



# MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

WINTER 2020

## SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION COMPLETES ITS 12TH YEAR

Tom Silver '81 Handing Over President Reins

The Sigma Pi Educational Foundation is proud to have completed its 12th anniversary in 2019. The Foundation is dedicated to funding educational programs for the brothers of Mu Chapter, enhancing the learning infrastructure of the house, supporting programming that benefits the youth of the greater Ithaca community, and providing mentorship and leadership opportunities for the undergraduates. We have accomplished a tremendous amount and I thank all of you who have contributed their time, resources, and financial support to help achieve our goals.

The Educational Foundation is part of the legacy that **Jim Keene '57**, together with **Bert Harrop '61**, built at Sigma Pi. Jim and Bert envisioned an organization within Mu Chapter that would broaden brothers' experiences, diversify and enhance their academic and non-academic orientation, help improve their leadership skills, and ensure that Sigma Pi brothers would also become more involved in

the Ithaca community. Their perspectives help differentiate Sigma Pi and make it the unique fraternity that it is today.

The Foundation continues to support its core program, College Mentors for Kids. Nine brothers are participating with Little Buddies in Ithaca schools, with one holding a leadership position in the organization, and two more brothers to take on leadership positions this spring. The Foundation was a significant supporter of the development of the Learning Commons—part of the kitchen and dining project. We are happy to know that brothers are using the enhanced study environment for collaboration and meeting space daily.

The new wi-fi is another critical component of recent innovation. Combined with the **Richard Cahoon '77** Tech Center, brothers can routinely take advantage of state-of-the-art technology to help them meet their demanding academic requirements. The Foundation has

also supported brothers' attendance at various leadership conferences, sponsored educational and career services and onsite speaker conferences, created intern positions for brothers, and supported educationally oriented scholarships.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Foundation's president for the past three-and-a-half years. I thank all alumni and brothers for their support during that time. I also want to thank the Foundation Board of Directors that is growing and is well positioned for the future. We are fortunate that **Joe Zanetta '75** will assume the role of president in January 2020. I look forward to working with Joe as we plan for the future.

Fraternally,  
**Tom Silver '81**  
President  
tsilver10359@yahoo.com  
(914) 582-1604

## WELCOME, JOSEPH ZANETTA '75

The Newest Member of the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation



As the first member of his family to attend college, studying at a university like Cornell was an amazing experience for **Joseph Zanetta '75**. After transferring in his junior year, Sigma Pi provided a wonderful way for Joseph to connect with a smaller setting of peers within the larger university. He welcomed the social outlet Sigma Pi offered to balance his ultimate goal of attending law school.

As the newest member of the Educational Foundation, Joe has recently reconnected with Sigma Pi. With his background in philanthropy, Joe feels his experience will add value to the Foundation. "I hope to instill a culture of philanthropy within the Foundation and among the brothers—we all have an obligation to

provide gifts to organizations that helped develop our character and values," he stated. "It is simple. We need to give back!"

Additionally, he hopes to secure supplementary resources and build Mu Chapter's endowment to benefit future generations of Sigma PIs.

Joe had a varied and rewarding career in philanthropy, including being CEO of two large health care foundations, working in Cornell development, and serving as vice president at two colleges. He recently retired as CEO of Citrus Valley Health Foundation, a non-profit, integrated community health care system in the San Gabriel Valley, serving one

(Continued on page 2)



# WAYS TO GIVE TO SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

## Need for Support Is Ongoing

**A**s a relatively new board member of the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, I recently visited the house on a trip to Ithaca. I also had a lunch in Los Angeles with a few members of the leadership teams for both the Alumni Corporation and the Foundation Board, including **Jarett Wait '80**.

I wish that I could get in the DeLorean and return to Ithaca to relive my Cornell and Sigma Pi experience. There is such a wonderful sense of community between the brothers and alumni. Career and mentoring events, an alumni event in Manhattan, the dedication of the Jim Keene Memorial Library, a stunning new learning and dining complex—these are just a few of the highlights of events at 730 University Avenue.

All these programs require the continued philanthropic support from our alumni. You have been incredibly generous. Please accept my thanks and appreciation. But the needs continue. As you reflect on your experience please remember to send in a gift to the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation. The best affirmation is to put no restrictions on your gift so the Foundation Board can designate the funds where most needed. All unrestricted gifts to the Educational Foundation are fully tax deductible. And a shoutout to **Tom Silver '81**, who has been the Foundation Board leader the past few years.

Fraternally,  
**Joe Zanetta '75**  
josephzanetta@yahoo.com

## WELCOME, JOSEPH ZANETTA '75

*(Continued from page 1)*

million residents. Joe's tenure in the non-profit sector leaves him with a number of accomplishments.

