

FOUNDED 2007

MISSION STATEMENT

The Sigma Pi Mu Chapter Educational Foundation, founded in 2007, is a 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service-approved organization. It is dedicated to funding educational programs for the members of Mu Chapter, enhancing the learning infrastructure of the house, and supporting education-related programming that benefits the youth of the greater Ithaca community and provides mentorship opportunities for Mu Chapter brothers.

CALENDAR 2016

January
New Member Recruitment

March 26–April 4
Spring break

May 8
Grateful Dead Day

May 11
Last day of spring classes/
Slope Day

May 12–15
Spring study period

May 16–19
Spring exam period

May 29
Commencement

June 9–12
Reunion Weekend 2016

MU CHAPTER of SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Runners at the starting line of the "5K for the Kids" fundraiser, hosted by Sigma Pi and Tri-Delta sorority.

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This — the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation's first inaugural winter newsletter — is, in itself, a great illustration of the continued growth of our foundation. As you will read, the Foundation has continued to introduce new programs and initiatives to further enhance the experiences of the undergraduate brothers of Sigma Pi. The Dick Cahoon '77 Tech Center has already become an integral part of the Pi house, connecting undergraduates to Pi men across the country, and

helping to advance their career pursuits. In 2016, we will continue to look for new mediums through which we can improve the Sigma Pi experience, and we welcome your input. Thank you to those of you who have contributed to the Foundation, and we hope all will be proud of the direction of the Mu Chapter.

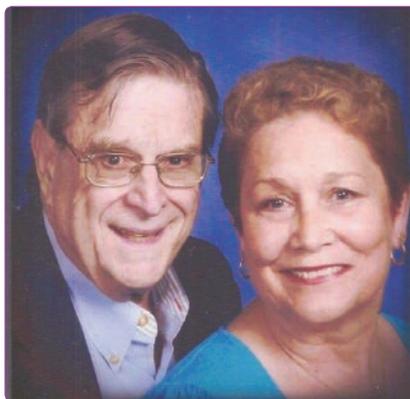
Sincerely,

Aaron Klein '12
President & Treasurer

G. BERT HARROP '61 AND VALBERTA HARROP CU'61 Founding Donors of the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation

By Jim Keene '57

The Mu Chapter Educational Foundation was formed in 2007 thanks to the pro bono legal work and initial gift of Brother Steve Hobbs '80. For some time it remained a foundation in name only until a brother came forward and asked some questions to ascertain if the goals of the Foundation were worthy of his support. That brother was G. Bert Harrop '61. He and his late wife Val '61, Chi Omega, stepped up with a significant contribution that continues to be the corpus of the Foundation. Mu Chapter wants to acknowledge the importance of Bert and Val's gift to jump-start an organization that is now having a significant impact on the lives of the brothers of Sigma Pi and the Ithaca community. Its flagship activity is



G. Bert Harrop and ValBerta Harrop
on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.
Founding Donors of the Mu Chapter
Educational Foundation

the College Mentors for Kids Program, the funds for which come mainly from the income from Bert and Val's gift, and the David Harrop Scholarship, given in memory of Bert and Val's son.

As a brother, you might ask why Bert and Val made such a gift. Was he approached and after a presentation agreed to make a gift? Was he very involved as an alum and encouraged by his fellow brothers to help out financially? The answer to those questions is no. He volunteered.

Bert approached the Foundation and asked some questions. He and Val had decided to give away a large amount of money — they agreed

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BERT & VAL HARROP

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that she would pick a recipient and he would pick one. They would split the money down the middle, half to her choice and half to his. They wanted the gift to be big enough to make a difference, and sizeable enough to have ongoing significance in that funding would be available from the income of the gift when well invested for the future. She picked the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Bert and Val together picked **Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Foundation**, but with reservations.

Bert is no different from most of the brothers of Sigma Pi. He was raised in a small town in Kansas and came to school as a young man not really knowing what was ahead. In the work he did as a student at a local junior college, he met a Cornell trustee emeritus who saw something in him, and encouraged him to apply to Cornell. Bert did so and was accepted into the Hotel School – Bert is convinced his mentor was instrumental in his acceptance. Bert arrived in Ithaca with \$3,500 and a \$700 grant. The cost to attend Cornell at that time was about \$10,000 a year. Bert worked as a range chef at the Statler, and served as steward at Mu

Chapter, which took care of room and board.

