

Mu Chapter Online

Visit Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi online at www.sigmapi Cornell.org! You can read about chapter activities, get to know the alumni board, find other brothers, network, give, and share news or photos of your own.

Support the Heritage Annual Fund

Your support of the **Sigma Pi Heritage Annual Fund** will help protect the legacy of Sigma Pi. Your annual financial support of Sigma Pi is entirely voluntary, but very critical. Please consider making a donation by returning the enclosed gift form with your contribution, or by visiting our website at www.sigmapi Cornell.org.

Mu Chapter Centennial Celebration:

Thursday–Sunday, September 5–8, 2013

In the spring of 1913 a group of students organized themselves into a fraternity. They chose the Greek name “Omega Delta.” They rented a house at 636 Stewart Avenue and became a part of Greek life at Cornell. In 1917 Omega Delta petitioned Sigma Pi and became Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi as a result. All of you reading this article are and have been a part of the 100 years of Omega Delta–Sigma Pi.

The celebration will be held September 5–8, 2013. Start planning your trip!

We need to know as soon as possible who is coming, as the number of attendees will affect plans. Please let the committee know now if you can attend; email sigmapicentennial@gmail.com. We will publish a list of those who have confirmed on the chapter website, www.sigmapi Cornell.org. Watch the website for more announcements as the

plans are completed.

Blocks of 25 rooms each at local hotels have been reserved. Make your room reservations now at one of the following hotels where we have reserved room blocks:

- The Statler Hotel; \$210 per night (single or double). Call 1 (800) 541-2501.
- Hilton Garden Inn; \$169 per night (single or double). Call (607) 277-8900.
- Ithaca Courtyard by Marriott; \$179 per night (single or double). Call 1 (800) 330-3762.

More information regarding the hotels above and alternative accommodations is available online at www.sigmapi Cornell.org. You can find alternative accommodations by searching online for “Ithaca motels.”

Details are still being worked out, but we can share an overview of the plans thus far:

Tentative Schedule for the Centennial Celebration: September 2013

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- “Beach” cookout for early arrivals

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Golf tournament
- Campus tours for alumni with undergraduate guides
- Afternoon lecture for alumni from a noted faculty member
- Cocktails and dinner at Mu Chapter, 730 University Ave.
- “Toasts and Roasts” (informal fun) will follow dinner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- Visit Cornell on your own or with an undergraduate brother as a guide
- Picnic lunch on campus
- Cocktails and the **Centennial Dinner Celebration**, with a special presentation reviewing our first 100 years on campus. The celebration will culminate with the “Music of Cornell,” performed by members of the Cornell glee club.
- The celebration will continue with dancing, music, and reliving the past

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- Brunch, allowing brothers to share one more meal together and say goodbye to one another after a memorable weekend.

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!

This is one celebration you won’t want to miss. To get the most out of the weekend, make sure you help the committee prepare by confirming your attendance, and don’t forget to send us stories and photos for the Centennial Book.

Alumni President Promotes Centennial Celebration in 2013

By Alumni President Jim Keene '57

At the recent annual meeting of the fraternity, I was honored to be re-elected as president of the Alumni Board of Mu Chapter. The coming year, 2013, will be a significant year in the life of Mu Chapter as it will mark our 100th year as a member of the Greek community at Cornell.

We are changing the format of the work of the alumni board to rely on structured committees to carry out the traditional work of the board and expand its activities. Standing committees have been formed: Brotherhood, Chair Matt Pens '00; Legal, Chair Steve Hobbs '80; Facilities, Chair Jim Keene '57; Development, Chair Jarett Wait '80; Alumni Relations, Chair Kurt Rasmussen '80; Insurance, Chair Dave D'Orlando '79; and a special committee to plan and carry through with the Centennial Celebration, Co-Chairs Jim Keene '57 and Brian Finneran '81.

The climate for Greek organizations at Cornell is changing, and changing rapidly. Several recent events on campus, including the death of a student, have caused Cornell

to hold Greek organizations to a different standard than previously. Cornell is having some problems defining just what that standard is. The leadership of Mu Chapter, both alumni and undergraduate, has taken the initiative to examine our culture and identify areas where we think we can change to make a more positive impact on the Greek experience. In other words, we are not waiting for Cornell to define the new ground rules.

