



SIGMA ALPHA MU FRATERNITY

# THE OCTAGONIAN



# THE IMPORTANCE OF BELONGING

MAY 2026

# OCTAGON IN ACTION

Written by



**BENJI BEARMAN**



(University of Minnesota, '97) Supreme Prior

This spring, the Octagon had the opportunity to visit our Sigma Iota chapter in Ann Arbor, MI. What an amazing weekend, filled with meaningful and energizing experiences. The trip gave a valuable chance to connect with our undergraduates and spend time strengthening the alumni relationships that help sustain our Fraternity.

Our time in Ann Arbor included a visit to the chapter house, where it was wonderful to see the house and meet the Chapter Council along with a number of committed members. We also visited Hillel (where our very own Ken Schneider (Chapman, '10) serves as Chief of Staff), an important stop that highlighted the connection between Sigma Alpha Mu, campus Jewish life, and the broader community. These visits serve as an important reminder of the role our chapters play in carrying forward our values and sense of purpose.

A highlight of the weekend was the alumni happy hour on Saturday evening in West Bloomfield, which brought together alumni across generations and chapters. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up and share memories. We saw firsthand the many ways alumni continue to stay connected to Sigma Alpha Mu. The energy in the room reflected the strength of our brotherhood and the lasting bonds that continue long after one's college years.

As Supreme Prior, it's a privilege to see the Fraternity in action across North America. Weekends like this are a strong reminder of the importance of chapter engagement, alumni connections, and the partnerships that help make Sigma Alpha Mu stronger. We are grateful to everyone in Michigan for the warm welcome and look forward to visiting more chapters in the coming months!

Fraternally,

Benji Bearman  
Supreme Prior

*\*On The Cover*  
The Syracuse (Eta)  
graduate class of 2026!



Detroit Area Alumni  
Gathering and the Sigma  
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SIGMA ETA – Purdue  
SIGMA THETA – Texas  
SIGMA IOTA – Michigan  
SIGMA OMICRON – Nebraska  
SIGMA CHI – Maryland  
SIGMA OMEGA – North Carolina State  
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  
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GAMMA RHO – UC-San Diego  
GAMMA TAU – Florida  
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DELTA ZETA – Florida International  
DELTA PI – Ottawa  
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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  
GAMMA PI – Albany

## INTEREST GROUPS

NU – Buffalo  
SIGMA PHI – Bucknell

# IN THIS ISSUE

## SURVEY SAYS?

Executive Director Andy Huston speaks on the Dyad research survey and how it has worked to shape the fraternity at large.



8

## AROUND THE CHAPTERS

News, photos, and updates submitted by Chapters!



16

## FOUNDATION UPDATES

Discover information on the Day of Giving, a spotlight of recent scholarships, and more.



21

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 6 BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION

PAGE 8 SURVEY SAYS?

PAGE 10 CALLED TO COMMUNITY

PAGE 14 AROUND THE ALUMNI CLUBS

PAGE 16 AROUND THE CHAPTERS

PAGE 23 FDN '26 DAY OF GIVING UPDATE

PAGE 27 CHAPTER ETERNAL

David Weston (Mu Epsilon, '69) wrote:

"I recently decided to google information about SAM.

One item that caught my attention on Wikipedia was:

Sigma Alpha Mu's Secret Motto

The secret motto of Sigma Alpha Mu is "True Manhood. Democracy. Humanity"

At my initiation I was given a very different phrase."

It turns out some secrets remain 117 years later - and you shouldn't believe everything you see on the internet.



Explore recent issues!

Access the archive of recent digital-only issues of *The Octagonian* online at [sam.org/octagonian](http://sam.org/octagonian)

# REGISTER BY JUNE 25TH

## July 23-26, 2026

**Tarrytown, New York**

Join us July 25<sup>th</sup> for the Purple Tie Banquet

**Achievement Award – 2026 Man of the Year**

**Ron Baron** (Sigma Phi, '62)

***William P. Schwartz Distinguished Service Award***

**Dennis Paese** (Beta, '70)

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**Bob Weiss** (Sigma Alpha, '75)

**Robert Fagenson** (Eta, '67)

***Founders Cup Presentation***



**WESTCHESTER MARRIOTT**

# BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION

Led by Jeff Klein (Indiana '94), the alumni of the Sigma Zeta Chapter (Indiana University) have just completed their fourth consecutive year participating in the Dolphin Cancer Challenge (DCC), one of the largest fundraising initiatives in the NFL, benefiting the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. With Jeff's vision, this dedicated group of Sammys and friends—competing under the team name Hoosier Odyssey—continues to embody the lifelong commitment to service that defines the fraternity.

The 2026 Dolphin Cancer Challenge was held in Miami on February 28, 2026. Brothers traveled from across the country to participate. This year, the Hoosier Odyssey team was 67 participants strong and has now raised close to \$300,000 cumulatively in support of cancer research. Their goal for next year is to reach \$500,000, and they hope to expand participation among Sigma Alpha Mu alumni nationwide.

What began as a small group participating in a cycle has grown year over year into a powerful and visible demonstration of brotherhood, philanthropy, and purpose. The team includes both riders and walkers united by personal connections to the fight against cancer—some of whom are battling daily. One hundred percent of funds raised through DCC go directly to cancer research and improving patient outcomes at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Participating Sigma Zeta alumni include:

IU Class of 1994:

Ryan Deutsch, Jeff Klein, Matt Fischer, Josh Kaufmann, Seth Hanau, Dave Fromson, Jay Badian, Matt Golden, Steve Lurie

IU Class of 1990:

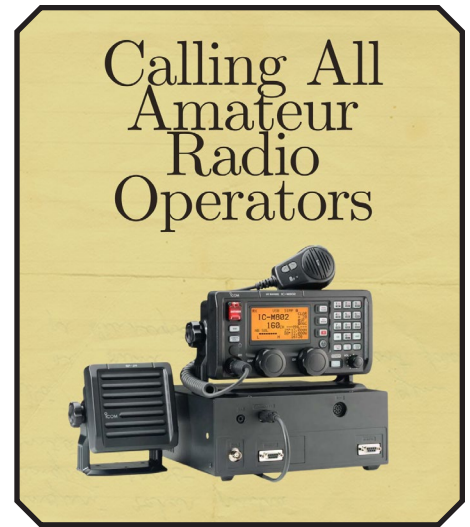
Scott Orlinsky

IU Class of 1995:

Doug Komen, Doug Silberberg, Adam Geronemus, Geoff Harris, Mike Herzfeld

IU Class of 1992:

Jon Weiner



*Sammy Net*

Are you a HAM Radio Operator interested in connecting with fellow Sammies?

Reach out to Fra Maury Guzick (Beta Sigma, '71) at [mguzick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mguzick@sbcglobal.net)



# RESPONDING TO TRAGEDY: BROTHERHOOD THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

The Brothers of Rutgers Sigma Delta pledge classes of 1969, 1970 and 1971 have kept in contact over the years with frequent reunions. The bond of brotherhood was never more needed or challenged than by the events of May 21, 2025. On that day, Sarah Milgrim, daughter of Fra Bob Milgrim (71) was murdered in Washington DC in front of the Jewish Museum along with her future husband Yaron Lischinsky in an act of blatant antisemitism.

Bob and his wife Nancy showed enormous courage in dealing with such an unspeakable tragedy.

Bob's fraternity brothers stepped up to provide support. During the weekend of September 26, 2025, four of Bob's brothers flew to Kansas City to be with Bob and Nancy, and to visit Sarah's gravesite. And on September 28, 2025, over a dozen brothers joined Zoom to be with Bob. The brothers heard Bob's story of grit and grief; and took the time to recall the good times they had while together at school. The brothers have further supported the Milgrims by donating to the Sarah Milgrim Scholarship fund set up at Kansas University. To learn more about the fund, visit <https://tinyurl.com/sarah-milgrim>

**"I can't express how much support I have received from Jay and my brothers at ΣAM since the horrific tragedy that Nancy and I experienced with the loss of our daughter." - Bob Milgrim**

It has been over 50 years since these brothers pledged Sigma Alpha Mu. The special relationship of brotherhood did not fade away and is the best example of why fraternity is so important and meaningful.



Bob and Nancy Milgrim at Never Is Now 2026

See the full video by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/bob-milgrim>



Left to right

Sitting- Marty Rosensweig, Bernie Dubin, Steve Kepness, Mark Angelson

Standing- Gary Tarino, Jay Rice, Jeff Bluestone and Bob Milgrim.

A promotional graphic for 'SAMMY SWAG' featuring several zip-up jackets in purple, black, and grey, each with a white ΣAM logo. The text 'SAMMY SWAG' is prominently displayed in a purple and black banner. Below the banner, it lists features: 'Our limited-time quarter zip collection features: Team 365 • Comfort Colors • Nike • Columbia • Peter Millar'. A purple button says 'ORDER NOW' and the website 'sammyswag.com' is listed below. The background is a collage of torn paper and fabric textures.

**Planning to wear your gear at the Sigma Alpha Mu Convention in New York?**

We suggest placing your order by June 12th. While we can't guarantee delivery dates, earlier orders have the best chance of arriving in time.

