

The IOTA SIG



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ITHACA, NEW YORK

www.alphasig-rockledge.com

WINTER 2003-'04

This Is A Time Of Opportunity For Rockledge

As I mentioned in this year's kickoff letter, I am extremely excited to take over the role of alumni president during a time of such great opportunity for Rockledge. There are many challenges facing our brotherhood these days, from an aging house to an ever-increasing number of rules and guidelines set down by Cornell and the city of Ithaca. However, it is the strength and intelligence of our alumni and undergraduate leadership that allows us to look at all of these issues as opportunities rather than roadblocks.

Before I move on to the main issue I'd like to discuss today, I want to express the amount of respect I have for our current undergraduate members. When I took over the role of alumni president, I was unsure of what to expect from the undergraduates. But I am continually impressed by their maturity in handling difficult situations as well as their dedication to maintaining and improving the fraternity we all hold so dear. As alumni, we should all be proud that our house continues to attract such outstanding leaders.

I also would like to express my thanks to the members of the corporation board and to our current chapter advisor. They have all been very helpful (and patient) in getting me up to speed. Veteran board members Chris Massing '92 and Thomas Hunter '95 continue to provide useful insights and excellent advice. Our new treasurer, Andrew Bonfiglio '03, who has the advantage of having recently been undergraduate treasurer, has approached his new role on the board with much enthusiasm. Andrew's knowledge of the fraternity budget has been, and will continue to be, invaluable. Finally, chapter advisor Jeff Snedeker '78 has been an incredible resource for the undergraduates as well as the corporation board. Jeff quickly devel-

oped a close bond with the undergraduates and has been readily available to guide them through difficult times.

The commitment these gentlemen demonstrate is commendable, if not downright inspirational. The more I work with all of them, undergraduate members included, the more secure I am in my conviction that we cannot fail at whatever we try to accomplish together.

Which brings me to the main issue I want to address. It is not long before our chapter celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2009. The board is planning to have a centennial celebration that will undoubtedly be an event you will not want to miss. However, as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the house itself is actually already 100 years old and needs significant repair. I see this as the number one most exciting opportunity facing us. Can you imagine the feeling of pride we would all have when we return to Ithaca in 2009 for our chapter's centennial celebration to find a completely renovated house? I can, and I know I'm not alone.

There is much work to be done before this fantasy can become reality, though. If you read the kickoff letter sent out earlier this year, you will already know that we are currently doing some research into the logistics of accomplishing this lofty goal. One of the first things we learned is that many successful fraternities have alumni boards with 15 to 20 alumni members. We have five. Further, our alumni leadership has primarily consisted of younger men in their mid-to-late 20s (I am 29).

I believe strongly that our success from this point forward will rest heavily on our ability to recruit at least 10 additional alumni board members and to have more representation from members graduating in the '50s, '60s, and '70s. While it is impor-

tant to retain the perspectives of younger alumni more in touch with the younger generations of Rockledge men, we are missing out on the vast amount of leadership experience older alumni have to offer.

I envision our current board as the executive committee of the new, larger corporation board. The EC will continue to operate as it does now, with monthly conference calls and frequent e-mail communication. The rest of the board would be composed of alumni contributing whatever level of effort they are comfortable with, from purely advisory roles to actively working on special projects. The entire board will meet in-person at least once a year in Ithaca to address important issues and develop strategy.

We have already begun adding to our team. For instance, we recently recruited Dave Poggi '97 (former alumni president) as a fundraising coordinator and Brian Berger '97 as an alumni event coordinator. We could also use an alumni recruitment coordinator and an alumni communications chair, and there are many more roles that can be filled. I urge you to contact me for more details if you have an interest in getting involved, or even if you have advice on how to successfully transform the board. I can be reached most easily by e-mail (richgrousset@hotmail.com), but feel free to try me by phone at 860/913-8851.

We have the opportunity to accomplish something monumental—to ensure we have a house that will last for another 100 years, to perpetuate the fraternity that helped shape our college experiences as well as who we are today. I look forward to working with my brothers to make this a reality. I hope you will join us!

