



# new york alpha news

NY Alpha Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon • Cornell University

## John Walter Wayland, Where Are You?

As my 30th reunion approaches this June, I plan my return to Cornell and to Hillcrest with more trepidation for SAE and the Greek system than I have ever felt. The events that our national fraternity has faced in the past year and those that led to our own chapter's suspension from Cornell a few years ago have certainly shaken my faith in being a brother of SAE. I know I am not alone. I recently ran into a former work colleague I had not seen in a few years, and he shared that his son and his friends, recent Bucknell grads and members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, decided to remove any mention of SAE from their resumes and LinkedIn pages. I even heard of one NY Alpha brother who recently resigned his brotherhood with SAE National over his concerns. It is obvious that pride in being an SAE brother has been hurt deeply.

In the midst of these complex feelings I received a mailing from the SAE alumni board about paying my annual dues. Therein I found a calendar wallet card with the words of the True Gentleman creed printed on the back. I took pause to read those words again. As the impact again seeped in about how a man should live his life and conduct himself each and every day, I asked myself, "John Walter Wayland, where are you?"

My thoughts turned back to my time as an active brother of NY Alpha and the words of this creed that I memorized during my pledging of SAE. They are words I have strived to live by since my induction into SAE all those years ago. But somehow these words have lost their meaning and their impact for a few misguided brothers and chapters in our fraternity. John Walter Wayland, where are you? SAE needs your words now more than ever.

*"The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity;*

*who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."*

That wallet card served as a gentle reminder of what our fraternity is truly supposed to be about. And while our True Gentleman creed still has a deep impact on me reading it as a mature man, it really strikes me how inspirational these words are to a boy discovering and defining his own manhood during his college years. They are words that can truly mold a young life at a critical juncture. How often in life are we truly given "words to live by"? It happened for me as a wide-eyed freshman. So I ask again today, John Walter Wayland, where are you?

**And then I come to this decisive answer: John Walter Wayland is in all of us. He is in every brother of NY Alpha who has taken his words to heart and who conducts himself as a True Gentleman in his own life.**

*(continued on page three)*

## Honoring Jim and Mike as True Gentlemen of NY Alpha



During our Reunion reception in June, we will be presenting **True Gentlemen of NY Alpha** awards to Jim Beckett '85 and Mike Slusar '86. These two brothers set a high bar with their passion and results over the past 15 years. Both have achieved more than anyone would have expected during their board tenure and did so with persistence and dedication.

As board members, Mike and Jim have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to improving NY Alpha with their dedication, leadership, and grit. You need only look around when you're at Hillcrest to see the facilities work led by Jim. Of course, vast sums of money were required for all that work—which Mike brought forth through his inspiring years as Development Fund chairman. Mike has also provided incomparable personal mentoring of new board members and actives alike during his long tenure.

## Celebrate 125 Years of NY Alpha ...

**BY VISITING HILLCREST ON JUNE 9-12, 2016!**

Check [www.sae-cornell.org](http://www.sae-cornell.org) for the latest details on our plans for Reunion '16.

Come join us at Hillcrest to see the work already done and the projects we have underway.

Hillcrest will be open on Friday afternoon until dark for family day. On Saturday we'll open up at noon, will hold our New York Alpha alumni board meeting at 2:00 p.m., and are hosting a gala reception from 4:00-6:00.

Scheduled alumni access to Hillcrest will be posted on the front door and on our website.



## What's Next on the Facilities Project List?

Getting the windows project details sorted out and the approvals secured was a task I don't want to tackle again real soon. Obstacles were thrown in our way at every step. But after lots of struggling and a show of rugged determination, all is well, and the project should remain on schedule. By the end of this summer or shortly thereafter, every window in Hillcrest will be replaced with a beautiful energy-efficient one that will last a long, long time (although probably not as long as the ones being replaced!).

Next on the project list is a new deck and replacement of the roof under it. Both are old and in obvious need of replacement. Our best estimate is that the cost to do both will be around \$150K. Take a look during Reunion weekend, and you'll clearly see the need. On

roughly the same timeline, we need to make a few kitchen upgrades, including new lighting, walk-in repair, washing room revamp, and some new tables. Our experts estimate costs (for the essentials) for this work at around \$50K.

Another fairly major project is developing an appropriate recreation room in the general area of the old chapter room and the surrounding rooms. While the details are far from final, early planning suggests the pool table be in the northwest corner and a large TV room where the chapter room and bar once stood. There are tentative designs that suggest opening the entire area up by eliminating some walls. The advantage of moving social activities to a designated area is that it keeps all of the boisterous activity off the main floor. A cleaner house is another benefit.

A fire alarm upgrade is also required during the execution of the above.

After these projects are completed, future ones are more cosmetic. But they are still necessary to complete over the next few years. Among them are furniture and flooring for the bedrooms, stairway flooring, and common-area restoration.