\*If you would like to pick your gear up at the Convention, please choose the "Pick Up at Convention" shipping method at checkout. Items will be available for pickup on site on both Thursday and Friday\*

# SURVEY SAYS? SIGMA ALPHA MU'S BROTHERHOOD IS STRONG!

For generations, fraternity membership has been described through stories: lifelong friendships, leadership growth, unforgettable memories, and a sense of belonging that lasts well beyond graduation. But what happens when those experiences are measured, analyzed, and compared internationally?

This year, the Octagon took a major step toward answering that question through its partnership with Dyad Strategies and the launch of a multi-year ΣAM Brotherhood Assessment. The first-year findings reveal something encouraging: Sigma Alpha Mu chapters are building strong brotherhood cultures while outperforming international benchmarks in several critical areas.

The assessment, which evaluates areas including belonging, accountability, housing, risk behavior, member satisfaction, and organizational identity, is designed to provide chapter leaders and alumni with meaningful insights into the fraternity experience. Rather than relying solely on anecdotes, ΣAM now has measurable data to help strengthen chapters, improve retention, and enhance the overall member experience.

And according to Dr. Gentry McCreary of Dyad, the early results are promising, "Brotherhood in ΣAM is strong. Belonging brotherhood is significantly higher than the international benchmark, suggesting that ΣAM members, relative to their peers, feel a deep sense of connection within their chapters."

Just as importantly, the data shows Sigma Alpha Mu members reporting healthier outcomes in several high-risk areas, including alcohol use, hazing tolerance, and hazing motivation, compared to international peer organizations.

## Measuring Brotherhood in a Modern Fraternity

The Dyad/ΣAM Brotherhood Assessment examines the fraternity experience through multiple lenses. Chapters received a six page summary of insights in areas such as solidarity, belonging, accountability, shared purpose, and inclusivity within their chapter contrasted to Sigma Alpha Mu's international dataset.

The results allow undergraduate leaders to better understand their chapter culture and identify opportunities for growth. At Delta Beta Chapter at American University, members used the data to reflect on the impact of graduating a large senior class. Their solidarity score declined after losing

many chapter leaders and relationship-builders in one year, but the chapter quickly recognized the challenge and began planning intentional goal-setting programs to rebuild unity among younger members.

## Other chapters found reassurance in the findings.

Louis Mancuso of Sigma Chi Chapter shared that members were encouraged to see their housing experience scores remain strong despite recent challenges within the facility.

Meanwhile, Eta Chapter members highlighted positive scores in housing satisfaction, alcohol culture, and hazing prevention, noting that most members reported zero tolerance for hazing and a

## ΣAM Brotherhood Assessment Fall 2025

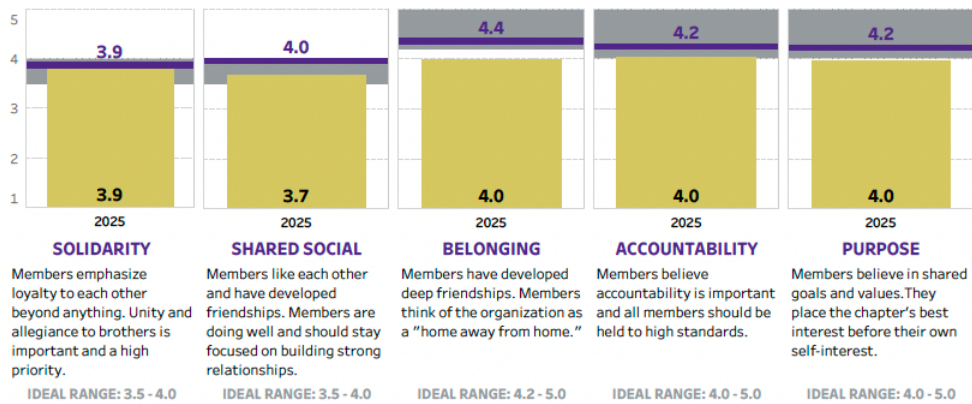
The SAM Brotherhood Assessment is used to better understand the collegiate experience and equips chapter leaders with information to impact their chapter's priorities and planning. This report includes the results of your chapter and data from all of Sigma Alpha Mu.

### RESPONSE RATES

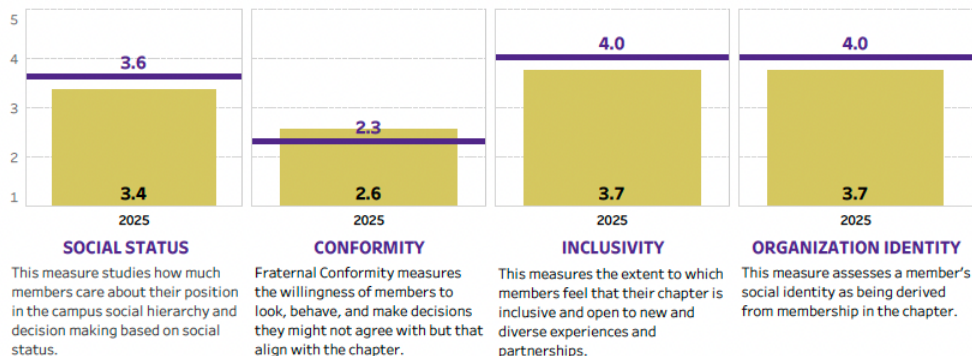


### BROTHERHOOD

This section shows how members in your chapter perceive your chapter's brotherhood. There are 5 different categories of brotherhood listed below, with ideal ranges for each category shaded in grey. Scores for YOUR CHAPTER are provided in each category at the bottom of each bar, with a horizontal line noting the ALL SIGMA ALPHA MU average.



### SOCIAL CULTURE



strong sense of safety and belonging within the chapter environment. These chapter-level insights are exactly what the initiative was designed to create: actionable conversations rooted in evidence rather than assumptions.

### Our Unique Spirit of Fraternity

One of the most compelling findings from the research is how Sigma Alpha Mu differs from broader international fraternity trends. The assessment revealed that ΣAM membership is more racially diverse than the international fraternity data set, with significantly higher Hispanic and Latino representation among members. The fraternity also reflects a wide range of religious identities, including Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, atheist, agnostic, and non-religious members.

That diversity reflects Sigma Alpha Mu's longstanding emphasis since 1953 on being open to all men of good moral character, while appreciating our great heritage as a fraternity of Jewish men.

While Sigma Alpha Mu brings people together with different backgrounds and lived experiences, we strive to inculcate the fraternity's values. The assessment explored how members connect with our eight core values on a personal level. Examining the value of simplicity, for example, members were asked to reflect on their communication, authenticity, humility, and practicality in daily interactions.

Rather than reducing fraternity life to social events or recruitment numbers, the assessment reinforces the idea that chapter culture is built through relationships, values, and everyday behavior.

### Why Retention Matters

The research also highlighted an important challenge facing many fraternities nationwide, including Sigma Alpha Mu: retaining juniors and seniors.

Data presented emphasized that upperclassmen engagement directly impacts chapter stability, mentorship, leadership continuity, and long-term alumni involvement. This research has activated lively discussions among chapters, advisors, and the Octagon about retaining juniors and seniors, with recommendations encouraging chapters to create meaningful leadership opportunities, specialized programming, and stronger engagement strategies for upperclassmen.

The reasoning is simple but significant: members who remain deeply connected through graduation are far more likely to become engaged alumni. If students don't experience Sigma Alpha Mu through their four-year collegiate experience, they are not likely to feel the connection for life. Strong chapter experiences today help create our lifelong champions of tomorrow.

### Turning Data Into Action

The Brotherhood Assessment is not intended to sit on a shelf as a research project. Instead, The Octagon sees it as a roadmap for the future investment and intervention. The findings are already shaping conversations around chapter support, housing, leadership education, alumni engagement, and member wellness. Chapters can now identify trends earlier, benchmark progress over time, and tailor programming based on the unique needs of their membership. By visualizing chapter health and culture, ΣAM can better demonstrate the impact of investments in leadership programs, housing, and member development.

Most importantly, the research confirms something many Sigma Alpha Mu brothers already believed: meaningful fraternity experiences are still thriving.

In an era when higher education and fraternity life continue to evolve, Sigma Alpha Mu is choosing to lead with intentionality, accountability, and evidence-based decision making. The numbers tell a compelling story.

Brotherhood is strong. Members feel connected. Chapters are learning from the data. And Sigma Alpha Mu is building a future grounded not only in tradition, but in measurable impact.



Now is the time to give back. To lead. To serve. Sigma Alpha Mu needs you.

To learn more about how to give back, visit [sam.org/volunteer](https://sam.org/volunteer)

# CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Sometimes in life we answer a call. In this case, **it was a knock.**

When Bishop Deon Johnson (Case Western, '96) opened the dorm room door during his freshman year at Case Western Reserve University, it was members of Sammy inviting him to attend a rush event. Johnson and his roommate, Jeff Kolthammer, decided to go.

What they found immediately stood out.

"The members were warm and attentive," Johnson recalled. "They were good guys."

For Johnson, who was born and raised in a small village on the Caribbean island of Barbados, the sense of belonging resonated deeply. His upbringing was shaped by close-knit community, faith, and family, particularly under the guidance of his maternal grandmother, whom he credits with forming much of his spiritual foundation.

That same spirit of community is what he recognized in Sigma Alpha Mu.

