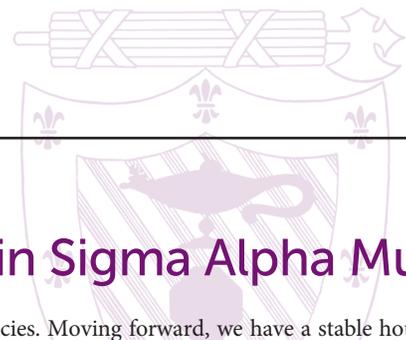


betabulletin

SIGMA ALPHA MU AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY • SPRING 2013



make your plans

REUNION: June 6-9

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ANNUAL REUNION BARBECUE

Saturday, June 8, 2013

1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the house

SUNDAY SAMMY BRUNCH

Sunday, June 9, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the house

RSVP Ankur Bajaj '13

alb337@cornell.edu or (512) 751-1081

2013-2014 UG Officers

PRIOR

David Fischer '15

VICE PRIOR

Chad Lazar '15

EXCHEQUER

Zach Berle '15

RECORDER

Jacob Glick '15

RUSH CHAIRMAN

Patrick Gilson '15

ALUMNI CHAIR

Andrew Greener '16

Fraternity Thrives Within Sigma Alpha Mu

By Danny Bernard '14, Prior

Hello, Beta Alumni!

As another year comes to a close in Ithaca, it's nice to reflect on our accomplishments as a chapter.

The Beta Chapter has grown to be one of the largest and most highly respected fraternities on campus. This spring, we welcomed 27 new members into our house, which is the largest class in recent memory. Our reputation, inclusion, and friendly brothers made our house a popular stop during Rush Week. Rush committee, led by Matty Gruber '13, did a great job finding new guys to carry on our fraternity's traditions.

It has been a challenge for Cornell fraternities to adapt to the changing Greek landscape. With eight fraternities suspended this year, it is important we are careful to adhere to the university's rules and

policies. Moving forward, we have a stable house with responsible brothers. Sigma Alpha Mu will continue to maintain its positive reputation in the Greek system and at the university.

Despite the challenges, we've had a solid year at 10 Sisson with many highlights. This month, we held a charity softball game against the Cornell Police Department at the varsity baseball field. Our 18-14 victory over the cops has not yet come back to haunt us. We are also looking forward to our annual Pancake Night philanthropy event at the beginning of May.

Being Prior has been a vastly rewarding experience—I've learned more from being a leader in our fraternity than I could in any of my ILR classes. Thank you, alumni, for your support and help in making these experiences possible. I hope to see many of you at Reunion.



Ben Horowitz '15, Mark Ezzo '14, Conor Callahan (grad), and Michael Woods '15 at a social mixer.

Stay Connected With Sammy News Online!

By Dennis Paese '73

Chapter Adviser & Chairman of the Beta Alumni Board

After a year of preparation, this is the first *Beta Bulletin* that will be distributed to alumni solely through an email link to the chapter website. We have spent this time improving our database so that more than 80 percent of our alumni now have an accurate and useable email address recorded with us for this purpose.

As we have stated previously, the costs of production, postage, folding, stuffing, etc. far exceed the income the alumni program received from alumni in the form of voluntary dues. Last year alone, the costs of alumni communications exceeded revenues by more than \$7,500. Every year I have paid the

difference out of my own pocket, and for the last several years, through the generosity of Dr. Ira Dauber '73, he has split the loss with me. Our wives would probably shoot us if they knew. In addition, the loss was after the chapter contributes several thousand dollars to support our alumni program.

In the past 20 years, the income from alumni dues has only exceeded expenses in two of the 20 years. The intent was that any profit from the program would be used to support the chapter's alumni program expenses. In an effort to try to stimulate alumni participation in the voluntary dues program, we will soon be setting up a secure direct link from the chapter website, sambeta.com, to make it easier for you to participate in this program. Paper communications are getting to be a thing of the past, and so these moves have become an economic necessity. To

those who have consistently paid dues, I thank you, and the chapter thanks you.

