

# The IOTA SIG



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## ALUMNI PRESIDENT REPORTS:

### Strong Undergraduate Leadership Guides Rockledge

Greetings, Brothers,

I hope this issue of *The Iota Sig* finds you doing well. There's not much to report at the moment. Things have been rolling along smoothly at Rockledge this year due mainly to the strong leadership of our undergraduate members. And, though it is a lot of work, the corporation board is steadily making progress toward planning a major house renovation and capital campaign leading up to our 100th year as a chapter. To reiterate what I wrote in the last issue, we are still looking to expand the board and can use all the help we can get. Please get in touch if you are interested in lending us your talents.

I'd like to call your attention to the addition of the "Profiles in Rockledge"

section of *The Iota Sig*. This section is a result of our desire to add more content relevant to our alumni. We hope to profile a different Rockledge alumnus in each newsletter from here on out. For this issue we interviewed and profiled Sam Bodman '61, who was recently appointed to deputy secretary of the U.S. Treasury. We have a few ideas for the next couple of profiles, but would also welcome any suggestions you might have.

There's also a little something in this issue for any soccer fans out there. One of our very own, Dan Rice '99, started the Cornell United Soccer Club at Cornell back in 1996. Since it is now a nationally recognized club team, I asked Dan to give a us a little background about

the club. I hope you find it interesting!

Reunion Weekend is June 10-13 this year. If you are making the trip to Ithaca, please come by the house when you have a chance. I'm planning on being there the whole weekend and would very much enjoy hearing some good stories from Rockledge past. Homecoming Weekend will be October 15-17—so make your plans now!

Finally, I'd like to thank Brian Berger '97, Russ Kellner '97, and Patrick Dowd '98 for setting up our April regional alumni events this year in New York City, Boston, and Washington, DC, respectively. Contact Brian at [bergerb10@aol.com](mailto:bergerb10@aol.com) if you'd like more information about these events or want to make sure you are on the invite list for next year.

*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 for more details ([richgrousset@hotmail.com](mailto:richgrousset@hotmail.com) or 860/913-8851).*

YITMC,  
Rich Grousset '98  
Alumni President

*Rich can be contacted at 860/913-8851 or [richgrousset@hotmail.com](mailto:richgrousset@hotmail.com).*

## CHAPTER PRESIDENT REPORTS:

### "I Could Not Be Happier With The State Of The Brotherhood"

As I write this article, spring break is close on the horizon, the first signal that the semester is drawing to a close. This carries with it some important connotations. First, my junior year is coming to a close, so I should really figure out what I am going to do with my life. That is a discussion for another forum, however. What is appropriate for this space is that my tenure as president of the house is drawing to a close, and it is customary for the outgoing HSP to give an assessment of affairs.

I can say, wholeheartedly, that I could not be happier with the state of the brotherhood. Twelve young men pledged Rockledge this semester, and you can find

their biographies inside this issue of *The Iota Sig*. Our ties with the university have been strengthened through our participation in the Inter-Fraternity Council, and we continue to have an exemplary relationship with the national offices of Alpha Sigma Phi. The officers have all met or exceeded the requirements of their respective positions, and the sophomores have come into their own, ready to take these leadership roles at our next election. The seniors are planning for their lives after Cornell, and they will be missed. We have managed to have an excellent social agenda while staying in the good graces of the university, something that other fraternities on campus have failed to accomplish.

After we return from break the semester looks to be packed, with Fools, Slope Day, and the spring formal, among other events. We are also all looking forward to Reunion Weekend (June 10 through the 13).

I hope you enjoy this issue. I had the pleasure of speaking with Sam Bodman '61 for our new segment, "Profiles in Rockledge." The interview can be found inside. If you have any questions or comments on this issue or the house in general, please feel free to contact me at [bsw25@cornell.edu](mailto:bsw25@cornell.edu).

