

The IOTA SIG



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ITHACA, NEW YORK

www.alphasig-rockledge.com

SPRING 2002

“Positioned For Success”

After a long and cold winter, spring has turned and found the brotherhood of Iota Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi positioned for success. Strengthened by our struggles with the Ithaca Building and Fire departments last year, we have dedicated this year to building upon our initial momentum and focusing on proactive development of the brotherhood.

Enjoy Our Successes To Date

2002 has already been a strong year for improving the infrastructure of the Rockledge Estate as well as the ties between Iota Chapter's brotherhood. The completion of the first-floor bathroom remodeling project was a strong statement about the accomplishments possible when we apply the combined resources of the alumni and undergraduate brotherhood. I would especially like to recognize the combined project management expertise employed by undergraduate Vice President Jonathan Davis and corporation board member Jeff Snedeker. Supported in part by your annual contributions, Jonathan and Jeff's efforts ensured a great success for a long-needed repair and overhaul project.

In addition, we have continued to build undergraduate and alumni ties through the desire and interest of both parties. The strong showing of both alumni and undergraduate brothers at the most recent New York City regional event (see Russ Kellner's article on page five) are ongoing evidence of this fact. Indeed, even alumni initially hesitant to attend have enjoyed their visits with friends old and new at these events. For those of you in the San Francisco area, be sure to check out our next regional event at Greg Medow's restaurant on May 4.

Support The Undergraduates

As always, there is still much to be done, and the corporation board wouldn't be doing its job if we allowed the alumni to bask in our accomplishments for too long. As we revel in our recent successes, I hope you will help us maintain our mo-

mentum in network and program development. So what's next?

As you may know, our undergraduates face the often daunting task of seeking both summer internships and full-time employment. I hope those of you with influence in your company's management and hiring processes will make the effort to support the undergraduates by assisting them in their search for internships and long-term employment. For those of you finding yourselves (or your respective companies) not in a position to offer a job, please still attempt to get involved through mentoring, coaching, and answering undergraduate career development questions. Please contact Tom Hunter (tomhugb@earthlink.com) for more details.

Strengthen Alumni Ties

I also invite you to make sure you reap the benefits of alumni brotherhood: enjoy your fellow alumni. In this spirit, we've asked Greg Medow to bring us up to speed on his adventures since graduation (see "Meet the Host," page five). For those of you out in the world living exciting adventures, please e-mail me your ideas for future Iota Sig articles.

Finally, we'd like to ask you to consider helping us out as a class captain for your graduating class. We're looking for people to simply stay in touch with their buddies. Communication duties include drumming up interest for regional event and Reunion Weekend attendance, collecting ideas for improvement, and coordinating involvement in some of our exciting new programs like the jobs program. Please send me an e-mail if you are interested.

We have survived tough times, and the house is well positioned to grow and prosper going forward. Thank you for your continuing support.

Dave Poggi

David.poggi@dartmouth.edu

(Yup, Dartmouth College—disgusting, huh?!)

REUNION WEEKEND

— June 6-9, 2002 —

All alumni, families, and friends are invited to an informal reception at Rockledge on Saturday, June 8, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Visitors are also welcome at the house at any other time during the weekend. We hope to have other events planned, so please call and ask an undergraduate for more information. We look forward to seeing you!

Large Membership, High Morale Bode Well For Rockledge

Greetings from Ithaca. As we begin the spring 2002 semester, morale is high, and attitudes toward the future are positive. Returning from winter break, the brothers found the old, deteriorating bathroom on the second floor of the house replaced by a fabulous, brand-new bathroom, which was made possible by the corporation board and the generous donations of our alumni. Additionally, we took in a pledge class of 17 men this spring, bringing the total number of undergraduate brothers to 62, the largest the house has been in years. Many houses on campus have been struggling with numbers or with following national regulations, but here at Rockledge we have only gotten stronger, and the future of the house looks bright.

Rush was very successful this spring, thanks largely to the efforts of Rush Chair Mike Summersgill '03, and our newest pledge class is poised and ready to help carry Rockledge through the upcoming years. The pledges seem enthusiastic about learning the ins and outs of the house, improving the physical structure, and continuing to spread the positive

(continued on page two)

Bathroom Remodeling Finally Complete

During winter break the corporation board financed the complete remodeling of the second-floor bathroom. The board proposed the idea to the current brothers over Homecoming, and as house manager, I contacted several contractors to get estimates for the work. The corporation board—made up of President David Poggi, Russ Kellner, Jeff Snedeker, Christopher Massing, and Tom Hunter—evaluated the proposals and approved the construction in December.

