

# The Muse

★ ★ SPECIAL EDITION ★ ★

# The Muse

MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA PI FRATERNITY - CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

SUMMER 2001

## A Heritage Preserved, A Debt To Be Paid



From this...

The Mu Chapter mortgage must be reduced! This special edition of *The Muse* is published to get that point across and to energize our alumni to help.

Yes, it is another fundraising appeal. The need for fundraising will never go away. We hope that someday soon the fundraising can be targeted at long-term funds for capital improvements or for scholarships. We don't have that luxury now. We set out 10 years ago to preserve the heritage of our fraternity at Cornell. That job has been done and done well. There is, however, a debt to be paid. If you feel you have a debt to the fraternity for what it did for you, then help us repay the debt we have to the bank! The goal for this drive is \$250,000. If we achieve this, we will still have a large debt—but one that will leave yearly income resources for the upkeep and preservation of the house.



...to this.

## Our Next Fire Needs To Be The Mortgage!

With our Heritage Campaign to rebuild Mu Chapter now in its 10th year, I would like to highlight the good things you have done for our fraternity and to provide some direction to our efforts going forward.

During the first five years you gave us \$400,000, which, along with proceeds from our fire insurance and loans from Tompkins Trust Company, enabled us to rebuild our fraternity house bigger, better, and safer than it ever was when we knew it as undergraduates. We have now one of the strongest houses on the hill; and we would not even be here without you.

During the past five years—my time as your alumni treasurer—you have contributed more than \$250,000 to support our house during a most difficult reorganization and rebuilding of our chapter.

You should be pleased to learn that our

house made a profit this year—\$7,500 on rental income of \$153,000, our first return on your fraternal investments. In addition, you contributed \$20,000 net of our expenses for alumni communications and also broadly support the publication of our spectacular Mu alumni directory.

In contrast to this financial success and much other good news about Mu Chapter, we have just one nagging problem: the \$525,000 we still owe to the Tompkins Trust Company.

However, there has been progress. With your help we have been able to knock \$50,000 off the mortgage during the past five years, even while spending \$75,000 on capital improvements—including the \$20,000 dining room upgrade. We also refinanced our mortgage three years ago on favorable terms. Our

*(continued on page five)*

## How To Participate In This Appeal

To participate in the Heritage Campaign, send your check, made payable to Mu of Sigma Pi, to:

Alumni Board President  
Jim Keene  
740 S. 75h St.  
Omaha, NE 68114.

Gifts can be made using securities; contact Treasurer Jim Palmer at 919/477-1480 for instructions.

# HOMECOMING WEEKEND

## October 12-14, 2001

*Come celebrate with your brothers at Sigma Pi!*

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Friday, October 12

4:00 p.m. — Informal open bar at the house

*Come by, check in, have a drink.*

*Those of us who don't have other plans will go to dinner as a group with some of the undergraduates.*

#### Saturday, October 13

Pregame — Try the Sigma Pi tailgate on Alumni Field

*This is strictly a young man's cup of tea, but try it—you might qualify!*

1:00 p.m. — Football kickoff, Cornell vs. Harvard

*Sign up on the response card so we can get tickets together.*

5:00 p.m. (postgame) — Annual meeting of the fraternity, west lounge of the house  
*Reports by alumni and undergraduate leaders and election of the board of directors. Don't miss this; it is important and informative and will last no longer than one hour!*

6:00 p.m. — Cocktails followed by dinner in our warmly paneled dining room

*There will be a fun program, partly planned and partly not. Make a speech if you choose!*

After dinner — Entertainment in the west lounge

*...and after than an afterglow of drinks, songs, and fellowship.*

*Return the response card to John Scagnelli, Alumni Secretary, 730 University Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850, or e-mail your response to John at [jrs52@cornell.edu](mailto:jrs52@cornell.edu).*

Rooms are filling up fast, so book your motel or B&B today! A list of area accommodations is enclosed.

### Alumni Dues And The Heritage Campaign

The alumni dues program and the Heritage Campaign are two different things. The \$25 or more per year you are asked to pay as alumni dues goes to support the communication with alumni (mainly the regular editions of *The Muse*, expenses of the undergraduates to attend the Sigma Pi convocation, the summer office training retreat, and some part of the overhead associated with alumni events). The Heritage Campaign contributions helped to rebuild the house and now pay for major maintenance, furniture, and, when necessary, other subsidy to the chapter operation. The alumni board asks each member to pay annual dues. We hope all will also consider helping with the Heritage Fund.

**THE MUSE** is published regularly by the Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Cornell University for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are welcome and should be sent to Sigma Pi Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

# Consider Adding Your Name To The Wall

When the renaissance of Mu Chapter was in the planning stages in 1990, the notion was put forward that every brother should contribute \$1,000. This was defined then and remains the "fair share" gift.