Hal Sieling '62  
halsieling@aol.com



*A bright corner of our new lake view lounge.*

## GET YOUR GOODS!

Our Hillcrest t-shirt, YETI Rambler Tumbler, and baseball cap are among the new thank-you gifts we're offering to qualifying donors to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund for the 2015-2016 giving year (which ends on June 30th). For more information, visit [www.sae-cornell.org/publicpay1.asp](http://www.sae-cornell.org/publicpay1.asp). These gifts augment our existing gift inventory, which includes the popular Hillcrest ceramic engraved coffee mug, framed Hillcrest watercolor, framed Hillcrest photo, framed plaque of Wayland's 1899 "Definition of The True Gentleman," and more.



## A Little Coaching From the 6s & 1s

Reunions in Ithaca are great fun, whether it is your year or an off year. This year is particularly exciting because we will be celebrating 125 years of NY Alpha at Cornell. Come by Hillcrest to relish the new view from the new lake view lounge, take a tour, and enjoy the company of old friends. The first of the new windows will have been installed by then, so you'll be able to check that out, too!

There are numerous free events that you will hear about from Cornell and many others as a part of your class programs. We published an article in our fall 2015 issue with some great ideas about reunion planning and special reunion opportunities! (Back issues are posted on our website ... or email [alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org](mailto:alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org) for a copy.)

The SAE alumni board is also organizing a number of SAE-specific events at Hillcrest. So keep checking our website at [www.sae-cornell.org](http://www.sae-cornell.org) regularly for updates. Our weekend schedule is posted on our website at the Calendar of Events link. As the date nears, we'll post more info right on the home page. In addition, at the beginning of the weekend, we'll put up a notice on the front door of Hillcrest listing the schedule of activities.

We are reaching out during reunion so you will remember and recommit ... and help SAE move forward again. What do we need? That's simple: your time helping and your support for continued improvements.

What is important is for each class to organize and encourage members to attend. Obviously, this starts with deciding you're in and then getting your classmates involved, too! The best way to do that is to talk with them.

What's more, we will help! Those of us on the alumni board who plan to attend will assist you in any way possible. Your efforts support our plan to make Reunion 2016 the best it can be. Please note that class member and class agent email addresses can be found on the Class Year Portals page on our website—including a "copy-and-paste" aggregated list for an email To: field.

**We've made it as easy. You make it work. Let us hear from you!** Send requests and questions to [alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org](mailto:alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org).

Cory G. Jackson Jr. '86  
Michael A. Slusar '86  
R. Neilan Teague Jr. '66  
David R. Gilkeson '76  
Brian A. Warshay '06  
Harold "Spike" Kunz Jr. '61

## John Walter Wayland, Where Are You?

(continued from page one)

So when I return to Hillcrest for my 30th reunion this year, I do so to renew the bonds of brotherhood with my pledge class, men I know to be True Gentlemen. I do so with my friends on the SAE alumni board, men I know to be True Gentlemen. And these thoughts alone restore my pride in being an SAE.

Further, they reinvigorate my resolve in being an SAE. They give purpose to my annual giving to SAE. These thoughts remind me of the very worthwhile goal I set with my alumni board membership: I want John Walter Wayland's words to continue to guide other young Cornell students' lives as they molded mine. That carries a deep meaning for me, and I hope it has a similar impact and meaning for all of you when you contemplate your future support for NY Alpha. For The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety... Be True... John Walter Wayland would have wanted it that way.

Mike Slusar '86  
SAE 30th Reunion Chair  
mslusar@embarqmail.com

**DON'T FORGET:  
LOG ON TO  
WWW.SAE-CORNELL.ORG  
& UPDATE YOUR PROFILE!**

## Musings From a New Board Member

Phi Alpha, gentlemen. I am writing this brief note with a sense of both excitement and urgency.

I am excited for a couple of reasons. I recently joined our NY Alpha board (officially just a few months ago during Homecoming), and there's a lot going on. Thanks in large part to your support, we have continued to make vast and significant structural improvements to Hillcrest, solidifying the foundation on which our chapter could return to campus. The physical upgrades and renovations make the house significantly more appealing to college students—and more sustainable in terms of occupancy and expenses. I hope we will be able to call it our own again.

Of course this brings to mind the broader prospect of NY Alpha's reinstatement. It has been a long time since undergrad Sig Alphas have thrived on West Campus. Thanks to unwavering alumni support and a lot of hard work, we have gradually been inching toward a potential return. We have done this by carefully and methodically executing some elements of the Strategic Plan we developed in 2011, and here is where I sense the urgency.

