



SIGMA ALPHA MU FRATERNITY

THE OCTAGONIAN



Sammy Feels Like

HOME

Undergraduates and alumni share how the fraternity feels like home. Page 14
Clemson becomes home to our 152nd Chapter. Page 5



REALIZING THE VISION

70-YEARS OF WELCOMING ALL MEN OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER

Written by



DAVE P. KLEPPEL

(Washington University, '82), Supreme Prior

Since 2020 DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) has emerged as a mainstream priority in American culture. Some see this as a genuine focus on trying to improve our country. Others see noble ideals being referenced in name only to support a desired political or social outcome.

Since the last issue of the Octagonian I've received feedback from multiple members relating one or the other of the above viewpoints as regards ΣAM's efforts regarding inclusivity. As inclusivity is the theme of this issue of the Octagonian I think it appropriate to explain how inclusivity has been, and still is, viewed by ΣAM leadership, as well as reflected broadly by our membership through their Sammy Stories. In doing this, I hope to strengthen the pride and confidence of our entire membership regarding the path that ΣAM continues to follow.

Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity is NOT a political organization. We do not take an action/position because it is politically expedient. Our eight core values are intended to form the basis of everything we say and do. The lofty ideals contained within a genuinely objective understanding of DEI are overwhelmingly aligned with these values. Of this, there can be no doubt.

Unlike many in our country, ΣAM's focus on recent DEI views is not a new development. We started considering and acting on these kinds of issues over 7 decades ago. It was at the 1953 Convention that we amended our Blue Book such that ΣAM would no longer limit membership to only include men of Jewish heritage, and instead, it opened membership to "ALL men of good character."

How and why did the change come about? The answer is revealed in the meeting minutes from that period.

While being victims of social injustices, discrimination, and hate were not limited to Jews, ΣAM's members up until 1953 were well-versed in being excluded, ostracized, and victims of prejudice that limited their abilities to participate in or benefit from networking, educational and leadership experiences offered by fraternal, social and civic organizations and activities of the day. They knew this to be unjust. Despite the memory of the attempted genocide directed at their brethren during the Holocaust fresh in their minds, they still felt that it was inconsistent with our values for ΣAM to exclude non-Jewish men from our ranks.

Imagine how different the last 70 years of our fraternity's history might be if our earlier leaders lacked the courage and conviction to follow our values. Understand the contributions to ΣAM's success during the last 7 decades of the 1953 decision to embark on a path of inclusivity in the words of some of your fellow members:

The oral histories have been edited for brevity.

Jim Vitarello (Toledo, '63)

My pledge class included two African Americans, another Italian-American, and an Irish American. Toledo, Ohio, was a highly segregated town, and for a white fraternity to have two African Americans in 1963 was unprecedented. We were a unique fraternity.

Wing Chen, JD (Stony Brook, '04)

I chose Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity because I attended several meetings and saw how diverse it was. That's what stood out to me and how the brothers enjoyed hanging out with each other.

Thibault Padiou (Brandeis, '18)

There were a lot of different people coming from other countries. I liked their values as well. It would be interesting for me, a guy from France, to be part of a fraternity. They also had people from Korea, China, Russia, Switzerland, and Israel. Even the alumni were very diverse. It was fun and took me out of my comfort zone, which wasn't bad.

Jesus Rodriguez (FIU, '92)

It struck me years ago, and still to this day, with this fraternity (that) among the things it values most is its diversity. And still, to this day, you look at the chapter, we've got black, white, Hispanic, and openly gay kids. It's wild, and yet the brotherhood holds. You have to appreciate something like that about a group like this.

Members from many decades relate that being diverse and inclusive was/is a valuable differentiator of our fraternity. It is one of the reasons they remain committed to ΣAM Inclusivity makes us stronger because it allows us to discover and appreciate other perspectives and realize the similarities and commonalities of the challenges that we all face, even if not in precisely the same ways. Such enlightenment leads to collaborative efforts to resolve those kinds of challenges for the betterment of all.

For more than seven decades, inclusivity for ΣAM has been about two simple things; 1) trying to make all men of good character aware that they are invited and wanted and 2) making each candidate/member feel welcome and that they belong as much as any other candidate/member. ΣAM's current leadership is committed to keeping the organization on the same path.

The OCTAGONIAN ISSN 0744-6972 KELBY M. DOLAN, Editor Vol. CVII No. 1 Spring 2023 ANDREW J. HUSTON, Executive Director

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Inclusivity does not mean we are abandoning or diminishing the Fraternity's Jewish heritage. It has not taken away, and will not take away, from anything we have been doing with Jewish organizations and partners. We will continue to actively make sure that those who come from a Jewish heritage have the ability to be part of a culturally familiar and welcoming organization. However, being true to the intent of the ΣAM's 1953 vision requires that we also continue working to identify and add non-Jewish organizations and partners to enrich our heritage further and to reach out in all directions so that any man of good character can see enough of himself within ΣAM such that we successfully raise the appeal and value offered by our organization.

Be proud of the thought leadership that our fraternity continues to demonstrate amongst our peer organizations and of the progress we have made. Be confident that the thread that holds us all together through the generations remains strong and unbroken. Driven by our 8 core values, we shall continue doing our part in helping to improve the lives of our members, our communities, and our country.

Fast and firm,



Dave P. Kleppel
Supreme Prior

OCTAGON

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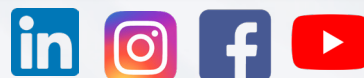
ACTIVE CHAPTER ROLL

BETA – Cornell
ETA – Syracuse
THETA – Pennsylvania
KAPPA – Minnesota
OMICRON – Cincinnati
RHO – Illinois
TAU – Alabama
PSI – Pittsburgh
SIGMA BETA – Ohio State
SIGMA ZETA – Indiana
SIGMA THETA – Texas
SIGMA OMICRON – Nebraska
SIGMA CHI – Maryland
MU ETA – Drexel
MU THETA – USC
MU PI – Colorado
MU CHI – Michigan State
MU PSI – Miami OH
BETA GAMMA – Arizona
BETA IOTA – Wisconsin
BETA PSI – Virginia
BETA OMEGA – Kentucky Wesleyan
GAMMA EPSILON – Illinois Chicago
GAMMA KAPPA – Texas A&M
GAMMA LAMBDA – Northern Illinois
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 ETA – West Florida
DELTA PI – Ottawa
DELTA UPSILON – UNLV
DELTA OMEGA – RIT
EPSILON ALPHA – Stephen F. Austin
EPSILON GAMMA – Illinois State
EPSILON DELTA – Johnson & Wales
EPSILON EPSILON – SUNY-Geneseo
EPSILON THETA – West Virginia
EPSILON NU – Connecticut
EPSILON XI – Emory
EPSILON PI – Rhode Island

Spring 2023 Expansion Efforts:

SIGMA BETA – Ohio State
SIGMA IOTA – Michigan
SIGMA OMEGA – North Carolina State
MU RHO – Rochester
EPSILON RHO – Clemson

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Find our photos at sam.org/photos

PROUD MEMBER OF





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 SIGMA ALPHA MU

EPSILON RHO PROVISIONAL CHAPTER AT CLEMSON



EXPANDING TO CLEMSON

Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity is proud to announce the addition of its 152nd location on the chapter roll as the Epsilon Rho Provisional Chapter at Clemson University. This exciting growth for the fraternity is due to students seeking out Sigma Alpha Mu as an ideal fit for their vision of a new brotherhood at Clemson. The Octagon approved the provisional charter following the interest group's successful admission to the Clemson Interfraternity Council as an Associate Chapter.

The interested students worked diligently with the Director of Growth, Jerred McCormick, to grow and develop operations over the past few months. Assistant Executive Director Jackie Hackett facilitated an abridged version of our True MDH Initiative candidate education program in a weekend retreat format. The men were then initiated into the Epsilon Rho Provisional Chapter by Supreme Prior David Kleppel on April 30th.

Executive Director Andy Huston noted, "Several students expressed interest in bringing Sigma Alpha Mu to Clemson this spring because of their alignment with our values. It was noted that this is one of the most impressive and quickly developing interest groups that the Clemson IFC has seen during the meeting where we received IFC recognition. Please join me in congratulating these seven Founding Fathers - Daniel, Ethan, Jonah, Lukas, Ryan, Connor, & Gavin - who have the vision to build Epsilon Rho Chapter in the best tradition of our Creed!"

The Provisional Chapter will continue to receive support from staff and area alumni as they work to grow, develop operations, and prepare their application for the ratification of their charter at the 2024 Convention.

"I'm proud to be a part of Sammy and believe that as a chapter, we will be able to make a big impact on the community through charity, brotherhood, and leadership," reflected newly initiated frater Daniel Chaput. Clemson University is home to 23 IFC fraternity chapters with an average chapter size of 86. This is Sigma Alpha Mu's 7th chapter in the ACC. Assistant Dean of Students & Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life Gary Wisner shared, "The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is excited to welcome Sigma Alpha Mu as the 24th member of the Interfraternity Council. Our office and IFC believe the mission and values of Sigma Alpha Mu will enhance our community, and we look forward to the chapter being a valuable member of our community."

Do you want to support the growth of Sigma Alpha Mu? Please consider a non-tax deductible contribution to our Bridge Builder Fund at sam.org/bridge.