The new culture deals with many aspects of life—organizational attitude toward the minority community, involvement in community affairs, use of the chapter house, rushing, pledging and the social life of the fraternity. Some of the areas involve behavior. I believe that Cornell's new expectations, when more



clearly defined, will pertain to the area of behavior. I doubt that our new culture ideals will require any changes as Cornell re-defines Greek life, as I believe our programs and attitudes go beyond what we anticipate Cornell will demand.

I dwell on the change in the Culture of Greek life because alumni involvement is crucial to successful re-definition of the Greek system. Your restructured alumni board is committed to providing leadership and counseling

to the active chapter to help them as they go forward. There will be opportunities offered to all of you to help!

Please read the several articles included in this issue regarding the Centennial Celebration. Plan to attend and help celebrate our first 100 years!

Help Us With Our Mu Chapter Centennial Book

We plan on publishing a high-quality, hardcover book to commemorate the centennial of Mu Chapter, and we need your help to do it! A limited number of copies will be produced and made available at the Centennial Celebration. Brothers will have the opportunity to order copies for their personal libraries. I plan to have a member of my company compose the available stories and organize photos into a volume that tells the story of our first 100 years.

The project will only work if we have a good quantity of information to work with. Some of the information and pictures can be gleaned by research from sources such as the National Fraternity Library, Cornell's archives, and old *Muses* (to the extent available). I know there is already a project underway to collect all the chapter composites.

Most of the more interesting and fun content will have to come from you, the alumni members of the fraternity. I am asking that you look through your memorabilia and share with us photos and stories of your time with Mu Chapter. If you send a contribution, please make sure there is enough information for the book editor to work effectively with your data—details like names, locations, and context need to accompany photographs.

Please send your information to Jim Keene:
(Mailing Address) 1810 Read Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68112
(Email Address) sigmapicentennial@gmail.com

If information is sent via U.S. Postal Service, I will make every effort to return it to you. It would be great if you can send the information by electronic means. A deadline has not yet been determined, but please do not wait—do your part now!

Executive Board Reports on State of the Chapter

Sage Smith Describes Mu Chapter Achievements for Fall 2012

By Sage Zach Smith '13

Over the past semester, Mu Chapter has continued to grow and thrive. It is a fun and exciting time to be a Pi man. We are currently a brotherhood of 49, and while that number is small, the bonds we have created are some of the strongest I've seen during my time here at Cornell.

However, the past couple months have not been without incident, as an unfortunate altercation in May shed negative light on the fraternity; we were placed on probation as a result. We were victims of unfortunate circumstances, but accepted responsibility for what happened and tried to push forward. It was a trying time for the brotherhood, but I have never been more proud of the men in this fraternity. Instead of lamenting about the situation, we took it as an opportunity to get involved in the diverse community

at Cornell and make a difference. We have worked closely with the Cornell Intercultural Center, and have been involved in some important initiatives. We are a presence at the Center's weekly lunchtime speaker series and are working to promote the series within the Greek community; we are also in the process of planning a philanthropy event with an MGLC organization. These partnerships have been very rewarding, and I am excited for the work we are doing.

In addition to those initiatives, we have been active on all other fronts. Sigma Pi maintained its yearlong dominance in intramural sports and took home the All-Sports trophy for the first time since 2005. Also, we've had a great semester full of brotherhood dinners, a paintball outing, and a trip to Buffalo to tailgate and see a Buffalo Bills game. On the philanthropy side of things, we have coordinated

a Greek community clothing drive and are participating in Movember, growing mustaches for the month of November to raise funds and awareness for men's health. Despite our facial hair growth, we've been maintaining a fun and engaging social schedule and are simply enjoying the time we are spending together.