Fraternally yours,  
Brian Wasserman '05, HSP

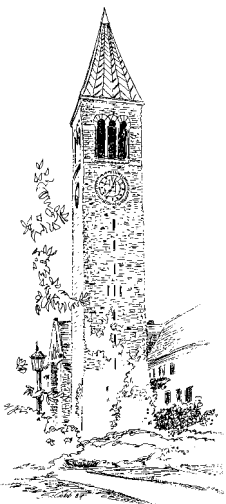
## Thanks for your support!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed already this 2003-2004 donation year. Though we are still slightly behind where we were at this time last year, we have started to catch up. Please send your contribution if you haven't yet done so.

A special thank you goes out to John Cokinos '95 for being the leading individual contributor thus far this year. Also, the following graduating classes are currently leading the pack with the top four highest average contributions per active class member:

- #1 - Class of '95
- #2 - Class of '42
- #3 - Class of '76
- #4 - 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, 2003, and February 28, 2004. The highest average contribution per active class member is currently \$167.



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## Come To Reunion Weekend • June 10-12, 2004

Rockledge is now within five years of celebrating its centennial at Cornell, and over the course of the semester I have had the privilege of working with the corporation board in preparing for this event and planning for the future of our fraternity. This group of men has shown a deep commitment to the reorganization of alumni relations, revitalization of the physical house, and maintaining a close relationship with the current brothers. I have no doubt that our foundations are solid and that our goals will be met.

Reunion Weekend will take place on June 10, 11,

and 12, and I ask that all of our alumni consider coming to Ithaca. We hope you will join us for an informal open house reception on Friday night, June 11, or on Saturday, June 12, beginning at noon. (Special thanks go to Brian Berger '97 for his help in planning this event.) Many of the current brothers will be here, as well as members of the corporation board. We look forward to meeting many alumni and hearing about your memories of Rockledge.

Jared Rosen '05

# The Ranks Of Rockledge Swell With A Dozen New Pledges

While young men at Cornell have upheld the tradition of joining fraternities throughout the generations, this year I am privileged to join 11 other men in the honor of pledging Rockledge, a house rich in brotherhood and tradition. The integrity, excellence, camaraderie, and gregariousness of the house was well demonstrated throughout rush week, which was run by Rush Chairman and President Brian Wasserman '05.

The pledges represent Rockledge well, bringing tremendous geographic, academic, and cultural diversity to the house. From the West Coast, **Sean Lyons**, a PAM major and native of Sacramento, is a member of the Naval ROTC and an avid water-polo player. He also holds a job at Dino's in Collegetown. Also from the west, **Kevin "Steve-O" Wallace**, joins us from Reno, Nevada. The son of two Air Force officers, Steve-O spent his childhood across the country. He is studying for a double major of math and psychology and is an adamant baseball and football fan in his free time. Moving east, **Dan Fitzgerald**, from Cleveland, Ohio, is a CS major in the engineering school. He enjoys golfing and '80s music. In New England, **John Mahony** of Hanover, Massachusetts, is an ILR major and member of the Army ROTC. He prides himself as being a hardcore Red Sox and Patriots fan.



*Peter Grimaldi '06 at Brother Jack during rush week.*



*The new pledges.*

As with the rest of Cornell, the New Jersey/New York area is well represented among my fellow pledges. **Derek Klarin**, a pre-med/biochem major, comes from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. He enjoys scuba diving and soccer and looks forward to representing the house in IM soccer. **Ryan Olsen**, a pre-law/philosophy major, comes from St. James, New York. He enjoys playing football, softball, and golf and eagerly awaits playing for Rockledge as well. **Ricky Li**, originally born in China, spent his childhood in Texas and now calls Mahwah, New Jersey, home. He is an OR major in engineering and played football for three years in high school. **Ron Hochbaum** is originally from Milford, Connecticut, but now resides in Islandia, New York. An ILR major and aspiring politician, he also enjoys baseball and supporting his team, the Yankees. Ron is also on the crew team, taking a sabbatical to balance his pledging and academic responsibilities, and plans to resume next fall. **Nikhil Revankar**, originally from India, now lives in New Brunswick, New Jersey. An astronomy major, Nikhil also enjoys watching basketball and playing tennis. **Travis Virgadamo**, a hotelie, hails from nearby Dryden, New York. A

craftsman at heart, Travis has already begun fixing up the house. **Lawrence Magguilli**, from Albany, New York, is a pre-med/biology major and is also a member of Army ROTC. He aspires to be an orthopedic surgeon and is an avid lacrosse player.

