

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

new york alpha news

NY Alpha Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon • Cornell University

Success Breeds Success!

So many brothers participated in the 2014-'15 Development Fund fiscal year that we are fully underway with Phase I of the windows project, and we are close to funding Phase II, which will complete it. Installation is currently scheduled for late spring/early summer of 2016. (We thought the current residents would appreciate our not removing their windows during the winter!)

Cornell requires upgrades of this nature to be fully funded in advance and will not allow us to estimate future donations or revenues to the Development Fund. We are really close to having Phase II lined up and executed. If you are considering donating to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund, please consider doing so earlier in our fundraising year so we can get the entire project completed in a timely manner.

Our continued success in upgrading and improving Hillcrest makes the house more desirable to live in. Remember, when the house generates an operating profit, those funds are deposited into the SAE Development Fund account. A fully upgraded and maintained facility will make things much easier to achieve all of our future goals.

Your alumni association is doing a fantastic job executing our long-term strategic plan for Hillcrest. Your continued support is making that happen. Looking forward, we are expecting the windows project to be complete in the not-too-distant future, when we will tackle several new projects, including:

- Deck replacement
- Roof replacement (under the deck)
- Fire-alarm replacement/upgrades (required by code)
- Kitchen upgrades
- Recreation area (original chapter room) reconfiguration

We raised a whopping \$137,000 last year, due in large part to the successful challenge from True Gentleman Peter G. Heylin '65, and we are really making a difference. Our success as a group of alumni brothers is demonstrable, and I personally feel that it will pay off for SAE in the future. If you have donated in



the past, thank you so much—and please make your 2015–2016 gift as soon as possible. If you haven't donated in some time or have never donated, please consider joining your fellow brothers in keeping Hillcrest well-maintained and relevant. Hillcrest is a great place, but at 100 years old, it continues to need our love and care.

A reply card is enclosed for your convenience. To make your gift online, visit Cornell's alumni website at www.giving.cornell.edu and follow these instructions:

1. Click the radio button under the first line of text, "What area(s) of Cornell would you like to give to?*" This will open a pop-up form.
2. Click the box "Other – Cornell" then "Continue" (bottom left). This returns you to the first giving screen.
3. In the "Selected Designations" box, enter the amount of your gift. Type "Hillcrest SAE Development Fund #780108" in the text box below the "Selected Designations" box. Click "Continue" (bottom right).
4. Then fill out each subsequent page according to your gift/contact specifications.

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

Why I am Working Toward Reinstatement at Cornell

In September I was elected to the NY Alpha Alumni Association board of directors, replacing the late Peter Heylin '65. I did not seek the position and in fact was totally surprised—not to mention very honored—when my name was offered. I hope I can live up to Peter's memory.

I did not pay a lot of attention to SAE after my graduation in 1964 from the hotel school, but when the tragedy occurred five years ago and Cornell withdrew NY Alpha's recognition, my interest in the chapter was renewed.

Over the years I have often said, only half jokingly, that I learned almost as much about business and leadership at SAE as I did at the hotel school. As an undergraduate I served as treasurer of our pledge class, social chairman, house treasurer for two one-year terms, and EA my final semester.

In those days, our annual budget was over \$100,000—not that much money in today's world—but the operation of that annual budget in 1964 was equivalent to running a small private company. "Old Gilk" (Fairbairn Gilkeson '14, chapter adviser) used to drop in about twice a year from his home in Pennsylvania, but that was the extent of our "adult" guidance. We

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New Gifts to be Offered to Qualifying Donors!

