



SIGMA ALPHA MU FRATERNITY

THE OCTAGONIAN



BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION

"We are architects of legacy and through programs like this we continue to foster and maintain our values for generations to come." - Sam Dutton, Pg. 14

FEBRUARY 2026

DATA DRIVEN APPROACH TO BROTHERHOOD

Written by



BENJI BEARMAN



(University of Minnesota, '97) Supreme Prior

This summer, the Octagon invested in a Brotherhood Assessment for our undergraduate members. More than half of our members shared their views and thoughts about Sigma Alpha Mu and their experience in the Fraternity. The survey was conducted last fall by Dyad Strategies, which administers surveys to a number of other Greek letter organizations across North America. For the first time in recent history, we have more than just anecdotal evidence about the fraternal experience; we now have clear, comparable data about what life in the chapter is really like today.

What we learned from the data

Our members are proud to be Sammys and they are having a positive experience. Undergraduates across North America answered the same questions on consistent scales, and we can see how chapters are doing in areas like brotherhood, academics, leadership development, and risk management. Instead of relying just on campus visits or coaching conversations, we have side-by-side chapter results that highlight both bright spots and opportunities, within Sigma Alpha Mu and relative to other organizations on campus. Researchers identified that brotherhood is strong in ΣAM. The sense of belonging in our brotherhood is significantly higher than the national benchmark. It is great to know our members feel a deep sense of connection within their chapters. Relative to other groups in the national benchmark, ΣAM members have healthier scores on self-reported alcohol use, hazing tolerance, and hazing motivation.

How this will guide planning

With quantitative data, we will prioritize initiatives based on need, not hunches. If we see, for example, that leadership development scores are strong but academic support or alumni engagement lag behind in a chapter, we can direct staff time, training, and resources to the areas where they will move the needle the most. Because we plan to repeat these surveys over the next number of years, we'll also be able to track whether new programs and initiatives actually improve the experience over time.

Why this matters to alumni

For alumni, this survey is a window into the current undergraduate experience grounded in data, not just nostalgia or stories. The results will help us design support, mentoring, and giving opportunities that match what undergraduates on campus say they need right now, from professional development to chapter advising. In short, the survey turns countless undergraduate voices into a roadmap that will shape how the fraternity grows, adapts, and stays true to its values in the years ahead.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be sharing this data widely. We want our undergraduates and alumni alike to see the landscape and the opportunities for growth and success in our chapters. Stay tuned to see when you will be able to join in a conversation about the Fraternity and its future.

Faternally,

Benji Bearman
Supreme Prior

**On The Cover*
Students and leaders attending the 2026 Chapter Leaders Day program in Philadelphia



THE OCTAGONIAN

Fraternity
Foundation
Comprehensive Chapter Listing
ΣAM National Properties Board Listing
Address
Phone

sam.org
sam-fdn.org
sam.org/chapter-roll
sam.org/staff
8701 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268
(317) 789-8338

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Consul: Douglas G. Montgomery (Kyle, TX)
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SIGMA ZETA – Indiana
SIGMA ETA – Purdue
SIGMA THETA – Texas
SIGMA IOTA – Michigan
SIGMA OMICRON – Nebraska
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SIGMA OMEGA – North Carolina State
MU ETA – Drexel
MU THETA – USC
MU PI – Colorado
MU CHI – Michigan State
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BETA IOTA – Wisconsin
BETA PSI – Virginia
BETA OMEGA – Kentucky Wesleyan
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GAMMA KAPPA – Texas A&M
GAMMA RHO – UC-San Diego
GAMMA TAU – Florida
GAMMA PHI – Arizona State
GAMMA CHI – Brandeis
GAMMA PSI – Temple
DELTA BETA – American
DELTA ZETA – Florida International
DELTA PI – Ottawa
DELTA OMEGA – RIT
EPSILON ALPHA – Stephen F. Austin
EPSILON GAMMA – Illinois State
EPSILON DELTA – Johnson & Wales
EPSILON EPSILON – SUNY-Geneseo
EPSILON NU – Connecticut
EPSILON XI – Emory
EPSILON PI – Rhode Island

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GAMMA SIGMA - Binghamton
SIGMA DELTA - Rutgers
KAPPA XI KAPPA - New Jersey Institute of Technology

INTEREST GROUPS

NU - Buffalo
GAMMA PI - Albany
SIGMA PHI - Bucknell

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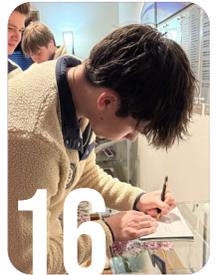
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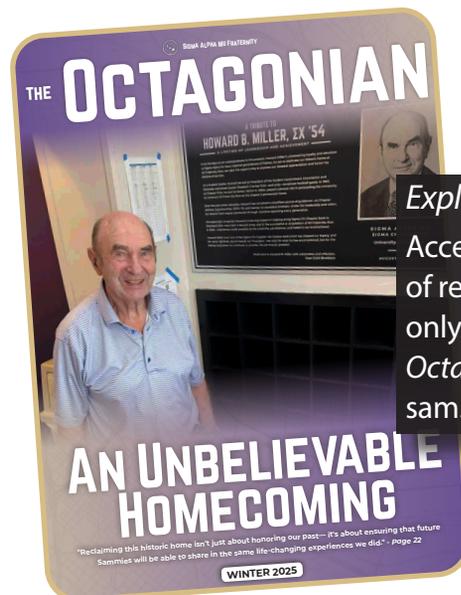
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Explore recent issues!

Access the archive of recent digital-only issues of *The Octagonian* online at sam.org/octagonian

SAVE THE DATE

July 23-26, 2026

Tarrytown, New York

Join us July 25th for the Purple Tie Banquet

William P. Schwartz Distinguished Service Award

Dennis Paese (Beta, '70)

Certificate of Merit

Bob Weiss (Sigma Alpha, '75)

Robert Fagenson (Eta, '67)

Founders Cup Presentation

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WESTCHESTER MARRIOTT

2025-26 OCTAGON CONSULS

Consul

DOUG MONTGOMERY



(Texas A&M, '05)

Doug was initiated into Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity in 2005 by the Gamma Kappa Chapter at Texas A&M University. During his undergraduate years, he served as Prior of the chapter, demonstrating strong leadership and commitment to the values of the fraternity. As the first non-Jewish Prior of Gamma Kappa after re-chartering, he saw the strength in the Chapter's Jewish roots. Doug went to great lengths to not only preserve the Chapter's Jewish heritage, but he enhanced ties with both Chabad and Hillel.

Following graduation, Doug pursued a legal education at Texas Tech University School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor in 2012. He currently practices law in Texas with a focus on municipal, probate, and guardianship matters, where he advocates for his clients with professionalism and integrity.

In addition to his legal career, Doug expanded his expertise in public service by earning a Master of Public Administration from Texas State University in 2019, further strengthening his ability to navigate complex issues at the intersection of law and governance.

Doug's dedication to leadership and service began early in life, when he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America — a distinction that reflects his lifelong commitment to serving his community. Through his fraternity leadership, professional accomplishments, and civic engagement, Doug brings a wealth of experience and a deep dedication to Sigma Alpha Mu's mission.

Members of the 2025-2026 Octagon's Supreme Council were highlighted in the last issue of *The OCTAGONIAN*. These four Consuls complete the composition of the board.

Consul

DAVID SACKLER



(Syracuse University, '84)

David Sackler became a member of Sigma Alpha Mu in 1984 at Syracuse (Eta Chapter). He graduated with a BS in Marketing.

David has been a Principal, Senior and C Level Executive and strategist with nearly 30 years of leadership in the nutritional supplement, natural products, and consumer goods industries. His expertise spans all major product categories (powders, capsules, tablets, ready-to-drink, gummies, bars, and functional snacks) and distribution channels including Amazon, TikTok Shop, direct-to-consumer, and brick-and-mortar retail in both natural and FDM environments.

David's career spans every stage of the business lifecycle, from early-stage ideation and brand building to public company and private equity-backed scale and exit. He has developed and maintained long-standing relationships throughout the nutrition and wellness industries, including Fortune 500 companies, innovative startups that include many of today's leading DTC, Amazon, and TikTok-native companies, legacy brands, global supply chain partners, and contract manufacturers. Most recently, from 2020 to 2025, he served as Chief Executive Officer of SDC Nutrition Inc., a nutritional supplement manufacturing company, leading a full operational turnaround that culminated in a successful private equity sale.