He was influenced by Brother **Joel VanWynen '58** (deceased) to double register in the hotel school and the Johnson business school. This preparation gave Bert the tools to go into the world and achieve success as an entrepreneur – he was CEO of Harrop Construction Company – and a director of the Sterling Bank in Texas

Bert met his wife Val at Sigma Pi. His little brother had invited Val to be his date at a dance at the house. For some reason the little brother could not follow through on the date and asked Bert if he would pinch hit. Bert and Val continued to date and were married. One person who was instrumental in the relationship between Bert and Val was **Dolly Hailstork** – Dolly lent Bert the money to allow the marriage to happen.

Bert is grateful to Cornell and Sigma Pi for introducing him to a whole new world, and chose the large gift to the Educational Foundation as a way to pay back what the house and his brothers did for him.

However, as stated, Bert had reservations about contributing to Mu Chapter. His questions led me, then alumni president, to

travel to Houston to answer them face-to-face. A dinner meeting with Bert and Val allowed the full merit of Mu Chapter to be discussed, including the hopes for the future of the Educational Foundation. It was not hard for me to point to the many merits Mu Chapter had (and has) of which alums can be proud. The biggest determining factor in evaluating the worthiness of Mu Chapter was not the list of good things related to Bert and Val, as it was taken for granted – it was the diversity of the chapter. Bert and Val felt very strongly about the importance of openness and diversity. They asked very pointed questions about the make-up of the chapter. I explained that Mu Chapter is diverse in race, religion, economic status, and any other way you might measure diversity. The brothers conduct a rush that results in bids being extended to those men they like well enough to want to have as brothers.

That is what Bert wanted to hear, and it was easy for me to exhibit that the diversity was long standing and genuine. Bert and Val committed to the gift at the end of the dinner, and asked that it be identified as a memorial to their son David, who they lost early in his adulthood.

COLLEGE MENTORS FOR KIDS RECEPTION

By Justin Bredahl '17



College Mentors for Kids is a growing nonprofit organization that pairs over 2,300 first-through sixth-grade children with individual college mentors, providing the children with positive role models through which they can

see the importance and achievability of higher education.

The weekend before Halloween, founder Heidi Schmidt M.D. and CEO Dennis Trinkle PhD visited Cornell's campus for what would be a very busy weekend. The brothers



of Sigma Pi hosted a 5K run on Sunday with Tri-Delta Sorority, an event that was fueled by the guests' presence and managed to raise



just over \$7,000. Drs. Schmidt and Trinkle were also given a tour of the Pi House and its newly installed Tech Center. The main event of the weekend, however, was the College Mentors for Kids evening reception, held at the home of Mary and Brad Grainger – just a short ride from campus.

The Cornell Chapter of College Mentors for Kids has quite a unique origin. It was through Sigma Pi Fraternity's generous Educational Foundation that the organization was able to come to campus. Therefore, the brothers of Sigma Pi hold a prominent role in the organization, from executive board members to college mentors. Founded in April of 2013, the organization has grown rapidly to serve 80 children at Caroline Elementary School and has plans to expand to another school – which will include 40 more children – in the fall of 2016.

The reception was crucial in further demonstrating the importance of the program to the many notable members of both the Cornell and Ithaca communities in attendance. Members of the organization and Pi brothers spoke about the significance of the organization to the children and themselves. As Executive Vice President and Sigma Pi brother **David DellaPelle '17** said, "Though College Mentors serves a great importance to the children in the program, the effect it has on me and my fraternity is often overlooked. It provides us a positive organization towards which we can put our efforts, and an opportunity to expand our perspective beyond Cornell and into the community."

The reception was a major success, galvanizing those in attendance toward further support of the organization and its future plans.



Stephanie Kohls, Justin Bredahl '17, Dennis Trinkle, and Heidi Schmidt

COLLEGE MENTORS FOR KIDS UPDATE

By David DellaPelle '17

What began as an exciting semester for College Mentors for Kids nationally continued to be another successful semester for the Cornell University College Mentors for Kids chapter and Sigma Pi brotherhood involvement. Our chapter continued to provide 80 at-risk first-through fourth-graders from Caroline Elementary with their own Cornell student mentor.

The executive board, made up of nine members (five of whom are Sigma Pi brothers), effectively led the organization on three fronts:

1. Providing fun and educational activities to make a lasting impact on our current little buddies;
2. Building our brand and establishing processes as our chapter expands;
3. Meeting fundraising objectives to have all the money we need to make an impact.

Our activities were held all over campus, and incorporated resources like the Cornell Orchards, the CUPD, and Cornell Outdoor Education to help make a lasting impact. We continued to recruit and retain high-quality Cornell student leaders to serve as leaders or mentors while further promoting our organization and building its reputation on campus.

Our chapter again met its fundraising goals through the Family and Friends Campaign and a Halloween-themed "5K for the Kids." We are still looking for an additional source of funding to help us remain financially secure in the long term.

