



The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

FALL 2000

Mu Chapter Grooms Itself To Lead CU Greeks

Dear Brothers,

Homecoming was a great event as ever. The brothers provided a great evening for the record turnout! Each year the attendance at Homecoming grows.

I recently attended the Cornell University Council weekend in Ithaca. As a part of that event I attended an update meeting on activities of the Greek community. It was rewarding to hear Sigma Pi mentioned several times in a very favorable light. Sigma Pi has a fine reputation, and it makes me very proud to represent our house in the Cornell alumni Greek community! You will be pleased to hear that Mu Chapter has improved its academic standing and now ranks number 10 on campus. This is an improvement from number 29 last semester.

The incumbent alumni board from last year was re-elected at the annual meeting. Subsequent to the general meeting, the re-elected board re-elected the same officers as last year. I had the honor of being elected to continue as president of your board.

I have challenged the board in the coming year to finish the fund-raising job we began 10 years ago. I have also challenged the board, working with the undergraduate officers, to lay the groundwork so that Sigma Pi is in a leadership role as Cornell Greek and student life are transformed. Cornell has taken a very favorable position toward Greeks. There is no question in my mind that Greek houses that contribute to the Cornell experience (as it is being redefined) will enjoy greater success than ever before and that those that do not will be gone! Our alumni, working with the undergraduates, must see that we are counted as leaders in this transformation.

We are going to make sure you have plenty of notice on the dates for the alumni dinner in the spring and for Homecoming in the fall. Do yourself a favor and put one or both of these dates on your long-range calendar and plan to be there!

Jim Keene '57
President, Alumni Board

Homecoming A Hit!

With record alumni attendance and a strong turnout from the actives, Homecoming Weekend 2000 was a huge success. More than 30 distinguished brothers spanning six decades of Mu Chapter's existence made the trip back to fair Ithaca and enjoyed the festivities held on campus and at 730 University Avenue over the weekend of September 23-24.

On Friday afternoon a cocktail hour was held at the chapter house. As alums filtered in and enjoyed refreshment after their trips, they were greeted by the actives and afforded the opportunity to meet some of the newly initiated brothers of Mu Chapter. The actives likewise were able to establish ties with some grads who hadn't been back for some time. Friday wrapped up with an informal dinner at Little Joe's in collegietown with a smattering of alums, including Jim Keene '57 and Tom Garr '76, and undergraduates in attendance.

The ball really got rolling on Saturday. On a crisp day perfect for football, Sigma Pi brothers gathered for a barbecue near the fieldhouse prior to the game versus Yale. Young alums made an especially strong showing, and everyone enjoyed mingling, sampling the various grilled delicacies, tossing around a football, and anticipating a Cornell victory. The football fans, such as the stalwart Shoellkopf faithful Ben Kellogg '40, were not disappointed as the Big Red emerged victorious after some last-minute heroics.

A fine mood accompanied the alums and actives back to the chapter house for the annual meeting. A new alumni board was elected, and the undergraduates gave a report on the economic and social health of Mu Chapter on campus. Then a solid meal of steak and potatoes was served, followed by delicious Junior's cheesecake, generously provided by Alan Rosen '91.



Mike Sfat '43 (left) and Ben Kellogg '40 (right) at Homecoming. More photos inside!

(continued on page two)

Homecoming A Hit!

(continued from page one)

After dinner, guests were treated to the jazzy piano stylings of local talent Johnny Russo and a rousing performance of Cornell songs by the a cappella group The Hangovers. With Buck Cody '56 singing along boisterously, the chapter house rang with the sweet strains of classics such as the fight song and the song of the classes. The party continued well into the night for some...but those stories are better told by word of mouth.

Sunday saw a continental brunch in the dining room and the gradual departure of the alumni and their guests. All in all, it was a lovely weekend devoted to cultivating the strong bond between graduates and actives that has become a hallmark of the Mu Chapter experience.

On a side note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the alumni for making my term as your secretary such a rewarding experience. It has truly been a pleasure to plan and conduct the events and to forge personal relationships with the graduate brotherhood of Sigma Pi. My replacement is John Scagnelli, who, along with Adam Silver, was of great assistance to me in coordinating Reunion festivities. I'm sure John will work extremely hard to maintain and even expand the alumni network of Mu Chapter so that the great communication between alumni and actives will be preserved in the coming year.

