



FOUNDED 2007

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Sigma Pi Mu Chapter Educational Foundation, founded in 2007, is a 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service-approved organization. It is dedicated to funding educational programs for the members of Mu Chapter, enhancing the learning infrastructure of the house, and supporting education-related programming that benefits the youth of the greater Ithaca community and provides mentorship opportunities for Mu Chapter brothers.

## MU CHAPTER of SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

### OUTGOING PRESIDENT LAUDS ACHIEVEMENTS AND WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

By Aaron Klein '12  
Foundation President



Since our last report in the fall Muse, the Foundation has been busy on many fronts.

Tom Silver '81 took over the role as president of the Educational Foundation beginning July 1, 2016. I will be staying on in the role of treasurer. Tom is a partner at Top Gun Ventures, a global executive search firm serving corporate clients, venture capitalists, private equity, boards, and entrepreneurs in Austin, Boston, Dallas, New York, Palo Alto, Seattle, and St. Louis, and with reach throughout the Americas, Asia, and Europe.

He is a board member and advisor for RallyBus, a start-up crowd-powered event travel company, and is president of the Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, a nonprofit organization focused on fundraising to advance the treatment of various types of blood cancers. Tom describes

his history of involvement with Mu Chapter, "My alumni involvement with Sigma Pi began with helping to craft a program supporting the undergraduates through mentorship and career development. Being involved with the Foundation is a logical extension of that work. I find it deeply gratifying helping Pi men in their efforts to give back to the community, as well as develop skills and knowledge for their professional lives after they graduate."

Since joining the board of directors in 2015 as the board's first woman and outside director, Dr. Sandy True '78 has had a fast and profound impact on the Foundation's work. Of particular note is the work she has done with College Mentors for Kids.

In addition, we have added two new directors: Wayne Forman '80 and Jim Franz '77 were elected to the board of directors of the Mu Chapter

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### COLLEGE MENTORS FOR KIDS CONTINUES ITS UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS

Cornell chapter to welcome 40 new Little Buddies in the fall

By David DellaPelle '17  
Incoming Chapter President



I am excited about the 2016-'17 school year for College Mentors for Kids. Following a highly successful year in which we provided 80 first-through fourth-graders with mentors, we will be increasing our service capacity to 120 Little Buddies this fall, adding an additional segment of 40 targeted at-risk students from Cayuga Heights Elementary School. This increase places us in the "large chapter" category nationally, and is an unprecedented growth rate relative to other chapters. National has given us this responsibility

due to our success as a chapter so far, which has only been possible due to the strong leadership we have had in our first three years, along with the invaluable support we have received from the Ithaca community.

We have several major goals for the chapter for the 2016-'17 school year:

- provide a high quality experience for 40 additional Little Buddies and mentors through a seamless transition
- expand brand recognition on campus through successful marketing, human resources, and fundraising efforts
- continue to recruit and retain strong staff and

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## COLLEGE MENTORS

(continued from page one)

leadership

- continue to be successful in activity planning and execution,
- find consistent long-term funding.

The third goal is already largely complete, as a strong executive board and staff have already been hired to lead the chapter in the fall. I revamped the organizational structure in order to ensure that these roles are clearly defined and to find the strongest candidates to fill those roles. Specifically, I believe that separating the human resources and marketing functions of the organization, with a vice president in charge of each function, will have a huge positive impact on the



completion of the first three goals.

We plan on continuing to use the successful activities framework implemented under Gabriella Johnston, 2015-'16 College Mentors for Kids Cornell Chapter president, and her success in booking us a "home base" for the year at Robert Purcell Community Center will make this a much easier job.

Lastly, while we have put together many successful fundraising events, most of our funding comes from the Family and Friends Campaign, in which mentors ask for donations. I hope to transition toward an increase in funding from third party donors and grants.

Overall, College Mentors for Kids at Cornell University is ready to take the next step to continue its rise



as one of the strongest chapters nationally, and the most impactful student-run nonprofit on campus. We couldn't do it without your continued support. Thank you for continuing to support a great local cause!