Five Sigma Pi brothers were instrumental as leaders on the executive board this year. I served as the executive vice president as well as a vice president of programming, **Rohun Gupta '16** was the vice president

of marketing and recruitment, and **Joseph Manzi '16** served as vice president of finance. **George Chalhoub '16** was the Tuesday activity director, **Andrew Walsh '17** served as fundraising director. **James Alvarez '16**, **Justin Bredahl '17**, and **David Golding '18** served as general managers, overseeing groups of 10 mentors and little buddies. Many other brothers mentored their own little buddy.

While our service number of 80 children mentored still places us in the "small chapter" category nationally, we are on an accelerated pace for expansion. After just three years since the Foundation's seed money founded the Cornell chapter, we are in the process of expanding to 120 little buddies for the 2016-2017 school year. This requires the addition of a third activity day and expansion to the Cayuga Heights elementary school (targeted students will come from downtown Ithaca).

I will lead the chapter as president during 2016-2017, my senior year, and plan on



promoting both brothers and other Cornell students to help me lead the organization to what should be a monumental year for us. I have already spoken with the national office about a revamped organizational structure in order to ensure that roles are clearly defined and we can find the highest-performing students to fill those roles. Current President Gabriella Johnston and I will be meeting with campus leaders to ensure that we are able to book the best locations for our activities moving forward. Our recruiting processes are finally enabling us to be very selective in mentor and staff selection. We are already a rising organization on campus in terms of popularity and prestige, but our current pull should exponentially increase with 120 student mentors, 12 general managers, and 12 executive board members starting next fall.

College Mentors for Kids at Cornell University is ready to take the next step to continue its unprecedented rise as one of the strongest chapters nationally, and the most impactful student-run nonprofit on campus. We couldn't do it without your continued support.



INTERVIEW WITH COLLEGE MENTORS FOR KIDS CEO DENNIS TRINKLE



Dennis Trinkle PhD, CEO
College Mentors for Kids

By Kurt Rasmussen '80

College Mentors for Kids is a growing nonprofit organization that pairs first-through sixth-grade children with college student mentors. College Mentors' signature program now has chapters on 32 college campuses in Indiana, Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Virginia, New York, and Ohio. Through weekly after-school activities focused on higher education, career, culture and diversity, and community service, mentors help their "little buddies" understand the importance of education, show them the benefits to cultural understanding, and teach them ways to give back to their community. These mentoring relationships are beneficial not only for the children, but also for the college students. Mentors learn leadership skills, the need for positive role models in their communities, and the rewards of philanthropic activity. Learn more about the organization at collegementors.org.

Three years ago, the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation donated the seed money to establish a College Mentors for Kids Chapter at Cornell University. In the 2014–2015 academic year, 11 Sigma Pi brothers served in leadership roles with the Cornell chapter, including Robert Attia '16, serving as president for the fall semester, and four brothers serving as vice presidents. In addition, 14 brothers are mentors with the program, which now works with more than 80 elementary school students from the Ithaca area. Mu Chapter's high-profile involvement and leadership in College Mentors for Kids helped propel the Cornell chapter to win the national Chapter of the Year Award in 2015. We interviewed College Mentors CEO Dennis Trinkle PhD for this newsletter.

What impact did the gift from Mu Chapter's Educational Foundation have on establishing the CM chapter at Cornell? Had this process ever been used previously?

The support of the Mu Chapter's Educational Foundation was, well, foundational. Whenever College Mentors for Kids opens a chapter nationally, we do our best to assure a strong start and long-term sustainability. This is not only a good business practice, it is essential to the mission of College Mentors. For at-risk kids, having a program or a role model fail them is not an option. That is too often already a regular part of their life, and data shows that a mentoring relationship that lasts less than a year can actually do more harm than good to an at-risk child. So, the Mu Chapter's support was truly foundational to our establishing a chapter at Cornell, and it has been vital in its success.

We had never had a fraternity or educational foundation willing to work with us in this way to assure the success of a new chapter. It has worked uncommonly well, and we now see it as replicable model



for how we can most effectively add new chapters and expand our impact.

To what do you attribute the success of the Cornell chapter?

Talent, passion, and commitment. I am very impressed by the talent and character of the Sigma Pi undergraduate brothers. They are smart, analytically sophisticated, articulate, and persuasive – exceptionally so for their age. They also have a high degree of passion for making a difference in the world through College Mentors. They already have a strong dedication to helping young boys and girls who can benefit from a mentor to accomplish great things. And they show incredible commitment and responsibility. No joke, when I paid a surprise visit to the chapter house on a Saturday afternoon, it was clean and organized and the brothers were studying in the lounges, library, and the technology center. They were especially proud of the technology center and wanted to share how it is bringing distinguished guests regularly "into" the house. When passion, creativity, and commitment meet talent, you can change the world.

