



MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2021

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



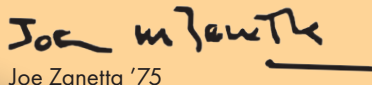
What a privilege it has been to serve as president of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, Inc., during the 2020–2021 fiscal year.

The objectives of the foundation are to support the goals so eloquently stated in our creed: *To advance trust and justice, to promote scholarship, to encourage chivalry, to diffuse culture, and to develop character, in the service of God and man.*

During the most recent fiscal year, we secured additional funds and supported those educational efforts. The board is composed of volunteer men who generously give of their time and treasure. At our annual meeting held on June 30, 2021, we elected three new directors: **John Altmeyer '81**, **Brody Ehrlich '10**, and **Chris Olie '78**. We said farewell to **Jim Franz '77**, **Kurt Rasmussen '80**, and **Nick Wint '15**. We re-elected officers: Joe Zanetta as president, **Wayne Forman '80** as vice president, and **Connor Riser '16** as treasurer. We also welcomed **Nick Ornitz '16** to serve as board secretary.

Plans for our future are centered around an effort to secure an endowment for the foundation and the house. We have been very successful in securing funds for projects, including Dining and Learning for the 21st Century, our COVID-19 relief internships, and other programs to enhance the education of the brothers. An endowment campaign is different, and plans are being formulated in collaboration with the alumni board. We plan to announce those in the fall. In the meantime, please continue to be generous with the foundation. Gifts can be made by going on our website, www.MuSigmaPiFoundation.com.

Thanks for your continued support of the foundation,


Joe Zanetta '75

NEW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION WEBSITE



This summer, the Educational Foundation rebuilt its website from the ground up with a modern, mobile-friendly design. Overseen by **Connor Riser '16** and **Craig Dewey '06**, the site now boasts a sleek new home page that is easy to navigate, with a streamlined process for

contacting and donating to the foundation.

Please visit www.musigmapifoundation.com to learn more about the current foundation initiatives, catch up on alumni and chapter news and explore the scholarship and award opportunities for the undergraduate brothers.

THANK YOU TO JIM FRANZ '77



Jim Franz '77 has concluded six years on the Foundation Board and served with distinction as board secretary. Jim is a Partner with Hinman, Howard & Kattell in Binghamton, New York, one of

the leading law firms in upstate New York, so naturally, he also provided us with legal advice during his tenure on the board. More importantly, Jim was the "guardian of the institution's integrity." He made sure that we dotted all of the I's and crossed all of the T's. He guided us on filing our appropriate tax forms with both the Internal Revenue Service as well as with NYS officials. He kept an eye on all of us and made sure we submitted the

appropriate conflict of interest forms.

But Jim also was incredibly supportive of our mission: to provide educational resources to the undergraduate brothers. During the time of COVID-19, brothers used the learning commons and 730 University Avenue became a substitute for Uris Library. Thanks to Jim's stewardship, he was always available to seek funds from brothers to support various projects. He maintains contact with literally hundreds of brothers and is always quick to ask, "Have you talked to this brother?"

Jim will remain available to provide counsel, but six years is a long time to worry about 990 tax forms and gift receipts.

Thanks, Jim for a job well done. You are truly a role model for Pi men in service, wisdom, leadership, philanthropy, and humor.



THREE NEW DIRECTORS JOIN THE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Mu Chapter - Sigma Pi Educational Foundation held its annual meeting on June 30, 2021. The highlight of the meeting was the election of three new board members spanning three decades of brotherhood.



John Altmeyer '81 was elected to the Board of the Foundation. He graduated from Cornell in 1981 with a degree in economics. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School. He

has led a very interesting and varied career in commercial roofing. He most recently was appointed Executive Chairman of GAF Commercial. John resides in Florida.



Brody Ehrlich '10 was also elected to the board. He graduated from Cornell in 2010 with a degree in economics and received his Juris Doctor degree from Benjamin

Cardozo School of Law of Yeshiva University. He is currently chief operating officer and head of US Business Development for AppGuard. Brody resides in New York City.