The fraternity environment reminded him of the interconnectedness and care for one another that he experienced growing up. He saw genuine support, shared responsibility, and meaningful relationships built on substance rather than image.

Johnson and Kolthammer joined the Mu Gamma Chapter in 1996, and nearly three decades later, those relationships remain central to his life.

One of the defining aspects of his recruitment experience was seeing servant leadership actively practiced. Community service was not treated as an obligation or résumé builder; it was woven into the culture of the chapter itself. Johnson fondly remembers participating in a Habitat for Humanity build during recruitment and realizing that the organization's values extended beyond the walls of the chapter house.



That emphasis on service and purpose aligned naturally with his spiritual foundation.

"The pillars of Judaism are central to the Judeo-Christian experience," Johnson explained. "There was something more substantive about our fraternity. Learning the history of our Founders was fascinating because of the faith underpinning and legacy in Sigma Alpha Mu. That is divergent from what you think about when popular culture imagery of fraternity comes to mind."

Within the chapter, Johnson served as Steward, Candidate Educator, and Vice Prior. Those leadership experiences would later shape his ministry and eventually his role as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

After graduating from Case Western Reserve University in 2000 with degrees in English and History and an associate degree in Biology, Johnson earned his Master of Divinity degree from General Theological Seminary in 2003. He later received an honorary doctorate from the institution in 2021.

His ministry journey included serving as Associate Rector at Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio, before becoming Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brighton, Michigan, where he served for fourteen years. In 2020, he was consecrated as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri at Christ Church Cathedral. In doing so, he became the first Black, first openly gay, and first immigrant bishop to serve the diocese.

"Sammy was a springboard," he said.

As a young parish priest, Johnson adapted the structure of Good & Welfare into congregational meetings, using intentional check-ins and shared reflection to build stronger connections within the church community. The lessons learned in chapter leadership, balancing the needs of individuals with the needs of the whole, became directly applicable to his vocation.

Today, as a Bishop, Johnson describes his role as balancing both the "panoramic and the particular."

"I have to see the landscape of the church while also seeing the person directly in front of me," he shared. "There's an analogy that a bishop is someone standing in front of a fire with fuel in one hand and water in the other, applying them as needed."

At its core, he believes both fraternity and faith are rooted in the same fundamental human need: connection.

"In society today, more people identify as agnostic or spiritual but not religious," Johnson reflected. "I think often that means you haven't yet found your community. We are all hungry for belonging. At its core, that's what Christian community is about. A deeper sense of connectedness matters."



He sees this dynamic regularly within congregations, where many newcomers arrive without strong religious backgrounds but are searching for meaning, purpose, and relationships. Johnson compared it to the introduction of the iPhone — before people understood why they needed it, few realized the role it would eventually play in their lives.

That sense of belonging was demonstrated personally during Johnson's junior year when he suffered several broken ribs shortly before his 21st birthday. Unable to fully participate in campus life, he found himself surrounded by support from his brothers, who shared class notes, brought meals, spent time with him, and celebrated on his behalf while he recovered.

"In Sigma Alpha Mu, you put your faith in your brothers all the time when you're in

need," Johnson said. "Knowing that support is there through the highest highs and the lowest lows is invaluable."

Johnson's call toward ordained ministry had begun long before college. During his undergraduate years, he remained active in a small but dedicated church community and frequently invited members of the chapter to participate in service opportunities.

"Two members would regularly help because I invited them," he recalled. "The chapter participated in clean-up projects around the church."

He sees clear parallels between fraternity life and ministry: cycles of recruitment and ordination, the intentional cultivation of community, shared rituals, mentorship, accountability, and the continual work of bringing people together.

For members exploring questions of faith, identity, and purpose, Johnson encourages depth before breadth.

"Go deep before you can go broad," he advised. "Know who you are and know your history. Find and examine your why."

He also distinguishes between welcome and hospitality.

"Welcome says, 'Come in and be like us,'" Johnson explained. "Hospitality says, 'Come in and change us by your presence.'"

That philosophy, he believes, is essential not only for churches, but for fraternities and communities seeking to remain relevant and meaningful for future generations.

Throughout his ministry, Johnson has emphasized pastoral leadership, social justice, racial reconciliation, and building spaces where people feel seen and valued. His work has included service on the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, advocacy initiatives within the wider church, and efforts to foster meaningful dialogue and reconciliation.

As Johnson reflected on the lessons that have connected his fraternity experience, ministry, and leadership journey, he returned to a simple but profound idea:

"The things you need to survive are not the things you need to thrive," he said. "We spend a lot of time focused on survival when God wants us to thrive. Figure out what makes your heart sing."

## 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.

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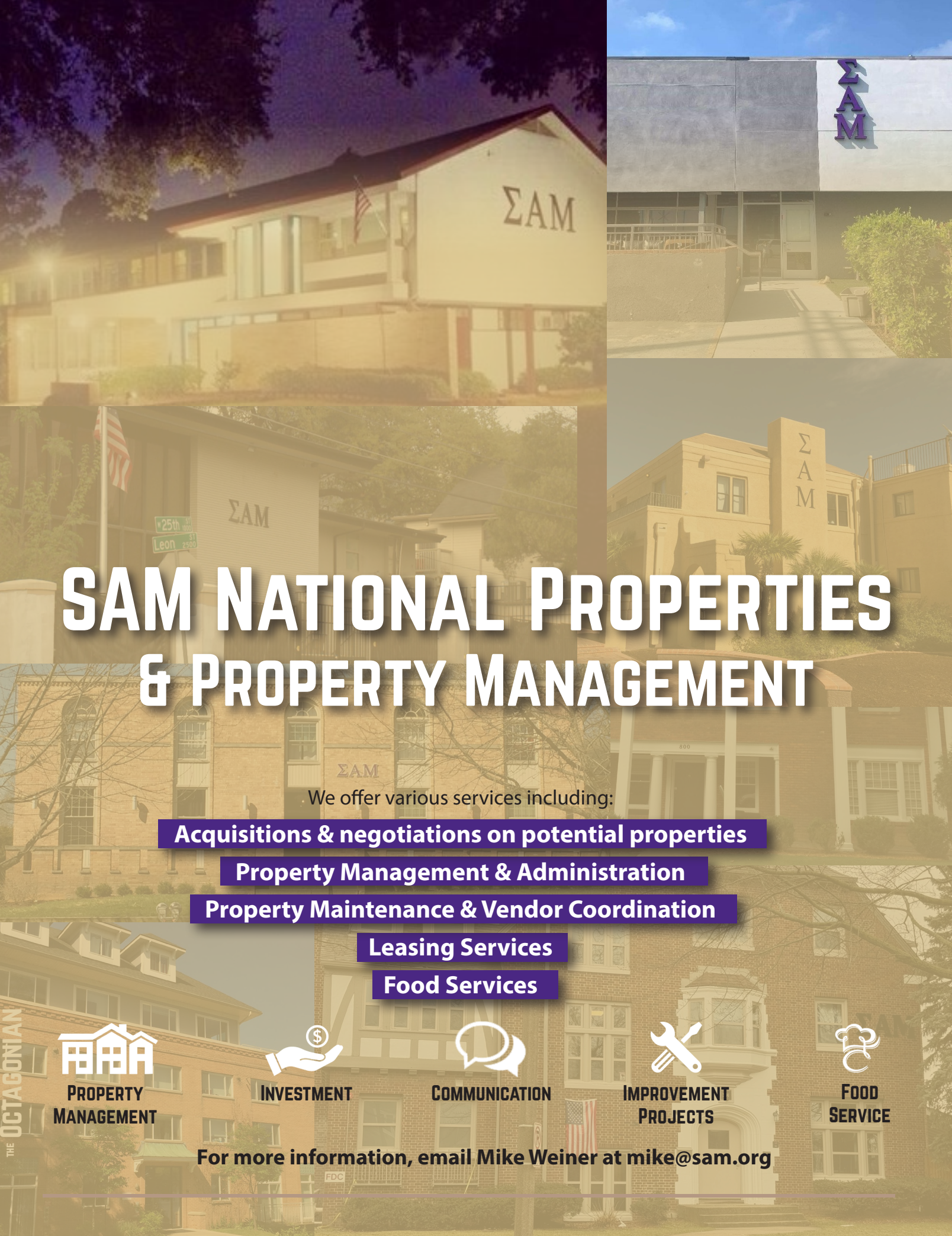
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**Can you help?** Consider making a non-tax deductible gift directly to the Fraternity to support programs and services like *The Octagonian* and other initiatives that strengthen our brotherhood at [sam.org/bridge](https://sam.org/bridge).

Thank you for staying connected!



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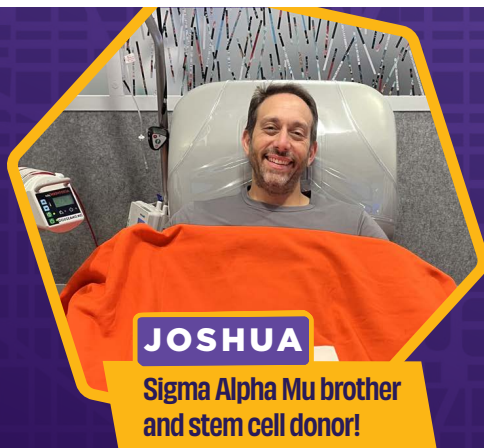
  
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THE OCTAGONIAN

# GAMMA RHO'S 40TH REUNION AT UCSD



**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](mailto:tackerman@giftoflife.org) or 561-982-2939.



# AROUND THE ALUMNI CLUBS

## South Florida Alumni Club

### Reigniting the South Florida SAM Alumni Brotherhood

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 SAM Alumni Club has been restarted, and the energy is real. Brothers from different eras, professions, and chapters are reconnecting—proving that the bonds 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 thanks to Fra Michael Kessel (Penn State '00) 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.

