

# The Muse

★ ★ SPECIAL EDITION ★ ★

# The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 2001

## Help Jim Palmer Start A Fire!

Jim Palmer '60 is the treasurer of the alumni board. Jim does a great job. It is a lot of work. He frets over the mortgage and has to work hard to make sure that money that is needed to service the mortgage is not spent on maintenance, furniture, or anything else. For the first special edition of *The Muse*, which kicked off the fundraising effort to reduce the mortgage, Jim wrote an article that was aptly titled, "Our Next Fire Needs to Be the Mortgage."

The alumni leadership deeply believes that the meaning of our fraternity to most, if not all, of our brothers is deep enough that they will ultimately help. Many have made the fair share gift of \$1,000 or more. Many have made important gifts of less than \$1,000. Many have made gifts significantly more than \$1,000. We have several donors who have now topped the \$50,000 gift level! We know that the larger donors will continue to help

### How Do I Participate?

*To participate in reducing the mortgage, send your check, made payable to Mu of Sigma Pi, to Alumni Board President James Keene, 740 S. 75th St., Omaha, NE 68114. If you wish to contribute securities, please contact Alumni Board Treasurer Jim Palmer at 919/477-1480 for instructions.*

as they can. We know that the fair share givers will respond to this appeal with added gifts, perhaps moving into the founder or major gift level.

What about the approximately 50 percent of our membership who have done nothing? As our board members review the list, each of them can identify brothers who loved the fraternity, were (and in many cases still are) active as alumni, are believed to be successful in their careers, but have not helped. It is time for each "Doubting Thomas" to step up and be counted. It is never too late. Your fraternity

needs your help.

The current drive is not likely to retire the entire mortgage, but if the \$250,000 goal is met, Jim will surely find something to burn in celebration! Give him the match to use!

**Put your name on the wall!**

## An Invitation To Homecoming

Well, we're back for another year on the hill. One by one the brothers are arriving at the house, unpacking boxes, painting walls, and building desks, chairs, and tables. The scent of autumn is in the air, and Homecoming is around the corner.



JOHN SCAGNELLI

This year Homecoming will be **Friday, October 12**, through **Sunday, October 14**. For those of you who tend to come back year after year, we look forward to seeing you again. For those of you whom we have not seen in recent years, let me remind you that in the last few years the Homecoming celebration has been an exciting event and one that has been centered on Sigma Pi.

We will kick off the weekend on **Friday at 4:00 p.m.** with an informal **cocktail reception**. This is a good time to stop in and say hi, see the house, sit back, and relax. Families are welcome throughout the weekend. Later, a bunch of us will probably go out to dinner.

**Saturday** starts early with a **pregame tailgate** behind the fieldhouse (which has been renamed Bartel's Hall) at **11:00 a.m.** The **football game** vs. Harvard begins at **1:00 p.m.** We will be trying to get tickets all together, so I encourage you to RSVP as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

After the game, at around **5:00 p.m.**, we will hold our annual **brotherhood meeting**. We will be discussing the various projects currently under way at Sigma Pi. This is a brother-only event. (*Ed. note: If you can't return this year, please complete and return the enclosed proxy.*)

Following the meeting will be time to dress for the cocktail hour and dinner. The **cocktails** will begin at around **6:00 p.m.**; **dinner** should be around **7:30**. After dinner there will be entertainment in the west lounge, where once again the Cornell Glee Club "Hangovers" will thrill you with the songs of Cornell.

On **Sunday**, we will have a **continental breakfast** at the house that will be put out around **10:00 a.m.**

I encourage each of you to attend Homecoming Weekend. It has been a very successful event these past years, and it would be nice to see some new faces as well. As I mentioned before, we steer our Homecoming celebration around the alumni brothers. The actives do not bring dates; we come to meet all of you. Enclosed with this newsletter is an RSVP card. Please fill it out and send it back if you are planning to attend. You can also reach me at 607/277-2329 or at jrs52@cornell.edu if you have any questions. See you all soon.

Fraternally,  
John R. Scagnelli, Alumni Secretary

Jim Keene '57

## Memorial Plaques Honor Departed Brothers

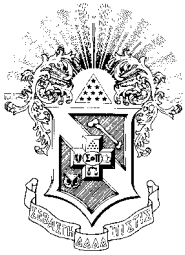
The reverse side of this *Muse* is a reprint of a brochure you all received several years ago. The number of plaques grows each year. Sure, the memorial plaque program is a part of our fundraising program, but in a larger sense it goes way beyond that. The plaques are a celebration of a special bond with another person who was and is pretty important. I have contributed to several of the memorial funds and funded one outright. I have the special privilege of being at the house often, even though I live more than 1,000 miles from it. I never visit the house without revisiting the Memorial Library and reflecting on the names there. I enjoy that one moment of remembrance of those I knew, and I also am warmed by the stories of those I did not know as told by the brothers who placed the plaques.

