



MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Educational Foundation off to Strong Start in 2019

As we reach the midway point of the Educational Foundation's 12th year, I am pleased to report the growing progress and impact the Educational Foundation has had on leadership and educational programs within Sigma Pi and the greater Cornell and Ithaca communities. 2019 has continued to show progress with programs and educationally oriented infrastructure becoming an important and integrated part of undergraduate life at the chapter house. Undergraduate brothers are utilizing the Learning Commons daily, and the newest member class from this spring cannot imagine Mu Chapter without it. Events in the Learning Commons occur on a frequent basis, highlighted by the Educational Foundation coordinating two speakers this spring.

Mu Chapter brothers' participation in College Mentors for Kids remains as strong as ever. We could not do any of this without the generous contributions of the alumni community, and we are forever grateful. The focus on education has helped to generate a culture of strong GPAs, and while results for spring 2019 have yet to be released, we are sure Mu Chapter's GPA will continue to be among the highest of all fraternities at Cornell and Sigma Pi chapters nationwide.

Learning Commons Update

The Learning Commons has become a state-of-the-art location for collaborative study for brothers throughout the past year. In addition to the daily impact of flat-screen televisions for conducting group meetings and comfortable new furniture for an enhanced studying environment, the Learning

Commons hosted a variety of events this past spring. We hosted Cornell Administrator Laura Santacrose, assistant director, Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, who ran an Intervene workshop focusing on successful bystander intervention, and **Nick Ornitz '16**, who shared his journey from engineering at Cornell to consulting for McKinsey and is now pursuing an MBA at Harvard Business School.

Wi-Fi Modernization Update

In conjunction with construction of the Learning Commons, the Wi-Fi modernization project was completed last fall, allowing undergraduate brothers access to top-of-the-line high-speed internet. Going forward, undergraduate brothers will not only have faster Wi-Fi services but will no longer have to pay monthly internet charges. Thanks to generous donations from many alumni, including **Alan Portnoi '84**, the Educational Foundation has paid off the costs of this Wi-Fi modernization effort. Alan says, "I am delighted to support the Wi-Fi modernization at the house and the Learning Commons project overall. It's great to see brothers studying collaboratively and making the Learning Commons an important part of their daily lives at Cornell and Sigma Pi."

College Mentors for Kids Update

The Foundation's signature program, College Mentor for Kids, went through a period of transition last year, but Sigma Pi's participation has completely rebounded. Our commitment to the program grew—we had 13 brothers

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Brothers Appreciate and Take Full Advantage of Updated Kitchen and Learning Commons

Almost one year after the completion of the Kitchen and Learning Commons project, the new educational infrastructure of the house has helped increase the productivity of the chapter by leaps and bounds.

Upon completion in early September, brothers immediately used the Learning Commons for studying and working on group projects. The space provides lots of seating as well as a quiet area away from the lounges of the Pi house to get studying done at all times of the day. Brother **Forest Colerick '20** describes the Learning Commons as "an awesome new place to study without having to walk up to Olin [Library] in the freezing Ithaca winters."

The Learning Commons currently includes a high-top table and two small study areas for

brothers to collaborate and work together. The three TVs help brothers practice for presentations, study material together, or even just have documentaries and programs on in the background while working. In addition to the Learning Commons, the new grab 'n' go area provides brothers access to quick snacks and meals at all times of the day, allowing them to quickly fuel up before going to class.

The undergraduate brothers would like to thank all alumni for their contributions to the project, especially all the members of the K&D Project who helped to make this new infrastructure possible!

Faternally,
Harry Drahzal '20

Undergraduate brothers studying in the newly constructed Learning Commons.



CORNELL UNIVERSITY CHAPTER CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLEGE MENTOR FOR KIDS

The Cornell University Chapter of College Mentors for Kids wrapped up their sixth year of programming on the first of May, serving over 40 kids from Caroline and Cayuga Heights Elementary Schools. Supported by the generosity of the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation and other community members, the chapter focused on program quality and safety for the 2018-19 program year.

Mentoring transforms lives. College Mentors for Kids connects kids to college students through weekly, on-campus activities that inspire growth, confidence, and enable brighter futures. Over the course of the program year, mentors created positive relationships with their little buddies, participating in activities that facilitated a shared experience and exposed little buddies to what college life is like at Cornell University. A few activity highlights: an activity with Theta Tau, an engineering fraternity on campus, where mentors and little buddies learned about careers in engineering and constructed their own rollercoasters; obstacle courses and leadership lessons with Cornell ROTC; learning about business plans with Phi Gamma Nu, a business fraternity on campus; and an activity on service and the role of seeing-eye dogs with Guiding Eyes, a community service organization at Cornell.