YITMC,

Rich Grousset '98, Alumni President

Interested in becoming actively involved with the house again?

Now is the time! The corporation board is looking to expand its alumni membership and needs your help. Please contact Alumni President Rich Grousset '98 for more details (richgrousset@hotmail.com or 860/913-8851).

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Brian Wasserman

Vice President

Joe LaVerde

Treasurer

Trevor Kaufman

Secretary

Ronnie Meise

Rush Chairman

Brian Wasserman

Important Legislative Update

Senate to Consider Deductions for Contributions to Chapter Housing Funds

Current tax law regarding tax-deductible charitable contributions to fraternities limits the use of those funds to educational purposes only, such as scholarships, maintaining a library, or building a computer network. However, Cornell's Alumni Interfraternity Council (AIFC) has made us aware of some important tax legislation, the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2003, being considered by the Senate. If passed, the new legislation would allow tax-deductible contributions to be used for safety and infrastructure improvements to chapter houses.

The passing of this law could be extremely beneficial to Rockledge and its alumni members. And, as of right now, it is almost certain Congress will recess for the year without passing a final version of the charitable giving bill. So, there is still time for us to make a difference.

For more information about the Charitable Giving Act of 2003 (H.R. 7) and Senate Bill 1246 (also called the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2003), please visit www.psiu.org/io/memoranda.htm. Then contact your two senators and urge them to support this legislation. The website includes a sample letter and a list of senators for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for taking action on this important issue!

YITMC,
Rich Grousset '98
Alumni President

Rockledge Going Strong Through The Fall

While the weather in Ithaca is deteriorating quickly, the pace of the semester is quickly reaching a fever pitch. Weekly bar nights, date nights, and mixers keep the house as busy as ever. At the same time, prelims, papers, and finals vie for the time of the undergraduate brothers. It is this balance (or lack thereof) that has defined my Cornell experience, as I imagine it has throughout the generations of alumni. All of the house officers have transitioned nicely into their new positions, and things are going quite smoothly at the house. Though the administration and community have a reduced tolerance for fraternities in general, our chapter has kept good relations while still taking full advantage of our college years. This is a testament to the character of our brotherhood. I could not ask for a better group of young men to lead this house into the future.

The coming years are dotted with opportunity for our house. The structural issues, especially the sprinkler system and electrical update, offer challenges that I believe our chapter is quite capable of

meeting. IFC elections are soon approaching, and one of our brothers, Mark Pincus '05, is running for president of the board. The house has been working hard to support his campaign. Further ahead, everyone is looking forward to spring rush, and the expectations are very high for next year's pledge class. The officers are also in the process of completing a manual that would be passed down each year, outlining the responsibilities and duties of each position, as well as a detailed depiction of how the house is run on a more intricate level than is currently available.

As you read this issue, I hope you enjoy the stories, pictures, and articles presented. While our time in the house is far too short, all we can do is try to make the best of each day within the walls of Rockledge. Our years here are a gateway to the lives of great men from the last 94 years, and we thank you for continuing to show interest in the chapter.

Brian Wasserman '05
Chapter President

If you didn't already know, there is a gathering place on the web just for Rockledge members: www.rockledgens.org. You can search for long-lost brothers as well as get e-mail updates when brothers from your era move or change jobs. The usefulness of the site improves as the number of members increases—so sign up today!

100-Year-Old Alpha Sig House Needs TLC

This year our house turned 100 years old, although the men of Alpha Sigma Phi have only occupied it since 1913. Due to its age, the house is in need of some major renovations that we hope to complete before our chapter's centennial celebration in 2009. Some of the major projects we are planning to take on in the near future include new windows for the entire house and new electrical and Internet wiring for all of the rooms. There are also a few smaller projects we are currently working on, including refinishing the floors in the upper and lower lounge over winter break.

The most important project will be the addition of a new sprinkler system to satisfy updated fire code. We have met with several contractors and are considering how the project will fit in with other improvement goals.

