Children's Brittle Bone Foundation, a philanthropy begun by the family one of our own brothers. As of this writing the numbers are not final, but we appear to have broken the \$2,000 mark.

Philanthropy Chairs Tim Lim '06 and Hugh Hayden '07 deserve much appreciation for this tremendous accomplishment.

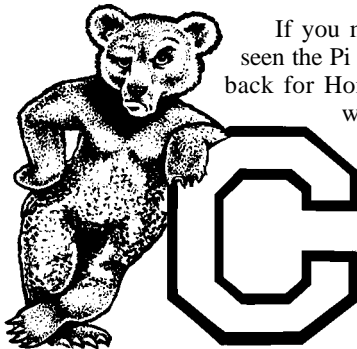
The chapter recently passed its annual budget and a few new bylaws to help aid in the improvement of our financial management. Many of the changes mark huge strides in adjusting our financial processes in order to address the kinds of issues that I mentioned in the last *Muse*: the chapter has grown significantly in just a few years, and it has become necessary to adjust the infrastructure of our finances to accommodate this. These steps are representative of many hours of work by our treasurer, Matt Weaver '06, as well as the advisory committee headed by Devan Musser '05.

All in all, it has been a busy semester for the Pi men, and I think that we are all looking forward to a relaxing summer to revive us for another year of accomplishment and success.

Fraternally,  
Matthew Maloney '05, Sage

## Plan Now To Come Back To Your Alma Mater For Homecoming!

**BIG RED VS. COLGATE • OCTOBER 16, 2004**



If you missed Alumni Weekend, or just have not seen the Pi house in a while, we would love to see you back for Homecoming on Saturday, October 16. The weekend is packed with events for visiting alumni organized by both Cornell and Sigma Pi. Saturday morning starts with a tailgating party followed closely by the Cornell football game. Coming back for the weekend will also allow you to come to the annual house meeting, where the events of the past year and upcoming events are discussed. Later that night there

is a formal dinner for everyone and live entertainment from a Cornell-affiliated performance group.

Homecoming is a great event for alumni who would like to see Cornell again in one of the most eventful weekends of the year. The weekend gives alums a taste of being in college again and can be a nostalgic visit for everyone. The Pi house hopes to see as many alums as possible back for the weekend so that it can be big and fun for all. We hope we'll have your support!

Fraternally,  
Alex Ballantine '06, Alumni Secretary

## Many Return For Alumni Weekend

On the first weekend in April, the Pi house held its annual Alumni Weekend, for which participation always continues to increase. The house was pleased to hold many alumni, both recent and veteran alike, for the fun-filled weekend for both the brothers and alums. The house was in pristine shape and impressed many of the graduates who may not have seen the Pi house in over 10 years.

Alumni Weekend was similar in setup, but was filled with more events than in previous years. Friday kicked off the weekend with a small reception, followed closely by a large "Texas hold 'em" tournament at the house. The number of players was well above 30 with a \$10 buy in, creating a rather large sum for the victor. The successful players continued for up to four hours in the heated contest. The event was a great and easy way for the students and alumni to enjoy themselves together.

On Saturday, there was a newly scheduled pledging activity for all the alumni, brothers, and pledges. The event was a complicated scavenger hunt, which forced the new members to use both their wits and intelligence to prevail. The event was great fun for all those who were involved, and it gave the alumni a chance to see a different side of the pledges and the brotherhood. The event was a great success even for our apprehensive alumni president, Jim Keene '57.

The weekend ended with the formal dinner on Saturday night with Pat's famous prime rib. A few words were said by some current brothers and alums, ending the evening on a nice note.

We hope even more of our alumni will return next year to remember their old college lifestyle and to see the current brothers enjoying it.

Fraternally,  
Alex Ballantine '06  
Alumni Secretary



*The pledge class shot after the long trek of Omega Chi.*

## Murder Mystery Night Raises \$2K For Charity

On Sunday, May 2, Sigma Pi Fraternity hosted its third Murder Mystery Night, one of the two major philanthropy events that Sigma Pi Fraternity puts on yearly. The event was sponsored in part by Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, and it supported our local charity, the

Brittle Bone Foundation. This year's theme was a spinoff of the highly successful television show "The Apprentice," starring Donald Trump. We decided to do a celebrity edition of "The Apprentice," and this year's Murder Mystery Night saw much more brother involvement than in years past.

