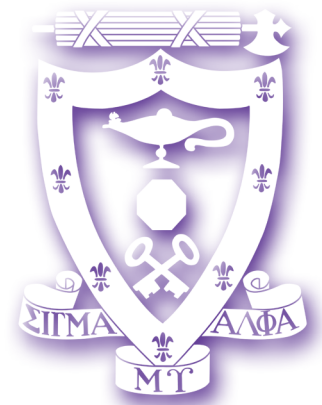


# BETABULLETIN

SIGMA ALPHA MU AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY | WINTER 2023-2024



## FROM THE CHAPTER ADVISOR

DENNIS PAESE '73

Wow, it has been a busy year so far.

**Fall Rush:** A class of four in the fall bringing us to 15 undergraduate brothers.

**Spring Rush:** We're in the middle of it right now. The chapter's goal is to double its numbers every semester until we get up to full strength, and having been in Ithaca for spring rush, it looks like the brothers have a very good shot at it.

I've met every guy the brothers are rushing, and they are a very good group.

**Housing:** The odyssey continues. Work is being performed on 14 South Avenue as we speak, though a little too slowly to suit me, and should be completed by July 2024. We will be moving all our furniture, equipment, etc. into the house in July, the guys will move in in August for the fall semester, and they will actually have beds to sleep on etc. I personally look forward to seeing both of our Founder's Cups once again on display in the library along, with other chapter memorabilia.

I am currently working to finalize the financial aspects of our new home and, despite Cornell's rather high prices of doing just about anything, the number of brothers living in should allow us to fully cover operating costs by charging less than Cornell's outrageous room rates.

Likewise, based on our numbers, it looks like we will be able to provide the brothers with a **meal plan**.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## WHAT IS A FRATERNITY?

RANDY BARBARASH '73 | ALUMNI BOARD CHAIR



As readers of this piece over the years have observed, I often combine a bit of nostalgia with current events at Cornell and our Sammy. Please humor me and read this next installment.

As a freshman in 1969, I was decidedly non-Greek oriented. I had no conception of what a fraternity was. I was occupied with coursework, my work-study hours, and of course, as much fun as I could fit in between. However, when all the friends I had made that fall started rushing and ultimately joining houses, I did not like the prospect of living in the dorms again with a new roommate and a whole new cadre of people. So, I rushed the house that three of my friends were joining: Sigma Alpha Mu. Boy, was I pleasantly surprised. Sammy provided me with like-minded guys to hang out with, to play ball with, to study with, and even to wash dishes and pots with. **Tom Mulligan '73** and I even wrote a pit-crew song to go along with our dish washing! Joining turned out to be one of the best moves I made while at Cornell. In retrospect, it led to the kind

of friends that, 50 years later, could just pick up and talk as if we were hanging out on the front porch together yesterday. That is what a fraternity was to me.

So, here's the segue. Sigma Alpha Mu has had to reinvent itself twice since then. Sammy has had four different homes since then. But, in my brief visits to campus over the past years, I have observed that today's brothers would fit right in to any alumni class from our past. They are more diverse but, then again, so is Cornell and the country. They seem to be more socially conscious, but that can only be a good thing in today's politically torn environment. They are a growing group of guys who have embraced the values and history of our collegiate home.

Sammy will occupy a new fraternity house this coming fall after a three-year hiatus. The building at 14 South Avenue is a perfect fit. There is ample room for dining, a good-size kitchen, study space, a fitness room, party space,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



# MEET THE NEW BROTHERS



## ELVIS COY CANTO

**Major:** Industrial and Labor Relations

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Soccer

**What songs would be on your "Happy Playlist"?**

Waiting for Love – Avicci & Shut Up and Dance.



## SANTANA CASAS

**Major:** Landscape Architecture

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Volleyball

**What songs would be on your "Happy Playlist"?**

American Boy – Estelle, You Don't Know My Name – Alicia Keys, and You Can Do Magic – America.



## JORDY ESTRADA

**Major:** Hotel Administration

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Volleyball

**What songs would be on your "Happy Playlist"?**

Shape of You – Ed Sheeran.



## ANYAS GOEMAN

**Major:** Biological Sciences

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Wrestling and Basketball

**What songs would be on your "Happy Playlist"?**

The Adults Are Talking, 444, and Can't Stop.