"I am most proud of helping generous families to make their dreams come true—endowing a professorship, building a pediatric unit, funding a mobile pediatric van, opening a clinic, building a new tower, endowing an adopting agency, creating scholarships. All of these events happened by working with donors to accomplish their objectives; I was merely the staff person who helped them secure their dreams."

Joe spends his free time traveling, serving on non-profit boards, golfing, reconnecting with his Sigma Pi brothers, and enjoying time with good friends. His 25-year-old son is just beginning his career in the entertainment business in Los Angeles, hoping to become a writer. Joseph lives in South Pasadena and Palm Springs, California. You can reach him at josephzanetta@yahoo.com.

*As of January 1, 2020, Joe will assume the office of president of the Foundation.*

## 2019 DONATIONS ALLOW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR MU CHAPTER

**T**his has been a busy year for the Foundation. We have received donations from 26 brothers and friends of Mu Chapter, collectively contributing \$8,318 to the Foundation during 2019. As of this writing the Foundation's entire portfolio's value is \$49,355, which consists of \$3,676 in the operating account and \$44,679 in the investment portfolio. The investment portfolio returned 14.11% for 2019 versus 25.70% for the S&P 500. The lag results from the approximately 40% allocation into CDs, which were held from January into June before being used toward the Learning Commons.

With the help of our donors this year, we have:

- Continued our mission as a supporter of College Mentors for Kids with our annual donation.
- Awarded our annual David Harrop Memorial Scholarship to **Joseph Brogan '20**.
- Sponsored six attendees at DealBook Conference in NYC, hosted by Brother **Andrew Sorkin '99**.
- Provided access to online studying and collaboration tools for undergraduate brothers.

- Funded two house intern positions for **Harry Drahzal '20** and **Adomas Hassan '20**, focused on career services and supporting the Educational Foundation community activities.
- Purchased plaques for the newly named **James H. Keene III '57** Memorial Library.

The Foundation has been very happy to see the Learning Commons become a focal point for collaborative study for our undergraduate brothers. Mu Chapter is flourishing as a true hub for education and stands out from its peer fraternities with the resources provided by generous alumni.

The Educational Foundation thanks all those who have supported and continue to support all our endeavors. None of these activities could take place without the generosity of our brotherhood and the greater Mu Chapter alumni community. We look forward to working together with our undergraduate brothers, our alumni, and our friends in 2020 and beyond!

Fraternally,  
**Connor Riser '16**, Treasurer  
Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation





## THE 2019 HONOR ROLL OF PATRONS

We are truly grateful to the 26 dedicated alumni and Sigma Pi friends who contributed \$8,318 to the Educational Foundation throughout 2019. 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	Jarett Wait '80
Peter Romeo '55	Joseph Ruocco '81
James Unckless '66	Tom Silver '81
Arthur White '66	Nicholas Voinovic '81
David Myers '74	James Garr '82
John Morrison '75	Alan Portnoi '84
Joseph Zanetta '75	Jean Simoes '99
Tom Garr '76	Alexander Deyle '06
James Franz '77	Aaron Klein '12
Robert Ruhlman '78	Robert Attia '16
Sandy True '78	Nicholas Ornitz '16
David D'Orlando '79	Connor Riser '16
Wayne Forman '80	

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[musigmapifoundation.com](http://musigmapifoundation.com)



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## JIM KEENE '57 MEMORIAL LIBRARY DEDICATION

Mu Chapter dedicated the **Jim Keene '57** Memorial Library at Homecoming 2019. A large group of family members and friends of Jim joined with alumni and students to honor one of the most dedicated and committed alumni of Sigma Pi. It was very moving to hear from Jim's wife, Ruth, and daughters, Sarah and Ruth, who spoke of Jim's fondness for the chapter, his commitment, and his leadership in creating the library that now bears his name. The name of **James H. Keene III '57** will forever be associated with a library that will provide Pi men with space "where any person can find instruction in any study" (Ezra Cornell on the founding of the University).

Fraternally,  
**Joe Zanetta '75**  
[josephzanetta@yahoo.com](mailto:josephzanetta@yahoo.com)



*Sigma Pi Educational Foundation Secretary Jim Franz '77 extends greetings from the Board of Directors at the dedication of the Jim Keene '57 Memorial Library during Homecoming weekend.*



*Connor Riser '16 at the Jim Keene Memorial Library dedication event in October.*





# Cornell Chapter of College Mentors for Kids has Impressive 2019

College Mentors for Kids at Cornell University has hit an incredibly positive and impressive stride in its performance this year. Not only has the new leadership taken the responsibility to enact quick and constructive change, but their passion for seeing this chapter grow and succeed is nothing short of miraculous. Despite some unexpected and difficult challenges, Cornell's chapter of College Mentors for Kids has surpassed many of the goals that were set for them, some by the national office and some that they placed upon their own shoulders.