Jonathan Coll '01



Above: The newly paneled dining room ready for dinner. Right: Gijs de Boer '02 (l) and Van Robinson '57 (r).



Left: Robert Novo '70 (l) and James Strangeland '02 (r). Above: Marilyn and Buck Cody '56 with Nick Reitenbach '56 (r).



Mark Lynn '99 (l) and Liviu Rusu '99 (r).

Darrin Greene '84 (l) and John Alkawa '81 (r).



Above, l-r: Jim Keene '57, Craig Huemmer '02, Brian Yasutis '00, Liviu Rusu '99, Mike David '00. Below, l-r: Karl Miller, Dolly Hailstork, and Jeremy Nersasian '03.



Left: Tom Garr '76 (l) and Dennis McNamara '83 (r). Above: Jim Palmer '60 (l) and Tom Owens '83 (r).



Sage Nick Kruczynski and Bob Nafis '49.



Jack Hitzel '59 and Carol Robinson.

Reports From The Undergraduate Officers

Sage

It's hard for me to believe that my time as sage of Mu Chapter is coming to a close. It's even harder for me to believe that my time at Cornell is nearly at an end. The experiences I have had here for the past three and a half years have had significant effects on all aspects of my life. Many of the things I do today will remain with me as treasured memories for the rest of my life.

My time as sage of Mu Chapter has not been easy. It has certainly been one of the most time-consuming, difficult, and stressful experiences I have ever had. At times, I found it difficult to balance my academic, personal, and fraternity lives. Looking back over the past 10 months, however, I see that being sage has also been one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had.

Being sage of Mu Chapter has taught me many valuable lessons of leadership, empathy, responsibility, brotherhood, and pride. This experience has helped me learn to cope with problems, create solutions, and look to friends for help. The fraternity is the perfect place to develop one's character, whether sage or not. Everyone who has been part of Sigma Pi has grown through his experiences in the house. Every brother's personality has been molded slightly by the time he spent at 730 University Avenue, and each of us leaves Sigma Pi as a different person than when we came.

I must say that I am proud of Sigma Pi and what we stand for here at Mu Chapter. I am honored to have had the opportunity to live with and learn from my brothers, whether students or alumni. My time as sage is something that has

helped me grow and, I hope, helped the house grow as well. Still, no matter how much I have contributed to the house, it is nothing compared to what I've gotten back. Although my time here is nearly over, the letters I wear on my finger will remind me of it for the rest of my life.

Nick Kruczynski '01, Sage

Philanthropy Chair

Actives Renovate The Red Cross

At convocation this summer, the Red Cross became Sigma Pi's national philanthropy. The actives decided that instead of running a blood drive (as there are always many on Cornell's campus), we would do something for the Tompkins County Chapter itself. We went down and talked to Cheryl Bosburgh, the head of the chapter, about the state of their building and their grounds. After discussing a few ideas, we settled on a project to clean up and renovate a plot of land behind the house that had become a trash area. There were bags of leaves, rocks, broken tables, and boxes. Our plan was to clear the land and put in a fence, a picnic table, and a flowerbed.

The project was completed over two Saturdays in October. On October 14, the brothers cleared out the weeds, bushes, bags of leaves, and rocks. We then raked the soil and bought a fence. On October 21 we built a flowerbed and installed a fence and a picnic table. The project will continue in the spring when we will plant grass and put flowers in the bed. We will continue to work on this project and on others with the Red Cross.

Other philanthropic events we have participated in are Alpha Phi's "Teeter-tot-terathon" to support cardiac care and research and the Ithaca Reading Partnership, Kappa Alpha Theta's Tip-a-Canoe to support Court Appointed Special Advocates (a group that serves children in the juvenile justice and foster care systems), and Collegetown Cleanup.

Cornell's Interfraternity Council has promised 30,000 hours of service and \$10,000 through OnSite Planning, a group that organizes philanthropy for groups in the Ithaca community. So far Sigma Pi has donated 200 hours of service and about \$200 toward philanthropic events. Our goal as a chapter is to donate 1000 hours of service and \$500 by the end of the 2000-2001 school year.