## ALDO LOMAS

**Major:** Undecided

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Soccer

**What songs would be on your "Happy Playlist"?**

Good day and a little bit of Drake.

# RUSH SPRING 2024

CRISTOBAL RAMIREZ

CURRENT RUSH CHAIR & INCOMING PRESIDENT OF SAM BETA CHAPTER



Rush this semester, Spring 2024, has been groundbreaking for the Beta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu. This semester alone, we have effectively doubled the size of last semester's chapter. So far, we have initiated 10 brothers. In continuous-open-bidding, we have 4 high-quality individuals on the block. If we initiate all 14, we will be in great shape for a rebuilding fraternity with 28 current brothers. Every semester, we grow remarkably in size, strength, and brotherhood closeness. As we do so, we cannot help but think of the efforts undertaken by our eight founding founders in 1909. For the brothers of Sigma Alpha Mu Beta chapter, the future looks bright up here in Ithaca.

Fast and Firm.





# MEET THE NEW BROTHERS



## JOSUE ORTIZ

**Major:** Computer Science

**Year:** Sophomore

**Sports:** Soccer and Weightlifting

**What songs would be on your “Happy Playlist”?**

Anything Latin Related.



## CARTER PHILO

**Major:** Landscape Architecture

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Soccer

**What songs would be on your “Happy Playlist”?**

What I Got – *Sublime*, Could You Be Loved – *Bob Marley*, and Bold as Love – *Jimi Hendrix*.



## KEVIN MONTES-SALAS

**Major:** Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Soccer

**What songs would be on your “Happy Playlist”?**

Happy – *Pharrell*.



## ALEJANDRO SAZ

**Major:** Industrial and Labor Relations

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Soccer

**What songs would be on your “Happy Playlist”?**

La Droga – *Bad Bunny*.



## FRANKLYN YADAICELA

**Major:** Architecture

**Year:** Freshman

**Sports:** Soccer, Wrestling, and Skateboarding

**What songs would be on your “Happy Playlist”?**

SDP Interlude – *Travis Scott*.

# WHAT IS A FRATERNITY?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



a great outside deck, an alumni suite, and space for the live-in adviser that Cornell will eventually require us to hire. I know that the guys will make it a comfortable home and create memories to last them more than 50 years.

Reunion is June 7–9 this year. Why not come up to Ithaca? See our new place, renew your acquaintance with the beautiful parks and your favorite campus buildings (mine were Stimson Hall and Uris Libe), and meet some of our new brothers. You’ll have a great weekend. We’re planning Friday night cocktails from 9:00–11:00 pm (to allow people to attend their class events), a Saturday barbecue from 11:00 am–2:00 pm, and a Sunday brunch from 10:00 am–2:00 pm.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone.

## SUBMIT YOUR NEWS!

The strength of this newsletter depends in part on alumni news. Please take a moment to print, fill out and return the newsform included on **page 6**. Let your brothers know what you’ve been up to!

# FROM THE PRIOR

## JEFF CAMERON '25

As the refounding and current prior of the Beta Chapter, I am excited to update you all on a few new developments within the chapter.

We are on track to live in our new house next year, located on 14 South Ave. After a year of house renovation and the rejuvenation of our fraternity, we will finally move in next semester and have a centralized location for Beta once again.

I am thrilled to report that our recent recruitment efforts have yielded remarkable success. After three semesters of recruitment, our brotherhood welcomes over 25 brothers. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our active members, and Rush Chair **Cris Ramirez**, we have welcomed an exceptional group of nine new brothers into our fraternity this semester. Their enthusiasm during their candidate process and the upholding of the values of Sigma Alpha Mu are truly inspiring, and I have no doubt they will

contribute immensely to our chapter's legacy.

As we celebrate these significant milestones in the history of our fraternity, I cannot help but feel excited for what's to come in our chapter. With that in mind, I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to all alumni attending Reunion in June 2024 to join us for upcoming reunion festivities. I would also like to invite all alumni for Homecoming later in the year. These gatherings present wonderful opportunities for us to connect our current undergraduate members and alumni.