Until we are able to set up direct payment through the website, our hope is that you will use the forms attached to this issue to make your dues payment. Dues payments are not tax deductible. However, for those who wish to make a tax-deductible contribution through Cornell, you can do so by visiting www.giving.cornell.edu/give; designate your gift to the "Sigma Alpha Mu Gift Account #0000644." Funds contributed in this fashion are used for capital projects, equipment improvements, and purchases for building improvements. This separate account is administered by Cornell and the chapter alumni board strictly for the benefit of the chapter, but contributions do count toward Cornell gift credits.

Meet Our New Members

Aaron Brody '15, from Summit, New Jersey, studies English and communications. He is a member of the club Ultimate Frisbee team, writer for *Ink Magazine*, and an orientation leader.

Aaron Elkin '16, from Broomall, Pennsylvania, studies economics and Near Eastern studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is also involved in various intramural sports.

Adam Greenbaum '16 calls Jericho, New York, home and studies applied economics and management (AEM). He participates in Mutual Investment Club and Cornell Venture Capital Club.

Adam Mills '16 studies AEM; calls Lake Forest, Illinois, home; and has a passion for business.

Adam Schlusell '16, plans to major in information science and minor in business. He is from Teaneck, New Jersey, and he holds a position on the executive board of CIPAC.

Alex Sarnoff '15 was raised in Pound Ridge, New York, and is an AEM major. His extracurricular activities, include the CCJF Leadership Program, startup Derby Clothing, Economics Society, and playing basketball and soccer.

Andrew Greener '16 hails from Great Neck, New York, and studies AEM and information science. He is a member of the Mutual Investment Club of Cornell and Cornell Hospitality Consulting; he's also an avid soccer fan.

Ari Bernstein '16 is double-majoring in biology, and society and Spanish as a pre-medical student. He is from Montclair, New Jersey, and is a member of Cornell EMS and Cornell Global Medical Brigades.

Benjamin Duhan Park '16 studies in the School of Hotel Administration. He resides in Rutherford, New Jersey, and considers his culinary skills to be top notch.

Daniel Borko '16 comes from Plainview, New York, and studies ILR with Spanish and business minors. On campus, he writes for the *Cornell Lumatic*, a humor magazine.

Eric Lippin '16 was born and raised in New York, New York. He studies policy analysis and management, has a passion for playing jazz drums, and also competes on the club lacrosse team.

Ethan Arnowitz '15 is pursuing a degree in design and environmental analysis and comes from Old Bethpage, New York. He is an active member of Cornell's Sustainable Design Club.

Evan Schlossman '16 is a double-major in biology and economics who calls Weston, Florida, home. He works as an analyst for the Behavioral Economics and Finance Organization, and is an active member of the Medical Entrepreneurship Society.

Gal Stilman '16 resides in sunny Weston, Florida, and is in the College of Engineering studying computer science. He is on the board of directors of SMC.

Ian M. Sigalow '16 hails from Palm City, Florida. He studies ILR and is double-minoring in Jewish studies and business. He is a member of Big Red Consulting, Model Congress, and enjoys playing tennis and basketball in his free time.

Jacob Gonzalez '16 lives in Clifton, New Jersey, and plans to study ILR after transferring from the AAP College. His interests include law, business, and weight lifting.

Jared Oxenberg '15, majors in communication and minors in business. He is from Jericho, New York, and enjoys playing guitar and piano in his free time.

Jason Finkelstein '16 is from Weston, Florida, studying electrical engineering. He enjoys playing the drums and genres ranging from funk/blues to alternative rock in various student bands.

Nate Cohen '16 calls Marlboro, New Jersey, home. He is an operations research and engineering major, and a trombonist in the Big Red Marching Band and Pep Band.

Sammy Gruber '16 studies hotel management and hails from the stunning town of South Orange, New Jersey. He loves chilling with his

new brothers.

Shawn Miles '15 studies AEM and calls the small town of North Salem, New York, home. A former member of the track team, he enjoys running and participating in triathlons.