## OUTGOING PRESIDENT

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of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation at a board meeting that took place on Tuesday, April 5. These two gentlemen bring a wealth of experience to the Foundation, and we are most fortunate to have them as new board members.

Wayne Forman is partner at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, where he represents clients in all aspects of Colorado water law, land-use litigation, condemnation, and environmental law and litigation. He represents private and public clients throughout Colorado on water rights matters and has extensive

experience in land-use litigation and water quality and wetlands matters. Wayne's clients include a national homebuilder, a natural gas exploration and development company, real estate developers, special districts, and ranch owners.

James R. Franz is a member of Hinman, Howard & Kattell's business and corporate law group, labor and employment group, health care law group, and not-for-profit corporation and foundation practice group. He also served as chairman of the firm's business and corporate law practice group for nearly 20 years. Mr. Franz has been able to blend his work in corporate law with small town general practice. His law license has allowed him to assist

his friends and neighbors with the challenges that they face in the course of their daily lives, and he has always embraced opportunities to engage as a general practitioner, serving the individual legal needs of the people of his community.

In addition, the Foundation has been working hard to update the Memorial Room in the house. Since the addition of the Dick Cahoon '77 Tech Center last year, the foundation has replaced all of the windows with state-of-the-art, energy-efficient units and added plaques to honor our donors. Please see the article on page five for more information about the updated plaques in the Pi house.



# EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SPONSORS FIRST-EVER ENTREPRENEURIAL CONFERENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATE BROTHERS

By Mike Vernick '83

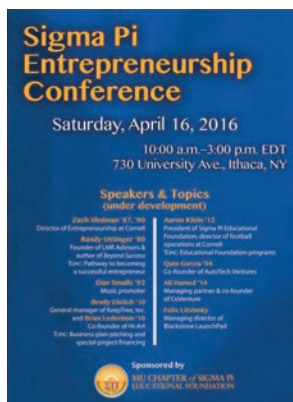
The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation sponsored the first ever conference on entrepreneurship for undergraduate brothers on April 16 at the house. The conference was held in conjunction with the Entrepreneurship at Cornell celebration held April 14 and 15. The event was attended by over 50 undergraduate brothers and alumni.

The keynote speaker was Felix Litvinsky, managing director of Blackstone LaunchPad at Cornell University. Blackstone LaunchPad is an experiential campus-based program designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path, and to develop entrepreneurial skills and mindset through individualized coaching, ideation, and venture creation support. In addition, Zachary Schulman '87, the director of Entrepreneurship at Cornell (E@C), spoke about the Cornell entrepreneurship program that was created in 1992 to promote entrepreneurship education, experiential learning opportunities, programmatic activities, and events for the Cornell community.

Sigma Pi alumni speakers included Quin Garcia '05, managing director of AutoTech Ventures, a venture fund investing in ground

transport startups focused on connected, autonomous, energy-efficient cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles, and services; Randy Ottinger '80, founder of Leader-2-Leader, a firm that helps founders, CEOs, and senior leaders build great companies with the strategies, cultures, and networks to accelerate growth, innovation, and financial value; Ali Hamed '14, co-founder, managing partner, and partner at cexchange for equity; and Dan Smalls '92, founder of Dan Smalls Presents, a talent buyer, concert promotion, and event production company based in Ithaca, New York.

Tom Silver '81, incoming president of the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation, discussed the ways undergraduates could partner with the Foundation on entrepreneurship endeavors. Brody Ehrlich '10 and Brian Lederman '10 spoke about a new initiative to help secure funding for undergraduates' entrepreneurial and business projects. If you're an entrepreneur and would like to be involved in further promoting entrepreneurship with the undergraduates as a speaker or as a mentor to an undergraduate, please reach out to Rob Novo at robn1979@gmail.com.



Zachary Schulman was the first speaker at the Sigma Pi entrepreneurship conference on April 16, 2016.



The brothers of Sigma Pi at the first annual Sigma Pi entrepreneurship conference on April 16, 2016.