Some notable roles that David has held include:
ΣAM Chapter Advisor for Tau Chapter (University of Alabama) 2016-2023
Advisor of the Year 2022
Advisor of the Year 2019
Advisor of the Year (Honorable Mention) 2018
ΣAM Octagon Consul 2023 - Present

Currently resides in Scottsdale, AZ. Married for 29 years to Tracy Sackler. 2 Children: Caleb Sackler, 27 yrs old (University of Alabama/ΣAM Tau '16), Shayna Sackler, 21 yrs old (University of Arizona/Sigma Kappa Sorority '22)

Consul & Immediate Past Supreme Prior

DAVE KLEPPEL



(Washington University, '82)

BS Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, MS Electrical Engineering. David was Phi Chapter's House Manager for three years. He served two years as Vice President of the Washington University Interfraternity Council. He has served on several Octagon committees and also as Regional Governor of the Midwest Province for over six years. He was elected Consul of the Octagon in 2014. When Fra Kleppel graduated, he did so with two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree in engineering. His first employer was AT&T Bell Labs. David is now Managing Partner of Eighty-Two Plus, a globally-deployed Business Intelligence, and Predictive Analytics consultancy. David travels extensively, but when not on the road, he is based in Columbus, OH. He and his wife Andrea have three children, Ben, Hilary, and Jamie.

Young Alumnus Consul

ZACKARY NEWMAN



(University of West Florida, '16)

Zackary became a member of Sigma Alpha Mu in 2016 at The University of West Florida (UWF), Delta Eta Chapter. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Studies and served as Social Chair, Brotherhood Chairs, Candidate Educator, as a member of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee, and served as Karchmer Intern.

Zackary currently works at his Alma Mater in the Office of University Admissions as the Coordinator of Orientation. In this capacity Zackary works to welcome in thousands of new students and their families as they transition to becoming students at UWF. Before returning to UWF, Zackary previously served as an Educational Leadership Consultant at Sigma Alpha Mu Headquarters.

In addition to his role on the Octagon, Zackary also serves on the Chapter Leaders Day (CLD) Committee helping to plan and develop the program each year.

NEWEST ADDITIONS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment Fund Trustee

MITCH MANDERS

(Miami University, '04)

Mitch graduated from Miami University (Mu Psi 2004) with both a Bachelor's and Master's in Accounting, starting his career as an auditor at Deloitte in Indianapolis. That's where he met his wife, Denise, before eventually moving into a CFO role for a global private company. In 2022, he and Denise changed careers and bought The Goddard School franchise their own kids attended.

Mitch's connection to the Mu Psi chapter goes back a long way; his father and brother both are Mu Psi alumni as well. Mitch has been on the Housing Corporation board since 2009. He lives in Carmel, IN with Denise and their three children—Evan (10), Noah (8), and Layla (5). When he isn't working or volunteering for the fraternity, he's usually busy coaching his son's basketball team, cooking for family and friends or catching a Pacers game.



Endowment Fund Trustee

RUSS ZUKOWSKI

(Syracuse University, '82)

Russ Zukowski became a brother at Syracuse University-Eta in 1982 where he earned his B.S. in Finance with a minor in Policy Studies. After a period of time living in and traveling around South America, Russ attended Emory University where he earned his MBA. He spent 35 years working in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, strategy and communications in publicly-held and private equity sponsored companies, as well as in client services with PricewaterhouseCoopers. During his career he was heavily active with Junior Achievement in Atlanta.

Russ lives in the metro-Atlanta area with his wife of nearly 30 years (Suzanne) and has 2 adult sons who recently graduated from college.



SOUTH FLORIDA IS BACK AND JUST GETTING STARTED!

Written by

Neil Rosenblum

(Tulane, '87)

Reigniting the South Florida ΣAM Alumni Brotherhood Through Local Fellowship

Our brotherhood doesn't end at graduation—it evolves. And in South Florida, that evolution is officially underway.

We're excited to share that the South Florida ΣAM Alumni Club has been restarted, and the energy is real. Brothers from different eras, professions, and chapters are reconnecting—proving that the bond forged in college still matters today.

What makes this even more powerful is the size of our community. There are more than 2,000 ΣAM alumni living in the tri-county South Florida area. That's not just a statistic—it's an incredible opportunity to build something vibrant, active, and lasting.

Kicking Things Off in Style

Our return began last summer with a curated scotch tasting at Parkland Golf & Country Club, setting the tone for what this alumni club represents: great company, meaningful conversation, and shared experiences. Over 30 brothers gathered in a relaxed, upscale setting, swapping stories making new friends or rekindling friendships that picked up as if no time had passed.

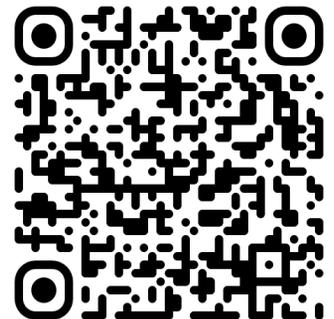
Momentum carried straight into our next event—an unforgettable evening Miami including dinner and a Miami Heat basketball game enjoyed from a private skybox. From the opening tip off to the final buzzer, the night was filled with fun and the unmistakable feeling of brotherhood that only comes from being together.

Restarting the South Florida ΣAM Alumni Club isn't about nostalgia to me—it's about connection. My goal is to keep our brotherhood alive with great social events, no dues or bylaws just fun while supporting each other professionally, and strengthen our brotherhood.

This Is Just the Beginning

With the club officially restarted last summer and strong early participation, we're only scratching the surface of what's possible. South Florida offers endless opportunities for memorable events. If you've been meaning to get involved, now is the time. Show up. Bring a brother. Be part of the momentum.

Keep up with chapter events by joining our club's Facebook and/or LinkedIn groups to stay up to date on upcoming events and help spread the word to any ΣAM brothers in the tri-county area.



Scan the QR code above to join the SFL Alumni Club Facebook Page, or find us on facebook by searching: Sigma Alpha Mu - SFL Alumni

Your Subscription to *The Octagonian*

We want to make sure you never miss an issue of *The Octagonian*—and that we can keep you informed about all the exciting things happening in Sigma Alpha Mu.

Publication Schedule

Sigma Alpha Mu will print and mail the November issue each year. Digital only versions will be emailed and available online for February, May, and August issues.

Update Your Contact Information

Please take a moment to sign in to portal.sam.org and update your contact information.

Here's **why** it matters:

Email on file? You'll receive *The Octagonian* quarterly, delivered straight to your inbox

Prefer mail? Opt-in to receive the printed and mailed November issue

Stay in the loop with news, events, and opportunities to connect with fellow alumni

Updating your information takes just a few minutes and ensures you remain part of our vibrant alumni network.

Visit portal.sam.org now to get started.

Can you help? Consider making a non-tax deductible gift directly to the Fraternity to support programs and services like *The Octagonian* and other initiatives that strengthen our brotherhood at sam.org/bridge.

Thank you for staying connected!

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CALLING ALL MU PHI ALUMNI!

Join us in Palm Beach Gardens, FL for a reunion!

When: Weekend of April 24th, with dinner on Saturday, April 25th, 2026

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center
4431 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Cost Accommodations:

For out-of-towners wishing to stay overnight and/or extend your stay, they will charge their special Mu Phi rate of \$180 nightly. This price will be honored from April 22--26 at the same rate. Group Code Savings will generate automatically.

Please register at:

<https://group.doubletree.com/qwydxxz>

Also be sure to notify Fra John Khani by emailing him at MuPhiReunion@yahoo.com

Dinner: Held at the hotel's private Executive Dining Room on Saturday, April 25th from 5-9pm with cocktail hour from 5-6pm. Dinner begins at 6pm.

Cost:

All Inclusive \$188 per person. Deadline to pay is March 25th

Payable by Zelle:
MuPhiReunion@yahoo.com

Payable by check to **MuPhiReunion**
Mail Check to **J. Khani**
80-01 Langdale Street
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

SAVE THE DATE SIGMA OMICRON

The Sigma Omicron Chapter - University of Nebraska - Lincoln is glad to announce their Centennial Celebration will be held November 6-8, 2026. More details are to follow soon, so stay tuned!

The Fall 2026 Octagon Meeting will be held in conjunction with this event.

ALUMNI EVENTS

The following chapter or regional alumni events have been reported for publication in *The Octagonian*. Please share your reunions and alumni events and photographs with us at <https://sam.org/alumni/updates>

- TriState Alumni Club Member March Madness Happy Hour - March 18 - At The Liberty 29 W 35th St. 6pm - 9pm.
- Octagon Meeting - March 26-29, 2026 - Detroit / Ann Arbor, MI
- Detroit Area Sammy Happy Hour - March 28 - 5-630pm - Birmingham, MI
- Mu Phi Reunion- April 25th
- Gamma Rho (UCSD) 40th Anniversary - May 2 - San Diego, CA

Upcoming Conventions - more information coming soon as sam.org/convention

- Convention 2026 - July 23-26, 2026 - Tarrytown, New York
- Convention 2027 - July 22-25, 2027 - Skokie, Illinois

SHARE YOUR UPDATE

Submit your updates, accomplishments, or stories for the "Have You Heard?" segment of The Octagonian or our digital "Frat In Focus" series on social media. Whether it's career milestones, chapter events, or personal achievements, we'd love to spotlight your accomplishments and keep the fraternity connected. Send us your news today!