Looking forward, the chapter will continue to focus on strengthening its partnership with Caroline and Cayuga Heights Elementary Schools, working toward increasing service numbers in the fall. The Cornell chapter continues to excel in male mentor recruitment, with a higher percentage of male mentors to female mentors in the program. College Mentors for Kids is an exciting opportunity for Cornell students to engage with the Ithaca community. If you know of a current or incoming student at Cornell that is interested in learning more about College Mentors for Kids, there are still positions available for the 2019-20 program year. Contact skohls@collegementors.org for more information.



Middle: Sigma Pi brother Justin with his little buddy, Jesse. Justin has been involved in the program for three years, serving in both leadership and mentorship roles.

Mu Chapter Educational Foundation Financial Update

In the wake of two years devoted significantly to generating donations toward the Learning Commons portion of the *Dining and Learning for the 21st Century* campaign and the Mark Hausknecht Memorial Wi-Fi Project, the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019, was a much quieter fundraising year for the Educational Foundation. It was nonetheless a highly successful year on the financial front with 51 alumni and friends of Mu Chapter collectively contributing \$26,312 to the Foundation during the year. At the fiscal year end, the Foundation's investment portfolio was valued at \$58,799. Consistent with the conservative investment allocation strategy adopted to facilitate meeting grant award commitments, the investment portfolio successfully returned 8.26% on the year.

The Foundation made grant awards of well over \$50,000 during the past year in fulfilling our charter to support educational-related programming that benefits the Mu Chapter undergraduate brothers, the Cornell community, and youth of

the Greater Ithaca community, as well as provide mentorship and leadership opportunities for Mu Chapter brothers. With the help of our donors, we were able to:

- Be a leading supporter of College Mentors for Kids;
- Provide onsite speaker presentations in the Learning Commons;
- Sponsor 11 attendees at Andrew Sorkin's Deal Book Conference in NYC;
- Provide access to Take Note, CourseHero and Chegg—technologies that aid and facilitate student online studying and collaboration;
- Fund two house intern positions focused on Career Services and supporting the Educational Foundation community activities;
- Fund the annual Bert Harrop Scholarship for academic excellence and Sigma Pi and community-oriented commitment; and,
- Fund completion of constructing and equipping the Learning Commons.

We are thrilled that the Learning Commons has already become a focal point for collaborative study and is now a significant part of how undergraduates prepare for their daily academic challenges. Mu Chapter is flourishing as a true hub for education and stands out from its peer fraternities.

The Educational Foundation thanks all those who have supported and continue to support our efforts, financially and otherwise. None of these activities could take place without the generosity of the Mu Chapter alumni community. We look forward to working together with our undergraduate brothers, our alumni, and our friends in the coming 2019-20 year!

Fraternally,
Tom Silver '81
President
tsilver10359@yahoo.com
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THE 2018-19 HONOR ROLL OF PATRONS

We are truly grateful to the 51 dedicated alumni and Sigma Pi friends who contributed \$26,312 to the Educational Foundation throughout the 2018-19 year. These individuals recognize the importance of brotherhood and securing Mu's future—we thank you for your dedication to Sigma Pi and quality education.

Albert Beck '52	Michael Quaid '75
James Keene III '57	John Stetson Jr. '75
James Palmer '60	Gary Wicks '75
James Unckless '66	William Forman '76
Robert Colbert Jr. '71	Thomas Garr '76
Richard Fish '72	Robert Bernstein '77
Gregory Fisher '72	Richard Cahoon '77
Frederick Hoge '72	James Franz '77
Steven Sanford '73	Matthew Petti '77
William Strusz '73	Robert Ruhlman '78
Steven Booth '74	Kent Sheng '78
Thomas Brotherton Jr. '74	Sandy True '78
James Forbes Jr. '74	Steven Bergh '79
Bert Hurlbut '74	David D'Orlando '79
James Kraker '74	Wayne Forman '80
Peter Muth '74	Jarett Wait '80
David Myers '74	Joseph Ruocco '81
James Chamberlain '75	Thomas Silver '81
Jeffrey Craver '75	Nicholas Voinovic '81
William Dougherty '75	Alan Portnoi '84
Edward Gogol '75	Jean Simoes '99
Vance Harrison Jr. '75	Alexander Deyle '06
Stephen Lozier '75	Aaron Klein '12
John Morrison '75	John Parker '12
Frederick Parker '75	Connor Riser '16
Peter Phillips '75	