HILLCREST



• SINCE 1915 •

YETI Rambler Tumbler – custom Hillcrest logo

Baseball caps – custom Hillcrest logo embroidered

T-shirts – Black with custom Hillcrest logo screen-printed

Tie bars – Gifts of \$500 or more; custom-designed phoenix tie bar in gold electroplate

Mousepads – custom Hillcrest logo

Surrounded by Reality: 101 Things You Don't Know About Ithaca, NY – Autographed by Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick '09

2015 Reunion Recap

Once again, the day dawned bright over Hillcrest on the Friday of Reunion 2015, as Hal Sieling '62 and his comrades-in-arms, Art Poole '64 and Ron and Lorraine Skalko '73, prepared for the one weekend a year that NY Alpha returns home. Even the statuary lions given to us by Peter Heylin '65 were painted for the first time. This year, Hal worked his usual magic with the Cornell administration, and the brotherhood was granted access for not only the traditional Saturday afternoon alumni board meeting and reception, but also for an informal open house for returning brothers throughout the afternoon and evening on Friday. Hal even managed to get a mention in the official Cornell Reunion program.

It would be safe to say that turnout exceeded expectations, with more than 25 brothers, as well as kids, wives, and significant others passing through the doors. They



Ron Skalko '73 and Art Poole '64

were treated to the amazing views of Cayuga Lake from the deck and the new first-floor Lakeview Lounge, a repurposing of the old single off the Great Hall that should have been dreamed up decades ago. The classes of 2005 and 2010 took the awards for largest attendance, and certainly for the group that came most prepared. A pizza party for all was a nice addition to the day.

On Saturday the more formal events took place, including the alumni board meeting followed by a reception, with refreshments generously provided by Brooklyn Brewery (Steve Hindy '71, founder) and Red Jacket Orchards, courtesy of Brian and Mark Nicholson (both '94). Hal presented the posthumous True Gentleman Award to Peter Heylin '65, who unfortunately had passed several weeks before Reunion, for his lifelong service and many contributions to NY Alpha, not the least of which was his record-setting donation shortly before his death. After the ceremony, a rousing rendition (if such a term could apply) of "Violets" was led by Bill Kingston '59 and

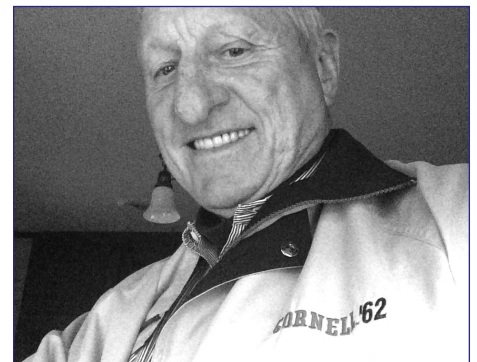


Art Poole '64 giving a Hillcrest mug to Don Huene '55 during reception.

sung by all who could recall the words and the melody. Strong attendance was noted from the classes of '10, '05, '95, and '65, but brothers from all eras were present, including Don Huene '55, making his first return to Hillcrest in decades. He was given an SAE mug for coming the longest distance.

As always, the best memories of Reunion in this author's eyes occurred at Hillcrest, as old friendships were renewed and new ones forged. We hope to see a bigger group return next year, including Steve Hindy '71 and David Einhorn '91, who no doubt will be in town as a new member of the Cornell Board of Trustees.

Yours in the Bonds,
Geoff Ryan '90
geoffreyryan@comcast.net



Nice jacket! Dave Ryan '62 sports the Reunion jacket Ron Demer '59 gave him a couple years ago. A local sports shop owner changed the embroidered '59 to a '62 so Dave could more accurately advertise his age.

A New Way to Enjoy Reunions!

My wife, Lorraine, and I were Reunion class chairs for our 40th Reunion in June 2013. It was a lot of work, and we did not really enjoy the experience. The rewards were few and far between. The "babysitting" part took too much time, and spending time with friends and brothers was far too short.

We do, however, really enjoy Reunion in non-class Reunion years. We have joined the Cornell Continuous Reunion Club. Unfortunately, we are the youngest members of CRC. I have talked to others about the idea of starting the NY Alpha Continuous Reunion Club. I think that we have the nucleus of that operating now. What do you think?

It does not have to be your Reunion year to come back to Cornell in June. Two years ago, the SAE class of '69 had its own Reunion—and it was a great time. The only involvement the class had on campus was the purchase of the buttons for admission to the tent parties on the arts quad. This class had its own agenda, which included a wine tour, boat tour, class dinner, and more. In addition, there are many all-Cornell events that alumni can attend at no cost. There are always tours of Sapsucker Woods, an all-Cornell lunch at Barton, and

much more.