While no one is living in the Lower Hogg this semester, we are getting ready to redo the floor and install a permanent ventilation system to make the room a

more comfortable living space. Also, since the cubbies in the Pad are no longer approved sleeping spaces, two brothers are working to install lofted beds in the room to make it a more suitable double.

We are also considering landscaping some of the property around the house. Priorities include replacing several of the large trees that have been removed in the past two years, as well as renovating and expanding the lawn around the house. The outdoor patio and barbecue—an area with a lot of potential—would require relatively little effort to improve.

The centennial anniversary seems like the logical deadline for these and other improvements. We are working hard to make that a possibility and feel it is of utmost importance to improve the safety and livability of the house while preserving its historic and unique character.

Scott Buxbaum '05
Peter Grimaldi '06
House Managers

Alums Join Undergrads For Terrific Homecoming Weekend

Homecoming Weekend is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year for all Cornellians, and especially for Rockledge men, young and...well...those still young at heart. It is a great opportunity for alumni to relive years past and to experience once again the pride of being a part of two grand institutions, Cornell and Alpha Sigma Phi. The weekend also gives us undergraduate members a chance to meet our alumni and learn about life after college from them.

This year's Homecoming was no disappointment. Alpha Sigs graduating as recently as last year, and as far back as 1960, showed up to support their alma mater and their fraternity.

The festivities began on Friday with a small, informal reception in the chapter room. Guests came in and out throughout the evening, some from as far away as California. Afterward, many of the alumni visited their old haunts down in Collegetown.

On Saturday, Rockledge began its annual tailgating at 10:00 a.m. with a strong showing from undergraduate as well as alumni members. Many friends of Rockledge stopped by, too. Travis, our house cook, prepared an excellent barbecue on the back of Peter Grimaldi's ('06) custom Ford pickup truck, working hard to grill hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken for all of the brothers and their guests. The tailgating was still going strong at halftime, but by then many people had also ventured over to Schoellkopf Stadium to watch the Big Red clash against the Brown Bears in football. Despite Cornell's loss, fans were in high spirits and continued to show their Cornell pride, some sporting some very interesting pro-Cornell and anti-Brown attire.

Saturday evening Rockledge held a wine and cheese reception. As was the case the entire weekend, alumni were a strong presence at this event. It is obvious that they were enjoying their visit as many were still socializing at the house as late as Sunday dinner.

Overall we were very pleased to see the brothers we already



Homecoming tailgate.

knew and to meet those we didn't. Thank you to everyone who made the trip to Ithaca this year. And special thanks go out to Mark Pincus '05, alumni chair, who made the whole weekend possible. When asked how the weekend went, Mark commented, "It was a blast! I'm impressed that so many brothers could make it. I hope coming back to the house for Homecoming will continue to be a strong tradition for Rockledge."

Next year's Homecoming Weekend is October 15-17. Hope to see you there!

Bill Grimshaw '06

Rockledge Improves Infrastructure While Staying Within Budget

I am pleased to report that the house is operating well financially. While undergoing several house improvement projects, we are still working well within the constraints of our budget. I have adapted well to the challenging and complex HE position, thanks in part to my experience assisting treasurer Drew Bonfiglio '03 last year.

My first challenge as treasurer this semester was to revamp Rockledge's Internet network within the limitations of our budget. The aging network broke down at the end of August, leaving the entire house without service. With the aid of House Manager Scott Buxbaum '05 and Communications Chair Raffi Valijan '05, I invested house funds in new equipment and hardware, including a more advanced server and hub ports. Since the upgrade, the brotherhood has enjoyed improved speed and quality of our Internet service.

Overall, the house is in a perpetual state of improvement. A genuine desire among the brotherhood to improve and modernize Rockledge is reflected in the appearance of the house. Our house managers have worked tirelessly on repairs and improvements, making the most of our resources. In addition, we have adapted to constantly changing building and fire codes, making Rockledge a safer place to live.

In my two years living in, the house has never looked better. In collaboration with house managers and other brothers, I look forward to upcoming projects to continue the maintenance of our house.