HAVE YOU HEARD



FRA MARINO

Chris Marino (Syracuse, '10) has been named Global Head of Media & Marketing Technology for Bloomberg Media. He holds a B.S. from Syracuse University, where he joined our fraternity, and an MBA from Cornell University. In his role, he drives audience and subscription growth across Bloomberg.com and Quicktake through a multi-million dollar media investment. He is also responsible for advancing the company's marketing technology stack to enhance the customer experience and maximize revenue. AdWeek recently recognized Chris as one of 50 executives transforming media, marketing, and technology, Business Insider as a rising star of brand marketing, and Brand Innovators as a 40 Under 40. Outside work, he is an avid foodie, traveler, and Syracuse Orange basketball fan residing in New York City.

In an Intelligent Creative Spotlight (ICS) series interview, Chris shared, "Growing up, marketing always intrigued me. I think it taught me to be vulnerable. It showed me the power of a message, as a Storyteller, that was always really compelling to me. I've always wanted to use marketing as a force for good, whether working at American Express and helping small businesses to do more business or working at Bloomberg, where I have been committed to helping consumers discover data-driven journalism and how that becomes a catalyst for change. Data is at the core of everything that we do at Bloomberg. The goal of the data we use is to understand our audience because if you can help a consumer fall in love with your brand through data, that will help make a lifetime relationship."



FRA SCHOEN

Dr. Richard J. Schoen (UCLA, '64) was named Associate Professor in Residence at UNLV, School of Dental Medicine. Fra Schoen joined the UNLV School of Dental Medicine in 2012 and taught infection control and nitrous oxide sedation within the Clinical Sciences department. Dr. Schoen is a member of the American Dental Association, Nevada Dental Association, and Southern Nevada Dental Society. Dr. Schoen earned his undergraduate degree from UCLA and his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Loyola University, Chicago. For 27 years before moving to Las Vegas, Richard was a Dental Director for two Indian Health Centers.

Richard enjoys music and is the secretary of the Southern Nevada Bluegrass Music Society. He also belongs to the Nevada Old Time Fiddlers Association and the Las Vegas Blues Society. When not teaching, he plays the guitar, banjo, and mandolin and is an avid fly fisherman. He loves to play golf and is a model railroader.



FRA WITTENBERG

Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation is giving Judge Jamie Wittenberg (Indiana, '93) the Barry Bremen Memorial Inspiration Award posthumously. "Honorable" was more than a title for Judge Jamie Wittenberg; it was his essence. His unsurpassed integrity, steadfastness, and kind-heartedness permeated every aspect of his life and career. He helped many people who appeared before him to find better solutions to better their lives. Jamie passed away in late 2022, and his brother Robert Wittenberg, Oakland County, Michigan Treasurer, will accept the award in Jamie's memory.



FRA BLACKBURN

The International Softball Congress Sports Hall of Fame inducted David Blackburn (Illinois, '79) in August 2011, where he brought the game into the 21st century through his use of technology and increasing international awareness of the game. David has competed at six Maccabiah Games and five Pan American Maccabi Games, accumulating five gold, one silver, and one bronze medal along the way, with the most recent gold medal as a member of the USA Masters Men's Fast Pitch Team at the 18th World Maccabiah Games. David has also played for various leagues as part of the Amateur Softball Association and currently for the Maccabi USA 40+ Men's team. As part of his athletic career, he has developed lifelong friendships with other softball athletes from the USA and around the world.

In 2010, David and two teammates drove together to Arizona to meet the other Maccabi USA Men's Team members to participate in the ASA Over 40 National Fast Pitch Championship. Before they were able to reach their destination, they were involved in a near-fatal car accident. David sustained the worst injuries, with multiple broken and shattered bones. Meanwhile, the other members of the Maccabi USA Team had to decide whether they would move forward with participating in the National Tournament. After hearing that their teammates were stabilized, they chose to participate in the tournament in honor of their friends.

A 2011 article by the Maccabi Games describes David's ongoing recovery as "truly a miracle to his family and friends throughout the Maccabi and International fast pitch communities." A year after, the International Softball Congress Sports Hall of Fame inducted Fra Blackburn. The article concludes, "David is known as a friend to everyone who meets him, and to the people he meets in the softball community, he is family."



FRA ZYSMAN

Fra Warren Zysman (Adelphi, '00) was named U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Chief of Las Vegas Residential Recovery & Rehabilitation Center which provides inpatient detox, substance abuse, and gambling rehabilitation programs. Fra Zysman is a former Undergraduate Consul of the Octagon and served for nine years on the Board of Directors at the Nassau University Medical Center.

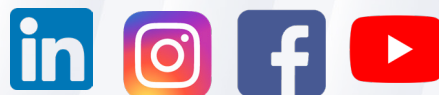


FRA SCHEFTER

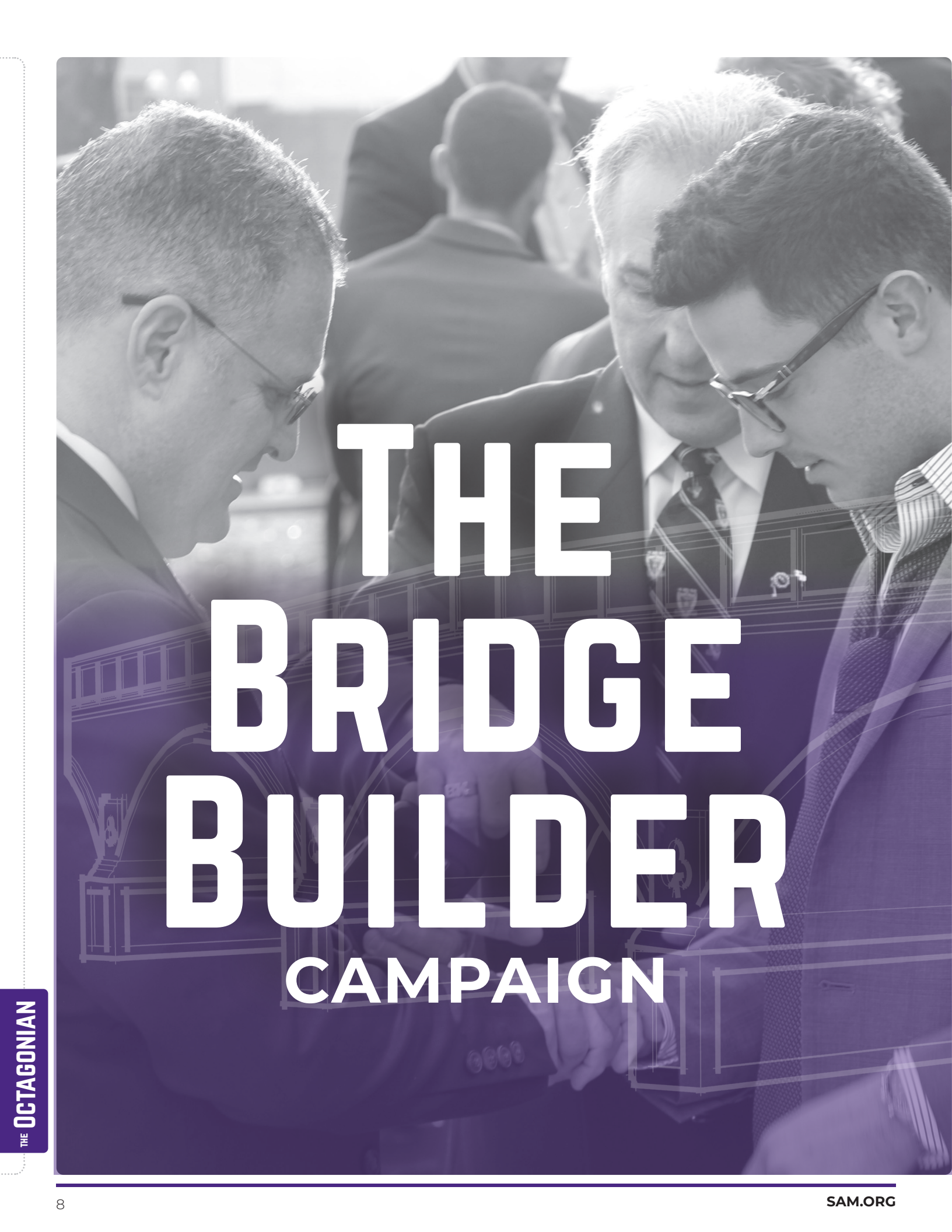
The Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation has named Adam Schefter (Michigan, '87), a senior NFL Insider at ESPN, the Dick Schaap Media Excellence Honoree. He joined ESPN in August 2009 and now appears on various programs, including NFL Live, Sunday NFL Countdown, Sports Center, and more throughout the year. One of the top sports reporters in the country, Adam has covered the NFL since 1990, and his social media influence is unmatched in the industry.

SHARE YOUR UPDATE

Tell us about your individual accomplishment, award, or news by contacting the Director of Alumni Engagement at kelby@sam.org or online at sam.org/heard.



Sigma Alpha Mu is posting *every day, 7 days a week* on social media. We encourage you to find us, friend us, and follow us.



THE BRIDGE BUILDER CAMPAIGN

Written by

KENNETH SCHNEIDER

(Chapman, '10), Director of Development



WHEN WE CHOOSE TO SUPPORT EXPANSION, WE HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR BELOVED FRATERNITY

The most iconic lesson of our fraternal education is the Bridge Builder.