The night started off with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner, during which a murder mystery play was performed for the audience. Vince Curtin '05, a veteran of Murder Mystery Night plays, played Donald Trump. Last year, Curtin played Janet Reno. Another brother who has seen his share of theater, Cory Sinclair '04, played Eminem, Chris Jefferys '06 played rapper Lil John, and Hugh Hayden '06 played Samuel L. Jackson. This year many newly initiated brothers were also involved. Lance Frankel '07 played George Steinbrenner, Michael Eisner '07 took over Curtin's role as Janet Reno, and Eric Hoffman '07 played Elijah Woods/Frodo Baggins from *Lord of the Rings*. Kappa Kappa Gamma girls played the roles of Martha Stewart, Tanya Harding, and Jessica Simpson.

In the end, Martha Stewart was discovered as the mystery killer, but Janet Reno was able to stop her in her tracks. The event was a great success, and we were able to raise more than \$2,000 for the Brittle Bone Foundation.

Fraternally,  
Tim Lim '06, Philanthropy Chair



*Left: Quin Garcia '04 as the devil scares all at Murder Mystery Night.*

## A Pledge Reflects

It seems like only yesterday that 26 individuals stood up and introduced themselves for the first time at the pledge banquet. At that time, we were 26 young men from all across the United States, with unique backgrounds and experiences. We hardly knew each other's names, or anything about one another. It seemed that the only thing that united us was the anticipation of what lay ahead. Unbeknownst to us at the time, we were about to embark on one of the most rewarding experiences of our time at Cornell.

During the three months of pledging, the pledge class of 2004 assembled puzzles, learned the songs of Mu Chapter, and even spent a night in the wilderness. We laughed at comedy clubs in New York, watched movies in Canada, and cheered at a lacrosse game in Syracuse. Our weekly quizzes rivaled classes at Cornell, and one-on-one brother interviews, while time consuming, were a great way to get to know every member of Sigma Pi.

Through the process, we learned to work as a cohesive unit, to communicate our ideas, to balance our finances, and to organize our lives in an effective manner. The goals of some of the events might have been unclear at the time, but for those who made it through, pledging taught us to show respect to the house, appreciate our pledge brothers, and work together as a pledge class. If one thing is clear from the three months of pledging, it is that the experience taught us how to be brothers of Sigma Pi.

The months of pledging could not have been possible without our pledge educator, Cory Sinclair. He ran our weekly meetings, participated in our events, and became a mentor throughout the entire process. Cory made sure he never left our side. He listened to our worries and taught us how to love Sigma Pi as much as he does. "Pledging is the most fun and rewarding experience you will never want to have again," he said to us during our first pledge meeting, and that certainly held true.

Today we are no longer just 26 individuals but a group of 26 best friends. The experiences of pledging have brought the members of the pledge class of 2004 together in ways that we never would have imagined. We are grateful to the brothers who guided us on our journey, to the alumni who have put in their time and energy to help fund and participate in the pledging process, and, above all, we are thankful for each other, for giving us the determination and will to make it through.

Fraternally,  
Giorgio Piccoli '07

## Cornell President Jeffery Lehman Visits The Pi House

In response to Jeffrey Lehman's "call to engagement," the Cornell Greek community held a reception for the Cornell president at Sigma Pi sponsored by the Creating Chapters of Excellence program. Several members of Cornell's Greek leadership put together a presentation for President Lehman describing the great advantages that fraternities and sororities provide to students, such as leadership opportunities, character and social development, philanthropy and service, and networking opportunities with alumni. For example, Cornell Greeks have contributed almost \$200,000 in fundraising activities in the year 2002-2003, as well as volunteering for about 29,000 hours of community service. The presentation also included a vision of where our Greek community will be in the year 2015. Our hope is that Cornell's student leadership will continue to be Greek and that all chapters will meet the standards established by the Creating Chapters of Excellence program.

President Lehman then entertained a dis-

cussion with the students, challenging the weaknesses of our Greek system and discussing how its strength can help overcome the threats to our system. The students shared their concerns about aspects of the Cornell administration that seem unfriendly to fraternities and sororities despite all the positive contributions made by the Greek community. The discussion touched on the great strides that have taken place to eliminate hazing as well as to limit fraternities' liability when

it comes to social functions. In the end, the president agreed that fraternities and sororities provide a strong supplement to a Cornell education.

