

Cornell at 150 ... Hillcrest at 100 ... Windows at 100 ...

new york alpha news

NY Alpha Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon • Cornell University

True Gentlemen of NY Alpha: Heylin, Beckett, & Slusar



Peter G. Heylin '65

Peter was the first and only unsolicited addition to the original board formed after Hillcrest was turned over to Cornell University in the 1980s.

Our primary responsibilities at the time were raising money to pay off the debt and communicating with alumni about what was going on through the *NY Alpha News* to encourage donations. Bob Dean '49 had resigned as chapter adviser and had no intention of staying on in any capacity after the transfer of Hillcrest was completed.

In his longtime service to NY Alpha, Peter has focused primarily on specific projects. He's a man who gets things done, so it's best to get out of his way. Through it all, Peter's ideas and his ambition are fueled by his enduring passion for NY Alpha.

Peter is responsible for the Robert Crosby '65 memorial that graces the wall in the dining room when the chapter is in residence. He geared up for that because he felt it was long overdue. Bob was killed during the Vietnam war, and Peter felt that the story of his classmate and brother deserved to be told. Peter continues to work on this project and has other ideas about enhancing its presentation.

At the time of Peter's 40th reunion, he raised nearly \$50K for the Development Fund, primarily from his classmates. No class had ever raised that much for a single reunion year. He also helped pay for and then arranged to move a new piano to the house because of his love of music and the tradition of brothers singing, a tradition he wants to rekindle.

A few years later, in 2010, Peter and his wife, Linda, purchased new lion statues (which he affectionately named "Harris" and "Hal") to replace the ones that had been destroyed by vandals a few years earlier. Not wanting that to happen again, he had these built with aluminum and filled solid with cement. Growing frustrated

(continued on page two)



James P. Beckett '85

It seemed too good to be true: a NY Alpha alumnus with 20 years of experience in building maintenance and reconstruction ... a person who, despite living in Italy at the time, was the first to respond to our call to action. Yet that is exactly what happened in 2001 when we formed a new board designed for multi-tasking, not just fundraising.

Jim Beckett was that guy!

His name was first on the list. And, lo and behold, he let us know that he would soon be moving to San Diego County's Camp Pendleton with the Navy and would welcome getting involved. Hoorah!

Suddenly we had a true professional in our midst. Jim had on-the-job training with Hillcrest, too, as a house manager when he was an active in the early '80s. We heard he was legendary at wielding a mop or broom.

Jim's first job on the board was to take over from Harris Palmer and Hal Sieling to serve as fund chairman. He did a great job, bringing some new ideas and a new face after 16 years. He was eager to get involved with facilities, though, so after Mike Slusar came on board, the switch was made.

Working with volunteers who all have their own ideas about how to do things is difficult for someone who has spent 25 years in the Navy. As a matter of fact, that

(continued on page two)



Michael A. Slusar '86

Mike Slusar has made a profound impact on the success of the NY Alpha Alumni Association in general and on our fund-raising activities in particular. Throughout his 12-year tenure at the helm of fund-raising, he devoted countless hours, added a creative flair, and spearheaded a process we can continue to use for years to come. He devoted himself to stewardship of NY Alpha's communications and alumni relations with commitment, integrity, and zeal, as well as just a touch of levity.

It was clear from the beginning that Mike was dedicated to success. He built a solid team, worked to ensure that it was productive, and was a good "check and balance" for every element of the NY Alpha communications plan. Mike also built strong bonds with numerous alumni who were key to the success of his plan. His spirit was ever present—yet so was his humility.

Many of you know from attending Homecoming or Reunion events that Mike was always there to meet and greet and do a little arm-twisting as well. He did all this with passion and commitment that are difficult to duplicate and impossible to beat.

Mike was consistently at the forefront of making and keeping strong relationships with Cornell contacts who one day could

(continued on page two)

Reunion 2015: Are You In? June 4-7

Save these dates for being in Ithaca. Don't miss the big one. Keep an eye on www.sae-cornell.org for up-to-date details on what is happening at Hillcrest.