## MU CHAPTER CONTINUES ITS ACADEMIC MOMENTUM

Mu Chapter took another leap forward in its academic standing on the hill. Since its launch in 2007, the Educational Foundation has invested in enhancing the academic programming and infrastructure of the house. We believe these investments are starting to pay off, as measured by the year-to-year improvement in the undergraduate aggregate GPA.

Spring:	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GPA:	3.096	3.220	3.148	3.260	3.196	3.428	3.487	3.533
Rank:	39 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	34 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	*

\*Cornell stopped publishing rankings in 2016

## BROTHERS LEARN ABOUT RISK AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT AT FOUNDATION-FUNDED EVENT

By Mark Luzzi '16

The Educational Foundation funded a presentation from Shaw & Murphy law firm on March 8. Bill Shaw CU'69 and Michelle Abruzzo presented in the Memorial Room library to educate the brothers about the risks and social stigmas that could be associated with being a fraternity member. The team of lawyers covered topics such as the dangers of alcohol consumption, risk and crisis management, and sexual assault response.

The brothers, especially the new members, found this information to be very useful. This information will be used to ensure the safety of future events at the Pi house. While we currently have a strong reputation on campus for abiding by the rules set forth by the Interfraternity Council, this information will further improve our risk-management practices to ensure the utmost safety at our events.



## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

Overall, it was a very good year for the Foundation financially. The organization experienced increases in donations and the fair market value of securities held, which contributed to the \$20,840 in income received.

The Foundation's annual tax return was filed by the May 15, 2016, deadline. We will continue to increase our donors and donations to keep the public-support test above the 33.3 percent needed to qualify as a public foundation and to

expand our impact on the undergraduate brothers of Sigma Pi fraternity and the greater Cornell and Ithaca communities. The Foundation's portfolio is managed by Morgan Stanley. The portfolio returned 3.90 percent over the period, moving from \$230,332 to \$178,693.

For additional information, financial statements compiled for the Foundation by our accountants Sciarabba Walker & Co. LLP are available upon request.

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD MEETINGS

This is a summary list of the Educational Foundation's board meetings for fiscal year July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016.

- August 4, 2015
- November 4, 2015
- March 15, 2016
- April 5, 2016
- June 8, 2016 (annual meeting)

## HONOR A DECEASED BROTHER WITH A MEMORIAL GIFT TO THE MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Honor a deceased brother through a tax-deductible \$5,300 gift to the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation in his memory. Most of the memorial plaques have been funded by groups of alumni.

The two most recent plaques were erected to the memory of **Dave LeFevre '60** and **Alexander Holiat '06**. Both were funded by solicitations to large groups of brothers, who responded with varying donations that totaled the required \$5,300 (\$5,000 gift and \$300 for the plaque). In each case, a brother stepped forward to lead the drive to raise the money.

Please visit the Educational Foundation's website to learn more about making a memorial gift at [musigmapifoundation.com](http://musigmapifoundation.com).





## SIGMA PI HOUSE FEATURES UPDATED MEMORIAL ROOM PLAQUES

Mu Chapter alumni corporation, in partnership with the Educational Foundation, recently updated and added giving and scholarship-recognition plaques in the Memorial Room.

There is now a wall in the Memorial Room that highlights giving to the Foundation. The Centennial plaque is now hanging in the West Lounge.

The photos and layouts below provide a good sense of the changes that have occurred. The best way, of course, to view these is to visit 730 University Avenue and see them yourself.

*Educational  
Foundation  
Historic Donors*



*Brother of the Year  
Donor Plaque*



*Brother of the Year  
Winners*



*Centennial Plaque in the  
West Lounge*

*Updated Heritage  
Donors*



*Harrop Scholarship*



## FUNDRAISING SNAPSHOT

Total raised: \$ 20,840

Total donors: 51

## FOUNDATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM HELPS FILL VITAL ROLE

This year marked the successful completion of the Mu Chapter intern program. Two positions were established and supported the Educational Foundation—one to assist with and promote the Cornell University College Mentors for Kids program (Justin Bredahl, fall semester, and David Golding, spring semester), the other to support the technical requirements of the recently created Dick Cahoon '77 Tech Center.

