

The IOTA SIG



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SPRING 2003

Alumni President Reports

“We Have Much To Be Thankful For”

Help us choose the house's future

In this, the last *Iota Sig* issue of the year, we have much to be thankful for. Below, I will identify and celebrate some of our key contributors who have helped make 2002-2003 yet another great year for Iota Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi. But first, I need your assistance with one of our key initiatives: choosing the house's strategic path for the next five years, especially as we approach our centennial celebration in 2009.

Often, the elected alumni corporation board members make key decisions regarding the strategic planning for maintaining the house, developing the alumni network, and strengthening undergraduate-alumni interactions. We do our best to guess what you would do were you in our shoes, working with the undergraduates on a regular basis. So, three years into our recent efforts to overhaul the annual contributions program, alumni network development initiatives, and facility maintenance programs, we need your input, both on how we are doing, and which programs you would like to see us continue working on.

You can help by quickly filling out the survey included with this issue regarding your preferences and goals for the house and the alumni network, and returning it in the enclosed envelope (or, if you prefer, complete an identical survey online at our www.rockledgens.com website). We will tabulate the results and mold the future using your direct input!

Thanks to our contributing brothers

As you'll read in the undergraduates' articles in this newsletter, the pressures of maintaining the aging Rockledge estate continue, with surprise inspections and ever-changing building codes. Indeed we owe them our appreciation for taking on the dual roles of keepers of our undergraduate traditions, as well as constant project managers and contractors for maintaining the house.

As you glance at the honor roll in this mailing, you will see names of all those brothers who have made financial contributions this year, ensuring the continuing viability of our alumni communications programs, including *The Iota Sig*, while also supporting our house improvements and Rockledge estate expenditures required by the ever-stricter Ithaca building codes. John Cokinos '95 and Lawrence Soboleski '91 are in a tie for top individual donor recognition, and the graduating class of 1995 is again the top donating class (based on dollars per active brother). Perhaps more importantly, yet again our overall brother participation—the numbers of active brothers who have donated this campaign year—exceeds the previous year's numbers at this point in the campaign. Thanks to everyone who has contributed for your ongoing support. And remember, it's not too late to improve.

And, if you are one of the many who have updated your contact info or tracked your pledge brothers' whereabouts through our alumni website www.rockledgens.com (also accessible through our undergraduate website, www.alphasig-rockledge.com), you have seen the valuable contributions to our alumni networking programs made through the hours of effort of Alan Cohen and Andrew Biagioni.

Finally, I would like to extend a special thanks to Rich Grousset for his active participation with the undergraduates in overhauling the pledge education program, as well as for taking the reins and hosting a well-attended New York City event on March 1.

We truly have a lot to be thankful for, and a lot to look forward to. We thank all of you who have made our successes to date possible, and look forward to your input on how to shape our successes of the future.

Dave Poggi '97
Corporation Board President

REUNION WEEKEND

— June 5-8, 2003 —

All alumni, families, and friends are invited to an informal reception at Rockledge on Saturday, June 7, 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!

Rockledge Enjoys Successful Spring

The spring of 2003 has been a story of success for Rockledge. During the second week of January, before rush week had even begun, the Ithaca Fire Department put us up to our first challenge. A fire alarm system in need of repair and a surprise post-break inspection left us with a list of tasks to complete before the week's close. In a scene of true brotherhood, most members cancelled their plans for the last weekend of break and traveled back up to Ithaca to work on the house. We passed the second inspection, and rush week went off without a hitch.

Since then it has only gotten better. We have a strong pledge class of 15 men, and in a year when Cornell's rush numbers were down nearly 150 people, to maintain our pledge class size is truly an indication of the hard work put in by our entire brotherhood. As Cornell constantly changes around us, we stay strong and stable. Each one of these 15 pledges will make a great addition to our house.

In addition, during last semester and with the help of numerous alumni, we revamped our entire pledge program to meet the new guidelines set forth by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. We added a few new programs, all of
(continued on page two)



Formal: Celebrating in style.

Find Your Buddies—Stay In Touch

Ever wonder how your buddies are doing? www.rockledgends.org is a secure site where brothers (actives and alumni) of Alpha Sigma Phi can keep in touch with one another! It's free and takes only three minutes to sign up—so why not do it now?

"...it has put me in touch with several of my brothers that I had not communicated with in many, many years." —Bob McClintock '72

"I ended up staying up late into the night because I was enjoying reading everyone's profiles so much" —Dave McRae '81

NEW! ALUMNI SURVEY AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Rockledge Enjoys Successful Spring

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which have been successful. And we have been fortunate enough to watch as our new members work and learn together, preparing to become prime members of Alpha Sigma Phi. Again, our hard work has truly paid off.

Throughout this entire *Iota Sig* you will read more about the great things going on in our house this semester. I hope that everything you read makes you as proud to be Rockledge alumni as I am to be president of this illustrious brotherhood. After a successful alumni event in New York City, attended by many of the undergraduates, it also is great to know that many of you are still strongly supporting us. Thank you all, and we hope to make you even more proud in the months to come. Hope to see all of you back up here soon.