What impact has Sigma Pi fraternity Cornell had on CM's desire to expand on the east coast?

We are very excited about the involvement of Sigma Pi in starting the Cornell chapter. It has gone exceptionally well, and Sigma Pi has been the critical element in this success. The undergraduate brothers and alumni have done a great job organizing, building community partnerships, and reaching out to and cultivating supporters. They have built an exceptional foundation in just two years, accomplishing what has generally taken four years in other locations.

The involvement of Sigma Pi has made us very excited about the possibility of expansion on the east coast, and truthfully, nationally with Sigma Pi involvement. We know that these young men want to make the Cornell chapter a lasting success and that they want to expand the impact and reach of College Mentors. We've seen at other chapters that alumni go on to open some of our most successful chapters. Given the passion and talent of the Cornell Sigma Pi brothers, we know they are going to accomplish great things and help College Mentors accomplish great things.



Alex Yablonovich '17 and his little buddy.



Abdo Dergham '18 and his little buddy.

What metrics does CM use to evaluate the success of the program?

For the little buddies, we have found that a few metrics provide early indicators of lasting impact. We track number of behavioral and disciplinary issues, attendance, math and reading performance on standardized tests, and awareness of

future college and career possibilities. The kids in College Mentors consistently show statistically fewer behavioral issues, higher attendance, better academic performance, and strong awareness of college and career opportunities. We also know this translates long-term. A recent study of the lasting impact of College Mentors suggests that 80 percent of the kids we served in the first decade of the program graduated from high school, 76 percent went on to college, 66 percent are engaging in community service, and 96 percent indicate the program positively changed their life.

For the college students, we also know that they have high rates of graduation, on-time graduation, and a lasting commit-



ment to community service. We are working to have even stronger metrics for both our little buddies and our college students. We know today that College Mentors has a program that has been tested and refined over 20 years nationally, and that makes a demonstrable lasting impact.

What's next in terms of CM's expansion?

We want to double our service numbers by 2020. The national statistics for the



Robby Attia '16 with group of little buddies while he served as College Mentors president.

at-risk youth we serve are not good. Here is one way to think about why the need for College Mentors for Kids is so great. If you take a typical classroom we serve and apply the national demographic percentages, you would find that of the kids:

- 7 out of 30 live in, at, or below the poverty line;
- 16 out of 31 are eligible for free or reduced lunch;
- 6 out of 30 are not being raised by their biological parents;
- 1 out of 30 are homeless;
- 6 out of 30 are victims of abuse;
- Many of the kids are suffering the equivalent of PTSD.

College Mentors helps many find confidence in themselves and hope in their future. Sometimes it just helps. We believe that every child deserves a bright future, so we want to serve more kids. That means helping our current chapters to grow and serve more kids, and expanding our footprint nationally. We want to do both, and we would love to have the support of current Sigma Pi undergraduate students and alumni. The little buddies we serve need college mentors, and we need your support to get there.

In our efforts to double our service numbers by 2020, we are working on a cluster or hub approach, which we believe will lead to the best quality and efficiency

outcomes. For the next two years, we are especially targeting expansion from the hubs we have established in New York, the Mid-Atlantic, the Southeast, and the Midwest. We also have strong chapters starting in Arizona in the spring, and we are looking at anchor hubs that make sense in the Plains and west.

Have any students from CM programs attended or graduated college yet?

We are working to get better data to answer this question. Right now, our lasting impact survey suggests that 76 percent of the students we served went on to post-secondary education. We don't have data yet for how many of our students eventually graduate with an associate's or bachelor's degree, but we are working on that.

Who are some of CM's partners?

College Mentors works actively to build partnerships so that students will have what we call a continuum of service that follows them through high school graduation. Those partnerships vary by location, but key partners in many places include Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and Starfish. We also partner with groups that serve a related mission and have a high interest in attracting our graduates, like Teach for America and AmeriCorps.



Chris Zollner '16 with his little buddy.

Does CM offer college internships?

We do! Every summer we hire college students to work at the national office on high impact projects. We are also piloting graduate internships as a way to help launch successful new chapters more quickly. The early results are very encouraging. Anyone who is interested in our internships is welcome to email me directly at [drintle@collegementors.org](mailto:drinkle@collegementors.org). The summer internship deadline for applications has not yet been set, but will likely be in April.

How can our alumni help?