A pilgrim comes across an old man and states, "You're wasting your strength building here... you never again must pass this way... Why have you built the bridge at the eventide?" Immediately the old man responds, "A youth whose feet must pass this way. This chasm that has been naught to me... Good friend, I am building that bridge for him." We can help realize the vision of Sigma Alpha Mu by identifying with the message from the old man. Hence, there is no better name for our Bridge Builder Campaign.

Fraternity is like any other business. With sustainable growth, our organization can ensure that the eight pillars make it to the next generation of collegians. When we choose to support expansion, specifically the Bridge Builder Campaign, we directly impact the longevity of our beloved Fraternity through a non-tax deductible 501(c)7. There is an opportunity to support now and reinforce the resources necessary to make an expansion project a success.

So why support expansion?

Each expansion project embodies our mission of providing a forward-thinking, inclusive fraternal experience. What better life skill is there for a student looking to grow themselves, personally and professionally, than starting a new organization on their campus? Those founding and re-founding fathers who embark on this journey often become Sigma Alpha Mu's strongest advocates.

Founding Father of the Omicron Chapter at Cincinnati, Logan Rock (Omicron, '21), reflected, "My experience taught me how to overcome barriers, create an amazing community, and work hard for what I have. It showed our chapter that there will always be obstacles, and you'll need to figure out how to overcome them to move forward." Our growth staff promotes the Founding Father story to students nationwide. Its tangible impact helps students see that Fraternity is a force for good. Sammy Moscovitch (Rho, '22), current Prior of the Rho Chapter at Illinois, reinforces this notion, commenting that the experience of being a Founding Father has "led to some great relationships which opened up doors that I wouldn't have had access to otherwise."

What Happens During An Expansion?

Coming from a former traveling consultant who has initiated dozens of Founding Fathers into this organization, this impact is not surprising to me. Still, many throughout this great organization need to learn the impact this experience has. As opposed to general fraternity recruitment, founding a new chapter introduced me to students who wanted something different from their collegiate experience. They found the current Greek system on their campus to need something in an environment where every interest had an affiliated club. However, starting a new fraternity provides some of the most practical and hands-on experience for those interested in creating a business, growing their leadership skills, and leaving an impactful legacy behind. These individuals identify strongly with the values of the eight pillars. In a way that is unique to most opportunities on that campus, they can implement these ideals directly into practice, as opposed to having to morph an existing culture into the one they want to lead.

While finding these leaders is one of the most satisfying elements of the expansion project, I would be remiss if I did not mention the effort behind the scenes to make that moment happen. Before we get into a position to extend the Founding Fathers bid, there are hundreds of cold calls made and countless hours of meetings on campus. Growth Consultants, often hundreds or even thousands of miles away from home, spend weeks developing events and leadership development opportunities. We sometimes spend holidays and birthdays in hotel rooms. However, whether at the University of Nebraska, Washington State University, Michigan State or anywhere in between, seeing the young men grow from provisional chapters to fully recognized members of their campus community made the work worth it.

**THE CAMPAIGN CAN BE
THE VEHICLE TO RALLY
AROUND AND ACTUALIZE
THE RETURN OF YOUR
SAMMY CHAPTER.**

This is who you, as alumni, are supporting when you decide to support the Bridge Builder Campaign. Today, as a staff, we look to leverage technology in the expansion process by hosting Virtual Good and Welfares. What started during the pandemic to connect our alumni has transformed into an invaluable tool to help our members become excited about the return of their chapter to campus. Recently, we held a Virtual Good and Welfare to launch our expansion at NC State (Sigma Omega Chapter) and for the University of Rochester (Mu Rho Chapter). These hour-long virtual meetings allow our fratres from all eras to gather, many for the first time.

We reconnect and tell stories about our time as undergraduate members. We learn about the impact of the Founding Fathers' experience and how we can support its development, participating from wherever we call home.

Where does the Bridge Builder Campaign fit into this conversation?

We recognize that, until now, limited resources have been available to excited alumni ready to return their dormant chapter to the active list. Over the last year, our Bridge Builders Campaign has seen multiple inspiring examples from alumni who have directed their financial donations to assist in funding staff time and the active needs of our Founding Fathers to create sustainable growth. Being amongst the first donors for this campaign, members of our Octagon provided leadership, matching funds targeted at the support of this initiative.

Growth is essential to our organization's continued excellence. We can realize our mission for years when you support the Bridge Builder Campaign. This spring, we initiated the Founding Fathers of our 152nd campus at Clemson University and the first class at Sigma Iota (University of Michigan) in almost ten years. This Fall, ΣAM is returning to NYU and Purdue University. The Bridge Builder is needed now more than ever.

Do you believe that growth is essential to the future of SAM? Do you love being able to reconnect with your candidate class and chapter brothers and want to provide that experience to those just getting started?

The Bridge Builder Campaign will directly support the growth and health of Sigma Alpha Mu. Visit sam.org/bridge to make a contribution to our future Founding Fathers.

ENDOWMENT FUND CHAIR DAVE PHILLIPS (OHIO STATE, '80)

In March, members of the Octagon hosted two alumni events in the Columbus area with 25+ Sammy alumni in attendance. We share our appreciation for our hosts, Dave and Andrea Kleppel and Evan Remer, and thanks to the Sammy alumni who were able to join us!

STATE OF THE FRATERNITY

Written by



Andy Huston

(Minnesota, '01), Executive Director

Hearing origin stories about how fratres found their way to membership in Sigma Alpha Mu never gets old. It usually boils down to a person - a friend, relative, or classmate - who made the introduction to Sammy. It always involves being invited to join and saying yes to the opportunity to belong.

As a freshman at the University of Minnesota, I did not go through rush. It simply wasn't on my radar. Fortunately for me, I met Aaron Liebo (Minnesota, '99) through a friend of a friend. He introduced me to his friends and the chapter. It turns out that I was actually "rushing" while meeting those guys without even knowing it. My life improved when the Kappa Chapter at the University of Minnesota asked me to join. I can still vividly recall the rush of adrenaline that came with being invited to join. Being accepted and belonging evokes powerful feelings. As that initial excitement faded, a genuine sense of confidence stemmed from having a trusted support system.

This year 765 students have said yes. We are projected to start next year 9% ahead of this past year due to the fraternity's investment in growth and chapter health as part of the SAM 2030 strategic plan. This academic year has seen the return of Beta (Cornell), Sigma Iota (Michigan), Sigma Omega (NC State), and the addition of Epsilon Rho (Clemson). We continue to support interest groups at Sigma Beta (Ohio State) and Mu Rho (Rochester).

Since April 2020, nearly 500 undergraduate fratres have completed the Certified PhiredUp Recruiter program. This online course aims to teach our members skills to cultivate new friendships, grow a pipeline of interest prospects, and leverage technology to increase the quantity and quality of new members.

It should be no surprise that the vast majority of chapters saw year-over-year increases in their recruitment efforts. Our students are better prepared to reach a generation of students who crave the positive attributes of fraternity.

Today's college students, known as Generation Z or GenZ, were born in the early 2000s. The fraternity can positively impact many of the core concerns faced by this generation. One such concern for GenZ college students is mental health. Academic performance, social life, and personal growth pressures can take a toll on students' mental well-being. College can be overwhelming and stressful, particularly for students away from home for the first time. Many GenZ students feel overwhelmed and anxious, and they are looking for support and resources to help them cope.



Sigma Alpha Mu offers an excellent way for GenZ students to acclimate to college life and develop a sense of belonging. We continue to provide an opportunity for students to connect with their peers who share similar interests, goals, and values. GenZ students develop essential skills and experience that can enhance their academic and professional pursuits - just as we did in college. Serving as an officer or leading a project with their peers helps build their confidence and demonstrate their abilities. Membership in Sigma Alpha Mu facilitates the developing of the skills, passions, and networks that will shape their careers. That alleviates another significant concern of GenZ about finding meaningful employment after college that will allow them to pay off student loans and live a comfortable life.

For decades, a hallmark of Sigma Alpha Mu has been its ability to diverse groups of people together - whether geographical, socioeconomic, religious, racial, or sexual orientation.

GenZ students actively seek learning opportunities about different cultures, beliefs, and perspectives. Exposure to diverse viewpoints and experiences can broaden their understanding of the world and contribute to personal growth. Many chapters have leaned into this by hosting cultural programming that highlights the backgrounds of their members.

Our chapters actively create a sense of community and belonging, which is in demand on campuses where many students feel isolated or disconnected. This sense of community is an essential support system during challenging times. It continues to foster the lifelong friendships and connections that were envisioned by our Founders more than a century ago.

These are truths we may also share with this current generation of fratres. For anyone who remains skeptical, we have some research* findings that help emphasize the fraternity experience.

- Fraternity members report higher levels of positive mental health and less depression or anxiety than unaffiliated members.*
- Nearly 80% of fraternity men report excellent mental health and well-being.*
- Members seeking help are twice as likely to turn to a brother than anyone else.*
- Fraternity and sorority members believe that good support systems exist for students going through tough times.*
- Fraternity and sorority members are more likely to seek therapy or counseling at some point.*
- Fraternities provide an environment where members can have tough conversations, especially about personal issues like relationships, family, and mental health struggles.*

The investment in membership is paying off, and it is changing lives. The power of belonging is profound for our fratres who have found a home in Sigma Alpha Mu.