Trevor Kaufman '05

Thank You For Your support!

We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed already this 2003-2004 donation year. Though we are slightly behind where we were at this time last year, we are confident that, with everyone's support, we can easily exceed last year's total before June.

A special thank you goes out to Greg Medow for being the leading contributor thus far. Also, thank you to the following graduating classes for currently leading the pack with the top three highest average contribution per active class member:

- #1 - Class of '42
- #2 - Class of '95
- #3 - Class of '53

Note: The 2003-2004 donation year began July 1, 2003, and ends June 30, 2004. The above calculations are based on donations received between July 1 and November 25, 2003.

News From The Interfraternity Council

This year's IFC executive board, an exceptionally energetic group of individuals, has made great strides toward improving the Greek system. For the first time in more than a decade, the school celebrated Greek Week in early September, which culminated with a concert and carnival on the arts quad. With the success of Greek Week, the IFC plans to expand the size and number of events, hoping to eventually rebuild a strong tradition.

In April, I co-chaired a recruitment committee with Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council member and Beta Theta Pi alumnus Doug Onsi '90. The committee, which was composed of students, alumni, faculty, and staff, met to discuss the decline in Greek membership and to suggest ways to improve the system. Identifying lack of information about the Greek system as a major reason why freshmen and transfers do not pledge, the committee resolved to increase the amount of information reaching freshmen and transfers. The target is to bring in 50 new members in the fall and 500 new members in the spring. An interactive CD will be given out to freshmen with information about the Greek system, and there will be informa-

tion fairs where prospective rushees can receive information from individual chapters and the Greek system in general. We hope these things will better inform freshmen about us and demonstrate all the advantages of joining a fraternity. The improvements in the recruitment system have already produced results, as the IFC's goal of 50 new members in the fall has been exceeded.

A committee also met last spring to review and revise the social policy. With catered parties becoming expensive, the social policy committee drafted a bring-your-own-beverage policy. This will allow houses hosting small events to register their parties as BYOB.

As my term as vice president for recruitment for the Interfraternity Council comes to a close, I view the Cornell Greek system as an institution that has made many significant improvements, but also faces a host of serious challenges. I look forward to continuing my role in helping the Greek system, and Rockledge, remain successful well into the future.

Mark Pincus '05

While Rebuilding, Alpha Sig Does Well In IM Sports

Rockledge once again had a competitive fall season in intramural sports, despite losing many key players from last year's senior class. Facing rebuilding years in virtually every sport, we still managed to maintain our high standards, and the prospects are good for the spring season and further into the future.

The tennis doubles teams both took tough losses in a rain-shortened tournament. Ben DeWitt '05 and Jason Slutsky '06 got down early in a big match with SAE, and though the opponents were obviously intimidated by Slutsky's 15 pounds of muscle gained in the off-season, a late comeback fell short. On the other side of the bracket, Rajeev Varma '06 and Brian Wasserman '05 were eliminated early as well.

The football team ended with a record of 2-3 with close losses to Beta and Sig Ep preventing the team from making the playoffs. Mark Pincus '05 and Trevor Kaufman '05 sparked a tough defense. It was well-known around the league that any quarterback throwing in the Rockledge secondary was likely to be "Pincus-ized." The offense was led by Rajeev Varma, whose speed was only surpassed by his impressive agility.

The volleyball team is currently 1-1, with a win over Pike and a loss to Sigma Nu to their credit. Team leaders Dan Greenfield '05 and Mike Peluso '06, notorious hotheads, have kept their emotions in check and lead the team in kills.

The soccer team was once again a force in the intramural league. A regular season record of 4-1 put them in a great position to advance in the playoffs. Unfortunately, a wet field and a dry house stood in their way. In a first-round match during which Rockledge players hit several posts, the team took a tough loss to Phi Delta Theta on penalty kicks. The team was led in scoring by Reid Gooch '05 and Brian Wasserman. And Bill Grimshaw '06 did an outstanding job stopping shots as our goalie.