As the semester rolls along, we are beginning preparations for the fraternity's centennial celebration next fall. It is going to be a memorable event, and one at which we hope to see as many alumni present as possible. However, you don't have to wait until fall 2013 to visit. Mu Chapters greatest strength is its ability to foster bonds of brotherhood, and nothing is more special than having you visit and seeing those bonds stretch across generations of Pi men. I encourage you to keep up with us on the website or come visit in person, and I sincerely thank you for all of the support you provide.

Mu Chapter Launches New "Movember" Fundraiser

By Philanthropy Co-Chairs Alex Eacker '15 and Omar Nijem '13

This past year has been a successful year for philanthropy at Mu Chapter. During the spring 2012 semester, Mu Chapter hosted its annual talent show, jointly sponsored by multiple fraternities and sororities. The talent show raised money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, an organization close to our hearts as the disease has directly affected some of our brothers.

This semester, the brotherhood has participated in several important events. The most significant of the events so far has been No Shave Movember. Mu Chapter's No Shave Movember program raises money for prostate cancer support and promotes men's health awareness. To do so, participants grow mustaches for the entire month of November and advertise them on their personal "MoSpace" pages. This year, roughly 25 brothers are participating, growing mustaches of all different kinds. We have raised over \$4,000 for the cause using our networks at Cornell and our extended families.

Additionally, we have been working on



The men of Sigma Pi are always ready to demonstrate their fraternal bonds with a group photo.

a clothing drive sponsored by Cornell Big Red Shipping, an organization run by one of the brothers in the house. We placed boxes in several sorority and fraternity houses around campus in the hope that we can collect a fair amount of clothing to donate to New York Cares Coat Drive and other local organizations and homeless shelters.

Overall, Mu Chapter has been heavily involved with philanthropy projects this past year, and plans on continuing its devotion to philanthropy under the leadership of our recently elected philanthropy chairs, brothers Alvaro Galan and Bennet Heidenreich.

ΣΠ Strives for Scholarship

By Academic Chair Ben Andrew '13

The Sigma Pi Education Fund has been put to good use over this past year with the purchase of a chapter printer and related supplies. Brothers are now able to print, copy, scan, and fax their assignments and documents from within the house—a simple, but incredibly beneficial, advancement for the chapter. The Memorial Library has become a more popular place to study and is constantly filled with brothers throughout the course of the day and well into the night, which signifies the chapter's devotion to academics.

With members enrolled in every one of Cornell University's seven undergraduate colleges, there is a great deal of academic diversity present in the house, adding to the already rich academic environment at 730 University Avenue.

We look forward to continuing to use the education fund to nurture and grow the sense of scholarship at Sigma Pi; we are all students at Cornell University first, and we each strive to make the most of our four short years in Ithaca. We wouldn't be able to do that without your support.

Mu Chapter Athletes Chase All-Sports Trophy

By Intramural Sports Chair Michael Sones '13

Sigma Pi's success in intramural sports is at an all-time high right now. Fresh from winning the 2011–2012 All-Sports Championship, we are back at it this year in hopes of repeating our success, and we are off to a great start. Having accumulated participation points in every sport offered this semester, we are once again in the upper echelon of the All-Sports standings. While we have fallen short of the title in each sport up to this point, we remain hopeful that our soccer team can reverse this trend. After winning the soccer title the previous year, it appears that the team is on track to repeat, especially because of the addition of talented sophomores and juniors to the squad. We are also confident that our three-man basketball team will bring home the trophy again this year. With sports such as volleyball, squash, dodge ball, and ultimate still in progress, we have time to win points and move up through the standings. The All-Sports champions won't be determined until next semester, but at this rate we all have reason to be optimistic.



Brothers bond during a trip to tailgate and watch a Buffalo Bills football game.



Sigma Pi athletes put in a valiant effort on the court.



Sigma Pi returns to the soccer field to defend their 2011 championship.



Brothers present their 2011-'12 All-Sports trophy.