Thank you for asking. The need for College Mentors is so great that we cannot possibly grow as fast as the kids we serve need us to. The Sigma Pi alumni can help us close the gap in three ways. First, we need your help connecting to Sigma PIs at new campuses to help us establish new chapters of College Mentors for Kids. We have

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TRINKLE

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learned from Cornell that Sigma Pis who are interested in being the initial site leaders who help to secure start-up funds equals great success.

Second, we need your financial support to help the Cornell chapter grow and to help establish new chapters of College Mentors for Kids. This year in America, 30 percent of children will have no positive role model and only 4 percent will participate in a formal mentoring program. We need to change that

number with programs that have evidence of lasting impact, like College Mentors.

Finally, we would love to have alumni serve on advisory boards and other committees when they live near our chapters.

Any closing thoughts?

Back in October, the Cornell chapter of College Mentors had a great activity supported by the Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility (SPIF), where kids learned about space and made their own planets! One of the little buddies said to his mentor that it was so neat to think we might not be alone

in the universe. Framed differently, this is what College Mentors is all about – making sure no child is alone in the universe, making sure they know they can create a planet or an amazing future. When these kids get the chance to visit a college campus and do activities like this, their worlds and visions of the future are transformed. College Mentors for Kids' board and national staff are deeply grateful to the undergraduate students and alumni of Sigma Pi. Thank you for helping us to change the world by changing the world of a child. §

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES UPDATE

By David DellaPelle '17



I began the semester skeptical about the impact that the **Dick Cahoon '77 Tech Center** would have on the Sigma Pi brotherhood. After all, as students in 2016 we all have videoconferencing capabilities on our

individual computers and cell phones. There was already a 60-inch television in the East Lounge that could serve the same purpose if a computer's HDMI cable was plugged into it. I applied to be the Tech Center manager thinking that I would manage to get just a few speaker sessions on the calendar, supplementing the **Career Development and Mentoring Committee's** efforts to connect undergraduate brothers to successful alumni.

I couldn't have been more wrong about the effect this beautiful piece of furniture and technology has had on the brothers of Sigma Pi, both undergraduates and alumni. **Yordi Goshu '18** (running the technical side), **Rob Novo '81**, **Tom Silver '81**, **Mike Vernick '83**, and I laid the groundwork for the **Sigma Pi Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series**, which has been a resounding success. The physical implementation and placement of the tech center, located in the beautiful Memorial Library, as well as the creation of my internship, has allowed the brotherhood to utilize Dick Cahoon's ('77) generous gift to its fullest potential.

We inaugurated the series with **Andrew Sorkin '99** in September. Sorkin spoke to us about his career as a Gerald Leob Award-winning journalist and author. He is a *New York Times* financial columnist and founded and edits Dealbook. He also serves as a co-anchor of CNBC's "Squawk Box" and wrote the best-selling book "Too Big to Fail" (2009), which was adapted into an HBO movie in 2011.

In October, we had sessions with **Kevin Kruse '79** and **Tom Marino CU'78**. Kevin spoke to all of the "hotelies" as well as many



other brothers about his career in franchise development. Kevin is currently the chief development officer for Hurricane Wings. Tom spoke about his career at Barclays, and at least two brothers will be working there this summer.

We had the opportunity to speak with **Owen McCarron '80**, **Steve Ryan '77**, and **Joe Dervay '80** in November. Owen first worked as a structural engineer at Boeing. He had a change of heart and decided to attend medical school later in his career, and now runs a successful OB-GYN practice in

Iowa. His unique career path appealed to both engineers and pre-med brothers. Steve works as an influential government strategy lawyer in Washington, D.C. Many brothers compared his job to the role of Remy Danton in "House of Cards." Joe came prepared with a presentation full of pictures of his time as a surgeon with the Navy and the Marines. Now the lead of the medical group for NASA, Joe spoke to us in-depth about leadership and strategy. We rounded out the semester in December with a call with **Alex Deyle '06**, a manager at IMS Consulting working with biotech companies.

In its first semester, the **Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series** has helped connect undergraduates to alumni in all different industries and has been a strong complement to the other career and mentorship initiatives. I can confidently say that no other fraternity at Cornell even comes close to Sigma Pi in terms of tapping into the networking potential of its alumni.

Mark Luzzi '16 is taking over the internship while I am abroad in spring 2016. If you are interested in being a speaker, please email Mark at mtl89@cornell.edu.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORING COMMITTEE EXPANDS EFFORTS

By Tom Silver '81 and Rob Novo '79

The Career Development and Mentoring Committee had a busy fall semester and hopes to expand further as we approach the spring. Fall highlights include the successful launch of the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series, significant growth and participation in the alumni mentoring program, and completion of the 11th Annual Career Event in New York City.

The Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series kicked off in September and featured **Andrew Sorkin '99**, whose online presence filled the Dick Cahoon Tech Center with 30 brothers eager



Andrew Sorkin '99

to hear his career history and advice as they considered their career progression. The series continued throughout the fall, and included Kevin Kruse '79, Joe Dervay '80, Owen McCarron '80, Tom Marino CU'78, Steve Ryan '77, and Alex Deyle '06, who shared their experiences from a wide range of industries.

We were happy to see growth and enthusiasm in the alumni mentoring program. Many thanks to the 24 alumni who have been matched with undergrads of various years and majors to help them learn more about their careers and how to get started. The program got off the ground in November, and many successful contacts and connections have occurred and will continue into the spring.

The 11th Annual Career Event, hosted by **Jarett Wait '80**, took place November 5 and 6 in New York City. The event kicked off with dinner at Orsay and was attended by 24 alumni and brothers. The tables were arranged to allow for smaller, more intimate discussions, and the brothers rotated between each table throughout the night to meet with all the alums. The dinner helped set the stage for onsite alumni meetings the following day, hosted by alums at Industrial Renaissance, Goldman Sachs,



Ian Harris '16 and Jarett Wait '80 at Andrew Sorkin's ('99) conference.

American Flat, Accenture, First New York, Credit Suisse, and Lazard.

We appreciate the help and support from all alumni and welcome any advice or suggestions to keep the program growing.

Please contact **Rob Novo** at robn1979@gmail.com or **Tom Silver** at tsilver10359@yahoo.com if you would like to learn more.



Mark Childs '88 and Steven Siegel '17.

SIGMA PI PARTICIPATES IN FIVE-WEEK GREEK LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

By Connor Riser '16

Sigma Pi was excited to participate in Cornell Outdoor Education's Greek Leadership Academy for the third year in a row this fall. The Greek Leadership Academy is an academic class – offered by Cornell in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences – that serves as a way for leaders of the Greek system to better hone their leadership skills.

During the five-week course, students meet once a week for three hours in the evening. The class allows participants to gain valuable knowledge and develop relationships with other leaders in Cornell's Greek system.

Fifty percent of the cost of the course is covered by Cornell University, while the other 50 percent – \$200 – is covered by the individual chapter. Luckily, members of Mu Chapter can thank

the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation for sponsoring undergraduates in this extremely important course.

Brothers who participate bring back tangible skills, which help enhance the entire chapter's experience.

This year Brother **Patrick Wang '18** was Sigma Pi's representative in the course. Patrick had an awesome time and was able to better himself as a leader – he was recently elected academic chair for the upcoming spring semester.

Past Sigma Pi graduates of the Greek Leadership Academy include current Interfraternity Council President **Connor Riser '16**, undergraduate **Sage Fernando Cevallos '17**, and undergraduate Treasurer **Andrew Walsh '17**.

TAKE NOTE

Foundation Continues its Funding of Online Subscription

By Turkel Anwar '15

The Foundation continued its funding of a group TakeNote software subscription this fall semester. TakeNote, a subsidiary of Student Agencies Inc., is a student-run organization that has provided high-quality supplemental lecture notes for Cornell undergraduates since 1985.

TakeNote Online allows students to access their notes 24/7 from a computer, iPad, iPhone, or tablet. The online service enables students to highlight text and leave comments on the page, as well as create their own notecards and study guides.

The group subscription gives every brother unlimited access for up to three courses. The Foundation hopes that this investment will continue to help move the overall GPA of the brotherhood in a positive direction.

SIGMA PI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



AARON KLEIN '12
President & Treasurer

"I am proud to be part of the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Educational Foundation because it not only helps support the academic pursuits of the brothers, but also provides opportunities to make them more well-rounded men. Through initiatives such as College Mentors, a Skype speaker series made possible by the Dick Cahoon Tech Center, and the funding of leadership conferences, the Foundation has enhanced and transformed the fraternity experience of Pi men."

Aaron graduated in 2012 with a degree in industrial and labor relations, and earned his MBA from Cornell's Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management in 2014. He is pursuing a career in sports management, interning with the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Bisons, and serves as the director of football operations at his alma mater.

In this role, Aaron oversees business operations for the Cornell football program, including managing the team's websites and social media accounts, and handling logistics for team travel and events. He joined the Educational Foundation Executive Board as treasurer in 2012, and was elected president in 2014.



TOM GARR '76

"Sigma Pi Mu Chapter played a very important role in my life. Being involved with the Sigma Pi Educational Foundation affords me an opportunity to give something back in the tradition of those who came before me, and who helped shape me and get me to where I am today. It is an honor to serve and pass the torch."