**CORNELL  
COLLEGE  
MENTORS  
FOR KIDS**

service numbers by almost 25% from the previous school year. While higher service numbers are fantastic, the real measure of the chapter's growth can be seen with the program's quality. Not only is Cornell's chapter serving more kids, but their activities are more engaging, their leadership is more accountable, and their mentors are of much higher quality. For one of the first times in recent years, the chapter recruited more mentors than needed and is going into second semester without losing a single staff member to class changes or performance issues.

This semester, the chapter matched a total of 51 Little Buddies and mentors from two different elementary schools – Caroline Elementary and Cayuga Heights Elementary – which represents an increase in

Cornell's chapter is doing incredible things and has an impressive group of students leading the way. The path this program is on couldn't be more exciting!

## HOMECOMING 2019 RECAP Remembering Jim Keene '57

Homecoming 2019 was a huge success and a great opportunity for undergraduates to connect with Mu Chapter alumni. The undergraduates and alumni board hosted numerous brothers and the Keene family for a ceremony and luncheon dedicating the Memorial Library to the late **Jim Keene '57**. This event highlighted the resounding impact Jim had on Sigma Pi Mu Chapter over the course of his life. It also gave undergraduate brothers the opportunity to learn more about the many alumni who have committed to the betterment of Mu Chapter throughout the years.

Alumni, undergraduates, and family gathered to honor and to celebrate a distinguished member of our fraternity in the very library Jim Keene helped create. Several people stepped forward and shared fond remembrances, highlighting how Jim impacted them. Having Mr. Keene's family join us for the celebrations made the event more special. Both of his daughters and his wife spoke fondly about our chapter and the memories it provided them. Thanks to all who were involved; this day won't be forgotten. Our chapter will forever provide memories, thanks to the gifts and sacrifices of Mr. Jim Keene.

Jim Keene has played a particularly important role within the Educational Foundation. Twelve years ago, Jim was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Foundation and its continued success. As a result of his actions, the Foundation has offered numerous avenues for undergraduate development within Sigma Pi and its alumni base. On behalf of the Educational Foundation, I'd like to thank Jim for his contribution to the Foundation and the Sigma Pi Community at large.

Fraternally,  
**Harry Drahzal '20**

## Sigma Pi's 2019 Career Weekend Connects Alumni and Undergraduates

The annual Sigma Pi career event in New York City was a huge success, bringing together alumni all around the area to reconnect with old friends and meet with undergraduates. This year's weekend kicked off with a networking dinner at the Cornell Club of New York, with over 50 undergraduate brothers and alumni attending the dinner. Undergraduate brothers were exposed to the various industries and fields that they are interested in, mingling and networking with Mu Chapter alumni.

This event proved to be extremely valuable to the undergraduate brothers, especially those who are not sure about what they want to pursue post-graduation. Undergraduates were grouped with alumni at different tables based on their desired career paths, allowing alumni to discuss their experiences in that field. Alumni from all different career fields, including investment banking, consulting, law, and software engineering, attended the dinner. Following the dinner, **Jarett Wait '80** led a brief Q&A session for undergraduate brothers to ask all alumni about advice for recruiting. We'd like to thank the generous alumni that sponsored students cost for their participation in the dinner.

Sigma Pi Career Weekend is yet another example of the Foundation's contributions to the development of undergraduate brothers in a post-Cornell career environment. Furthered by the Dick Cahoon Tech Center and donations to the Learning Commons Project, the Foundation has been crucial in driving both academic success at Cornell and guidance in career development for undergraduate brothers. Donations from Mu Chapter alumni are key in allowing the Foundation to do so.

