



# The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

FALL 2002

## Sigma Pi Enjoys Successful Semester

Despite the final score of 50-23 in favor of Yale, Homecoming this year was certainly a success. In addition to having our 55 active undergraduates in attendance, Mu Chapter welcomed back roughly 30 alums ranging in year from 1940 to 2001. Those who made the trip back to 730 University Avenue took part in the festivities, which included cocktail hours Friday and Saturday, a tailgate party before the football game, the annual meeting, dinner, and a concert by the Hangovers.

A highlight of the annual meeting was the election of two new alumni board members, bringing the total from 12 to 14 members. The two newly elected board members are Jim Garr '82 and Jarett Wait '80. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this year's celebration.

In this issue of *The Muse* you'll find a summary of the events for Dolly Hailstork. These were a tremendous success and a tremendous example of the dedication shown by Sigma Pi brothers. Through the planning of these events, an e-mail database of several hundred names was created, which let those in charge of planning contact brothers on the list whenever it was needed.

In light of this, the undergraduates have decided to develop a similar database that will be used in the future to announce plans for Alumni Weekend, Homecoming, and any other important news related to Mu Chapter. To sign up, please visit Mu Chapter's web site at <http://www.musigmapi.org> and click on the link for the "alumni database" on the home page.

Having mentioned that, I would also like to inform everyone that Alumni Weekend has been scheduled for April 4-6, 2003. Now is the time to make plans for your next trip back to Sigma Pi! The format for Alumni Weekend will be much more informal than in the past. While everyone enjoys the formal

*(continued on page two)*

## Chapter Will Work To "Stay On The Path"

Sigma Pi is a place where knowing and doing—intellect and character—are linked, where one follows from the other and is enriched by the other. This is a place where the cultivation of the human mind for the sake of the individual, together with its moral improvement for the sake of society, remains the fundamental reason for being.

At convocation this summer, Mu Chapter received awards for achieving above a 3.0 grade point average the past two semesters. While satisfactory to most, we are determined to improve our house GPA by investigating a system of rewards for pledges and brothers who attain a GPA above a 3.7 in a given semester.

Once again we have been in the middle of many philanthropic efforts on campus. In the *Daily Sun*, Sigma Pi and Kappa Delta were credited with driving the Greek presence in Ithaca's Crop Walk, a community walk that raises money for local hunger-fighting agencies. Our second annual Jazz Night will be held Thursday, December 5 and will be our final philanthropy event of 2002.

We must be shapers of events, not observers, for if we do not act, the moment will pass and we will lose the best possibilities of our future. I am pleased to announce that Paul El-Meouchy '04 has been elected president of IFC for this coming year. Congratulations go

out to Paul for this and all of his outstanding achievements. I am also proud to mention that Sigma Pi is the most represented fraternity

in Order of Omega, an honor society consisting of the top two percent of the Greek system at Cornell. Recently Tyrel Whilden '04 and I joined Paul El-Meouchy '04 in the society.

Having said that, I must stress that much is ahead of us. At a fraternity, there is no appropriate time to claim that tasks have been completed. All days of a fraternity need to be first days. The work of the fra-

ternity is work that cannot be done unless it is continuously reconsidered; it is about time to bring fresh perspectives to bear on the Sage's office. House elections will have concluded by the end of November, and then a new round of leadership will be preparing for their installation at Mu Chapter in January.

It's been an amazing experience serving Sigma Pi, and I will continue to work with the younger members to make sure that we stay on the path that was so hard to create. Sigma Pi, despite its strengths, is not invulnerable. Indeed, if we are to maintain the vitality of the fraternity, we should all be aware of the underlying fragility of this now powerful organization.

Fraternally,  
Adam Brown '03

*At a fraternity, there is no appropriate time to claim that tasks have been completed. All days of a fraternity need to be first days.*

ALUMNI WEEKEND  
*April 4-6, 2003*

# Chapter Reports Chapter Reports Chapter Reports

## Brotherhood Chair

The brotherhood chair was created this semester to build an even stronger bond between brothers. Because this is such a new position, I have had to organize everything from scratch, which has not been easy. However, this semester I have managed to plan weekly beer tasting events, snow football games, and a big barbecue where we will roast wild game on the beach.