Under the guidance of Tech Committee Chairman Mike Vernick '83, it was decided that the tech support position should be split, with one tech support position (Yordanos Goshu) ensuring network and technical functionality, and the other position (David DellaPelle, fall, Mark Luzzi, spring) driving content for the Distinguished Speaker series, the entrepreneurship weekend, and other career services requirements.

The Distinguished Speaker series is just one example of the continued career services support by alumni, which also

includes the mentor program, co-chaired by Rob Novo '79 and Tom Silver '81, and career weekend in New York City, hosted by Jarrett Wait '80. Many thanks to all the alumni who helped make these programs happen.

Under the guidance of Sandy True '78, Sigma Pi involvement in the College Mentors for Kids program continued to grow.

The interns played a vital role in the success of the Cornell College Mentors for Kids program by supporting communication and outreach to the Ithaca community and to Sigma Pi alums on the importance of this program, not only for the Sigma Pi brothers but for the at risk youth involved in weekly visits to the Cornell campus. The Ithaca community has been impressed by the caliber of the students, and this fall the program will expand to a second elementary school and will serve another 40 first- and second-graders. Sigma Pi has worked closely with Sigma Nu interns, who have been instrumental in coordinating

the efforts for this expansion, as well as securing funding through grants from local foundations.

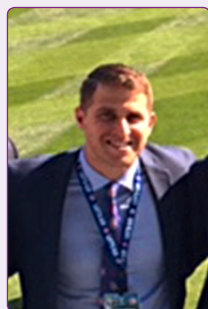
The Distinguished Speaker series, which included over 20 alumni speaking about their career experiences, was highlighted by entrepreneur-focused alumni speakers in April. The speakers provided deep and personal insights from a wide range of classes and functional experiences, ranging from finance and music and concert promotion to business start-up. Thanks to undergraduate interns David DellaPelle, Mark Luzzi, and Yordanos Goshu, who helped coordinate at the house.

We look forward to the continued growth of the internship programs, and believe the interns help our programs run much more efficiently while giving undergraduate brothers a chance to develop meaningful work experience.

Tom Silver '81  
Incoming Foundation President



## OUTGOING FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AARON KLEIN '12 JOINS CHICAGO CUBS



Aaron Klein '12 started his career as the youngest director of football operations in Division I. He recently accepted a new position, joining the Chicago Cubs' front office as a member of the sales development program. Launched in 2013, the Cubs Sales Development Program (CSDP) is responsible for outbound efforts in corporate outings, flex packs, and all new season ticket sales. The program's goal is to sell tickets and build relationships with local businesses while providing team members with training and development to evolve their career in sports sales and the business of baseball.

Aaron grew up in upstate New York and graduated from Sweet Home High School. He then enrolled in Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and began working for Cornell football as a student manager. Upon graduation, Aaron was immediately accepted into the Johnson School, something that is very rare and only happens to top students. He continued to work for the Cornell football program during his two years of business school. He holds a B.A. in industrial labor relations and an MBA from Cornell.



## MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**TOM SILVER '81**  
**Incoming President**

**AARON KLEIN '12**  
**Treasurer & Outgoing President**

**JAMES R. FRANZ '77**  
**Incoming Secretary**

**G. BERT HARROP '61**

**TOM GARR '76**

**JAMES KEENE '57**

**KURT RASMUSSEN '80**

**JARETT WAIT '80**

**SANDY TRUE '78**

**WAYNE FORMAN '80**

**WAYNE FORMAN '80**

**New to the Board**



*"My years at Cornell, and my life since, have been enriched by the relationships made at Sigma Pi. I'm hopeful to contribute to the continued success of the chapter through my efforts as a board member of the Educational Foundation."*

After graduating from Cornell in 1980 and spending a year trying to figure out life with a number of Sigma Pi brothers in Washington, D.C., Wayne went west and received a law degree from the University of Colorado. He started his career as an associate of the Denver office of Kirkland & Ellis. Since 1992, Wayne has been a shareholder of the regional law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, where he practices natural resources law, focusing on water rights, land use, environmental law, oil and gas, and eminent domain. He's been married to Liz Wald for over 30 years and has two sons, Wyatt (21), who is graduating from the University of Denver, and Noah (18), who is entering Colorado College in the fall. Wayne's other nonprofit endeavors include the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the National Sports Center for the Disabled, Jefferson County Open Space, and the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute.