Lasting approximately three weeks, the project involved the total overhaul of the mold-covered, leaking, and antiquated facility into a new, beautiful bathroom. The work began with the demolition and removal of the existing toilets, stalls, ceiling, rotting walls, and floor. In all, over seven tons of cement, tile, and

other debris were removed. With walls and floor rebuilt, every surface except for the ceiling was retiled. The ceiling was painted with mold-resistant paint, and the windows

and frames were replaced. Only two new toilets were brought in, though, with a urinal replacing the third one nearest the showers. New sinks, countertop, and mirror also went in. For our female guests, new stalls—not only with doors, but with doors that latch closed—were also installed. In addition, a dividing partition replaced the center showerhead.

This project would not have been possible without the generous support of the Rockledge alumni. Your donations to the house via the corporation board are making a difference. On behalf of all of the current and future brothers, I want to thank you very much for your dedication to the brotherhood. Please come by to visit us and have a look at the new bathroom.



The beautiful new bathroom in all its glory.

Jonathan Davis '03

Large Membership, High Morale

(continued from page one)

image of Rockledge throughout the Cornell campus.

Continued alumni support has also been appreciated very much by the undergraduate brothers. For the recent "Big Brother/Little Brother Bolt," approximately 25 undergraduates joined numerous alumni at the Stock and Tankard bar in New York City. We are very grateful for all of your support, and I know all the brothers and pledges enjoyed meeting alumni. I hope this continued support and involvement between alumni and undergraduates continues, and I invite everyone to drop by Rockledge more often.

I would like to conclude by saying farewell to our seniors. A class of 19 men will be graduating this May, and each was instrumental in helping the house achieve its current level of excellence. One of the seniors, Erik Carlson '02, will be remaining in Ithaca next year to obtain a master's in engineering while serving as our first live-in adviser. This is just one of the steps we are taking to help preserve Rockledge on the Cornell campus for years to come.

Once again, thanks to all for your continued support.

Paul Drury '03, Chapter President

Visit us on the Web at www.alphasig-rockledge.com

Rockledge Searches For Faculty Fellow

How often does the house academic chair (HA) write an article for *The Iota Sig*? Since the only thing he does is supervise biweekly study sessions for the pledges, the answer is never. Yet, this traditional role for the academic chair is rapidly changing.

This past semester the academic chair was given a daunting task. It has become necessary for Rockledge to obtain a faculty fellow—a professor who clearly has a connection with his students and who represents the ideals of Alpha Sig.

There was a time when faculty members would join brothers at house dinners on Sunday nights. As times have changed, however, the brotherhood—as well as the Greek community as a whole—has grown apart from the faculty. Perhaps this represents a societal trend that de-emphasizes the importance of education and respect for elders. Or maybe it is the faculty that has distanced itself from Greeks as reports of hazing and binge drinking become more frequent.

Whatever the cause, the brotherhood believes it is time once again to improve our relations with the faculty. There is

speculation that a faculty fellow will soon become mandatory for each house, so the brotherhood is attempting not only to gain a faculty fellow, but to improve our relations with the administration by obtaining one before it is mandatory.

Some houses want faculty fellows to play an enormous role; in fact, I talked to one who was actually an initiated brother at a certain fraternity. Other houses want a faculty fellow in name only, to appease the administration. We aim to find a middle ground between these two extremes—a professor who can be utilized for tutoring and recommendations and help us develop into young adults without sharing our house's cherished secrets.

This is an ongoing process, and brothers have given me the names of numerous professors who might fill this role. I will meet with each candidate personally and then share my impressions with the brotherhood, after which we will vote on the candidates. The benefits clearly outweigh the costs, and this is a win-win situation that can further the ideals of the Old Gal.

Joe Pylman '04

New Members Excited About Joining Rockledge

The brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi are proud to announce their new pledge class. This year, 17 prospective members have decided to pledge to become members of Rockledge. They are Michael Reid Gooch, Scott Buxbaum, Daniel Greenfield, Scott Kurpiel, Timothy Lambert, Michael Lipman, Brian O'Reilly, Mark Pincus, Jared Rosen, Douglas Stone, Kevin Striepe, Raffi Valijan, Brian Wasserman, Brian Zito, Trevor Rice Kaufman, Joe LaVerde, and Michael Siuta.

