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Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation



August 25, 2023

PRESS RELEASE: 2023 Graduate and Undergraduate Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation Scholarship Winners



OSAMA AL SAFARJALANI

Osama "Sam" Al Safarjalani (ΘΧΦ) - DONALD F. JONES
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Sam is a third-year Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) student at New York University College of Dentistry serving as the Vice-President of the student body. With a lifelong passion for dentistry, he aspires to provide oral healthcare to underserved communities nationally and internationally. Sam's transformative experience in the Dental Student Leadership Institute has significantly shaped his perspective on dentistry and his professional trajectory. Out of his entire cohort, he was one of the select twenty leaders chosen for this prestigious program. Through his active participation, he has developed ambitions of assuming a leadership role in the dental community, utilizing his expertise and influence to bring about positive change. In his free time, he enjoys exploring new cities and pursuing photography, while also volunteering for the Syrian Youth Education where he mentors Syrian high school graduates. The Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation scholarship will support him in his pursuit of equitable healthcare by lightening the financial burden of dental school.



JUSTIN BURDGE

Justin Burdge (ΦΦ) - WILBUR M. "CURLY" WALDEN
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

One in five Americans suffer from chronic pain, an epidemic for which we have, at best, heavily flawed treatments. Justin's research seeks to improve the methods we use to study the neurobiology of pain by inventing new techniques that will improve therapeutic development. Outside of the lab, he swims, plays board games, and explores the city of New York with his dog Loki and partner Abby. This scholarship will allow him to better focus on his research and writing his thesis.

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DOMINICK FILAR

Dominick Filar (ΑΦΗ) - STANLEY G. BEDFORD
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Dominick is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Business Analytics at Rutgers University-Camden, where he also recently received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Outside of school, Dominick is currently an intern at the New Jersey Department of Treasury in the Division of Pensions and Benefits. In his free time, Dominick enjoys watching a variety of sports, which has sparked a passion for researching sports trends to base future predictions. The scholarship provided by the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation will go a long way toward pursuing his degree and continuing to be the first person in his family to attend college.



SAMUEL BETZ

Samuel Betz (ΦΜΧ) - F. PRESCOTT HAMMOND
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Sam is a first-year graduate student in the Athletic Training Program at Lock Haven University. He enjoys working out, playing video games, karate, hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family. The Fraternity has afforded him so many opportunities to make friends, be a leader, and give back to the community. Within the Phi Mu Chi Chapter, he has held the positions of secretary, vice president, and president. This scholarship will help him get closer to achieving his professional dream of becoming a baseball athletic trainer for a Division 1 or minor league team.

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LOGAN HANES

Logan Hanes (ΦΛ) - PAUL K. ADDAMS
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Logan is a fourth-year student studying Chemical Engineering with a 4.00 GPA and was formerly the president of the Phi Lambda Colony, which was Re-Instituted in April 2023. He grew up in a small town called Saint Marys in the Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania. He joined Alpha Chi Rho in spring 2021 as a freshman after fellow Brother Timothy Bunce made the proposition of restarting the Phi Lambda Chapter, making him a member of the "Original Six." The Fraternity has provided a family, leadership experience, and a creative outlet for Logan. Upon graduating from Penn State, Logan hopes to enroll in a top-tier Chemical Engineering PhD program so he can inspire the future generation of students to strive for excellence in the face of adversity. In the future, Logan hopes to return to Penn State to see the progression and success of the Fraternity to see the multi-generational impact the Fraternity has on the campus.



HARSH TALREJA

Harsh Talreja (HXΦ) - JAMES McFADDEN
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

COLIN ROCHESTER
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Harsh is now a junior at the New York Institute Of Technology. He is passionate about Computer Science and one day will have his own business in the technology field. He is particularly fascinated by the cybersecurity aspects of the technology world. He loves helping people whenever he can, so he became interested in cybersecurity. Harsh is also very interested in soccer. Most of his free time goes to playing soccer with his friends and his team is in a more competitive league. Harsh wants to thank the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation and the Eta Chi Phi Graduate Chapter for awarding him these scholarships.

