



MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2020

An Update Regarding COVID-19 and Mu Chapter Educational Foundation Launches \$25,000 Undergraduate Sponsor Campaign

Dear Brothers of Sigma Pi Mu Chapter,
We hope this note finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

As many of you know, the Mu Chapter Alumni Corporation closed the chapter house for the remainder of the spring semester in keeping with Cornell's policy requiring students to leave campus and return to their permanent residences to complete their courses online. The undergraduate brothers moved out the week of March 16.

Among the brotherhood, there are individuals who have already been affected by this rampant virus in some way, shape, or form. Unfortunately, there will likely be more. In response, the Educational Foundation is doing what we can to help the undergraduate brothers in a time of uncertainty. We recently polled active members to find out how we can help, and the results were startling. At least six brothers to date have lost their summer or full-time employment offers, and more than 30 are still looking for opportunities. Many of these brothers were in the final rounds of interviewing when the crisis escalated.

These employment opportunities are a significant supplement to our undergraduate brothers' education. The Educational Foundation has launched a special \$25,000 campaign to help the Mu Chapter brotherhood. The sponsorship opportunities from the fund will be determined based on the funds received, but overall they will support

activities such as sponsoring brothers in unpaid internships, covering the relocation costs for brothers struggling to afford to start a new internship, and other initiatives as the Foundation finds the best ways to help.

The campaign has nearly reached our goal of \$25,000. The members of the Foundation Board of Directors began the fundraising with a \$5,000 challenge to the alumni. Young alumni made gifts via a GoFundMe page; others sent in checks. Many alumni made their gifts through Family Foundations and Donor Advised Funds. The important thing is that the brothers of Sigma Pi responded to a need. Although we planned to close the campaign on June 30, we are continuing to accept gifts. The foundation has been fortunate to provide stipends for brothers in need—those whose summer internships and jobs were interrupted by the Covid virus.

You can donate online by visiting www.sigmapicornell.org/150-giving-edufound.asp. Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Educational Foundation. We wish you, your friends, and family the best of health. Together, we will overcome this!



Fraternally,
Joseph M. Zanetta '75
Educational Foundation President
josephzanetta@yahoo.com / (310) 963-4173

A STATEMENT FROM THE MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY

The Board of Directors of Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity stands firmly with our Black brothers and all those who seek an equitable society. We are deeply concerned with the killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd and recognize that these are only the most recent manifestations of long-standing injustices.

We are committed to supporting our undergraduate brothers' efforts to effect meaningful change on Cornell's campus and beyond. To this end, we have formed a working committee with the aim of engaging with our alumni brothers in conversation, education, and action.

If you would like to participate in these conversations moving forward, please contact **Slater Goodman '19**, Alumni Board Secretary, at jsg325@cornell.edu.



Thank You 2019-20 Honor Roll of Patrons

We are truly grateful for the 50 dedicated alumni and Sigma Pi friends who contributed \$25,891 to the Educational Foundation throughout the 2019-20 fiscal year. These individuals recognize the importance of brotherhood and securing Mu Chapter's future. We thank you for your dedication to Sigma Pi and quality education.

Albert Beck '52	Keith Molof '79
Peter Romeo '55	Thomas Cherner '80
Winthrop Cody '56	Wayne Forman '80
Douglas Parker '56	Kurt Rasmussen '80
Kenneth Steadman '59	Mark Sherwin '80
James Unckless '66	Jarett Wait '80
Arthur White '66	Michael Rantz '81
Frederick Hoge '72	Joseph Ruocco '81
Steven Booth '74	Thomas Silver '81
Peter Muth '74	Nicholas Vojnovic '81
John Morrison '75	James Garr '82
Gary Wicks '75	Steve Muson '88
Joseph Zanetta '75	Jean Paul Simoes '99
Thomas Garr '76	Craig Dewey '06
Craig Binetti '77	Aaron Klein '12
Richard Cahoon '77	Sam Hendrickson '13
Jim Franz '77	Zachary Smith '13
Mark Sullivan '77	Robert Attia '16
William Cavanaugh '78	Nicholas Ornitz '16
David Hanssens '78	Connor Riser '16
Michael Reiner '78	Matthew Blakley '18
Robert Ruhlman '78	Slater Goodman '18
Kent Sheng '78	Community
Sandy True '78	Foundation
Steven Bergh '79	of Tompkins
David D'Orlando '79	County
James Horn '79	