Momentum carried straight into our next event—an unforgettable evening in Miami including dinner and a Miami Heat basketball game enjoyed from a private skybox thanks to Fra Evan Durler (UC Davis '06). Fra Brett Kaufman (Binghamton University '91) also hosted and ensured this evening as unforgettable. 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.



We had an epic night of indoor golf, food, drinks, and brotherhood at Strokes & Drivers owned by our gracious host Fra Mike Reichman (Indiana '01).

Our most recent event in May was hosted by Dr. Eddie Dauer (University of Miami '69) at the Dauer Classic Car Museum. This was an epic afternoon showcasing more than 55 classic cars in pristine condition from 1906 to 2020.

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.

Fraternally,  
Neil Rosenblum



Continues on the next page . >>

## Tri-State Alumni Club



## Beta Sigma Reunion

Alumni of Beta Sigma (University of North Texas) gathered for an afternoon of lunch and fellowship. The chapter's original scrapbook, brought by Past Supreme Prior Marc Perlstein, transported them back to their college days.



## Mu Phi Reunion



Mu Phi chapter (Long Island University- LIU) in Brooklyn NY, was founded on May 3, 1958. On April 25, 2026 a reunion was held in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Previous reunions were held in NYC, including at The Friars Club, a favorite venue for comedians. This venue closed in 2024. Through much outreach, it was decided to re-group in Florida after some seven decades since many of us have seen each other. This reunion, according to Fra John Khani, was an homage to Fra Howie Rappaport, the epitome of Mr. Fraternalism! Howie had previously spearheaded previous reunions. Brothers came from as far away as Sacramento, California, with NYC having the largest contingent. The camaraderie was palpable, as we hung out by the pool, enjoyed a beverage, and most of all enjoyed reminiscing about our college days and the significant role Sigma Alpha Mu continues to play in our lives.

Pictured above, bottom row left to right: Kenny Diaz, Harry Kahan, Ron Berman, Larry Lieberman, Ronnie Serin

Top row left to right: Larry Licopoli, Howard Chess, Steve Lusthaus, John Khani, Sandy Lewis

# 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>

- Convention 2026 - July 23-26, 2026 - Westchester Marriott (Tarrytown, NY)
- Octagon Meeting & Sigma Omicron (Nebraska) 100th - November 5-8 - Lincoln, NE
- Octagon Meeting - April 9-11, 2027 - Southern California
- Convention 2027 - July 22-25, 2027 - DoubleTree Hilton Chicago North Shore Conference Center (Skokie, IL)

## 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.

## 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](https://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.

This May *Octagonian* highlights Chapter Philanthropies and events.



# AROUND THE CHAPTERS

THE OCTAGONIAN

# CHAPTER INFORMATION

Spring '26 Candidates	Total Member count*	# of Chapter Advisors	# of Scholarship Recipients**
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\*This number reflects the total number of initiates and candidates

\*\*More in depth scholarship details can be located starting on page 24.



Chapters with this icon are in need of volunteer alumni advisors

Some Chapters may have information on what philanthropic events their chapter hosted or participated in this year.

**C** **B**  
Cornell University

3	23	1	3
---	----	---	---

**S** **H**  
Syracuse University

20	97	1	6
----	----	---	---

**PENN** **Θ**  
University of Pennsylvania

30	77	2	6
----	----	---	---

Every year, we collaborate with our campus Jewish Heritage Program (JHP) to do fun events utilizing our chapter home. This year we did two Shabbat for 1k events where we gave out sushi and food to students on campus. In the Fall and Spring we had an event where we worked during the day at our campus Hillel packaging food to give away. At night we gave out free dinner to all who came to the chapter house.

**M** **K**  
University of Minnesota

2	55	4	4
---	----	---	---

We did a Bike for Judy event where we go outside and get on a stationary bike in 15 minute shifts. As we bike, people are allowed to pay to throw things at us to raise money for charity. This is an event that has been going on every year for as long as the chapter can remember.

**U**  
University of Cincinnati

5	37	1	2
---	----	---	---

**I** **P**  
University of Illinois



3	58	1	9
---	----	---	---

**A** **T**  
University of Alabama



3	25	1	7
---	----	---	---

**P** **Ψ**  
University of Pittsburgh

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



**Ψ** **ΣΖ**  
Indiana University



0	163	1	8
---	-----	---	---

**P** **ΣΗ**  
Purdue University

4	21	1	8
---	----	---	---

**UT** **ΣΘ**  
University of Texas

7	170	2	15
---	-----	---	----

**M** **ΣΙ**  
University of Michigan

0	134	4	1
---	-----	---	---

In the fall we hosted "Sink-A-Sammy". We set up a dunk tank and people would pay to throw balls at us to try and dunk us into the tank. This event raised approximately \$7-8,000. Additionally, we hosted a concert for a chapter friend that passed away, raising funds for awareness.

**N** **ΣΟ**  
University of Nebraska

2	12	3	3
---	----	---	---

We host Sammy Sunk'd. Brothers in the fraternity setup a Dunk Tank on campus and volunteered to be dunked by University students & affiliates in support of the Judy Fund. With all proceeds going directly to the Judy Fund. The event helped raise awareness for the Judy Fund that our fraternity supports but also gave us an opportunity to interact with students, RSOs and organizations on campus.

**M** **ΣΧ**  
University of Maryland

7	50	3	10
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We held our annual Super Bowl square fundraiser for the Judy Fund! It's a great way to raise money every year. This year we raised a net \$650, which was great. It culminates in a Super Bowl watch party in the chapter house with catered food, which also serves as a recruitment event. Our Super Bowl square event is meaningful to the chapter because of the unique networking opportunity that it presents brothers with. This year, our chapter started a tradition of a yearly Super Bowl watch party in our new house on Fraternity Row. The fundraising event is a great reminder of how we both have fun and uphold our fraternal values.

*Continues on the next page . >>*

**ΣΩ**  
North Carolina State University

6	34	4	8
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Annual Saint Baldrick's fundraiser raises money for cancer research, this year they raised over \$5000. It's a recurring event from refunding. They hold an event on campus where they bring corn hole or a die table to raise money, where brothers shave their heads to raise money.

**MH**  
Drexel University

3	25	0	5
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**ΜΘ**  
University of Southern California

22	145	3	12
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We host an event called the Puppy Mixer. We have puppies in a common area in the house known as "The Pit" and charge \$10 entry fee for students to come play with the puppies. All proceeds go to the St. Jude's Children Research Hospital.

**ΜΠ**  
University of Colorado

0	24	2	2
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**ΜΧ**  
Michigan State University

3	14	3	5
---	----	---	---

For the third straight year, our chapter hosted Hoops for Harley at the Sammy house in honor of our brother Harley Rockind, who passed away on February 16, 2024, from diffuse midline glioma. The 3v3 basketball tournament raises funds through donations and registration fees for the Harley Rockind Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship supports students pursuing criminal justice or involved in the Jewish Law Student Association, helping make their aspirations more affordable, just as Harley would have wanted.

**ΜΨ**  
Miami University (OH)

17	73	1	5
----	----	---	---

**ΒΓ**  
University of Arizona

20	186	1	3
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**ΒΙ**  
University of Wisconsin

0	95	2	4
---	----	---	---

**ΒΨ**  
University of Virginia

18	77	2	4
----	----	---	---

We host a sunset event at the local Carter Mountain Orchard, and sell tickets to watch two live bands - the band our fraternity has, of purely brothers, and another UVA student band. As they play, Virginia Alzheimer's Association has a raffle and gives out free wristbands. We raised about \$3500 and donated it to the Judy Fund. It was also sponsored by local restaurants and Red Bull.



**ΒΩ**  
Kentucky Wesleyan College

0	2	1	1
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**ΓΕ**  
University of Illinois Chicago

7	16	5	1
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**ΓΚ**  
Texas A&M

2	21	1	1
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The Big Event is an annual day on which Texas A&M students form groups and help residents of the Bryan and College Station area. This year, the Gamma Kappa chapter formed two groups and joined tens of thousands of students to complete service projects. Our first group, led by Brandon Rottinghaus, assisted an elderly couple by weeding their yard and flower bed, while the other, led by William Lince, helped a farm outside of College Station build a fence to keep their animals safer. The Gamma Kappa chapter along with many other organizations participate in The Big Event annually to support the Brazos County community.

**ΓΡ**  
UC-San Diego

12	30	2	4
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**ΓΤ**  
University of Florida

4	15	1	2
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Our chapter hosts a recurring philanthropy event called "Splash a Sammy." During the event, we set up a table outside in a busy area on campus and invite students to donate in exchange for throwing water balloons at our members. To make it more entertaining, we usually have one member dressed up in a shirt and tie or a full suit so people can "splash" him. The event raises money for Alzheimer's Association and the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

"Splash a Sammy" is meaningful to our chapter because it has long been a tradition we have continued. We hold it multiple times each semester, so it is a recurring event rather than a new one. It brings our chapter together, engages the campus, and supports an important cause in a fun, memorable way. Over time, it has become one of the events that people most associate with our chapter.