Pledges and brothers alike are excited about the pledging process, which will be taking place throughout the semester. The brothers are eager to get to know the prospective new members of the fraternity, who will continue the legacy and wonderful tradition of Alpha Sigma Phi. At the same time, the pledges can't wait to become well acquainted with all the brothers of the house and to understand and appreciate the history and traditions of the fraternity of which they are about to become a part.

Thus far, nothing but good things have been said on both sides regarding the pledging process this semester. The brothers are delighted to see that the pledges are becoming more knowledgeable each day about what it means to be an Alpha Sig, while the pledges enjoy growing closer every day to their ultimate goal of becoming brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi. All agree that the future of Alpha Sigma Phi is looking strong.

Daniel Greenfield '05



Our newest members: the spring 2002 pledge class.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Vice President.....	Jonathan Davis '03.....	Biology & History
Treasurer.....	Drew Bonfiglio '03.....	Operations Research
Secretary.....	Seth Trueger '04.....	Government & Premed
Rush Chairman.....	Mike Summersgill '03.....	Operations Research



Left: Paul Forest '03 and Drew Bonfiglio '03 party it up.

Below: Rockledge's aspiring filmmakers: Collin Evans '03, Karl Kaufman '03, Udi Falkson '03.



Rockledge Holds Greek God Philanthropy Event

Rockledge's annual philanthropy event, the Greek God pageant, was held on Saturday, February 23, at the Statler Auditorium. Incredibly successful, the event packed the auditorium with more than 650 people and raised approximately \$2,600 for charity. As in previous years, the money will be donated to the Michael A. Padula Foundation, as well as the American Red Cross.

Participating in the event were 14 fraternities and 12 sororities. The brothers had a good time cheering on Rockledge's representative, new member Joseph LaVerde '05. A big hit with the women, Joe showed off his prodigious talents as a pianist and looked smashing in the formalwear competition in an outfit right out of the '70s. We were proud to be represented by someone as classy and charismatic as Joe.

Although we believe Joe was the best contestant on the stage, he came in an admirable second place; we wouldn't want it to look like we're rigging the contest! Although disappointed about being the runner-up, Joe knew that he did the best he could. "It felt great to get up on stage and represent the brotherhood at Greek God. I was a little upset about not finishing first, but I knew that I had the support of the Rockledge brothers and pledges, and that's so much more important than winning." Thanks, Joe, for competing in the event and for showing the Greek system what it means to be a part of the Rockledge tradition.

Avi Giladi '04

ALUMNI MAILBAG

Kudos to DORSEY BUTTRAM '41, the president of Buttram Energies, Inc., who recently received the company's lifetime achievement award. He joined the company (then Buttram Petroleum) in 1945, assuming the management of citrus farms in Edinburg, Mission, and McAllen, Texas, and avocado groves in Whittier, California. In 1947 he took over the management of Clear Creek Ranches, home of the Brangus cattle. He has been active with the International Brangus Breeders Association and was instrumental in starting the Oklahoma Brangus Association. Dorsey is also a member of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association and of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Send best wishes to Dorsey at 2601 NW Expressway, #510W, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Drop a line to DAVID J. SWIFT '50 at 129 Anytrell Dr., Webster, NY 14580 (dswift@rochester.rr.com).

"I was pleasantly surprised to find Rockledge in the best condition since I lived there in 1951!" writes DONALD McNAMARA '51 (117 Waters Edge Dr. N., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082). "My wife and I received a warm welcome from DAVID POGGI '97 and several brothers during an impromptu visit last June. We enjoyed a tour of the house, and I was delighted that one of the brothers had 'discovered' (found in an attic) class group photos of my era at Cornell, 1947-'51. I was happy to enjoy the company of BILL GERE '51, DICK FREEMAN '51, and HARRY HENRIQUES '51 at 50th reunion events. Following the reunion we visited Marge and FRED EYDT '52 in Vermont and Roseanne and JACK HOLLIS '50 on Long Island. All in all it was a memorable trip, and I thank Alpha Sigma Phi brothers for their hospitality!"