Spencer Nord '16 is from Massapequa, New York, and studies ILR. He is a member of the Student Assembly, Finance Commission, and the ILR Sports Business Society.

Theodore Gross '15 is heavily involved in Cornell's music programs as a jazz and classical saxophonist, and he studies economics and business. He comes from Poughkeepsie, New York, where he provides consulting services for nearby small businesses.

Todd Drucker '16 hails from Rockville Centre, New York, and studies architecture in the AAP College. He serves as the AAP representative to the Student Assembly.

Xiao Xu '15 is a computer science major from Rochester, New York. He is a member of the cheerleading team, the Into the Streets executive board, and serves on the class of 2015 council.

Zach Benfanti '16 calls Buffalo, New York, home and studies ILR. He is a Cornell tour guide, Student Ambassador for Engaged Learning and Research, and a proud representative of the Slope Day Programming Board and Cornell Concert Commission.

Zaid Ward '16 studies material science in the College of Engineering and resides in Abu Dhabi, UAE. He has a passion for luxury cars and hopes to start a collection one day.

Rush Week Recap

By **Matthew Gruber '13**
Rush Chair

This semester, Rush Week was especially challenging for Beta Chapter. The Cornell administration and IFC are increasingly vigilant, and we had to modify many of our Rush events to comply with all of the new guidelines. Nevertheless, this year's Rush was a rousing success. The entire house worked tirelessly throughout the week to demonstrate our brotherhood, and we were rewarded by successfully inducting 27 freshmen and sophomores into our new member education process, the largest pledge class Beta Chapter has had in some 15 years.

Although Rush might seem like a distant process, alumni can help us maintain and strengthen our brotherhood in a number of ways. First, if you know of young men who will be attending Cornell in the fall, please let us know. Recruitment cannot succeed if we wait until Rush Week to meet potential new members. In addition, the university's new stance toward the Greek system created large problems for our fraternity that we were able to overcome. Alumni are important to Cornell, and if alumni emphasize the importance and benefits of the Greek system, then perhaps the university will learn to appreciate it more.



Beta Chapter welcomed 27 new members into the fraternity this past spring Rush.

Brothers Send Greetings From Abroad!

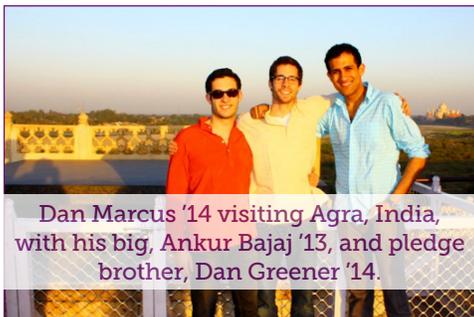


What's up, Sammy? Jeff Hassan here, reporting from Copenhagen, Denmark. Life abroad is nothing short of a dream come true: Each day is a new adventure, filled with the faces of Danish blonde beauties on bikes, and fish on the heartiest rye bread you've ever tasted. But this experience has come with its sacrifices, as I miss the guys at the house more than anything! I can't wait to get started on my last year at Cornell, and I hope to bring my newfound appreciation for life with me.

- Jeff Hassan '14, Abroad

When deciding to go to Cape Town in South Africa for a semester abroad, I was pretty unsure of what it would be like, but dove in hoping for the best. I couldn't have made a better choice. This past semester (and what's left of it) has been one of the most fulfilling times in my life. I've experienced a plethora of new, possibly dangerous activities—shark-cage diving, bungee jumping, and walking with lions and cheetahs. I've also received an eye-opening education about major issues of race and crime firsthand through home-stays in townships and just talking to people who live here. The issues in this country are abundant, but it is incredible to see a nation working so hard to improve and recover from the relatively recent upheaval of the Apartheid regime. The beauty of this city from the Table Mountain to the sand at Camp's Bay is something that will be engrained in my mind forever and will definitely have me returning as soon as I can.

- Jesse Turk '14, Abroad



Dan Marcus '14 visiting Agra, India, with his big, Ankur Bajaj '13, and pledge brother, Dan Greener '14.

