

CHAPTER AWARD

The Presidents Cup



On May 9, 2019 the University of Maryland awarded the Gamma Chi Chapter the Presidents Cup for being the 2018-19 Most Outstanding Fraternity on campus. This is the second Presidents Cup award we have received in the last five years. Congratulations to our leaders **Griffin Cicci** and **Jon Romano** as well as our Chapter Advisor, **Travis Roberts**.

GAMMA CHI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Officers

The Foundation Board is comprised of volunteers, mostly Gamma Chi Alumni.

Tom Burton '84 (President)

John Hallock '15 (Treasurer)

Jeff Hines '81

Ben Keiser '97

Rob Pichard '11

Greg Schaub '82

Scott Werber '86



CROSSROADS

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Spring 2019

GAMMA CHI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Impacting Undergraduates at the Bequest of a Former Brother

The Gamma Chi Education Foundation is in its early years of supporting the undergraduate **Sigma Chi Brothers at the University of Maryland**. Foundation President **Tom Burton '84** is excited at the opportunities the Foundation is bringing to the undergraduates at Gamma Chi.

How It All Began

The Foundation started in 2014. It was funded from the sale of the former Chapter House at 4600 Norwich Road and a portion of the bequest from **John "Jack" Stringer '57**. Together, the amount totaled nearly \$1 million – an incredible asset to be used to benefit the Chapter.

The infrastructure of the Foundation was put together by **Barry DesRoches**, the first president of the Foundation preceding Burton '84. He did the leg work to get everything started and put in significant time and energy to try and ensure future success. Burton '84 took over the presidency and currently serves in that role as well as on a housing task force organized by Sigma Chi.

Current Leadership

Burton '84 has been involved in officer roles since his undergraduate years. He has an accentuated understanding of the impact the funds can make after serving in officer positions throughout his time at Gamma Chi, including assistant quaestor, quaestor and consul – the equivalent roles of treasurer and president. He was responsible for the books for the entire Chapter, including the food, taxes, insurance and payroll. He learned a great deal about bookkeeping and finances, which was a skill he ultimately took into his early career. Much of the teaching and mentorship for Burton '84 came from John Kennedy, a late Brother of the fraternity.

"I learned all that from John Kennedy,"

Burton '84 says. "There was a culture of teaching and mentoring and I learned everything about bookkeeping and financial management. I spent some years as a CPA and I attribute that to what John taught me and my time actually doing it."

Since his time in undergraduate service he has started alumni associations, served on the housing corporation, served on the board and as chairman of the fraternity lending company Constantine Capital, Inc. and as a grand trustee, making him a valuable asset to the Foundation.

The Future of the Education Foundation

The capital of the Foundation has funded renovations, enhanced the endowment for the **Thomas Cowan Bell Chapter Challenge Scholarship** and funded scholarships for upperclassman to live in the chapter house their senior year. The idea behind getting seniors to live in the house is one founded on mentorship and example – the same things that influenced Burton so greatly in his four years living in the fraternity house. Acknowledging upperclassman who have performed well academically and subsidizing some of their living cost helps provide leadership to the underclassmen.

Each of those efforts have been valuable to the fraternity, and Burton '84 is hoping to continue seeing the capital used in different ways that offer support to undergraduates. Looking to broaden the horizons on grant and scholarship opportunities requires a great deal of support, and currently the Foundation is looking to bring in alumni Brothers interested in supporting their efforts.

Gamma Chi Alumni have an incredible and unique opportunity to support and strengthen the perpetuation of their fraternity. The Foundation is designed to be permanent and support undergraduates at the University of Maryland for years to come, which means every alumni Brother has the chance to support the future of Gamma Chi.

A PLACE IN FOOTBALL HISTORY

The Night the Sigma Chis moved the Colts to Indianapolis

It's been 35 years since one of the most infamous moves in football history – when the Baltimore Colts bolted for Indianapolis – but there are many who still have vivid memories of it and the part the brothers of our Sigma Chi fraternity played in it. Although by the time of the move in March 1984, the transfer wasn't unexpected, the manner in which it was conducted – in secret, in the middle of the night – made it the stuff of legend. One of those legends – that the move was assisted by the Hell's Angels – proved not to be true. It wasn't bikers that moved the Colts to Indianapolis, it was the brothers of Sigma Chi.