Hopefully, the call to engagement is one of many opportunities Cornell students will have to share their thoughts and concerns about the Greek system with someone who can help to improve it.

Fraternally,  
Paul El-Meouchy '04

*Our hope is that Cornell's student leadership will continue to be Greek and that all chapters will meet the standards established by the Creating Chapters of Excellence program.*



Giorgio Piccolio '07 helps to make teddy bears during a philanthropy event.

## Sigma Pi Member Elected Student Trustee

Last month, current exec board officer and academic chair Josh Katcher '06 was elected to Cornell's board of trustees. The election lasted a grueling three weeks, but after countless handshakes, stump speeches, editorials, interviews, and publicity runs, he emerged the winner. This year's contest included four undergraduates, two graduates, and one student seeking his MBA.

In this new capacity Josh has, in his own words, "the awesome task of representing the more than 21,500 students world-wide." Although his term officially begins on July 1, he has already begun meeting with key administrators, trustees, and even President Lehman in an effort to come through on his campaign promises of ridding students of unreasonable fees, improving TA English proficiency levels, and resolving the brewing club sports crisis.

Josh welcomes comments and would love to hear from you. Was there an issue that bothered you when you were here at Cornell? Is there something you would like to see Cornell working on? If so, he looks forward to hearing from you either by e-mail (jdk38@cornell.edu), by phone (703/440-9706), or the next time you drop by the house. The Pi house is proud to add Josh to its list of student leaders and promising young men.

Fraternally,  
Alex Ballantine '06  
Alumni Secretary

## Alumni Spotlight: Brian Finneran '81

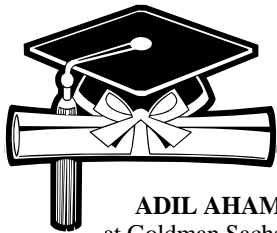
Brian M. Finneran is founding partner of Intermedia Production & Events group with offices in the Empire State Building in New York City. A graduate of the hotel school, Brian has extensive experience in the hospitality industry in catering and event management, sales and marketing, business development, food and beverage management, hotel operations, human resources, and finance. He has applied his skills for major corporations, non-profit groups, political parties, venture capitalists, and celebrities.

Prior to forming his current company, Brian held the position of director of marketing and catering at the 21 Club and before that held similar positions at the Tavern on the Green and the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Over the years he has formed strategic business alliances with some of New York's most prominent four-star chefs. He has produced, designed, and executed scores of high-profile events including several presidential and celebrity driven events.

The core mission of Brian's current company, Intermedia Production & Event Group, is to create experiences that increase sales, build brand presence, and ensure effective communication. As a live event production company, leading firms nationwide rely on Intermedia's expertise on integrating live events, meetings, and traditional and interactive media to assist in building strong customer relationships, brand effectiveness, and advocacy in and out of the organization.

Brian lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, with his wife, Kim, and their three children, Luke, Katie, and Paige. He can be reached by phone at 212/629-9393 (office) or 917/902-0299 (cell) and by e-mail at binneran@intermedia.com.

Fraternally,  
Alex Ballantine '06  
Alumni Secretary



# SENIOR PLANS

**ADIL AHAMED** will be working for the next two years at Goldman Sachs in New York City as an operations analyst. He looks forward to working 60-plus hours a week.

**BRIAN CHANGLAI** will be attending graduate school to pursue a master's in science.

**HERNAN DONOSO** will be moving to South America to gain certification as a master scuba diver. Years from now he will probably right the great American novel—in Dutch.

**PAUL EL-MEOUCHY** will be going with some brothers to Corsica this summer to do the GR20, the north-south trail through the entire island, measuring 124 miles and rated by some as the most difficult trail in Europe. After that, he will be working as an actuary for Deloitte and Touche in New York City. He also hopes to join a rugby union in the city and continue backpacking in his free time.

**QUIN GARCIA** will be graduating in December, then going back home to California, where he hopes to be accepted to Stanford's management science and engineering graduate program for fall 2005. Until he gets into grad school, he'll be searching for a job of some kind and racing cars at an amateur level in his free time.

