

The IOTA SIG



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www.alphasig-rockledge.com

FALL 2005

Rockledge Pays Down Mortgage By \$50,000

“One of these years, I’m going to catch a Cornell Homecoming game.” I probably say that every year while standing only several hundred yards from Schoellkopf, enjoying a drink and some sort of grilled food items in the Greek tailgating area. (Yes, they have us segregated from the normal population now.)

Let me see, I graduated in 1998. There have been seven Homecoming games since then. And even though I’ve attended Homecoming four or five times as an alum, I believe I’ve only seen maybe one half of a football game.

Why is this? I decided to think about the answer to this question recently. This is what I came up with: I’d rather stand around, talking to Rockledge guys (and eating grilled food items, whatever they may be) than sitting in the stands, watching what might be a mediocre football game at best. Or, more eloquently stated, “Bros before Big Red.”

One could also argue it is the fact that they don’t serve beer in the stadium. I can’t lie, that is more than a slight possibility. But I prefer to think it is mainly because of the camaraderie (and maybe the grilled food items) that I do not leave the tailgate.

This year was no exception. Despite some problems with the grill (namely, starting it) and the occasionally biting-cold raindrops, the tailgate was a great time. I want to thank the undergrads for all of their efforts. You can really count on the Rock to produce some tasty grilled food items.

I encourage all alums to consider coming to Homecoming in the future. Call up the guys from your year, and make a small reunion out of it. There is usually an exceptional dinner at the house on Saturday night, which was absolutely the case this year. And there is always the annual corporation meeting on Sunday if you want to catch up

on Rockledge issues and make your voice heard. Other than that, you can enjoy everything Ithaca has to offer (in my case, I guess that was mainly just a Collegetown bar) and even catch a football game if you are so inclined. But if you are into sports, I might recommend coming back for a hockey game instead—that is if you can get tickets.

On a final note, things at the Rock are moving forward slowly but steadily. The corp board has been making progress in planning our major renovation, and we are currently interviewing a handyman (similar to a house man, but he will be part time and won’t live in the house). He will play a big role in keeping the house in good shape after the renovations. We are also still working on getting a new alumni website up and running. I will hopefully have more significant

updates for you in the next *Iota Sig*, but feel free to contact me anytime if you want more details.

A lot of what we have accomplished in the past few years, and what we will be able to accomplish in the future, is made possible by the generosity of our alums. The amount we receive in annual dues and contributions has grown considerably in the past five years. In fact, because of this, we were just able to pay down our mortgage by \$50,000!

So, on behalf of all of us, thank you very much for your support! There will definitely be a grilled food item waiting for you next Homecoming.

Rich Grousset '98
Alumni President
richgrousset@hotmail.com
(860) 913-8851



Brothers pose in front of the house at a brotherhood event.

Record Pace for 2005-'06 Contributions

We are off to yet another great start this year with alumni contributions. We've seen more donors and larger gifts than we had by the same time in the previous fiscal year. And last year blew previous years out of the water!

Our leading donor thus far is Declan O'Connell '96, and our top classes (in order of highest average contribution per member) are:

Class of '53
Class of '78
Class of '96

On behalf of the Iota Chapter, a wholehearted thank you goes out Declan, to the members of the top classes, and to the rest of our supporters as well.

I'd also like to send a special thank you to our most senior donor this year, Peter Rutan '37. A regular contributor for years now, Peter's support is truly an inspiration and a demonstration of the enduring strength of our fraternity.



Use Your Credit Card To Make Contributions

For your convenience, Rockledge is now accepting credit card payments. Now, instead of sending a check, you can just send your credit card information, and we'll charge your account.