*Learn more at nicfraternity.org/research



MAKING AN IMPACT ON UNDERGRADUATE MEN

Published by

North American Interfraternity Conference



Today's generation of college men is facing real challenges. Fewer men choose to go to college each year – making up a historic low of 41% of the student body, with only 60% of the men who start at four-year universities receiving diplomas. With a further significant decline in enrollment projected over the next few years and women outpacing men significantly in applications, there is “no reversal in sight,” according to experts in the Wall Street Journal. Experts also call loneliness an “epidemic” among college men as they have higher rates of suicide, substance abuse and are less likely to use mental health services.

We know many colleges and universities seek new strategies to enroll more men and support them – inside and outside the classroom – once they arrive on campus.

Insight from recent research shows how involvement in fraternities provides unique benefits to students who identify as men – supporting their mental health and wellness, strengthening their connection to the university and community, and developing them as leaders and citizens.

From the team at Gallup to university faculty members, over the past three years, researchers have conducted nearly 20 studies with results showing how fraternities support college men today.

Fraternities – national organizations, alumni, and students – acknowledge and are working together to confront and address the challenges and risks within the organizations today. This research helps them do that while building on the distinct value these organizations can bring to students and their campus communities.

With universities seeking solutions to expand mental health support, energize student life, engage alumni, and cultivate supporters and donors, this research shows real promise.

With college men committing suicide four to six times more than women and showing increasing rates of depression, anxiety, and loneliness, we know the need for support is immense.

Research shows that the impactful, meaningful connection men find in fraternities can create a strong sense of belonging. It leads members to have more positive mental health, and the greater sense of support men receive in fraternities has been tied to lower depressive levels.¹ Brothers feel comfortable having tough conversations and learning from each other. When they seek help, members are twice as likely to reach out to a fraternity brother than anyone else.² This helps remove the stigma of asking for support.

As a result, research shows fraternity men have a better view of campus-provided support systems and are more likely than non-affiliated students to use counseling resources throughout their lives.³

We also continue to address our challenges. NIC Member Fraternities have adopted health & safety standards that build upon prevention efforts and programs, that includes the adoption of medical Good Samaritan policies, implementation of health and safety educational programming, the adoption of standardized health and safety guidelines across all chapters – and campus interfraternity councils – to standardize and strengthen measures to protect students, and the removal of hard alcohol from chapter facilities and events.

The NIC formed the Anti-Hazing Coalition, an unprecedented partnership with families who lost their sons to hazing, which works at state and federal levels to pursue anti-hazing legislation that delivers greater transparency strengthens criminal penalties and encourages prosecution, calls for university accountability for bad actors provides for amnesty to encourage people to call for help, and calls for student education. This group also actively facilitates programs on campuses and at fraternity educational events. Since its inception, the parents have spoken to tens of thousands of members about their sons' stories, the authentic danger of hazing, and how to prevent it in their campus communities.

¹ According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center's Fall 2021 Term Enrollment Estimates.

² According to the National Center for Education Statistics.

³ Thomas Mortenson is a senior scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, which aims to improve educational opportunities for low-income, first-generation and disabled college students.



Register at sam.org/convention.

We look forward to hosting an in-person program, August 11-13, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN, home to our Fraternity and Foundation headquarters. The Convention Business Meeting will be hosted on Saturday, August 13. More information about events specific to this celebration is available online at sam.org/convention.

The Convention Foreward is published 90 days prior to the Convention per the Blue Book. All proposed legislation has been reviewed for the business meeting and is available at sam.org/convention.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



Benji Bearman
(Minnesota, '97)



Doug Montgomery
(Texas A&M, '05)



Andy Raffel
(Western Michigan, '92)



David Sackler
(Syracuse, '84)



PSP LEE MANDERS

Sigma Alpha Mu will be presenting PSP Lee Manders (Miami OH, '72) with the William P. Schwartz Distinguished Service Award at the 2023 Convention in Indianapolis. He is only the 19th recipient to receive this prestigious award. Lee has served the fraternity extensively in volunteer and staff capacities.

Volunteer Service:

House Corporation Leadership, Regional Governor ('80-'86), Supreme Exchequer ('87-'89), Vice Supreme Prior ('89-'91), Supreme Recorder ('98-'99), Vice Supreme Prior ('99-'01), Supreme Prior ('01-'04), and Foundation Director ('08-'09).

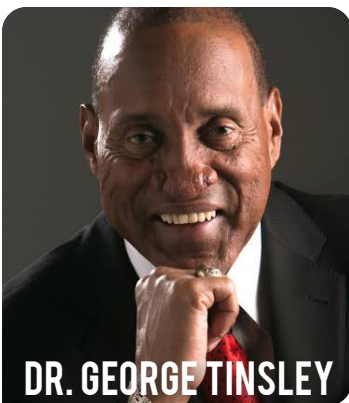
Staff Roles:

Field Secretary ('77-'79), Executive Director ('09-'15), President of SAM National Properties & SAM Property Management ('15-'21).

This award was established in 1952 and is the pinnacle acknowledgement of service to Sigma Alpha Mu. Living recipients of the Distinguished Service Award include Past Supreme Priors Ron Katch, Richie Williamson, Hanno Mott, Howard Miller, and Phil Glauen.

Congrats to Lee and thank you for your steadfast service to Sammy!

2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS



DR. GEORGE TINSLEY



OFFER KORIN

The Certificate of Merit shall be awarded to such alumni whose service and achievements in community endeavors are deemed by the Octagon worthy of national recognition. The 2023 recipients include Dr. George Tinsley (Kentucky Wesleyan, '69) and Offer Korin (Indiana, '83).

This Spring *Octagonian* highlights chapter updates.



CHAPTER INFORMATION

Membership Total	Fall '22 Recruitment Results	Spring '23 Recruitment Results
Culler Young Scholar Chapter Fall '22 Totals		# of Chapter Advisors



Chapter with this icon are in need of volunteer alumni advisors



C B Cornell University

12	5	7
0	2	

At the Beta Chapter at Cornell, we are proud of our safe, inclusive environment that promotes the embodiment of brotherhood whenever we are together. In the presence of each other, we can truly be ourselves. Here, Sammy has a place for everyone.

"IN THE PRESENCE OF EACH OTHER, WE ARE ABLE TO TRULY BE OURSELVES. HERE, SAMMY HAS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE."



S H Syracuse University

45	9	14
0	2	

Our bond at the Eta Chapter at Syracuse strengthened after we hosted a paintballing event, our first with the new members initiated. We emphasize inclusion in the chapter so our new members have opportunities to bond with the older members during our events.

PENN Θ University of Pennsylvania

49	0	25
0	2	

The Theta Chapter at UPenns comprises a breadth of backgrounds, experiences, and differences that bring us closer together. Our camaraderie and shared respect for one another bind us together. Our brotherhood's tight-knit bond creates a robust foundation that makes our chapter feel like a second family.



M K University of Minnesota

Continued from below. >>

34	17	5
4	4	

Our Kappa Chapter at Minnesota feels like home because members are willing to drop everything to help each other. Members have offered rides to brothers running late to class, and our guys showed up to support another brother's senior project presentation.



University of Cincinnati

34	10	7
0	1	



I P University of Illinois

22	12	3
7	2	

The Rho Chapter at Illinois allows us to flourish as leaders. Re-founding our chapter alongside exceptional individuals has fortified our unity and provided a solid foundation for our home in Champaign-Urbana.



A **T**
University of Alabama

45	11	12
4	1	

The brothers of the Tau Chapter at Alabama make it feel like home. They are genuine, trustworthy, and honorable. Although we have many different interests, we're all committed to service within our community and the pursuit of academic success.



PITT **Ψ**
University of Pittsburgh

36	4	11
3	2	

The Psi Chapter at Pitt feels like a true home because everyone knows each other so well and cares about what everyone has going on. We uplift each other by having fun and not forcing the bonds of brotherhood but letting them form naturally. We had significant growth this year and can't wait to see what next year holds for the chapter!



Ψ **ΣΖ**
Indiana University

166	37	17
1	1	

At the Sigma Zeta Chapter at Indiana, we cherish the opportunity to create memories with our best friends on and off campus. We always sat that you can take our brothers out of a home, but you can never take the home out of our brothers.



UT **ΣΘ**
University of Texas

131	24	14
5	2	

The sense of brotherhood and camaraderie within our Sigma Theta Chapter at Texas makes it feel like home. Whether we're participating in philanthropic events, socializing, or studying together, I always feel a strong connection to my fellow Sammys. It's a supportive and inclusive community that has helped us all grow personally and academically. Being a part of Sammy has indeed been a rewarding and life-changing experience.



N **ΣΟ**
University of Nebraska

11	3	1
0	2	



M **ΣΧ**
University of Maryland

50	6	6
3	5	

Our Sigma Chi Chapter at Maryland believes we can do more together than alone. With a firm reliance on our values, we work to improve our community, like with the March Madness Philanthropic event, which raised \$1.8k for The Judy Fund.



MH
Drexel University

28	9	3
0	0	

The Mu Eta Chapter at Drexel is easily the biggest mixing pot we have seen on our campus. We are unique. All of our members bring something different to our front porch, which for us, is a place that feels like home.