JOSEPH W. SANTAMARIA '62

reports that he went scuba diving in the South Pacific with his older son, Jason, last summer. He writes, "We dove the wrecks in Truk Lagoon and went to Yap and Palau." Joe tried retirement last year but has since gone back to work and is now helping restore the Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. His wife, Nancy, is retired; Jason works for Morgan Stanley in Manhattan; and his younger son, Eric, works for GE Transportation Systems in Boston. Write to Joe at jwsantamaria@netscape.net or at 2337 Sunset Blvd., Houston, TX 77005.

To commemorate their 10th anniversary, JOHN AMODEO '76 and his partner, Brian DeLorenzo, were publicly joined in a commitment ceremony last June, followed by a month-long holiday in Italy. Congratulate them at 8 Worcester Square, #1, Boston, MA 02118 (jamodeo@crja.com).

VERNON P. ELLINGER '76 enjoyed seeing the house last summer during his 25th reunion. "Thanks to the active brothers for a great reception." He adds that he's still working in venture capital "and trying to understand engineers (some things haven't changed)." Vernon's address is 59 Sawyer Rd., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481 (ellinger@mediaone.net).

CHRISTIAN BELADY '83 is happy to announce the arrival of his second child, Zoltan Christian, on November 16. Send greetings to the Beladys at 2202 Amherst Circle, McKinney, TX 75070, or at belady@rsn.hp.com.

Becky and THEODORE W. MILLS-PAUGH '84 sold their Virginia house last summer and bought a house in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania (209 Warrior Rd., 19026). They have two children—a daughter, Alicia, in the first grade, and a son, T.J., who's three. E-mail reaches Ted at

rtmillsbaugh@erols.com.

ALEJANDRO BADIA '85 has been keeping busy in the field of hand and microsurgery. He has performed surgery with closed-circuit TV for an audience of surgeons in Brazil and Italy, and similar workshops are planned in Venezuela. Drop him a line at alex@surgical.net or at 1278 S. Venetian Way, Miami, FL 33139.

In November, GEORGE GIFFORD '85 and his wife welcomed their third child, daughter Eliza, who joins big brother Andrew (8) and big sister Rachel (4). Send best wishes to the Gifford family at 1 Meadow View Dr., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 (gggifford@att.net).

SONG TAN '85 is an assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Penn State University. Write to him at 1644 Woodledge Circle, State College, PA 16803.

Alyse and ADAM L. GOODMAN '89 became the parents of Alexander Ian Goodman on November 11, 2001. Adam's the president of Goods Entertainment and can be reached at adam@goodsentertainment.com or at 10 Sunset Dr., Weston, CT 06883.

CHRISTOPHER RITTER '91 reports a new address of 20 Pearce Dr., Snyder, NY 14226 (cootermail@yahoo.com).

A trader with Fidelity Investments, MATTHEW HEALEY '92 can be reached at mthealey@attbi.com or at 20 Lancaster Lane, Bedford, NH 03110.

JOEL C. PASTORE '92 resides in Naperville, Illinois (412 Berry Dr., 60540), where he works for Ondeo-Nalco's Corporate Strategy Group. Send e-mail to Joel at jcp46@cornell.edu.

Last October, CHRISTOPHER "Casey" WALLACH '92 started a new job as product manager at Evercom Systems. Then in December, Casey and Beth's son, Pearce, was born. "We are all doing well," reports Casey, "and our three-year-old daughter, Katie, is enjoying her role as big sister." Casey would like to hear from friends at christopherwallach@attbi.com or at 2123 Shumard Oak Lane, Irving, TX 75063.

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SEND IN 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 on page six. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest memories of life at Rockledge or thoughts on what Alpha Sigma Phi means to you. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of *The Iota Sig*.



The corporation board and Greg Medow invite you to the inaugural Rockledge

San Francisco Regional Alumni Gathering

Saturday, May 4, 6:00 p.m.
 The Crimson Lounge,
 687 McAllister Street
 415/673-9353

For additional details, e-mail Tom Hunter at tomhugb@earthlink.net.

Meet The Host

Greg Medow '94, host of the next regional event on May 4 in San Francisco, brings us up to speed on his activities since graduation.