The name of each "fair share" giver is cast in bronze on plaques that are displayed in the Memorial Library. Whether or not you ever return to Cornell (and we hope you do), there can be a feeling of satisfaction that you did your part when your name is on the wall.

You pledged Sigma Pi. There was a house then because someone who came before you cared. Now you are that someone. Put your name on the wall!

## It is never too late

Fifty percent of our members have not participated in any way since the kickoff of the Heritage Campaign 10 years ago.

Why not?

- Don't give a damn about the fraternity?

- Visited the house and had a bad experience?
- Think the students will just destroy the house no matter what we do?
- Figure someone will do your part for you if you hold back?
- Think today's fraternity members are not worthy of your interest and support?
- Don't feel any sense of obligation or debt to the fraternity?
- Mean to help but just haven't gotten around to it?

Whatever the reason, it is not too late to stand up and be counted. Today's young men who make up the membership at 730 University Avenue are not perfect—but they are a fine group of men who deserve your support, will make you feel welcome if you visit, respect the property, and in the years to come will do their part to keep the Heritage strong if you today will set the example. Put your name on the wall!

## Is your name already on the wall?

If you are one of the brothers whose name is already on the wall, please accept the thanks of all Sigma Pi brothers who have, are, and will benefit from the wonderful experience of fraternity life at Cornell. Consider calling your classmates and encourage them to join you in the support of the fraternity. Incidentally, there are 17 men who have given \$10,000 or more (major gift plaque), eight who have given \$5,000 to \$9,999 (founder gift plaque), and 182 who have given \$1,000 to \$4,999 (fair share gift plaque).

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## The Memorial Plaques

*Special memorial plaques can be dedicated to the memory of a brother who has died. The expected donation to erect such a plaque is \$5,200. Contact Jim Keene at 402/397-2227 for a brochure and further information.*

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# A Half Score—Is There More?

1991...After 31 years, I receive a letter from Joel VanWynen, my fraternity brother, asking for a little money to support the raising of substantial funds to rebuild Mu Chapter of Sigma Pi at Cornell.

I responded because Joel said the house was in trouble and because the house was such a forceful part of my growing and maturing experience that it would have seemed almost callous not to help. My impression of Sigma Pi was that it probably was about the way that I had left it and that somebody was taking good care of it as they were when I was last there. I was wrong, I was assured, and Mu was in dire straits.

A visit to the old house confirmed the fact that the 100-year-old building, with its 50-year-old addition, was indeed uninhabitable and must be either renovated or replaced. The former choice seemed more appropriate as we had limited funds from our alumni, even after a two-year campaign of fundraising.

At the same time as we were trying to raise money, we were also trying to reacquaint ourselves with the undergraduates who were in the house. This proved to be much more difficult than we had anticipated. We spoke parables; they heard babble. We spoke of rules and edicts; they

*"My association with Mu Chapter... has given me more satisfaction and pride than I can possibly express."*

spoke of the 10 suggestions. I took a while for us to realize that things had changed since the late '50s and '60s and perhaps some negotiation was in order. At the same time, some of us were in touch with the Cornell administration and the Sigma Pi national organization and were realizing that almost all had changed in the behavior of fraternities on campuses nationwide in our absence. If we were going to change the behavior of our undergraduates, it would take time and much effort. This first phase of evolution I refer to as "talking at the undergraduates." This phase took about three years.

Phase two of the process, "talking to the undergraduates," also took about three years. It was characterized by more actual communication between both groups, more mutual input on behavior modification, closer undergraduate participation in Cornell activities, less emphasis on alcohol- and drug-related activities, increased emphasis on rushing well-

rounded pledges, and increased recognition on campus as a mature and improving fraternity.

Phase three of this process, "talking with the undergraduates," is still a work in progress. Over the last five years all phases of Mu Chapter have steadily improved. Undergraduates matriculate on time rather than a year or two later, more undergraduates go to graduate school than previously, our scholastic rank among fraternities has risen from 29th to ninth, and, for the first time in our history, Cornell University has ranked Mu Chapter a number one among fraternities. This rating is seldom given to more than eight fraternities on campus at any given time.

My association with Mu Chapter over the last 10 years has given me more satisfaction and pride than I can possibly express. I am but one of many who may claim pride at having something to do with the resurrection of an institution we all hold dear to our hearts. This time, however, the pleasure is broader and deeper because of the many more Sigma Pi alumni, undergraduates, and associates with whom I now have contact.