**ΓΦ**  
Arizona State University

4	38	1	1
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The Gamma Phi chapter has been making a conscious effort to focus our community service locally by supporting the city of Tempe and staying actively involved in events at Arizona State University. Rather than spreading our efforts thin, we've prioritized showing up where we live and where we go to school, building stronger connections with the community around us. Whether it's volunteering at city events, campus functions, or lending a hand wherever extra support is needed, our goal is to be present, reliable, and helpful. By keeping our service close to home, we're able to make a more direct and meaningful impact while strengthening our relationship with both Tempe and ASU.

**ΓΨ**  
Temple University

1	42	2	0
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**ΔB**  
American University

5	23	1	1
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We hosted an event for the Judy Fund called the "Wheel of Pain". It was a wheel of fun challenges for brothers to do. People seemed to like the chance aspect, and it felt more like a game. Normally, we charge \$3 dollars but due to the amount of people we were able to up it to \$5. In total we made around \$250 in one day. We plan to make it a repeat event.



**ΔZ**

Florida International University

8	86	5	5
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"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 Joao, Prior



**ΔΠ**

Ottawa University

6	27	2	3
---	----	---	---

During our fall semester, our chapter hosted an event called splash for a cause. What Splash for a cause, is that brothers would volunteer themselves and people would throw water balloons at us to help us support the Judy Fund. The event brought students across campus together and to help lift up the school spirit with some laughter. With Splash for a cause, it not only brought our chapter closer together and strengthened our bonds as brothers, but also created a very engaging memorable experience for people on campus to enjoy, creating a positive experience while supporting and important causes on our campus is important as well.



**ΔΩ**

Rochester Institute of Technology

6	34	2	3
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**EA**

Stephen F. Austin State University

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



**ΕΓ**

Illinois State University

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



**ΕΔ**

Johnson & Wales

8	12	4	0
---	----	---	---



**EE**

SUNY-Geneseo

6	13	1	1
---	----	---	---



**EN**

University of Connecticut



0	9	0	0
---	---	---	---

After hearing about the success of other chapters with their Walk 2 End Alzheimers. We are planning to reach out and participate with our local branch in the Fall.



**EE**

Emory University

33	105	2	5
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**ΕΠ**

University of Rhode Island

8	45	0	1
---	----	---	---

This semester we put all our effort into our universities Greek Week challenges. Raising \$17,000 across various events like chariot races, dance competitions, and talent shows. Ultimately we were successful and did the best out of the entirety of greek life.

## Provisional Chapters:



**ΣΔ**

Rutgers University

2	15	1	8
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**ΓΣ**

Binghamton University

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



**ΚΕΚ**

New Jersey Institute of Technology

11	18	1	2
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This semester we raised money for the Pittie Project. They provide pitbulls with spaying/neutering, shelter, vaccinations, and adoption in the NJ area. This philanthropy is very near to our hearts as we've had many pitbulls in our house up until the very recent passing of Kappa IX. We tabled on campus doing Pie a Brother, Shave a Brother, and more!



**ΓΠ**

SUNY-Albany



16	16	0	0
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# CONVENTION FOREWORD 2026

## Convention Foreword

The 2026 Convention will be held at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York. The program will begin on Thursday, July 23rd and will conclude Saturday evening. The schedule of events is published on [sam.org/convention](http://sam.org/convention). Alumni registration is due by June 25th. Undergraduate registration is open in MySAM and will close on June 1st.

The Convention Business Meeting will take place at 1:30 PM ET on Saturday, July 25th.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following is a report of the Nominations Committee for the elections to be held during the 2026 Convention on Saturday, July 25th.

**Our Process:** An announcement was made seeking recommendations for alumni interested in nomination. Two incumbent Consuls and three additional alumni submitted their applications for the three alumni Consul roles. Three applications were submitted for the role of Young Alumnus Consul.

Upon receipt of the written applications, the committee facilitated interviews with all applicants on Zoom; in each we recorded the interview so that those members of the committee not present during the live interview would be able to review the applicants' replies. Prior to the interviews being conducted, the committee drafted questions for use during the interviews. Committeemen all agreed to watch all recordings of the interviews they did not personally participate in, prior to completing the evaluation rubric and casting a vote.

**Our Actions:** We thank all of the applicants for investing their time, energy, and passion for Sigma Alpha Mu, as was abundantly evident through this process, and look forward to their continued efforts to advance the mission of Sigma Alpha Mu. The Nominations Committee nominates the following individuals for service on the Octagon:

- Mike Kawochka (Nu/Buffalo, '91)
- Dean Lambert (Sigma Omicron/Nebraska, '82)
- Evan Remer (Sigma Theta/Texas, '02)
- Seth Murawsky (Sigma Tau/Oregon, '18) – Young Alumnus Consul

These nominations were submitted to the Octagon and published in the Convention Foreword on [sam.org](http://sam.org) on April 24th and *The Octagonian* issue in May.

The applications for the nominated alumni are linked here.

## Members of the Committee:

The 2026 Nominating Committee is comprised of the following individuals as specified in the Blue Book: two members of the Octagon designated by the Supreme Prior – Consul David Sackler and Consul Doug Montgomery; the three immediate past Supreme Priors, consisting of David Kleppel, Jerry Conrey and Dan Grossberg; Undergraduate Advisory Committee Members Jayden Lachman (Delta Pi, '22) and Gib Paulisich (Beta Gamma, '25); and two alumni-at-large, David Streusand of Texas A&M, class of '05 and Anton Steyer, of West Florida, class of '99.

## SUBMITTED LEGISLATION

The following item was tabled from Convention 2025.

Division F., Article V., Section 1 :

The financial records of the Fraternity, the Endowment Fund, and all entities controlled by the Fraternity, shall be audited, annually, by a firm of independent Certified Public Accountants, duly licensed and registered in the United States of America, no principal of which shall be a member of the Fraternity.

Proposed by:

Ronald S. Katch, Rho '51

Redline Version

Strike-through (removed)

Bold (added)

The ~~books~~ **financial records** of the Octagon **Fraternity**, the Endowment Fund, and all ~~Trusts and Foundations~~ **entities controlled by the Fraternity**, shall be reviewed **audited**, annually, by a firm of independent Certified Public Accountants, duly licensed and registered in the United States of America, no principal of which shall be a member of the Fraternity.

## FRATERNITY AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Chapter and undergraduate awards will be presented on Thursday, July 23rd during the Lawrence D. Schaffer Leadership Recognition Dinner.

The 2026 Purple Tie Banquet on Saturday, July 25th will include the following recognition:

## Achievement Award – 2026 Man of the Year

Ron Baron (Sigma Phi/Bucknell, '62)

## William P. Schwartz Distinguished Service Award

Dennis Paese (Beta/Cornell, '70)

## Certificate of Merit

Robert Fagenson (Eta/Syracuse, '67)

Bob Weiss (Sigma Alpha/Oklahoma, '75)

## Presentation of the Founders Cup

## Installation of the Octagon for 2026-2027

# 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](http://sam-fdn.org).



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DAY OF GIVING

Under the leadership of Day of Giving Chairman, Paul Swartz, Delta Eta/West Florida '01, 163 alumni, students, parents and friends came together to raise a monumental \$54,626 for Sigma Alpha Mu! We are grateful for each donor, volunteer, advocate and supporter who helped make April 23rd so meaningful- THANK YOU!!

Your record-breaking support of the Foundation strengthens leadership development and training, health and safety education, scholarships and Jewish Endeavor programs that help our young fratres remain true to our mission of True Manhood, Democracy and Humanity. Just a few examples of what your generosity will help make possible:

- Over 180 deserving students will receive a scholarship to help offset the rising cost of higher education
- Provide over \$25,000 in chapter specific funding to enhance educational spaces in chapter homes, award academic excellence and get our chapters involved in philanthropy projects in their community
- Distribute \$6,000 in Jewish Endeavor grants to chapters celebrating our Jewish heritage and working to combat antisemitism on college campuses
- Fund \$56,000 in leadership development programs to train our members to be leaders in their chapters and communities, now and after graduation



A special thanks to the donors who issued generous challenge and matching gifts and inspired participation from coast to coast. Congratulations to:

- Beta Gamma/Arizona as the chapter that had the most donors
- Sigma Omega/NC State as the chapter that raised the most

Behind every gift is a story—a friendship formed in a chapter house, a mentor who made a difference, a leadership opportunity that shaped a young fratres future or a belief in what Sigma Alpha Mu can continue to mean for the next generation of young men.

Whether you gave, cheered us on or simply take pride in what Sigma Alpha Mu represents- THANK YOU for helping build the future of Sigma Alpha Mu!



Rho/Illinois: Chabad hosted all the Jewish-affiliated Greek houses at their annual Blue & White Barn Dance! With over 200 people present, the energy was incredible, and the brothers of Rho Chapter really showed what it means to be proud Jewish Illini.