Fraternal Bonds Grow Stronger at 730 University Avenue

**By Brotherhood Chairs David Baker '14
and Karan Bhatia '13**

After the departure of the class of 2012, Sigma Pi has not been quite the same. However, with the addition of the most recent pledge class, chapter unity has remained strong. This semester has been full of exciting brotherhood memories. The tradition of dinners at the Glenwood Pines was upheld, as were our brotherhood dinners at the house. One of the highlights

this semester was the brotherhood trip to Ralph Wilson Stadium to see the Buffalo Bills game against the Tennessee Titans. The trip was a blast, and it will definitely become a tradition for the chapter in years to come. Other brotherhood events have included movie screenings in "the pit" and paint ball. Overall, the brotherhood morale has been quite high this semester. It has been great to see brothers bonding during these events, and on a daily basis around the house.

MU CHAPTER EVENTS

Be sure to always check the Mu Chapter website for the most up-to-date news, photos, and event information: www.sigmapi Cornell.org.

REUNION 2013: JUNE 6-9

Join Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University for Reunion Weekend 2013! Information regarding chapter festivities will be available as the event nears.

CENTENNIAL: SEPTEMBER 5-8

Join us for Mu Chapter's Centennial Celebration! See page one for event details.

Social Chairs Keep Sigma Pi at the Center of Greek Life at Cornell University

**By Social Co-Chairs Jacob Laufer '15 and
Ben Dreier '15**

Over the past two semesters, Sigma Pi Mu Chapter has planned, organized, managed, and hosted some incredible social events. Although there are many events that are indicative of the bonds of brotherhood Mu Chapter inspires and nurtures, two events in the past two semesters really stand out to me as a brother and social chair of Sigma Pi.

The first was our end-of-the-year Orchid Ball, which was nothing less than innovative in its execution. After many years of using

the same few venues for formal events, seniors of the chapter decided to venture out and look for new and exciting places to host the ball. It wasn't long before we found The Barn, a beautifully simple, wooden loft-space that sits on about an acre of flat green land. The excitement about the new venue was carried all the way through to the day of the ball. Everyone was in high spirits, and we celebrated the end of a great year and the graduation of the seniors we know and love so much.

The second event was our Homecoming Formal, which occurred at the end of September

of this year. After hours of preparation, our dining room was prepared for 120 people, all of whom would be served the delicious steak, chicken, and salad meal options our incredible chef, Patrick Spirawck, provided. All of our former seniors returned for the Homecoming football game and weekend events; they couldn't believe the great condition the house was in. Everyone had an amazing time and couldn't stop raving about the food, company, and all-around excellent executive of the event.

Here's to many more successful events and shared memories!



The brotherhood gathers after the initiation ceremony.

mu alumni send their news & notes

"In spite of being house-bound right now for a month or so after a fall, I'm still in good health, but stay close to home these days," writes **John Holden '43**. "My wife, Bernice, is alright also. All three children and our two grandchildren live within 10 miles of us. Two other grandchildren and three great-grandchildren live in Pennsylvania. Give my regards to the brothers of Sigma Pi. I often think of my good times there at that house." Reminisce with John by writing to 185 Elm St., Southampton, NY 11968.

Michael T. Leigh '52 writes: "Declining health—my wife's serious back/skeletal problems and my deteriorating balance problems necessitating the constant use of a cane and occasional help from a 'walker'—dictated a lifestyle change in 2011. We moved to a local retirement community with assisted living options from our home near Boulder. Living is easy, comfortable, and pleasant, but the significant downsizing has been difficult to accept. The golden years are not so 'golden!' Also, recently I lost complete vision in my right eye, requiring many restrictions without the prospect of improvement. We enjoy occasional visits from our friends, three grandchildren, and our eldest son (an attorney)." (2525 Taft Dr., Apt. 304, Boulder, CO 80302)

"My wife, Barbara Rothenburger, and I will be visiting Shanghai, China, this month," wrote **Fred Jensen '55** in October. "Barbara taught American literature at Fudan University in Shanghai for several years, and she will be my tour guide. More news about this adventure to come after we return in November!" Brothers, write to Fred and ask him about his trip: 912 Main St., Unit 201, Chatham, MA 02633; fredjensen@comcast.net.

