

new york alpha news

NY Alpha Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon • Cornell University

THANK YOU ...

Since 2001, Mike Slusar '86 and Jim Beckett '85 have chaired the board's fundraising and facilities committees, respectively. Under Mike's direction, we've enjoyed a robust fundraising program that has enabled Jim to lead us through many substantial improvements to the house. You've seen for yourselves and/or read about them in these pages. Now, after 15 years of service, Mike and Jim will be stepping aside, and little more than thank you could be said here about their tremendous contributions to Hillcrest. We're very fortunate that both have agreed to continue in other leadership roles on the board.

At the same time, we welcome Jamie Wright '90, who will assume leadership of the facilities

committee, and Cory Jackson '86, who will take Mike's place on the fundraising committee. Jamie and Cory have actively participated on the board for several years, and we have no doubt that both of them will continue to lend invaluable support to the NY Alpha alumni board.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mike and Jim for their many years of capable leadership, guidance, and expertise. Please join me in thanking them for their efforts on our behalf.

As always, we welcome additional alumni participation and input. Please step up! Email us at alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org for more information.

Kevin Merriman '88

President, NY Alpha Alumni Association
kmerriman@wardgreenberg.com

Let it be you!

You recently received my autumn fundraising letter in which I discussed the centennial anniversary of our beloved Hillcrest. I spoke in that letter about the extraordinary efforts of alumni brothers Ralph S. Kent '02, Edward A. Wadsworth '04, and William H. Marland '01 in making the construction of the new Hillcrest happen after the original Hillcrest was totally destroyed by fire on June 10, 1911. I often think now about what an amazing task it was for a group of alumni to plan, get funding for, and manage the construction of a new fraternity house—and to balance that against conducting their daily lives. In just four years, they had Hillcrest up and occupied. Think of the commitment that it took on their parts in an age without electronic communications to start and see that project through to fruition in just four years' time. Their goal was to construct a new fireproof structure that would stand the test of time for our fraternity. They succeeded. Will we?

We now sit at a similar crossroads in NY Alpha's history, and I would assert that our task is more daunting than what our forefathers faced over 100 years ago. Our Strategic



Plan, which can be viewed on our website at sae-cornell.org, requires that we not only recruit and build an active organization from scratch, but also implement new policies unfolding at SAE national and the university.

For example, our national fraternity, under the leadership and direction of the Supreme Council, made a historic decision earlier this year that will realign the fraternity to produce the original member experience that our founding fathers envisioned. Effective March 9, 2014, new-member (pledge) programming was eliminated completely from all our operations, and the classification of new member (pledge) no longer exists. At the same time, the new True Gentleman Experience was established to enhance the educational and leadership experience of all our members and build on their development during each year of their collegiate tenure. Under the new program, chapters and colonies may continue to recruit prospective members as they do currently, but when a bid is extended, the college man who accepts the invitation will become a collegiate member instantly upon acceptance. "From the moment a man joins Sigma Alpha Epsilon, he

Hillcrest celebrates 100 years and Cornell its 150th

As many of you may recall from our history, the original Hillcrest was totally destroyed by fire on June 10, 1911. Brothers Ralph S. Kent '02, Edward A. Wadsworth '04, and William H. Marland '01 were instrumental in the construction of the new Hillcrest on the same magnificent site, and this was completed and occupied in 1915. The goal of the rebuild was to construct a new fireproof structure that would stand the test of time. Thankfully, our Hillcrest forefathers were successful in their goal.

When we established our "2015 Initiative" several years ago, our intent was to prepare Hillcrest for its next 100 years. We have made great progress toward that end in recent years, thanks to your very generous donations and the very sound planning and project management of Jim Beckett '85 and his facilities committee.

More on this and the history of the houses of NY Alpha can be found at the "Hillcrest History" link on your SAE website, sae-cornell.org.



should take personal ownership of his Fraternity and play an active role in our future."

This was an unprecedented step by SAE National and one that was highlighted as a very positive development on a recent Cornell webinar about the state of the Greek community at Cornell hosted by President Skorton and Vice President Susan Murphy. But what I most want to highlight is the last quoted text above: "take personal ownership of his fraternity and play an active role in our future." It is precisely that vision and that commitment that

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Let it be you!

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your alumni board seeks at this very pivotal moment in our history.