This leaves me, the sole southerner in the group. I, **Max Comess**, come from Richmond, Virginia, and am in the hotel school. My principal hobbies include scuba diving and flying (I've had my pilot's license for two and a half years). I aspire to develop and operate hotels and casinos (the next Donald Trump?) and enjoy playing baseball.

While pledging has been, and continues to be, a challenging, educational, and enjoyable experience, the entire pledge class is working very hard to demonstrate the qualities necessary to join the brotherhood of Rockledge and Alpha Sigma Phi. We all look forward to meeting the brothers of Rockledge's past, who gave this chapter the character and reputation that it values so dearly today, and hope we can do our part in preserving its superior reputation in the future.

Max Comess '07

If you didn't already know, there is a gathering place on the web just for Rockledge members:

**WWW.ROCKLEDGENDS.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!

## Profiles in Rockledge: Sam Bodman '61

Sam Bodman '61 has led a very interesting life indeed. A chemical engineering student at Cornell, he was on the varsity baseball team and a member of Tau Beta Pi (Phi Beta Kappa for engineers). Sam was also U-Hall dorm counselor, vice president of the Student Council, and a member of Sphinx Head, one of the two senior men's honoraries.



Sam married fellow Cornellian Betsy Little, from Middletown, Ohio. She was president of Delta Gamma Sorority. They had two daughters who went to Princeton, and a Cornell son, Andrew. Betsy died of cancer in 1983, and Sam eventually re-married.

After graduating at the top of his chemical engineering class, Sam went on to earn his doctorate from MIT in 1965. In the years that followed, Dr. Bodman served as an associate professor at MIT and as technical director of American Research and Development Corporation, a pioneer venture capital firm. From there he went to Fidelity Venture Associates, a subsidiary of Fidelity Investments, and was named president and chief operating officer of Fidelity Investments in 1983. In 1987 he became chairman, CEO, and director of Cabot Corporation, a Boston-based Fortune 300 company with global business activities in specialty chemicals and materials.

Dr. Bodman was appointed deputy secretary of commerce in 2001 by President Bush. In this position he was responsible for daily operations of the Commerce Department, which has 40,000 employees and a \$5 billion annual budget. According to Dr. Bodman, "Commerce is the center in the federal government that represents the interests of the private sector and enforces trade regulations." As deputy secretary, Bodman implemented sweeping changes in the Patent and Trademark Office and was responsible for important advances in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's forecasting ability. He was also heavily involved in restructuring the Census Bureau.

In February 2004, Sam was named deputy secretary of the treasury. He describes the Treasury Department as "a more focused place, where everything revolves around finance." He is responsible

for the internal operations of the department, whereas the secretary is responsible for relations with the public and other departments of the government. Among other things, Bodman oversees the Internal Revenue Service, the Office of the Inspector General, the Office of the Public Debt, and the U.S. Mint.

Our chapter advisor, Jeff Snedeker '78, and I recently contacted Dr. Bodman to ask him for a brief interview. He graciously offered us some of his time, and following are some excerpts from our conversation:

*"Profiles in Rockledge" is a new segment that will be included in each Iota Sig. If you know an outstanding alumnus we should profile, please contact Alumni President Rich Grousset at richgrousset@hotmail.com or 860/913-8851.*

**Brian Wasserman:** How has being a brother in Alpha Sigma Phi contributed to your successes?

**Sam Bodman:** What I really learned was flexibility and respect when dealing with other people. I had a very good experience, and I have remained good friends with many of the men I pledged with.