David A. Lefevre '60  
Alumni Vice President

# Sigma Pi Alumni Mailbag



Stay in touch with KENNETH H. B. CUDMORE '41 at 13041 W. Ohio Ave., Lakewood, CO 80228 or at [mimkencud@aol.com](mailto:mimkencud@aol.com).



FRANK C. ABBOTT '42 writes, "My book, *The Auraria Higher Education Center: How It Came to Be*, was published by the Higher Education Center last year. Auraria is one campus for more than 30,000 students in three colleges/universities in downtown Denver, with shared classrooms, library, student center, etc. Now, as a volunteer, I am working on a history of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, which is located in Boulder. It is the organization from which I retired in 1992." Frank adds that he often sees T.K. SMITH '61, a stock broker with Edward Jones in Boulder, and reports that T.K. recently got married. Frank makes his home at 1250 Norwood Ave., Boulder, CO 80304.



JOHN D. MASTERS '45 can be reached at [vsmasters@webtv.net](mailto:vsmasters@webtv.net) or at 84 Old Street Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458.



Retiree DONALD F. CASE '54 spends half the year in Venice, Florida (3010 Community Center Dr., 34293) and the other half in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts (31 Brae Burn Lane, 02664), with visits to children and grandchildren as he travels from one home to the other. His e-mail address is [donkc@yahoo.com](mailto:donkc@yahoo.com).



Please note this new address for CHARLES A. SADERHOLM '54: 20310



*Brothers from the class of '81 celebrate their 20-year reunion in the company of Dolly Hailstork. Left to right: Brian Finneran, Nick Vojnovic, Dolly, Joe Ruocco, and John Altmeyer. Our thanks to Joe, who sent us the photo! His address is 6191 Paderbone Dr., Hudson, OH 44236.*

SW Comanche Terrace, Tualatin, OR 97062 ([chasshirl@aol.com](mailto:chasshirl@aol.com)).



When we last heard from V. JAMES VANICEK JR. '55, he and Sally were looking forward to the summer and spending time at Newfound Lake in New Hampshire. Jim is now retired, and his son, BRUCE VANICEK '86, is running the family nursery business. Jim and Sally live at 28 South Dr., Middletown, RI 02842.



Retired from Cornell, JACK W. LOWE '56 resides at 107 Homestead Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.



Drop a line to THOMAS T. SANFORD '56 at P.O. Box 160, Poughquag, NY 12570 ([vm456@aol.com](mailto:vm456@aol.com)). Tommy reports that he retired in 1998 after two knee replacements. Several times a year he talks to DAVID KNIPE '54, who teaches at the University of Wisconsin.



Write to J. THOMAS HAINES '58 at [tom-haines@home.com](mailto:tom-haines@home.com) or at 265 Scripps Court, Palo Alto, CA 94306.



KENNETH R. RAND JR. '60 lives at 9 Locust Dr., Bernardsville, NJ 07924.



The president of Acme United Corporation, WALTER JOHNSEN '73 lives in Manhattan (14 E. 96th St., Apt. 5, New York, NY 10128) with his wife, Wendy, and their five-year-old son, Walter. On weekends they go to Stonington, Connecticut. Walter writes, "I often see ED HAAS '74 for pizza and beer. His wife is Charlene; they have two children, Katie and Michael, and live in Maplewood, New Jersey." Send e-mail to Walter at [w.johnsen@acmeunited.com](mailto:w.johnsen@acmeunited.com).



"I wish the best to all my fellow 50-year-olds," pens WILLIAM J. STRUSZ '73 (94 Mountain Rd., Rochester, NY 14625; [bill.strusz@usa.xerox.com](mailto:bill.strusz@usa.xerox.com)). "Happy birthday to Spock, Whitey, Cisco, Mole, Aldo,  
*(continued on page five)*

## SEND IN YOUR NEWSFORM

The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of our alumni. Please take a moment to fill out your newsform and return it to the address on page two. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest memories of life at Mu Chapter or thoughts on what Sigma Pi means to you. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of *The Muse*.

## A Young Alum's Message

As this Homecoming approaches, I can think of only one thing, a line that has been said many times at alumni gatherings: You will spend more time as a Sigma Pi alumnus than you ever did as an undergraduate. This Homecoming marks my third as an alumnus, the same number that I spent as an active member of the fraternity. As I pass over this cusp of brotherhood and move further away from my time as an active, it becomes more important to me that others are able to experience what I was able to at Cornell. The four years that I spent as an engineering student were four of the hardest and most stressful that I have ever experienced. Sigma Pi, although at times it added to that stress, is the institution that I credit most with getting me through our illustrious university. The friendships that I gained, as well as the different experiences that I had, formed me into the person I am today. Without Sigma Pi, Cornell would have been just a one- or two-year stopover before I chose to transfer to a different school.