John R. Scagnelli '02

Steward

Fine Dining—Sigma Pi Style

Alumni who had the good fortune to attend the Homecoming Weekend festivities at Mu Chapter had the opportunity to experience the fine dining that the undergraduates enjoy on a regular basis. Our chef, Patrick Spirawk, has done an outstanding job accommodating the growing brotherhood. In conjunction with the house steward, Patrick redesigned the position of the counters and equipment, thereby opening up the room and making it more accessible. The kitchen has stayed on budget while still maintaining a high quality and wide variety of food. Visiting alumni are encouraged to attend a dinner to share a fine meal and good company with the undergraduates.

Max Jaeger '02

The Red Cross Back Yard Cleanup Project

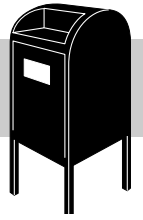


Before...



...and after!

The Muse Mailbox



When we last heard from MORTON P. WOODWARD '20, he was looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday on September 1, 2000. Send best wishes to "Woody" at 5210 Evergreen Ridge Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215-5736.

BENJAMIN F. KELLOGG '40 writes that he had a great time at his 60th reunion, where he renewed friendships with several of his classmates, including GEORGE READER '40. "I presented him with a photo of that super football championship of 1939-'40 that won the university overall title. He appeared pleased, and it took us a bit down memory lane." Ben lives at 207 Garfield St., Nanticoke, PA 18634-1537.

GEORGE G. READER '40 is chairman emeritus of the department of public health at Weill Medical College of Cornell in New York City. He teaches one course, serves on four Cornell committees, and still commutes daily from his home at 5006 Theall Rd., Rye, NY 10580.

Retiree LOUIS J. CONTI '41 resides at 185 Barra Lane, Inverness, IL 60067.

"I'm not getting old fast enough," observes JOHN D. MASTERS '45 (84 Old Street Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458; usmasters@webtv.com). "I still can't shoot my age!"

Pat and ALBERT M. BECK '52 both retired in 1998, he from a 39-year career in veterinary medicine. Al writes, "We built a four-bedroom home in wooded Wexford Hills Estate to attract family and friends for stayovers. We have three married children and seven grandchildren." In recent years the Becks have traveled to East African game parks, to New Zealand and Australia, and to Labrador for fly fishing. At home at 8521 Wrenfield Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23188, Al gardens and enjoys the slow pace "and the lack of onerous taxes. What a relief from metropolitan New York. Y'all come on down!"

Send e-mail to VINCENT G. CRANE '52 at gelsercrane@cs.com and "snail mail" to 1279 Buena Vista Dr., North Fort Myers, FL 33903.

"We're building a new home in Dorset," reports RICHARD E. RAGOLD '53 (P.O. Box 145, Dorset, VT 05251; rragold@d-hinc.com). "I love Vermont: good, fresh air, lots of golf and tennis in the summer, skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. I'm still consulting in structural engineering three days a week—enough to be interesting but leaving a good amount of free time."

RICHARD G. HARLEY '54 has two daughters, five grandchildren, "and of

course my original wife—all in good health." Old friends can reach him at 124 Queen Ann Court, North Hutchinson Island, FL 34949 (Rharley31@yahoo.com).

In the summer, WINTHROP B. CODY '56 resides at 124 Sea Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 06475, and in the winter he resides at 708 Pitch Apple Lane, Naples, FL 34108. His e-mail address is buck.cody@gte.net.

The deputy commissioner for finance for Westchester County, New York, THURSTON W. HARTFORD '60 lives at 3 Orsini Dr., Larchmont, NY 10538 with his wife, Nancy. They have three sons and five grandchildren. Thurston attended Cornell Reunions this year, where he saw former apartment-mate WES GRACE '61 for the first time since 1962. "One of our sons lives in the same town that Wes does in Massachusetts," writes Thurston, "so we will be in contact in the future."

Stay in touch with JAMES W. PALMER '60 at jwpalmer1@earthlink.net or at 2318 Vintage Hill Dr., Durham, NC 27712.