**BW:** What is your fondest memory of Alpha Sigma Phi?

**SB:** I remember we had great success in intramural sports. We were not known as a very athletic house before my pledge class joined. We had some very good athletes my year, though, and we competed in everything. One year we won the outstanding overall achievement award, and it was a complete group effort. I played football, basketball, and softball.

**BW:** What are your thoughts on the public perception of fraternities on a national level?

**SB:** On a national level, I do not know if I am qualified to comment. Fraternities in general have had a poor reputation as social institutions, due at least in part to a lack of enforcement of reasonable standards with respect to alcohol. This is a stereotype, and I don't know it is accurate or reasonable. It isn't clear that the press portrays fraternities very well. Prior to entering government service, I served for many years as a trustee at MIT, and they have a different situation than Cornell. There, fraternities are depended upon as living quarters for freshmen. I think that Cornell has a better system, and spring rush is a plus.

**BW:** Is there anything you would like to say to the readers of *The Iota Sig*?

**SB:** Many of the men I pledged with have remained good friends. I mainly joined because of friends I had made during the fall term, and did not know many of the brothers in the house. I pledged in the spring of 1957 as a freshman, and many of the upperclassmen were Korean War Veterans, well over 20 years of age. They were very kind to a little blond-headed kid from Illinois, and I will always remember their kindness.

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*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 Road, Marietta, NY 13110.*

## Rockledge Improves Sorority Relations

Rockledge has improved and started new relationships with many sororities over the past two semesters. With the new BYOB policy adopted by Cornell University, we were able to have many parties during the year with the approval and support of the university and IFC.

Our parties were well known around campus and allowed everyone, especially freshmen, to forget their school work for at least one night. These successful parties also led to the excellent relations we now have with several sororities. We were able to plan events with many different sororities, including Tri Delt, Kappa Delta, Alpha Phi, and Theta. All of our social events have been trouble-free due to the flawless risk management run by Anthony Trintino '06.

Other than parties and fraternity/sorority events, we also had numerous formals over the course of the year. Our Valentine's Day formal at Lakewatch Inn was the first major social event our spring pledges attended, and pledge John Maho-



*Joe Laverde '05 and Michael Siuta '05 help to improve Rockledge's sorority relations.*

ney '07 played a great cupid. As spring approaches and the weather warms up, we have a wine tour organized for the brothers and many barbecues planned with the help of our culinary chef, Travis Ferrel.

Rajeev Varma '06  
Social Officer

## ΑΣΦ And ΑΕΦ To Hold Pet Adoption Drive

This spring Rockledge hopes to build on the enormous success of the Greek God competition with another great philanthropy project. This year the brothers will team with the sisters of Alpha Epsilon Phi to hold a pet adoption drive in conjunction with the Tompkins County Humane Society. On a weekday in mid-April, the house will bring pets from the animal shelter to Ho Plaza, where the students and faculty will have an opportunity

to see the great pets that are up for adoption. Alpha Sigma Phi's Virginia Tech chapter had a similar event that was very successful. We hope to duplicate their experience as well as to strengthen our sorority relations. We also look forward to displaying our philanthropic efforts to the Cornell and Ithaca communities.

Ben Dewitt '05

## Chapter Finances In Good Shape

This year Rockledge experienced something it probably hasn't seen in a while: two different treasurers. Trevor Kaufman '05 left to spend a semester abroad in London this spring, leaving the position vacant. When the position opened I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to get more involved in house affairs by helping to manage its finances.

My first semester as treasurer has been a learning experience, but it was made a lot easier because I was able to shadow Trevor for the last few weeks of the fall semester. This enabled us to have a smooth transition into the spring semester as we entered rush week.

Moving into the new year, several brothers capitalized on their chances to study abroad. With the help of the corporation board, we were able to manage our finances and even embark on some house projects, which included a renovation of the floor in the first-floor bathroom and the reflooring of the Hogg. These projects, combined with the efforts of House Managers Peter Grimaldi '06 and Scott Buxbaum '05 to strip and wax the upper and lower lounge floors, helped us a great deal during rush week.