**MARK HARRISON** will be moving back to New York City and pursuing a career as a freelance writer.

**JOEL HERNANDEZ** will be moving back to Miami where he plans to start his career in advertising.

**NOAH BENJAMIN KORETZ** is taking time off before law school. He will be living in New York City, working at the law firm of Outten & Golden in Manhattan.

**MATTHEW LIBA** will be working outside of Boston in New Hampshire for BAE Systems (British Aerospace). He'll also be attending grad school part time at Boston University, going for a master's in manufacturing engineering.

**SAI PIDATALA** will be graduating with his BA in government and hopes to be working abroad next year doing some community service related work.

**CORY SINCLAIR** will be living in Boston and attending Northeastern University for a four-year co-op program in which he will receive a law degree, MBA, and master's degree in accounting.

**TYREL WHILDEN** is taking a year off before law school. He will be teaching conversational English in Japan until August 2005. All brothers are encouraged to visit!

Fraternally,  
Ty Whilden

# ALUMNI MAILBAG



Retired from U.S. Steel Corporation since 1979, ROBERT K. SLUSSER '38 reports that he's lived alone for the last five years. "Am not the best housekeeper," he concedes, "but I keep busy." Drop him a line at 2470 W. 64th Ave., Merrillville, IN 46410.

JOHN W. LLOYD '49 moved back to Ithaca two years ago and is living at Longview, a retirement complex on South Hill. His address is 105 Bella Vista Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850 (jlloyd1@twcny.rr.com). He and his wife, Clara, take courses at Ithaca College, which they really enjoy: "We learn a lot but don't have to take any tests or write any papers."

Please note this new address for FREDERICK W. KRIEGER JR. '57: 6470A Glenway Ave., #112, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

THOMAS E. CAYTEN '64 has a new e-mail address: tecayten@comcast.net. He lives at 21 Carroll St., Exeter, NH 03833.

HENRY DUNNENBERGER '77 works for Corning Cable Systems, where he's senior vice president of sales and marketing, private networks, for Europe, the Middle East, and Asia Pacific. Write to him at hank.dunnenberger@corning.com or at Nurnberger Str. 45A, 10789 Berlin, GERMANY.

Stay in touch with LAWRENCE J. KANTOR '80 at 6735 Alta Vista Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275, or at kantor707@hotmail.com.

"Life in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, is great," writes TIMOTHY M. HAWES '82

(8157 Seven Mile Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082; thawes@pgatourhq.com). "Recently hooked up with MIKE VERNICK '83 and his family and spent a great day at Disney World. Also had a visit from NICK VOJNOVIC '81 during the Players Championship. All visitors to the Jacksonville area are welcome."

Since leaving his former employer in February 2003, GEORGE W. ROCKLEIN '87 has been doing independent consulting work and playing lots of golf. "Still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up!" Send suggestions to George at gwr6@cornell.edu or at 944 Timber Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

Congratulations to Juliet and GUY L. DiPIETRO '89 on the birth of their first son, Nicolas. Send best wishes to the DiPietro family at 38 Cliftwood Dr., Huntington, NY 11743, or at gdipietr@optonline.net.

DEREK E. MINIHAINE '91 and his wife, Susan, welcomed their second daughter, Caroline, on January 8, 2004. They make their home at 1468 Flamingo Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

Stay in touch with SEAN W. SONDEJ '01 at sws13@cornell.edu or at 1836 Country Lane, Durham, NH 27713.

IRFAAN LALANI '02 writes, "After taking a leave of absence from the Cornell hotel school in May 2003, I decided to travel and find myself. My first trip was about two months in South Africa. I traveled from Johannesburg to Cape Town. I also went to

Mozambique and Uganda. This was truly a moving experience: I was able to see where my parents were from and what they grew up with. It inspired me to succeed no matter what obstacles I had to face. I came back to Dallas, Texas, and launched a wireless internet service provider with a friend from Cornell. The company is called Wireless Age and is headquartered in Austin, Texas. We specialized in wireless technology for the hotel industry. Later on that year I decided that I still had the travel bug and took off for Southeast Asia. I traveled around Thailand for about a month and a half. I visited historic Buddhist monasteries and lounged on remote island beaches. Once again I was inspired; I came back and took on the task of running one of my parents' restaurants. We decided that we would go back to Africa, but this time to East Africa. We went to Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and Mombassa. I went on about eight safaris that were simply breathtaking. The trip was about a month and a half. Recently, I purchased a hotel in downtown Toronto, two blocks away from the Eaton Center. It is a historic building that needs a lot of remodeling to get it to where I want it to be, but I enjoy the challenge. Along with this, I have started to take flying lessons, and within a month or two I should be a certified pilot." Irfaan can be reached at irfaanL@yahoo.com or at 928 Sleepy Hollow Dr., Cedar Hill, TX 75104.