My brothers, it is now our duty to make sure that other young men are able to experience this maturation process. The Memorial Library is covered with names of brothers, some of whom I know, most of whom I do not. This is something I would like to change. As we all learned as undergraduates, it takes money, a lot of money, to keep our house in good shape as well as to complete the transition of

the new house back into a home. As I have visited over the past couple of years, the house seems to get a little bit warmer every time I return and becomes more of a home every day that people live in it. At this point I would like to call on all of the younger alumni, as it is now time that we start paying back for all that Sigma Pi has given us. Personally, I do not know if I will ever be able to repay the fraternity entirely, since it has given me so much.

This year the alumni board is kicking off a fundraising drive to help reduce the mortgage on 730 University Avenue. My brothers, if you have supported the house in the past, thank you. If you have yet to give, there is a lot of wall space in the library, and we would be happy to put your name up there. As an undergraduate, I always wanted to be able to give back to Sigma Pi and have my name put on that wall. In a lot less time than I thought it would take, I am just about there. Please join me. Remember, give what you can; if you cannot give any money at this time, please give some of your time by returning to the house during alumni events. Sigma Pi is about friendship and stories, and we would like you to share yours with us.

Fraternally,  
Larry Keane '99

*Editor's note: Larry is the first of his class to make a fair share gift.*

Sigma Pi

**Alumni  
Mailbag**



*(continued from page four)*

Basket, Wicksie, Hornet, McSkinney, Dud, Maurice, and Smiley." "Biff" works for Xerox.

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DAVID WILLIAMSON '77 makes his home at 1724 Pink Cliff Court, Las Vegas, NV 89128. He's the president of Five Star Restaurants and can be reached by e-mail at [dwilliamson@fivestarllc.com](mailto:dwilliamson@fivestarllc.com).

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Diane and LAWRENCE J. KANTOR '80 and their 12-year-old son, Tyler, reside at 6735 Alta Vista Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. Larry changed jobs last October, leaving Arthur Andersen to join IBM as a principal in travel and transportation. His new e-mail address is [lkantor@us.ibm.com](mailto:lkantor@us.ibm.com). Larry writes that he has recently seen WAYNE FORMAN '80 and that he has spoken with MARK SHERWIN '80, JARETT WAIT '80, and RICK BOSSHARDT '80.

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Please note this new address for KURT "Bossy" BOSSHARDT '83: 1040 Seminole Dr., #1163, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 ([yachtlaw@compuserve.com](mailto:yachtlaw@compuserve.com)).

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Employed by Russell Reynolds Associates, TIMOTHY J. HENN '83 can be reached at [thenn@mba1987.hbs.edu](mailto:thenn@mba1987.hbs.edu) or at 425 Peachtree Hills Circle, Atlanta, GA 30305.

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Keep in touch with DAVID M. GOODMAN '99 at 2969 Jackson St., Apt. #503, San Francisco, CA 94115 ([david.goodman@hok.com](mailto:david.goodman@hok.com)).

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RAHUL ROY '00 is an associate planner at Bloomingdale's in New York (919 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022).

## Our Next Fire Needs To Be The Mortgage!

*(continued from page one)*

interest costs have dropped \$15,000 annually from three years ago.

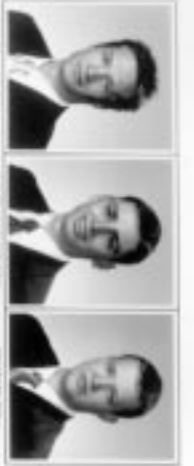
Nevertheless, we are still spending one dollar out of every three that we get in room rent from undergraduates just to pay the interest and principal on our debt—\$55,000 this year. This is completely nuts! We need this money to upgrade our maintenance program to keep our house as-new, and we need to build the reserves for capital projects and competitive improvements. For example, we will be one of the first fraternities at Cornell to install wireless broadband Internet access.

So now we must attack our mortgage. We would not be where we are now without our banker, Steve Bacon, of Tompkins

Trust Company. He lent us the money to rebuild in the early '90s when nobody else in town would touch us, gave us a line of credit for seasonal needs, and refinanced us on great terms. You should know about Steve Bacon. He made the difference for us. In turn, we have been a nice client to Tompkins Trust—but I think we have done enough for Tompkins Trust's bottom line! Please join me in this task, enthusiastically!

You guys built one of the best fraternity houses on campus and supported the renewal of our chapter. Now we must eliminate our mortgage so that Sigma Pi at Cornell will not only survive but prosper.

James W. Palmer '60  
Alumni Treasurer



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# Cornell University