Fraternally,  
**Harry Drahzal '20**



# MU CHAPTER BROTHERS GAIN VALUABLE BUSINESS KNOWLEDGE AT THE 2019 DEALBOOK CONFERENCE

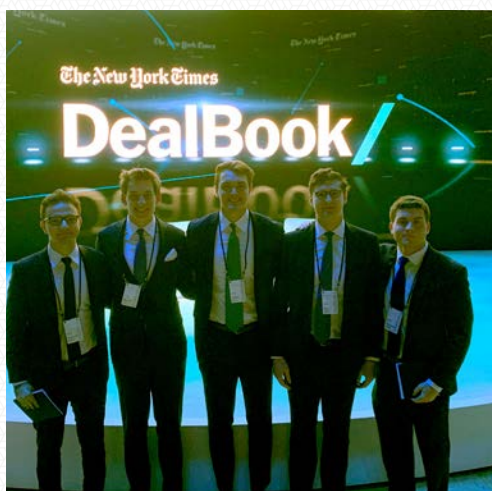
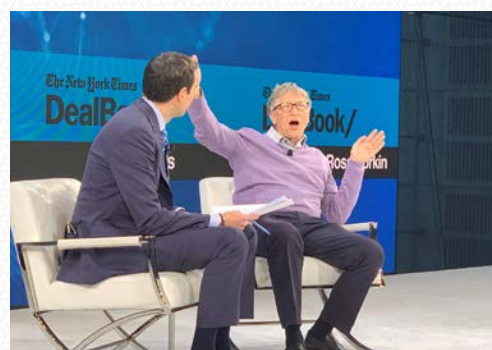
Thanks to the generosity of Brother **Andrew Ross Sorkin '99** and the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation, six undergraduate brothers attended the afternoon session of the 2019 New York Times DealBook conference. The conference offered unique insight into the successes of business titans such as Bill Gates, Dara Khosrowshahi, Reed Hastings, celebrities and social media influences Kim Kardashian West and Kris Jenner, and even former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The brothers enjoyed an exceptional experience and networked during lunch and breakout sessions. Alumni President **Jarret Wait '80** was also in attendance and introduced the brothers to numerous business leaders. It was an extremely valuable experience, and we thank the alumni

for their unparalleled generosity and commitment to the professional development of the undergraduate brothers. We look forward to the continued success of Sigma Pi career weekends and DealBook conferences.

Because of contributions from the Educational Foundation of Sigma Pi, undergraduate brothers attend conferences such as Dealbook and the Cornell Real Estate Conference. The Foundation hopes to continue doing so in 2020, offering more ways for the undergraduate brothers to be exposed to different careers, topics, and world issues.

Fraternally,  
**Harry Drazal '20**

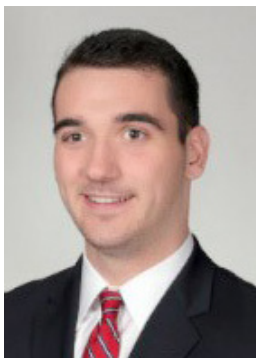




# Joe Brogan '20, David Harrop Memorial Scholarship

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 and giving back to the Ithaca community.

The 2019 David Harrop Memorial Scholarship Recipient is **Joseph Brogan '20**, a senior in the School of Hotel



Administration. Joe finished his bachelor of science degree in hospitality and minor in real estate this December. While academics are Joe's main focus, he has demonstrated his well-rounded spirit of brotherhood in all that he does. He has served as Mu Chapter treasurer (2018-19) and brotherhood chairman (2017-18), and his list of extracurricular activities is impressive, including College Mentors for Kids, Cornell Real Estate Club, Cornell Traditions Fellows, and the Cornell Men's Rugby Team and Crew Team. Joe is currently traveling across Asia with other brothers of Sigma Pi. Joe will be working at Square Mile Capital as a real estate analyst in New York City following his time at Cornell.

Joe emphasized that his development and success at Cornell was a result of his time in Sigma Pi: "The fraternity has not only helped me to develop myself intellectually but has challenged me to be more involved philanthropically both inside and outside of the brotherhood. I am incredibly grateful for the connections I've made within the brotherhood and alumni base and will cherish them for my entire life."

Joe is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Sigma Pi and for the mentorship and support that he has received from the active brothers and alumni of Mu Chapter.

Fraternally,  
**Harry Drazhal '20**

## CONGRATULATIONS, BROTHER BROGAN!



## MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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## MU CHAPTER BROTHERS MAKE US PROUD WITH FALL COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY EFFORTS

The fall semester saw continued philanthropic and community service traditions including College Mentors for Kids, Loaves & Fishes, as well as the introduction of the No Shave November campaign and resourcing food drives.

We have nine undergraduate brothers volunteering with College Mentors for Kids. One brother is in a leadership position and two more will take up positions in the spring semester. The program continues to receive positive feedback from the local Ithaca community. We were privileged to continue our weekly volunteering at the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry along with members of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.



*Aaron Angeles '22 and Barron Brown '22 volunteering at the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.*

\$1,000. Thank you to all who pledged money to the campaign. Those who donated \$25 or more will receive a Mu Chapter "Movember" t-shirt. Additionally, we volunteered at a local library to help put on a community show and at multiple food drives with various sororities.

Many undergraduate brothers remain involved in various service endeavors outside of the house. **Cal McKinney '20** works in youth prison education, **Connor Duffy '20** with Meals on Wheels, and **Alex Frank '21** with YOURS. We're excited to continue growing our efforts in our annual spring semester initiatives such as Rock The Casa and Open Mic Night.

In terms of new efforts, the fall saw the introduction of the No Shave November campaign, where we raised more than

Fraternally,  
**Adomas Hassan '20**