Visit sam.org/heard to submit your story.



Sigma Alpha Mu is posting regularly on social media. We encourage you to find us, friend us, and follow us.



Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation Winter 2026 Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

Pictured:

Front, left to right:

Andy Huston, Lee Garrett, Ronald Katch, Bob Weiss, Roy Neulicht, John Paine

Back, left to right:

Aaron Girson, Ryan Robertson, Larry Leib, Nate Locklin, Steve Kahn, Bud Wittles, Marc Perlstein, David Rice, Andrew Paley, Richie Williamson, Bruce Harris, Nelson France, Offer Korin, Robert Fagenson, Benji Bearman, David Sergi

SAM is Building Momentum and Growth

Written by

Andy Huston

(Minnesota, '01), Executive Director



Sigma Alpha Mu is growing. Coming out of the membership challenges brought on by COVID-19, chapters across the fraternity are recruiting with renewed energy and better tools than ever before. Fourteen chapters have already reported year-over-year membership increases, and more results from the spring are still coming in.

That growth doesn't happen by accident. The international fraternity has made a deliberate investment in giving every chapter the resources they need to recruit smarter and more effectively. Updated summer and winter recruitment playbooks have been distributed to all chapters, providing a consistent framework for outreach, marketing, and identifying prospective members. These aren't generic templates — they reflect the best practices drawn from chapters that are actually getting results that can be tailored and customized.

Every undergraduate member and advisor also has free access to the PhiredUp Certified Recruiter Training Program, one of the most respected recruitment development tools in the Greek world. That training is designed to work hand-in-hand with ChapterBuilder, a recruitment CRM platform provided to all chapters at no additional cost through the international fraternity's subscription. Together, these tools give chapters a professional-grade system for managing their entire recruitment pipeline from first contact to initiation. Today's recruitment chairmen have the tools and resources to operate like a corporate Chief Revenue Officer.

Sigma Alpha Mu is focused on growing the health of our chapters and expanding our active chapter roll. This year we have been working closely with students on several campuses who are interested in rebuilding dormant chapters, including Nu (Buffalo), Gamma Pi (Albany), Sigma Phi (Bucknell), and Beta Pi (Northwestern). If you know students or alumni who would like to be connected with efforts on these campuses, please connect with us at expansion@sam.org.



Staff and alumni present for the expansion presentation with Stony Brook administrators

Growth is one of the clearest measures of a chapter's health and vitality. When chapters grow, they grow stronger — more voices, more talent, more brotherhood.

Breaking Through: How Alumni Influence is Opening Doors for Expansion

Earlier this month, something worth celebrating happened at Stony Brook University. After eighteen months of patient relationship-building, with Joe Weinholtz (Delta Theta, '91) playing a pivotal role in conversations with university administrators, Sigma Alpha Mu was invited to make a formal expansion presentation on campus. Delta Theta and TriState area alumni showed up in force alongside fraternity staff for the presentation, and the administrators took note. That kind of visible, organized local support matters. As a result, we expect to have a return date for expansion at Stony Brook scheduled in the coming months, and it would not have happened without alumni who cared enough to make their voices heard.

This is how expansion works. It is rarely fast, and it is rarely automatic - even when we have an established return agreement following a chapter closure. Returning to Michigan took more than eight years of sustained effort and advocacy with the administration. Some universities flatly say they are closed to fraternity expansion. Our

goal is make sure the university is aware of our intentions, stay engaged, and secure a future return date we can plan toward. Eventually, we break through.

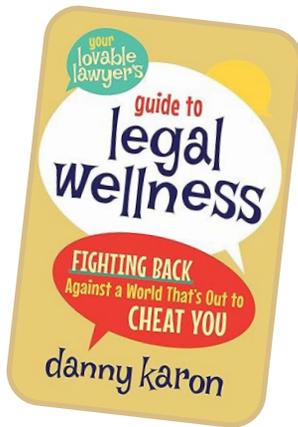
That's where you come in. If there is a campus where you want to see Sigma Alpha Mu return, the most powerful thing you can do is make that case directly to university leadership. The people who need to hear from you are the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Engaged alumni with ties to that campus significantly amplify the efforts from the international office on its own. Local influence is one of our most valuable tools and is something only you can provide.

If you get involved in supporting an expansion effort, reach out to the international office at expansion@sam.org. We will help you make the biggest difference. Future generations of Sammy students will be the beneficiaries of this effort.

Four Ways You Can Help:

1. Advocate for Your Chapter's Return - expansion@sam.org
2. Referrals - sam.org/recommend
3. Recruitment Advisors - sam.org/volunteer
4. Support the Bridge Builder Fund - sam.org/bridge

BOOKS ON THE SHELF



I'm Danny Karon (Indiana, '88), and I've created the first-ever "legal wellness" brand – Your Lovable Lawyer, www.yourlovablelawyer.com. I did this because I've long believed a societal bias exists that denies access to justice to people who need it the most yet get it the least.

College and university students fall into this neglected category because they're ill-equipped to anticipate and address the first-time legal pitfalls that await them. I offer practical legal guidance in a fun and friendly format, empowering students who never thought they could access the law.

And I'm in a unique position to deliver legal wellness. I teach consumer class actions and complex litigation at the University of Michigan Law School and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, and I previously taught this course at Columbia Law School. I also operate my own consumer law firm and for thirteen years chaired the American Bar Association National Institute on Class Actions – the nation's most widely respected consumer class-action conference.

Finally, my first book was just released, *Your Lovable Lawyer's Guide to Legal Wellness: Fighting Back Against a World That's Out to Cheat You*, published by Post Hill Press and distributed by Simon & Schuster.

Legal wellness is a right, not a privilege reserved only for people who can afford expensive lawyers. If you think your audience members would benefit from learning how to protect themselves in ways lawyers don't want them to know, I'd be eager to share my remarks. Kindly let me know and I'd look forward to the pleasure of hearing from you.

The Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation has a library in our headquarters building that includes books written by and about members of Sigma Alpha Mu.

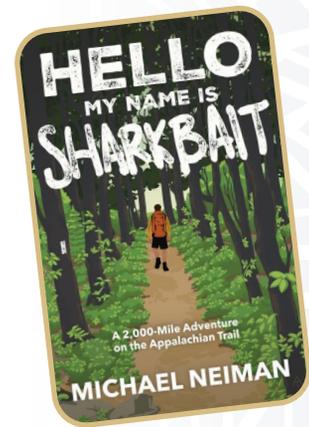
For a list of books in our library, please visit <https://www.sam-fdn.org/sigma-alpha-mu-archives>. If you have written a book that is not listed but would like to donate a copy to be included in our library, please e-mail amyb@sam-fdn.org



I'm Fra Brad Livingood (Kentucky Wesleyan, '75). I was adopted at birth and this book is my memoir named "Surrounding Sparky". Quite a bit of the book speaks to my ΣΑΜ and college escapades.

My career has centered around management, sales, and ownership of businesses in the graphic arts area spanning several cities across the U.S. I am forty-seven years married and have three children and three grandchildren.

Currently, I operate a small business from my home office servicing a collection of accounts that I have developed over the years, primarily representing a major brokering firm - American Solutions for Business. I am active in the Folsom, CA area with the city and Chamber of Commerce. I am a Director of Friends of Folsom Powerhouse Association where I have served for the past eleven years.



Fra Michael Neiman (Minnesota, '99), inspired by his passion for hiking and backpacking, recently published *Hello My Name is Sharkbait*, which tells the true story of grit as he backpacked from Georgia to Maine.

Michael Neiman, trail name Sharkbait, is a lifelong backpacker and outdoor enthusiast who first learned of the Appalachian Trail as a young adult. Almost two decades later, he set out to complete a continuous thru-hike from Georgia to Maine, chronicling each day of his five-month journey on a personal WordPress blog and YouTube channel.

His online journal drew a dedicated following of friends, hikers, and strangers, which further inspired a passion for writing. His books bring daily trail adventures to life, both through vivid imagery on the page and inspiration to get outside and walk one's own footpaths.

When not out hiking, Michael lives in Ridgefield, Connecticut, with his wife and family. He can be found exploring local trails or introducing others to the magic of the AT, whether in person or through his writing.

You can follow his latest adventures by finding him on most social media as @HelloNeiman.