Ken Graham '05

## Recycling Chair

The Sigma Pi recycling department has been redefined this year by joining forces with Habitat for Humanity. Each can and bottle we use now goes toward the building of homes for the homeless. With this additional money from Sigma Pi, Habitat for Humanity will be able to continue helping those in Ithaca.

Greg Roman '05

## Lawn Chair

This semester I had the pleasure of watering the lawn and ensuring that the recently reseeded lawn came in properly. After two months, we are now able to say that we have a beautiful lawn. Although we won't be able to take advantage of it during the Ithaca winter, it certainly will be nice to have a lush green lawn waiting for us in the spring.

Miguel Mascaro '05

## House Manager

This semester has not seen much in the way of major house improvements. The only pending projects are those left over from this summer; mainly the installation of new stronger door closers and security bars on some of the basement windows. Other than

that, we have had our usual share of daily maintenance.

Mike Brandt '05

## Rush Chair

Recruitment is progressing well this fall. We have finalized the rush week schedule for the spring; and, because of our early planning, we were able to secure ideal times for our events.

Although formal recruitment is still months away, we can say with confidence that we expect another strong pledge class for 2003.

Devan Musser '05 and Jens Roman '05

## Social Chair

Mu Chapter started off the semester with our annual Light Party, which was as successful as ever. Since then we have had several mixers with Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Delta Tau, and Kappa Alpha Theta. We're also looking forward to our fall crush party and the annual winter formal, which will take place before the end of the semester.

Andrew Magenheimer '05 and Nick Lesser '05

## Intramurals Chair

We are enjoying a successful fall season for intramurals. Although we lost in the quarterfinals of the playoffs for football, we are still alive and doing well in soccer, coming off a thrilling last-second victory in our first playoff game. We placed second in a philanthropy tug-of-war competition among fraternities and won the golf tournament behind the strong play of Tim Altier '03 and Matt Cantlon '03. We look forward to the start of the hockey and bowling seasons in the coming weeks.

Bill Clausen '05



## Sigma Pi Enjoys Successful Semester

*(continued from page one)*

cocktail hour and dinner, this weekend will be focused more on socializing and less on the formalities. I envision having banquet-style seating with a buffet and a variety of beverages. We encourage alums to spend the night at the house, although we will arrange to have a block of hotel rooms nearby.

I would like to hear any and all feedback in regard to this idea. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [elg28@cornell.edu](mailto:elg28@cornell.edu) if you have any suggestions, questions, or thoughts. While I will not be in office next spring and Matt Maloney '05 will have taken my place, I am looking forward to working with Matt to make this idea work and be a tremendous success.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those with whom I have been in contact or with whom I have worked this past year. I appreciate all the positive feedback I have received and would like to thank Frank Abbott '42 specifically. This position has been a great learning experience for me and has enabled me to contribute to Sigma Pi, which is the reason my Cornell experience has been so outstanding. Over this past year I have met a great many Mu Chapter alums and have enjoyed the privilege of being first counselor. I look forward to seeing everyone in the future.

Fraternally,  
Evan Gilbert '03

## GET CONNECTED!

If you wish to be among the first to learn about Mu news and events, make sure we have your e-mail address! Just visit Mu Chapter's web site at <http://www.musigmapi.org> and click on the link for the "alumni database" on the home page.

## Fundraising Efforts For Dolly Hailstork Net \$117K

*In the summer of 2001, two brothers, Mark Wood '88 ("Woody") and Stu Strumwasser '88 loaded a computer into their car and headed to the Ithaca home of one Adolphous Cunningham Hailstork. Their goal was to bring Dolly into the 21st century by hooking him up to the Internet and giving him e-mail capabilities. Woody and Stu found that Dolly's living conditions were poor. His place had not been cleaned in years and was in dire need of structural repairs. Woody and Stu, with the help of Michael Vernick '83, hatched a plan to raise money for improving Dolly's living conditions.*

In April 2002, with 40 brothers in attendance at cocktail hours in Boston and New York, the fundraising commenced. Bob Pearl '88 set up the web site [www.dollyhailstork.com](http://www.dollyhailstork.com) to provide information about donations. Brian Finneran '82 volunteered to coordinate a reunion event in New York. The Adolphous Cunningham Hailstork Trust Fund was established for donations and disbursement of funds to Dolly. Chris Selland '86 and Tony McManus '82 agreed to help with organization. The fundraising culminated with an alumni reunion weekend in New York in September.