We hope to be accepting payment via the web in the near future. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

DONORS TO DATE

The following alumni have made gifts and/or paid dues to Alpha Sigma Phi during the current fiscal year (as of November 30, 2005):

PHOENIX CIRCLE (In order by donation amount)

Peter W. Biddle '69
James P. Bovard '53
Vernon P. Ellinger '76
Charles W. Hart '64
Brian Jones '78

Georg M. Kuhnke '80
Gregory S. Munsell '91
Declan O'Connell '96
Harlow Russell '83
Jeffrey D. Snedeker '78

Burr D. Vail III '65
Paul S. Witt '73

CARDINAL CIRCLE (In alphabetical order)

Miroslav P. Bobek '91
Alan R. Cantwell Jr. '55
Alec Hahn Chevalier '04
Hong K. Choi '90
Donald J. Clinton '80
James A. Dulfer '90
James S. Freeman '69
John M. Hollis DDS '50
Bill Horowitz '73
Edmond A. Kavounas '61

Russell S. Kellner '97
Matthew S. Kleinman '03
L. Robert McAfoos '61
Scott W. McConnell '89
Victor W. Morgan '63
Dennis P. Norfleet '65
Weston H. Palmer '66
Neil J. Patel '02
Steven J. Perlow '99
William H. Ramsey MD '64

John Gollan Root '60
Peter B. Rutan '37
Joseph W. Santamaria '62
Joshua B. Scheinfeld '90
Wonsuk Warren Suh '91
Samuel V. Tankard '91
Stephen M. Tipton '61
Jan J. VanHeiningen '60

CONTRIBUTORS (In alphabetical order)

William C. Bauer III '67
Mark T. Bergeron '80
Andrew R. Bonfiglio '03
Norman Kirk Birrell '74
Carl R. Corrigan '79
Carl D. Crankshaw '53
David M. Dawson '61
Gregg E. Dehner '95
David J. Ellner '96
Dwight H. Emanuelson '57

Milton B. Graff IV '65
Richard J. Grousset '98
David Evan Haddad '03
Raymond E. Henry '66
Robert P. Herwick MD '64
Matthew R. Hoffman '99
Steffen D. Koehler '89
Scott Jay Kurpiel '05
Kenneth J. Lomba '72
Matthew P. Malone '96

Stephen M. Pawlak '79
Roy D. Pritchard '59
Rowland Richards III '92
R. Edward Ryberg Jr. '67
Erik J. Sandquist '95
Norman W. Schiek '50
Stephen F. Sullivan '78
Ahmad R. Thomas '02
Charles Trayford III '54
Thomas J. VanTiem Jr. '89



Brothers pose for a photo at Rockledge's New York City gathering during spring 2005. From left to right: Josh Klein '98; Brian Berger '97; David Ellner '96; Declan O'Connell '96; and Neil Patel '02.

Undergraduate President Reports On State Of Chapter

Halfway through my first semester as HSP, I am pleased to report that the house is in great shape and holds the potential to get even better. With more brothers now living in the house than in recent history, the house has been filled with activity all semester. This is evident in the spirited dinners and house meetings, our packed social events, and our straining food budget.

Last semester's pledges have stepped up to the challenge of initiation and are making a significant impact on the house. The 17 sophomores contribute to the house with

their enthusiasm and dedication, both as officers and involved members. The juniors and seniors have successfully taken on roles as mentors to the younger brothers and have helped the house in countless ways thanks to their experience. Brotherhood at the chapter house is better than ever, and I believe this is obvious to all of Cornell's undergraduates.

As always, the Greek community at Cornell is facing administrative challenges—most notably in the new social policy. However, the Rockledge brothers have dealt responsibly and maturely with any obstacles to our

chapter's operations. The brotherhood is now an example to all Greeks of how to run social events due to our successful risk management policies.

As all of the undergrad brothers strive to continue the traditions of excellence at Rockledge, I hope you are as proud of our success and excited for the future as I am. We hope to see all of you at the alumni events, but know that you are more than welcome at Rockledge anytime.

John Mahony '07
Undergraduate President

Regular Attention Keeps Rockledge In Good Order

The other house manager and I have been working to keep up the appearance of the house through routine maintenance and regularly scheduled house jobs.

