

The Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation - The Ira Lind Society

For Planned Giving

The Sigma Alpha Mu Foundation has established, the Ira Lind Society, named for one of our eight Founders., as Sigma Alpha Mu's vehicle for planned giving. Ira Lind was author of the Creed, the second supreme prior, and the first frater to make a bequest to the Foundation. After Fra Lind first announced his gift some forty years ago others followed. Now more will join, under the banner that carries his name. In this 21st century there are far more educational demands on the Fraternity than before. Fratres of ΣAM, encouraged by the existence of the Ira Lind Society, can now help those demands to be met and the future assured.

Why a bequest to the Foundation?

Because the old forms of Fraternity income are inadequate for today's sophisticated needs.

When the Sigma Alpha Mu Life Membership Plan was devised 75 years ago, every frater's initiation fee was expected not only to fund his life membership but collectively to build an endowment fund that would eventually support the Fraternity permanently. Looking back, that was a quaint idea. Much has happened in 75 years. Those "best laid plans" could not have reckoned on inflation, that fees paid to ΣAM by our college students could never be increased enough to make up the difference. That could not have been foreseen. Nor could the litigious atmosphere that developed and now forces every

undergrad to pay more for liability insurance coverage than for initiation and undergraduate dues combined. Nor that we have to do educative programming because society has changed our focus from social to quasi-educational. Nor that disproportionately increasing college tuition drains every student resource. And the resulting pressure to expand the chapter roll and add headquarters and development staff. And so the Greek-letter nationals have turned to their foundations. Our annual appeal program helps in the present; it does not insure the future. The Ira Lind Society now is born, to help pursue ΣAM's educational goals for the 21st Century.

Where will the money go?

Bequests to the ΣAM Foundation in *any* amount are welcomed and encouraged. There is great strength in the sheer numbers who help ΣAM to perpetuate and to fund scholarship and leadership activity. Gifts of *greater than \$20,000* are used for educational purposes the donors specify and will permanently carry the donor's name—or one he or she chooses. They could be endowments for student programming, chapter advisors, faculty advisors. Or scholarships. Larger gifts can be earmarked for expenses of volunteer and staff leadership personnel, educational chapter visits, leadership conferences, regional chapter officer retreats, resident scholars at chapter houses, Foundation events. Major bequests might endow a permanent Foundation headquarters or a section thereof, or the Foundation's principal leadership training programs. The Foundation trustees will entertain any reasonable suggestion to fund a qualified activity. If the donor wishes, *any worthwhile project can be funded now rather than later.*