H. LAURANCE FULLER '61 retired from Amoco in April but continues to be active on the boards of four commercial companies. He also continues to serve as a
(continued on page six)



A reunion of Sigma Pi brothers in November at Curtain Bluff Resort on the Island of Antigua, West Indies.

For many years brothers from the classes of the 1940s have gathered on this island paradise to celebrate the bonds that hold them together—their part in World War II and the things they did to bring the fraternity intact through the war years—and to celebrate the affection they have for each other. This year brothers from the '50s and '60s were included. Curtain Bluff, the Caribbean's premier resort, is the result of the vision and work of Howie Hulford '44, who has been in charge there for 38 years.

Left to right: Jim Keene '57, Fred Haverly '42, Lou Conti '41, "Pete" Mathers '41, Dicky Huff '44, Howie Hulford '44, and Dave Lefevre '60.

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

Web Site Running Well

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Weisen-thal '02 and Mike Polcari '02, who set up an effective and aesthetically pleasing web site for the chapter, little of the structure of the site required attention. My goals this semester are the additions of weekly or bi-weekly updates for sports and other pertinent news of the actives that might be of interest to alumni. Look for more recent pictures, including the 2000 composite, and continuing sports and news updates throughout the semester.

Greg Reese '02, Webmaster

WWW.MUSIGMAPI.ORG

Five Attend Biennial Convocation In Phoenix

This summer I found myself included in a group of five brothers chosen to represent Mu Chapter at the biennial convocation in Phoenix, Arizona. The experience was certainly an eye-opener. With the exception of house elections, never before have I seen fraternity meetings carried forth with such intensity. The business meetings had to be broken up into two sessions to allow for a lunch break at Gallagher's and a taste of the local cuisine, or perhaps a quick trip around the lazy river on a water raft to cool off.

Mu Chapter was proud to serve as an example to other chapters of how, with continued growth and alumni support, a chapter can survive for nearly 100 years. Paul Germain, one of the five brothers on the trip, started the meeting by performing our grip with Grand Second Councilor Ed Panconi. Paul was surprised after the worthy grand second councilor failed to let Paul initiate the grip. After Paul asked him about it, the grand second councilor was impressed that we had known about the grip etiquette.

Another advantage of being one of the

oldest chapters of Sigma Pi Fraternity was seating in the first row. With mere yards separating us from Grand Sage Don Cox, we were able to meet the Grand Council executive board and influence meetings. Jim Keene also met with the five of us and introduced us to many prominent alumni from other chapters. We also took it upon ourselves to be active on the technology and academic subcommittees and sponsored resolutions regarding the pledging process and academic scholarships.

After all was said and done, I realized that representing Mu Chapter at convocation was one of the highest honors I could have received as an active brother of Sigma Pi. Though I know now that I will never go into politics, I do have a new appreciation of the inner workings of the Sigma Pi Fraternity government. I also have a newfound respect for those who have put in the time ahead of me to ensure that Sigma Pi remains one of the leaders in the Greek system internationally.

Adam Silver '02

When You See "Fraternity," Don't Think "Animal House"

By HENRY McNULTY

This article originally appeared in the February 28, 2000, issue of The Hartford Courant. Communications consultant Henry McNulty is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at Cornell.

I was reading recently about an organization that collected an astounding 2.5 million pounds of food last year for homeless and hungry people. The organization is—guess what—my college fraternity. That's right, my beer-swilling, pledge-paddling, panty-raiding fraternity.

If you find it much easier to connect "fraternity" to "rowdiness" than to "philanthropy," I'm not surprised. Greek organizations hardly make the news these days unless the story is about a hazing incident, a prank gone awry, or a death from alcohol poisoning.

Indeed, the very word "fraternity" is now widely used as a synonym for "irresponsible." Last August, *The Hartford Courant* described a parking-lot riot at the Meadows Music Theatre as "a big, ugly midsummer frat party turned bad," although there was no evidence that fraternities were involved. When columnist Molly Ivins writes of "little Georgie Bush, the frat boy," she isn't talking about his hours of work in soup kitchens.

But regardless of the presence or absence of media coverage, college fraternities do a lot of good in their communities.