A MESSAGE FROM THE MU CHAPTER FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

It has been a distinct pleasure to have served as President of the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation since January of 2020. I learned the “art” of fundraising while giving tours as an undergrad at Cornell. The Campus Tour Service had daily tours of the beautiful Cornell campus, and it soon became obvious that the campus was the recipient of gifts from alumni and friends of the University. In fact, Cornell was established as a result of a gift—a gift of Ezra Cornell's farm and bequest of \$500K. As a result, he founded “an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.”

When you stand on the patio of the Pi House on University Avenue, your gaze is focused on several huge gothic structures—Willard Straight Hall, Uris Library, and Myron Taylor Hall just to name a few. They were all made possible by generous benefactors. Many of us received scholarships; we ate meals and studied in libraries funded by alumni gifts. We listened to the beautiful chimes from McGraw Tower, a gift in honor of Jennie.

This year, we received gifts from 50 generous alumni and friends totaling more than \$25,000. This marks a dramatic increase in private support from the previous year, and for that, I am grateful. We launched a mini-campaign to seek funds from alumni to support current brothers whose summer plans were disrupted by Covid-19. We provided stipends to seven young men. In addition, we continued the tradition of funding two current undergraduate brothers to assist the foundation and house in outreach to alumni.

The foundation is excited to welcome **Peter Muth '74**, **Craig Dewey '06**, **Alex Eacker '15**, and **Nick Wint '15** as new members of the board of directors. Their enthusiasm and dedication to our chapter are great assets to the organization. **Bert Harrop '61**, our founding patron, is becoming a director emeritus. Sandy True, after six years of exceptional service to our chapter and College Mentors for Kids, will be stepping down from the board.

We shall continue to navigate the turbulent waters created by the national pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. Philanthropy—love of mankind—will continue to play an important role in the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi. I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the board of directors of the foundation and particularly the officers: Vice Chairman **Wayne Forman '80**, Secretary **Jim Franz '77**, and Treasurer **Connor Riser '16**. We all contribute our time, talent, and treasure to a cause that is greater than one person, and we hope to continue to support the house from which we learned so much about friendship, relationships, and brotherhood.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,
Joe Zanetta '75
President
josephzanetta@yahoo.com

Support the Educational Foundation While Shopping on Amazon!

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, online shopping, especially through Amazon, has increased dramatically. The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation is now set up on AmazonSmile. This service allows you to support charitable causes while shopping on Amazon. With your help, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases back to our Educational Foundation!



To support the Educational Foundation, start by making the simple switch to shopping at **smile.amazon.com**. When you arrive at the site you will be prompted to select your charity and can simply search for Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation. From there, just continue your usual Amazon shopping on the Smile site and you can track how much has been donated to our cause.

Honing Leadership Skills



Undergraduate Brothers Attend Sigma Pi's Mid-Year Leadership Conference

In January, **Harry Drazhal '20**, **Adomas Hassan '20**, and **Jake Newschaffer '20** all flew from their respective hometowns to Kansas City, Missouri, to attend the Sigma Pi Mid-Year Leadership Conference. Joined by hundreds of chapters around the country, the Mu Chapter brothers attended multiple conferences and workshops to learn how to better lead the chapter.



One highlight was the group leadership conference that Harry and Adomas attended to learn how to properly guide our chapter on setting a great example on campus. On top of that, each brother split off to attend workshops on better accounting techniques, enhanced academic practices, and social hours. Everything that our brothers learned at the conference was brought back to the rest of Mu Chapter, helping us become a more efficient Greek chapter on Cornell's campus.