This year, we watched the SAE class of '05 do the same thing with the same outcome. Attendees had a tremendous time, including enjoying the reception and open house at Hillcrest all afternoon and evening on Friday. I think their experience at Reunion in June was better than a lot of other people's, hands down. They had a lot more enjoyment at SAE than they did visiting with non-SAE classmates.

I am hoping to communicate two things in this *NY Alpha News*: 1) It does not have to be your Reunion year to return to Hillcrest and have a great time; and 2) You don't need the Cornell alumni office to have your own SAE class reunion. You can do it a lot cheaper on your own, and you will have a lot more fun with your families and friends.

Can I stay in a dorm if I'm not registered with my class/association?

Yes, non-Reunion-year alumni and alumni who choose not to register with their class/association are welcome to stay in campus housing. NRY headquarters is located in Sheldon Court near Collegetown.

Cost is \$77 per adult, per night, or \$196 for

all three nights. Pre-registration is available online or you can register and pay on-site. This price includes the headquarters amenities fee, a minimal charge added to the housing cost to cover standard headquarters costs. You may pre-register for housing as an NRY attendee.

An additional fee of \$50 per adult covers the cost of a "generic" Reunion button that provides you with a Reunion schedule, shuttle bus service, and access to the Arts Quad tent parties.

Alumni who do not need overnight accommodations should register at the Reunion Information Center, newly located in the Tsai Family Atrium in the Statler Hotel off of East Avenue (Thursday, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) or at alumni affairs headquarters in the Tatkon Center of Balch Hall on North Campus (Thursday, noon to 11:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.). Buttons will also be sold at Goldwin Smith Hall on Friday and Saturday from 9:00 p.m. to midnight.

Join us next year and see the first chapter in the installation of new windows at Hillcrest. It takes some work to set up your own Reunion event, but it's worth it for such memorable results!

Phi Alpha,
Ron Skalko '73
rls73@comcast.net

Homecoming 2015: The Final 150th Event



A good time was had by all who attended Homecoming 2015. It was a Cornell event-filled weekend with just a little rain at the wrong times.

On Friday, Cornell's 13th president, Elizabeth Garrett, was installed at a ceremony on the Arts Quad. A rather small group of alumni participated, including Svante Myrick '09, who is mayor of Ithaca. After the installation, a box lunch was served on the Ag Quad.

On Friday evening, there was a fantastic fireworks and laser show at Schoellkopf Field. This was

one of the last events of the 150th year celebration of Cornell on the hill.

On Saturday, Ron Demer '59 hosted the NY Alpha alumni board meeting. Then we headed to the parking lot at Schoellkopf. We had a great time at the tailgate party preceding the Cornell/Bucknell football game. Little Sister Lorraine Skalko '73 served a very nice luncheon. We had a great location for the tailgate party—between Susan Murphy '73 (Cornell University vice president emerita) and her Bucknell SAE cousin, Robb, on one side and the Cornell Glee Club

alumni on the other side. The Glee Club sang all the traditional Cornell songs, a great addition to our event.

Before the game was the dedication of Touchdown and the 1915 Plaza: "Today we gather to celebrate the ghost of the Cornell Bear and the spirit of Cornell." And the legacy of Touchdown lives on with the Cornell Bear. The 1915 team was the first of many fine Cornell teams.

The Cornell Daily Sun proclaimed Cornell "Unbeaten and Unbeatable!" as opposed to today's team, which some consider "Unbearable!" See you next year.

Ron Skalko '73



Why I am Working Toward Reinstatement at Cornell, cont'd.

paid the bills, ran the kitchen, cleaned and repaired the house, and generally ran things, all without much if any oversight. Where else could a 20-year-old student get that kind of hands-on management experience?

Now we are hoping to reinstate SAE at Cornell. Some of our alumni are expressing disgust with that incident in particular as well as unfortunate incidents at fraternities and sororities nationwide, and I certainly understand those feelings. However, there is so much to be gained by a positive fraternity experience that I feel compelled to work as hard as I can to bring NY Alpha back. And I truly believe that the chapter could once again become a vibrant part of the university and a leader in the Greek community.