With a strong bowling team and a softball team ready to spring back from last year's tough season, there is much to look forward to. Rockledge sports will be a force to reckon with in the upcoming months.

Ben DeWitt '05



Rob Masi '06, Bill Grimshaw '06, and Rajeev Varma '06 dressed and ready for the Homecoming football game against Brown.



Mike Peluso '06, Rob Masi '06, Jon Kaufman '05, Ronnie Meise '06, and Seth Wander '06.



Ronnie Meise '06, Matt Kleinman '03, Sam Wayne '03, Rajeev Varma '06 (behind), Rob Masi '06, Dave Haddad '03.



Karl Kaufman '03, Jon Davis '03, Matt Kleinman '03, Udi Falkson '03.

ALUMNI MAILBAG

LEONARD W. LEFEVE '42 reports that he keeps in touch with classmates BILL CORBETT '42 and BOB BECK '42. Drop a line to Len at 21 Yacht Club Dr., #106, North Palm Beach, FL 33408.

DAVID J. SWIFT '50 reports a new address of 129 Anytrell Dr., Webster, NY 14580 (dswift@roadrunner.rr.com).

Write to L. ROBERT McAFOOS '61 at lrm24@cornell.edu or at 6 Wellington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

STEPHEN M. TIPTON '61 lives at 22 Farm Rd., Sherborn, MA 01770.

WILLIAM E. RIDDLE '64 has relocated to Santa Fe and has returned to being an independent consultant. He can be reached at riddle@sda.com or at 658 La Viveza Court, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

DENNIS NORFLEET '65 receives e-mail at dpn5@cornell.edu and "snail mail" at 3187 State Rte. 48, Oswego, NY 13126.

Congratulations to Beth and MARK D. LANYON '72, who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in June. The Lanyons have one grandson. Mark is the clinical supervisor and director of intake at Brandywine Counseling in Wilmington, Delaware, and in his private practice he works with behaviorally troubled adolescents. Contact him at braveheart60@juno.com or at 138 Woodland Ave., West Grove, PA 19390.

VERNON ELLINGER '76 visited the house in September 2002 during a pilgrimage to Watkins Glen. He writes, "I'm happy to have brought the Ferrari home in

one piece after three great days on the track." He also reports that he ran into GEORGE "The Greek" KALMAKIS '74 at the Cornell vs. Boston College NCAA playoff game in March. "It's not fair—he hasn't changed a bit in 25 years!" Vernon's address is 49 Sawyer Rd., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481; ellinger@attbi.com.

"Well, I am finally giving up the bachelor lifestyle at 'The Jungle' in Miami," writes ALEJANDRO BADIA '85 (1278 S. Venetian Way, Miami, FL 33139; alex@surgical.net). "My girlfriend, Alexandra Galati, will be moving in with me late summer, and the next step is obvious. This will be in time for my upcoming 40th birthday bash. If you haven't partied in South Beach yet, don't miss it!"

Jennifer and DANIEL SCHILDGE '90 and their kids, Jack, Carlin, and Kallie, have moved to 411 S. Euclid Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090. Send e-mail to Dan at dschildge@earthlink.net.

Brothers interested in playing golf in the New York City area are invited to contact ADRIAN L. MULLER '93 at 35A Windle Park, Tarrytown, NY 10591, or at adrian.muller@verizon.net. Adrian is president of Hudson View Appraisals.

JASON SCOPP '93 reports that he's finally finished all of his medical training and is now working in orthopaedic sports medicine at Peninsula Orthopaedic Associates in Salisbury, Maryland, where he lives at 26852 Robert Burns Lane (21801). E-mail reaches him at jscoppmd@yahoo.com.

CHRISTOPHER M. WITTEMAN '93 wrote in May to tell us that PETER

W. HEDLUND '93 was getting married—"bachelor party in Vegas and wedding in Ithaca." To find out what "Damien's" been up to, write to him at cwittemann@hotmail.com or at 930 S. Park Ave., Hinsdale, IL 60521.

RONALD A. JOHNSTONE '96 reports a new address of 1220 Mills Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010; raj6@cornell.edu.