My chapter at Cornell, for example, has since last September delivered more than 700 pounds of food to the local soup kitchen, raised \$1,300 for the Finger Lakes Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and collected 65 pints of blood for the Red Cross. Multiply that by the 5,300 chapters of 70 or so national fraternities on 800 campuses and you'll get some idea of the beneficial work being done.

Still, you can't ignore the excesses that make the news. With more than 350,000 undergraduates in American and Canadian college fraternities, there are bound to be some bad decisions made, usually in the name of "fun." They ought to be reported. More important, they ought to be stopped.

And fraternities are doing that. Mine, for example, has shut down 12 chapters in the past two years, and put another 49 on probation, all for what's called "risk management violations," mostly alcohol use by those under 21. In the past, fraternities often turned a blind eye to such behavior, usually rationalizing that "boys will be boys." The message today is different, and it is clear: Stop it. This is unacceptable.

Regarding hazing, my fraternity got the message long ago. Even when I was an undergraduate, more than 30 years ago, "Hell Week" was on the wane; our pledge paddles were purely decorative. Today, every vestige of hazing has disappeared at my chapter; even the traditional pledge-vs.-

brother hockey games are gone, on the grounds that they were needlessly divisive.

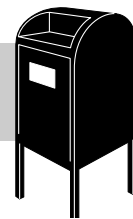
As with hazing, so with racism. Fraternities are often seen as existing mostly for white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants, with perhaps separate houses for white Jews. That was so decades ago, but a glance through my chapter's present membership list proves otherwise. Among the names of current undergraduates: Steinberg, Montenegro, Sanchez, Osborn, Siddiqui, Chabora, Schwartz, Nam, Feliciano, and Brown. (There's also someone named Cornell. How'd he get in?)

Another common misconception is that belonging to a fraternity is detrimental to a college education. That notion is contradicted by studies by the Center for Advanced Social Research at the University of Missouri. Researchers there found that Greeks were 28 percent more likely to stay in college and to graduate than those who didn't join a fraternity.

Are there still animal houses? Probably. It's tough to generalize about all the hundreds of national and local fraternities in the U.S. and Canada. I'm sure we haven't heard the last of the misdeeds of college students, whether they are in a fraternity or not.

And yes, there are still fraternity parties. But these days, it's a good bet that at least some of them are Habitat for Humanity house-raising shindigs—with no beer in sight.

The Muse Mailbox

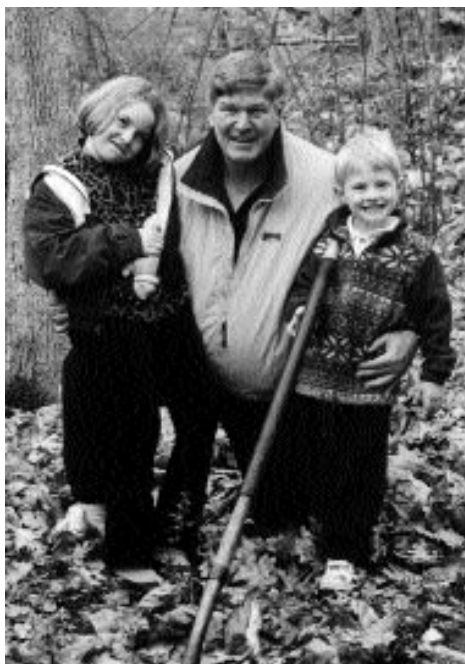


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trustee at Cornell and as a member of the board of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Larry makes his home at 25W 451 Plamondon Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187.

WILLIAM A. STEVENSON '62 recently assumed the role of Midwest regional manager for the architectural, engineering, and environmental firm URS. His wife of 31 years, Bobbi, still teaches learning disabled students, and their sons, Alex and Chris, live and work on the West Coast. Write to "Sandy" at 1225 Winterwood NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 (sandy_stevenson@urscorp.com).

THOMAS E. CAYTEN '64 retired to raise his two children, Cordelia (8) and Gareth (5), following their mother's death in 1997. Mail reaches him at 21 Carrol St., Exeter, NH 03833, and e-mail at tcayten@mediaone.net.



Cordelia, Tom, and Gareth Cayten at Uncle Gene's house on Squam.