Our alumni want to see NY Alpha return to Cornell and Hillcrest when it is appropriate to do so. But to make that happen we need your help. Your continued financial donations go a long way toward our implementation of the Strategic Plan and our renovations at Hillcrest. They are vital to our success, so please make use of the enclosed donor card to give generously this year to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund #780108. I would also LOVE for more alums to consider donating your even more precious time by joining the alumni board or serving on our various committees. Much planning work needs to be done over the next few years to assure our successful return as a revitalized active organization. Your alumni board members are few, and our needs are many. PLEASE GET INVOLVED. We need more committed brothers who are willing to answer the call of playing "an active role in our future."

Our alumni once rebuilt our home, now we need to rebuild the institution of SAE at Cornell so that one day we all can say proudly that we are True Gentlemen of an active NY Alpha Chapter. Let it be you who makes the SAE Phoenix rise again at Hillcrest.

Mike Slusar '86
Alumni Fundraising Chair
mslusar@embarqmail.com

Let it be you! For more information about how YOU can help, email us at alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org.

Reunion 2014 Update

Reunion 2014 was very special for the large contingent of revelers. There were enthusiastic groups of brothers and spouses from '59, '64, '94, and other classes. The class of '69 had the largest group, with a nice offering of well-organized events throughout the weekend that included a lake cruise, a picnic, a wine tour, and a well-attended dinner at Hillcrest.

More than 100 attended the Saturday reception at Hillcrest, sponsored in part by Steve Hindy '71 of Brooklyn Brewery and the Nicholsons '94 of Red Jacket Orchards.

The highlight of the reception was awarding Gus Noojin '69 and Bill Perez '69 True Gentleman of NY Alpha Awards for their lifelong support of NY Alpha. The ceremony was punctuated by Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick's ('09) moving words of thanks to Bill and his wife, Cathy, for their financial support when he was an undergrad at Cornell and to the SAE chapter for its support then as well.

One only need look at the reunion slide show on our website's Photo & Scrapbook Archive to get a feel for this event-filled weekend and the fun had by all. It was a great success.

A casual walk around the house shows significant improvement in many areas from just a few short years ago.

Just last year a headline in the NYAN revealed that the new wing roof was leaking. That is finally being repaired this fall after much debate about how—and, more important, when—to do it.

The two-room apartment off the kitchen has been totally redone, including installation of a shower. The apartment would be a good place for two brothers or, if needed,

for a live-in resident adviser.

The reconfiguration of rooms to increase the number of singles looks great in all respects. That work will provide the type of rooms wanted by current students and will increase revenue—plus it looks great!

Of course, if you look a little closer, you will still see that the now century-old beauty we call Hillcrest needs work—or a facelift or two.

First, the windows need to be replaced. They not only look bad, but many leak cold air during the Ithaca winter. We tried to get some fixed during the summer, but CU dragged its feet on this. We hope we can get this moving during 2015.

Our second priority is replacement of the deck...for it's starting to look bad.

Of course, there are numerous other things to do, but those mentioned are the most pressing tasks on our list.

To finish on a high note, I want to mention the new Lakeview Lounge in the northwest corner of the main floor. This addition is something that you will all want to see. It is really a key talking point in terms of creative renovation of Hillcrest.

We extend our thanks to those of you who have supported Hillcrest over the years. None of this could have been done or can be done going forward without you.

It is interesting to note that in 1911 the first Hillcrest burned to the ground...four years later in 1915 the current Hillcrest was open for business. The year 1915 was of course the golden anniversary for Cornell University. Make the Phoenix rise!

Hal Sieling '62
halsieling@aol.com

ny alpha alumni news & notes

Joan and **Robert S. Belden '55** have given up home ownership and maintenance by moving, in January, to SearStone, a new continuing care retirement community in Cary, North Carolina. Their new address is 4000 Winston Hill Dr., Apt. 304, Cary, NC 27513. "We plan to attend our 60th in June 2015," he adds. Bob's email address is rsbelden@earthlink.net.

"Still working," writes **Thomas W. Itin '57**. "Running LBO Capital Corporation, a technology company I founded in 1986. Also TWI International, aerodyne consulting, merchant banking, and Call a Doctor Plus U.S. tele-health/tele-care at cadrplus.net." Find out more by emailing him: twi2@cornell.edu. Tom and Shirley make their home at 3080 Orchard Lake Rd., Ste. N, Keego Harbor, MI 48320.

Founder of the Jim Marshall Farms Foundation,

Inc., **James O. Marshall '57** invites brothers to check out the foundation's website at jmffinc.org. Located in Chittenango, New York, a small town just east of Syracuse, the organization is dedicated to helping people with depressive illnesses. According to its website, the organization's mission is "to assist persons of all ages, especially our youth, managing mental illness, physical or developmental disability, or any other problem causing despair," including people close to those who are so affected. With an emphasis on preventing suicide and helping people find their way from despair to living happy, productive lives, the foundation utilizes an 84-acre horse farm integrating the practices of "people helping people, animals helping people, and professionals helping people. The exposure to the life-affirming miracle of birth, the unconditional love of animals, and Mother Nature's magic, and connecting with others are the therapeutic values we feature at this unique rural setting." Reach Jim by email

at jmffinc@hotmail.com or send postal mail to 1978 New Boston Rd., Chittenango, NY 13037.