While in Kansas City, our brothers had the pleasure of exploring the city and all of its landmarks. On one of the break sessions, they took a stroll over to the College Basketball Hall of Fame, as well as the National World War I Memorial. "Not only did we get the opportunity to learn more about efficient Greek life systems, but we also got the chance to explore an unexpectedly interesting city," Jake said.

These brothers would like to thank the Educational Foundation for sponsoring their trip to the Mid-Year Leadership Conference. They implore all undergraduate brothers to take the trip in the future if given the opportunity.

Learning Commons Being Utilized by Active Chapter

Hanging out in the Learning Commons was a unique staple of my short spring semester at the chapter house. Since my initiation, the Learning Commons has served several purposes, both in and out of academics, for me and the rest of my brothers at Mu Chapter. Personally, by making the switch from studying in places like Mann and Uris to studying in the Learning Commons, the quality of my school work has increased, as my GPA has improved for the past two semesters I have been a brother, and this also applies to many current Pi men. Moreover, after a long day of classes, I always know I can go for a quick snack break in the Learning Commons too, and catch up with my brothers. It's a unique but understated privilege to walk inside the Learning Commons and be greeted with the faces of my best friends on campus.

"I love how it's such a great place to study and connect with the boys," **Kyle Neputy '22** said.

On top of that, the renovations to the Learning Commons make it an extremely inviting space. **Cosmo Gigante '23**, an avid graphic designer, mentioned his appreciation for the design of the area. All in all, the Learning Commons has been a staple of my Mu Chapter experience and I could not imagine living in the chapter house without it. I cannot wait to get back to it this fall!

Fraternally,
Will Nuga '21

CATCHING UP WITH FORMER EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INTERN YORDANOS GOSHU '18

After graduation, **Yordanos Goshu '18** began his career at Goldman Sachs where he worked as a technology analyst focusing on large scale data migration and optimization. Yordi later returned to school at Cornell Tech, where he recently completed a master's degree in computer science. Having graduated this past May, he is returning to Goldman Sachs as a machine learning info engineer.



At Cornell, Yordi was not only involved in Sigma Pi, including his service as the career services intern for the Educational Foundation, but was also a member of the Cornell Data Science Club, a teaching assistant for several computer science classes, and the co-founder and president of Underrepresented Minorities in Computing. Yordi recently joined the Educational Foundation's Young Alumni Committee.

Q: How did your time as the Educational Foundation intern impact your career?

A: As an engineer, it is an opportunity to explore the diverse set of talent that has previously come through our house. As an intern, I was

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EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TREASURER'S REPORT

The past six months have been undeniably difficult for the United States on many fronts, which is why the Educational Foundation is even more grateful for the many gifts made by our brothers and friends this year. The dedication of our alumni to help their younger brothers is both incredible and admirable. We have received 63 donations totaling \$25,891 from 50 brothers and friends of Mu Chapter during this fiscal year. As of June 30, 2020, the Foundation's entire portfolio's value is \$52,979, which contains \$8,979 in the operating account and \$44,000 in the investment portfolio. This year the foundation spent \$38,884 toward its many initiatives.

The investment portfolio returned 3.08% for the 2020 fiscal year versus 7.49% for the S&P 500 and 4.72% for MSCI EAFE (International). Over the past year, the managers performed in line with their respective benchmarks. During the global market decline in the first quarter of 2020, AB Growth, Yacktman, and Harbor protected capital better than the index-based ETFs.