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COMMUNICATION


**IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS**

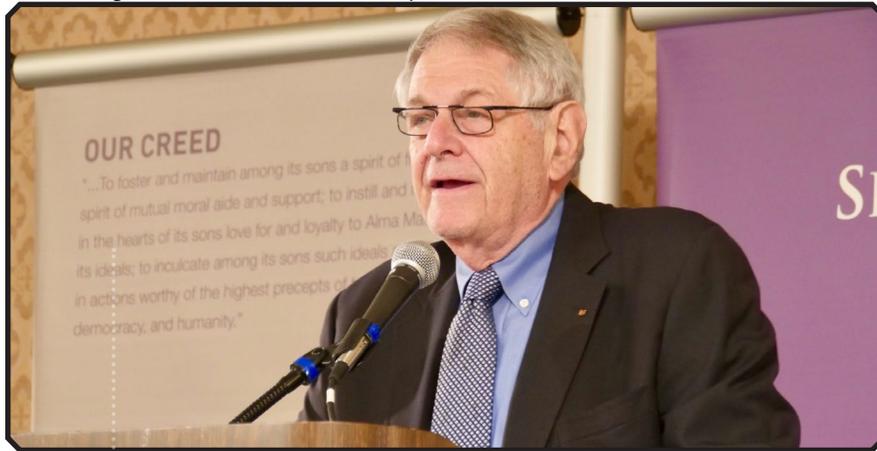

**FOOD
SERVICE**

For more information, email Mike Weiner at mike@sam.org

THE OCTAGONIAN

REMEMBERING HANNO MOTT

Outstanding Record of Volunteer Leadership & Service



Past Supreme Prior Hanno Mott (Omicron/Cincinnati, '52) entered Chapter Eternal on Friday, February 6th.

Hanno was born in Berlin, Germany in 1933. His family was forced to leave Germany and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1938. Hanno attended the University of Cincinnati where he joined the Omicron Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu and earned both his B.A and J.D.

After earning his law degree he moved to New York and called the SAM Headquarters - located in New York at the time - to offer his service and assistance. The offer was accepted and Hanno began a journey of volunteerism in SAM spanning eight decades. He gave generously of his time as a legal advisor. Hanno was elected to service on the Octagon where he held the roles of Consul, Supreme Recorder, and Supreme Prior. He was President of the SAM Development Corporation supporting housing efforts. From 1994 until 2017, Hanno was an officer of the Endowment Fund. He was a Director of the SAM Foundation for more than thirty years, where he also served as President from 2009-2021. In 1995, Hanno became the eleventh recipient of our Distinguished Service Award.

Foundation President Bob Weiss shared the following regarding Hanno, "Some people donate their time, others their money, and others their knowledge. It's rare to find people like Hanno Mott who donate all three for an organization."

Generous with his time, talent, and treasure, Hanno was recognized as a Centennial Founder in 2009, a member of the Purple & White Society for lifetime giving, and a member of the Ira Lind Society - recognizing planned giving.

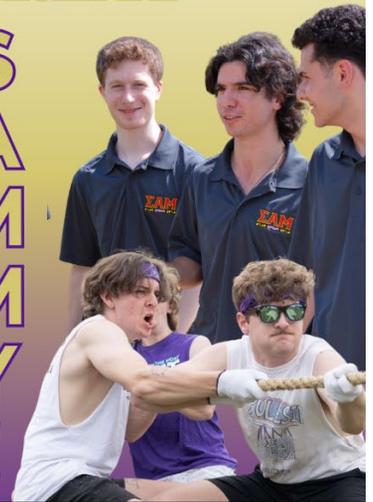
Hanno is survived by Grete Meilman, his wife and partner of 52 years, along with his sisters Lolya Lipchitz, (Harold Kasimow) and Barbara Brafman (Larry Stein); his loving nieces and nephews Joshua Mott (Kelly Mott), Johanna Kasimow, Sophie Kasimow (Seth Shames) and Tammy Forrest (Robert Forrest); and grand nieces and nephews Jacob, Lilah, Isabella, Julia, and Jay. Our thoughts and prayers are with Hanno's family. May his memory be a blessing.

Gifts in memory of Past Supreme Prior Hanno Mott may be made at sam-fdn.org.

Services were held on Sunday, February 9th.

HELP US FIND THE NEXT GREAT

SAMMY!



Visit

sam.org/recommend or scan the QR to share your recommendation



JOSHUA

Sigma Alpha Mu brother and stem cell donor!

SIGMA ALPHA MU SAVES LIVES!

As partners with Gift of Life, your chapter has the power to impact the lives of those battling blood cancer by hosting a drive to add new donors to the registry.

To get started, contact **Traci Ackerman** at tackerman@giftoflife.org or 561-982-2939.

GIFT OF LIFE
MARROW REGISTRY



Pictured Above: Two generations of ΣAM - Sigma Iota (Michigan) fratres during Dads Weekend.

Written by



Dean Lambert



(Nebraska, '82), Supreme Recorder

To realize Sigma Alpha Mu's vision of being the choice for collegians seeking a seeking a forward-thinking, inclusive fraternity, our core values must remain central to every decision and action. While it is essential to build strong chapters with men of exemplary character, assessing whether a prospective member will be a good fit for the chapter and for lifelong membership is a challenge.

For many young men entering college, Sigma Alpha Mu is more than just another fraternity—they learn about it from fathers, grandfathers, brothers, or other family members who have already experienced ΣAM. They hear stories of brotherhood and learning that extend beyond the classroom and benefit in the years after graduation. Legacy candidates see our Greek letters, insignia, regalia, and perhaps old photographs of relatives from past generations, deepening their connection to our traditions.

The Meaning and Value of Legacy

Legacy status is rooted in family connections. It can motivate alumni to encourage their sons or siblings to consider joining, and inspire new members to seek their own path within ΣAM—whether for a sense of belonging or for leadership opportunities. In an era focused on looking forward, it may be tempting to view legacy as an outdated concept. However, admitting legacies is not about favoritism but about honoring the relationships that have shaped our fraternity over time. The stories of brotherhood, service, and shared experiences provide legacy candidates with an understanding of our values but sometimes lead to the misconception that membership is automatic.

"While it is true chapters are required to extend a bid to the son or grandson of any frater of Sigma Alpha Mu, and to the brother of any frater of the same Chapter*, it does not necessarily guarantee a candidate will be duly initiated. All candidates must uphold the policies and practices of the Fraternity. Any candidate can be removed prior to initiation for conduct or failure to meet minimum expectations. That said, the candidate education program (True MDH Initiative) is designed to educate candidates about of values, history and operations rather than a process to "weed out" individuals.

* Sigma Alpha Mu Blue Book. Div. D. Article III, 3a.

"THAT'S WHAT MAKES THESE TRADITIONS MEANINGFUL; THEY REMIND US THAT BEING PART OF SIGMA ALPHA MU ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL. IT'S ABOUT BELONGING TO SOMETHING BIGGER, SOMETHING THAT CONNECTS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE."
-SUPREME PRIOR BEARMAN

Perspectives on the Legacy Policy

As both a member of the Octagon and a longtime alumni volunteer, I have observed that the ΣAM Legacy Policy can bring challenges as well as opportunities. Our fraternity is more than just a legacy organization comprising the sons, grandsons, and nephews of alumni; it is a brotherhood that unites men from diverse backgrounds—many of whom would not have expected to find themselves calling one another brothers for life. This inclusivity is foundational to our fraternity's origin story.

Seeking Men of Good Character

The Founders of Sigma Alpha Mu came from different families and backgrounds, yet they found common ground in their desire to create a fraternity of like-minded men, particularly at a time when acceptance by other organizations was unlikely. They may not have agreed on every issue or shared the same habits and personalities, but they united around eight pillars that placed character above all else, embracing differences and working together with a shared purpose to build something lasting.

Supreme Prior Benji Bearman offers his perspective on legacy membership: "Of course, every member should earn his place. Legacy status opens the door, but commitment and character keep it open." Octagon Consul David Sackler, whose son Caleb joined the Tau chapter at Alabama, adds: "The history and the future can be connected in many ways, but nothing drives that connection more than an actual family lineage within the framework of the organization."

He continues, "My son being a legacy and having the perceived 'easy path' to brotherhood had nothing to do with his joining ΣAM. I had reached out to the chapter when we were looking at schools so he would have a chance to meet students and have a real student experience when visiting the campus." This led to a positive experience for him with both the school and the chapter, and Caleb Sackler ultimately became the chapter's first legacy candidate and member, and became the chapters alumni outreach chair, Exchequer, and Housing Committee lead.

Similarly, my own brother, Fra Eric Lambert, joined Sigma Omicron (Nebraska) after visiting Lincoln. He connected with the chapter both as an athlete aspiring to join Nebraska's NCAA Championship gymnastics team and as a legacy ΣAM candidate. My influence was minor in his decision, as the

Continues on the next page. >>



Fra Lambert and his brother Eric, circa 1983

chapter included many athletes, such as Olympic Gold Medalist Fra Jim Hartung (who passed away in January 2026). Despite the demands of being a student-athlete, Fra Lambert was actively involved in chapter leadership and was honored as Sigma Alpha Mu Recorder of the Year.