Here is an update about **Richard L. Peterson '57** that was culled from the June 2014 Harvard Business School (HBS) *Alumni Bulletin*. "Last year was hell," Dick wrote. It all happened during the first six months, climaxing just before the 2013 50th HBS Reunion, which he had planned to attend. He lost his only son and only brother within one week in May. The toughest was the loss of his son, Todd, who was born in Boston in December 1961, causing Richard to get a U on his WAC that week. ("A U on his WAC" is HBS language for an unsatisfactory grade on his Written Analysis of a Case, a paper that had to be submitted every other week by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday—which kept first-year students up all Friday night.) He is now making a comeback with a decision to

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Foremost Benefactors

"Foremost Benefactors" is the honorary title bestowed upon those who have given freely of their resources to advance and shape Cornell University for the benefit of future generations. This recognition represents one of the highest honors conferred upon Cornell's philanthropic leaders. Recipients are given a 12-inch cast bronze replica of the Ezra Cornell statue on the Quad, and their names are engraved on the terrace wall at the south side of the Libe Tower, a place of permanence far above Cayuga's waters.

The designation originally recognized lifetime giving of \$500,000, Ezra's original endowment gift. It has increased over the years and is now at \$3 million.

The seven NY Alpha SAE Foremost Benefactors, from the classes of 1915, '42, '49, '56 (3), and '59, are listed below. Five have passed away.



Walter Raymond Read

'15: Walter Raymond "Ray" Read was a mechanical engineer (ME) from Milwaukee. He was a captain in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps during World War I. When his dad died

suddenly of a heart attack in 1922, Ray, age 29, took over the business he ran, Filer and Stowell. The company, which manufactured heavy equipment for sawmills, was founded in 1855. His dad joined it as an office boy in 1878 and worked his way up to the presidency. Ray also managed several other businesses owned by the Read family.

Ray and his two younger brothers, Everett '17 and Stuart '18, were all Cornell SAEs and MEs. His two nephews were also MEs but are Alpha Deltas. In researching Ray, Ron Demer spoke with one nephew, Charlie (88), who was aware of Ray's support for Cornell. Ron told Charlie about the Brownings, another multi-generational ME Cornell family with an SAE Foremost Benefactor. An interesting connection between Filer and Stowell and Browning Manufacturing, which made power transmission systems, emerged: Filer and Stowell "had Browning V-belt drives throughout its factories." Ray died in 1979.

George Bedell Howell '42:

George was SAE president and a member of Sphinx Head. He held senior management positions at Royal Electric, VLN Corporation, GE, and International Minerals and Chemicals before he became CEO of Wurlitzer Corporation in 1980 and chairman in 1982. The company is best known for theater organs that accompanied silent movies and jukeboxes. He died in 2008.



Robert T. Dean '49:

After growing up in Indiana and attending IU for a year, Bob served as a U.S. Army Air Force bombardier before enrolling in Cornell's electrical engineering program. He was a versatile football star in the backfield and with his kicking toe, setting records for kicking and the longest play from scrimmage. Bob was the *Sun's* athlete of the year in 1949 and is in the Cornell



Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating, he started Bob Dean, Inc., and Deanco, an electronic manufacturer's rep and distributor, headquartered in Ithaca with offices in six states.

Bob saved Hillcrest in the early 1980s when the house was not viable financially and about to fail. He developed a plan that would ensure the continued existence of SAE at Cornell, a three-way relationship between the active brotherhood, the alumni association, and Cornell that set the framework for a partnership that has endured to this day.

He passed away on Homecoming day in 2010. More than 100 people attended an Ithaca service celebrating his life.

Curtis Sanford Reis '56:

Global traveler to seven continents, lifelong sports enthusiast, and a man committed to social justice, Curt Reis passed away in early 2014 from complications of heart failure.



As an undergraduate, he was eminent archon at SAE, a leader on campus, chair of the Willard Straight board, and a member of Quill & Dagger.

Curtis considered Cornell a defining element in his life. One of a long line of Cornellians (who include both of his parents, his sister, brother-in-law, daughter, niece, and grandson), he was president of the class of '56, co-founder of Cornell's Adult University, a trustee, and recipient of the Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award. He and his family have given generously to Cornell; the Reis Tennis Center is their most notable gift.