With the help of our wonderful donors this year, the Foundation has been able to:

- Purchase plaques for the newly named **James H. Keene III '57** Memorial Library.
- Provide seven grants to brothers who were directly affected by, or took unpaid internships due to complications from COVID-19.
- Sponsor three attendees at the Sigma Pi Mid-Year Leadership Conference in Kansas City, Mo.
- Purchase digital headshots for the entire undergraduate brotherhood.
- Fund two house intern positions focused on Career Services and supporting the Educational Foundation community activities for **Sackett Terry '21** and **Will Nuga '21**.
- Award our annual David Harrop Memorial Scholarship to **Chris Cavanaugh '21**.
- Sponsor six attendees at The New York Times DealBook Conference in New York City hosted by **Andrew Ross Sorkin '99**
- Provide access to online studying and collaboration tools for undergraduate brothers.
- Donate to the active chapter's No Kid Hungry fundraiser.

Before the switch to virtual learning this semester, the Foundation was pleased to see how much the Learning Commons had truly become an educational hub for the undergraduate brothers. The chapter house is now able to provide not only a fantastic social atmosphere, but a deeply educational one as well.

The Educational Foundation thanks all those who have supported our endeavors. None of these activities could have taken place without the generosity of our brotherhood and the greater Mu Chapter alumni community. We look forward to working together with our undergraduate brothers, alumni, and friends for the upcoming 2020-21 school year, no matter how different it may look.

Fraternally,
Connor Riser '16

Treasurer
Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation

Chris Cavanaugh '21 Earns 2020 David Harrop Memorial Scholarship

Every year, Sigma Pi awards one junior member of the fraternity the *David Harrop Memorial Scholarship*. This \$1,000 award is given to the brother who demonstrates academic excellence while leading and supporting Sigma Pi, as well as staying active and giving back to the local Ithaca community.

The 2020 David Harrop Memorial Scholarship Recipient: **Chris Cavanaugh '21**.



Chris Cavanaugh is a senior at Cornell's College of Engineering, pursuing his Bachelor of Engineering in mechanical engineering. While academics are Chris' top priority, his leadership skills and extracurricular

involvement prove to be equally as compelling for Chris. He has served as Mu Chapter Sage (2019-20), and his list of other involvements is just as impressive—TA for AEP 1200, intro nanoscience, and his current internship as a

technical engineering for GE Aviation. Here are Chris' thoughts on his experience as a Pi man: "Sigma Pi has been a key component of my undergraduate experience, and an invaluable support system throughout all my academic and professional endeavors. In my first year, I relied on Sigma Pi to provide me with a sense of community and connection that is hard to find at such a large university. As I continued through my academic career, Sigma Pi introduced me to excellent role models with experienced advice across all disciplines. When it was time to transition my focus to my professional career and life after college, I once again could rely on the brothers of Sigma Pi to teach me how to be proactive and competitive during the recruiting process. Through my leadership roles with Sigma Pi, such as Diversity and Inclusion Chair, Brotherhood Chair, and Sage, I have attained leadership and communication skills that I will put to great use for the rest of my life. I am incredibly grateful for the learning environment Sigma Pi created for me, and I strive to ensure that all undergraduates continue to experience this ecosystem and reap the benefits."



To the Stars

Brother **Joseph Dervay '80**, a flight surgeon for NASA, played a vital role in this summer's NASA-SpaceX rocket launch. Joseph served as the flight physician during the launch process. It was the first time in more than a decade that astronauts were launched into space from United States soil. Thank you and congratulations on the amazing accomplishment, Joseph!

Mu Chapter Foundation Launches Internship Program

Since Cornell closed its on-campus instruction back in March, Sigma Pi brothers faced challenges and adapted to this changing world. One of these changes was the loss of summer internships. Many brothers who retained internships transitioned to unpaid work. To assist the undergraduate brothers through this time of uncertainty, the Educational Foundation started a campaign to match Mu Chapter alumni with undergraduate brothers for summer internships and to create grants to help undergraduates fund these experiences and other hardships associated with COVID-19. With the help of our gracious alumni, the foundation was able to mobilize resources and secure funding for the current undergrads. Approximately \$18,000 was raised—gifts ranged from \$10 to \$6,000.