Construction and planning and meetings on the hill can only take us so far. There is still much more to do. The support of all NY Alpha brothers can help us work toward a return to Hillcrest. I know we are proud to be members of this chapter of this fraternity, but we also need still more monetary and volunteer support from those of you who can do more. We need eventually to refresh the line of True Gentlemen, but first we need to keep working on the renovation work and execute our plan. Those few of us on the board simply can't do what almost 1,200 liv-



ing alumni can when they collaborate, work, and dream big together.

Please continue to support and engage with NY Alpha. Redouble your efforts to participate. Join us as we work toward a continuation of our great and strong traditions at Cornell—and a fresh start at Hillcrest, our home.

Phi Alpha,  
Adam Schulman '09  
schulman11@gmail.com

## ny alpha alumni news & notes

In November we learned that **Bob Knechtel '58** was in the hospital with a rare illness, Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) with a Miller Fisher Variant. GBS is a treatable condition in which the immune system attacks the nerves. Full recovery takes several months of rehab. Find out how Bob's doing by writing him at 3087 W. Wilbur Ave., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815. You could also try calling his cell phone at (415) 699-3883.



A couple of fortunate grandparents, Pat and **Jay Cavanaugh '59** live in the same house with their son, Matt, his wife, Melissa, and their daughter, Abby, at 8725 Oxborough Ave.,

Bloomington, MN 55437. **Ron Demer '59** notes, "Jay still rolls along, and the joke was that, for a guy with a bad heart all these 30-odd years, he

must have the best cardiologist in the world!" Drop Jay an email at [jp\\_cavanaugh@aol.com](mailto:jp_cavanaugh@aol.com).

**Jim Glenn '59** reports that he and wife Gwen are well and doing what they love in the rural setting of Taos, New Mexico. "Family members visit at Christmas and in January for skiing." Grandson Patrick has graduated from Georgia Tech and started with Google in February. Catch up with Jim at P.O. Box 2270, Taos, NM 87571, or [jamesglenn@taosnet.com](mailto:jamesglenn@taosnet.com).



After a long legal career in Washington, D.C., **Jim Hobson '59** has retired and moved with wife Nan to Weaverville, North Carolina, a country town abutting Asheville. (They look pretty happy.) Reach them at 19 Rabbit Ridge Dr., Weaverville, NY 28787, or email Jim at [jrh9137@gmail.com](mailto:jrh9137@gmail.com).

"All is good for us," writes **Paul Grannis '60**. "It is remarkable how vivid those few years of one's life remain." Paul reports that he's still "peddling a few quarks," while wife Barbara still sells a few houses—"both of us awash in grandchildren." In the past year their travels have taken them to Sedona and the south rim of the Grand Canyon. In September, motivated by a family gathering in Tel Aviv, they traveled to "many of the scenic but currently dangerous spots in the Mideast: Istanbul, Aegean ports and islands, Athens, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Petra in Jordan." He adds, "We figured that we may not get back to that part of the world again and wanted to see places that had long been on our list. One highlight was a white linen tablecloth dinner amid the ruins of the Celsus Library in ancient Ephesus." Find out more by writing Paul at 1 Terrell Lane, Stony Brook, NY 11790, or [pgrannis@sunysb.edu](mailto:pgrannis@sunysb.edu).

(continued on page four)

# ny alpha alumni news & notes

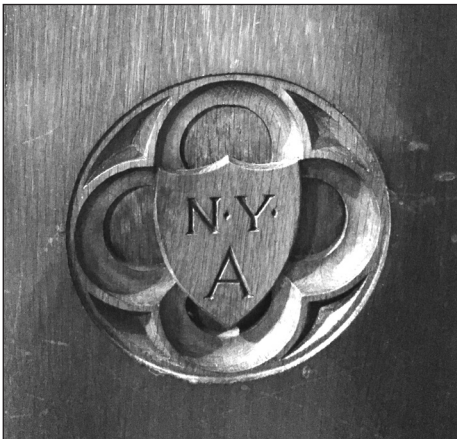
(continued from page three)

"Residing full time in Hilton Head, South Carolina," reports **Jim Baden '61**. "Working for Volunteers in Medicine here and keeping up my singing with the Hilton Head Barbershoppers. Lots of travel. See **Bill Standen '58** frequently. Drop by—great weather and golf here." (27 Dolphin Point Lane, Hilton Head, SC 29926; jpbadenmd@gmail.com)

When **Chuck Rhodes '61** called **Dave Armstrong '60** last fall to catch up, they spoke about the "unbelievable theft of the oak floors" from Hillcrest many years ago. Dave, who recalled that Chuck "knocked out a tooth on those boards," lives in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, and is wheelchair bound after an accident. Chuck, a physics professor at the University of Chicago, is working on an intellectual essay unrelated to physics titled "The Paradox of Reality." Email him at rhodes@uic.edu. Dave's email address is dhatremblant@gmail.com.

