



Gamma Contact

of
Phi Sigma Kappa

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SPRING 2009

Undergraduate President Reports on Strong Chapter

Brothers of Gamma Chapter,

My name is Michael Mascarenhas. I am an applied economics and management major in the class of 2011, and as the current president of the Gamma Chapter, it is my privilege to report to you on the status of our brotherhood at Cornell University.

The semester and my tenure began in January with rush week. Despite a record-low turnout rush week, the brothers of Phi Sig reacted and adapted quickly to once again make rush a success. Although Interfraternity Council rush statistics are currently unknown, numbers are speculated to have decreased roughly 15 to 20 percent from last year. We at Phi Sig truly believe that—like every other fraternity—we are going to have to recruit much more diligently, and I can personally promise that we will work hard to maintain our numbers in the coming years. Although our new member class size has fallen from the last two years—15 and 18—we are all proud of the men we have invited to join our brotherhood.

We have 11 new members. These 11 individuals are not only very enthusiastic about our new member education program, but also involve themselves in a variety of different activities and jobs around campus. They come from four of the seven undergraduate colleges and are all ready and willing to learn our chapter's history and to embrace brotherhood, scholarship, and character like the rest of our fraternity. Our new members this spring are: Tim Alamgir; Dylan Brannon; Jon Correll; Matt Diluvio; Karl Eichorn; Ryan Engler; George Griswold;

Andre Gurayah; Billy McGee; Mike Porta; and Dan Satnick.

In the past months, we have taken great initiative in the house as a whole. We have just recently appointed a new academic chair, who is responsible for creating an incentive-based system for individual members to increase their GPAs.

We have also flourished in intramural sports such as soccer, flag football, and basketball. And, as of this writing, we are in the top-five fraternities vying for the All-Sports Championship.

In terms of philanthropy, our brotherhood has successfully volunteered with the Special Olympics once again this semester. This year, instead of going alone, we chartered a bus and went with Pi Beta Phi Sorority. Between our two organizations, more than 60 individuals attended the event, which was an outstanding success. Brothers volunteered to help with all aspects of the event, from the timing of races to the award presentation ceremonies. We received great thanks and recognition from all the administrative staff and have appreciatively received an invitation to return next year.

The current vice president, Ryan Tomp-

kins '11, and I are also in the process of organizing a major event for the fall semester, which we hope will be a carnival on North Campus with the ladies of Tri Delta. They have agreed to let the event benefit solely our philanthropic cause, and we are excited to work with them next semester. For the event, we have reserved Rawlings Green and the high Appel fields and will be organizing a wiffle ball or dodge ball tournament, as well as renting out some carnival equipment.

If you have any ideas or questions about this event, feel free to contact me at mrm249@cornell.edu. The event will not only benefit a charity, but will also get our name out to the freshmen very early on in their college careers. Many of the brothers have also taken initiative by applying to become orientation leaders, which will help further promote the Phi Sigma Kappa name.

Overall, the brothers and I are taking great strides to maintain our traditions while improving our efforts on campus. I hope this *Contact* finds you all in good health and gives you a clear picture of what life is like for the undergraduates.

Damn Proud,
Michael Mascarenhas '11

Reunion 2009

The Gamma Chapter will host a reunion party at the house, **Saturday, June 6, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.** If you have any questions, please e-mail the undergraduate president, Michael Mascarenhas '11, at mrm249@cornell.edu.



The brothers spent a day organizing and helping run events for the winter Special Olympics.

A Report on Scheduled Summer Repairs and Renovations

Every year, your gift to the Gamma Chapterhouse Association goes directly to improvements to make the House as safe and attractive as possible—always with the goal of keeping current members living in and potential new members joining Phi Sig. With the construction of new dorms on West Campus and new apartment buildings in Collegetown, it is more important than ever to keep our fraternity as competi-

tive as we are able.