Hi everyone! I've been studying abroad at the University of Oxford for my junior year. While my entire time at Oxford has been an incredibly rewarding learning and social experience, two moments stand out in relation to Sammy. Being abroad has allowed me to take advantage of certain unique opportunities, like traveling in India with my big, Ankur Bajaj '13, and pledge brother, Dan Greener '14. The picture shown is the three of us in Agra, India, the location of the Taj Mahal. We constantly talk about the virtues of brotherhood, yet this experience, with Ankur and his family treating me like a regular member of the family for three weeks, truly exemplified the strength of brotherhood. Another moment was returning to Cornell during my spring break and reuniting with everyone in Sammy. Coming back to the Sammy house, meeting the new guys, and bonding again with my old friends felt like

I hadn't left. This is something I've truly missed about Sammy, and I'm eager to begin my senior year in the fall and pick up exactly where I left off. Cheers!

- Dan Marcus '14, Abroad



Sammy brothers on vacation in London.

As I write this article I sit nearly 3,000 miles away from Cornell. I've spent the academic year studying at the University of Oxford in England and won't be back in the U.S. until June. For these reasons, I've found that I've grown to look at Cornell and, by extension, Sigma Alpha Mu from a new perspective. I left Cornell seeking new experiences and even a bit adventure, but what I found was possibly the greatest reason to come back home. Before leaving Cornell, I took the community I had in Sigma Alpha Mu for granted. Brotherhood was a term loosely thrown around and a saying I never truly understood. Never satisfied with its definition, I constantly sought to validate it and found life in the house difficult at first. It was only when I took a step back from life in Ithaca that I could fully appreciate the community, atmosphere, and, yes, brotherhood that Sigma Alpha Mu has bred. I left for England, with fellow frater Dan Marcus, and cannot begin to articulate how nice it was to have somebody there for me in times of need. Like brothers, we may bicker and complain, but having a bit of SAM in England made my experience so much more enjoyable. Dan and I met with our big, Ankur, in India over break and traveled through Mumbai, New Delhi, and Accra. Sigma Alpha Mu in the heart of India was having a little slice of home on the opposite side of the world. When I came home to the U.S. for spring break, 10 Sisson was the first stop on my map. I had found a home there—somewhere to come back to and somewhere I would always be welcome. Sometimes being in the fraternity is frustrating, even difficult. But like our own family, our brothers, for better or for worse, will be there for us.

- Dan Greener '14, Abroad



Mark Ezzo '14 and Maddy Culkin take a break from studying at University College London to visit Marrakech together.

Brotherhood Bonding

By Hee Sung Park '14
Brotherhood Chair

Starting the semester off with a successful recruitment, we incorporated new brotherhood events that would keep the momentum going and bring the brothers even closer.

In the midst of miserable Ithaca snowy weather, the brotherhood and new members went to the local paintball arena to strengthen the bond between them. Frankly, brothers had better teamwork and strategies to be the clear victors over new members, but all the fun we had still made it a great event. As the weather is gradually getting warmer, we have great events to finish off the year like campus golf, Ultimate Frisbee, and spring formal.



Sammy brothers at a hockey game.

Striving for Success in Athletics

By Jacob Brunell '15, Athletics Chair

This year, more than half of the current brothers have participated in a variety of intramural sports on campus from Frisbee golf, to soccer, to doubles tennis. After dominating throughout the fall regular season and finishing top of the division at 4-0-1, third-seeded Sammy's soccer post-season was ended early by a fluke own goal. However, anchored by the superb goalkeeping of Ben Solaski '15 and a rock-solid defense that conceded only three goals this entire season (which was tied for the league-load), Sammy looks poised to leverage our returning starters on the offensive and defensive side, to make another deep playoff run next season.