MO
University of Southern California

131	35	25
7	3	



MP
University of Colorado

19	5	4
1	1	

The Mu Pi Chapter at Colorado celebrates and shares a close connection between brothers, making it feel like home. We also bond on hiking and camping trips in the most fantastic place, the Rockies.

"WE ARE AROUND BROTHERS THAT SUPPORT AND UPLIFT ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER WE ARE GOING THROUGH."



MΨ
Miami University (OH)

107	0	17
2	1	

Being a brother at the Mu Psi Chapter at Miami OH feels like home because we are around brothers that support and uplift one another with whatever we are going through. Sharing our college experiences and creating lifelong memories with our brothers gives us a second family away from home. We have an inclusive and supportive environment that we do not always see in other chapters on our campus.



MX
Michigan State University

25	6	5
0	2	

The Mu Chi Chapter at Michigan State feels like home because of our unparalleled brotherhood. When a mass shooting happened on Feb. 13th at MSU, we were all there for each other, huddled in a room on the top floor of our house, checking on our brothers both on and off campus. Seeing us all be there for each other, even people who haven't shown up to an event in a year, show up for Philanthropy events, socials, and brotherhood events, emphasizes our camaraderie.



BΓ
University of Arizona

130	50	23
2	1	

The inclusiveness of all our members makes our Beta Gamma Chapter at Arizona feel like home. At any time of the day, you can find our members together with one another, regardless of their background or future. We are a group of close-knit men working to better ourselves and the chapter.



BI
University of Wisconsin

114	30	0
0	2	



BΨ
University of Virginia

69	0	17
1	2	

Our Beta Psi Chapter at Virginia feels like home because it provides a sense of purpose, community, and adventure to make everyone feel supported and comfortable in their natural state. We make sure to form a sense of camaraderie through brotherhood events such as hikes or having fire pits on our patio. Everyone always pushes each other to be the best they can be professionally and academically and provide support for furthering our academic career and development.



ΓΕ
University of Illinois Chicago

30	12	4
0	5	

The Gamma Epsilon Chapter at Illinois Chicago is centered in the city's heart in the Pilsen and Little Italy neighborhoods. With this in mind, we have garnered a sense of community outside the UIC and fraternity bounds, making our chapter feel like an integral part of this city and a true home.



ΓΛ
Northern Illinois University

2	0	NA
1	1	

Our Gamma Lambda Chapter at Northern Illinois feels like home because we have made it one. There is always a brother around the house to help you out or spend your free time with. We all have similar goals and interests around the house, and seeing each other in our common areas or at our chapter meetings and events is always a joy.



BΩ
Kentucky Wesleyan College

10	5	0
0	2	

Our Beta Omega Chapter at Kentucky Wesleyan feels like home because of our inclusive atmosphere and sense of community as a small chapter. Due to the size of our campus community and chapter, we can all connect and relate to each other on deeper levels.



ΓΚ
Texas A&M

21	3	5
0	2	

Our Gamma Kappa Chapter at Texas A&M feels like home because our brothers take care of brothers. One example was when I (Fra Zachary Laguna) got hurt going camping, and my brothers helped me get to safety and tended to my wounds. Through our experiences, we have bonded and have become lifelong friends.



ΓΡ
UC-San Diego

25	6	5
2	1	

Our Gamma Rho Chapter at UCSD feels like home because whether we are grabbing a bite to eat, going to the beach between classes, or simply hanging out, there is always a brother around to share those moments. Ultimately, the bonds formed here at the Gamma Rho chapter create a home away from home for our brothers.



ΓΤ

University of Florida

32	4	4
1	1	

Our Gamma Tau Chapter feels like home because of how our brotherhood feels like family. We all have fun and love each other but argue, joke, and cry together. In our chapter, we create a home for our brothers to face whatever life throws at them, and we'll help in any way we can.



ΓΦ

Arizona State University

65	17	4
0	0	

Our Gamma Phi Chapter at Arizona State is unique, as no two members are alike. We strive to always show up for one another and to make each other the best version of ourselves. We recognize and appreciate the opportunity to hang out with our favorite people in the world.



ΓΧ

Brandeis University

28	8	14
3	3	

Our Gamma Chi Chapter at Brandeis feels like home because of our shared experiences and openness to new ideas. No matter the problem, our brotherhood steps up and offers assistance in any way possible. It is a supportive community that I can truly call my home.



ΓΨ

Temple University

60	9	14
0	2	

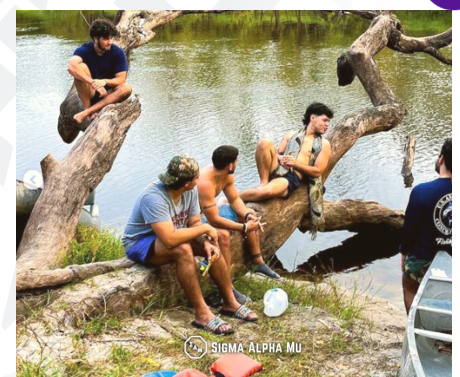
The Gamma Psi Chapter at Temple is a home away from home by how we treat and do events together like a family. We go to dinner, watch and play sports, and attend each other's family events. We also teach and share life lessons that will grow each other as individuals, just as a family does in a household. We could not get any of these things without our Sammy brothers.



ΔΒ

American University

26	6	8
0	1	



ΔΖ

Florida International University

68	20	22
5	6	

A culture of trust is what bonds the members of the Delta Zeta Chapter at Florida International together. Our chapter includes members who prefer speaking Spanish to English at chapter. Our chapter's diversity makes it feel like home. We would not trade it for anything.

"OUR CHAPTER'S DIVERSITY MAKES IT FEEL LIKE HOME."



ΔΗ

University of West Florida

15	6	0
0	4	

The Delta Eta Chapter at UWF has many different types of people with a wealth of knowledge from all walks of life united by a common goal. We all want to improve this world, and Sigma Alpha Mu provides many opportunities to spread positivity. This is why Sammy feels like family.



ΔΠ

Ottawa University

33	18	6
0	1	

The members of the Delta Pi Chapter at Ottawa promote our values. We foster friendships, memories, and experiences we will carry for the rest of our lives. Every brother is motivated and contributes, and that's what makes our chapter feel like home.



ΔΥ

UNLV

19	8	3
1	2	

Our Delta Upsilon Chapter makes us feel at home because of the support we offer one another. We are a smaller chapter. Everyone takes time to get to know one another and what you have going on in your life. While college life can be stressful, our Sammy community reassures you that everyone around is willing to help you achieve a high level of success you never thought was possible.



ΔΩ

Rochester Institute of Technology

26	9	4
2	1	

The Delta Omega Chapter's interconnected relationships at RIT make it feel like home. We share close bonds because we celebrate our familial diversity. This is our home away from home and an integral support system throughout our college experiences.



ΕΑ

Stephen F. Austin State University

4	0	-
0	4	

Within our Epsilon Alpha Chapter at SFA, our brothers have a tight bond throughout the SFA Greek and overall community. Our members take pride in creating a solid brotherhood. We strive to make sure our brothers are thriving academically and mentally. Sammy has given our brothers the best collegiate and fraternal experience that they could ask for.

"WE MAKE SURE OUR BROTHERS ARE THRIVING ACADEMICALLY & MENTALLY."



ΕΓ

Illinois State University

3	2	0
0	5	



EA
Johnson & Wales

23	6	4
1		1

The Epsilon Delta chapter at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI initiated four new members this spring.

The chapter is continuing to grow, and they are getting even more involved with on-campus and community philanthropy events. Additionally, they hosted a clothing drive in conjunction with Alpha Delta Pi sorority both on-campus and within the Providence community.



EE
SUNY-Geneseo

37	4	5
0		1

The Epsilon Epsilon Chapter at Geneseo focuses nonstop on growing our brotherhood. We all look to create an environment where everyone is respected, comfortable, and eager to develop life long friends. We are always together with Sammys, young and old, to create memories and experiences that will last forever.



EO
West Virginia University

20	6	1
1		3

The Epsilon Theta Chapter at West Virginia feels like home because we prioritize our member's ideals and work on developing our character. We are motivated to improve Greek life's image on our campus. We have cultivated a strong community, and I can count on my Sammy brothers to show up for me in my time of need, and to me, that is the true definition of brotherhood.



EN
University of Connecticut

23	6	4
1		0

Epsilon Nu Chapter at UCONN feels like a home away from home because it's a culture that fosters lifelong brotherhood, is rich in tradition, and allows us to share some of the most cherished memories of our college years. It's a culture where we can develop the chapter just as it develops us. As a result, our experiences as brothers create deep bonds you can't get anywhere else.



EE
Emory University

70	6	29
2		2

The Epsilon Xi Chapter at Emory feels like home because of the strong sense of brotherhood we have created in the short time since our establishment in 2016. Our main on-campus chapter house, where many brothers live and we host weekly chapter meetings, serves as a gathering spot bringing everyone together and creating a sense of community. Additionally, we prioritize everyone's interests in our programming so that every brother feels included and valued. The common bond we all share within our chapter stems from the constant mutual support and respect we share for each other and the desire to better ourselves and our fraternity as we continue to make our chapter feel like a home.



EP
University of Rhode Island

51	16	7
2		1

Our Epsilon Pi Chapter at URI is home because of the accepting environment we have carefully created.