Plans for this summer include:

- Renovating the six bathrooms (for the first time in 20 years)
- Scraping and painting all the exterior details on the first and second floors, as well as the siding, railings and spindles on the first floor (for the first time in 15 years)

- Carpentry and cosmetic repairs to the north and south alcoves in the living room
- Repairing all the outside fire escapes

Your support will help Phi Sig stay financially strong. Thank you for help.

Steve Fontana '79
Gamma Alumnus

Newly Created Capital Fund to Benefit Gamma House

In 2006, I spent three months as a Scholar in Residence at Cornell, and my daily bus ride to the campus took me past the corner of University and Thurston avenues. I never tired of seeing the big, stately, elegant home of Phi Sigma Kappa, where I spent four wonderful years from 1952 to 1956.

The thought hit me, however, that the burden of keeping that fraternal home in tip-top repair is enormous. Because we, the alumni, own PSK-Gamma, we have some obligation to help preserve it. That is the genesis of the newly created PSK Capital Fund.

The endowment fund basically works as follows: It is managed by a five-brother board of directors who will make 5 percent of the total fund value available to the chapter each year for the express purpose of funding capital costs. If any brother wishes to know more—or would like to receive a copy of our bylaws—he should e-mail pskcapitalfund@msn.com and information will be provided. Information about the fund is also on the PSK Gamma website.

In the meantime, any brother wishing to support this effort should send a check made out to Stephen Hall with the fund

account number—37454874—on the memo line. Send it to Stephen Hall '56, 8755 Misty Creek Drive, Sarasota, FL 34241.

Although the fund is in my name to get it quickly off the ground, the initial response has been good, and we expect that we will exceed \$10,000 in a very few months, at which time we will become a formal trust.

Fraternally,
Steve Hall '56

Do You Know These People?



Is this perhaps from the early '60s? Is that Art Field on the far left? Who is sitting on the far left drinking out of his date's shoe? Send us your old or new photos for the next Gamma Contact.

Honor Roll Of Donors

We would like to thank the following donors for their generous support during our 2008-2009 fiscal year, which ran from October 1 to September 30.

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CONTRIBUTORS (\$50-\$99)

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Phi Sig Alumni Report Their News From Far And Near

"A great improvement to the *Gamma Contact*," writes **Donald H. Standiford '47**. "I was originally class of '43, but a war came along and plans changed. Am now retired. Enjoy the news of old brothers." Write to Donald at 2203 Gray Falls Dr., Houston, TX 77077.

John M. Cummings '52 writes, "I am now fully retired from my CPA practice in Maine and New Hampshire and spend my time between our home in Kennebunk and our summer cottage on Kennebunk pond ten miles inland. My wife, Nancy, and I enjoy visiting our children and their families in the Berkshires and Santa Fe." Write to John at P.O. Box 980, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

Gaines Post Jr. '59 writes, "Great to see **Bob Hoffman '58** and **Norm Miller '56** during 2008. My book *Blue Bug, Red Road*, was published in spring '08. It's about driving my '66 VW bug from California to Wisconsin and back—solo, slowly, with no radio or cell phone. The book contains reflections on the landscape, history, my generation, Sioux theology, and working cattle." To find out more, write to Gaines at 422 Trail Ridge Pl., Santa Rosa, CA 95409; gpost@cmc.edu.

"As I write this, it is the last day of 2008, and Donna and I are still in Sonoma, California—not growing grapes, but drinking local wine from time to time," writes **Allen K. Jones '69**. "Wow, almost 40 years since graduating from Cornell. Guess the good thing is that I don't feel that old. So, being on the short side of 64, I guess the class of 1969 still has some time to run. Best wished to all my brothers for a healthy and happy 2009." Write to Allen at 3840 Hawks Beard, Sonoma, CA 95476; allen94022@yahoo.com.