## JEWISH ENDEAVORS INITIATIVE UPDATE

For the 2025-26 school year, the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation awarded grants to 9 grants to support Jewish educational programs on campus. 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, while Spring 26 events included Passover Sedarim for Sigma Chi/Maryland, Sigma Eta/Purdue, and Mu Psi/Miami Univ OH, as well as Sigma Omicron/Nebraska's annual cleanup of the Nebraska Holocaust Memorial.

The Jewish Endeavors Initiative provides grants to chapters and undergraduate members working to support Jewish Life and to combat antisemitism on their campuses. All chapters and undergraduates in good standing are eligible to apply and grants are awarded on a first-come basis until funds are exhausted. The Jewish Endeavors is funded by an endowment established by donors as part of the SAM 100th Campaign. For more information on the program visit [sam-fdn.org](http://sam-fdn.org) or contact Maria Mandel, Director of Scholarships & Grants, at [mariam@sam-fdn.org](mailto:mariam@sam-fdn.org).



Above: Sigma Eta/Purdue member Sam Cohen's first time putting on tefillin.



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

# IRA LIND SOCIETY SPRING '26 UPDATE NEW AND UPDATED PLANNED GIFTS

Recognizing Sigma Alpha Mu alumni and friends who have included Sigma Alpha Mu in their estate plans, the Ira Lind Society is named in honor of Ira Lind, one of the eight founders of Sigma Alpha Mu and the first fratere to establish a planned gift. Since our last update, the following alumni have confirmed and updated planned gift commitments.

Dr. Leland Garrett, Sigma Omega/NC State '69. Fra Garrett is a longtime supporter of the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation, serves as a director of the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation, and is a member of the Foundation's Scholarship Selection Committee.

Jill & Dean Lambert, Sigma Omicron/Nebraska '82, in Memory of Their Son, Adam James Lambert. Fra Lambert is a past Vice Supreme Prior and our current Supreme Recorder. Dean and his wife Jill are loyal supporters of the Annual Appeal and have included the Foundation in their estate plans to support areas of greatest need.

Faye & Benji Bearman, Kappa/Minnesota '97. Fra Bearman and his family have made an estate commitment to the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation. Benji is our current Supreme Prior and is committed to the growth of Sigma Alpha Mu. Benji and his

wife Faye shared, "We are joining the Ira Lind Society because Sigma Alpha Mu has played an important role in our lives, and we want to help ensure it remains strong for generations to come. For our family, this was a thoughtful and meaningful decision, one that reflects the values we share and the importance we place on giving back. We're proud to make this commitment together and support the Fraternity's future in a lasting way."

Ann & Roy Neulicht, Sigma Omega/NC State '69. Ann and Roy have updated and reconfirmed their estate commitment to Sigma Alpha Mu. Roy is a longtime volunteer and supporter of Sigma Alpha Mu and currently serves as a director of the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation.

Over the years, dozens of members and friends of Sigma Alpha Mu have joined the Ira Lind Society. To date, Sigma Alpha Mu has received more than \$1.4 million in planned gifts, and the total of known-planned gift commitments is more than \$7.5 million. For more information on planned giving opportunities or ways to support the current needs of student fratres, contact Aaron Giron, chief executive officer of the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation, at [aarong@sam-fdn.org](mailto:aarong@sam-fdn.org).

# NEW SIGMA ALPHA MU FOUNDATION DIRECTOR



At its February 2026 Mid-Year Meeting, the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation elected Bruce Golden, Sigma Theta/Texas '78, to its board of directors. Bruce resides in Austin, TX where he has been in the financial services and accounting business for over 30 years. In addition to serving as the long-time financial advisor at Sigma Theta, Bruce is a dedicated and active member of Rotary International, having served as club President, Governor, and he is currently the Rotary Keyway Foundation Chairman. Bruce and his wife, Sharon (also a UT grad) have been married for 42 years. They both enjoy traveling, attending UT baseball and football games and supporting UT's Bass Concert Hall.

Foundation President Bob Weiss shared the following, "We are pleased to have Bruce join the board, his professional, volunteer, and SAM backgrounds make him a great addition."

Ann & Roy  
Neulicht



Dr. Leland Garrett



Jill and Dean  
Lambert



Supreme Prior Benji  
Bearman and his Family



# \$277,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 199 STUDENTS

Lawrence D. Schaffer Endowed Scholarship program was created out of the Sigma Alpha Mu 75th Anniversary Campaign under the leadership of Lawrence D. Schaffer, Sigma Beta/Ohio State '48. Larry served Sigma Alpha Mu in numerous volunteer roles including Supreme Prior and Foundation President. While Larry entered Chapter Eternal in 2015, his initiative to launch the endowed scholarship initiative 45 years ago built the foundation of Sigma Alpha Mu's scholarship program. Each scholarship listed is funded by an individual or group of donors. Below is a list of scholarships awarded to members of Sigma Alpha Mu.

For more information on the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation's scholarship program please visit [sam-fdn.org](http://sam-fdn.org) or contact Maria Mandel, Director of Scholarships & Grants, at [mariam@sam-fdn.org](mailto:mariam@sam-fdn.org).

## American University/ Delta Beta

- Avyay Sriperumbudur Louis B Pearlman Scholarship \$500

## Arizona State University/ Gamma Phi

- Deven Shrestha Lee & Marilyn Skilken Scholarship \$500

## Cornell University/ Beta

- Alejandro Rojas Manuel Leve Scholarship \$1000
- Lance Zeligson Dennis Paese Scholarship \$2000
- Aldo Lomas Dennis Paese Scholarship \$2000

## Drexel University /Mu Eta

- CJ Crawford Preston Robert Tisch Scholarship \$2500
- Matthew Bunkin Robert Nerz Scholarship \$500
- Romelio Weiss SAM Legacy Scholarship \$1000
- Timaeus Picarelli Ron Kapon Scholarship \$500
- Ahmet Yalim Kiral James R. Favor Risk Management Scholarship \$2500

## Emory University/ Epsilon Xi

- Connor May Louis & Fannie Guller Scholarship \$1000
- Phillip Bang L & S Milken Scholarship \$2000
- Ryan Peskin Howard Natal Memorial Scholarship \$500
- Ryan Peskin Marvin Mitchell Scholarship \$500
- Spencer Friedland Theodore Ignall Scholarship \$1000

## Florida International University/ Delta Zeta

- Trevor See Mu Gamma Engineering Scholarship \$1000
- Kristian Gonzalez September 11th Scholarship \$1000
- Kaya Erdal Seymour Weiss Engineering Scholarship \$1000
- Bryant Perez Ben Savage Scholarship \$1000
- Juan Moran Ira Lind Scholarship \$1500

## Indiana University Bloomington/ Sigma Zeta

- Jacob Friedman Glazer Family Jewish Studies Scholarship \$7250
- Max Lapointe Sigma Zeta Scholarship \$2000
- Aaron Mages Hurst Family Scholarship \$1000
- Jerry Schostak Albert J Kauff Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Jerry Schostak Alvin E. Cohen Scholarship \$1000
- Jack Harris Joel & Linda Beren Jewish Communal Service Scholarship \$1000
- Dylan Shapiro Remak-Rosenberg Scholarship \$1000
- Cooper Titan Gerber Family Scholarship \$1000
- Andrew Kuznetsov Martin E Sherman Scholarship \$1000

## Kentucky Wesleyan College Beta Omega

- Dillon Schueler William Gilliam Scholarship \$1000\*

## Miami University/ Mu Psi

- Drew Riley James R. Favor Risk Management Scholarship \$2500
- Robert Zielsdorf Joel & Keith Levy Accounting Scholarship \$500
- Robert Zielsdorf Cornick-Simkins Scholarship \$1000
- Luke Manche Mom Keene Scholarship \$1000
- Anthony Gelasi Jerry Miller Scholarship \$1000
- Luke Manche Tommy Howe III Memorial Scholarship \$1000

## Michigan State University /Mu Chi

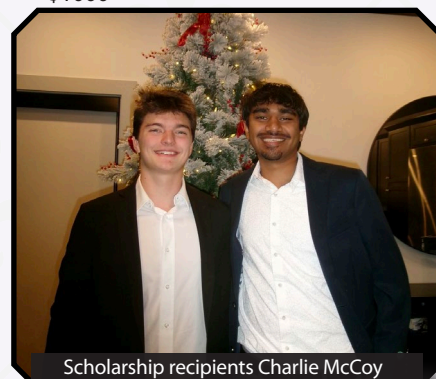
- Carl Greene L. M. Newman Family Scholarship \$1000
- Charlie Tobias L. M. Newman Scholarship \$1250
- Gavin Schehr Craig L. Ludin Scholarship \$500
- Liam Rearick Steven Dachinger Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Matthew Kay L. M. Newman Scholarship \$1250

## New Jersey Int of Technology/Kappa Xi Kappa

- Pablo Baez Morris & Fannie Skilken Scholarship \$1000
- Adam Kuczynski David D Levinson Scholarship \$1000

## North Carolina State University /Sigma Omega

- Irvin Morales-Saldivar Ben Anderson Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Tyler Mahoney Hyman I Jacobson Top Senior Scholar Award \$2000
- Myan Patel Robert S Elster Memorial Scholarship \$1500
- Dominic Hobart Sam Fox Scholarship \$1000
- Connor O'Toole Richie & Kevin Williamson Scholarship \$1000
- Braxton Bourne Ben Anderson Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Charlie McCoy Roy & Ann Neulicht Scholarship \$2000
- Hough Jaeger Lee Garrett Chemical Engineering Medical School Scholarship \$1000