Even with the expenses incurred by these improvements, I am proud to report that the undergraduate finances look good. And as the house gets bigger with the incoming pledge class, they will only look better.

Ronald Meise '06

## Parents' Weekend To Include Winery Tour And Home-Cooked Meals

This year our annual Parents' Weekend will take place on the weekend of April 23. It is the one time each year when each brother can bring together those most responsible for instilling within him the values that define him as a young man, and merge the ties of family with those of brotherhood. It is also a chance for parents to journey to sunny, tropical Ithaca to make sure we are doing our laundry and haven't gotten any tattoos. We are very excited to welcome the families of our new pledge class into our house and to show them what being a Rockledge brother is all about.

Friday night will start off with an informal reception at the house where families will have a chance to unwind from their

journey and socialize with other parents. It is an opportunity to make new friends, catch up with old ones, and ask questions about the brotherhood.

On Saturday, we'll travel to Wagner's winery for brunch. After brunch, families are welcome to stay at Wagner's for wine tasting and then explore the other many Finger Lake wineries in the area. On Saturday evening, dinner will be served at the house, prepared by Travis Ferrel, our gourmet chef. Entertainment, desserts, and cocktails will follow dinner.

Last Parents' Weekend, a heated father-son flip cup tournament was started after dessert, despite angry stares from most wives (who were also invited to play). After last year's loss, I have heard the

fathers have been practicing and are ready to show their sons that they knew how to party in college too. We may let the old men win the first round, but everyone knows Rockledge brothers don't lose easily at anything.

Before the parents are sent off and all the students get back to the library (or whatever we tell our parents), Travis will prepare his famous Sunday brunch, which the brothers have become accustomed to enjoying every weekend. As always, we hope this year's Parents' Weekend will be a memorable experience for all families.

Joseph LaVerde '05  
Vice President

## Brothers Compete In Spring Sports

Facing tough competition, Rockledge made a valiant effort this spring semester. A solid pledge class of 12 guys added some fresh talent to the pool, but recovery time was still needed for some brothers with old injuries. Nonetheless, we battled hard and are still looking forward to some of our favorite sports later this semester.

The bowling team kept up a competitive face, despite some tough losses. Led by Ronnie Meise '06, a man with the intensity of a hound staring down its prey, the team came out with strong starts each time. Mike Peluso '06 and Mark Pincus '05 also added their abilities to the mix, gaining solid scores to support Meise. Unfortunately, the team often faded as the match went on, allowing their opponents to surge back and steal victory.

The basketball team demonstrated impressive ball control but erratic shooting. Ben Dewitt '05 and Brian Zito '05 showed flashes of brilliance both on and off the court. Ronnie Meise '06 proved a force to be reckoned with at center, despite his notoriously thin frame. These three were backed up by Mike Peluso '06 and Dan Greenfield '05, plus a strong bench of pledges. Several close defeats hurt the team, though we managed to defeat Acacia and tie Theta Delt.

We are still looking forward to our favorite spring sports, which will begin as the weather gets nicer (always an uncertainty in Ithaca). Jason Slutsky '06 is currently in the quarterfinals of the squash tournament, and the house cannot wait to field its dodgeball team this April. The big sports are floor hockey and softball. Last year our team dominated the softball field, and most of the big talent from that semester remains. Rockledge sports continues to grow stronger, and this spring will be a time to remember.

Mike Peluso '06

### 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.

## Rockledge Hires Facility Manager And Continues Improvements

This semester the Rockledge undergrads and alumni decided to hire a local "handy man" to do some maintenance work around the house. Our new pledge class has also begun to learn what's necessary to keep this house in running order.

Jim Everts, our newly hired facility manager, has taken on only a few small projects for now. So far he's replaced and restained some of the broken woodwork on the main stair banister and fixed the sliding doors to the library, chapter room, pool room, and champagne room. We have plenty more work for him throughout the rest of this semester.

The pledges have helped clean up some of the less visible areas of the house. They worked hard to clean out Susca's closet to make it a usable work room again. And they too have helped make minor repairs around the house.