Hillcrest will be open in the afternoon on Friday and Saturday so you can look around at our renovation progress. SAE cordially invites you to our annual alumni reception and birthday celebration at Hillcrest from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. Come by and see old friends and a great-looking house with many improvements to look at while you are there. Alumni are also welcome to attend our board meeting at 2:00 p.m. on the same day. There will also be an informal gathering on the deck from 4:00 p.m. until dusk on Friday. *Scheduled alumni access to Hillcrest will be posted on the front door and on our website during Reunion.*

True Gentlemen, cont'd. *True Gentleman profiles compiled by Hal Sieling '62*

(continued from page one)

Peter Heylin

waiting for a formalized purchase that was going nowhere fast, Peter simply bought them outright and had them shipped to Ithaca and installed at Hillcrest's front door.

After the lions were installed, his daughter, Tera, went to Ithaca while on an East Coast trip and made sure to have her picture taken sitting on one. You might have seen this in the *NY Alpha News* or on the website.

As a board member, Peter Heylin served on the Strategic Plan team, working closely with Gus Noojin '69 and others planning for reinstatement. He has every intention to work on the campaign team when the time comes for our major fundraising effort to finish renovating Hillcrest. Be prepared to step up when Peter asks for your participation!

Peter has also been active on both the facilities and fundraising committees. He is deeply committed to both.

One of our 2015 True Gentlemen, Peter Heylin set an excellent example for NY Alpha brothers by investing in NY Alpha through his many gifts, decades of service, and lifelong commitment. It is as simple as that!

If you look through the website, you will see lots written about Peter's efforts over the years. We would love to have him come back to Ithaca for his 50th reunion in June 2015. Of course, he has been helping to organize the event for his class, so count on a good group for the occasion—and related funds to be raised!

One simply cannot have a better friend and a more devoted brother than Peter Heylin. Peter G. Heylin '65, a True Gentleman of New York Alpha.

Jim Beckett

is difficult for anyone put in charge of volunteers. But Jim figured out a way to get things done despite these and other obstacles. Most of the brothers on his committee are independent thinkers, so we can only assume he scratches his head wondering where he will get help from each time a project comes up.

Rest assured, Jim, that is the case with all volunteer organizations ... not just the NY Alpha Alumni Association. Of course the flip side, friend, is that it is not that easy for independent thinkers to work for someone who has such disciplined and structured processes.

Look around Hillcrest next time you are in Ithaca and see for yourself how good it looks. Jim Beckett is a large part of why that is so.

Please welcome James P. Beckett '85 as a True Gentleman of New York Alpha after nearly 15 years on the board and as head of our impressive facilities work. Hoorah!!!

Mike Slusar

help in the work we are doing. Whether it was OFSA or Alumni Affairs, or brothers in the active chapter, everyone knew and respected Mike for what he was doing.

Also known as "Slu," he always had a knack for thinking up a new way to ask for the same old thing: "He ain't heavy, he's my brother"..... "The Phoenix Rises... And So Must We"..... "The Time Is Now!"..... "Thanks for the Memories"..... "It's all about leadership," to mention just a few. This was clearly inspirational, and the results were amazing, even in difficult times.

In all of these efforts, Mike set high standards for himself and others. He excels both at mentoring new people and motivating others. He is also good at recruiting alumni to join the board. He does this with enthusiasm

and loyalty that all can appreciate.

Mike's time as an active was both a difficult time and one of important learning. As most of you know, membership was low in the mid-'80s, and that required more from those who were brothers. Mike refers to it as a time when brothers could demonstrate leadership and build the future from within. He has frequently reached back to that experience in communicating the opportunities NY Alpha's members face with reinstatement.

Slu had a long view of his responsibilities but a wide one, too. He understands better than most that all things NY Alpha are related and that everything counts. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the pieces he wrote for the *NY Alpha News* or in the fund-raising letters he wrote. He was always aware of what was going on with facilities or programming.

In addition, Mike was a key member of the committee to develop the Strategic Plan for NY Alpha. He was sure to make all the meetings and contribute to making the result more effective and meaningful.

Above all, Mike was the best team player imaginable. He built a team. He assigned tasks and followed up. He expanded beyond his team when the opportunity presented itself. Teamwork was his thing. Through it all, he always gave others credit, taking none for himself.