So ... I will make a plea. But first I want to thank all of you who share my views and give generously to the house through Cornell's annual giving opportunities. Your generous donations, combined with the excess rental income we receive from the university, have allowed the board to accomplish many of our targeted (and sorely needed) renovations. As a result, the house is in the best shape I have seen it since I graduated—and we have just begun!

My plea to those of you who are reserving judgment about the value of SAE and fraternities in general is this. Please think back to what you gained from your experience as an undergraduate. And remember that when the lights go out, you can curse the darkness or you can light a candle. I am deeply grateful for my chance to light a candle, thanks to the confidence the NY Alpha board placed in me. Please join me if you can.

Phi Alpha!
Art Poole '64
pooleconsult@gmail.com

ny alpha alumni news & notes

After the death of his wife, Kathleen, in 2013, **Leonard Abraham '49** has moved to an independent living community (20 Bayon Dr., Apt. 114, South Hadley, MA 01075). Email him at abrahamleonard@comcast.net.

"Having a great time in Texas," declares **Vince Hughes Jr. '51**. After retiring from the Air Force, he moved to Georgia but spent a lot of time traveling. In 2008 he moved to a golf community in Texas called Lake Kiowa. He adds, "My interest in reading and writing continues, having published three novels." Catch up with Vince at 121 Modoc Trail, Gainesville, TX 76240.

We're sorry to report the death of **Brian Dillon's ('55) wife, Monika**, in June. Brian lives at 360 Furman St., Apt. 1223, Brooklyn, NY 11201, and welcomes email at briandillon16@gmail.com.

"We miss Cornell days, but the beat must go on," writes **Robert Hutchins '56**, who's retired but still does some consulting in the electrical discharge machining field. Hutch is also active in the local Cornell Club of Western Massachusetts—and reports that he and Susie "make it a point to get back to 'far above' at least once a year, generally in the fall for a football game." He continues, "Still happily married to my Cornell Kappa coed. Four

grown children: one Cornellian, one Duke U., one Union College, and my 'little girl' is at Casenovia College. Health has been good for Susie and me!" Drop him a note at lccgoldbob@aol.com or 269 The Meadows, Enfield, CT 06082.

Bob Kreiner '58 describes "a great trip" he and Phyllis had earlier this year—"from Gulf Coast to East Coast (Baltimore), to almost West Coast, and home again. Our trip went north from Minot, North Dakota, to Banff. Then we headed southeast along the Lewis and Clark Trail, south to the Natchez Trace, and home again. The entire trip was more extensive than that, since we drove our route and covered more than 6,700 miles." A retired Navy pilot, Bob resides at 8707 Meadowbrook Dr., Pesacola, FL 32514.

Make note of a new email address for **John Sargent '61**: jasargentphd@gmail.com. John has sold his company, which provided software for kidney dialysis centers. **Bill Kingston '59** was a longtime director of the firm. John makes his home at 59 Hacienda Cir., Orinda, CA 94563.

Congratulations to **Bruce Clemens '72**, who retired in July. He and wife Donna Raines have put their house on the market and bought the

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Chapter Eternal

We regret to report the passing of:

James Galusha '53
March 25, 2015

Thomas Snowden '56
December 21, 2011

John MacGuffie '56
February 27, 2015

Jason Goldstein '62
October 22, 2012

Peter G. Heylin '65
April 27, 2015

James J. Staid '65
May 22, 2015

ny alpha alumni news & notes

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RV—"we'll be 'full-timing' for a year or more." They plan to visit the 27 National Parks they have yet to see. Adds Bruce, "We'll be interested in any flat, concrete pad to park on for a couple of weeks or more. Let us know if you want visitors. We intend to stay south of the 'flip-flop latitudes' Phi Alpha!" Get in touch by email at bruce.wayne.clemens@gmail.com to keep up with his adventures.