**JAMES R. FRANZ '77**

**New to the Board**



*"My experiences at Mu Chapter were an important part of my years as an undergrad at Cornell, and as significant as our brotherhood was to me then, the bond with our Sigma Pi brothers remains a very meaningful part of my life four decades later. My hope for the Educational Foundation is to strengthen our already solid fraternity by enhancing the educational resources for our undergraduate brothers, assisting their preparation for life after college, and supporting their good work in the community."*

A 1977 graduate of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Jim received his law degree from Villanova in 1981 and has devoted his entire legal career to serving clients at the Hinman, Howard & Kattell law firm in Binghamton. Jim and his wife Emy (ILR '77) reside in nearby Owego, Jim's hometown. They are the proud parents of son Pete (ILR '10), daughter-in-law Meredith (A&S '10), and son Rich (Nazareth '14). Jim is active in his community, where he has served as a volunteer with the fire department, the chamber of commerce, his church, youth sports programs, and on the advisory board for the Binghamton University School of Management, along with several nonprofit and foundation boards of directors. He has been recognized for his community service efforts over the years by the New York State Bar Association, by the Tioga County Chamber of Commerce, and by his alma mater Owego Free Academy, among others. Jim is a regular visitor to the Cornell campus, particularly during the hockey season, when the Franz family enjoys its center ice tickets at Lynah Rink.



MU CHAPTER of SIGMA PI  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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## Thanks to our donors...

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### MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The Foundation would like to recognize the following  
supporters for their generous contributions.

This honor roll represents those who have donated from  
July 1, 2015, to June 24, 2016.

Michael J. Allen '82	John H. Hax Jr. '60	Paul A. Reszel '51
John W. Altmeyer '81	Frederick C. Hoge '72	Steven M. Rosenzweig '79
Steven L. Bergh '79	Lawrence D. Ireland '91	Robert Grant Ruhlman '78
Jeffrey D. Brown '80	Andrew L. Kantor '79	Joseph B. Ruocco '81
John A. Christoforo '77	James H. Keene III '57	Liviu Victor Rusu '98
Winthrop B. Cody '55	Harold C. Mallery '52	Kent G. Sheng '78
Douglas H. Cohen '92	Dennis P. McNamara '83	Thomas M. Silver '81
Alexander Mark Deyle '06	Karl F. Miller '64	Kenneth T. Steadman '59
Timothy M. Donohue '87	Brian P. Murphy '78	William A. Stevenson '63
Wayne F. Forman '80	Steven J. Novak '83	Sandy True '78
James R. Franz '77	Robert D. Novo '79	Douglas F. Uyeno '80
James E. Garr '84	Douglas M. Parker '56	Jarett F. Wait '80
Tom Garr '76	Kurt Rasmussen '80	Scott A. Wilson '83
Bert Harrop '61	John C. Raymond '60	Leonard B. Wolin '88
Thurston W. Hartford '60	George L. Reeves '63	Peter E. Wright '77

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## LEAVE A LEGACY!

Consider a lasting gift that will support the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation long after you are gone. By including the Foundation in your estate plans you ensure the long-term health and success of Sigma Pi. Here's what you and/or your advisor might need to know. The most common ways to include the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation are through your will or life insurance.

Sample language: I leave the sum of (\$xxxxxx.xx or xx% of my estate) to:

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation,  
tax ID #14-1902549  
c/o Sigma Pi Fraternity  
106 North Castle Heights Ave.  
Lebanon, TN 37087

Note: This information is not presented as legal or tax advice. Always consult your advisors with questions you may have.

## KEY PARTNERS

Elevate Integrated Member Services  
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Lansing, NY 14882  
607-533-9200  
Elevateims.com

Morgan Stanley  
Wealth Management Advisors  
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