



MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2017

Undergraduate Brothers Fulfill the Foundation's Vision Prioritize Community Involvement, Academics

Midway through the Educational Foundation's 10th anniversary year, I am pleased to report the progress and impact the organization has had on leadership and educational programs within the Sigma Pi brotherhood and the Ithaca community. The Foundation's consistent support over the past few years towards educational and infrastructure initiatives such as the Cahoon Tech Center and the Entrepreneur Conference have helped pave the way for the Foundation to make a significant donation to the development of the new Learning Commons (part of the *Dining and Learning for the 21st Century* project), which will be completed as part of the kitchen and dining room renovation. The continued focus on education, combined with the efforts of the brotherhood, has helped generate a chapter cumulative GPA of 3.57, the highest ever for the Mu Chapter.

The Foundation also continues to play significant leadership and support roles for our flagship program, College Mentors for Kids.

Mu Chapter will have 23 brothers participating as "big buddies." Additionally, the president, treasurer and other leadership positions within the organization will be held by Mu Chapter brothers—the most ever from Sigma Pi.

The long-term focus on education and community has contributed to solid results that provide a base for growth. Sigma Pi was recently recognized as the winner of the prestigious Outstanding Chapter and Outstanding Service to the Community awards at the Susan H. Murphy Sorority and Fraternity Awards ceremony in April. Congratulations to all the brothers, who are extremely proud of their 3.57 GPA, which ranked Sigma Pi third among fraternities with 30 or more members.

Clearly, Mu Chapter is making significant progress towards achieving the vision of **Bert Harrop '61**, the Foundation's founding patron who helped establish the organization 10 years ago. The brotherhood was proud to honor Bert at a dinner at the Statler Hotel in April, which was attended

by virtually the entire brotherhood, foundation members, other esteemed alumni as well as some of Bert's friends and family who traveled long distances to share the event with him.

As we look forward, the Foundation will build upon these results. Upon completion of the *Dining and Learning for the 21st Century* project, we envision greater use of the house for collaboration and study. We also look forward to seeing the impact of College Mentors for Kids on Ithaca schools as program participation grows.

We thank all who have supported the Foundation during the past year with generous donations. This year was a very successful year, as 55 brothers and alumni contributed \$63,130. We are encouraged about the Foundation's future and are thrilled to see its impact grow.

Fraternally,

Tom Silver '81

President

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The Foundation Honors Founding Patron Bert Harrop '61

On April 22, the Carrier Ballroom at the Statler Hotel in Ithaca was filled with more than 110 Sigma Pi brothers, old and young, to publicly thank **Bert Harrop '61** for helping create the Educational Foundation that has made the College Mentors for Kids program possible at Cornell University. Many people spoke about the positive impact of the Educational Foundation on the quality of life at the chapter house through the Dick Cahoon Technology Center, the access to alumni in the workforce, the upgraded library study area, the planned learning commons, and the mentor program. The evening ended with the undergraduate brotherhood serenading Bert and fellow alumni with a classic Sigma Pi themed song.

Fraternally,
Sandy True '78

*Guest of honor Bert Harrop '61
with his daughters, Rachel Wells
and Sarah Berel-Harrop, at
the Mu Chapter Educational
Foundation dinner in April.*



See more
photos from
the Educational
Foundation
dinner
on page 2.



The Foundation Honors Founding Patron Bert Harrop '61



1. Tom Silver '81, president of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, kicked off the dinner on April 22nd, which was well-attended by alumni, family, and friends of Mu Chapter. 2. Undergraduate brothers at the dinner honoring Bert Harrop '61, founding member of the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation. 3. Tom Silver '81 and Bert Harrop '61 with Bert's daughter, Rachel Wells. 4. Undergraduate brothers gathered outside the chapter house before the dinner honoring Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation founder Bert Harrop '61.

HONOR ROLL OF PATRONS Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation

The Foundation would like to recognize and thank the following supporters for their generous contributions. This honor roll represents all the donations the Foundation has received from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017.