And what a weekend it was. Dolly arrived by bus on Friday afternoon. After a quick nap at his hotel, it was off to happy hour to meet the early arrivals. There were two meeting places—one for the younger, hip crowd and one for the older, distinguished crowd. It was a festive evening, but Doll couldn't take all the excitement and was escorted back to his hotel at 11:00 p.m.

On Saturday, Doll did some shopping before his mid-afternoon nap. A small group of brothers congregated in Doll's room while he slept to drink a few beers and catch up. Later that night, everyone gathered at the Manhattan Club for "An Evening with Dolly." There were 125 people in attendance, including a dozen spouses and a few house sweethearts. Brothers in attendance ranged in years from 1956 to 1996.



Joe Dervay '80 presented Dolly with a framed print signed by the crew of NASA's space station. Alan Rosen '91 presented a framed montage of pictures of Dolly with various brothers. Several brave souls ventured to stand on top of a keg to tell stories. Amazingly, Dolly remembered names and hometowns of brothers whom he hadn't seen in 30 years. He also gave us a heartfelt thank you, joking that he couldn't believe that it took us so long.

There was plenty of reminiscing. Many people remarked how much fun it was to get back in touch with such good friends and wondered why it couldn't happen more often. On Sunday, a group gathered for brunch in the hotel restaurant before saying goodbye. Doll got back on his bus and headed back to Ithaca.

By the beginning of November, donations totaled \$117,432 from 215 brothers. The cost of the weekend event was about \$15,000, and Dolly has already received \$11,000. That has paid for a lawn service to maintain the grounds around the house, a contractor to handle interior and exterior repairs and painting, a cleaning person who cleans and brings food to Dolly on a weekly basis, a new TV, a new Barcalounger, and cash (\$7,000) so that Dolly could trade in his SUV for a truck that is easier to get in and out of. (Dolly has sciatica in one leg.) The new truck has helped tremendously, and Dolly is again tooling around town.

That leaves about \$90,000 in the trust, which is invested in conservative securities. The goal is to ensure that the money does two things: significantly



improves Dolly's quality of life in the short term; and provides additional and meaningful income in the years to come, particularly if he requires a home aide in the future.

The plan is to disperse about \$900 (plus inflation adjustments) a month (\$150 for monthly maintenance and \$750 for Dolly), which should last about eight years (he also gets about \$1,200 a month from social security). If Dolly passes away, any remaining balance in the trust fund will be given to the house. Dolly also entertained the possibility of moving to a senior residence in downtown Ithaca, but now that his house is in much better shape and he has reliable transportation, he's not so keen on the idea. (During Doll's divorce his wife kept ownership of the house, but agreed to let Dolly stay as long as he wants).

In closing, the committee would like to thank everyone who has helped Dolly in his time of need. Both his living conditions and state of mind have improved tremendously. Everyone should be proud.

Keep your calendars open for a combination golf weekend/90th birthday party for Dolly in Ithaca in August 2005. If you have any questions, would like more information, would like to sign up for the alumni e-mail list, or would still like to donate, please feel free to write or call Mark Wood (woody@bonamifilms.com, 415/929-1893) or Michael Vernick (michael@giantface.com, 732/918-3133).