Multiplying Effects for ΣAM

Sigma Alpha Mu is a fraternity for life, a principle emphasized during candidate education and formalized in our initiation ceremony. A central element of the ΣAM2030 vision is alumni engagement, and no opportunity is greater than that of connecting with alumni through candidate referrals—especially when legacies are involved.

Consul Sackler is one of many alumni whose involvement deepened due to his son's membership. He reflects, "Without a doubt, had Caleb not become a Sammy, I would not have been the Tau chapter advisor. Although it was difficult for my son having his father as the advisor, I think we'd both agree that the experience was an amazing bonding experience for me and my son."



Fra Lambert and his brother Eric today

Sackler's business and leadership skills provided guidance to the Tau chapter as they secured a chapter house and rose to prominence within the Alabama Greek community. Under his mentorship, the chapter earned notable honors such as a Jimmy Hammerstein Award, Founders Level Recognition, and Prior of the Year.

Three Tips for Adapting the Legacy Policy with Success

The ΣAM Legacy Policy, as part of the Blue Book, reflects the evolving voice of our membership—amended and ratified over the years to help Sigma Alpha Mu endure and serve tens of thousands of members for more than a century.

Supreme Prior Bearman reiterates, "That's what makes these traditions meaningful; they remind us that being part of Sigma Alpha Mu isn't just about the individual. It's about belonging to something bigger, something that connects past, present, and future."

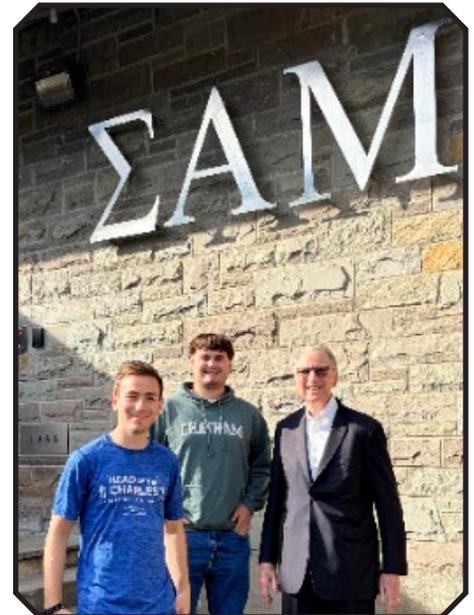
1. Evaluate each candidate on merit: While legacy status can create a connection, every candidate should be assessed based on their own commitment, character, and alignment with the fraternity's values—not just their family history.
2. Foster meaningful engagement: Avoid snap judgments that can lead to missed opportunities. The bid process and candidate education period can be intimidating for both outgoing and introverted individuals, especially as freshmen. People respond differently to new and stressful situations, which can result in first impressions that don't reflect their true selves. Allow time for genuine connections to develop, leading to better decisions.
3. Emphasize tradition, leadership opportunities, and individual growth: Celebrate the role of legacy traditions as a bridge between generations, while empowering candidates to consider how they can contribute uniquely to the chapter and fraternity. Make it clear that legacy status is an opportunity, but that genuine belonging is earned through active participation, openness, and personal growth.

The ΣAM Legacy Recruitment and Recommendation Guide can be accessed online at <https://sam.org/legacy-and-recruitment-recommendation-guide/>

The Enduring Value of Legacy Membership

Legacy members are more than just names on a roster—they are living links to our roots. Their presence offers opportunities for alumni engagement that can benefit Sigma Alpha Mu far beyond the addition of a single new member. Amidst constant change, these connections are more important than ever. We owe it to ourselves and our fraternity to embrace legacy membership as a way to secure our future and strengthen the bonds that define us.

QUALCOMM FOUNDER VISITS BETA HOUSE



Fra Irwin Jacobs (Cornell, '51) recently paid a visit to Cornell University in memory of his late wife, Joan. While on campus, Fra Jacobs made an impromptu visit to the recently renovated Beta House.

When asked for remarks, Fra Jacobs shared, "I very much enjoyed my visit and the opportunity to meet with several of my much younger fraternity brothers. They were all quite impressive and enthusiastic. The members have done a reasonable job on restoring the old building, although that effort will continue, I suspect, for a few more terms. It is certainly smaller than the one that I enjoyed during my years at 210 Thurston Ave. However, it was great to see the chapter alive and growing."

Irwin Jacobs is the Founder and former CEO of Qualcomm. In 2007, he accepted Sigma Alpha Mu's Achievement Award.



BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION: MY EXPERIENCE AT DLI

Written by



Sam Dutton

(Syracuse, '24)



My time as a member, brother, and leader at Sigma Alpha Mu has always been more than a social experience. It's about the continuous growth of young men within their community. Through my roles as Rush Chairman and Recorder, I've had a chance to see the importance of the Greek life community through a leadership viewpoint. This past semester I had the incredible opportunity and honor to be selected to attend the revamped Developing Leaders Initiative. As this immersive long weekend commenced, I found myself being fortunate enough to be surrounded by the most exceptional collegiate leaders from around the world. My journey to DLI began with observations about my chapter and the relationship that we had with other Sammys. I felt a disconnect between our individual operations and the ever growing chapters that embody our values. I applied for DLI because I was motivated to bridge that gap. I was truly interested in seeing the organizational governance of my brothers and making actionable progress for the growing landscape of Sigma Alpha Mu.

DLI weekend was an incredibly rewarding unique leadership program. Through varying educational workshops, one that focused on professionalism helped sharpen our executive presence and communication styles. Beyond basic skills we learned how to market our experiences and explored the poise required to operate in professional settings. Through this we gained an understanding of the nuances of cultural competency and high level decision making. This wasn't just your normal professionalism workshop, it was an opportunity to grow and learn about the years to come. The interworking of Sigma Alpha Mu is one of the most fascinating aspects of the

program. It was so enlightening to learn the "behind-the-scenes" of their international governance. For many undergraduates, the international headquarters can feel somewhat distant from your chapter. By this program being hosted mainly at HQ we were given direct access and insight to the strategic operations that keep our beloved fraternity thriving.

Most importantly we weren't simply just learning. The Octagon graciously invited us to provide direct undergraduate feedback by tackling ever present issues that our fraternity endures. This month we had the opportunity to present to the Octagon on issues that our chapters alike are facing. Having this opportunity to suggest reforms and change our fraternities current policies, ensures that the voices of our members are directly influencing our leadership. We hope to influence the path of Sammy and connect members around the world to foster an environment of communication and reliability. These programs provided a unique lens of which we view our roles as leaders and fraternity gentlemen in the modern era.

While we did attend various workshops and programming, the most meaningful part of this weekend was the organic bonding with the eleven other exceptional members.

This was truly a highlight for me as there is a specific kind of synergy that arises when you bring together twelve unique undergraduates who are all motivated to impact change. We ultimately didn't just network, we formed our own unique council enabling each other to learn and grow as a leader. Through this we were able to share our own personal success and failures supporting each other to take our stories back to each respected chapter. Through this united sense of brotherhood I can truly say I left that weekend feeling as if I had known these men since childhood. I didn't leave the weekend with just friends but a unique brotherhood I can call upon for the rest of my life for guidance.

To any Sigma Alpha Mu brother that is thinking about applying for the Developing Leaders Initiative: do it! Our fraternity is only as strong as the leaders we cultivate. This program isn't just a simple addition to your LinkedIn, it's an engine for your own professional and personal growth. My time was ultimately a reminder that we as Sammys are truly part of something much bigger than ourselves. We are architects of legacy and through programs like this we continue to foster and maintain our values for generations to come.





The Developing Leaders Initiative (DLI) is our premier leadership program bringing together exceptional undergraduates from across North America for an immersive extended weekend focused on personal growth, organizational insight, and meaningful connection. This program is generously funded by the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation.

Written by



Gib Paulisich



(Arizona, '25)

My name is Gib Paulisich, and I attended DLI as a sophomore representing the University of Arizona's Beta Gamma chapter. Originally, I am from Hudson, Wisconsin, which is a small town on the shared border with Minnesota. I am studying accounting and plan to become a CPA and work in audit accounting. I was initiated in the Fall of 2024 in the Beta Iota class with forty-seven other bright, young men, who helped me fall in love with the organization of Sigma Alpha Mu. I am currently serving as Exchequer for my chapter and as a member of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee working with the Octagon.

When the application for the Developing Leaders Initiative first stumbled its way onto my desk, I immediately took an interest. Connecting on a national level with other like-minded individuals was something that drew me to fraternity recruitment in the first place, so I was quick to fill out an application. Additionally, I was looking for more ways to better serve my chapter, and as a recently elected member of the Executive Board, I felt that a weekend of intense workshoping and networking would be the best avenue of approach. Roughly a handful of weeks after completing the application, I received word that I, as well as my friend, Terion "TC" Collins, Jr. had been given the opportunity to attend this year's DLI in Indianapolis at SAM Headquarters. Upon our return from Winter Break, TC and I made our way to the airport, with no idea of the amazing weekend we had booked for ourselves. Upon our arrival in Indianapolis airport, we immediately felt a sense of brotherhood as we were able to find brothers from other chapters, and effortlessly connect over the shared values and struggles we experience as a Sammy. We arrived as a group at the Headquarters, which I felt honored to be standing in, and

after completing the night's brotherhood programming, I couldn't be happier to have signed myself up for this long weekend of fun.