John Holden '43
Paul Reszel '51
Albert Beck '52
Winthrop Cody '55
Douglas Parker '56
Jim Keene '57
Robert S. DeLaney '58
Charles Hill '59
Cephas Rogers '59
Kenneth Steadman '59
Richard Boerner '60
Raymond Campbell '61
Bert Harrop '61*
Paul Woolley '61
Richard Frey '62
George Reeves '63
William Stevenson '63
George Parker '65

Arthur White '66
David Miller '71
Fred Hoge '72
Bert Hurlbut '74
Tom Garr '76
Jim Franz '77
Peter Wright '77
Robert Ruhlman '78
Kent Sheng '78
Sandy True '78
Steven Bergh '79
Robert Novo '79*
Jeffrey Brown '80
Neal Douglas '80*
Wayne Forman '80*
Anthony McManus '80
Kurt Rasmussen '80*
John Sacco '80

Douglas Uyeno '80
Jarett Wait '80
Michael Rantz '81
Joseph Ruocco '81
Tom Silver '81*
Michael Allen '82
James Garr '82
Steven Novak '83
Scott Wilson '83
Steven Decker '85
Tim Donohue '87
Alexander Deyle '06
Jeffrey Stambough '07
Aaron Klein '12
Jacob Howell '18
The Community Foundation of
Tompkins County*

2016-17 Fundraising At-a-Glance

Total Raised: \$63,130
(\$47,300 to the Learning
Commons project)

Total Donors: 55

Michael and Paula Rantz
Foundation*
Mark Cunningham
Stephen Howell

* Donor to the Learning
Commons project

Mu Chapter Awarded Outstanding Chapter and Outstanding Service to the Community

On April 20, Mu Chapter won Outstanding Chapter and Outstanding Service to the Community awards at the Susan H. Murphy Sorority and Fraternity Community Awards Ceremony. The panel that voted for the winners was composed of the student leaders from the Greek Tri-Council and administration members of the Cornell University Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life.

Brothers are honored by the recognitions, having pursued excellence in all facets of Cornell life this academic year. Sigma Pi boasts a cumulative GPA of 3.57 and brothers participate in an astounding number of campus organizations, including Student Agencies, athletic teams, the Cornell Orchestra, Cayuga's Watchers, student government, and the IFC. Chief among Sigma Pi's on-campus involvements is College Mentors for Kids. Nearly every brother has, at some point, participated during his tenure at Cornell, and more than half the brotherhood currently participates. We are proud to accept these awards and thank the Cornell Greek community for recognizing us.

Fraternally,
Jake Howell '18

Mentorship Program Builds Networks for Undergraduates, Alumni

This year is the third year in which we have organized the mentor program. As a reminder, we strive to match undergraduate brothers with alumni of similar academic and career interests. It has been, and continues to be, met with resounding enthusiasm. Last year, we had a record 32 undergraduate brothers participate in the program. It was quite a challenge to match 32 undergraduates with alumni, but we were able to do so. Thank you to those alumni who agreed to be mentors. We received excellent reviews of the program and have learned that many relationships fostered by the mentor program have continued beyond the undergraduates' graduation and into the early years of their careers.

The 12th annual Sigma Pi Career Event in New York City was held last November and, for those of you not familiar with this event, the activities began with a networking dinner on Thursday night for alumni and undergraduate brothers. Many stories are shared and drinks hoisted at this fun dinner. Friday is a bit more serious, and the day is filled with alumni from a variety of fields hosting interested undergraduates at their firms where the men can experience firsthand a business setting in their career interest. Last year, we had alumni host undergraduates at investment banking, wealth management, human resources, law, hospitality, healthcare, and information technology firms. Again, thank you to those alumni who participated in the program. We are also considering expanding this program to other cities. Please let us know if you think this would be of interest to you.