Between Jim and the pledges, many of the minor maintenance issues we face will be fixed by this summer. But there is still a long way to go in restoring this old house.

In addition, several of us will be living in the house over the summer. Prospective projects include renovating the floors in the upper and lower lounge and replacing the landing outside the front steps. Other summertime plans include small landscaping projects to improve the exterior appearance of the house.

Over the course of the next several months we hope to work in cooperation with our new facilities manager not only to get the house in proper working order, but to restore some of the property's beauty and charm.

Scott Buxbaum '05 and Peter Grimaldi '06  
House Managers

## Seniors Cherish Final Months At Rockledge

For seniors, the last semester of the Cornell experience can be characterized by either passivity or anxiety. Some choose to spend their final months at Cornell taking introductory wine classes followed by daily happy hours at the Regent Lounge or Rulloffs. Others, while wishing to celebrate a few months of apathy, are anxious about the future, whether it is graduate school or employment. The six current seniors in Rockledge are no exception. Ben Hawk and Joseph Pylman will be attending law school at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Avi Giladi will be attending medical school at Vanderbilt University. N. Seth Trueger will also be attending medical school, while Kyle Ratner and Alec Chevalier are jumping right into lucrative employment opportunities.

The six of us are busy cherishing our final months as current Rockledge brothers before we officially take on alumni status. It is a time to impart our wisdom to the younger members of the brotherhood and to reflect on the role Rockledge has played in our maturation. It is a mix of nostalgia and excitement for a new stage in our lives.

There is no one single memory that sticks out about our Rockledge experiences. Three seniors spent an unforgettable summer living in the house. As anyone who has spent a summer in Ithaca

knows, nothing brings brothers together like dealing with heat and fruit flies. There are also trips to Cancun, Niagara Falls, and Lake Placid to mention, as well as countless formals, parties, and date nights. And the yearly celebration of April Fool's Day will surely be missed. The uniqueness of a 4:00 a.m. role call during the opening night of Fool's is unparalleled. Lastly, no one will forget our final Brother Jack dinner.

Departing seniors typically claim that the personality of the house is different than it was when we were freshmen. Of course, each new pledge class brings diverse backgrounds and experiences that shape the character of the house as a whole. But the underlying traits of a Rockledge brother have not changed and hopefully never will. A Rockledge brother is both the atypical and typical "frat guy"—well-rounded individuals with a myriad of interests who constantly strive for physical and intellectual success.

The past three years as an Alpha Sig have been unforgettable, not just for the parties and the road trips, but for the honor of wearing our fraternity's letters. The ideals of a Rockledge brother are not merely mentioned during ritual activities, but are consistently the end result of all our endeavors.

Joseph Pylman '04

# Rockledge Member Creates Cornell United Soccer Club

*I was thinking of alumni I knew who might want to contribute articles to The Iota Sig when I happened to hear that the Cornell United Soccer Club was now recognized as a national force in the club soccer community. Not only was Cornell United the first ever intercollegiate Cornell club soccer team, but it was founded in 1996 by Rockledge pledge Dan Rice '98. I immediately contacted*

*Dan and asked him if he'd be willing to write a piece for The Iota Sig. Dan graciously agreed to do so, even though he is currently in the first year of a rigorous marketing doctoral program at the University of Florida. Thanks, Dan!*

*—Rich Grousset '98, Alumni President*

## A Rockledge Soccer Story by DAN RICE

Soccer has always been a huge part of my life. I've played competitively every year since I was six. It was natural for me to want to continue playing in college. However, I found that it was difficult to balance the Cornell workload with athletics, and opportunities to play high-level soccer in Ithaca were scarce. I tried to walk onto the Cornell team as a freshman, but that didn't work out. And as a sophomore I played in the Ithaca coed league, but that did not offer the level of competition for which I was searching.