Cliff Torng '84 reports, "Returned to Nike 18 months ago to continue my career after five years away. Now heading up branding and marketing for all of Nike's direct-to-consumer efforts, digital as well as bricks and mortar. Proud to let people know I didn't screw things up too badly while at Cornell; son Zac will be going to Cornell (ILR) as part of the class of 2019." Catch up with him at ctorng@me.com or 2328 SW Broadway Dr., Portland, OR 97201.

"After 12 years in Manhattan, my wife, Sarah, and I are moving to the suburbs," announces **Jonathan Hill '02**. "We are heading to Scarsdale, New York, and looking forward to having more space for our daughter, Juliette (2½), to play." Jon had dinner recently with **Jake Dickson '02**, **Dave Owen '02**, and **Calvin May '01**. "Jake barbecued some terrific steaks from his store, Dickson's Farmstand Meats. It was great to catch up with those guys." The Hills' new address is 42 Springdale Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583. Email Jon at hilljonathan@hotmail.com.

Michael Anderson '03 works at Wells Fargo, where he is a vice president of commercial lending. Early next year he and wife Lauren, along with their four children, will be moving into a new home they are remodeling in Burbank, California.



From left: Jeff Glick '08, Lance Williams '08, Michael Schechter '08, Yaw Eise '08, and Jonny Lieberman '08 attended Chad Christie's ('09) wedding this fall.

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.

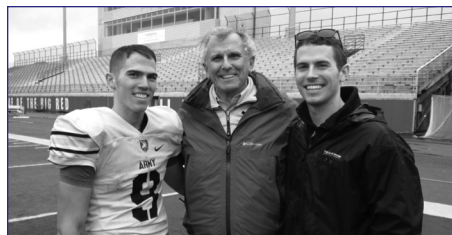
Get in touch with him at lamike032002@yahoo.com or 1700 W. Oak St., Burbank, CA 91506.



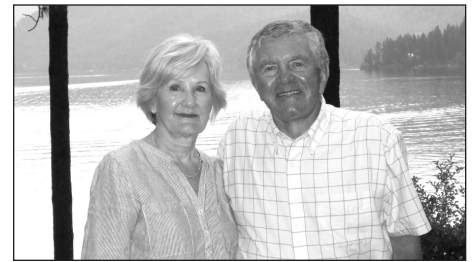
Mike Martin '08 completed his CALS MS in 2014. The professor overseeing his master's research, Dr. Lars Angenent, describes it: "Michael tested three different strains of bacteria that can convert carbon monoxide into ethanol. He tested these bacteria in a specially designed bioreactor system and measured the ethanol production rates and ethanol concentration during operating periods of more than one month for each strain. He also sequenced the genomes of these bacteria to understand the differences in the performances for each bacterial strain." After finishing his research, he traveled around the world, documenting his travels with frequent Facebook postings. He then joined a Chicago company, LanzaTech, which specializes in gas fermentation. Mike's research, Traits of Selected Clostridium Strains for Syngas Fermentation to Ethanol, was peer reviewed and published in *Biotechnology and Bioengineering* magazine. Reach him by email at mem232@cornell.edu.



Preston O'Connell '08 and his bride, Casan Van Langen, at their April 18, 2015, wedding, held at Torrey Pines Golf Course, California.



Howie Miller '59 was at Schoellkopf on October 3 to see a grandson, freshman Brady Miller, quarterback the Army West Point Black Knights in a sprint football win over the Big Red. One of Brady's older brothers, Brendan '14, also attended. He was the QB and captain of our sprint team. Brendan was hired at Goldman Sachs in 2014 by SAE Brian Kaufman '08, who subsequently left GS for Highgate Capital.



Joan and Chuck Morris

Following a week with family in Portland in July, **Ron Demer '59** drove to Spokane to visit Joan and **Chuck Morris' 56, Hotel '57**, at their summer home overlooking Hayden Lake in Idaho.

After getting a USAF commission through the AFROTC program, Chuck attended flight school and spent five years piloting F-86 Sabre-jets, followed by another five in KC-135 tankers (modified Boeing 707s). KC-135s refueled other planes in the sky to give them more time on target and the range for longer missions. He flew in Vietnam.