Scholarship recipients Charlie McCoy and his little Mayan Patel from Sigma

Omega/NC State



Scholarship Recipients Alex Zielsdorf (Left), Luke Manche (Middle), Anthony Gelasi (Right)

## Ottawa University/ Delta Pi

- Jayden Lachhman Bora Laskin Scholarship \$1000
- Jean-Luc Fournier Pauline & Albert Patten-Luc Scholarship \$1000
- Jonathan Landsman Samuel Gotfrid Scholarship \$1000\*



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

### Purdue University/ Sigma Eta

- Andrew Robertson Alan Grushcow Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Nathan Azimov Leslie J. Raffel Scholarship \$4000
- David Schwartzman Donald Stein Legacy Scholarship \$1000
- Neal Singh Joel Honigberg Scholarship \$1000
- Alexander Claire Patricia & Barry Epstein Scholarship \$1000

### Rochester Institute of Technology/ Delta Omega

- Dominic Raifsnider John Paine Scholarship \$1000
- Erik Callejas Geno & Monica Schnell Scholarship \$500
- Jason Bradbury Judy Schwartz Scholarship \$1000

### Rutgers University /Sigma Delta

- Aayush Parekh Karchmer Family Scholarship \$1000
- Daniel Benimovich Jonathan A. Schmidt Biomedical Engineering Scholarship \$1000
- Ethan Smith Jonathan A. Schmidt Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Evin Maciel Charles E. Gettleman Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- James Guarino David Lloyd Kreeger Scholarship \$1000
- Nathanand Choke Harold Brandman Scholarship \$1500
- Param Savalia Felix Jager Scholarship \$1000
- Peleg Wolfsohn Joseph Weinberg Scholarship \$1000

### SUNY-Geneseo/ Epsilon Epsilon

- Edwin Hugh Allan E Miller Scholarship \$1000 \*

### Syracuse University /Eta

- Mitchell Breakstone Walter Rose Scholarship \$1000
- Ryan Cohen Marshall M Gelfand Scholarship \$1000
- Edward Bennett Morris Family Scholarship \$1000
- Aaron Easton Hanno D Mott Scholarship \$1000
- Aidan Gurvitch Ron Rapchik Mu Phi Scholarship \$1000
- Jonah Wassersug Ira & Karen Sells Scholarship \$1000

### Texas A&M University/ Gamma Kappa

- Brandon Rottinghaus Dr. F Gary Toback Memorial Scholarship \$1000

### University of Alabama /Tau

- Matthew Robbins Robert L Burg Scholarship \$3625
- Matthew Robbins Tau Educational Scholarship \$1000
- Jacob Switt Robert L Burg Scholarship \$3625
- Daniel Barriga Robert L Burg Scholarship \$3625
- Andy Hamil Tau Educational Scholarship \$1000
- Andy Hamil Robert L Burg Scholarship \$3625
- Ayden Bone I.E. Millstone Scholarship \$1000

### University at Albany/Gamma Pi

- David Ford Gormin Trailblazer Scholarship \$1000

### University of Arizona /Beta Gamma

- Zachary Koss Royal Flagg Jonas Scholarship \$1000
- Jorge Vasquez Terry Semel Scholarship \$1000
- Gib Paulisich Jordan Kaplan Scholarship \$1000

### University of California-Berkeley/Sigma Sigma

- Ipsit Shah Dr. Lewis Hare Scholarship \$2000\*



Graduate student Ipsit Shah (Sigma Sigma/ UC Berkeley) attending the Medical College of Wisconsin received the Dr. Lewis Hare Scholarship for a ΣAM in medical school

### University of California-San Diego/ Gamma Rho

- Matthew Tran Ira Rubenstein Gamma Rho Scholarship \$500
- Kaleb Truchan Stefan Loren Scholarship \$500- Inaugural Recipient
- Jackson Ogburn Theda & Leonard Leventhal Scholarship \$2500\*
- Abhijit Nambiar Wallach Associates Inc Scholarship \$1000



Jackson Ogburn (Gamma Rho/UC San Diego) received the Leonard & Theda Leventhal Scholarship for a ΣAM Eagle Scout in graduate school. He's attending Univ MN College of Law.

### University of Cincinnati /Omicron

- Rami Bandler Omicron Scholarship \$1000
- Rami Bandler Kenneth & Madeline Wolf Scholarship \$500

### University of Colorado Boulder /Mu Pi

- Bijan Molavi Nate Karchmer Scholarship \$2500
- David Morton Viviane & Steve Franklin Scholarship \$500

### University of Florida /Gamma Tau

- Josh Riehm Paul Pumpian Scholarship \$2000
- Nathan Lamm William Ober Scholarship \$2750\*

### University of Illinois at Chicago /Gamma Epsilon

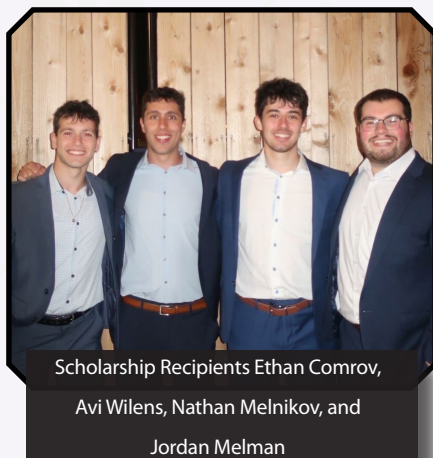
- Tyler Riggi Sean P. Daly Memorial Scholarship \$1000



Scholarship Recipient Todd Lazoff (Sigma Chi)

### University of Illinois-Urbana /Rho

- Hank Mitchell Joel Warady Scholarship \$1000
- Yoav Barlevy David S Rice Scholarship \$2000
- Nathan Melnikov Private Family Foundation Scholarship \$1000
- Nate Dubner Margie & Paul Alperson Scholarship \$1000
- Joshua Liberman Joseph Dave Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Ethan Comrov Benjamin P Goldman Scholarship \$1000
- Avi Wilens Katch Family Scholarship \$1000
- Ashton Czako Jeffrey Davis Scholarship \$1000
- Nate Dubner Darren Margolis Scholarship \$500



Scholarship Recipients Ethan Comrov,  
Avi Wilens, Nathan Melnikov, and  
Jordan Melman

### University of Maryland-College Park/ Sigma Chi

- Micah Senior Sigma Chi Scholarship \$2500
- Spencer Bauman Milken Family Scholarship \$2000
- Todd Lazoff Henry & Evelyn Moss Scholarship \$500
- Riley Rivera Sigma Chi Scholarship \$2500
- Kyle O'Shaughnessy Samuel Miller Award \$3000\*
- Amir Kalantary Margolis-Guzick Scholarship \$1500\*
- Josh Cohn Martin & Howard Miller Scholarship \$4000
- Charlie Getz Nu Legacy Scholarship \$1000
- Zach Fessler Chief Justice Norman Krivosha Scholarship \$1000
- Louis Mancuso Gilbert Gottlieb Scholarship \$1000

### University of Michigan/ Sigma Iota

- Chad Brouze Sidney Bielfield Memorial Scholarship \$1000

### University of Minnesota/ Kappa

- Aaron Berk James C Hammerstein Scholarship \$2000
- Bennett Friedman Robert E Kauff Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Cole Potvin Ronn & Kimberly Tulman Scholarship \$500
- Evan Jaffe Frederic Brooks Scholarship \$500

### University of Nebraska-Lincoln /Sigma Omicron

- Evan Merrell Bernard R Goodman Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Hayden Leven Sidney H Guller Scholarship \$2000
- Ayden Hill Harold R Stiefel Memorial Scholarship \$1000

### University of Oregon/Sigma Tau

- Justin Asarch William Ober Scholarship \$2750 \*

### University of Pennsylvania/ Theta

- Aidan Nemiroff Theta Scholarship \$1000
- Ari Weiner Mu Gamma 50th Anniversary Scholarship \$1000
- Jordan Severino Theta Centennial Scholarship \$3000
- Samuel Winn Michael Fuchs Scholarship \$500
- Yifan Pan Max M Epstein Scholarship \$1000
- Yifan Pan Theta Centennial Scholarship \$3000

### University of Pittsburgh/ Psi

- Seth Klein Norman Berkowitz Scholarship \$1000
- Seth Klein Michael Karl Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Aidan McHugh Nathaniel B. Locklin Scholarship \$1000
- Max Irish Lawrence D. Schaffer Scholarship \$1500
- Aidan Nemeroff Margolis-Epps Scholarship \$1000
- Aidan Kasner Murman- Reichman Scholarship \$1000
- Aidan Provda Erik Schwer Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Caleb Epstein Jack & Sara Freeman Scholarship \$1000
- Jake Pace Todd Marks PRIDE Scholarship \$500