Chris Olie '78 is the third of the new directors elected to the Foundation Board. Chris recently retired as President of Plymouth Rock Assurance and returned to the Cleveland area. Chris

has led a varied and successful career in the commercial insurance industry. After graduating from Cornell with a degree in economics, he earned an MBA at Penn State.

In addition to electing new Board members, the Board also elected **Nick Ornitz '16** as Board Secretary.

HARROP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: BARRON BROWN '22



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 2021 David Harrop Memorial Scholarship Recipient: **Barron Brown '22**.

Barron Brown is a rising senior in Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences, pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in economics. While academics are among Barron's top priorities, his leadership skills and extracurricular involvement prove to be equally as compelling. He has served as Mu Chapter's vice president during the 2020-21 academic year, and his list of other involvements are just as impressive, such as being a former varsity pitcher for Cornell's baseball team.

To close, here are Barron's thoughts on his experience as a Pi man: "I've learned as a brother [that] the Sigma Pi fraternity gives back tenfold what one puts in. The reward of seeing fellow brothers thrive and succeed in their endeavors is worth the effort of giving to the house. This attitude of giving is why Sigma Pi continues to uphold these values after more than a century and the men who do so take it with them through their entire lives. This can be seen in the supportive alumni giving their attention, time, effort, and advice to brothers. This ultimately continually inspires brothers to never stop giving back."



Ethan Mulroy '24, Lev Katreczko '23, Barron Brown '22, and Kyle Schwartz '21.



MU CHAPTER of SIGMA PI
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



MEET OUR NEW INTERN

Colvin Dunteman '22 is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences pursuing a major in economics and a minor in business. Colvin transferred to Cornell in the spring of his freshman year after studying abroad at the American University of Paris and joined Sigma Pi in the fall of 2019.

In addition to his role as the career services intern, Colvin has served as a former philanthropy chair, intramural sports chair, and Herald. In addition to his roles in the chapter Colvin was a general manager at College Mentors for Kids. This summer, Colvin has accepted an offer from N.F. Smith and Associates as a sales intern.



CATCHING UP WITH PAST EDUCATION FOUNDATION INTERN



Justin Bredahl '17 began his career at The Plaza Hotel in New York City where he worked in operations as a rotational manager. Justin then transitioned to the consulting industry where he worked for two hotel consulting

firms, Sagra and HotelAve. After four years in the hotel consulting industry, Justin returned to working in operations, where he is currently a senior associate in the operations and asset management division at Life House Hotels where he oversees eight hotels. Justin also currently serves as a member of the Educational Foundation's Young Alumni Committee.

At Cornell, Justin was not only involved in Sigma Pi, including his service as the Educational Foundation's career services intern, social chair, and formal chair, but was also a general manager in College Mentors for Kids and a member of the Cornell Tradition. Justin won Mu Chapter's Brother of the Year Award in 2017.

How did your time as the Educational Foundation's Career Services Intern impact your career?

The flexibility of the position allowed me to explore different career avenues and oppor-

tunities at Cornell. It also allowed me to take school more seriously. Sandy True, who was involved in College Mentors for Kids, helped me with a lot of different fundraising events which helped me become a more polished professional.

What skills did you learn or hone as the foundation's intern that have carried over and helped you in your professional life?

Networking! Understanding the greater Sigma Pi network and meeting older alumni has benefited me a lot in my professional life.

Have you used any of the connections that you made as a foundation intern in your professional career?

Hank Morris '15, who graduated from Sigma Pi in 2015 and who helped found Lifehouse in 2017, was a big help for me getting my job at Lifehouse.

How was your experience being Latino in Sigma Pi?

Sigma Pi is not a cookie-cutter fraternity. We have a lot of people from a lot of different places, so I thought it was really beneficial for me to be around people with a variety of different backgrounds and life experiences.