C. EDWARD KEMP '68 traveled to Australia this past spring to visit his daughter, Lyndsay, who is a student at Bond University on the Gold Coast. Drop him a line at eds330@aol.com or at 3 Kinghorn Dr., Falmouth, MA 02540.

NICHOLAS T. LONG '68 (nicholas@

ntlong.com) enjoyed a visit to Ithaca last fall with his 14-year-old son, Gabriel, "and had the good fortune to watch the Big Red defeat both Clarkson and St. Lawrence at Lynah. We stopped by the house and were graciously greeted by the Mu brothers together with a gang of Pi men from the University of Ottawa who, in the best tradition of Pi men, decided on a Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. that it was a good idea to drive to Ithaca for the weekend. At 1:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon they were all sprawled throughout the east and west lounges, sound asleep. It seemed like old times." Nick practices education law, is married to Abigail, and lives at 54 Taylor's Lane, Little Compton, RI 02837.

During Reunion Weekend, PETER A. CHASE '70 was in Ithaca to see JIM HYDER '71. "He is selling his restaurant in Cortland and invited BERNIE NEENAN '70, DICK LLOYD '69, JIM MILLER '69, and me to have dinner there." Peter's daughter, Stephanie, graduated from West Point this year and will serve for three years in Germany; his son, Christopher, is a sophomore at Wake Forest. A project executive with Clark Construction in Bethesda, Peter is currently supervising nine projects in DC and the suburbs. He lives at 13 Cherbourg Court, Potomac, MD 20854 and can be reached by e-mail at peterpac@aol.com.

JEFFREY L. CRAVER '75 reports that he had a great time at his 25th Cornell reunion. "The highlights were visiting with our daughter, who is doing research at Cornell this summer before her junior year; seeing DICK PRIESTER '75 and his beautiful family, MIKE QUAID '75 and his lovely wife, and STEVE BOOTH '76 and his wife, Fran '75; meeting a great group of Pi men from '80 and other classes; and having a bloody mary with Dolly at the Pines." Jeff is medical director at Quest Diagnostics, where e-mail reaches him at jlcraver@questdiagnostics.com. He lives at 401 Edgewood Dr., St. Louis, MO 63105.

"Coming back for my 20th-year reunion was outrageous," writes LAWRENCE KANTOR '80 (6735 Alta Vista Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275; lawrence.kantor@hotmail.com). "I was glad to see the house looking so good and amazed to see Dolly looking so great and feeling well." Larry was particularly impressed by the dinnertime performance of JOE DER-

VAY '80, which he'll be happy to tell you about, if you ask.

Congratulations to THEON C. SMITH JR. '80 and his bride on their September 1999 wedding! Write to them at 265 Sumption Dr., Gahanna, OH 43230 or at thenan@gateway.net.

Denise and STEPHEN G. PIERETTI '83 are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Mia Margaret, on February 16, 2000. Mia joins big brothers Thomas and Michael and sister Kerri. Send best wishes to the Pierettis at 272 Willets Way, Glen Hills, PA 19342.

An associate with Goldman Sachs, JASON HALIO '93 can be reached at 77 McCouns Lane, Old Brookville, NY (jason.halio@hotmail.com).

MARC WARM '95 and Meredith Tanowitz, the '92 house sweetheart, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on June 5, 2000. They live in New York City (423 W. 43rd St., #3, New York, NY 10036), where Marc is a vice president at Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette (mwarm@dlj.com). Marc also reports that JON STEIN '94 and his wife, Jessica, welcomed a son, Alexander, on June 1.

Employed by Hellmuth, Obata & Kasabaum in San Francisco, DAVID GOODMAN '99 can be reached at david.goodman@hok.com or at 514 Hill St., #2, San Francisco, CA 94114.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

HENRY F. DYLLA '47, October 2, 1999
DAVID H. GRANGER '72, July 27, 1996
GEORGE C. GRUBB JR. '44, May 25, 2000
SAMUEL F. HERRICK '42, June 20, 2000

ROBERT N. HUSTIS '44,
December 11, 1998

LOHNAS H. KNAPP '40,
November 24, 1999

GORDON T. SLUSSER '40,
March 30, 2000
