



Winter 2026

Celebrating Progress, Inspiring Purpose

From celebration to action - fueling our next chapter of giving and growth

Message from the President

Greetings!

We're so grateful for the incredible response to our Fall Appeal and the success of Celebration East 2026, which brought together **more than 130 friends and raised over \$49,000** in support of our mission. This milestone gives us tremendous momentum heading into the year ahead.



A heartfelt thank-you to **Frank Maguire** and his team for creating one of our most memorable gatherings yet, and to our loyal donors and returning attendees whose generosity made it all possible.

Attendees rated their experience **4.59 out of 5**, showing that Celebration East is remembered not only as a fundraiser, but also as a **meaningful Gamma Mu community event**, that brings people together in support of the Foundation's mission.

Building on that energy, we're gearing up to open our next grant and scholarship cycle. This year includes new improvements, like applicant webinars, a more focused application process, and clearer guidance on our priorities. We expect a **record number of applicants** and hope to **increase both funding levels**, and the number of grantees and scholars we can support.

We'd also love for you to consider volunteering as a grant or scholarship reviewer. It's a rewarding experience that offers a firsthand look at the creativity, resilience, and impact of the organizations and students we serve.

Thank you for being such an essential part of the Gamma Mu Foundation family and for your continued generosity and support.

Best regards,

John Ellis
President
Gamma Mu Foundation

Celebration East 2026: Where Friendships and Community Take Center Stage



Celebration East 2026 brought the Gamma Mu community together a weekend of glamour and giving back in support of our mission to uplift LGBTQ+ students and organizations nationwide.

Weekend highlights:

- **\$49,000+** raised in support of Gamma Mu's grant and scholarship programs
- Friday Meet & Greet: Approximately **80 attendees** kicked off the weekend together, with special thanks going to Dixan and Eindar Khant
- Saturday Night at the Manor House: More than **130 guests** enjoyed **An Evening at Palm Royale** with entertainment, special recognitions, and the announcement of 5 new Cliff Pettit Fellows
- Sunday Brunch at SALVO Osteria Romana: Around **60 attendees** wrapped up the weekend together
- Attendee experience: Average rating of **4.59 out of 5**, with 62% giving a perfect score

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, performed, hosted, and supported Celebration East 2026. Special thanks to **Frank Maguire** and his planning team, along with our generous sponsors, for helping make the weekend such a meaningful Gamma Mu community experience.



[See the full recap and photo gallery >>>](#)

Thank You to Our “There in Spirit” Donors

Even though they couldn’t attend Celebration East 2026 in person, these generous donors chose to give in support of the event. Their contributions helped make Celebration possible, and we are deeply grateful for their support.

- Douglas Morton
 - Cliff Pettit
 - Bryan Koeppel
 - Eric Baker & William Kapfer
 - John Loche
- Paul Gitnik
 - Gene Svrcek
 - Bruce Gelly
 - Bob Tracy
 - Mike Webb



Welcoming Our New Cliff Pettit Fellows

The Cliff Pettit Fellows represent the heart of Gamma Mu, donors who step forward with extraordinary generosity to ensure our community is supported and seen. We’re honored to welcome our newest Fellows.



- Bruno Lopes (*top photo*)
- Mitchell Crosby (*top photo*)
- William Brewer
- Brian Hollanders
- Robert Briscoe (*bottom photo*)
- Robert Russo
- Scott Powell

See the full list of the 700+ past and present Cliff Pettit Fellows >>> [here.](#)

Cumulative Giving Milestones

A big thank you to these supporters who've recently reached a new [Cumulative Giving Level](#) with Gamma Mu Foundation!

It's a heartfelt show of their loyalty to our community and real trust in what we're building together.



FOUNDER

- William Jaume
- Al Hoodwin
- Robert L. McCulloch Memorial Fund
- Peter Sperlich*

OAK TREE SOCIETY

- Peter Harvey
- Ellis Langston
- Richard Alther
- David Saylor
- Frank Maguire

LEADER

- James McGrath
- Douglas Morton
- William Haynes
- Brad Gooding

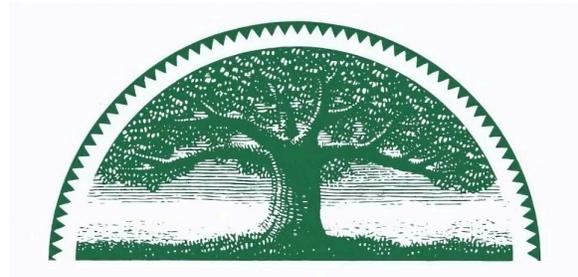
PATRON

- Michael Webb
- Eugene Welsh

"I am pleased that so many members of Gamma Mu came to Celebration East 2026. It is so important that we continue our support of the Foundation, which is so efficiently managed by the board of directors and those who assist them.

Congratulations for a job well done!"

~ Ellis Langston, Oak Tree Society



Tributes to Those We Remember

Recent Contributions Made In Memory Of

Donor

- Cliff Pettit
- Knox Hayes
- Jim McGrath & Pitro Silvestri
- Allan Robert Rexinger
- David Prindable
- Justin Alves
- Thomas Krivan
- Edward Richard
- John Ellis

In Memory Of

- Margaret Vise
- Bill Haralson
- George Pius
- George Douglas
- Larry Duval
- David Ryan
- William J. Edwards
- Warren Kendrick Richard
- Mario Pinizzotto

Recognizing Those Who Inspire

Donor

- Beth Stivers
- Doug Morton
- Brett Stover
- Gordan James
- William Brewer

In Honor Of

- Cliff Pettit
- Ray Julson
- Cliff Pettit
- Cliff Pettit
- David Hochberg

Upcoming Events



[Register Here](#)

Celebration West 2026 | Gamma Mu Foundation

SAN DIEGO

California Dreaming



More Information Soon

Visit our Website



Gamma Mu Foundation | P. O. Box 23520 | Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-3520 US

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