Most of the plaques were placed by individuals. One was placed by a group of approximately 30 brothers. One of their number took on the chore of organizing a fund drive to pay for the plaque (the donation was significantly over the \$5,200 expected donation). I was privy to much of the correspondence that went on, and it was wonderful to see how this "cause" became the catalyst to fortifying the bonds among the brothers who participated. Some may call us "frat boys," "animal house," or just a bunch of "party boys," but those of us who experienced the life of a

Sigma Pi at Cornell know that it goes much deeper than the stereotypes (although we may fit those on occasion, too).

Think for a moment of what a rushee or newly initiated brother may think when he sees the Memorial Library plaques. He has to think that there is a lot more to membership in a fraternity than the obvious perks. He may get the idea that he is embarking on an adventure that will last his lifetime and beyond. These initial feelings will be reinforced as he meets alumni at events such as Homecoming. He will ultimately learn that he is a part of something special, something to be proud of, and something for which he assumes a responsibility.

You have the new Sigma Pi directory. Why not call a few brothers and explore the idea of collectively placing memorial plaques to those of your time who have died? The undergraduates say they enjoy being with alumni and hearing the stories! We love to tell the stories and are grateful for an audience. Why are we telling these stories? I believe we tell them to remember times and people gone by. They were great times. They are worth talking about and celebrating. The memorial plaques program could be a good catalyst to renew the bonds of yesteryear with some pretty special guys—your brothers!



# The Memorial Library

## Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi at Cornell

*"Dedicated to the memory of the brothers of Mu Chapter who have died. They are still part of us. We remember them. We salute them."*



When the house was rebuilt, the first floor was recreated exactly as it had existed since 1941, except for the terrace to the north of the west lounge. That area was used to create the new Memorial Library.

The Memorial Library is dedicated to the memory of all brothers who are no longer with us. The alumni board has initiated a program to make it possible for the living members to pay special tribute to deceased members by placing a special brass memorial plaque in the library.

The placing of memorial plaques obviously strengthens the fraternity financially, but in a larger sense, it demonstrates to rushees, guests, and to each member, young and old, that there is a special bond between the brothers that is not broken by graduation, distance, or even death.



Brothers are encouraged to support this special program by placing plaques. The expected contribution is \$5,200.

## There are several ways to make the contribution:

- An individual can make the tribute.
- Several individuals can solicit gifts from a larger group such as a pledge class or a group of brothers of the time.

The amount given by an individual member as memorial tributes will also be recognized, as appropriate, as fair share, founder, or major gifts.



Plaques should contain the brother's proper name and class, plus a nickname, if desired.

Plaques also contain the name of the person making the tribute. Examples of this recognition are:

Placed by John Jones '70

Placed by John Jones '70 and Harry Smith '71

Placed by his pledge brothers

Placed by a group of his brothers 1969-1972

For answers to questions or to arrange a memorial gift, please contact:

### Jim Keene '57

740 S. 75th St., Omaha, NE 68114  
402/397-2227, phone; 402/397-2229, fax

### David Lefevre '60

502 Richard Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302  
703/549-0937, phone; 410/326-5271, fax

### Jim Palmer '60

2318 Vintage Hill Dr., Durham, NC 27712  
919/477-1480, phone

## Plug Up A Screw Hole!

The dominant features in the Memorial Library are the large bronze plaque dedicated to the memory of all of our brothers who have died; the individual plaques placed by living brothers, family, and friends to celebrate and remember the lives of individual brothers; and the plaques recognizing those who have supported the Heritage Campaign with a gift of \$1,000 or more. There are also individual name recognition plaques for those who have made a founder's gift (\$5,000) and those who have made a major gift (\$10,000 or more).

Over the past year five of our founder's gift donors have made additional gifts that put them over the \$10,000 level! The plaques bearing their names have been moved from the founder's gift area to the major gift area. This has left 10 unsightly screw holes in the oak paneling. The only effective way of repairing this (very desirable) damage is to install some new plaques with new founder's gift donors.

The recognition of giving to Mu Chapter is cumulative. Whatever you may have given to the Heritage Campaign to date counts toward donor level recognition. Think about it!