We are sure you will agree that the standard Mike set for himself, for others, and for the NY Alpha Alumni Association is one that must be sustained as we look to and plan for the future. Of course, we are counting on him to continue his mentoring and his motivating leadership as we journey down that "long and winding road."

The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little "extra"—indeed, the precise "extra" that Mike gives.

Since becoming an SAE brother, Mike Slusar '86 has always lived by the creed of the True Gentleman. Now he becomes a True Gentleman of New York Alpha, an honor he richly deserves.

Class of '65 Plans Its 50th Celebration!

(It's time to give and get engaged with NY Alpha!)

As most of you know, this year we celebrate the 150th year of Cornell and the 100th birthday of Hillcrest. So, as Cornell says, are you in?

Now is a great time to ensure that NY Alpha returns to Cornell as a leader within the Greek community. The best way to do that starts with you and us becoming engaged with NY Alpha at Reunion this June.

Reunion, especially this year, is a big deal. It's also a good time to increase your giving and to spend some time learning what is going on with the alumni board. Once you do, you can help make good things happen for NY Alpha. Reunion at

Cornell is always a good time to remember and recommit—and then to help SAE move forward.

The best way to make a reunion unforgettable is to recruit a group of your brothers and get them back to Ithaca for the weekend. For help organizing, reach out to Hal Sieling (halsieling@aol.com).

Years ago, we started a successful tradition of asking reunion classes to make an extra gift to NY Alpha during their reunion years. True Gentleman Peter Heylin '65 was one of the originators of this program. This year we would like to continue to build on the momentum of recent reunion-

class campaigns.

We are off to a good start this fundraising year, but there is much to do to transform Hillcrest into the sought-after living space we desire. Indeed, we hope that all classes—not just reunion classes—will heed our call and give generously, as well as step up to help with the work ahead.

You can expect brothers Nick Wilder and Peter Heylin to lead this effort with their class of '65! How will you help?

Jim Beckett '85, Geoff Ryan '90,
David Perez '95, Eddie Rooker '10,
Jamie Wright '90, and Nick Wilder '65

It's Time for Winter to Move On

Winter is a time to plan for spring, a time to marshal our energies for the time of growth that is soon to come. Our plans for NY Alpha are in place, and we are eagerly looking toward our very own spring. Execution of our carefully crafted Strategic Plan for Hillcrest is well under way. We have funded and completed the room reconfiguration project, creating more attractive living spaces. In addition, we have funded and addressed the new wing roof, eliminating water intrusion.

Our current project for the house is a complete replacement of all the windows. Brothers Kent (1902), Wadsworth (1904), and Marland (1901) certainly chose materials well when they designed Hillcrest. These windows have given us 100 years of service! But it's time to put them to rest. Currently, the biggest complaint of residents at the house is the draftiness of the windows. By addressing the issue now, we not only get ahead of potential water intrusion and emergency repairs, but we prepare the house to be a compelling residential choice among discerning Cornellians.

Funding is already in place for a portion of the window project, and I am pleased to announce that fundraising this year is setting

an excellent pace. We have seen many first-time donors as well as many of our faithful donors stepping up. I remain hopeful that we will meet our goals and encourage everyone to contribute to this high-priority facilities project.

It has been a pleasure working with brothers from a wide range of graduating years, and I am in awe of everyone's dedication and time spent working toward our Strategic Plan goals. So I encourage everyone to get involved! Your contributions are absolutely essential—and deeply appreciated—but so is your time. It's fun and rewarding to work with these inspired (and inspiring) brothers. If you have a desire to participate, just reach out to me or anyone else on the alumni board, and we will be happy to find a role for you.

There is a donor card enclosed, and if you haven't already (or even if you have), please make a contribution the Hillcrest Development Fund #780108. Let's join together now to finish our plans for our own NY Alpha spring; it's time to say goodbye to winter and move forward!

Cory "Action" Jackson '86
cj@jacksonhospitality.com



*CU at 150 ... Hillcrest
at 100 ... Windows at
100 ... Class of '64 at 50!*

The stars have aligned for a big celebration in June. We hope you will be there! Are you in?

A Cornelian would need to be in sensory-deprivation mode not to know that big things are planned in Ithaca for Reunion this year. **And the same can be said for SAE ... we've got a big birthday party planned!**

Many of you have big reunions this year—congratulations! But no matter what you're celebrating, I urge you to gather up your brothers and come to Ithaca to see for yourself what the birthday buzz is about. Reunion is always a special time, but this year will be even more so.