Fraternally,  
The Adolphous Cunningham Hailstork  
Fundraising Committee

*Michael Vernick '83 will be organizing several events for Sigma Pi brothers at next year's Cornell Reunions, June 5-8, 2003. If you are interested in attending, please send Mike an e-mail (michael@giantface.com) or give him a call (732/918-3133).*



## Brothers Volunteer For Habitat For Humanity

The Cornell chapter of Habitat for Humanity is a very strong and well-organized group on our campus, and I recently had the pleasure of participating in one of their work trips. As many of you probably know, the organization is known for building houses by utilizing lots of volunteer hours from helpful individuals. These projects are funded through donations much like those Sigma Pi is making from our recycling fund through the leadership of Greg Roman '05.

The organization is completely student-run here, and the leaders actively take part at the sites. Two or three groups of students meet on Saturday mornings to travel to sites near Ithaca and volunteer their time to those less fortunate than us. Oftentimes, the trip involves some fixing up, painting, or landscaping.

The trip that I went on was to a new site. It is right off of Route 96, five minutes from Ithaca. Our job was to clear as much of the trees and underbrush as possible; the site was pretty much a forest. It seemed like a huge task when we arrived there with the snow coming down on this chilly Saturday morning. However, with 15 people working hard for a few hours, we made a lot of progress and a big pile of wood for the chipper. It will probably take only a few more hours to finish this part of the job. I'm looking forward to participating at this site as much as possible during my last year at Cornell.

Fraternally,  
Tim Altier '03

## Network Troubles (Mostly) Resolved

It would be fair to say that Mu Chapter has certainly seen its share of technology woes in the past three months. But with the amount of talent and resources that our house possesses, it's not surprising that issues have been successfully resolved!

When they arrived back in Ithaca during the third week of August, the brothers discovered the wireless network in complete disarray. Although the network had had its problems in the past, it had more or less been a viable solution for house Internet access.

Unfortunately, the troubles of late August were such that the network was only capable of running for about five minutes at a time—and after it went down, someone would have to reset everything by hand. Luckily, through the diligence of Van Robinson '59 and the two members of his company's network staff that he assigned to help us, the matter's extreme troubles were resolved, at least back to a point similar to that of last year. The past month has been spent resolving the minor issues, and we are now at a point that

“down time” is only experienced about once a week.

In other news, the web site, <http://www.musigmapi.org>, had been undergoing some renovations. While the aesthetics of the page are just about the same, updates occur weekly, and back issues of *The Muse* are now viewable on the web site as well. One goal this semester is to increase the photo album five-fold. Personal touches such as these will go a long way toward helping alumni feel more connected with the fraternity.

On one final note, over the past six months, the house has become a target for vandalism. Rocks and sand have been put into a brother's gas tank, a number of cars were scratched and “keyed,” and in April, the Sigma Pi sign was stolen off our lawn. As a result, we are currently looking into a system to deter vandals from attempting such acts in the future.

Fraternally,  
Matt Maloney '05  
Technology Chair

Visit us on the web:

<http://www.musigmapi.org>

*“What I did on my summer vacation...”*

## Brother Explores Guatemala

*Every spring semester, a popular topic of conversation at the house is what people will be doing over the summer. It's very interesting to hear some of the things in which brothers get involved. My answer to that question last year was, “I'm going to Guatemala.” Inevitably, this drew the response, “Oh, with Cornell or your church group?”*

“Neither.” For some reason, I had decided to go alone. It all seemed very romantic to me. I bought an enormous backpack and stuffed it with all that I would need for two months of traveling in foreign countries. I contacted a Spanish school in Antigua, Guatemala, and arranged to live with a family for my first week in the country. After that, my plans were nonexistent.

For the first three weeks, I lived in Antigua, which is a beautiful little colonial city nestled between three volcanoes of considerable stature. I passed my time studying Spanish, playing soccer with the farmers on their lunch breaks, rock climbing, and socializing with other travelers. I even climbed one of the active volcanoes, Picaya. It was a bit scary, to say the least. After climbing for three hours, we arrived near the summit. The air was extremely cold (due to the altitude), and the rocks were very warm to the touch; some even glowed red. That day, sulfur was billowing up from the crater, but we decided to have a look anyway. We covered our faces with wet clothes and ventured into the puffy white cloud. The visibility in the sulfur cloud was so bad that I couldn't see my hand if I fully extended it away from my body. My companions became separated and we had to communicate by yelling.