2021 HONOR ROLL OF PATRONS

The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation would like to thank and recognize the following generous donors. These individuals recognize the importance of brotherhood and securing Mu's future. We thank you for your dedication to Sigma Pi and quality education.

John Holden '43 **Robert Ruhlman '78**

Paul Reszel '51 **Michael Reiner '78**

Gale Brooks '54 **James Horn '79**

Douglas Parker '56 **Steve Bergh '79**

Vanness Robinson '57 **Douglas Uyeno '80**

William Stevenson '62 **Jeffrey Brown '80**

Richard Frey '62 **Stephen Pirozzi '80**

Stephen Whitman '64 **Kurt Rasmussen '80**

Arthur White '66 **Wayne Forman '80**

James Unckless '66 **Adam Brown '80**

Joseph Torre '68 **Jarret Wait '80**

Whitney Garlinghouse '71 **Tom Silver '81**

Frederick Hoge '72 **Barry Weiss '81**

James Turner '73 **Joseph Ruocco '81**

Peter Muth '74 **Jesse Hammerman '83**

Casey Forbes '74 **Glenn Kerner '84**

Thomas Brotherton '74 **Leonard Wolin '88**

Joseph Zanetta '75 **Jonathan Coll '01**

Edward Gogol '75 **Craig Dewey '06**

John Morrison '75 **Trevor White '07**

Jeffrey Craver '75 **Aaron Klein '12**

Jim Franz '77 **Nicholas Wint '15**

Peter Wright '77 **Connor Riser '16**



EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SUMMER ANNUAL REPORT 2021



The past year has been a difficult and interesting one both for the brothers of Mu Chapter and the country as a whole. As we come closer to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic,

the Educational Foundation is even more grateful for the many gifts made by our fraternity brothers this year. The dedication of our alumni to help their younger brothers is incredible and admirable. We have received 54 donations from 48 brothers and friends of Mu Chapter collectively contributing \$13,488.20 to the Foundation during this fiscal year. As of this writing, the Foundation's entire portfolio's value is \$61,459 (July 23rd, 2021). This year the foundation spent \$13,517 on its many initiatives.

The investment portfolio returned (through June 25th, 2021) 41.57% for the 2021 fiscal year versus 40.23% for the S&P 500 and 35.01% for MSCI EAFE (International). During the global market recovery in the second half of calendar 2020, the small-cap and international allocations outperformed the S&P

500 index, leading to the portfolio's out performance. Earlier in 2021, large-cap value led the index higher, although market leadership has more recently shifted back toward growth stocks – once again demonstrating the need for a well-diversified portfolio.

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

- Revamp the Educational Foundation's website;
- Give grants to brothers who were directly affected by or took unpaid internships due to complications from COVID-19;
- Fund three house intern positions, focused on Career Services and Diversity & Inclusion for **Will Nuga '21**, **Sackett Terry '21**, and **Colvin Dunteman '22**;
- Award our annual David Harrop Memorial Scholarship to **Barron Brown '22**;
- Provide access to online studying and collaboration tools for undergraduate brothers;

Koby Kiefer '21, a recipient of a COVID-19 Relief Grant from the foundation had this to say about his grant: "This past summer, I had an internship with Platinum Real

Estate Professional in Las Vegas, Nevada. I am from West Virginia, and considering the internship was not paid, I was very concerned about making ends meet with travel and everyday living expenses. With the financial support from the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, I was able to offset the costs for my meals, transportation, and rent throughout the summer. If it weren't for the support and generosity of our alumni, I most likely would not have been able to pursue this internship opportunity and gained valuable working experience for my future career path."

The Educational Foundation thanks all those who have supported and continue to support all our endeavors. None of these activities can 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 for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, which is looking like a return to normalcy for our undergraduate brothers.

Faternally,

Connor Riser '16

Treasurer

Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi
Educational Foundation



GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS



Chris Cavanaugh, Peter Gribizis, and Matt Pullano.



Chris Cavanaugh, Matt Pullano, Francisco Wagner, Peter Gribizis, Peter McGurk, Carter Gran, and Kirk Hachigian.



