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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN ELLIS

***As we head into this Holiday Season, and approach another New Year, it's time to reflect on what has made 2019 another great year for the Gamma Mu Foundation.***

First and foremost it's all about you, our generous donors, and your benevolence. Because of your generosity, the *Foundation* was able to award nearly \$250,000 this year in grants and scholarships to deserving organizations and students in the LGBTQ community.

We recently sent you our annual report, which describes the awards in more detail. I encourage you to especially read our message in the annual report. Our annual appeal letter is also being sent which is a major source of funding for the *Foundation*. As you consider year end donations, please keep in mind the *Gamma Mu Foundation* is *all volunteer*, and as a result the donations you give are entirely available for distribution in our awards.

We also encourage everyone to (1) participate in "Giving Tuesday", (2) name the *Gamma Mu Foundation* through the *Amazon Smile* program, and (3) attend or support our annual "Celebration" fundraiser in January in Fort Lauderdale.

At our annual meeting in New Orleans we announced that five of our Directors will be assuming the role of "Regional Directors." Our goal is to better communicate on a regional basis and support our relationship with the Gamma Mu social fraternity.

***On behalf of the Foundation Directors, please accept our "Best Wishes" for a wonderful Holiday Season and New Year. Thank you for your ongoing support of Your Foundation!***



Martin became involved in the Gamma Mu Foundation in 1993. He was chairman of the Foundation's first black-tie fundraiser in Washington D.C. and in 1995 became a Cliff Pettit Fellow.

In January of 1997 he was asked to serve on the Board of Directors and be the volunteer Executive Director. He has served on the board ever since, announcing his retirement from the Board this year. During his time as Executive Director, he centralized the Foundation's administrative, donation, and granting processes and developed both a donor and grant recipient database. He also rejuvenated the Cliff Pettit Fellow (CPF) Program as well as the Quarterly Newsletters, which had been dormant for several years.

From 1999 to 2004 he served as President of the Foundation and managed the process of transitioning the administrative process to a contractor. He also worked closely with our Grants Chairman at that time, Jay Gandy, in developing the grants management system we use today. Martin was successful in significantly increasing our Perpetual Fund to over one million dollars at that time and tripling the amount of grant money given in those years. From 2005 to 2007 he served as Foundation Secretary and also served as Grants Chairman from 2007 to 2011.

"I have always believed that the Gamma Mu Foundation fulfilled a niche in our country's philanthropic process. We are nationwide and concentrate on rural areas and we are LGBTQ centered. We go where the need is long and the resources short.

Another very important factor is our administrative overhead, which has been consistently lower than our contemporaries. The major reason for this is our culture of volunteering that has consistently filled our management ranks with highly qualified men who dedicate precious time and resources to the task at hand: be it reviewing grant and scholarship applications, working on a fund raising event, or serving as a committee chairman or an Officer or Board Member. Our success is due to their corporate efforts to move the Foundation forward. Many of our Board members and others have made much needed in-kind donations which included software purchases, event underwriting, public relations materials as well as CPF plaques."

*Martin is the epitome of what a volunteer can do for an organization they believe in. His contributions, both financial and in time and energy are immeasurable and extremely appreciated by all that have known him. It is with sincere gratitude that the Gamma Mu Foundation Board of Directors thank Martin for all that he has done over the years on the Foundation's behalf.*

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## **"CELEBRATION 20"**

Sunday January 19th, 2020  
Richardson Manor  
1937 Wilton Dr. Wilton Manors Florida



6:30 PM Complimentary Parking

The weekend event will also include a **Saturday tour of the FLL Packard car museum followed by lunch, Out of Towner's reception on Saturday evening and no host Sunday Brunch at the new Tropics grille.**

**Join your friends and bring guests for a fun evening at our new venue this year.**

**REGISTER**

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***WHAT THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION MEANS TO ME***

John Connell

The Gamma Mu Foundation has been one of my favorite philanthropic organizations for many years. I have financially supported the foundation almost since it's inception in the late 80's. Additionally, I was on the board of directors for twenty years and treasurer for ten of those years.

Generally, my philanthropic giving is to "hands on organizations". Although the Gamma Mu Foundation is not an organization that directly supports individuals (with the exception of the growing scholarship program), the 501(c)(3) non-profits it supports directly do provide much needed services to individuals in our community. Most appealing to me is the Foundation's focus on the parts of the country that don't have a large donor base such as most cities and metropolitan areas enjoy.

Finally, the Gamma Mu Foundation is all volunteer and accordingly our contributions are not diminished by large overhead expenses. Most of our charitable giving directly benefits those we are motivated to support.



***GRANT RECIPIENT  
OUT IN THE OPEN***

*Out in the Open* connects rural LGBTQ people to build community, visibility, knowledge and power. Based in Brattleboro Vermont, they work locally and regional throughout northern New England. They envision a resilient community of communities that works toward the transformation of our economic, social and political relationships. They are building a multi-issue social justice movement of rural LGBTQ people. *Out in the Open* understands that LGBTQ people bring multiple identities to all they do, and honors all aspects of people's selves. They believe that all people and the environment have needs that must be met and actively seek solidarity and collaborations with other groups and individuals working toward Justice.

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***SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT***

DYLAN RICE

BA of Cognitive Neuroscience and Evolutionary Psychology

"One of the challenges I have experienced with discrimination has been based in my home life. Growing up in a household with a conservative, religious family was certainly not the most conducive environment for a young queer person. My father ingrained in my head that anyone with an identity like



mine would not be able to succeed in life and sent me to religious therapy in hopes of ridding me of my queer identity. From all of the issues I faced at home (and still face, albeit I no longer live with my parents), I feel I have grown from them significantly. I am applying for a scholarship because I would like to be able to devote more of my time to completing my honors thesis research on queer experiences in healthcare. Specifically, I am interested in how various stereotypes and stigmas of queer communities are perceived by the general public and how these stereotypes and stigmas play a role in how queer populations interact with their personal healthcare"

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### ***HOLIDAY SHOPPING ALERT !***

***Help the Gamma Mu Foundation help others as you shop for the Holidays !***

***Amazon Smile is a program that returns a percentage of sales to non-profits as designated by the purchaser. As you shop, help our Foundation at the same time by buying through "Amazon Smile"***

***Go to: [www.smile.amazon.com/](http://www.smile.amazon.com/) and log in as you usually would to Amazon. Go to "Your Account" and select "pick or change search" and select the Gamma Mu Foundation as a favorite charity and when you shop a donation will automatically made with no cost to you.***

***Tell you friends and family !***

**amazon smile**

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### ***PLEASE USE THE WEBSITE TO MAKE DONATIONS***

Our ***Foundation*** is receiving an unprecedented number of requests for Grants and Scholarships and we are only able to fund a small fraction of our requests.

Please consider making an "***Extra***" donation this year so that the Foundation can fulfill more of our requests.

The foundation is an ***all volunteer*** organization and every donation that you make is awarded for a Grant or Scholarship.

**GAMMA MU FOUNDATION**

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