We have tried to be especially vigilant in keeping the newly carpeted second and third floors looking well kempt. The new windows in the dining room have also improved the appearance of the house. As for the outside, we are investigating the possibility of installing a new fence to replace the wooden one that has started to deteriorate.

We passed our yearly fire inspection without any major issues and are now looking to renewing our building-occupancy permit for the coming year. As winter approaches, we are looking into sealing off sources of heat loss—especially around windows—in an effort to keep energy costs as low as possible.

Overall, the house has stayed in good working order thus far, and we plan to keep that going through the winter and into the spring.

Derek West '08
House Manager



Brothers pose for a photo during Cornell's Reunion Weekend in June 2005. (Front row: Steve Brueckner '93, Rob Hargreaves '95, Les Hilger '95, and Louis Gimbel '90. Back Row: John Mahony '07, Lawrence Magguilli '07, and Rich Grousset '98.)

Chapter Finances Remain In Good Shape

Being new to the treasurer position, I had initially thought that it would be a daunting task. Managing house finances is serious business. However, I received a lot of support from upperclassmen and the previous treasurer, Ricky Li. He helped me out a great deal, teaching me all the details and essentials of the position. I realize how important this position is to the welfare of the house, and I will put in the required amount of time to make sure things go smoothly throughout the year.

On that note, I'm happy to report that the budget is looking very good so far this year. We have had many social events since orientation, but due to proper planning by our socials, we have only spent about one-third of our allotted money for this semester. Some of the

brothers living on the fourth floor completed a huge renovation project on their own, finishing up a bar in the lounge area of the fourth floor. Additionally, we have repainted the entire floor—including walls, ceilings, and stairs. The wood floor has been stained and the room decorated. This is a much better utilization of a previously unused space and will be a great tool for attracting potential pledges. Finally, the house is at near-full capacity, with all but one single and all of the doubles in the house filled. This occupancy should bring extra revenue into the house and allow for additional projects to continue to improve the house.

Derek Klarin '07
Treasurer



The 'Old Gal' Comes Through For A Rockledge Brother

William Polacheck '06 was born and raised in the Harrisburg area of Pennsylvania. His father is an orthopedic surgeon, and his mother is a professor at Penn State Law School.

Bill attended Catholic school through middle school and then went to public high school. His father played basketball through college, so sports had a very large impact on his life. But beyond sports, both his interests and innate abilities were in the fields of math and science. In high school, he took courses in computer networking and received networking certification from Cisco Systems, Inc. His high school was not renowned for sending students to large private universities, but Bill was determined to attend an Ivy League university.

In the summer following his junior year of high school, Bill wanted to make the right decisions about college, so he began exploring his options. He had always been very close with his family and decided to investigate Cornell University upon his father's suggestion. Bill decided to attend a one-week program at Cornell exploring different majors in the college of agriculture and life sciences. During his visit, he made some great friends and got a real feel for the university. After a meeting with an engineering professor, he decided to major in biological engineer. It encompassed his interests in math, biology, and computer science, as well as applied physics.

Cornell's Greek system is large, and as a result, it can be quite daunting. Choosing the right fraternity for Bill was a very important and difficult decision. He felt that many of the houses on campus focused on the wrong values. This changed, however, once he was introduced to Alpha Sig. He felt like the brothers had a well-balanced view on what college life should be and that they could truly call themselves a brotherhood. In his view, they found a well-rounded approach

to fraternity life—prioritizing brotherhood, a social life, and academics. He was especially impressed at the house's number-four ranking in average GPA among the dozens of fraternities on campus. He saw something in the Old Gal that was just missing from the other houses he went to.

Attending such a large university can make one feel lost in a sea of people, but Alpha Sig gave Bill something to identify with. It made Cornell a less intimidating and a more personal place for him. Furthermore, the fraternity helped Bill beyond his expectations during this past summer.