“I'm over here!”

“Where?”

“HERE!”

All the while, the hiss of escaping sulfur cut through the eerie silence and white abyss. We never did see the crater, but it was probably for the best. In that kind of visibility, I wouldn't have wanted to go anywhere close to the edge.

The next week I found myself wandering through another small mountain town and decided that this would be the ideal place to take up residence for a while. I asked around (the people there are very nice) and was pointed to a local corner store, whose owners had been known to house travelers. The family was indigenous Mayan. The father was a farmer, the mother weaved beautifully colored clothes, and the 19-year-old son was an “agricultural consultant.” The oldest daughter and her son lived with us. The middle daughter was married and lived the next block up with her husband's family. The youngest

daughter was away doing volunteer work. The grandmother made tortillas and also weaved clothes. If the bird, dog, and chickens are included, this made for a very crowded household. But it was also very happy. Evening coffee after we had returned from the cornfields in the mountains is among my favorite memories of the trip.

But I only stayed in San Antonio for two weeks. Early one morning at 3:30, I hopped on a rickety bus and headed for Honduras. After changing many busses and an “eventful” border crossing, I arrived at my destination... 15 hours later and very dirty. My destination was Utila, Honduras. It is a beautiful Caribbean island where the natives speak English that doesn't sound like anything we speak. There is one main road, and everyone drives a four wheeler or a bicycle.

The main industry of the island is scuba diving, and I did this for two weeks. Some of my more memorable dives were a night dive (I felt like I was on the moon) and a dive to a sunken 150-foot cargo container ship at 105 feet. While on the ship, I set down in the wheelchair and cut my finger on the rail. If that wasn't enough, I turned around to find a five-foot-long silver fish with large teeth staring at me from only 10 feet away. With the blood on my finger I immediately thought, “I'm dead,” but it turned out to be just a big snapper. I have never been so relieved in my life. On another day we swam with a pod of 16 playful dolphins.

Soon it was time for me to make my way back to the airport at Guatemala City. I took a week to do this and traveled through many quiet little beach towns. To get to the highway and pick up a bus, I took a two-hour boat ride up the Rio Dulce, which is a jungle river where the air is thick and bird cries echo through the treetops.

When I arrived home, there was some culture shock. Everything looked so big. It took me quite some time to adjust to the fact that I could get in my car and go anywhere I wanted with the utmost convenience. The differences between our country and others are great, and I would like to continue traveling. But for right now, I need to get a job.

Evan Andrews

## Law Office Internship Proves Eye-Opening

Growing up in Bethesda, Maryland, an affluent Washington suburb littered with Audis and country clubs, I had little appreciation for the plight and hopelessness of many inner-city neighborhoods only a few miles from home. That changed this past summer when I accepted an internship with Don Dworsky, a CJA court-appointed criminal defense attorney (and Cornell alumnus). My summer days were spent traveling between D.C. Superior Court, the D.C. jail, the correctional treatment facility, and various halfway houses.

In court, I learned the fundamentals of criminal law through a multitude of different cases. I did legal research for several appeals cases that Attorney Dworsky was working on and sat in court for the entire spectrum of hearings, arraignments, trials, and sentences. I also took advantage of the unique opportunity of attending public defender service seminars on topics such as protester defense and police officer cross-examination.

While these experiences are sure to prove valuable in the future and my goal is to attend law school, the most meaningful aspect of the summer was the people I met. It was the “down time” that mattered. From waiting for our clients' cases to be called to sitting with clients in jail visitation cells, I managed to dispel many stereotypes I'd previously held. I had one-on-one conversations with the types of people I never thought I would meet. I talked to guys my own age facing 40 years in prison with three-page rap sheets going back to the time they were 12 years old. I talked to 40-year-old men trying to raise numerous children while unemployed and addicted to crack. I saw firsthand what I had only read about in textbooks for government classes I have taken. These personal experiences made me realize that many impoverished inner-city residents convicted of crimes are not the “predators” we might think they are, but rather people just like us who had the disadvantage of growing up in communities where family structure, job opportunities, positive role models, and, most importantly, hope, are oddities rather than norms.