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MARK CALECA

Mark Caleca ($\Delta\Sigma\Phi$) - JOHN C. ENK
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Mark is entering his third year at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) while pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Robotics Engineering in a project-based, team-focused learning environment. As a member of the Rho Beta Epsilon Robotics Engineering Honor Society, he diligently serves as a volunteer and student mentor. He also eagerly assists the WPI community while working at the Information Technology Service Desk as a Lead Specialist. Mark takes pride in being a Brother of Alpha Chi Rho, where he has cultivated friendships that encourage comradery, growth, and community service. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, basketball, and spikeball. He is grateful to his parents and friends for their unwavering support. He is honored to receive a scholarship from the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation, which will help him further his goals toward helping others and making a positive difference in the world.



LEONARD CONNORS

Leonard Connors ($A\Phi$) - DONALD F. JONES
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Leonard is originally from Bettendorf, Iowa, and is pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University. Leonard is proudly serving as the Academic Chair for the Alpha Phi Chapter. Over the last two summers, he has served as a Division Engineering Intern at Corning Inc working on connecting the world with faster internet using fiber optic cable. Outside of work and school, he enjoys hiking, lifting weights, riding his bike, running, paddle boarding, and playing basketball. Through the Fraternity, he is involved in nearly all of the intermural sports teams and has developed a great volunteering relationship with a local dog shelter. He is extremely proud of his membership in Alpha Chi Rho. This extremely generous scholarship means so much to him and his family. It will provide him the financial security he needs for his last year of school. He hopes to repay the kind act of receiving the Donald F. Jones Scholarship through service to his fellow Brothers and to the community.

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ALEXANDER ARGYROS

Alexander Argyros (ΑΦ) - RICHARD V. OLSON UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Alexander is a mechanical engineer attending Purdue University. He is currently working for Kinesys Automation, a small company that designs and manufactures automation machinery. Within the company, he is gaining valuable knowledge about the intricate mechanisms and technologies that are implemented into powerful machinery found within manufacturing plants. After work, he follows a consistent schedule of working out. Additionally, Alexander enjoys long bike rides when the weather is nice, producing music, heading to the beach, and hanging out with friends. Outside of the summertime, Alexander works diligently to achieve the best grades he can and takes advantage of the many extracurricular opportunities that Purdue has to offer. He is honored to be awarded the Richard V. Olson Undergraduate Scholarship as the proceeds of the scholarship will help support him through the remainder of his academic career. He will continue to uphold his spirit as a role model for others.



ADAM SEASHOLTZ

Adam Seasholtz (ΦΜΧ) - ALEXANDER C. BARTLETT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Adam is a dedicated college student pursuing a degree in Health Science at Lock Haven University. After graduation, he plans to attend medical school to eventually achieve his goal of becoming a physician. This past summer, Adam worked full-time in a doctor's office as a medical assistant to gain experience in his desired field of work while also taking two summer classes online. When it comes to free time, Adam enjoys all types of exercise and traveling to new places. As vice president of the Chapter, Adam worked tirelessly to plan and execute several events to raise awareness for testicular cancer, as one of his former Brothers, Alexander C. Bartlett, tragically passed away from the disease in 2020. Adam could not have organized these events without Holly Bickle, Alex's mother, who works incredibly hard to raise funds and awareness for testicular cancer. He would like to thank Holly, his friends, Brothers, and the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation for having the honor of receiving the Alexander C. Bartlett Scholarship.

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TERRENCE CLAYTON

Terrence Clayton (ΔΦ) -

WESTON L. DANGLER
RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Terrence Clayton is a sophomore studying architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has always been interested in art and architecture, and his goal after graduation is to become a licensed architect. During the summers, he works at a scout camp in Narrowsburg, New York where he teaches rock climbing. This scholarship will help alleviate the financial burden of tuition and ensure he does not take out a private loan to offset costs. Thank you to Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation for its support.