SPRING EXPANSION PROJECTS

"THE MOST IMPRESSIVE AND QUICKLY DEVELOPING INTEREST GROUPS THAT THEIR IFC HAS SEEN."



ΣΙ

University of Michigan

28	NA	28
NA	2	

The Sigma Iota Provisional Chapter at Michigan initiated 28 new members this spring. Director of Growth Jerred McCormick shared, "We are excited for the new undergraduate and alumni leadership of our provisional chapter, including two chapter advisors, Erik Harris (Michigan, '92) and Andy Sale (Michigan, '90). We appreciate their investment of time and talent to bringing back our chapter in Ann Arbor.

UPCOMING & CONTINUED EXPANSION PROJECTS INCLUDE:



Sigma Beta Chapter at the Ohio State University



Sigma Eta Chapter at Purdue University



Mu Omicron Chapter at New York University



Mu Rho Chapter at University of Rochester



Epsilon Sigma at Georgia Southern Univ.



ΣΩ

North Carolina State University

15	NA	15
NA	3	

The Sigma Omega chapter at North Carolina State University initiated fifteen men this spring. Many of the members are engineering students, and some of whom were friends from high school. As founding fathers, they look forward to taking on the responsibility of restarting Sigma Omega together to further strengthen their friendship bond.



EP

Clemson University

7	NA	7
NA	2	

The Epsilon Rho Chapter at Clemson initiated seven initiates who expressed interest in bringing Sigma Alpha Mu to Clemson this spring because of their alignment with our values. It was noted that this is one of the most impressive and quickly developing interest groups that the Clemson IFC has seen during the meeting where they received IFC recognition.



Since 1909, Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity initiated over 70k members.

In the heart of bustling university life, amidst lectures, exams, and social events, there exists Sammy, a beacon of warmth and camaraderie, creating a home away from home for its members. This is where bonds are forged, memories made, and support was found. They were a family, always there for one another.

The oral histories have been edited for brevity.

Whether celebrating triumphs or consoling each other during tough times, their unwavering support made the fraternity feel like a sanctuary of understanding and acceptance. Within our fraternity, rituals, and traditions further solidified the sense of belonging. From weekly gatherings to game nights and philanthropic events, every occasion was an opportunity to strengthen the bonds between Sammys.

The shared experiences became ingrained in their identities as the fraternity became woven into the fabric of their college lives. Through the challenges and triumphs of college life, this fraternity became a refuge from the pressures of the outside world. It was a place where dreams were nurtured, talents were discovered, and ambitions were supported. The fraternity transformed into more than just a physical location; it became a state of mind—a sense of belonging and homecoming that would remain etched in the hearts of its members long after graduation. **#Sammys4Life**



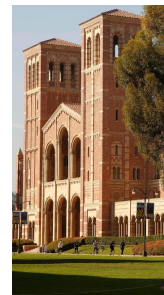
I joined Sammy because I had the feeling of being welcomed and socially accepted. It offered me a new start, and they were a very welcoming group. It gave me a home base at school.

Paul Leber, PE (Drexel, '79)



I was living away from home. We were all different guys, but in a place at the same time together. We accepted each other. To me, Sammy means family connection. My youngest son, became a Sammy, too.

Steve Leeds (Penn State, '64)



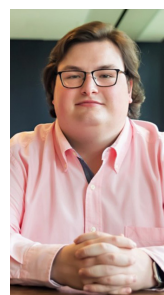
There were a lot of fraternities at UCLA, but this one, in particular, had cohesiveness and diversity. Everyone seemed unified, and we were vibing on the same wavelength. I felt at home the minute I walked in.

Tommy Harrington (UCLA, '88)



To me, Sammy means a place that will always be my home. No matter where I go and where I form relationships that will be with me for the rest of my life.

Stan Zolek
(Northeastern, '90)



At the end of the day, I'd always have a place to go home to. There were people to do things with, and experiences to make memories and enjoy forever.

Jacob Timmins
(Alabama, '16)



It taught me good organizational skills, like running a meeting, that I used daily. Sammy was like a family away from home. I remember ending up in the hospital surrounded by fraternity brothers.

Paul Todd (West Florida, '05)

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.

Written by



Aaron Girson

(Western Michigan, '92), SAM Foundation, CEO

Since rejoining the ΣAM staff in January, I have had the opportunity to visit with many alumni, sharing updates on our Fraternity. Alumni will often ask, "Does ΣAM matter, and are we making a difference?"

The answer is unequivocally YES! Today's college men need fraternities more than ever before! We all know the value of SAM firsthand, but recent research has proven how fraternity membership provides life-changing support, community, connection and strong leadership development for today's undergraduate men. Fraternity men are:

- Three times more likely to obtain an internship while in college.
- Almost two times as likely to have a job waiting for them when they graduate.
- Five times as likely to be satisfied with their lives after graduating.

ΣAM and the fraternal movement are an accelerator for success in college and beyond: We create lifelong connections for our members, and we create a strong sense of belonging. These key factors help our members' overall quality of life.

It is an exciting time to be back on the ΣAM staff, to be part of the dedicated team members working to provide the best possible experience to our members, and I pledge to give my best efforts to ensuring that the support needed by today's student fratres is provided and that alumni have the opportunity to give back to initiatives that are meaningful to them.



The Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation is pleased to announce that Marc Perlstein (North Texas, '71) has joined the board of directors. Marc resides in the Dallas, Texas, area with his wife Debbie and is a Senior Consultant with Current Consulting Group. Marc is a long-time volunteer leader in ΣAM; he served as Supreme Prior from 2011 to 2013 and is currently Vice Chairman of the Sigma Alpha Mu Endowment Fund.

NEW CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL FUNDS

Funds Established for Theta, Mu Chi and Gamma Kappa

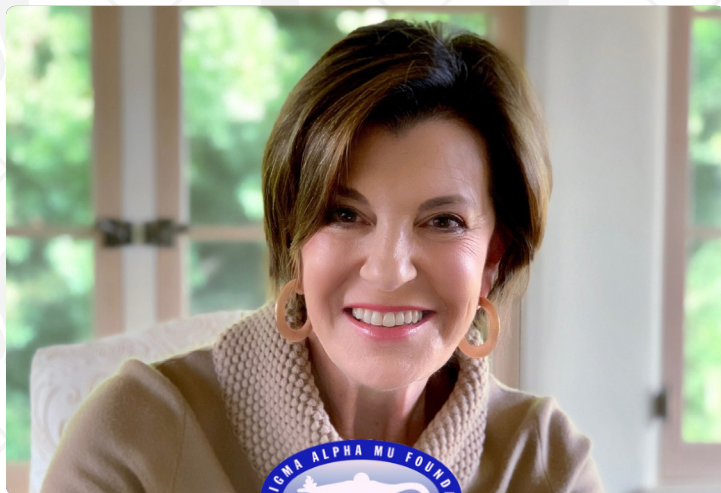
Chapter Educational Funds (CEFs) are restricted funds in the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation that provide alumni with an option to make tax-deductible gifts to benefit of a specific chapter. Chapters with CEF are able to access these funds for qualified educational needs, such scholarships, improvements to educational space in a chapter house, funding attendance at educational/leadership programs and support of philanthropic activities. As of press time, 17 chapters have CEFs:

Beta	Theta	Omicron	Tau	Rho
Sigma Beta	Sigma Zeta	Sigma Sigma*	Mu Eta	Mu Chi
Mu Theta	Mu Psi	Gamma Kappa	Delta Theta*	
Delta Omega	Epsilon Alpha	Epsilon Theta		

*denotes dormant chapter

If you are interested in learning more about the Foundation's Chapter Educational Funds or making a gift to establish a fund for your chapter, please contact Aaron Girson, Foundation CEO (aarong@sam-fdn.org or 317-969-7771). We aim for every chapter to have a CEF so that chapter-specific educational needs are met.





**JACOB KAPLAN
SAFE CAMPUS AWARD**

The Foundation is excited to announce a new award for our collegiate chapters, the Jacob Kaplan Safe Campus Award!

These annual awards are being created by Jacqueline Jacobs Caster to honor her grandfather, Founder Jacob Kaplan. Fra Kaplan was a family law attorney, a fierce defender of legal rights with a focus upon keeping women safe from harm.

Jacqueline, an attorney herself, created these awards in response to the increasing national press surrounding fraternities and sexual assaults on college campuses. It is her fervent wish to see Sammy at the forefront of reversing this trend through programs, partnerships and education and to establish itself as the national leader of this effort.

There are two awards available each year- one for \$2500 and one for \$1500. These are available through an easy, on-line application process. The criteria for the award is:

1. Identify the audience that the chapter will help
2. Explain how their program will be executed
3. How the chapter will partner with campus professionals/ community professionals/subject matter experts to execute the program
4. When the program will take place
5. Cost for program
6. How the chapter will measure the success of the idea or program
7. How the chapter will continue to advocate for a safer campus experience for students

This is an excellent way for Sammy to be the fraternal leader on our campuses, helping make it safe for everyone. Additionally, this is an excellent recruitment tool for new members, showing that we take sexual assault prevention seriously.

Questions about the program requirements or application process can be directed to the Foundation via Nancy Dietmeyer, Director of Programs and Administration, at nancyd@sam-fdn.org.

WHAT THE FOUNDATION IS FUNDING

Your support makes this happen!