Sigma Pi Hosts First Giving Day Phone-A-Thon *There Is Still Time to Show Your Support*

On May 18, the undergraduate brotherhood partnered with the Educational Foundation to host its first Giving Day. The goal of our Giving Day was to raise money for the Foundation to support educational programs and infrastructure for the undergraduate members of Mu Chapter. May 18 was chosen as our Giving Day because it is a pivotal moment in our chapter's history, marking the day the Alpha Chapter of Omega Delta became the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi.



*Harry Drahzal '20
making calls to alumni
on Giving Day.*

Undergraduate brothers hosted a phone-a-thon for Giving Day, calling alumni who graduated across multiple decades to ask for support. These brothers had the opportunity to speak with alumni to inform them more about the Foundation and its charter, spreading awareness about the importance of the Foundation to the brotherhood.

While the Giving Day is over, the Foundation always appreciates any donations to help support the brothers of Sigma Pi. Please visit <http://musigmapifoundation.com/donate/> if you are interested in donating to the Foundation.

Special thanks to **Harry Drahzal '20**, **Arthur Decker '22**, and **Alec Jautz '22** for assisting in the phone-a-thon, as well as **Connor Riser '16** and **Tom Silver '81** of the Educational Foundation for helping to plan the fundraiser.

Fraternally,
Harry Drahzal '20

Harry Drahzal '20, Educational Foundation Intern

Harry Drahzal '20 is the incoming Educational Foundation intern for the 2019-20 school year. As the past alumni secretary for Mu Chapter, he has worked closely with Mu Chapter alumni and is excited to continue doing so in this position.

While in this role, he has several goals he wants to accomplish. First, he wants to open new fundraising avenues for the Educational Foundation. The foundation provides several benefits and services to the brotherhood and facilitates continued involvement in the Cornell community. Providing additional fundraising will be a key in helping the foundation grow. Harry helped plan the Foundation Giving Day, a fundraiser set up to honor the change from Omega Delta to Sigma Pi while also asking for donations to the Educational Foundation.

Second, he wants to ensure Mu Chapter and its undergraduate brothers remain integrally involved and hold leadership positions within College

Mentors for Kids on Cornell's campus. College Mentors is an invaluable asset to the Ithaca community, allowing our brothers to connect with individuals outside of Cornell and give back to the community that has given brothers so much during their undergraduate careers. Using the intern position, Harry seeks to increase the involvement of the brotherhood and to bring the organization to new heights.

Finally, Harry hopes to generate more attention and awareness of the Educational Foundation to the alumni and brotherhood of Sigma Pi. Spreading its mission to undergraduate and alumni brothers will help people better understand the work the Foundation does for the Pi house.

As the year goes on, his list of goals will grow, and he will contribute as much to the position as possible. Harry is excited to take over for **Sam Barnum '19** as Educational Foundation intern and looks forward to what the position brings.



TWO GUEST SPEAKERS HIGHLIGHT MU CHAPTER PROGRAMMING

“Intervene” Bystander Campaign with Laura Santacrose, Assistant Director of the Skorton Center at Cornell Health

On Tuesday, March 19, the brotherhood was visited by Laura Santacrose, assistant director at the Skorton Center, to facilitate the “Intervene” Bystander Campaign in the Memorial Library. The “Intervene” campaign is meant to educate an audience about when and how to successfully intervene in a problematic situation through both a video and a discussion-focused workshop. It draws upon *Pro-Social Bystander Intervention Theory* and, as the undergraduate brothers were quickly able to determine, the campaign stresses the recognition of all members of a campus community as collaborative partners in maintenance of campus health and well-being.

The **Dick Cahoon '77** Tech Center proved the perfect environment for the brothers and Ms. Santacrose to engage in a healthy discussion following the video presented in the conferencing center. Brothers were eager to speak up about issues that they’ve recognized in the past as well as how they’ve dealt with them efficiently. In particular, good samaritan laws were a huge topic of discussion, and Ms. Santacrose was able to clearly break down the implications of the laws as well as the safest and most responsible way to intervene in multiple scenarios.