Bill was presented with a problem when he was accepted as an intern to work at the Stavelly-O'Carroll Lab at the Pennsylvania State University. The prestigious lab had just expanded its facilities and did not have extra funds to pay their interns, and Pennsylvania law forbids interns to work for free. He first approached Cornell with his problem, but they would not issue him a stipend because his research was not Cornell related.

Then, Bill turned to the Old Gal and called Alpha Sig's national office. Within two days of his inquiry about a scholarship, he

received a check in the mail awarding him a stipend, which allowed him to participate in the research opportunity. His experience was, in his own words, incredible. He learned a great deal about immunology and oncology. He attended conferences and went to a training session on how to perform operations on live mice. If it were not for the Old Gal and her generosity, Bill would certainly not have been able to take advantage of such a great opportunity.

Bill's plans for the future are about as dynamic as his personality. They change quite often, but at the moment, he would like to attend graduate school in the fields of applied biomechanics—perhaps enrolling in the program offered at Cornell's Graduate School of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics. He thinks he would eventually like to work as a biophysicist or in biomechanics.

But one thing is for sure, he is very glad to be an Alpha Sig and will never forget that our fraternity came through for him in his time of need.

Chandra Ghosal '08
House Vice President



Brothers wait to be picked up after cleaning up Rockledge's adopted highway.

Rockledge Brother Named 2005 Alpha Sigma Phi Scholar Of The Year

Congratulations to Ronnie Meise '06 for being selected as the 2005 Alpha Sigma Phi Scholar of the Year by our national organization! Ronnie was selected from nearly 120 applicants as the top undergraduate scholar in our Fraternity nationwide. The award carried with it a \$4,500 scholarship provided by the Alpha Sigma Phi Educational Foundation.

Brothers Enjoy Full Social Calendar

Rockledge started off with a bang this year when we hosted a few events in Collegetown during orientation week. All of the brothers had a fun time socializing with old friends and meeting new people.

Then, after the revised Cornell social policy kicked in, we started to have a few exciting and successful parties at the house. One of the events was dedicated to hurricane relief, since it was a good opportunity to help out others in need around the country. We ended up raising a substantial amount of money from door donations.

Homecoming this year saw all of the undergraduate brothers having a great time while barbecuing in the Greek lot, catching up with alumni, and meeting girls in the new sorority, Alpha Xi Delta.

Later on in the year, our house plans on having its annual winter formal, in addition to a variety of other events. Our formal this year will be

hosted at the Lakewatch Inn and most of us are very much looking forward to the event. It's a fun time for the sophomores and one last winter event for our seniors. We'll also have a few smaller brotherhood events that we normally have every year, like our Super Bowl party.

As we get closer to the end of the semester, we'll be mixing with sororities like Kappa Delta, Alpha Phi, Tri-Delt, Pi Beta Phi, and Theta. And somewhere we will manage to fit our annual date night, where brothers will treat dates to a nice dinner and then congregate back at the house to enjoy a live jazz band.

So far, our brotherhood has really enjoyed being back at Cornell and looks forward to more fun through social events over the course of the year.

Dan Berkowitz '08
House Social



Jeff Berardelli '97 and Dan Economos '99 after a successful fishing trip off the coast of Florida this summer.

New Chef Spices Up Life At Alpha Sigma Phi

Ahoy, and greetings from the Old Gal. By now, those close to the Rock know well of the departure of our long-time chef, Travis "Ginger" Farrell, which occurred at the end of last semester. Travis sends his regards and is pursuing "a real job" in the cruise industry. For now, you can typically find him at the Haunt on Wednesday night or driving a taxi around town, but those alums lucky enough to be present

at Homecoming were treated to one of his famous gourmet meals.

Continuing a tradition of culinary excellence, we hired a new chef at the beginning of the year, Jason "Thumper" Brown. Hailing from the lovely south shores of Lake Cayuga, Jason worked alongside Travis at an upscale bed and breakfast near Taughannock Falls and then went on to work in the kitchens of Simeon's and the Boatyard Grille.