Investing in Hillcrest **now** is critical to our process of rebuilding as described in the reunion letter you just received. We will be starting our window replacement program this summer and finishing it next summer, so lots of money is needed to fund this. We have raised more than half, but we need more to finish the job. And, as you know, there are still other projects to complete as part of our renovation.

So tonight is not too soon to sit down with the dog and fire off a big check to help pay for the windows project.

Brotherhood is for life, and *your personal engagement with the NY Alpha Alumni Association* makes a critical difference. Come back to celebrate at Hillcrest's birthday party in June, and join us as we continue our rebuilding process. Don't miss an incredible brotherhood experience!

If you can't possibly make it this year, we hope you'll still dive in with your support (in whatever form) for the tasks before us. Tell us you are ready by contacting our alumni office in Ithaca (alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org).

Ron Skalko '73
rls73@comcast.net

Reunion Classes, Are You In?

It was 25 years ago that the members of my pledge class received our degrees and left the arms of Mother Cornell—well, most of us, anyway, but that's a subject for another article, on a less auspicious occasion. It was three years earlier that we all took the oath to uphold The True Gentleman, and the values that we had been taught by our predecessors. In all, 21 of us, including a large contingent from Donlon Hall, had chosen a home and brothers to live with for the remainder of our college careers. We saw a house in the ascendant, with a great group of actives and opportunity for growth. What today would be called the physical plant was located on land offering the most spectacular views most of us had ever seen. For freshmen coming out of the bleak North Campus dorms, Hillcrest offered a true sense of a home, with chocolate milk for all. As Mike Giuli '88 was fond of mentioning in Contacts, we had chosen a place to come home to.

For us, it has been 25 years, for others returning this summer it has been many more, but Hillcrest always draws us back. I am sure the Cornell weather machine will be in full operation, with moderate temperatures and only enough rain to remind us of where we are. But even more

notable, Cornell University turns 150 years old this spring, while Hillcrest turns 100... as if you needed another reason to return home, to reunite with old friends, and make new ones.

As one who comes back every three or four years, I warn you not to underestimate the dubious pleasure of looking upon recent campus construction and wondering, "What were they thinking?" (Perhaps we'll have a post-Reunion poll on the website as to what specific new addition prompted that last sentence...) Also, word on the street is that Collegetown bars are dropping like flies. First Johnny's (ok, that one's come and gone so many times it may not even be worth a mention), then the Palms, and now Ruloff's has left and then apparently come back. At the very least we need to help contribute to Ithaca's economy, as Svante Myrick '09 contemplates whether to seek re-election as mayor or move on to another challenge.

You have no doubt heard that we are always looking for help from brothers willing and able to contribute time and effort to ensure that NY Alpha will be able to provide the same sense of home, brotherhood, and community to new generations of Cornell men. Please feel free to stop in, listen and participate. Checkbooks encouraged but not

(continued on page four)

Are You In?

(continued from page three)

required. We might even give you a title.

I can't help but note that I am writing this at a moment of turmoil for our fraternity nationally. I feel fortunate, however, to reflect that the despicable actions of that particular chapter never once cast a shadow on Hillcrest in my time. I believe NY Alpha is, and has been for decades, one of the most inclusive houses in the SAE universe, and despite the media attention, I remain proud to claim membership as a brother.

Yours in the Bonds,
Geoff Ryan '90
gwryan913@gmail.com



From Reunion 2014:
Cathy Perez, Svante Myrick, and Bill Perez



Hal Sieling congratulates Gus Noojin.

Don't forget to log on to www.sae-cornell.org and update your profile!

ny alpha alumni news & notes

We've recently learned that **Robert S. Belden '55** will be undergoing surgery on his spine in early April. Recovery from the operation is defined as six to eight weeks, with full recovery being estimated at three to four months. Wish Bob well at rsbelden@earthlink.net or 4000 Winston Hill Dr., Apt 304, Cary, NC 27513.