Avi Giladi '04
Chapter President



New pledges meet up with recent grads in New York City.

IFC Report

This past November, I successfully campaigned for the position of vice president for recruitment of the Interfraternity Council. Since I took office in January, the IFC has been working diligently to tackle a number of issues that challenge the Greek system today.

In light of the recent tensions between the Ithaca police and Cornell fraternities, the IFC has sponsored dialogues between fraternity members and police officers to improve community relations. Also, the IFC has instituted a sexual health awareness program for fraternities to encourage safe sex.

The IFC is also working to revive the tradition of Greek Week, which has disappeared from campus in recent years. The event, which will most likely take place in early September, will feature a free concert by a well-known band, a barbecue on the arts quad, and special events for members of the Greek system.

This April, I will be chairing a recruitment advisory committee made up of faculty, alumni, students, and staff, which will work to improve the current rush process for fraternities at Cornell.

The spring semester has also seen the growth of Rockledge involvement in IFC affairs. Our president, Avi Giladi '04, has been selected to serve on the Judicial Board for 2003. Also, Brian Wasserman '05 will serve as a member of the recruitment committee.

Mark Pincus '05

Brothers Make Numerous Repairs To House

After returning from a relaxing winter break, Mike Summersgill '03, Erik Carlson '02 (MEng '03), Scott Buxbaum '05, Raffi Valijan '05, and I were given the job of beginning the repairs on the house needed to pass fire code and building inspections. With the help of other returning brothers and the support of the corporation board, we were able to take care of many minor repairs, reconstruct the old TV room on the first floor, and clean up the entire house.

When all was said and done, the house had spent upwards of \$2,000 on improvement projects, not including the man hours we each put in. As this is my fourth semester as HE, I knew that this would not be the end of the expenses and that we would have to

be careful about all of our spending and recruit a good-size pledge class to keep things running smoothly. The organization of Rush Chair Ben Hawk and the legwork of the rest of the undergraduates paid off with a 15-man pledge class. It is now almost spring break, and we are on budget or under for all categories, making up for most of what was spent early in the semester.

Sophomore Trevor Kaufman has been working by my side so that when I leave this position we will have some continuity. The house will be in good hands, and I have no worries about stepping down after two years as treasurer.

Drew Bonfiglio '03

What It Means To Pledge Rockledge

Unfortunately, in today's world, the term "pledging" is often associated with hazing. For many people pledging evokes not a sense of commitment to a brotherhood, but rather all that is wrong with college life and the Greek system. What those people may not know is that the term "pledge" actually comes from the idea that potential fraternity candidates are "pledging on their honor" to become a member of the house. Indeed, it is an honor to be part of such a tradition at Rockledge—one in which you learn about your house, your future brothers, and, most importantly, yourself. Nothing could have illustrated our experience as pledges thus far more than our alumni reunion in New York City on March 1, 2003.

For the past month and a half, our pledge class of 15 has learned to function as a unit of one. But, learning about ourselves is only part of our journey to joining the brotherhood. What good is it to be part of an organization without any sense of where it has been and who the people were that were once a part of it? And who better to learn this from than the alumni themselves? We shared stories with brothers Neil Patel and Brian Lazarski and were also given the chance to talk about careers with brothers who are where we hope to be in the future—brothers like Adam Gersten who is in med school. Some of us were even lucky enough to meet our big big big brothers.

It was during these casual interactions with the alumni and current brothers that I realized that the house is more than just a place that exists for our time at Cornell. Though we may only be in college for four years of our lives, the fraternity is timeless. There are brothers who have come before us, and those who will come after us—most of whom we may never meet, but with whom, through Rockledge, we will all share the common bond of brotherhood.

Ronald Meise '06



Brothers heading out to Ithaca for snowmobile expo.



Rockledge's new pledge class, 2003

Meet Our Pledges

By picking up 15 solid pledges in the last rush, we have continued our trend of large pledge classes even during a semester when other houses are hurting for numbers. We expanded our horizons out of the New York/New Jersey area by picking up three southerners, **Ben Dewitt** (Hartwell, Georgia), **Naveen Putcha** (Raleigh, North Carolina), and **Peter Grimaldi** (Arlington, Virginia), as well as one Texan, **Rajeev Varma**. We also added **Yoni Falkson** and **Jon Kaufman**, little brothers of Udi Falkson '03 and Karl Kaufman '03.

Ronnie Meisi and **Rob Masi** represent Staten Island. High school tennis star **Jason Slutsky** plans on filling for Rockledge's doubles tandem of Mike Summersgill '03 and Jonathan Davis '03 when they graduate this May. **Bill "The Thrill" Grimshaw** may be Rocky Balboa's greatest fan, and **Ross Woodson** has been known to spar with him (Bill, not Rocky) on occasion. **Anthony Troitino** and **Seth Wander** were neighborhood pals from just outside of Albany. The "stud" of the pledge class, **Mike Peluso**, hails from the Chicago area and hopes to pursue a career in anything. Finally, **Casey Shaw** rounds out the pledge class and claims to be one of New York's biggest apple producers as well—distilling granite-hard hard cider.