My highlights and insights for the program fall into two different categories: benefits directly from the programming and benefits indirectly from the overall experience. Regarding what the DLI Committee had planned for us, I couldn't be more appreciative of the in-depth education they provided us about the fraternity. We had the opportunity to meet with the Vice Supreme Prior, Evan Remer, who not only gave an informative presentation on the operations of the fraternity, but also joined us on an educational trip to the Indianapolis Historical Society. It was here that our group explored the historical contexts of what led organizations, like Sigma Alpha Mu, to rise, and how these organizations supported minorities who were being targeted in the city. We also had the pleasure of experiencing the voices of Ryan Robertson and Maria Mandel, who were representing the SAM Foundation, and offered more perspective on how that entity of the fraternity works. I was blown away by how generous our scholarship program is, and gained a new level of gratitude for the alumni who donate and provide these opportunities for us. We also worked with the outstanding alumni, Phil Glauben (Beta Sigma '73) and Adam Cohen (Rho '09), who were with us every step of the way during our weekend, coaching and guiding the learning experience. The eleven of us also completed a project in which we approached some of Sigma Alpha Mu's current issues and offered our thoughts based on the experiences we'd been having at our own chapters. We brainstormed ways to promote stronger connectivity between

chapters and to keep upperclassmen more engaged within the fraternity as their time in college ends. It was during these workshops that I saw the strongest benefit to myself and the other participants. I saw the dedication, determination, and thought processes of the other developing leaders in Sigma Alpha Mu, which allowed me to not only further my motivation but also learn how I could improve in my own ways of thinking.

This leads me to the other takeaways I had from the DLI weekend, which stemmed more from the experience of being around driven, like-minded young men who shared the brotherhood of Sigma Alpha Mu. I loved the ability to meet the other brothers from our chapters across the nation, and it woke me up to how much potential there is to grow and learn from each other. I absorbed many new strategies and ideas on how to lead a chapter, and also felt that others were equally as interested in my ideas. I also really enjoyed formally meeting the individuals that I personally work with to run my chapter, specifically Jackie Gellinger, Assistant Executive Director, who is on the phone with my chapter on a daily basis to answer questions. Overall, the experience made me feel more connected to the entirety of Sigma Alpha Mu and the community it provides.

What I plan to bring back to my chapter from the DLI experience is a stronger attitude to grow the fraternity, and now the resources to support that. With a better understanding of how all components of the fraternity work and a network of talented young men to compare ideas with, I will be much more equipped to lead Beta Gamma. My goal is to set a new standard of leadership for future Executive officers to promote success and longevity at my chapter.

This February *Octagonian* highlights Chapter Councils and goals.



CHAPTER INFORMATION

25 - 26 New Members**	Total Member Count*	# of Chapter Advisors
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*This number reflects the total number of initiates and candidates

**Please note that these numbers are only those that have been reported as of 2/26/26 and may not accurately or fully represent fall/spring recruiting totals

Chapters with this icon are in need of volunteer alumni advisors



Some Chapters may have quotes on something that their current council is looking forward to in the coming year.

C **B**
Cornell University

3	25	2
---	----	---

S **H**
Syracuse University

14	77	1
----	----	---

"I'm looking forward to the opportunities that this semester brings, with new challenges comes new chances to grow as a leader and as an individual!" - Sam Dutton

PENN **Θ**
University of Pennsylvania



32	78	2
----	----	---

We are excited to say we took in our largest new member class in the last four years." -Winston Wang

M **K**
University of Minnesota

13	55	4
----	----	---



C **O**
University of Cincinnati

9	40	1
---	----	---

I **P**
University of Illinois



27	59	1
----	----	---



"I'm especially looking forward to watching our younger members step into leadership roles and take ownership of Rho's future. There's real momentum in the house right now, and I'm excited to help guide that growth while staying connected with the alumni." - Noah Youderian

A **T**
University of Alabama



8	35	1
---	----	---



P **Ψ**
University of Pittsburgh

9	37	2
---	----	---

"I'm looking forward to experiencing unforgettable memories with my chapter this semester. Whether that be having our spring formal abroad, or adding to the overall growth of our brotherhood, these upcoming months are a lot to look forward to." - Aiden Provda

Ψ **ΣΖ**
Indiana University



48	162	1
----	-----	---

P **ΣΗ**
Purdue University

8	22	1
---	----	---

Ψ **ΣΘ**
University of Texas

53	163	2
----	-----	---

M **ΣΙ**
University of Michigan

34	134	4
----	-----	---

N **ΣΟ**
University of Nebraska

3	12	3
---	----	---



M **ΣΧ**
University of Maryland

18	50	3
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Continues on the next page . >>

ΣΩ
North Carolina State University

11	35	4
----	----	---



MH
Drexel University



3	24	0
---	----	---

ΜΘ
University of Southern California

54	149	3
----	-----	---

"I'm looking forward to having another great semester after taking a solid spring pledge class, and passing the reins off to the younger generation when it comes time for elections."- Cole Snee

ΜΠ
University of Colorado

6	26	2
---	----	---

ΜΧ
Michigan State University

6	14	3
---	----	---

"We are looking forward to our Spring philanthropy events and fundraisers."-Patrick Layman

ΜΨ
Miami University (OH)



15	73	1
----	----	---

ΒΓ
University of Arizona



52	168	1
----	-----	---

ΒΙ
University of Wisconsin

32	95	2
----	----	---

ΒΨ
University of Virginia

0	62	2
---	----	---

"Our chapter is looking forward to our Parents Formal event in April!" -Austin Berg

ΒΩ
Kentucky Wesleyan College

1	2	1
---	---	---

"I'm looking forward to growing the chapter and creating a stronger presence on campus." - Colton Day

ΥΙC
University of Illinois Chicago

7	16	5
---	----	---

ΥΚ
Texas A&M

12	25	1
----	----	---

ΥΡ
UC-San Diego

3	18	2
---	----	---

ΥΤ
University of Florida

4	18	1
---	----	---



"Excited for a productive year with ambitious goals that we will put our best and strongest effort into achieving." - Gamma Tau Council 2026

ΓΦ
Arizona State University



6	34	1
---	----	---



ΓΧ
Brandeis University

5	32	3
---	----	---

ΓΨ
Temple University

16	42	2
----	----	---

Gamma Psi took the second largest candidate class at Temple University this year.

ΔΒ
American University



3	19	1
---	----	---

ΔΖ
Florida International University

32	84	5
----	----	---

"For the Spring 2026 semester, I'm incredibly excited to see our chapter continue to grow, both in numbers and in leadership, while staying true to the values that define us. The brothers of the Delta Zeta chapter are especially looking forward to our annual Fleur De Lis Philanthropy event, where we hope to extend our record-breaking fundraising streak in support of the Alzheimer's Association. Personally, I'm eager to keep strengthening the bonds within our brotherhood and creating memories that will last well beyond our time in college. Most of all, I'm honored to lead such an outstanding chapter by example and help make this a semester we can all be proud of!" - Juliano "JJ" Joao



ΔΠ
Ottawa University

7	28	2
---	----	---

RIT

ΔΩ

Rochester Institute of Technology

15	36	2
----	----	---



EA

Stephen F. Austin State University

0	4	5
---	---	---



ΕΓ

Illinois State University

0	4	6
---	---	---



ΕΔ

Johnson & Wales

8	21	4
---	----	---



EE

SUNY-Geneseo

3	7	1
---	---	---

UConn

EN

University of Connecticut



6	17	0
---	----	---

"We are excited to have an alumni event with Jordan Vogel. He was our chapter's first president back when we chartered and it would be great to meet all the older alumni! We have a Sammy tradition that he is excited to pass down in which we paint ourselves in school spirit to go out to a UConn basketball game! we'd love to keep the tradition alive and to make those connections that last generations." -Brandon Damato



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

EE

Emory University

33	107	2
----	-----	---



ΕΠ

University of Rhode Island



13	37	0
----	----	---



Provisional Chapters:

R

ΣΔ

Rutgers University

4	15	1
---	----	---

"We are looking forward to connecting with more chapters across the country!" - Ethan Smith



ΓΣ

Binghamton University

0	1	1
---	---	---



ΚΕΚ

New Jersey Institute of Technology

11	20	1
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"Kappa Xi Kappa chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu is excited to grow our presence on campus this semester with many tabling events and our Pittie Project Banquet. Raising money for pitbulls in need has always been near to our hearts." -Pablo Baez

FOUNDATION

Since our inception, the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation's mission has been "to support the educational interests and activities of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, to furnish student aid, and to encourage and develop conduct and traits of character consistent with high morals, constructive citizenship, scholarship, leadership and community service."