Eugene M. Weber '72 writes, "During 2008, I



Walter Peek '80, Susie Peek, Howard Seibel '80, David Seibel (age two months), Randall Ichabod Scott '80, and Howie Spinner '80.

was lucky to have **Sid Sidner '72** and **Dan Tandy '72** visit San Francisco and look me up. I welcome visits, drinks, etc., with my brothers. I remain in regular contact with **Al Arras '72** and **Alan Weitberg '72**. My daughter, Scotty, is a sophomore in the hotel school and enjoyed Phi Sig's Oktoberfest party." Write to Gene at 1806 Vallejo St., San Francisco, CA 94123; eweber@webercapital.com.

"After graduation in '75, I moved to Milwaukee, where I got into the brewing industry with Pabst," writes **Paul E. Anderson '75**. "In 1980, I was hired by Anheuser-Busch. I moved six times in my AB life, ending up back in St. Louis. I had the honor of being the resident brewmaster of the St. Louis brewery and ending my career as director of brewing operations, responsible for all 12 domestic breweries and Canadian operations. I write this not boastfully, but to show young Cornellians what is possible. Without Cornell, I would have never achieved as much!" E-mail Paul at anderpam@aol.com. Send him postal mail at 606 Carman View Ct., Ballwin, MO 63021.

Douglas F. Johnson '78 writes, "I am pleased to report that our son, Sam, is now a sophomore at Tufts. Sam has been off treatment for 18 months, after three years of chemotherapy for leukemia. He's doing well and played on the JV soccer team at Tufts. Our daughter, Kelsey, just graduated in June from Princeton with a degree in art. Ann and I attended reunion, but missed the house event, as we had to leave early for a family event." Send Doug greetings at 209 Windsor Ave., Had-donfield, NJ 08033; djlawman@yahoo.com.

"You have done a nice job with the *Contact*. It looks like the chapter is going strong," writes **John C. Molander '79** (9905 Tollgate Ln., Cincinnati, OH 45242; jcmo@one.net). "I visited **Bob Sanders '81** last summer when I was at our Duracell Battery site near Wilton, CT. I have been with P&G for 30 years. My latest role is a technology scout, searching the globe for new ideas. We are doing more research at Cornell, so I hope to visit Ithaca soon. Our oldest daughter just graduated from Ohio University and is teaching in Guatemala this year. Our younger daughter is studying design at the University of Cincinnati."

"I've opened up a Chyten Educational Services Center in September in Hartsdale," writes **Kevin C. Hunt '84**. "We do work with pre-

college-aged kids specializing in test prep as well as subject tutoring, college counseling, reading, and more. I'm also very involved as a volunteer EMT and firefighter in Briar Cliff. The only thing I do my kids think is interesting is drive the 45-ton, 40-foot tower ladder truck around town." Keep in touch with Kevin at 17 Hungerford Rd., Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510.

Michael "Dinty" Moore '88 writes, "I'm back to a real job after a year and a half of semi-retirement. Still in technology as VP of services at a fast-growing start up. Had a great time at reunion as well as joining **Doug Moore '88** and the gang for the MS 150 bike ride on Long Island." Write to Mike at P.O. Box 117489, Burlingame, CA 94011; mike_ayu@yahoo.com.

IN MEMORIAM



The Gamma Chapter regrets to announce the passing of Earl Flansburgh '53. During his time at Cornell, Brother Flansburgh was a student at the Architecture School and member of the Quill and Dagger Society.

After graduation, Brother Flansburgh continued to stay involved with Cornell, serving on the Board of Trustees, where he served as chairman of the Buildings and Properties Committee and designing the Cornell Campus Store that still stands today. Brother Flansburgh had a distinguished career as an architect, designing more than 200 schools and winning the American Institute of Architects/Boston Society of Architects Award of Honor in 1999.

He is survived by his wife, Polly, founder and current chairman of Boston by Foot, and sons John, of the band They Might Be Giants, and Paxus Calta.

DECEASED

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

William S. Mudge '35

Earl R. Flansburgh '53