In the spring semester, Sammy has enjoyed success in several sports, including basketball, bowling, and softball. We've met with success not only in team sports, but also in individuals, as Simeon Markind '14 brought home the mixed doubles tennis tournament trophy. However, undoubtedly the most exciting moment of the sports season came when the Sammy softball squad prevailed over a combined team of Ithaca and Cornell Police Department officers, in our first annual charity softball game to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

newsfromouralumni

"I have been living in Mexico for 24 years, and for most of that time I have been working in my second career as an author's editor of scientific papers written in English (mostly by Mexicans, but also for a number of scientists from other countries who have had residence here)," reports **Ellis R. Glazier '51**. "It has been a great educational experience, especially about marine science because La Paz, on the Mar de Cortes, is a hotbed of research focusing on marine biology. I also work with a group at UNAM and University de Puebla in various areas of the medical sciences. This is one good way to keep one's mind active and avoid dementia." Reconnect with Ellis at A.P. 393, La Paz BCS, Mexico; erg39@cornell.edu.

Julian M. Aroesty '53 retired from active patient care in 2011. He is busy now with seven part-time jobs, including chief medical officer of a medical device company; in-house reviewer of malpractice cases for the Harvard Medical insurer, the Massachusetts insurer, doing second opinion consults for "best doctors" and for "advanced medicine;" primary medical consultant for a class action suit; and a member of clinical evaluation committee for Boston Scientific and Harvard Clinical Research Institute—plus Julian gets to see his kids and grandchildren in the Midwest and California, ride his bike, read history, study languages, etc. "Who has time to retire?" Catch up with him at 5 Oak Park Cir., Lexington, MA 02420; jma38@cornell.edu.

Stuart Warshauer '53 is looking forward to attending his 60th Reunion in June. He is currently involved in marketing the new CS by any band—Naples Klezmer Revival. The CD's name is "Streets of Fold," available directly through Stuart or via CDBaby (\$20). Stuart is also managing the band's schedule with three gigs during Hanukkah, a concert and special appearance in January, and a wedding in February. In April or May, he will be taking an interesting tour of South Africa and will return in plenty of time for Reunion Weekend. Get in touch with Stu by writing to 565 Via Veneto, #101, Naples, FL 34108; or by sending email to stuwash@hotmail.com.

L. Robert Rubin '55 enjoyed a recent get-together with 1955 brothers **Frank Tretter**, **Phil Dunsker**, **Ed Leventhal**, **Marc Reidenberg**, and their wives. Keep in touch with Bob at 16 Ohehyahtah Pl., Danbury, CT 06810.

"I'm almost fully retired and continue to travel," writes **Stephen A. Kasten '59**. "Although Africa remains my favorite continent (made a return visit to Botswana last year—outstanding!), I'm off to Southeast Asia in January 2014. I'm in regular contact with **Jim Grunzweig '59** and occasionally with **Hillel 'Diz' Disraelly '59**. I was pleased to read that the house is doing so well. I also see that 1959 donors are second only to 1953;

210 Thurston made its mark!" Stay connected with Stephen by sending postal mail to 6 Shady Lane Farm Rd., Ossining, NY 10562; or by sending email to skasten914@aol.com.

"2013 will mark the 50th anniversary of my initial publication of the *Beta Alumni News*," writes **George E. Johnson**. "It is great that the chapter has continued this important connection between the current chapter and the mentors who have lived the Sammy experience before them. Congratulations, and keep up the great work!" Write to George at 7200 Lynnhurst Pl., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Matthew C. Sonfield '64 continues as distinguished professor in business at Hofstra University. He enjoys teaching and research, and has no plans to retire. Catch up with Matt at 24 Tennis Court Rd., Oyster Bay, NY 11771; sonfield@optonline.net.

Andrew Needle '74 would love to hear from anyone in the class of 1973 or 1974 (or any other Sammy Betas) in Miami—10300 Sabal Palm Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33156; needlaw@bellsouth.net.