Newly initiated brother **Jordan Jones '22** recalled the event as “an incredibly eye-opening experience that every freshman should be able to experience.” The brotherhood is thankful for Ms. Santacrose’s time in both putting the program together and coming to Sigma Pi Mu Chapter to facilitate the workshop. We were able to learn a lot from the campaign and the timing proved to be quite efficient with spring break right around the corner.

Speaker Series with Nicholas Ornitz '16

The undergraduate brothers of Mu Chapter had the pleasure of speaking with **Nick Ornitz '16** as the first speaker of the spring 2019 semester speaker series. The video conference event was held in the

newly finished Learning Commons, which was a perfect environment to hold the numerous brothers interested in attending. At Cornell, Nick studied chemical engineering with a minor in sustainable energy systems. Within Mu Chapter, Nick held a number of positions in the house, including alumni secretary. After graduating in 2016, Nick joined McKinsey as an analyst in the Stamford, Conn., office. This September, Nick will be starting an MBA program at Harvard Business School.

As a recent Cornell graduate, Nick provided valuable and relevant advice for the undergraduate brothers. Nick was involved both on and off campus, so time was spent discussing how to make the best of one’s time as an undergraduate—in coursework, extracurriculars, and within the Pi house. Additionally, with an influx of engineers in the new pledge classes, many of whom are considering a career in consulting, the brothers gained value from the conversation, especially about how to navigate the major and apply it (or any other major) to a career in consulting. Undergraduate brothers also expressed interest in attending business school in the future and gained insight and advice on how to best position themselves during their undergraduate careers.

After the event, Nick said, “It was inspiring and personally rewarding to speak with the brotherhood in the renovated dining room and Learning Commons. Shown through the attendance and questions throughout our conversation, there is a clear drive in the house for strong professional achievement. The experience reminded me the importance of staying connected with the house and the role that each of us can play in helping each other in our pursuits, whether it be professionally or socially.”

He also encouraged other alumni to reach out to the chapter and offer to speak or get more involved.

Faternally,

Harry Drazhal '20 and **Adomas Hassan '20**

JONATHAN CAEN '19 RECEIVES BROTHER OF THE YEAR HONOR



Every pledge class includes a member whose selfless contributions to the fraternity demand exceptional recognition. The Class of 1980 Adolphus C. Hailstork Prize is an annual award honoring a brother who demonstrates unwavering commitment and unparalleled leadership throughout his time as an active member of the fraternity. Winners of this award maintain high scholarly standing, diffused culture in their surrounding community, and developed the character of themselves and those around them.

The Brother of the Year for 2018-19 is **Jonathan Caen '19**. He was presented the award at the Orchid Ball Formal. Jon has given back to the house and brotherhood in a plethora of ways. He served as vice president, house manager, and formal chairman during his tenure as an undergraduate brother. When events needed to be planned or issues needed to be solved, Jon always stepped up to help the brotherhood in any way he could. All this and more led to Jon being awarded Brother of the Year.

Congratulations, Jon, and thank you for your commitment and leadership during your tenure as an undergraduate member. We look forward to witnessing your future successes and contributions to Sigma Pi!



Dennis McNamara '83, Jim Horn '79, Brian Finneran '81, Tom Silver '81, Nick Vojnovic '81, Dave Colville '84, Mike Vernick '83, and John Berger '84.

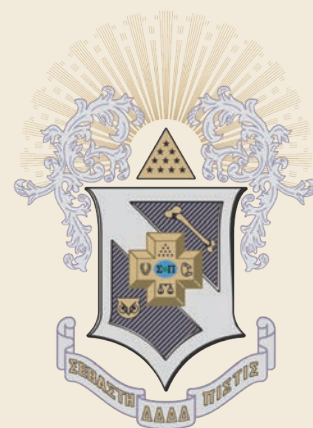
Alumni Support Nick Vojnovic '81

In November 2018, **Nick Vojnovic '81**, survivor of Myelofibrosis, was recognized at the 50th anniversary dinner of the Cancer Research & Treatment Fund (CR&T) in New York City. CR&T was founded in 1968 by Dr. Richard T. Silver, Cornell Class of 1950, and is committed to funding the treatment of individuals with various types of blood cancers.

Dennis McNamara '83, Jim Horn '79, Brian Finneran '81, Tom Silver '81, Nick Vojnovic '81, Dave Colville '84, Mike Vernick '83, and John Berger '84 attended the event.