The future of Rockledge is in the hands of these bright young men, and the seniors feel confident leaving the house under their control.

Mike Summersgill '03

ALUMNI MAILBAG

A reference to the "Lower Hogg" in the last newsletter prompted WADE C. JOHNSON '44 to write: "My history of Lower Hogg dates back to the 1941-'42 school year, when I was a sophomore, living in the house and sharing the double room nearest the mailboxes with AL GRINNELL '44. His father, LLOYD GRINNELL '16, had been an active alum, helping out with the major remodeling and addition to the house in 1926—and Al naturally felt sort of a proprietary interest toward the place. Anyway, in those days, the lowest floor of single rooms, then occupied by a bunch of engineering students, had become known as 'Hog Wallow.' Below that level, there was a stairway leading down to one large room, totally unfinished and unheated and partially filled with Ithaca shale and dirt. Al Grinnell and I, surveying that lowest part of the property, came up with the brilliant (?) idea that if we could somehow excavate and heat the place, it could become a bar. At that time, no bar existed upstairs, and the idea caught on with the brothers. Recruiting helpers (and shovels and a wheelbarrow) earned me the nickname 'Rocky' Johnson, and we began excavating what became known as 'Lower Hog Wallow.' Given World War II, the project wasn't completed in my time. I eventually returned to find that the space had been developed into living quarters and that a bar had been set up elsewhere in the building." Write to "Rocky" at 269 Snake Hill Rd., North Scituate, RI 02857.

EDGAR E. DEGASPER '48 makes his home at 348 Mill St., Williamsville, NY 14221.

EDWARD F. BEADEL JR. '64 reports

a new address: P.O. Box 1019, Mexico, NY 13114-1019.

"It was good spending some time with ROLAND ABERG '73 and BOB MORRISON '73 at the wedding of RANDY JOHN '70 in Philadelphia last July," writes PAUL S. WITT '73, who resides at 380 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg, PA 17325.

JOHN N. AMODEO '79 works for the Carol R. Johnson Association in Boston and lives at 8 Worcester Square, #1, Boston, MA 02118. E-mail reaches him at jamodeo@crja.com.

BRADLEY W. ROTH '74 writes, "I'm living by the Sound in Milford, Connecticut, enjoying life with my wife, Susan, and daughters, Julia (4) and Jaelyn (1). Still dancing, teaching, and [doing] choreography, a career I began as a junior at Cornell in 1973. Getting pretty serious about windsurfing. Hired a guide for my 50th last summer to climb Half Dome in Yosemite (the steep side), a 15-year dream-come-true. Still in denial about middle age." Drop a line to Brad at dancingday@earthlink.net or at 57 Crestwood Rd., Milford, CT 06460.

Jodie and ERIC GUNTHER '88 are enjoying life in Maine with children Katherine, Thad, and Zach, "as well as our new additions—nine laying hens (the sheep arrive next year)." Their address is 164 Russells Mills Rd., Farmington, ME 04938 (egunther@fchn.org).

Employed by Silver Oak Solutions, SAMUEL P. FRIEDMAN '89 can be reached at friedmaneml@yahoo.com or at 2543 Crestline Dr., Lansdale, PA 19446.

Stay in touch with JEFFREY HAHN '89 by e-mail at jeffhahn@earthlink.net and by "snail mail" at 35 Studio Hill Rd., #2B, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510.

"Great job with the house," writes DANIEL G. KURZ '94. "Best wishes for a great 2003!" Dan's address is 120 39th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90026; dkurzo@hotmail.com.

STEVEN D. HISSONG '93 has a new address: 3907 SW Holden St., Seattle, WA 98136 (hissong@earthlink.net).

ROBERT H. BOGUCKI JR. '94 reports that he's "still in New York trading currency derivatives at Merrill Lynch." Contact him at robert.bogucki@verizon.net or at 333 E. 68th St., #8F, New York, NY 10021.

GREGG E. DEHNER '95 works for Vertex Engineering Services and lives at 11 S. Fairview St., Unit R, Roslindale, MA 02131. His e-mail address is gdehner@vertexeng.com.

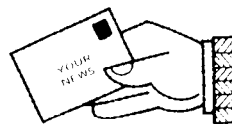
BILLY M. QUIMBY '98 lives at 3928 19th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, and e-mail reaches him at bqumby@bamo.com.

Write to WILLIAM E. STEMPEL '98 at 720 Greenwich St., #2-K, New York, NY 10014, or at wstempel@yahoo.com. He's employed at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson.

Please note this new address for STEVEN R. SKALICKY '00: 20 Fenbrook Dr., Larchmont, NY 10538 (srskalicky@yahoo.com).

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 below. 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. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of *The Iota Sig*.



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

J. CORY PEARSON '70
on October 16, 2002



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.