### University of Rhode Island /Epsilon Pi

- Charlie Mather James & Elsie Rasbold Scholarship \$1000

### University of Southern California /Mu Theta

- Grayson King Leonard H. Smith Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Luke Norkaitis Sonia Brown Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Luke Bell Harry & Harriet Stone Scholarship \$500
- Jimmy Shao Marc P Schwartz Scholarship \$1000
- Izzy Kaplan Brad Wayne Scholarship \$500
- Evan Esmaeilzadeh S David Coleman Scholarship \$1000
- Cole Snee Lisa Wiviott Memorial Scholarship \$500
- Calum Regan IDEA Scholarship \$500
- Aydin Pollack Michael J Weiss Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Alexander Reddy Axelrod Family Scholarship \$500
- Aiden Smith Raymond & Helen Sandler Scholarship \$1000
- Jackson Laite Dr. Vincent Contreras Leadership Scholarship \$500

### University of Texas at Austin/ Sigma Theta

- Daniel Dori Gary Gottlieb Scholarship \$3000
- Jacob Silberlicht Glazer Family Jewish Studies Scholarship \$7250
- Lucas Roberts Glazer Family Jewish Studies Scholarship \$7250
- Joseph Caleb Shabot Top Junior Scholar Award \$1000
- Joseph Spiro Andy Dickson Memorial Scholarship \$4000
- Jarrett Leitman Deana & Gerald Stempler Scholarship \$1000
- Jacob Silberlicht Joan & Jack Wallick Scholarship \$1000
- Harry Wolf James C Hammerstein Scholarship \$2000
- Gabriel Dori Marty Levinson Memorial Scholarship \$2000
- Fernando Lozano Jeff Levy Sigma Theta Scholarship \$4000
- Dylan Marciano James & Rosalie Alexander Scholarship \$1000
- Ben Sherman Glazer Family Jewish Studies Scholarship \$7250
- Aiden Weinstein Edward P. Rosen Scholarship \$500
- Isaac Braverman Grace Bender Scholarship \$1000
- Eyal Kauf Blitzer Family Scholarship \$500



**University of Virginia /Beta Psi**

- Colin Falgiano Jerry Silver Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Yusuf Sagun John C Ale Scholarship \$1000
- Colin Falgiano Thomas Ross Scholarship \$500
- Jamal Chouffani Stanley M. Lefco Scholarship \$1000

**University of Wisconsin-Madison/ Beta Iota**

- Benjamin Kreit Ronald Shlensky Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Corey Sherman Andrew DeSantis Memorial Scholarship \$1000
- Kyle Wortman Gormin Family Scholarship \$2000
- Max Levine Robert Traum Scholarship \$1000

\*Graduate Student

*Italics are Scholarships Awarded for the First Time in 2026*



Schwartz Daughter of Frates scholarship recipient Hayden Hirsch, attending Univ of Washington in Fall 26, and her father, Michael Hirsch (Sigma Pi/UCLA '89)

**Make a Gift That Does Good For Everyone!**

Did you know the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation accepts more than gifts of cash? The Foundation accepts non-cash gifts that often are tax-wise ways to support our scholarship and leadership programs. Making a gift of bonds, or other long term security, to the Foundation is a highly tax-efficient strategy that can maximize the impact of your gift. By transferring ownership of appreciated, publicly traded bonds directly to us, you can claim a charitable deduction for the bond's full fair market value while entirely bypassing capital gains taxes.

Allan Janoff, Beta Epsilon/UMass '70 shares this about why he chooses to donate appreciated assets to the Foundation:

“The Israel Bonds Shalom Bond offers the opportunity to support both Sigma Alpha Mu and The State of Israel in one meaningful purchase. I give a 1-year Shalom Bond for all my gifts and donations, of any size, to organizations, charities and wedding and bar/bat mitzvah gifts every year. It is easy, just contact your local Israel Bonds office and tell them you want to purchase a Shalom Bond to be donated to Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation. It is all tax deductible and earns interest, so it's a win for everyone.”



To make any gift to the Foundation, cash or non-cash, email Amy Buchheit, CFRE, Senior Director of Development at amyb@sam-fdn.org

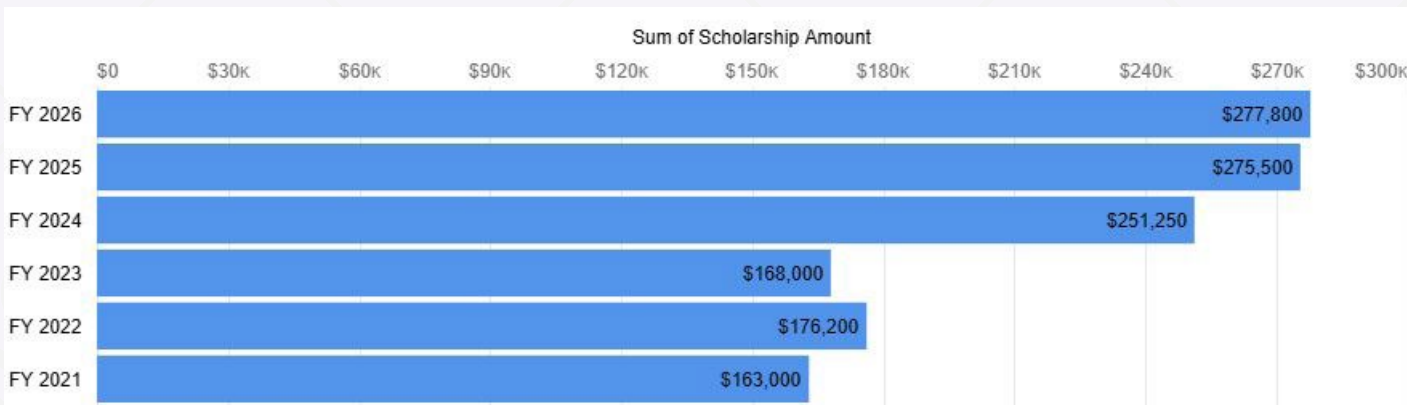
**How to Establish a Scholarship Fund**

Establishing a named Scholarship Fund ensures that your support for the brotherhood remains strong year after year. With a gift of \$50,000 or more, you create a lasting resource that sustains our student fratres for generations to come. This is a unique opportunity to tailor the impact of your philanthropy on the values and history that matter most to you.

- Individual Legacies: Create a personal fund that reflects your commitment to the fraternity, with the ability to customize criteria based on a specific chapter, academic major, or financial need.
- Collective Tributes: Many of our most impactful scholarships are established by groups of alumni. Whether honoring the memory of a beloved frater or celebrating a milestone like a chapter anniversary or a pledge class anniversary, a collective gift creates a powerful, unified legacy.

The need for scholarships grows each year, this year more than 400 students applied for scholarships! With support of generous alumni the Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation is working to meet the needs of student fratres.

For more information on how to establish a scholarship please contact Maria Mandel, Director of Scholarships & Grants at mariam@sam-fdn.org.



IN LOVING MEMORY

# 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](mailto:samhq@sam.org).** All names noted here were reported Feb 24, 2026 - May 19, 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](https://SAM.ORG/DONATE)**

## OMICRON

Hanno Mott (Cincinnati, '52)

Stuart Scgaouri (Cincinnati, '63)

## PHI

Harvey Brown (WashU, '45)

## SIGMA PHI

Stanley Gerla (Bucknell, '43)

## SIGMA OMEGA

Richard Schultz (NCSU, '69)

## MU IOTA

Stanley Levine (Butler, '49)

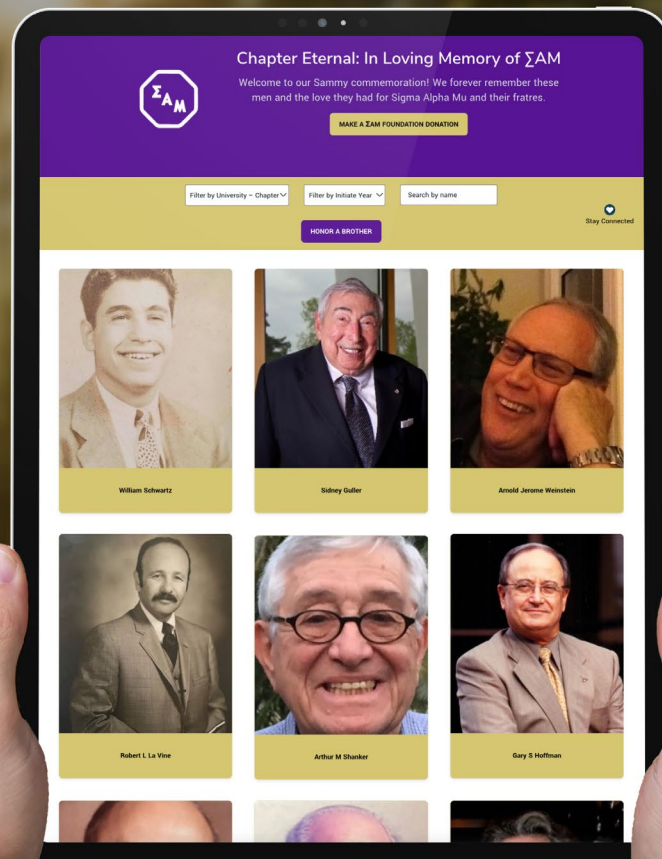
## Honor our brothers, celebrate their lives



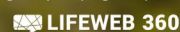
Scan the QR Code or visit  
[link.lifeweb360.com/octagonian](https://link.lifeweb360.com/octagonian)

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](mailto:samhq@sam.org)

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