Tom is a seasoned Wall Street veteran and entrepreneur. He had an extremely successful Wall Street career with two major firms spanning over 15 years. As a senior institutional salesman, Tom personally raised well over \$1 billion in equity capital for hundreds of companies, both large and small. For the next 15 years Tom founded and ran a highly successful investment management business, which peaked at \$4 billion in assets.

He is a strong leader with a proven ability to set objectives, manage risk, tackle large challenges, make strategic decisions, and manage a team of professionals to achieve short- and long-term goals. Tom's passion is working with small businesses, helping them capture their share of the American Dream. He has consulted with a wide range of small- and early-stage businesses in his career in a variety of industries, focusing on sales, marketing, operations, and financial management. A frequent speaker, Tom is very effective, whether in front of large groups or small gatherings. Tom brings a practical, down-to-earth, no-nonsense approach to getting things done the right way, helping businesses maximize success and achieve their goals.

Tom holds a bachelor's degree in industrial and labor relations from Cornell University and an MBA in finance from the University of Dallas, Graduate School of Management. He is very active in community affairs. Tom sits on the board of trustees and finance committee of the Shepherd Center Foundation in Atlanta. He is a Corporate Governance Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors, and has numerous charitable interests and affiliations through the Thomas and Darlene Garr Charitable Trust.



SEAN MACGREGOR '07
Vice President & Secretary

"I've been fortunate to be involved as a director of the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation as it allows me to work with the undergraduate brothers and Cornell community. The Foundation provides the undergraduates with opportunities to lead others through the College Mentors program. In addition, the Foundation provides programs through which the undergraduates can learn from alumni career experiences."

Sean MacGregor is an associate in the investment banking department of Credit Suisse AG focusing on leveraged loan transactions. Previously, he was an associate in the Financial Institutions Group of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, focusing on mergers and acquisitions. He is a 2007 graduate of the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations and Duke University School of Law class of 2010. Sean was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2011. He assisted nonprofit organizations in obtaining tax-exempt status during his time at Skadden.



G. BERT HARROP '61

"I'm grateful to Cornell and Sigma Pi for introducing me to a whole new world, and Val and I chose to make a large gift to the Educational Foundation as a way to pay back what the house and my brothers did for me."

Bert received his Bachelor of Science degree in hotel administration from Cornell University. Throughout his extensive business career, Bert invested in a diverse range of businesses including accounting, internal auditing, real estate, oil and gas, jewelry manufacturing/retail, antenna construction and design for the cellular telephone industry, and automatic teller machines. Bert was previously CEO of Harrop Construction Company Inc., and a member of the board of directors of Sterling Bank. He has also been a member of the Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., the Professional Advisory Development Board for Texas A&M University, and is a founding director of the Val Harrop Foundation.



JAMES KEENE '57

"I believe in Sigma Pi. It was the crucible in which I developed as an adult. It is important that Sigma Pi (and organizations like it) continue to flourish to give young men a special opportunity to develop as responsible members of society — personal involvement and financial support are ways of passing on the gift I was given to those who are now active, and those to come in the future."

Jim served for 32 years with Peter Klewit Sons Inc., a global construction company. He was the manager of the industrial division, president of several subsidiaries, and a member of the board of directors. He organized and continues to manage Humboldt Specialty Manufacturing Company, an active design and manufacturing company for diverse industries.

Jim is a longtime member of the Cornell University Council. He is a member of the task force that has evolved the current policy and Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. Previously, Jim served as a member of the advisory board of the Johnson Museum of Art. Jim has served as the president of Sigma Pi at Cornell for more than 21 years, and was honored for his service at a special dinner in 2012.



KURT RASMUSSEN '80

"Sigma Pi fraternity played, and continues to play, an important role in my life. Working with the Educational Foundation allows me to give back to the fraternity by providing additional educational and philanthropic opportunities for the brothers. I believe these opportunities will positively influence the undergraduates throughout their lives and, in some small way, make the world a better place."

After graduating from Cornell in 1980, Kurt received a PhD in neuroscience and psychology from Princeton University in 1985. He served as a post-doctoral associate in the psychiatry department at Yale University School of Medicine from 1985 to 1989. He is currently leading efforts at Eli Lilly & Company in Indianapolis, where he is a research scientist, to develop novel treatments for psychiatric disorders such as depression and schizophrenia. He serves as vice president of the Mu Chapter Alumni Board of Directors, and helped bring College Mentors for Kids to Sigma Pi and the Cornell campus.