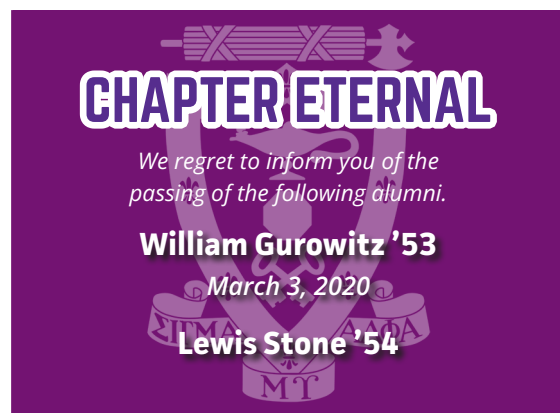
Please stay tuned for further details regarding Reunion and Homecoming, including dates, location, and itinerary.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Beta Chapter.

Fast and Firm.

# ALUMNI NEWS

**Marc Cohen '71:** We downsized and moved from the middle of Los Angeles, to a 42-acre ranch in Somis, California, where we grow lemons and three types of avocados. Growing up in the projects in Brooklyn and having a BA in government really prepared me for a life of orchards, cattle, coyotes, and great horned owls. Still practicing law, representing California agencies in complex litigation, as well as remaining a JAG colonel in the California military, where I am a senior advisor to the commander of the California Air National Guard. Still holding the hand of my grandson.



# FROM THE CHAPTER ADVISOR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Travis has been cooking for us during both spring and fall rush, as well as for Reunion and Homecoming, and is chomping at the bit to get back into our kitchen full time. Travis now has the distinction of not only being the only chef in Ithaca whom I haven't fired but also has the distinction of having been our chef in four Sammy houses: 210 Thurston, 10 Sisson Place, 122 McGraw, and now 14 South Avenue.

In addition, and despite a lot of whining from the university because they wanted us to use their outrageously expensive cleaning service, **Jim Roberts** will be back with us as he has been for over 20 years.

Work still remains to be done to make the building "move in" ready, and once we are in 14 South, we have some thoughts for future improvements. We have been making slow but steady progress.

When our letters went up on the building, it was a big morale booster for the guys

and helped us enormously during both fall and spring rush this year, where we were allowed to use the public areas of the building for rush events. This was also the case with Homecoming and Reunion.

Our wooden sign, hand crafted by the one and only **Todd Drucker**, will be placed on the grounds before move in.

We will even have a dedicated suite for alumni to visit when they stay at the chapter and get to know the guys, once we are moved in.

All and all, things are moving ahead after a couple of years of delays and disappointments, but the brothers are enthused and look forward to meeting and greeting our alumni in the 2024–2025 academic year, as well as during Reunion 2024 in June.

As always, I am going to ask all our alumni to **show me the money**.

A gift form is on page 6 of this newsletter

document. If you're sending big bucks and need a tax write-off, send it to our Cornell gift account. If not, you can send it directly to the chapter via credit card or check.

On the next page 5 you'll find the honor roll of those alumni who donated funds during the last two years when the chapter needed it the most, whether through Cornell or directly. Thank you, all, for sticking with us during the rough times and now through the better and good times.

**ALUMNI BOARD:** Those of you who would like to serve on the Beta alumni board, please advise **Randy Barbarash** of your willingness to do so. We need a well-balanced board, and new blood is welcome. However, I tell you in advance that you can expect to do some well-balanced work and are expected to visit the chapter periodically. An active alumni board contributes greatly to the health of the chapter.

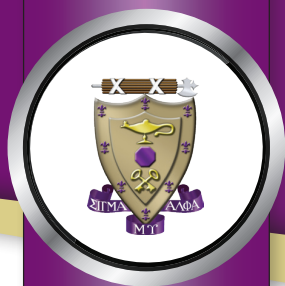
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# BETA BULLETIN

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# 2023–2024 HONOR ROLL *of* DONORS

Gifts reflected from  
**January 1, 2023,**  
through  
**February 26, 2024.**

Thank you to all the brothers listed below who contributed to  
**Sigma Alpha Mu at Cornell.**

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\$500 or more

Donald Altman '71	Dennis Paese '73
Heleen Brody	Victor Pollaci Jr. '06
Ira Dauber '73	S. Lawrence Rusoff '89
Jason Feinsmith '91	Lawrence Sandler '72
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## OCTAGON SOCIETY

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## PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY

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Up to \$99

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