Through this campaign, the Educational Foundation matched three undergraduate brothers with alumni. **Trevor Faulk '21** and **Alex Frank '21** are working for **Nick Ornitz '16** at his startup, Dwelling (hellodwelling.com). It is platform for virtual home maintenance, much like telemedicine for your home. **Zain Fazal '23** is working for **Andrew Joseph '16** and **Ethan Joseph '13** at Apres Lodge, a boutique hotel in Whitefish, Mont. Trevor described the summer as a great experience so far. He said, “Nick Ornitz and Shannon Kay, co-founders of Dwelling, let me take ownership of many projects. In only four

weeks, I have gotten to contribute, brainstorm, and be a part of the organization even more than I'd hoped.”

Zain shared similar sentiments. “Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of working with Ethan and Andrew Joseph on developing the Apres Lodge group as an emerging hotel presence in the northwest. The experience of conducting market studies and underwriting properties is something I would never get from a conventional internship role at my age. As a rising sophomore, I am fortunate to have this exposure so early in my college career.”

The undergraduate brothers have also enjoyed opportunities to work with alumni through sharing stories of the house and connecting on these shared experiences. Trevor shared, “It is great that I've gotten to work with a fellow Sigma Pi. We have been able to share some stories about our times in the house. It goes to show that Sigma Pi has provided us with a massive network of alumni who can help and teach you in ways I would not have expected by joining a fraternity.”

Alumni have enjoyed the opportunity to work with undergraduates. Nick Ornitz wrote, “The opportunity to work with undergraduate brothers, Trevor Faulk and Alex Frank, has been a rewarding experience and nice way to stay connected. The existing trust in Pi brothers

made it a unique opportunity to bring Alex and Trevor onto the team at Dwelling. As a difficult time for undergrad recruiting during the pandemic we were glad to be able to offer the roles and have been thrilled with their work so far.”

Finally, the Educational Foundation provided seven—and counting—undergraduate brothers with a summer grant through this same campaign. **Koby Kiefer '22** is an undergraduate brother working at Platinum Real Estate analyzing the impact of COVID-19 in relation to future home buying trends and mortgage rates. He received one of the grants this summer. Koby's internship transitioned from a paid position to one that was experienced-based due to the Coronavirus. Therefore, he shared “the stipend that I will receive will help offset my expenses for the summer and allow for me to have this experience.” Other grant recipients affected in a variety of ways by COVID-19 also noted how the Educational Foundation's grants are helping them get through these troubling times.

We are excited that the Educational Foundation was able to successfully assist undergraduate brothers during this time of uncertainty by connecting them to alumni and by the ability to provide some financial relief to those in need.

Foundation Welcomes Four New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome four brothers, **Peter Muth '74**, **Craig Dewey '06**, **Alex Eacker '15**, and **Nick Wint '15**, to the Educational Foundation Board. Each brother brings unique experiences, strengths, and backgrounds which will help further our foundation's reach within the Sigma Pi, Cornell, and Ithaca communities. Their commitment to education and Mu Chapter will allow our board to continue our mission.

Peter is a lawyer in Buffalo where he specializes in bankruptcy and commercial law. He has been lucky enough to be able to ease into “semi-retirement,” continuing specialized work for many longstanding bank and credit union clients. As an undergraduate, Peter served as alumni secretary in his sophomore year and Sage in his senior year, as well as steward in both his junior and senior years. Outside of Sigma Pi, Peter was a member of the Cornell Glee Club, participating in its historic Eastern Europe tour. Peter currently serves as a director on Mu Chapter's alumni board. He received his law degree at The University at Buffalo School of Law.

Craig moved to Los Angeles a week after graduation and started as a post-production assistant for the film *Miami Vice*. The following year, he went on to work for Warner Bros. Television and Lakeshore

Entertainment before becoming an assistant editor. In the past few years, Craig has contributed to *Bull*, *The Darkest Hour*, *Guilt Trip*, *World War Z*, and *Delivery Man*, as well as several independent films. Craig is a director on Mu Chapter's alumni board and has served as a Cornell Alumni Association Ambassador in both Los Angeles and Alameda County. As an undergraduate, Craig proudly served as Sage.