This summer internship made me realize all that I take for granted. It heightened my social conscience and reinforced my plans to pursue a career in law or politics, so I can help ensure fair treatment through our country's judicial system. I strongly encourage anyone to go down to the local courthouse, see the harsh realities of felony court, and learn about the inner workings of the criminal justice system.

Noah Koretz '04

# Alumni Mailbag

GEORGE READER '40 makes his home at 5006 Theall Rd., Rye, NY 10580.

Retired professor DAVID FELBECK '48 now devotes his time and energy to the non-profit Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners, of which he is state president. He writes, "We were instrumental in the passage of Michigan's Concealed Carry Reform Bill in 2000, which made Michigan the 33rd 'shall issue' state. When not working to elect pro-firearms rights legislators, I hunt and fish in several Midwest and western states, including Alaska, as well as charter trawlers in the Puget Sound with my son and grandsons. Life is good." David's address is 2060 Scottwood, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (felbeck@umich.edu).

JOHN LLOYD '49 and his wife, Clara, moved from Fairport to Ithaca in April. They're now living at Longview on South Hill (105 Bella Vista Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850). "Glad to be back in God's country!" writes John, who can be reached by e-mail at jloyd1@twcny.rr.com.

VINCENT CRANE '52 enjoyed visits with DON CASE '54 and DON CLARK '57 last winter in Florida, and he'd love to get together with other brothers in the neighborhood. Contact him at gelsercrane@cs.com or at 1279 Buena Vista Dr., North Fort Myers, FL 33903.

The president of Color Craft Graphic Arts, THOMAS FOSTER '60 resides at 4825 River Heights Dr., Manitowoc, WI 54220.

"Last spring, Carol and I spent three months at the University of Warwick, Coventry, U.K.," writes KENNETH MEYER '60 (6355 Shorts Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45230; ken.meyer@uc.edu). "Most of my time was devoted to lecturing and research, but we did take several nice side trips. Old friends, send me an e-mail."

CHARLEY CLARK '77 had a great time at his 25th reunion, "thanks to the superb hospitality of resident brothers at the Pi house this past summer!" A senior vice president at Sovereign Bank Capital Markets, Charley resides at 7 Flintlock Court, Bernardsville, NJ 07924, and can be reached by e-mail at cclark@sovereignbank.com.

Please note this new address for KEVIN KRUSE '79: 8 Hunters Ridge Dr., Pennington, NJ 08534 (krusekevin@msn.com).

LUC CHABOT '80 is the director of facilities at Convergent Energy Group in Houston, Texas. Drop him a line at lchabot@houston.rr.com or at 3210 Beachwater Dr., Katy, TX 77450.

ROBERT FUCHS '80 reports a new address of 4C Saraca Hill, SINGAPORE 807493 (fox95@singnet.com.sg).

"I moved to Atlanta in May 2001 with Russell Reynolds Associates," writes TIM HENN '83, "and have been enjoying the southern hospitality. I'm on the lookout for any Pi men in Atlanta." Tim lives at 1932 Volberg St., Atlanta, GA 30318.

DENNIS McNAMARA '83 can be reached at 22 Cambridge Lane, Manhassat, NY 11030, or at dbccmac@aol.com.

Get in touch with MIGUEL A. FERRER '91 at 5 Jones St., #14, New York, NY 10014; miguel@axexo.com.

ANDY DWYER '92 works in the Reproductive Endocrine Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital and lives at 23 Elmwood Rd., Swampscott, MA 01907. Send e-mail to Andy at adwyer@partners.org.

ARUN K. MASTER '95 reports a new address of 1 Columbus Place, Apt. 527F, New York, NY 10019 (arun\_master@yahoo.com).

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of GLENN A. KING '50 on April 16, 2002.



## Please Take A Moment To Send Us Your Newsform!



*The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of our alumni. Please take a moment to fill out your newsform and return it to the address at right. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest fraternity memories or thoughts on what Sigma Pi means to you. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of The Muse.*

**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.