On April 12, SCOTT A. BEICKE '97 married Dayna Press, with brothers JOSHUA KLEIN '98, DANIEL ECONOMOS '99, DAVID POGGI '97, and CRAIG HAURET '98 on hand for the festivities. "The highlight of the evening," writes Scott, "was when the Rockledge Glee Club performed the Alpha Sig Sweetheart Song." Send best wishes to the newlyweds at 1641 Third Ave., Apt. 18J, New York, NY 10128, or at sbeicke@gsb.uchicago.edu.

Please note this new address for WILLIAM E. STEMPEL '98: 145 E. 15th St., Apt. 9-L, New York, NY 10003.

AHMAD R. THOMAS '02 lives at 201 Huntington Place, Lompoc, CA 93436.



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

DENISON K. BULLENS JR. '51
February 17, 2002

GEORGE W. HARRIS JR. '39
April 16, 2003

JAMES J. HOGAN '55
January 8, 2002

MONTE P. RIEFLER '58
March 20, 2003

CLAUDE R. SNYDER '36
April 30, 2003

Have An Article To Contribute To *The Iota Sig*?

It can be anything (well...almost anything)—an alumni brother we should profile, a tale from undergraduate days, or anything else Rockledge alumni would be interested in reading about. We want to hear from you! Send ideas or stories to Rich Grousset at richgrousset@hotmail.com or 3286 Kinyon Rd., Marietta, NY 13110.



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.

Iota Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi, Inc.

DONORS TO DATE

as of December 18, 2003

We wish to thank the following alumni who generously supported Alpha Sigma Phi this year.

TOP DONOR CLASSES

(in order of total contributions per number of alumni in graduating class)

1942

1995

1953

Phoenix Circle (in order of donation amount)

Gregory R. Medow '95
Jeffrey D. Snedeker '78
James P. Bovard '53

Leonard W. Lefevre '42
Paul S. Witt '73
Justin P. Harrison '95

Charles W. Hart '64
Georg M. Kuhnke '80
Charles M. Thorp IV '88

Cardinal Circle (in alphabetical order)

Alejandro Badia '85
Scott A. Beicke '97
Lance C. Bergstrom '62
Miroslav P. Bobek '91
Louis A. Breskman '98
Kevin C. Burns '79
Alan R. Cantwell Jr. '55
Peter F. Cardoza '87
Donald J. Clinton '80

Carl R. Corrigan '79
Frank J. Cutting '62
James S. Freeman '69
Milton B. Graff IV '65
Bruce A. Herbert '62
John M. Hollis '50
William A. Jackson '67
Brian Jones '78
Edmond A. Kavounas '62

Daniel G. Kurz '94
Rodrigo H. Levy '90
Carl A. Popolo '78
Kevin R. Portnoy '99
Daniel N. Schildge '90
Samuel V. Tankard '91
Jan J. VanHeiningen '60
John C. Voellmicke '92

Contributors (in alphabetical order)

William C. Bauer III '67
Robert E. Bernert '80
Peter W. Biddle '69
Glenn E. Billington '65
G. Brewer Conger III '59
David J. Cook '61
Carl D. Crankshaw '53
David M. Dawson '61
Gregg E. Dehner '95
Stephen L. Gross '84
Richard J. Grousset '98
Robert P. Herwick '64

Matthew R. Hoffman '99
Jesse J. Jenner '69
Wade C. Johnson '44
William F. Kelly Jr. '43
Joshua B. Klein '98
Gerald P. Linsner '58
Dennis E. McLaughlin '67
Peter T. Mitchell '68
Victor W. Morgan '63
David N. Poggi '97
William A. Potts '41

Roy D. Pritchard '59
Richard J. Quaranto '71
Robert Howard Ross '64
Peter B. Rutan '37
R. Edward Ryberg Jr. '67
Erik J. Sandquist '95
Norman W. Schiek '50
Robert W. Stevens '48
Jason B. Stipe '95
Stephen M. Tipton '61
Russell J. Weiner '90