ALEX EWALD '20: *Sigma Pi National Sage of the Quarter*

Alex Ewald '20 has further enhanced Mu's reputation and presence on Cornell's campus. Since becoming Sage, Alex has worked with his Herald to review and improve their new member education plan, and their efforts have improved Mu's retention rate from new member to initiated brother. In addition, Alex meets with campus advisors to discuss how Mu can develop unique ways to make fraternities more inclusive and has worked to incorporate a diversity and inclusion committee within the chapter. Alex and his brothers use this weekly time to learn more about each other and to identify strategies to reduce the barriers to entry for others who may wish to join similar organizations to Sigma Pi. Furthermore, fraternity/sorority life staff at Cornell University considers Mu Chapter to be the role model organization on their campus, often credited to Alex's excellent communication with their office, Mu's 3.5 cumulative GPA, and the chapter's heavy involvement in the Fraternity and Sorority Life community. Both scholarship and community involvement have been Alex's main areas of focus as sage.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

participate in the spring. Mu Chapter returned to leadership positions with **Alex Tucker '21** serving as activities director and **Jordan Jones '22** serving as general manager. We look forward to continuing our large leadership presence in the program during the upcoming school year.

Board Member Changes

Pending a final board vote in July, the Foundation is excited to welcome **Joe Zanetta '75**, **Mike Reiner '78**, and **Nick Ornitz '16** as new members of the board of directors. They will bring a wealth of knowledge, wisdom and resources to the Foundation, and we are thrilled they are joining the organization. Because of transitions and departures, including the passing of beloved board member **James Keene III '57**, we are looking to fill open board seats with individuals who can help take the Foundation to the next level. Please contact me or anyone else on the board if you are interested to learn more.

Thankful for Continued Support

We thank all of you who have supported the Foundation with generous donations during this year thus far. The 2018-19 fiscal year has been a success, as 51 alumni and friends of Mu Chapter contributed \$26,312. We look forward to continuing to build the Foundation and its impact within the brotherhood as well as the Cornell and Ithaca communities.

Fraternally,
Tom Silver '81

President
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A Spotlight on Adomas Hassan '20



Adomas Hassan '20 is a junior studying information and computer sciences with a concentration in data science. Adomas transferred from CUNY Macaulay Honors College in New York City as a sophomore spring transfer, and he joined Sigma Pi in spring 2018. In Mu Chapter, Adomas acts as the career services intern and sits on the Diversity and Inclusion Board. Outside of the fraternity, Adomas is the corporate director of URMIC, a computing club on campus, and has co-founded and acted as the CTO of a student organization within the start-up incubator at his old school. Last summer, Adomas interned at Bank of America as a technology analyst, and he has accepted an offer with Palantir Technologies as a forward deployed software engineer intern for summer 2019.



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Foundation Welcomes Three New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome three brothers, **Joe Zanetta '75**, **Mike Reiner '78**, and **Nick Ornitz '16**, to the Educational Foundation board—pending final approval in July. Each of them brings different strengths and backgrounds that will help further our mission. Their commitment to education and Sigma Pi will help our board reach new heights in the coming years.

Joe is a seasoned non-profit leader with more than 30 years of strategic fundraising and institutional advancement experience. He works at the Bryant Group and has (previously) served as CEO of Citrus Valley Health Foundation, a nonprofit integrated community health care system serving one million residents. Joe also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Log Cabin Republicans, chairman of the board of Holy Family Services Adoption Agency, and chairman of the Pasadena Enterprise Center. Joe is a double Cornellian, having also graduated from Cornell Law School.

Mike is a resident of Weston, Connecticut, after recently moving from Tenaflly, New Jersey. The 1978 School of Industrial and Labor Relations graduate is a partner/co-owner of Resource International, an importing firm specializing in the home and giftware industries, with his wife, Erica (Cornell '78). He has two daughters, Sara and Leah, married to Jason and Ben respectively, and one granddaughter, Cara.

Nick was the Foundation's inaugural David Harrop Memorial Scholarship winner back in 2015. A 2016 graduate of the College of Engineering, Nick has spent the past three years consulting with McKinsey & Company, most recently as an engagement manager. In the fall, Nick will pursue his MBA at Harvard Business School. As an undergraduate, Nick held a number of positions in Sigma Pi, including alumni secretary, recruitment chairman, technology chairman, and academic chairman. He also is a co-founder and was vice president of finance for College Mentors for Kids.