In the spring of 1996, I took a big step in my life and decided to pledge Rockledge. Though I was enjoying the new doors that the house was opening for me and the new friendships that were forming, I still had a large void left in my life by the absence of competitive soccer. I started to entertain thoughts of starting my own soccer club, but being an engineer at Cornell and pledging seemed to take up most of my time. Further, both of my parents had serious health issues that semester. Thankfully, the health problems were solved, but, given all that had been going on, I had lost my ambition to pursue the soccer club idea.

As the semester progressed, I took great comfort in the balance the house gave me, reminding me that there was more to life than the everyday concerns of academic life at Cornell. I also recall speaking to fraternity brothers whose parents also had health problems and found comfort in that. It was mainly the support system I was building in Rockledge that allowed me to start thinking about soccer again later in my pledging semester. In fact, without the fraternity I don't know if I would have ever started the club.

Late in my pledging semester I distinctly remember speaking to a brother, Brian Berger '97, about soccer and my club idea. He too was an avid soccer player who had not been able to find a league to play in after leaving high school. His "question" to me was to think through the details about whether or not I could really do this. He also strongly encouraged me to pursue the idea and suggested that he

would like to play if I ever did get a game with another school. That day the true foundations for the Cornell United Soccer Club were set.

Over the next few months, I worked tirelessly to make the club a reality. I discovered it was not an easy thing to create a club at Cornell, and often joked about the "Big Red Tape" that you had to cut through to get anything done. My first mistake was posting a bunch of posters for the first meeting around campus without first getting the campus life department's approval. Most of them probably had about a five-hour lifespan before they were torn down. Luckily I was crafty enough to slide one into a locked glass display case in Willard Straight Hall at the top of the stairs to the Ivy Room. That one stayed up almost a week and was likely the reason our first real meeting had any attendance. Incidentally, this first meeting happened in the upper lounge at 804 Stewart Avenue. (Unfortunately, another oversight was not mentioning "Rockledge" on the posters. We had fewer attendees than expected because some couldn't find the address.)

The club's first major break came through later that spring when the men's soccer coach at Union College in Schenectady, New York, a guy named Aldo, said he would put us on the pre-season schedule—if I could guarantee him a game. I told him to give me a date, and I would call him back the next day. He gave me one. I immediately went to Brian and asked him if he could commit to one game. I then proceeded to ask everyone in the house who'd ever played soccer if they could give me one day in the fall so I could get this club started. Enough guys said yes that I was able to tell Aldo we could do it. And thus, the club had its first game. After tryouts, it ended up that we had so many players that no one from the house actually played, but it was their support and commitment that got us there. Incidentally, we beat Union 6-2, and I had the first goal in Cornell United history.

I think our final fall season record that year was about 3-3-1, but it is difficult to remember for certain. In the spring of 1997, we entered the indoor league in Johnson City and had some great games.

My little brother in the house, Jeff Duffield, made an appearance as the second-ever Rockledge brother (or pledge at the time) to play with us. However, that season we were inconsistent and did not make the playoffs.

The following fall (1997), we came back in earnest, determined to have a better season and to expand our list of opponents to include some of the growing number of clubs in the area rather than just playing Division III college teams. That year we had nearly 60 young men try out, and we went 6-1-3 in the fall, with our only loss coming to Middlebury College's (Vermont) JV team. In our last game of that season, we beat the Cornell JV team 2-1. Many of us who had tried out for that team took great pride in the win. That year we also made some valuable inroads by playing teams like Syracuse, Colgate, Rochester, and Penn State. I also had the pleasure of advising another group starting a club, now known as Cornell Mundial (and our bitter rivals).

Since that time, the Cornell United Soccer Club has become a nationally recognized side on the college club soccer circuit. We generally play some of Cornell's varsity squad every year and hold our own (in 2002 we had a 1-1 tie and a 2-1 loss). In 2003, the team won the inaugural Ivy club championships, hosted by Yale. We have participated in the national tournament every year since 2000 at either the open or championship division. A number of players have come back to grad school and played on the club again. I was lucky enough to be one of these players, joining the club in the fall of 2002 for its most successful season ever. We ended up being the number-five club soccer team in the nation at the NIRSA championships in Bakersfield, California.