So far he's dazzled us with dishes like Dijon and horseradish-encrusted lamb chops, prime rib, Asian lettuce wraps, and wasabi-encrusted tuna steaks. He also has made delicious munchies for our parties. Until next time, bon appetit!

From the Kitchen,
Max W. Comess '07
Steward

Seeking Suggestions for Alumni Profiles

We are looking for Rockledge alums to interview and profile in future editions of *The Iota Sig*. Last year, we profiled successful businessman Ratan Tata '62, and the year before that we featured Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman '61. Do you know of any interesting or successful alums? We would really appreciate hearing from you. Please contact Rich Grousset '98 at (860) 913-8851 or richgrousset@hotmail.com.

Revamped Website Offers New Features

The undergraduate website (www.alphasig-rockledge.com) has been completely redone and revamped for the 2005-'06 school year. Besides a facelift, the website has also been given increased functionality to help brothers share their experiences and to boost communication with alumni.

New features for the website include an interactive Google-driven map that shows where current and past brothers of Rockledge reside, as well as features that will help officers more easily make announcements and ways for brothers to upload and display pictures to share with the general public or with other brothers. This feature will allow any brother to participate in chronicling the history of Rockledge.

In addition to the new look, the web-

site will also soon be gaining a new home. The corporation board has purchased www.rockledge.org, and the undergraduates are looking forward to combining efforts in centralizing Rockledge's web presence. Be sure to keep an eye on both www.alphasig-rockledge.com and www.rockledge.org for information about alumni and undergraduate events.

All undergraduate members are encouraged to register on www.alphasig-rockledge.com. Registration takes only minutes and no personal information, other than home town, will be revealed to non-registered users. It is a great tool to help us all stay connected.

Daniel Furie '08
Communications Chair

Alumni News

John M. Hollis '50 writes, "My wife, Roseanne, Penn '54, and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in June. The gala affair was held on a river boat in Great South Bay on Long Island." Send Jack congratulations at 53 Briarcliff Dr., Merrick, NY 11566. E-mail him at jhollis2@prodigy.net.

Donald A. McNamara '51 writes, "Visited Fred J. Eydt '52 in Woodstock, Vermont, and he visited us in Florida. I stay in touch with Jack Hollis '50 and Bob Fite '50, and Norman Schiek '50 visited us in Florida in 2003." Write to Don at 117 Waters Edge Dr. N, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

"I just retired! I just moved! I just became a grandfather, and our daughter just got married," writes **J. Gollan Root '60**. "Also, I'm a first-time homeowner. I'm continuing my studies in Spanish and have registered for Portuguese in hopes of a trip to Brazil." Keep in touch with "Gollie" at 22 Lexington Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040; s-g-root@comcast.net.

"Although I hit the big 66 in July, I am still practicing architecture full time here in Houston," writes **Joseph W. Santamaria '62**. "I am still trying to learn golf and still playing doubles, mostly 'social doubles.' Big news: This June, our older son, Jason, got married to Kimberly Brown Seidel in Greenwich, Connecticut. Although Kim graduated from Harvard, both of her parents—Roger Seidel '62 (Fiji) and Pollie (Graham) Seidel '67 (Delta Gamma)—are Cornellians!" Write to "Tex" at 2337 Sunset Blvd., Houston, TX 77005; jwsantamaria@yahoo.com.

Clifford T. Argue '63 (9370 Mercercerwood Dr., Mercer Island, WA 98040; migreek@aol.com) writes, "After 34 years in the airline industry, I retired last August from Alaska Airlines (21 years). I was at Continental Airlines for 13 years before that. Theo and I are keeping busy with travel, including trips to see our grandson in California, and volunteer work. I am serving as president of the board of directors of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, the national missions agency of the Orthodox Church."