SCHOLARSHIPS

149 awards given to deserving students totaling \$174,000



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Recognized 120 new members who achieved a 3.75 during their candidate semester with a \$500 Guller Young Scholar award

PROGRAMS FOR ALL

Provided over \$54,000 to support educational and leadership programs attended by over 1,000 fraters



AWARDING NEW IDEAS

Awarded our inaugural IDEA Scholarship to a frater who exemplifies the traits of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in their chapter

MU GAMMA ALUMNI AND FRIENDS! WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!



The Σ AM Foundation is excited to announce the creation of the Mu Gamma Engineering Scholarship Fund!

This scholarship will benefit young Sammy brothers studying engineering.

For questions on the scholarship criteria or to make a gift, contact Nancy Dietmeyer, Director of Programs and Administration at nancyd@sam-fdn.org or 317-536-8952



SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

IDEA Scholarship

The IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Scholarship was established in 2022 with gifts from ΣAM alumni to recognize the efforts of undergraduate members who work to promote and strengthen the tenets of IDEA values in their chapters and communities.

The 2022 recipient, Rahul Sharma (Epsilon Epsilon, '21, SUNY Geneseo), his chapter's DEI Chair, planned and executed several events for chapter members to experience other cultures, including cultural potluck dinners, a cricket match, and group dinners at various culturally diverse restaurants. Rahul was also a founding member of his biology major's DEI Committee and served as a member of the university's Alliance for Cultural Enrichment. To make a gift to the IDEA Scholarship Fund, go to sam-fdn.org/donate.



Harvey Weisblat Aviation Scholarship

The Harvey Weisblat Aviation Scholarship, endowed by Fra Weisblat (Texas, '64), recognizes students planning and working toward a career in aviation and is open to Sammy undergraduates and graduate students, as well as children of ΣAM alumni.

Harv, a retired airline and Air Force Reserve pilot, established the scholarship to honor his cousin and fellow aviator, Fred Maxon (1923–2011), a native of Cleveland, Ohio. After a semester at Ohio State University, Fred joined the Army Air Corps in 1942, where he soon attained his pilot wings flying BT-113 and C-46 aircraft. As a lieutenant and member of the esteemed "Hump Pilots," Fred flew supply missions from India to China over the 18,000' high Himalaya Mountains, enduring high winds and freezing temperatures over the 500-mile route in planes without sophisticated radar. Fred received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service and, after returning to Cleveland, married and raised a family with his lifelong love, Norma.

For more information on the Harvey Weisblat Aviation Scholarship criteria, go to sam-fdn.org/scholarships or contact Nancy Dietmeyer at nancyd@sam-fdn.org.



Helen Siczkowski Scholarship – New for 2023

This scholarship is open to Nu Chapter members, as well as daughters and granddaughters of Sigma Alpha Mu members in college or planning to attend college/graduate school.

Helen Siczkowski, grandmother to Fra Michael Kawochka (Nu), passed away in 2019 at the age of 101. Due to financial circumstances, Helen never had the chance to go to high school. Instead, she went straight into the workforce as a teenager. She married and started a family soon after.

All her life, Helen exuded quiet perseverance. The Helen Siczkowski Memorial Scholarship is meant to inspire women, especially those enduring financial hardship, to persevere and earn their degree.



HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

November '22 - April '23

Contributions to the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation can be made in memory of fratres, family, and friends, and to honor living members.

These gifts help to further the Foundation's educational initiatives to benefit our student fratres.

For more information or to make a gift, please go to www.sam-fdn.org/donate. For questions or corrections, contact Nancy Dietmeyer at nancyd@sam-fdn.org.

IN HONOR OF

Jimmy Caplan (Michigan, '76)

By Howard B. Miller (Michigan, '76)

Aaron Girson (Western Michigan, '92)

By David J. Hampton II (Alfred U., '98)
By Alexander M. Shapero (Cornell, '04)

Dave Kleppel (WashU, '82)

To the Andy Dickson Memorial Scholarship
By Ted Bernard (WashU., '81)

**Joseph Lash (Michigan, '88),
Harvey Lash (Wayne State, '59),
Myles Lash (Wayne State, '65)**

By Steven M. Lash (Wayne State, '62)

Kenny Baum (Texas, '73)

By Allen M. Feltman (Texas, '72)

Martin A. Bender (Washington WA, '66)

By Lawrence R. Silverman (Washington WA, '66)

Arnie Blitzer (Cincinnati, '53)

By Aaron M. Girson (Western Michigan, '92)

Sean P. Daly (IL-Chicago, '95)

To the Sean P. Daly Memorial Scholarship Fund
By Christopher Ferrer (IL-Chicago, '95)

Jeffrey "Jake" Davis (Illinois, '73)

By Gary G. Cash (Illinois, '71)

Andrew C. Dickson (WashU, '83)

To the Andy Dickson Scholarship Fund
By Elana Grissom
By Charles D. Hammerman (WashU, '82)
By Steven T. Salstrom (WashU, '83)

Michael El-Far (Rutgers, '19)

To the Michel El-Far Memorial Scholarship
By David Kleppel (WashU, '82)

Jeffrey L. Galston (Virginia, '74)

Stanley M. Lefco (Virginia, '68)

Gary Gotlieb (Texas, '86)

To the Gary Gotlieb Scholarship Fund
By Debra Greenberg

Maurice Guller (Missouri, '54)

By Aaron M. Girson (Western Michigan, '92)
By Ronald S. Katch (Illinois, '51)

**Maurice Guller (Missouri, '54)
and Sidney Guller (WashU, '43)**

By James N. Guller (Pennsylvania, '81)

Bruce Levinson (Missouri, '65)

By Richard Halpern (Missouri, '65)

**Mu Psi for winning the Founders Cup in 2022
To the Jerry Miller Scholarship Fund**

By Bruce J. Tasch, M.D. (Miami OH, '74)

LM Newman Family Foundation

By L. Mark Newman (Michigan State, '59)

Ronald W. Rapchik (Long Island, '66)

By Linda Rapchik

**David Sergi (Texas A&M, '82) and Teresa Rush's
Wedding**

By Nathan C. Margolis (North Texas, '73)

David Halpert (Long Island, '61)

By Charles J. Krobot III (Long Island, '63)

E. Mark Himelstein (Indiana, '58)

By Marvin T. Bornstein (Indiana, '58)

Tommy Howe III (Miami OH, '17)

**To the Tommy Howe III Memorial Scholarship
Fund**
By Thomas & MaryMargaret Howe, Jr.
By Ryan R. Rassin

Michael P. Hutchins (West Florida, '00)

**To the Michael P. Hutchins Memorial
Scholarship Fund**
By Paul M. Swartz (West Florida, '01)

Kenneth Ishida (UC-Berkeley, '96)

By Derrick D. Chi (UC-Berkeley, '96)

Dorothy Janoff

By Allan H. Janoff (Massachusetts, '69)

Robert La Vine (UC-Berkeley, '49)

By Jerome Porter (UC-Berkeley, '51)

William G. Levy (Louisville, '46)

By Alan B. Levy (Miami OH, '72)

Steven J. Lupiloff (Wayne State, '65)

By Daniel T. Berkley (Wayne State, '66)

Soham Mandelawi

By Albert A. Kudsizadeh (Indiana, '57)

Jerry Miller (Miami OH, '76)

By Brad Helfman (Miami OH, '80)
By Jak Louis Groedel (Miami OH, '13)
By Maria Mandel

Sheldon Sinai (Ferris State, '62)

By Stuart Sinai (Ferris State, '62)

**Richie Williamson (NC State, '60)
for his service on the SAM Endowment Fund**

By Aaron M. Girson (Western Michigan, '92)

Kevin E. Murphy (Rutgers, '70)

By Martin P. Rosensweig (Rutgers, '70)

**Marvin Petal (Washington WA, '49),
Alan Barer (Washington WA, '48),
and George Golden (Washington WA, '49)**

By Anonymous

**Jeffrey Peterman (Michigan State, '75)
To the Dave Phillips/Drew Dunsky Scholarship
Fund**

By Drew Dunsky (The Ohio State, '82)

Larry Schaffer ((Penn, '41)

By Alan C. Thomas (UPenn, '78)

Arturo Scherson (Case Western, '87)

By Timothy J. Clancey (Case Western, '87)

William P. Schwartz (Oklahoma, '50)

By Kenneth S. Wolf (Cincinnati, '62)

William P. Schwartz (Oklahoma, '50)

**To the Bill Schwartz Daughters of Fratres
Scholarship Fund**
By Laurence Schor (SMU, '61)

Lee Eric Wolkowitz

By Edward M. Wolkowitz (Cal. State-Northridge, '68)