His only war story is of refueling Navy F-4s in the Gulf of Tonkin, when he detected that that he was being painted by North Vietnam Phansong radar (which controls SAM missiles). He informed the Navy, which quickly took care of that radar, but he admits to a definite pucker factor in the memory.

Chuck then spent 25 years flying jets for Pan Am, retiring in 1991. This overlapped 20 years in the USAF Reserve. Hence, his total military service spans 30 years, with retirement as a full colonel.

Writes Ron, "I brought him a Cornell shirt, Glee Club/Chorus CD, scripts from our great skits, and copies of composites and party pics. He loved all of it. Chuck lived next door to me at Hillcrest in his last year, rooming with **EA Gerry (Tiger) Lachowicz '57** [now deceased]. They installed a cork tile floor, and Gerry painted a Parisian street scene on the wall; both survived for many years. Many of his best SAE friends have passed away: **Tiger, Dave Windham, and Gerry Ryan**.

"When I told Chuck that **Bob Knechtel '58** lives in nearby Coeur d'Alene, Chuck called Bob and invited him to join us for lunch and dinner at Hayden. A retired lawyer, Bob left Marin County (CA) for Idaho 11 years ago. We had a great time, marred only when Bob's bassett, Henry, chewed up Joan's rug. Chuck has stayed in touch with **Pete Huberth and Dave Mott**, both '56."

We have learned that David Einhorn '91 has joined the Cornell Board of Trustees, of which Bill Perez '69 is already a member. It is always nice to see our alumni so honored.

ANNOUNCING ... Great New Gifts for Qualifying Donors to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund

We've added new merchandise to our thank-you gift program—with this new, custom-designed Hillcrest logo! See qualifying gift levels below.*

Phi Alpha (\$150-\$299)

- 100% cotton twill baseball cap with NEW LOGO embroidered on front (wheat with dark purple logo)
- *Surrounded by Reality: 101 Things You Don't Know About Ithaca, NY* – Autographed by Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick '09

Founders (\$300-\$499)

- Hanes Tagless T-shirts – Black with NEW LOGO screen-printed in white
- Mousepads – printed with NEW LOGO!

True Gentleman (\$500-\$999)

- YETI Rambler Tumbler – 20 oz. with NEW LOGO etched in black
- Tie bars – Custom-designed tie bar with phoenix in gold electroplate (flame base in red)



Photos coming soon at www.sae-cornell.org!

We're also continuing to offer the usual merchandise from our current gift program; see www.sae-cornell.org/publicpay1.asp for more info.

**Thank-you gifts are based on annual giving totals to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund. After Cornell's giving year ends on June 30, 2016, you will be contacted regarding your gift selection/eligibility.*

Make a Gift

(F-2)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Levere Challenge (\$5,000 or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> True Gentleman (\$500-\$999) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noble Leslie DeVotie (\$3,000-\$4,999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Founders (\$300-\$499) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix (\$1,000-\$2,999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Phi Alpha (\$299 or less) |

Personal Information (please print):

Name _____ CU ID# _____ Gift Amount: \$ _____
Address _____
Email _____

Charge Your Gift:

Visa MC AmEx Disc.
Card # _____
Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

- Enclosed is my check, payable to **Cornell University**. On the memo line of your check, note: **Hillcrest SAE Development Fund #780108**. Gifts to the fund are tax deductible. Mail checks in the enclosed envelope to: NY Alpha Alumni Association of SAE, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.
- I have enclosed a separate check for \$ _____ to support _____.

If you would prefer to donate by phone, call 1-800-279-3099. If you would prefer to donate online, visit Cornell's secure website at <https://www.giving.cornell.edu/give>.

Matching Gift: Form is enclosed OR will be sent later.

Many companies have employee matching gift programs that will double or triple the value of your gift. To find out if your employer, or your spouse's employer, has a matching gift program, check with your human resources department or visit <http://tinyurl.com/match-sae>. Many companies match gifts of retirees and board members as well!