By the early years of the 1980s, the halcyon days of Johnny Unitas and Bert Jones, culminating in a 1971 Super Bowl win, were long gone. In 1972, Bob Irsay, then the newly-minted owner of the Los Angeles Rams, engineered a bizarre switch of franchises and became the owner of the Baltimore Colts. The controversial and often-despised Irsay (whose own mother described him as “the devil on earth”) wasted no time in trying to wring financial concessions from the city of Baltimore and by 1979, was actively shopping the team for a new location. Jacksonville and Phoenix were in the running, but it was Indianapolis and its enterprising mayor, William Hudnut that took the edge with a “Field of Dreams” approach – building the \$80 million dollar RCA Dome to attract the Colts.

And it worked. Things came to a head in March 1984, when Hudnut got a call from the Colts' general counsel announcing that the Maryland legislature was on the verge of passing a bill which would give the city of Baltimore the right of eminent domain over the Colts. If Indianapolis wanted the Colts, they would have to move fast. Hudnut was ready to move, one of his friends was the chairman of the Mayflower Transit moving company and offered to move the Colts for free. Since the move had to be accomplished in one night, Mayflower didn't have adequate manpower. That's where the brothers of Sigma Chi came in.

Sigma Chi brothers occasionally took part-time work with Mayflower to help with expenses, but this job was different. It was a mid-week move, which was unusual, and no details were offered, just that the brothers should be there by sundown and wouldn't be back until sunup. Brother Joe Ponzio took the call that evening at the Sigma Chi house and when the brothers seemed reluctant over



the mid-week job and the \$10/hour pay, the offer quickly shot up to \$21/hour – and enthusiasm soared. “When they said, ‘triple overtime,’” remembers brother Mark Updegrave, “classes just were no longer of consequence.”

Eighteen Sigma Chi brothers reported to the Mayflower offices that evening and were soon herded on a bus with seasoned Mayflower movers. Given the covert nature of the arrangements, many brothers assumed that the work was for the FBI or military. A Mayflower foreman quickly set them straight, “You've all heard rumors by now that the Baltimore Colts are going to move. Well, the rumors are true. And you're moving 'em!”

Some of the brothers were dismayed when they realized what they would be doing. Upon arrival at the Colts' Owings Mills headquarters, brother Bill Kynast tried to phone out to alert the media as to what was going on, but couldn't get through. All the brothers were quickly distracted by the chance to cop some Colts memorabilia. “So everything's just lying out: helmets, workout stuff, cleats, clothes,” recalled one brother, “We were like kids in a candy store.” They launched an intermural competition to see who could score the coolest gear. “Guys put on whatever they could find and put their clothes on top. They looked like Michelin men.” Eventually, the pilfering grew too obvious and Mayflower officials called everyone together and gave them ten minutes to return the illicit bounty or face prosecution. The brothers quickly shed their gear. “I remember watching one friend of mine peel off more layers than an onion. I could not believe the amount of stuff that appeared – it was a mountain.” Although most items were returned, the brothers did carry away a few things, like a hat belonging to coach Frank Kush.

As night gave way to morning, crowds began gathering as word got out. In the last phase, the movers found themselves pelted with insults – and snowballs. The Sigma Chis weren't needed to go to Indianapolis, and dawn found them back at their house. “When I got back to my room, all the morning news programs on TV were talking about the Colts,” recalled one brother, “That gave me pause for a few seconds, like, ‘What have I done?’” Over the years, most brothers have embraced their little piece of NFL history. As Mark Updegrave says, “I moved the Baltimore Colts. I have a place in football history.”

If you think you or someone you know from the Gamma Chi Chapter would make an interesting alumni profile, please let us know at www.sigmachimaryland.com and click on “Contact Us” tab

2018-19 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank You!