TOM SILVER '81 New to the Foundation board

"My alumni involvement with Sigma Pi began with helping to craft a program supporting the undergraduates through mentorship and career development. Being involved with the Foundation is a logical extension of that work. I find it deeply gratifying helping Pi men in their efforts to give back to the community, as well as develop skills and knowledge for their professional lives after they graduate."

Tom graduated from Cornell and went on to earn an MBA in marketing from NYU. His career in general management includes five years at Unilever, 10 years at American Express, and 12 years as part of the executive committee at Dice Holdings, an online recruiting site for technology professionals. Tom currently serves as a board member and advisor for RallyBus, a start-up crowd-powered event travel company, and also sits on the board of the Cancer Research & Treatment Fund, a nonprofit organization focused on fundraising to advance the treatment of various types of blood cancers.



SANDY TRUE '78

"The Greek system not only provides a safety net for students as they transition through their time at Cornell, but it extends into their future with mentoring and guidance through their future career paths — a fact that the Sigma Pi Mu Chapter Educational Foundation has supported in so many ways. I have been so impressed by the level of commitment and engagement by the

Sigma Pi brotherhood, which has taken the lead in bringing College Mentors for Kids to Cornell University. The brothers are learning life skills that will be useful to them moving forward. I look forward to working with the Mu brothers and the community as we continue to make a difference in the lives of at-risk children in the Ithaca community."

Sandy earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University in 1978, and was Sigma Pi Sweetheart. She earned her RN, FNP, and Master of Science degrees from Pace University in 1981, and her PhD in nursing administration from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1993. She has spent the last 25 years as a volunteer for nonprofit agencies in Ithaca in the areas of fundraising, event planning, major gift program development, and capital campaigns. Sandy has spent the last three years assisting Sigma Pi alum Kurt Rasmussen and the current Sigma Pi Executive Board in bringing the College Mentors for Kids program to Cornell University. Sandy currently serves as the liaison between the Ithaca City School District, Caroline Elementary School, College Mentors for Kids National, and Sigma Pi. In 2015, the Cornell Fraternity and Sorority Awards selected her as the recipient for the Distinguished Alumni Service Award for her work with the College Mentors program.



JARETT WAIT '80

"My involvement as a director of the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation gives me an opportunity to work with the undergraduate brothers directly with respect to engaging the greater Cornell community. There are also meaningful opportunities for mentorship. The Foundation, through its newly launched internship program, creates experiences for the students to prepare them to be contributing members of their communities post-graduation."

Jarett is the managing principal of JF Wait Advisors, an advisory consulting firm in New York City. Prior to this, Jarett was a managing director and member of the executive committee of Fortress Investment Group LLC, where he also served as the global head of the Capital Formation Group. He spent 27 years at Lehman Brothers in various senior executive roles, many of which were located overseas in London, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. Currently, Jarett lives in New York City with his wife Younghee and their two children. He is an advisory board member to the Center on Law and Security at NYU School of Law, member of the board of trustees of Workforce Opportunity Services, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and on the board of trustees for the United States Ski and Snowboard Team Foundation. Additionally, Jarett is a board member for CityLax Inc.

Jarett is president of the alumni board of Mu Chapter and has been a member of the Cornell University Council, and the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Council in 2003. He is also a member of the Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council and the Cornell Athletic Advisory Board. He is an active supporter of both Cornell men's and women's lacrosse teams, and the men's ice hockey program.

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
106 North Castle Heights Ave., Lebanon, TN 37087

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

MID-YEAR GIVING SNAPSHOT

July 31, 2015–December 31, 2015

Total Raised: \$17,000 • Total Donors: 22

Thanks to our donors...

SIGMA PI CORNELL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

The Foundation would like to recognize the following supporters for their generous contributions.

This honor roll represents those who have donated from July 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015.

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3109 N. Triphammer Road
Lansing, NY 14882
(607) 533-9200
Elevateims.com

alumnirecords@sigmapicornell.org

Sciarabba Walker & Co. LLC

Certified Public Accountants
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HONOR A DECEASED BROTHER WITH A MEMORIAL GIFT TO THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Honor a deceased brother through a tax-deductible \$5,300 gift to the Mu Chapter Educational Foundation in his memory. Most of the memorial plaques have been funded by groups of alumni.

The two most recent plaques were erected to the memory of **Dave LeFevé '60** and **Alexander Holiat '06**. Both were funded by solicitations to large groups

of brothers, who responded with varying donations that totaled the required \$5,300 (\$5,000 gift and \$300 for the plaque). In each case, a brother stepped forward to lead the drive to raise the money.

Please visit the Educational Foundation's website to learn more about making a memorial gift at muisigmapifoundation.com.