JOHN KEENAN

John Keenan (ΦΡΧ) -

CHARLES W. COUGHLAN
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Over the summer, John worked at a sleep-away camp in Maine called Laurel South, where he is both an in-cabin counselor and the camp's primary riflery instructor. As a sophomore at UMASS Amherst, he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in History and has the goal of completing a Master's in Education so that he can teach at the high school level. John spends most of his free time either at the gym or fishing around western Massachusetts with his friends. He is also proud to have served before college in the 82nd Airborne and hopes to be, along with his siblings, the first generation in his family to receive a college degree. He is very thankful for receiving a scholarship from the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation as it will help him achieve his educational goals.

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ROBERT B. STEWART UNDERGRADUATE MAN OF THE YEAR

The Fraternity would like to recognize all of the finalists who were nominated by their peers for this award:

Kevin Keough, Phi Psi - Trinity College
John Aspinall, Alpha Phi - Purdue University
Sebastian Martinez, Delta Phi - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
John Keenan, Phi Rho Chi - University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Jose Diaz - Rodriguez, Iota Chi Phi - Rowan University
Michael Sottile, Alpha Phi Gamma - Pace University

All of the nominated men have made an impact in their Chapters, schools, and communities. They have made Alpha Chi Rho stronger. We are truly proud to call them Brothers. The winner of this award joins a humble but elite group of Brothers who went above and beyond what it means to be a Brother of this Fraternity.

Academically, this year's recipient is in a five-year combined degree program for public accounting. He has been on the Dean's List multiple times and boasts an overall 3.8 cumulative GPA. He served the Chapter as the Scholarship Chair from August 2022 to May 2023. This Brother is always willing to tutor other students, review resumes or fix LinkedIn profiles before the University's career fair.

On his campus, this Brother works two part - time jobs, serves on the Interfraternity Council and is a member of Order of Omega. He is always helping to coordinate events on campus, whether it be the first Greek Week post-COVID or a first of its kind networking event for people of his major.

In his community, he actively participates and encourages Brothers to help with community service events outside of the University's community-wide service day. He has coordinated multiple fundraisers for Habitat for Humanity and the local food bank.

In the Fraternity, this Brother has served as Scholarship Chair, Philanthropy Chair, Vice President, and currently serves as President of the Chapter. Through his various positions, he created new events for the Chapter, boosting morale. He always stresses the importance of being on the same page and being good financial stewards of the Chapter's funds.

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His Chapter Brothers state, "he is the Brother that...Brothers look up to. He does well in class and dedicates many hours to the Fraternity, inspiring us to be better men of character, honor, and integrity." He is one of the most generous and genuine Brothers in the Chapter, helping those who fall onto bad times and those who need assistance due to an emergency. He is a Brother that will always put the Chapter and his Brothers before himself.

Therefore it is with great honor and humility that we award the R. B. Stewart Undergraduate Man of the Year honor to Brother Michael A. Sottile, Alpha Phi Gamma - Pace University.



MICHAEL SOTTILE

Michael A. Sottile (ΑΦΓ) - 2023 ROBERT B. STEWART UNDERGRADUATE MAN OF THE YEAR

Michael is a Public Accounting Major in a five-year BBA/MBA one-hundred-fifty credit program at Pace University. He is currently an Assurance Intern at Ernst & Young and was previously an Assurance Intern at CohnReznick LLP this past summer. He is very involved on campus and enjoys spending a lot of time in the clubs and activities that he takes part in. Michael is currently the President of the Alpha Phi Gamma Chapter and is the treasurer for the Order of Omega Honor Society. Throughout his past few years at Pace, he has held many on-campus positions. He has been the executive vice president for the Interfraternity Council (IFC), chief financial officer for "Pace Mart" (a student-run business on campus), restaurant relations manager for "Pace Delivers" (a student run business on campus), treasurer for the Lubin Business Association, a member of Pace's Investment Club, and also the vice president of the Alpha Phi Gamma Chapter. Last academic year he won the "Outstanding President" award for being the top president out of every club, student organization and Greek organization on Pace's campus. In his free time, Michael enjoys playing music with his band "Debits and Credits", where he plays the piano, bass guitar and sings. He also enjoys staying active by playing tennis, pickleball, arc softball and running. This award means a lot to Michael because he pays for his own college tuition and is currently studying for the CPA exam, so he will use this money to pay for those expenses to help further his career in accounting.

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