To learn more about the foundation's programs or to make a donation, go to sam-fdn.org.



MEET PAUL SWARTZ, THE 2026 DAY OF GIVING CHAIRMAN

The Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation is pleased to announce that Paul Swartz, Delta Eta '01, is the chairman for this year's Day of Giving! Paul's belief in the good of Sigma Alpha Mu to shape young men into leaders inspired him to make a gift that will inspire other alumni to give back to ΣAM! This Fraternity has given Paul opportunities to advance his career that would not have been possible without the ΣAM network and growth opportunities provided to him.

Paul's service and passion for Sigma Alpha Mu started in 2005 as a Field Representative, traveling to visit chapters and help them live our values of manhood, humanity and democracy. He continues his service to ΣAM as the Chapter Advisor for Sigma Zeta/Indiana, helping them grow to a 162 man chapter!

Paul contributes his success in his personal and professional life to Sigma Alpha Mu, pushing him to be a leader in his chapter and within the national fraternity. His involvement on a national level has connected him to alumni all over the country, using those connections to land his first basketball coaching position and using that experience to found the Hoosier Shooting Academy, a state of the art basketball training facility in Indianapolis that focuses on youth development for all ages- beginner to NBA players.

Visit samdayofgiving.org and follow ΣAM on social media for how you can get involved with the Day of Giving!



Mark your calendar for Sigma Alpha Mu's Day of Giving on Thursday, April 23!

This year we're going big and want to raise \$50,000 in a single day from fratres and friends of Sigma Alpha Mu!

The Day of Giving has become a signature event for the Foundation - every gift made adds up to make a big impact for the Foundation - every gift made adds up to make a big impact for the Foundation. These gifts, combined with hundreds of other gifts, ensure that we can continue to support leadership development, provide financial aid for fratres that need it and fund programs that honor our Jewish heritage.

Since its beginning in 2018, the Day of Giving fundraising efforts have raised more than \$400,000 that has provided direct support for programs that advance the fraternal experience and provide scholarships to deserving members.

Visit samdayofgiving.org for more details on how you can get involved and support the Foundation!



This page is made possible by the Richard H. Williamson Octagonian Fund

SAM-FDN.ORG

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS '26

The Loren Scholarship for \$500 will be awarded for the first time in 2026 to a deserving member of the Gamma Rho/UC San Diego chapter who is a science, math or engineering major. This will join the Ira Rubenstein Scholarship and be the second scholarship designated for the Gamma Rho chapter.

The Murman-Reichman Scholarship and the Eric Schwer Memorial Scholarship, each for \$1000, will be awarded to a deserving member of the Psi/Pittsburgh chapter who demonstrates financial need. These will join the Norman Berkowitz Scholarship and the Nate Lockin Scholarship and bring the total of scholarships designated for Psi chapter to four.

CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL FUND UPDATES

Mu Theta/USC used their CEF to show support for the Greek community philanthropies. Panhellenic events supported included participation with Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Phi and Pi Beta Phi.



Both Sigma Omega/NC State and Gamma Tau/Florida used their CEF's to assist with the costs of attending the ΣAM Convention in Minneapolis over the summer, while Mu Eta/Drexel has used theirs to create and furnish a study room for the entire chapter.

First semester Jewish Endeavor Grants supported the Sigma Theta/Texas chapter with a Sammy Shabbat at Chabad to start the year and Gamma Kappa/Texas A&M with a Purple Shabbat at Hillel. Grants also supported Tamid at Wisconsin/Beta Iota and Rho/Illinois with a Hanukkah celebration.



GRATITUDE TAKES FLIGHT

"It is wonderful to see Sigma Alpha Mu offer scholarships that support not only traditional academic paths, but also specialized fields like aviation. Before we started this process, I never dreamed my fraternity would play such a vital role in helping my son achieve his dreams of becoming an airline pilot. The scholarship process has instilled in me not only a deep gratitude for Harv Weisblat's generosity, but also for my fraternity, which made this possible. More than 35 years after my graduation, I finally understand that Sigma Alpha Mu is not just a chapter of men at Miami University, but an extended worldwide family.

For my family, the scholarship has helped alleviate the financial burden associated with the field of aviation. Joshua can focus entirely on his studies and his hours in the air without worrying about where the money is coming from. We will always be tremendously thankful to Harv Weisblat and to Sigma Alpha Mu."

-Marc Sirkin Mu Psi/Miami OH '86 on his son, Josh, as the 2024 & 2025 recipient of the Weisblat Aviation Scholarship.



This page is made possible by the Richard H. Williamson Octagonian Fund

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

Alumni and friends who generously support Sigma Alpha Mu make scholarships, academic achievement awards, and leadership programming possible. Below is a list of our giving societies with donors who have surpassed \$100,000 in cumulative/lifetime giving.

Pearl Society (\$1,000,000 +)

Sidney H. Guller, Washington University/The Sidney & Bobbette Guller Family Foundation

Sigma Alpha Mu Endowment Fund

Directors Circle (\$500,000 - \$999,999)

The Glazer Family (Jay, Indiana & Irving, Ohio State)

This I Believe Society (\$250,000-\$499,999)

Robert L. Burg, Alabama/Washington University

Howard B. Miller, Maryland

Anonymous Family Foundation

Founders Society (\$150,000-249,999)

David S. Rice, Illinois- Chicago

Myron Becker, Washington University

Robert B. Fagenson, Syracuse

James R. Alexander, SMU

Barry M. Epsteen, Purdue

Hanno D. Mott, Cincinnati

Richard H. Williamson, NC State

Robert S. Weiss, Oklahoma

Terry Semel, Long Island University

Nathan C. Margolis, North Texas

Lincoln Corridor Club (\$100,000-\$149,999)

Harv A. Weisblat, Texas

Gilbert A. Yanuch, Alabama

Ann & Roy M. Neulicht, NC State

L. Mark Newman, Michigan State

Elia E. Zaitsev In Honor of Dennis Paese, Cornell

Dennis G. Paese, Cornell

Aaron M. Girson, Western Michigan

Ronald S. Katch, Illinois

William J. Ober, CCNY

James R. Favor, friend of ΣAM

Marshall M. Gelfand, Syracuse

Leslie J. Raffel, Purdue

Thank you to all the generous fratres and friends that support student fratres!

Names in italics reflect fratres and friends who have entered Chapter Eternal.

Recognition is based on gifts received from the donor or grants received as of 12/31/2025. Every effort is made to reflect gift history going back to the Foundation's establishment, however, omissions can occur for a variety of factors: if you have a question about your donation history please contact Aaron Girson, Foundation CEO at aarong@sam-fdn.org.



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SAM-FDN.ORG

YOU MADE THIS POSSIBLE IN 2025!



"Receiving this scholarship motivates me to keep striving not only to succeed in my studies, but also to represent my fraternity with pride in how I carry myself. It reminds me that doing the right thing, living with integrity, and committing myself to my goals are all connected. When I see that alumni and supporters like you believe in us enough to invest in our futures, it makes me want to pay it forward one day, too."

-Benjamin Fortinsky, Emory



"The guidance and support from older brothers in my chapter have helped me navigate academics and early opportunities, while also making my college experience genuinely enjoyable. I have found a strong sense of brotherhood, mentorship, and community within the fraternity."

-Jonathan Pearlman, Indiana



- 147 Guller Young Scholar Awards to new initiates who got a 3.75 GPA or higher during their candidate term
- 206 scholarships to deserving students, totaling \$275,500
- Leadership programs for 1200 student fratres
- \$45,000 in direct funding for chapters
- 15 Grants supporting campus Jewish Life



LESLIE J. RAFFEL FOUNDATION MEMBERS ATTEND DEDICATION CEREMONY



The Leslie J. Raffel Foundation, founded by Leslie Raffel (Purdue, '60), was founded to support cultural and educational initiatives. Fra Raffel grew up in suburban Chicago, with a strong desire for knowledge. After skipping a grade in high school, he enrolled in the industrial engineering program at Purdue University, and later received his Master's in Engineering at Stanford University.

Fra Raffel's post Stanford career led him from engineering to starting his own company in the plumbing industry. His unique knack for ingenuity and problem-solving drove

him to create products that made life for others easier. His philanthropic spirit and desire to give back grew alongside his passion for innovation, leading him to create scholarships at Purdue for Jewish engineering students.

In honor of his philanthropic spirit, the Leslie J. Raffel Foundation continues to give back. Pictured above, Leslie J. Raffel Foundation Members, along with Young-Jun Son, James J. Solberg Department Head and Ransburg Professor of Industrial

Engineering and Assistant Head Pat Brunese, pose for a photo at the dedication of the new lab space. The 2000 sq. ft. lab space will be home to data, optimization and simulation platforms, collaborative, project & supply chain management, data science, video conferencing and more. The space will also house Industry 4.0 servers, where data collected on machines in the Build @ Scale Lab will be analyzed.