*Congratulations to the following brothers who have already shown their support for Gamma Chi this year!
Please join them in supporting Sigma Chi by making your contribution today!*

General Honor Roll

Waldo Burnside 1949
Robert Gralley 1949
Seth Preece 1949
Thomas Lillis 1955
Wallace Downey 1958
Charles Miller 1958
Richard Anderson 1961
James Evans 1961
George Lapes 1962
Steny Hoyer 1963
James Firmin 1967
Ernest Heether 1967

Robert Nicholas 1968
Frank Waikart 1968
Thomas Ferry 1969
H. Hickey 1970
Stephen Joyce 1972
Ronald Nicholas 1973
Edward Rowland 1973
Gregory Droege 1974
Robert Lehmkuhl 1974
Douglas Waikart 1975
Clayton McCarl 1977
Daniel Beall 1984
John Bishop 1984

Christopher Kennedy 1985
Ajay Mehta 1985
Brian Allen 1986
Scott Werber 1986
Robert Branthover 1987
Brian Rommel 1989
Gary Wilhelm 1990
Kenneth Des Garennes 1992
Lance McInerney 1992
Jonathan Valz 1996

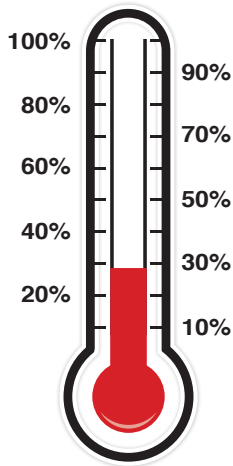
Add Your Name to the Honor Roll

1. Log on to www.sigmachimaryland.com and click on Donate in the upper righthand corner
2. Call **800-975-6699**
1. Mail a check payable to **"Gamma Chi of Sigma Chi"** to the return address on this newsletter.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE – A CALL TO ACTION

GOAL: \$12,000

Help Us Make the 2018-19 Giving Year Strong



Our 2018/2019 giving year, which began on September 1, is half over with \$3,390.00 collected from 35 brothers. We want to thank those 35 brothers (you can find them under the Honor Roll tab at our website) who have already made a contribution to Gamma Chi so far this giving year!

Our 2018-19 giving year goal is \$12,000.00. Last year only 89 out of 1,571 alumni chose to make a voluntary gift. We still have the potential to meet our

goal—but we need your immediate help.

Who will be next to join our 2018-2019 Honor Roll?

Giving Online is Easy!

You can donate online by simply going to our website, www.SigmaChiMaryland.com and selecting the Donate button at the top of the page. Donations can also be made through our toll-free Donation Hotline at **1-800-975-6699**, or by sending a check made payable to **Sigma Chi—Gamma Chi**

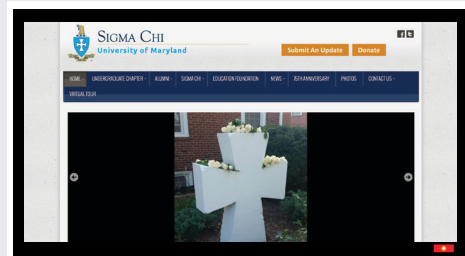
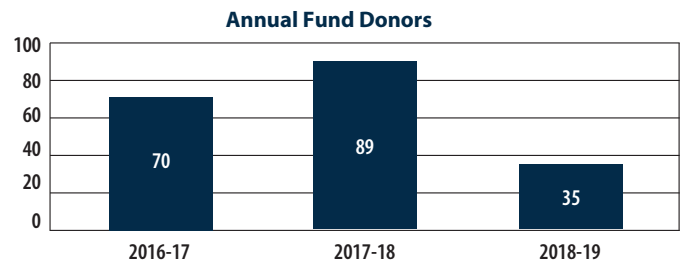
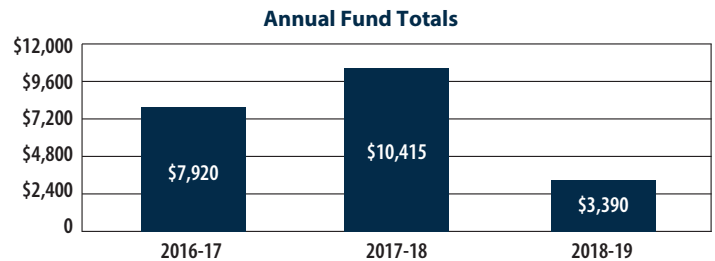
Chapter to:

**Sigma Chi
University of Maryland
Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007**

"I benefit from being a Sigma Chi every day and I am happy to try to give back all that Sigma Chi has given me."