The club has made an impact on the life of hundreds of students, parents, and friends. Upon visiting a year or two after my graduation, I was surprised and happy to find that both keepers on the team, Drew Bonfiglio '03 and Jeremy Freyer '03, were in our house. I remember speaking to Freyer for the first time at the door to Rockledge's deck, and him thanking me

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# ALUMNI MAILBAG

Now 91 years old, JOSEPH W. McWILLIAMS '33 lives in a retirement home at 100 Hahnemann Trail, Apt. 245, Pittsford, NY 14534.



PETER B. RUTAN '37 makes his home at 402 E. Perry St., Port Clinton, OH 43452.



ROY D. PRITCHARD '59 is the managing partner of Eastern Management Services, Inc. Write to him at ems558@erols.com or at 820 Reservoir Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410.



Please note this new address for WESTON H. PALMER '66: 1737 Serenity Lane, Sanibel, FL 33957 (wpalmer@comcast.net).



JOHN N. AMODEO '79 receives mail at 8 Worcester Square, #1, Boston, MA 02118, and e-mail at jamodeo@crja.com. He's a senior associate at Carol R. Johnson Assoc., Inc., in Boston.



PAUL B. CONAN '88 has moved to 11 Brazien Court, Walden, NY 12586.



"The Merkin is truly in the Mucket," writes STEFFEN D. KOEHLER '89. "MARK BERTIN '89 found a woman who is much cooler than he is and married her last summer." Steffen's address

is 931 Rosewood Dr., San Mateo, CA 94401; skoebler@mindspring.com.



THOMAS J. LOWELL '89 lives at 4138 Greenwood Ave., Oakland, CA 94602.



Stay in touch with JOEL C. PAS-TORE '92 at jcp46@cornell.edu or at 1542 Meadowland Dr., Naperville, IL 60540.



JAMES A. SOBIERAJ '93 is the proud dad of a daughter, Quinn Anelise, who was born last May. Brothers in the Baltimore area are invited to look him up at 510 Sussex Rd., Towson, MD 21286 (jsobieraj@escva.com).



MICHAEL A. KAUFMAN '94 resides at 300 E. 56th St., Apt. 24L, New York, NY 10022.



JOHN C. COKINOS '95 wrote in January that he's getting married this June! Send best wishes to John at 340 E. 51st St., Apt. 14D, New York, NY 10022, or at jcokinos@lehman.com.



GREGG E. DEHNER '95 and his wife, Corey, make their home at 11 S. Fairview St., Unit R, Roslindale, MA 02131. Gregg works for VERTEX Engineering Services and can be reached

by e-mail at gdehner@vertexeng.com.



Drop a line to KIRK M. WEST '95 at kirk@omnihome.net or at 25761 Le Parc, #59, Lake Forest, CA 92630.



THOMAS K. SZE '97 reports a new address of 65 E. Scott St., Apt. 7H, Chicago, IL 60610; thomas\_sze@hotmail.com.



KURT A. HOFFMAN '02 works for Abercrombie & Fitch and lives at 278 Nursery Lane, Columbus, OH 43206. Send e-mail to Kurt at kurt\_hoffman@abercrombie.com.



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

PAUL H. HARRISON '33

JOHN A. STEELE '29  
*December 11, 2003*

## A Rockledge Soccer Story

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for starting the club. They were both still the goalkeepers, as seniors, when we made our run in the fall of 2002. Being able to share the triumph with two younger Rockledge brothers made the occasion even more special. In our 2002 spring season, we had two brothers help us out in indoor when we needed players, Joe Granieri and Udi Falkson.

I am glad that the club has had so many positive impacts on so many people, and it might never have happened without the participation and encouragement from those within the walls of 804 Stewart Avenue. I'd like to thank the guys who supported me and the guys who have participated in the club, and I hope that everyone in the future will enjoy the club as much as we have.

## Valentine's Day Formal



*Michael Lippman '05 and date.*



*Avi Giladi '04 and date.*