A lifelong banker, Curtis worked for The Bankers Trust Company and Crocker Bank, and he was chairman and CEO of Alliance Bank.

David S. Hugle '56:

A hotel grad, Dave worked for Marshall Field & Company and a national accounting firm that specialized in the hospitality field until 1972, when he and



fellow SAE Todd Jenkins '59 opened a restaurant called Salmagundi in the financial district of San Francisco. An instant hit with its limited menu of soups, salads, and desserts, Salmagundi grew to six locations by 1985, when they sold the successful group.

Dave's lifetime interest in music and art led him to join the board of the Merola Opera Program, a non-profit training program for young opera artists closely associated with the San Francisco Opera. He served as an officer and board member there for 29 years. He also is on the boards of Chanticleer, the Grammy Award-winning men's a cappella singing group, and the Marin Arts Council. He collects late 20th-century art, much of which is promised to the Johnson Museum at Cornell.

Robert Evans Browning '56:

Bob Browning was a strong supporter of both SAE and Cornell. He endowed the director of physical education position in the athletic department with a gift of \$1 million. Bob was the youngest of three Browning brothers who



attended Phillips Exeter Academy and were Cornell SAEs in the '50s. He won varsity letters in swimming and lacrosse.

The Browning family's Maysville, Kentucky, power transmission business, Browning Manufacturing, was sold to Emerson Electric (NYSE) in the late 1960s. Bob remained with Emerson, running two divisions until his retirement. He had two sons and two grandchildren who attended Cornell. He died in 2010.

Ron Demer '59: SAE Hillcrest



was at the core of Ron's Cornell experience, bringing him a beautiful building and brotherhood with the outstanding men who have been his best friends since his years on the hill.

Ron was active on campus as an IFC officer and member of Quill & Dagger. As an alumnus, he has served as '59 class president and 50th Reunion chair, SAE chapter adviser, Cornell Club president in Boston and Atlanta, and Quill & Dagger alumni president.

His business career was in computers, advertising, equipment financing, and cable television. In 2001, Ron moved back to Ithaca, where he enjoys campus and Ithaca activities—and hosts many SAEs. His gifts to Cornell support athletics and scholarships.

New Wing Roof Replacement Underway

In September Cornell awarded a contract to a local roofing contractor to replace the new wing roof. After mobilizing in early October, the contractor removed the old roof within a day and was expected to have the new roof installed quickly. The new roofing system is an upgrade from the last and consists of rigid R30 insulation panels and a fully adhered two-ply waterproof membrane. The new roof is one of the most durable types available and is designed to withstand debris from adjacent trees, foot traffic, and weather. The roof comes with a 20-year warranty.

Anyone who lived in the new wing knows that the old roof was a source of continual leaks. The roof had been patched and repaired many times over the years. The most recent repair was in 2012, when an infestation of rodents was discovered within the roof insulation.

Looking ahead to next summer, we are planning a house-wide window replacement project. The project will replace the current windows with new, energy-efficient thermal-pane windows. The new windows are expected to reduce annual heating costs significantly.

If you have any questions or would like to participate on our facilities team, please contact me at jpb34@cornell.edu.

Jim Beckett '85
Facilities Committee Chairman

ny alpha alumni news & notes

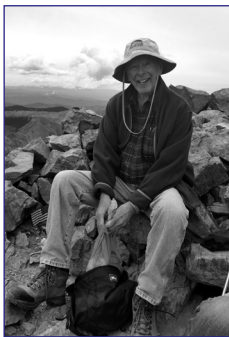
Log into our website, sae-cornell.org, for more alumni news and photos from your brothers!

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slow down, closing his coaching practice, and focusing on simplifying his health and spending time with loved ones and friends. He adds that he is blessed to have lived, worked, loved, and played mostly in Colorado over the last 50 years and is looking forward to his 55th. Reach him by email at richardp@gobrainstorm.net or by postal mail at 3 Jackson Place, Durango, CO 81301.