The strength of any career development activity is the bond our brotherhood creates and nurtures. Without a vibrant alumni network and highly engaged undergraduates, none of these programs would be successful. We have received significant feedback from the active brothers that they are extremely grateful for the opportunity to interact with alumni for career advice, networking tips, professional guidance, and general fellowship. If you aren't already doing so, please consider becoming involved in this program.

Fraternally,
Rob Novo '79
Tom Silver '81

Sigma Pi Volunteers with College Mentors for Kids

Each week, 102 elementary students in Ithaca step onto Cornell's campus for two hours of one-on-one life changing mentoring. Each week, 133 college students give of their time and energy to become role models to future engineers, teachers, and police officers who only needed someone who believed in them to reach their full potential.

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation has supported the Cornell College Mentors for Kids program, which has changed the lives of so many brothers and children in the Ithaca community. The Sigma Pi brotherhood has taken ownership of this program with almost half of our brothers

involved in the program and a majority of the leadership positions being held by Mu Chapter brothers.

"From the second a new member is initiated into the chapter, they are consistently aware of the pathway to campus involvement, personal growth, and leadership opportunities that College Mentors provides them. I have seen, first hand, the heightened sense of purpose and leadership skills that a brother possesses after their involvement with College Mentors for Kids," College Mentor Program President **David Golding '18** said.

Fraternally,
Sandy True '78



Nearly half of the Mu Chapter is involved with the Cornell Mentors for Kids program and a majority of the leadership positions are held by Mu Chapter brothers.



MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Memorial Room donor plaques.

Honor a Deceased Brother with a Memorial Gift to the Educational Foundation

Honor a deceased brother through a tax-deductible \$5,300 gift (\$5,000 gift and \$300 for the plaque) to the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation in his memory. Most of the memorial plaques have been funded by groups of alumni. 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. Please visit the Educational Foundation's website to learn more about making a memorial gift at www.musigmapifoundation.com/donate.

Brothers Attend Sigma Pi Leadership Conference

During the weekend of January 6-8, Mu Chapter sent five brothers to Sigma Pi's Mid-Year Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Mo. There, the group sat in on lectures with the fraternity's national officers, participated in small group discussions with regional directors regarding the duties for each executive board position, and networked with brothers from across the country. The conference was a terrific experience, as the Mu Chapter brothers shared our best practices for our operations with other chapters and learned from the operations of the other chapters. All five brothers who attended were recently elected to serve on next year's executive board, and they are excited to implement what they learned at the Mid-Year Leadership Conference. Thank you to our alumni for enabling this experience.

Fraternally,
Justin Bredahl '17

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Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is attending Cornell University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

Foundation Experiences Financial Growth

The Foundation's portfolio saw growth of over 20% during the 2016-17 fiscal year due to a strong performance of our investments and an increase in donor activity. The portfolio began the year at \$178,693 and ended at \$214,635. In addition to net contributions, the portfolio grew via investment earnings of \$25,092. The portfolio returned 14.17% (net) as compared to a similarly weighted composite index return of 12.51%. We continue to maintain and diversify our holdings among liquid mutual and exchange traded funds with 65% of funds in equity (roughly 80% domestic and 20% international) and 35% in short-term fixed income and cash.

One key change in the management of the Foundation's portfolio was the formation of an Investment Management Committee at the January 3, 2017, board meeting. It was established

to streamline the investment strategy efforts in conjunction with Burt Hilton at Morgan Stanley and to improve the performance of the Foundation's portfolio with respect to both earnings and long-term sustainability. The committee is led by **Tom Garr '76** and consists of **Jarett Wait '80**, **Bert Harrop '61**, and myself.

The continued success and growth of the Foundation is dependent on the expansion of our donor base. In 2016-17, we saw the number of donations increase by more than 30%, which led to a 19% increase in donor revenue. We look forward to broadening our horizons on Sigma Pi, Cornell, and the greater Ithaca community through your support.

Fraternally,
Aaron Klein '12
Treasurer

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