WANNA START SOMETHING?



Brother Bruce Kornfeld '89 speaking at the virtual event.



The 'Wanna Start Something?' event was organized and planned by **Chris Selland '86**. The event was centered around what is needed to successfully build a startup and all of the challenges that occur while doing so. The

event was a great success with over 20 current brothers in attendance. There were three main speakers, **James Alvarez '16**, **Bruce Kornfeld '89**, and **Steve Parker '86**, who come from a variety of backgrounds and industries within the startup world.

The first speaker was **James Alvarez '14**, who is the director of strategic growth at Perimeter 81, a cyber and network security company based out of Tel Aviv, Israel. Perimeter 81 had 400% year-over-year growth in 2020 and has had a huge spike in users throughout the pandemic. James spoke about his background and shared how he navigated his career path. James was also Sage in 2013 and shared how his experience in Sigma Pi has benefited him throughout his professional life.

The next speaker was **Bruce Kornfeld '89**, who graduated with a degree in electrical engineering and obtained both a masters in engineering and an MBA. After working at NCR for six years in product management, he became a product manager at Dell's new storage division, which was a startup within Dell. The business grew from zero to a billion dollars in only three years.

He later joined Compellent as an executive and helped grow the company from \$9 million to \$23 million in three years. Specifically, Bruce gave great insight on how it is important to market to and ask advice from people you do not know so you can get true and honest feedback on your idea. Bruce currently works at StorMagic, a software company designed for storing and securing products.

The last speaker was **Steve Parker '86**, a patent attorney at Westerman Hattori Daniels & Adrian, LLP. Steve gave a great overview of what patents are, how they work, and how you should go about protecting your idea. Steve shared the importance of timing in the patent industry and how patents are easier to acquire than they seem. He gave an incredible presentation that brothers talked about for days after the event.

Overall, both older brothers and new members got a lot out of the experience and are grateful for the alumni who took time out of their evenings to share their insights with us!

Sincerely,

Colvin Duntelman '22



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
730 University Avenue
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

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IN MEMORY OF BERT HARROP



Guest of honor Bert Harrop '61 with his daughters; Rachel Wellsand and Sarah Berel Harrop, at the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation dinner held in his honor during the Spring of 2017.



It was with great sadness that The Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation found out about the passing of our brother and founding patron George "Bert" Harrop '61. Bert was born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas, however, his humble beginnings had no bearing on the countless successes he earned during his professional career: Bert leveraged his natural affinity towards leadership roles, serving as the head Steward and range chef for Mu Chapter and the Statler Hotel, respectively.

He also developed his own long-standing real estate enterprise, Harrop Construction Company, and spent time as a key executive director for Texas' Sterling Bank. Despite a very busy career, spent wearing multiple hats

(many at the same time considering his role as CEO of Harrop Construction), Bert prioritized his family before all else and loved spending time with his daughters Sarah and Susan. One of Susan's fondest memories of her dad was the time he spent teaching her accounting principles after he opened her first checking account in her first semester of college.

A major and consistent theme of Bert's life was his philanthropy, both in his time and money. Bert and his wife ValBerta funded a significant contribution for the Sigma Pi Mu Chapter's Educational Foundation that continues to be the corpus source of funding for the entity. Looking back, we consider it crucial to note and remember that Bert and ValBerta committed their capital only once

they verified the Foundation's dedication towards promoting diversity and inclusion within the active Mu Chapter brotherhood. Bert remained throughout his life an advocate for disenfranchised and under-served groups. The David Harrop Memorial Scholarship, named in memory of his late son, is now a tool distinguished brothers (only one scholarship is awarded per year) can use to finance the rising costs of attendance at Cornell University.

Ultimately, Bert touched and impacted lives and organizations from all levels, top to bottom -- his legacy will always be cherished and revered. The Educational Foundation is grateful for his many contributions to Mu Chapter and his service as a Director for the Foundation.