Unfortunately, **George E. Bullwinkel '58** suffered an ischemic stroke on his right side on January 10. He has been in physical rehab and has shown great improvement but still has a way to go. Amazingly, though, he is back at work in his law practice with the assistance of his wife, Madelaine, who helps him to send emails. George wants to hear from brothers at geb@bullwinkel.com. (330 Big Rail Dr., Naperville, IL 60540)

In September **C. James Glenn '59** enjoyed an adventure with nine other members of his church, starting their all-day trek at the Bavarian Restaurant at the base of lift #4 at the Taos Ski Valley resort. He writes: "We took the trail to Williams Lake (elev. 11,040 feet). After about two and a half miles in the forest, we turned off that trail to the new trail to the peak. We traversed another two miles mostly over open ground, hugging narrow paths with a lot of switchbacks on rather steep slopes. We zigged and zagged our way to the top over some wide and large rock slides—this was hard climbing! As we got higher, Williams Lake, visible below us, got smaller. The scenery was spectacular: mountains all around us in the foreground, including the back side of the Pueblo's Taos Mountain, Gold Hill, and Kachina Peak. In the distance we saw the valley leading to Questa and Red River and the higher peaks of Colorado to the north. Halfway up, we could see the back side of the Taos ski slope with its snakelike runs. Closer to the top, we also saw the buildings at the Taos Ski Valley. The tailings from the recently closed Chevron molybdenum mine in Questa stood out among the green of



Jim Glenn having his lunch at the top of Wheeler Peak (elev. 13,131 feet), the highest mountain in New Mexico, near his home in Taos.

the surrounding mountains." Contact Jim by email at jamesglenn@taosnet.com or postal mail at P.O. Box 2270, Taos, NM 87571.



Dick Hyde '59 and his daughter wearing jackets they bought in Australia when they were there on separate trips.

After being in Hilton Head since 2003, **James P. Baden '61** has found and joined the SAE alumni chapter there. He adds, "Recently I have been elected president. We advise Georgia Alpha in Statesboro and also at the College of Charleston. This has been most rewarding since we have picnics and Founders Day events we can all attend. Come visit!" Get in touch with Jim at jamesbaden@cinci.rr.com or 27 Dolphin Point Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

"Was so inspired by my SAE brothers in Cornell lacrosse that I played club lax here for several years," reports **Kurt B. Robinson '79**. "Started Sierra Foothills Lacrosse Club in 2007, son Trevor's senior project (he now coaches for SFLC)." A new management team is now taking over, "so now I get to see what retirement is supposed to be like. Good to see my old SAE friends still contributing." Find out how retirement's treating him so far: kurt.robinson@att.net or 2216 Navas Lane, Newcastle, CA 95658.

Gregory P. Coladonato '93 reports that he "decided to try to help here in Mountain View, California" and ran for the state Assembly in June. He wasn't elected, but he's now running for the local school board, where he has two children in public school. Catch up with Greg by email at gcoladon@gmail.com or postal mail at 297 Leslie Court, Mountain View, CA 94043.

Congratulations to Ithaca Mayor **Svante L. Myrick '09**, who has been appointed by Hobart and William Smith President Mark D. Gearan as the colleges' Presidential Fellow for Civic

Chapter Eternal

We regret to report the passing of:

John H. Zink Jr. '40

July 3, 2014

Thomas C. Shreve '41

March 8, 2014

John M. Cole '43

May 15, 2014

Richard E. Crews '52

September 11, 2014

Robert P. Crum '54

January 6, 2014

William J. D. Escher '54

May 12, 2014

Peter W. Sparhawk '54

March 26, 2014

Gerard F. Rahilly '78

April 24, 2014

Engagement. In 2013, Svante served as guest of the HWS President's Forum Speaker Series, an ongoing program that invites distinguished speakers to the Hobart and William Smith campus. A press release noted that he "brings an impressive track record in public service, government administration, leadership, and advocacy to the appointment." Email Svante at slm84@cornell.edu. (103 N. Quarry St., #A, Ithaca, NY 14850)

Erin and **Peter Young '11** have returned from their deployment to Afghanistan. They're both lieutenants in the U.S. Army and are currently stationed at Fort Drum in the north country of New York state—"just two hours from Cornell." Get in touch by mail at 64 High St., Alexandria Bay, NY 13607, or email at pd7@cornell.edu. "Phi Alpha!"



Thanks to Mike Martin '08 for sending along this photo from Matt Pemberton's '08 wedding: "We were celebrating at Wee Burn Beach Club in Westport, Connecticut." Back row, from left: Max Lieberman '08, Jeff Adelson '08, Michael Schechter '08, Yaw Eise '08, Jeff Glick '08, Brian Kaufman '08, Blake Horn '08, Jonny Lieberman '08, and James Norton '08; front row, from left: Lance Williams '08, Miles Toben '08, Russell Jones '07, Steve Fenty '08, Mike Martin '08, Chad Christie '08, and Kyle Sheahan '07.

New York Alpha News

is published regularly by the NY Alpha Alumni Association of SAE for our members and friends. News and pictures are always welcome and may be sent by email to alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org or to Alumni Records Office, NY Alpha Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.