"After working in Nantucket and for Robert Deniro in New York City, I moved to San Francisco to open up Indigo with a childhood buddy who used to shoot me in the butt with a BB gun from across the street. (Obviously, I got over it.) We have had five years of success. During that time, I teamed up with other partners, including Mike 'Dr. Doolittle' Moran '96, with whom I opened up Hobson's Choice, a Ruloff's-inspired bar in Haight Ashbury. Although Moran did absolutely nothing, he gets a fat check every month—but he doesn't charge me when he grooms me and clips my claws.

"I have also teamed up with other hotelies to open up two outlets of Asqew Grill, a quick-service concept that 'sticks good food in your neighborhood.' We have a third one opening up over the summer in the East Bay. George Lucas loves the food and often uses Asqew to cater parties for Yoda and R2D2 (they like the ahi tuna).

"Besides investing in local restaurant concepts (such as Foreign Cinema and Bruno's), I also have another bar scheduled to debut in August. The name is TBD, but the space will be an upscale bar with an 18-foot waterfall in the window and a pond in the basement. No midgets, however. I am trying to convince Ned Miller '94 to be the general contractor for this project, but he mumbled something about needing a 'license' to build. I said, 'Badges, we don't need no stinkin' badges.'

"In my spare time, I enjoy hiking the coast of Staten Island and bidding on Alpha Sig pledge pins on eBay."

Second NYC Gathering A Success

On March 2, 2001, the corporation board hosted the second annual Rockledge gathering in New York City at Stock & Tankard. Among the 23 alums and their spouses who made it out were Craig Hauret '94 and the wizened Jim Penna '89, and we were even treated to a brief appearance by Joe Zorn '52. In addition, 23 undergraduates made the drive from Ithaca. It was a great event, with many generations sharing old traditions and new stories.

The corporation board is organizing these smaller regional events in an effort to keep the Rockledge network active, as we recognize that it may not be easy for everyone to make it back for Homecoming or



Matt Malone '93, Mike Drew '91, and Mat Nelson '93.

Reunion Weekends. Since 2000, we've hosted two events in New York, one in Chicago, and one in Washington, DC, at Brian Berger's Annapolis Grill restaurant.

Coming up, we have an event planned in San Francisco for May 4 at Greg Medow's Crimson Lounge bar.

If you're interested in organizing a regional event in your area, we'd be glad to help you organize. Just contact the corporation board through me at rkellner@hotmail.com.

Russ Kellner '94
 Corporation Treasurer



Transfer of wisdom: Avi Giladi '01, Eric Carlson '99, Adam Mikulka '95, Matt Hoffman '96.

ALUMNI MAILBAG

(continued from page four)

Mail reaches GREGG DEHNER '95 at 116 Tall Oaks Dr., Unit W, Weymouth, MA 02190, and e-mail at gdehner33@hotmail.com. He is employed by Vertex Engineering Services, Inc.

JUSTIN HARRISON '95 and his wife, Abby, became parents in May 2001 with the birth of their daughter, Erin. Send congratulations to emailjustinh@yahoo.com or at 21497 Harvest Green Trail, Ashburn, VA 20148.

Please note this new address for THOMAS SZE '97: 50 Lexington Ave., Apt. 23A, New York, NY 10010 (thomas_sze@hotmail.com).

When he wrote in January, RICHARD GROUSSET '98 was recovering from a rock-climbing accident that occurred in Red Rock Canyon, Nevada, in December. "I fell about 100 feet after a rappel anchor gave way. I broke six ribs, punctured a lung, and broke several bones in my back.

After an eight-day stay in a Vegas hospital, I returned to the East Coast for some rest and recovery. I am now back to a nearly full-functioning human being, with just some chest and back pain to deal with for another month or so. Thanks to the many supportive Alpha Sigs who have called to check on me. Special thanks to CRAIG HAURET '98, who visited me in the hospital." Our address for "Gooch" is 3286 Kinyon Rd., Marietta, NY 13110 (goochester@excite.com).



We regret to inform you of the passing into Omega Chapter of

- CONRAD ENGELHARDT '42
December 30, 2001
- B. BURDETTE LEE '41
July 26, 2001
- EDWARD A. ZOUCK '39
December 11, 2001

Iota Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi, Inc., 2001-'02

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1995
1942
1997
1976
1990

**THE IOTA SIG**

Published regularly by Iota Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi, Inc., for the members and friends of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity at Cornell University. All correspondence, including news items, changes of address, and photographs, is always welcome and should be sent to Alpha Sigma Phi at Cornell, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.