Robert H. Ross '64 writes, "I still hear from my big brother from my pledge year, **Cliff Argue '63**. I also hear from **Bob Herwick '64**. I am still an owner of a marketing research, consulting firm in Wichita. My wife, Betsy, has opened a specialty food/café here in Wichita." Write to Bob at 11 Lynwood Blvd., Wichita, KS 67207. E-mail him at bobtrp@aol.com.

"My wife, Eliza, and I welcomed our son, John, into the world in 2004," writes **George B. Celardo '84**. "We also had a chance to spend the day with **Glenn Swanson '84** and his family while they were vacationing in New Hampshire last year." Keep in touch with George at 19 Village Dr., Walpole, MA 02081; gbc5@cornell.edu.

Theodore W. Millspaugh '84 (209 Warrior Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026) writes, "The winter edition of *The Iota Sig* helped me get together with my 'little brother' **Stuart Cameron '86**, who moved to New Hampshire close to where my parents live. We got together and did some skiing with his daughter, Evelyn (7), and my kids T.J. (5) and Alicia (9) at Killington. I'll be celebrating four years as a technical writer for Siemens in May." E-mail Ted at rtmillspaugh@verizon.net.

"I am in the process of co-founding the DaVinci Center," writes **Alejandro Badio '85**. "This will be a privately owned center dedicated to hands-on surgical training with an emphasis on surgical and arthroscopy techniques. Go to www.davinicicenter.com or www.drbadia.com." Write to Alejandro at 1278 S. Venetian Way, Miami, FL 33139; alex@surgical.net.

Thomas J. VanTiem Jr. '89 writes, "I just spent three weeks in Australia with my girlfriend, diving the Great Barrier Reef and touring around the country. Wonderful vacation. I plan on moving to the left seat at Jet Blue this winter. I'm lucky to have a job in this industry. I hope the brotherhood wasn't affected by Katrina." Write to Tom at P.O. Box 21874, Charleston, SC 29413. E-mail "T.V.T." at t_van_tiem@hotmail.com.

David E. Wortman '89 (126 NW 55th St., Seattle, WA 98107; dewortman

@earthlink.net) writes, "I've just returned back to Seattle after living and studying in Sydney, Australia, during 2004. I spent four months traveling on the way home, stopping off in New Zealand, Southeast Asia, India, and Europe. I had an experience of a lifetime in Thailand: I was on an island south of Phuket when the tsunami hit and was actually in the water snorkeling when the first waves hit. My friend and I escaped unharmed and are extremely lucky to be alive, but the death and damage we saw around us was something I'll never forget."

"Hey, gentlemen of Rockledge! After 13 years of churning out software for Microsoft, I left to pursue a short-term career in homebuilding," writes **James A. Dulfer '90**. "I moved to Vashon Island with my wife, Anne, and our sons, Ashton (6) and Ary (4), and we've just begun building our house." Keep in touch with James at 11814 105th Ave. SW, #B, Vashon, WA 98070. E-mail him at jadulfer@comcast.net.

"Moved to the Philadelphia area last year and started a new job as an attorney for Mako, Gold, Katcher, and Fox," writes **Todd D. Kantorczyk '92**. "Daughter number three, Clara, was born on November 21, 2004." Write to Todd at 701 Pine Hill Rd., Wayne, PA 19087; tdk23@cornell.edu.

Daniel G. Kurz '94 writes, "I got married, bought a house, and started a new company—all in the last year. All's well in L.A." Send Dan congratulations at 2922 Tilden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064; dkurzo@hotmail.com.



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

Leonard W. Lefevre '42
August 2, 2005

William H. Blew Jr. '45
2002

Albert E. Jones '48
November 17, 1999

Jeffrey D. Murphy '90

We'd like to increase the amount of alumni content in our newsletter because, well, it is published primarily for alumni. The spring 2005 edition was very well received due to the amount of material contributed by alumni or written about alumni. Do you have something you want to say? Do you have an interesting story? We want it! Please contact Rich Grousset '98 at (860) 913-8851 or richgrousset@hotmail.com.