Ron Demer '59 reports, "During an October trip to Vermont for a wedding, I was able to have coffee with **Bob Genock '60** in Williston, where he lives. He is the same slender, handsome, well-attired guy he was at Hillcrest, except that his blonde hair is now silver, but he has not lost any. We roomed together during our first year at Harvard Business School in 1962-'63. I had not seen him in the 50 years since we graduated. Bob gave me a summary of his life since HBS, beginning with the Peace Corps in Ecuador. In 1967 he married Anne Williams, a native of Rochester, as was Bob. They moved to the Dominican Republic, where he worked for USAID and Xerox. Bob opened the first Xerox office there, followed by other positions with the copier company in Nassau, Bogota, Stamford, and Mexico City. Bob and Anne were very involved with their Christian faith, accepting Jesus Christ into their lives and serving others as caretakers, missionaries, and volunteers in America, the Netherlands, and Mexico. Anne died of a brain tumor in 2002. They had a daughter who passed away at birth in Bogota. Although retired, Bob continues his volunteer work and will soon assume a senior position on the board of an international Christian organization. His admirable life has been one of serving and caring for people. You may reach him at: rgenock@myfairpoint.net."



Bob Genock '60

Although it means he won't be attending Reunion this year, **William B. Byer '60** is planning a trip to Italy in early June. Get in touch to find out more: prestigepub@usa.net or 8 Homestead Blvd., Milford, DE 19963.

This past year, **James P. Baden '61** moved permanently to Hilton Head Island (27 Dolphin Point Lane, Hilton Head, SC 29926). Jim's volunteer interests there are working with the Volunteers in Medicine clinic and singing with the local Barbershop Harmony Society. He adds, "See **Bill Standen '58** frequently at our local SAE alumni group, which is sponsoring Georgia Southern University." Jim traveled to Canada and all over the U.S. last summer. Catch up with him by email at jpbadenmd@gmail.com.

"I finally retired last July," announces **John C. Munday Jr. '62**. "Very busy with family (grandchildren and 95-year-old father-in-law), home repairs, and book projects. We bought a grand piano (finally) for enjoyment and making ragtime recordings. Still running, after recovery from the 20-foot fall in August 2013. Last summer we spent three weeks in Colorado, and we recently returned from our first cruise." Drop him a note at jmunday@avantrex.com or 1204 Murray Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23322.

We had the following from **Bruce P. Flenniken '72**: "**Randy Bryan '72** and his wife, Ellen, have purchased a 38-foot catamaran and are summering it at St. Augustine, Florida—winter sailing for months throughout the Caribbean, possibly as far as South America. They invited my 14-year-old daughter and me to vacation for a week in the Bahamas during this past winter [2015]. What a thrill! Warm, turquoise waters and great company." He adds, "Randy is an adventurer, and if there isn't a significant disaster during a cruise, he feels it just wasn't

Chapter Eternal

We regret to report the passing of:

Sanford M. Whitwell '45
November 7, 2011

worthwhile. With his wife on board, he has mellowed, and now it's Jimmy Buffet, Paradise, and country music." Check in with Bruce at brucef08@comcast.net or 168 Homer St., Newton Centre, MA 02459.

Michael B. Borowiec '82 writes: "Fixing animals. Raising two teen girls. Skating, golfing, lifting. Staying married. Shoveling way too much. Rooting for below-average pro Buffalo sports teams for far too long." A practicing veterinarian and owner of Furry Friends Animal Hospital in Niagara Falls, Mike adds, "The heck with Waldo, where is 'Bubba'?! Mike can be reached at drborowiec@frontier.com or 3 Fox Chapel Dr., Orchard Park, NY 14127.

Having retired from the USAF service last year, **Clayton R. "Crash" Marshall '92** has moved back out west and taken a job with United Airlines as a first officer. Send congratulations to him at claymarsh@aol.com or 505 Los Dolces St., Las Vegas, NV 89138.

Brian R. Kaufman '08 has left Goldman to join Highgate, a real estate investment group with a focus in hospitality. He's trying to build out Highgate's European platform, so if anyone knows of any SAEs "on that side of the pond," be sure to contact him: brian.r.kaufman@gmail.com or 16 W 19th St., New York, NY 10011.



Dave Markowski '10

Dave Markowitz '10 is back on campus getting his doctorate in communications. (dmm227@cornell.edu)

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.