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of HENRY H. WESTCOTT '36 in November 2002.



The Acoustic Café philanthropy event in December 2003 raised \$1,300 for our favorite charity, the Children's Brittle Bone Foundation.



## Have You Seen Any Of These “Lost” Alumni?

You may know where some of these brothers are—but *we* don’t! If you can provide a postal or e-mail address for any of them, let us know, and we’ll get them back in our database so that they can begin receiving *The Muse*, event announcements, and other mailings to our alumni. Just write to us at Sigma Pi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876. Thank you!

John Alkaya '81

Richard J. Andrew '65

Marshall H. Beatty Jr. '65

Richard P. Beck '71

Darren R. Bedell '92

James J. Beggs '63

Charles Bevilacqua '86

George W. Breger

Arnold R. Brown '56

Dennis E. Bullard '85

James F. Burke III '70

William W. Carruth '69

Michael P. Case '80

Steven L. Cerritelli '02

Jeff Charbowe '93

Paul R. Coombs '40

Mark E. Corigliano '93

Charles F. Crabb '70

Ralph O. Dunker Jr. '66

David E. Farrington '37

John M. Finley '68

Ben C. Ford '66

Guilford R. Garnsey '70

Peter H. Gaskell '68

Charles Lewis Gilbert '53

Howard Goldfarb '83

James N. Greene '67

Willard M. Guntner

Neil M. Hahl '70

Frank W. Hamlet '38

G. David Hardy Jr. '58

Derek Harrison '93

William Hercenak '49

Michelle Herlihy T'96

Foster G. Hetzel '44

Craig A. Hurley '98

William S. Hyatt '68

Frederick W. Janssen Jr. '27

Alexander Bruce Jarvis '39

Paul S. Jenkins '60

Albert M. Johnson '23

Walter C. Johnson '44

Cary A. Jones '70

James J. Kang '87

Jason I. Kass '98

Brian J. Kelly '83

Stephen E. Kiley '72

William M. Kreglow III '62

Lyndon H. Kreisel '59

Nicholas A. Kruczynski '01

Odell Lambroza '86

David W. Lippert '33

Mark C. Lippmann '94

Victor M. Livingston '71

William L. Malone

Thomas J. McCabe '40

John O. McDonald '65

Charles D. McQuillen '60

Christopher K. Medved '65

John E. Mennell '82

Steven L. Montanari '73

Brendan J. Murphy '86

Stefan Nachuk '85

Richard G. Nissi '79

Myron W. Osborn Jr. '36

Albert H. Oswald Jr. '42

Steven B. Parker '86

Corles M. Perkins '42

Richard A. Press '91

Paul Robbins '70

William Roberts '33

Charles H. Robinson '50

Marc S. Rose '71

Neil J. Rothouse '83

Paul A. Ruoff '66

Gary L. Ryder '69

Charles A. Saderholm Jr. '54

Reed V. Sallak '63

Anthony G. Sands '59

John A. Scafidi '65

John R. Schroeder '96

Mark D. Schroeder '98

Stephen B. Silverman '84

Clifford N. Simon '86

Walter Simons '46

Jonathan Singer '94

Joseph D. Slesar '86

David A. Smith '82

Bruce P. Stanberry '72

Jeffrey S. Sugarman '93

Forrest C. Symmes III '68

Ralph E. Taylor '63

William G. Taylor

David E. Tesar '69

Stanley Y. Tom '69

Michael W. Tresemer '72

Peter H. Turner '60

Frank R. Vadney '56

Michael J. VanIngen '01

David G. VanderVeer '57

Robert K. Wager '67

Henry A. Walden '35

Edward S. Walsh J. '51

Frederick L. Walter '58

Luther S. West '21

James E. Wolle '52

Gary C. Wood '69

Gilbert P. Wood '65

Mark R. Wood '88

Floyd G. Worrell III '72

Frederick W. Wrede Jr. '24

Robert F. Wynne '93

Robert C. Zimmerman '67