"Moved from house to condo," writes **Winthrop B. "Buck" Cody '55**. "We spend eight months in Florida and four months in Connecticut. Number one pastime is golf! I hope to make the 100th anniversary celebration next September. Couldn't talk granddaughter into Cornell; she went to Swarthmore College instead." Write to 7024 Pelican Bay Blvd., F203, Naples, FL 34108. Will you be joining "Buck" and other alumni at the Centennial Celebration?

William A. "Sandy" Stevenson '63 wrote to announce his retirement in January 2012. That should give him more time to visit his children and grandchildren in Los Angeles. He

said, "Go Big Red!" and also announced that he has moved from Michigan to North Carolina: 109 Nanthala Ct. W., Hertford, NC 27944. Email him at bobbiandsandy@hotmail.com.

"I'm not 'retired' yet," writes **Arthur E. "Art" White '66**, "just not working right now. My wife, Gail, and I just celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary with a vacation at Caneel Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. After living in Texas, Colorado, and Florida, we've been settled in Pennsylvania for the past 37 years." (142 Meadow Ln., Wyomissing, PA 19610)

C. Edward Kemp '68 announced the marriage of his youngest daughter, Julia, in September 2012. The wedding took place on Cape Cod, and brother **Robert Inslerman '67** attended. He adds, "In August, my wife of 35 years attended the wedding of **Hugh Stedman's ('70)** daughter; also in attendance were **Robert M. "Mike" Handy '70**, **Peter A. Chase '70**, **Carl E. Schellhorn '66**, and Robert Inslerman." Reconnect with Ed at 3 King Horn Dr., Falmouth, MA 02540. Email eds330@aol.com.

"In 2006 I retired from the federal government after 30 years of service working as a labor adviser and labor attorney," writes **Donald G. Rider '69**. "Since that time, I have been teaching full time for the University of Maryland, University College, as a collegiate professor of human resource management. I also have a consulting practice in the same field. An annual get together with friends includes brother **David R. Miller '71**." Get in touch by writing to Don at 18604 Tanterra Way, Brookeville, MD 20833; or emailing drider1@verizon.net.

Stay connected with **Peter A. Muth '74** by writing to 460 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209; or emailing Peter at pmuth@roadrunner.com.

Catch up with **Peter E. Wright '77** by sending letters to 112 Walnut St., Auburn, NY 13021; or sending emails to pew2@cornell.edu.

Michael Reiner '78 can be reached by writing to 48 Lawrence Pkwy., Tenafly, NJ 07670; or at mrriguy@aol.com.

Send greetings to CEO of Mountain Spring Development LLC, **Gary S. Derck '81**, by writing to 34 Tanglewood Dr., Durango, CO 81301; or email Gary at ajgderck@bresnan.net.

Keep in touch with **Leonard B. "Len" Wolin '88**! Write to 22710 Wildcat Rd., Germantown, MD 20876. Email llwolin@yahoo.com.

Bryan H. Rivard '03 sends greetings from Connecticut. (60 Mansion Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492; bhr6@cornell.edu)

Young alumnus **Peter R. Strang '08** can now be reached by writing to 444 Frankfort Sq., Columbus, OH 48206; or prs25@cornell.edu.

"Feel free to reach out to me if you find yourself in the area," writes recent graduate **Andrew John Chatham '12**, who recently relocated to Las Vegas. Andy moved to begin work for The Downtown Project, a venture capital and real estate development spin-off of Zappos. Write to 164 Atherton Ave., Wickford, RI 02852.

WE NEED EMAIL ADDRESSES: Brothers, please return your newsforms and update your contact information. We particularly need your updated email addresses, so that we can continue to communicate important and time-sensitive information to you.

Deceased

John E. Hough '37
July 29, 2012

Benjamin F. Kellogg '40
February 18, 2012

William P. Mathers '41
June 1, 2012

Robert B. Whyte Jr. '41
August 1, 2011

Harold C. Miles '43
February 29, 2012

Charles C. Huey '44
October 29, 2011

William D. Bair '50
September 1, 2011

Kevin J. Schargen '01
March 16, 2012