IN MEMORY OF



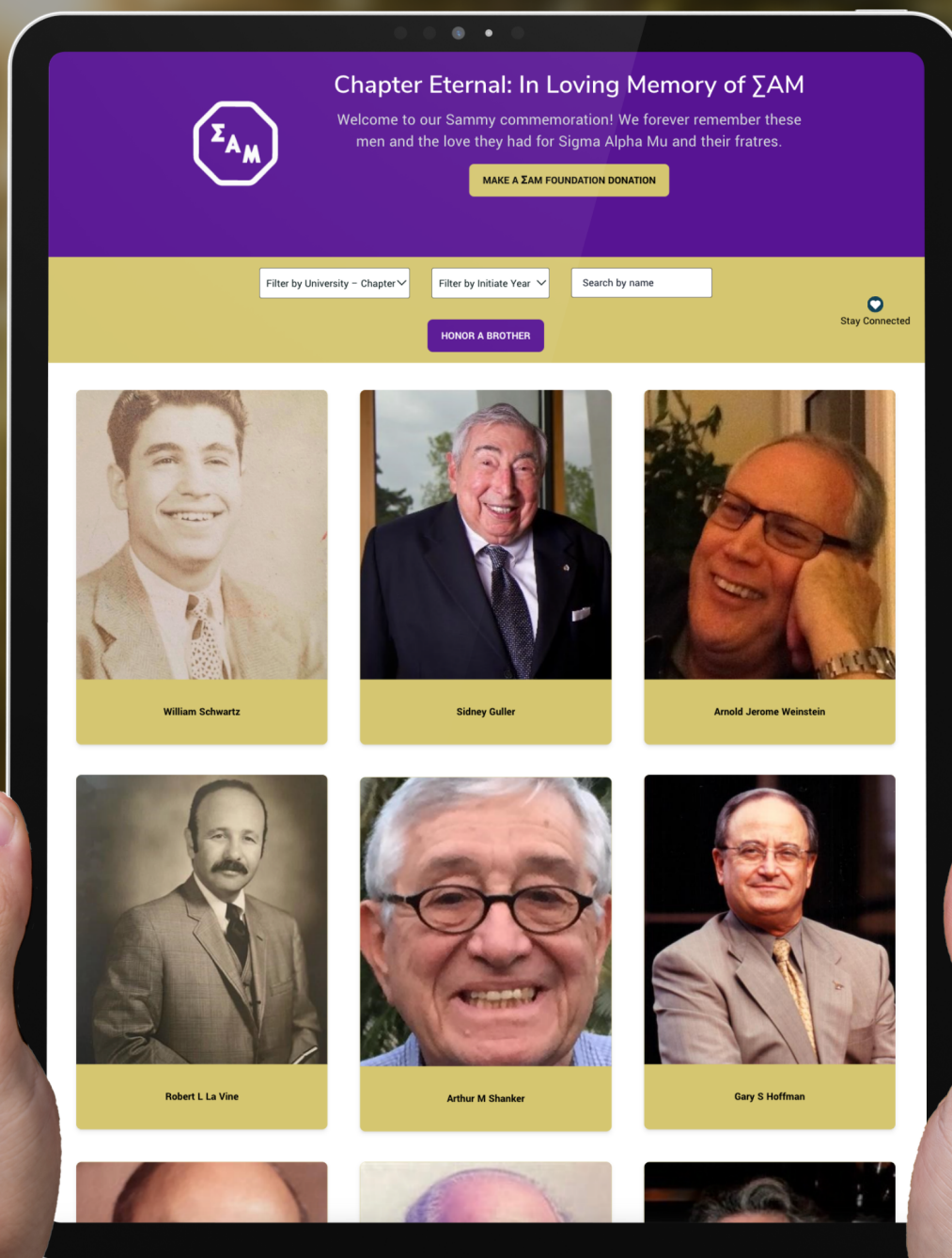
Honor our fratres, celebrate their lives



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Sigma Alpha Mu invites you to a dedicated space to honor our fratres 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!



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CHAPTER ETERNAL

Forever remembering these men and the love they had for Sigma Alpha Mu and their fratres. Notices of their passing were reported between Mid-December to April. **To report a death, please email samhq@sam.org.** 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

Stuart Warshauer (Cornell, '50)

ETA

Steven S Greene (Syracuse, '63)

NU

David N Malinov (Buffalo, '55)

OMICRON

Stanton J Bluestone (Cincinnati, '53)

PHI

Jerry M Fiman (WashU, '53)

PSI

Jeremy M Higgins (Pittsburgh, '03)

OMEGA

Franklyn Glazier (Toronto, '53)

SIGMA ALPHA

Zenon Neumark (Oklahoma, '51)

SIGMA BETA

Matthew B Marx (Ohio State, '84)

Larry A Snyder (Ohio State, '84)

SIGMA ZETA

Phillip K Bercovitz (Indiana, '51)

Richard A Gole (Indiana, '65)

Sidney Rothstein (Indiana, '50)

Arthur M Shanker (Indiana, '53)

SIGMA THETA

Kenneth E Baum (Texas, '73)

Evan R. Bookstaff (Texas, '07)

Gary S Hoffman (Texas, '59)

SIGMA NU

Martin A Bender (Washington, '66)

Ronald J Benveniste (Washington, '59)

SIGMA XI

R Kenneth Halprin (Manitoba, '45)

SIGMA PI

Barry A Swerdloff (UCLA, '59)

SIGMA RHO

Maurice D Guller (Missouri, '54)

SIGMA SIGMA

Robert L La Vine (UC-Berkeley, '49)

Wallace Z Levin (UC-Berkeley, '50)

SIGMA CHI

Arnie J Weinstein (Maryland, '65)

SIGMA OMEGA

Donald B Baker (NC State, '68)

Herbert Kahan (NC State, '48)

Mark G Mathis (NC State, '83)

Patrick B Palmer (NC State, '89)

MU BETA

Stanley Sanderson (Alberta, '61)

MU GAMMA

Robert Packard (Case Western, '49)

MU ETA

Jeffrey S. Lemansky (Drexel, '68)

Leonard Schusterman (Drexel, '57)

MU OMICRON

Harvey J Friedman (NYU, '49)

Abraham N Goodman (NYU, '50)

Norman Leder (NYU, '49)

Myron Rubin (NYU, '49)

MU RHO

James A Myles (Rochester, '65)

Stephen A Safranko (Rochester, '60)

MU UPSILON

Malcolm G Largmann (Brooklyn, '57)

MU CHI

Nick Gilbert (Michigan State, '17)

Jeffrey L Peterman (Michigan State, '75)

Henry Zurkow (Michigan State, '18)

MU PSI

Peter J Buirski (Miami OH, '62)

BETA DELTA

Michael C Levin (San Jose State, '66)

BETA EPSILON

Michael S Kadetsky (UMass - Amherst, '67)

BETA OMEGA

Matthew E Fitzgerald (KY Wesleyan, '06)

Shane G Garde (KY Wesleyan, '11)

GAMMA NU

Brian J Hamilton (San Diego State, '03)

Matthew L Himlin (San Diego State, '94)

GAMMA SIGMA

Michael A Bruntvedt (Binghamton, '00)

GAMMA PHI

Christian A Dorman (Arizona State, '17)



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2023 ALUMNI EVENTS

Sigma Chi at Maryland 90th Anniversary Brunch

The Sigma Chi Chapter at Maryland will celebrate its 90th anniversary at The Suburban Club, 7600 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore, MD on Sunday, October 1, 2023. For more information, please contact Howard Miller at Howard.Miller@saul.com.

Sammy Tri-State Golf Outing & Fundraiser

Sammy Tri-State Alumni Club will host their annual golf outing and fundraiser for The Judy Fund on June 16, 2023, at the Glen Cove Golf Club in Glen Cove, NY exclusively for paid Tri-State members and their family. They are currently looking for players and sponsors. To learn more, go to samtristate.com or email joseph.weinholtz@gmail.com.

Sigma Kappa at Lehigh Centennial

The Sigma Kappa Chapter at Lehigh will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Saturday, November 18, 2023. To learn more, email Andrew Levy at alevy@wywhp.com.



SIRES & SONS

Fra **Aaron Citron** (Sigma Zeta, '23), son of Fra **Richard Citron** (Lehigh, '88)

Fra **Derek Sale** (Sigma Iota, '23), son of Fra **Andy Sale** (Michigan, '90), and grandson of Fra **Robert Sale** (Bucknell, '55)

Fra **Ryan Negri** (Sigma Iota, '23), son of Fra **Michael Negri** (Hartford, '89)

Fra **Zachary Harris** (Sigma Iota, '23), son of Fra **Erik Harris** (Michigan, '92)

Fra **Elan Grossman** (Sigma Iota, '23), son of Fra **Nir Grossman** (Texas, '90)

Fra **Andrew Katz** (Sigma Iota, '23), son of Fra **Howard Katz** (Michigan, '87)

Fra **Tyler Hart** (Sigma Iota, '23), son of Fra **Steven Hart** (Michigan, '91)



DIVIDENDS

Fra **Alexander Paxton** (West Florida, '05) and wife, Brittney Renea (Alpha Gamma Delta), welcome a boy, Archer Allen Paxton.

MERGERS

Fra **Brendan Harte** (West Florida, '18) and wife, Angelina Harte

Fra **Mauricio Wheelock** (West Florida, '94) and wife, Kristin Bradley


Former Assistant Executive Director **Michele Peterson Williams** and husband, Everett Williams




Know a Sammy who had a child or was married in 2023? Send us an update at sam.org/familyupdates.

THE OCTAGONIAN

 **Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity**
8701 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268

 **Moving?** Update your contact information on MyΣAM 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.



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Every gift — public and private, large and small — helps provide the means for ΣAM to instill strong fraternal values, offer social and service opportunities, encourage academic excellence, and teach leadership skills.

Contact Aaron Girson at 317-969-7771 or aarong@sam-fdn.org to discuss how we can help you plan your legacy.