Alex graduated from Cornell in 2015 after having previously served as secretary and herald of Mu Chapter. He was also a member of the Cornell ultimate frisbee team. After graduation, he served two years as a Teach for America corps member in San Jose, Calif., where he was a high school teacher and debate team coach. Alex lives in Brooklyn and is currently a curriculum developer for CodeHS. As an educator, Alex is especially excited to contribute to the foundation's mission.

Nick is a 2015 graduate of the school of human ecology. As an undergraduate, he served as steward and alumni secretary of Mu Chapter before ultimately serving as Sage his senior year. Nick was also a member of Cornell EMS and Cornell's Army ROTC program. Since graduation, Nick has been a member of our armed forces serving in the army. In his five years since graduation, he has been stationed in Georgia, Texas, and Arizona while being deployed to South Korea. He is currently stationed in Hawaii.

YORDANOS GOSHU '18

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able to hear from lawyers, business leaders, medical professionals, entrepreneurs, etc. Hearing their experiences through our biweekly alumni talk, shaped the set of careers I pursued post-graduation. Furthermore, it showed me that my skills as a computer scientist are highly transferable to fields that are not engineering in nature.

Q: What skills did you learn or hone as the Educational Foundation intern that have carried over into your professional life?

A: The experience helped me hone my organizational and communication skills. Communicating with both the brotherhood and our alumni to determine a time that fits everyone's schedule is not a simple task given the number of people involved.

Additionally, I learned how important it is to make sure the brotherhood has access to the education center (we kept it locked for security reasons). As time went on, the center became a place for brothers to collaborate on homework and hold meetings. Thus, we set up an online priority queue for any brother to request access to the educational center.

Q: Have you used any of the connections that you made as an intern? How so?

A: Yes, our alumni lead, **Michael Vernick '83**, is now one of my good mentors. He advises me on both professional and academic growth.

Q: What was your favorite memory as the career services intern?

A: Our late-night alumni series!

YOUNG ALUMNI COMMITTEE

The Educational Foundation has formed a Young Alumni Committee to bring together brothers who have graduated in the past 10 years in support of the Foundation. The purpose of the committee is to increase fellowship and participation among young alumni and to help with the planning of future young alumni fundraisers. The inaugural committee members are listed below.

Nick Ornitz '16
(Chairman)

Aaron Klein '12
Zachary Smith '13
Alex Eacker '15
Rohun Gupta '16

Connor Riser '16
Justin Bredahl '17

Matthew Blakley '18
Yordanos Goshu '18
Harry Drazal '20



MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Meet the Foundation's Interns

The Educational Foundation is happy to provide internship experiences to two undergraduate brothers. **Sackett Terry '21** serves as the career services intern, and **Will Nuga '21** serves as the diversity & inclusion intern.

Will Nuga is a rising 4th year at Cornell's School of Hotel Administration pursuing a concentration in finance and a minor in real estate. Will transferred to Cornell from Skidmore College and joined Sigma Pi in the fall of 2019. He served as the pledge class president. This past spring semester, before becoming the educational foundation intern, Will also served as the diversity and inclusion chairman for Mu Chapter. Will has spent his summer working at the California State Teacher's Retirement System as a real estate investment analyst and wants to use this experience to leverage himself into a career in real estate private equity.



Sackett Terry is a junior studying information science and pursuing minors in both business and real estate. Sackett transferred to Cornell from Hamilton College and joined Sigma Pi in the fall 2018 pledge class. In addition to his role as the career services intern, Sackett served as philanthropy chairman and pledge class treasurer. He remains an active member of the Cornell Real Estate Club in the role of VP of mentorship and enjoys volunteering with College Mentors for Kids. Last summer, Sackett worked in Oslo, Norway, at Anvil Asset Advisors, a real estate private equity firm, and this summer he worked at BlackRock as a US wealth advisory summer analyst.

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in Sigma Pi Mu Chapter Alumni

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