Scott A. Cohen '01 welcomed a second boy to his family in March 2012. Alexander Samuel Cohen was born March 18, 2012. Older son, Aaron, just turned four this past November. Scott and his family live outside of Philadelphia in South Jersey. He works at Comcast's corporate headquarters in the wireless group. Send congratulations to the Cohens at 23 Beth Dr., Moorestown, NJ 08057; scottacohen@gmail.com.

deceased

Walter B. Schatz '43

November 5, 2012

Final Thoughts

By **Ankur Bajaj '13**, Alumni Affairs Chair

Trying to summarize four years of your life into a few hundred words is an impossible task. You have to pick and choose. This memory here, this feeling there, this friendship right nearby.

I've had so many deep experiences from which I can draw, so many ways the fraternity has helped me learn, challenge myself, and thrive. But it hasn't always been straightforward. Without a doubt, at moments, I've questioned the actions of individual fraters, the fraternity, and the system as a whole. It is through this skepticism, this refusal of blind faith, that I've been able to renew my commitment to my brothers and arrive at a deeper understanding of what the fraternity stands for. For when we suppress dissent and innovation, everyone suffers.

Sigma Alpha Mu has given me so much, and I'm confident that my time as a Sammy in Beta will continue to pay dividends over the course of my life. I really do mean that. My memories are lasting; my friendships unshakable.

SAM Excels in Philanthropy

By **Peter Haas '15**, Philanthropy Chair

We've had an incredible semester for philanthropy. Due to our burgeoning relationship with Delta Gamma Sorority, we decided to have a team compete in Delta Gamma's philanthropy event, Anchor Jam. Around 10 of our new members learned, practiced, and performed an original dance at the interfraternity dance competition. In mid-February, Beta Chapter teamed up with Alpha Chi Omega for a brunch where we made Valentine's Day cards for a local retirement home. We all appreciated hearing about the smiles on the residents' faces when they received our warm wishes.

Our upcoming annual event, Greek House of Pancakes, is sure to be an overwhelming success. As is tradition, we will have pancakes, ice cream, a raffle, and a band. This year, we are tremendously excited for our very own SAMband to



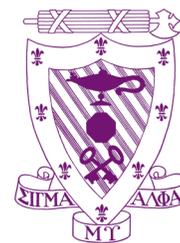
Brothers participate in a charity softball game with Cornell Police Department.

perform at the event. They have been working diligently to prepare, and we can't wait to hear how great they sound. Some other highlights of the event include a signed hockey-jersey raffle and the largest ice-cream toppings station we've ever had! Most importantly, the pancakes will be delicious as ever.

betabulletin

is published regularly by Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. News contributions and photos are always welcome and should be sent to Alumni Records Office, Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

Stay connected with ΣAM!



S I G M A A L P H A M U A T C O R N E L L

2012–2013 GIFT AND DUES RESPONSE FOR SIGMA ALPHA MU FRATERNITY, BETA CHAPTER

ANNUAL ALUMNI DUES

- First five years out of college \$35
- More than five years out of college (\$55–\$99) \$ _____
- President's Society (\$100–\$249) \$ _____
- Octagon Society (\$250–\$499) \$ _____
- Beta Founder's Society (\$500 or more) \$ _____
- Other \$ _____
- Total amount enclosed** \$ _____

Please make check payable to "Sigma Alpha Mu Alumni Account." See reverse side for automatic donations.

CHARGE YOUR GIFT: Visa MasterCard Discover

Card # _____

Exp. date _____ Amount \$ _____

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Contributions are not deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes. You may have already contributed to our annual appeal, but any additional participation would be greatly appreciated.

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Business title _____ Company name _____

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Work phone # _____ Work email address _____

Date filled out: _____

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Name *(please print)* _____ Credit card type: Visa MasterCard Discover
Card number _____ Expiration date _____
Phone # _____ (H W C) Email address _____ (H W)

Bill my payment of \$ _____ **monthly** to my credit card for as long as authorized below.

- CHOOSE ONE: This authorization is valid until this date: _____.
- This authorization is valid until my card's expiration date or until I provide you with written cancellation.

Donor's signature _____ Date _____

*Please be sure your name is printed above, and that your credit card's expiration date accommodates the recurring payments you'd like to make.
When you sign up for recurring payments, your credit card will be charged now, and then at the chosen interval, based on the date of the first transaction.*