Fra Raffel entered Chapter Eternal in 2023.



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Sigma Gamma repping! Left to right:
Craig Sesnowitz, Jeffrey Gittleman, Tobi
Millrood, and David Feldman

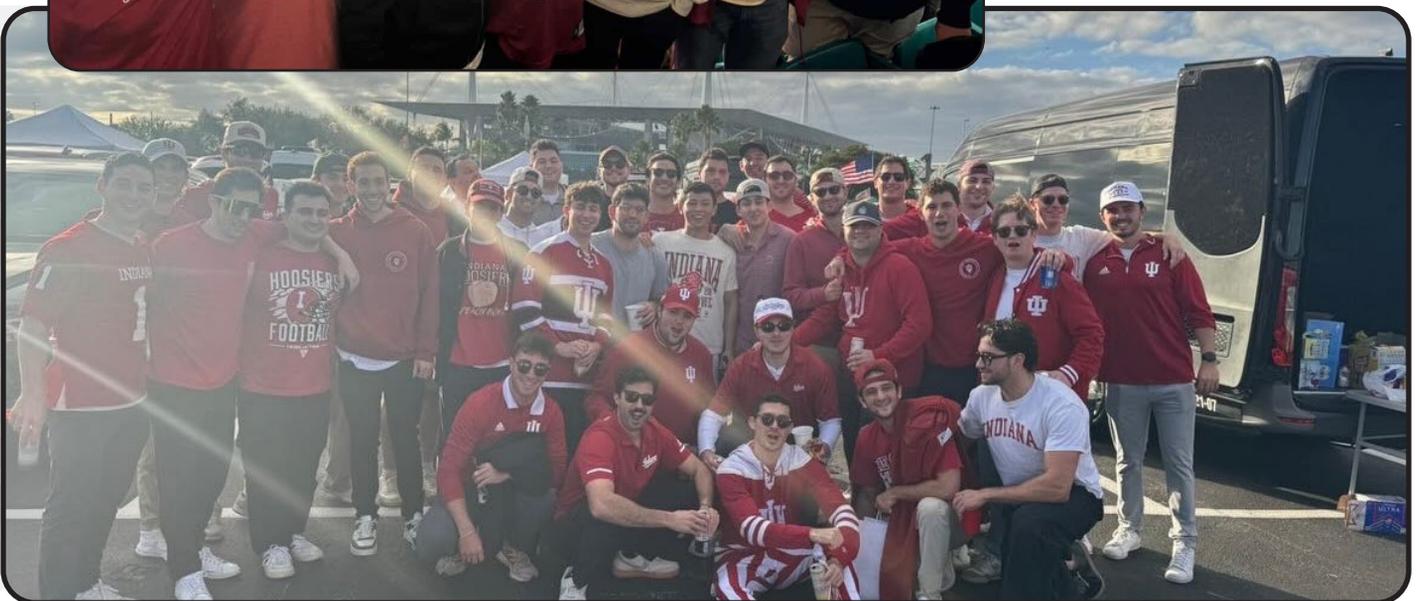


COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS

From tailgates to barbeques, watch parties and everything in between; alumni from far and wide got together to celebrate the College Football Playoffs this past fall and showed out! Sigma Zeta Alumni showed their pride as Indiana took home the National Championship!

Do you have any alumni gatherings coming up? Let us know and share the news by emailing us at samhq@sam.org

"It was meant to be! We got to see a team of destiny fulfill their mission by winning the College Football Playoff National Championship with an undefeated season. They didn't need the best players or the best equipment, they just needed each other. It was extremely special for Sigma Zeta because we believe all we need is community and with that nothing is unachievable. This experience has forever cemented our class of 2025-26 brothers as national champions. Our brothers have not stopped celebrating and will continue to celebrate for years to come. I will always remember how Σ AM brought us all together and how that has helped us forever strengthen our love for and loyalty to our Alma Mater". -Asa Lester, Sigma Zeta Prior



CHAPTER ETERNAL

Forever remembering these men and the love they had for Sigma Alpha Mu and their fratres. **To report a death, please email samhq@sam.org.** All names noted here were reported Nov 18, 2025 - Feb 24, 2026. Memorial donations in memory of Chapter Eternal members may be directed to the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation.

To donate online, go to SAM.ORG/DONATE

BETA

- Alan Harris (Cornell, '62)
- Murray Heimberg (Cornell, '46)

THETA

- Seth Barovick (Pennsylvania, '41)

NU

- William Lavery (Buffalo, '86)
- Joshua Smith (Buffalo, '90)
- Ralph Halpern (Buffalo, '49)

OMICRON

- Stanley Eifenbaum (Cincinnati, '44)
- Hanno Mott (Cincinnati, '52)

PHI

- Darryl Daniels (WashU, '84)

SIGMA ALPHA

- Leonard Leventhal (Oklahoma, '47)

SIGMA DELTA

- James Sheehan (Rutgers, '85)

SIGMA EPSILON

- Sherman Kanne (Illinois Tech, '48)

SIGMA ETA

- Herbert Jablin (Purdue, '52)

SIGMA THETA

- Howard Jacobs (Texas-Austin, '52)
- Stanley Saikin (Texas-Austin, '51)

SIGMA IOTA

- Richard Radway (Michigan, '53)

SIGMA OMICRON

- James Hartung (Nebraska, '78)

SIGMA SIGMA

- Edmund Green (UC-Berkley, '51)

SIGMA CHI

- Walter Miller (Maryland, '57)

MU THETA

- Lloyd Robinson (USC, '63)
- Robert Smith (USC, '70)

MU PSI

- Stanley Natkins (Miami-OH, '61)

BETA PSI

- Andrew Chervenak (Virginia, '97)

DELTA BETA

- Brian Garcia (American, '89)

The following alumni were mistakenly included in the last Chapter Eternal listing. We were pleased to hear they are alive and well, and are very sorry for the error.

Jaime Baca (FIU, '91)

Maurice Veissi (FIU, '98)

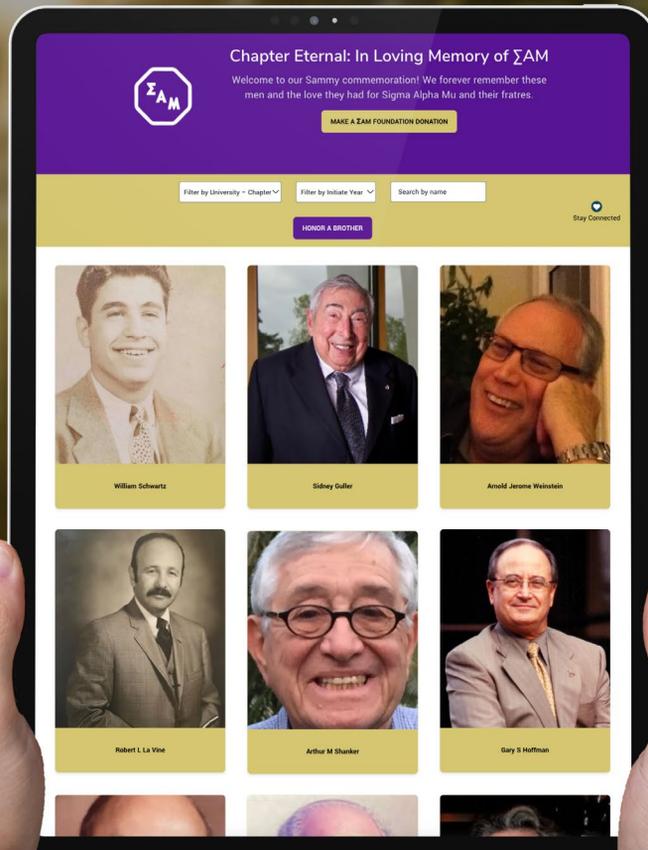
Honor our brothers, celebrate their lives



Scan the QR Code or visit link.lifeweb360.com/octagonian

Sigma Alpha Mu invites you to a dedicated space to honor our brothers who have passed. Share your stories, photos and videos to celebrate these men and the love they had for Sammy and their fratres.

Share a memory today!



This initiative is brought to you by Sigma Alpha Mu in partnership with



THE OCTAGONIAN



Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity
8701 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268



Moving? Update your contact information on MyΣAM, update on portal.sam.org or send your new address to samhq@sam.org.



Parents, if your son still receives his copy of *The Octagonian* at your home and is no longer in college or living with you, feel free to send us his new address by emailing samhq@sam.org.

YOUR STORY MATTERS



Share your stories, photos, and thoughts on what you'd like to see in the next issue of *The Octagonian* by emailing us at samhq@sam.org

Pictured: Fra Peter Rhein (Sigma Alpha, '64)