Our college days came and went, but the real Gamma Chi experience never ends. If you cherish those lasting friendships, if you appreciate the values that shaped your life, make your annual gift **Today!**

"I have never forgotten my experience at Sigma Chi and supporting the annual fund is a small token of my appreciation."



**To Get Current News, Share Memories,
See the Honor Roll,
AND TO DONATE!**

**Visit Our Website:
www.SigmaChiMaryland.com**

Alumni Memoir to Highlight Sigma Chi Impact

If you've ever doubted the transformational power of a fraternity experience, your faith will be renewed in reading an upcoming memoir by **David Crow '75**.

David's book, *The Pale-Faced Lie*, describes his incredibly difficult childhood growing up on a Navajo Indian Reservation, his coercion into his father's criminal activities, the new path he began to pursue through his Sigma Chi college experience, and the final harrowing showdown with his Cheyenne father.

The Pale-Faced Lie will be published on May 7th. It can be pre-ordered on Amazon.



Gamma Chi Alumnus Running for Unprecedented 6th Term as York County Commissioner

Christopher B. Reilly '85 is currently seeking reelection to his sixth four-year term as York County Commissioner. He is the longest-serving commissioner in York County history.

Chris entered York County politics in 1989 when he was elected the youngest mayor in Dallastown Borough history at age 26. In 1995 Chris was the elected the youngest commissioner in York County history at age 33. He was reelected in 1999.

He took a four-year hiatus from politics beginning in 2004 to pursue opportunities in the private sector and was returned to office in 2007. Before entering politics, Chris was a York County Chamber of Commerce executive and a York College of Pennsylvania administrator.

Chris is a member of the Harrisburg Area Community College-York Campus Advisory Committee and the York County Parks Advisory Board. He has received several awards including the York County Economic Development Corporation's Friend of Economic Development, York County Action Statesman of the Year and the York County Joint Veterans Council's Award of Appreciation. Chris was also named Honorary Marine by the Dallastown Area School District's Junior ROTC Program.

Chris is a 1985 graduate of the University of Maryland and a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. He and his wife Lisa have three children: Patrick, William and Claire. They live in York Township. In his spare time Chris enjoys fishing, reading and cooking ethnic food.

You can reach out to him through the York County government website at <https://yorkcountypa.gov/county-administration/commissioners-office/2012-03-15-13-06-07.html>.

Sigma Chi Brother Worked Hard to Make a Difference

A big Thank-You to **Joe Ralston '92** for sharing his thoughts on his Sigma Chi experience after nearly 27 years.

Q: Why did you choose Sigma Chi over others at Maryland? What made it different?

A: The summer before entering The University of Maryland, I ran into a high school buddy who was a Sig at UMD. He named fraternity brothers whom I knew from high school, and as I listened to him talk about Sigma Chi, it all seemed familiar: the camaraderie, the friendships, the concept of "brotherhood", and our shared passion for athletic competition. I only rushed Sigma Chi, but not because I was confident that I would get a bid. I most certainly was not over-confident. I simply knew that I didn't want to be anywhere else.

Q: What is your advice for future generations of Brothers?

A: When I was interviewing brothers as a pledge at Sigma Chi, there was a common "dirty" word that almost every brother mentioned. They always talked about how much they detested "apathy" in the fraternity. As a pledge and a JA, I realized that doing the "bare minimum" was not going to be enough for me. In that respect, I discovered a greater purpose that I could pursue; a way to be useful to the brotherhood, while gaining something for myself in return.

From initiation to graduation, I held as many elected (or appointed) offices as possible, and I worked hard to make a difference while doing them. In return, what I was learning was how to be a leader. When pledges asked for my interview, I didn't talk about apathy, I talked about "purpose". That's the Sigma Chi way.