A retired university professor, **Christos Hadjithodoros '61** has been living in Patras (near Thessaloniki), Greece, since 1980. He writes, "Before that I spent 13 years in Puerto Rico. I don't move often, but I cover great distances. Nothing much has changed in my personal life. Patras is a pleasant town." As an undergrad, Christos was a Greek exchange student in the civil engineering school. SAE gave him room and board, and he also became a brother. Catch up with him by email at hadjithe@upatras.gr.

**Marshal Case '64** and his 2014 bride, Joanne, enjoyed a fall trip to Oregon's Pacific flyway, where migratory waterfowl numbers were "quite spectacular." Find out more by writing him at 408 Ehrich Rd., Shaftsbury, VT 05262, or marshaltcase@gmail.com.



Detail of the New York Alpha pew that was donated to the Levere Memorial Temple at SAE headquarters in Evanston.

"In good health and extremely active, with no retirement in the plans," reports **Ted Sprinkle '66**. He's living in Fairfield, Connecticut, with wife Cindy, who has retired as divisional CFO at Pitney Bowes. Daughter Caitlyn is a freshman at Skidmore and son Cole a freshman at Fairfield Country Day School. Ted commutes weekly to Saratoga Springs, New York, as CEO and chairman of Pet Partners, a consolidator of community veterinary hospitals. Get in touch by postal mail at 236 Sherwood Farm Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824, or email at ted.sprinkle@petpartnersusa.com.

**Ron Skalko '73** writes, "I had the opportunity to visit the Levere Memorial Temple at SAE headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, over Memorial Day Weekend in 2015 [see photo below]. My visit was a memorable experience that every SAE should make the effort to do. The two young men who escorted me on the tour of the facility could not have been more hospitable. I initially expected to spend an hour on the tour, but I ended up spending three! There were over 1,500 small U.S. flags placed on the front lawn of the temple. The flags were in remembrance of the SAE alums who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. It was a sight I will always remember." Contact him at 4900 Raven Way NE, Marietta, GA 30066, or rls73@comcast.net.

Kudos to **Steve Klein '77**, who has a new job as vice president for enrollment management at Albion College in Michigan. He now makes his home in Battle Creek: 171 S. Lincoln Blvd., Battle Creek, MI 49015. Email Steve at sklein869@gmail.com.



**Karl Habib '81** is general manager of the Spring Lake Golf Club in New Jersey. Pictured are Karl with his wife, Karen, and their son, Michael, Cornell '16. Karl played varsity hockey at Cornell and was elected to Sphinx Head. Reach him at karl@springlakegolfclub.net.

In February, Ithaca Mayor **Svante Myrick '09** was named a "game-changer" by NBCBLK as one of 28 people "redefining what it means to be black in America." NBCBLK28 was a profile series by the NBC network honoring 28 men and women, 28 years old and younger, held during February in recognition of Black History Month. According to the press release, Svante was noted for his impact in City Hall, including his push to create affordable housing in the city and his local

implementation of the Obama administration's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative. The initiative is a national effort to "address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color." Send congrats by email to him at svantem@gmail.com.

Congratulations to U.S. Army officers **Peter Young '11** and wife Erin, who were promoted to the rank of captain last year. They've since transitioned from the military and moved to Falls Church, Virginia, where Peter is working as a senior consultant with DeLoitte & Touche. Note their new address: 2580 Katherine Paige Lane, Apt. #101, Falls Church, VA 22042. He writes, "It's great to hear that the development of Hillcrest is going so well. I enjoyed the pictures from Reunion and the weddings. **Greg Cohn '11** got married this past fall; it was a riot getting together with so many of the guys." Peter was saddened to hear about **Peter Heylin's ('65)** passing. He concludes, "Give my regards to Ron and the council." Email him at peter.d.young12.mil@mail.mil.

## Chapter Eternal

**John H. Graves '41**

May 24, 2015

**David S. Ketchum '41**

October 10, 2015

**John P. Gould '47**

October 7, 2015

**Robert F. Vance '51**

November 25, 2015

**Allen G. Potter Jr. '54**

January 1, 2015

**Philip H. Ackert Jr. '55**

January 23, 2016

**Lawrence J. Fanning '55**

December 5, 2015

**Todd M. Jenkins '59**

\*notified March 2016

**Wilson P. Burns Jr. '62**

November 23, 2015

**James A. Gordon '72**

January 28, 2016

**Carl M. Sebris '76**

October 30, 2015

*As the result of a comprehensive data cross-check, we learned of the passing of almost 30 alumni since our last issue, many from years ago. The deaths listed here are from 2015 and 2016 to date. The complete list is on our website at [www.sae-cornell.org/public1.asp](http://www.sae-cornell.org/public1.asp).*

## 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](mailto:alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org) or to Alumni Records Office, NY Alpha Alumni Association of SAE, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.