



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE...

Be a part of it!

We had a great fundraising year in fiscal 2016-17; we raised \$108,000, even exceeding our goal! We would especially like to thank our first-time donors, our continuous donors, and all donors who increased their gift amount this year. Your support allowed us to replace the much-needed second-floor deck at Hillcrest. Thanks to consistent support of the Hillcrest Development Fund, we have invested over \$1.5 million in improvements to Hillcrest in the last six years. This is one key element supporting our proposal to recolonize.

If you haven't been to Hillcrest recently, you would be surprised at the impact these gifts have made. The lake view lounge is an asset that brings the view from the first floor to your eyes as soon as you walk through the front door. The new windows are a wonderful yet practical addition—sorely needed for years. And finally, the new deck confirms even to skeptics that Hillcrest has the best view in town. But there's still more to do to create a first-class facility that is highly competitive with other campus offerings. With your continued support, it will all be done.

We now have another major project ahead that we need to fund. Planning is underway to make significant improvements to the chapter room and the rooms nearby. The plan is to convert that area into a 21st-century "rec room" with modern upgrades. The improvements will include creating a TV lounge area in the old chapter room and installing such entertainment options as indoor shuffleboard, electronic darts, and, of course, a new pool table in an adjoining room. Some walls would be removed

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Reunion Weekend Draws a Crowd

Ithaca served up the best she has to offer for Reunion 2017: blue skies, pleasant temperatures, low humidity.

For this long-time resident of the Gulf Coast, it was a welcome escape, but good weather was just a bonus. The headline for SAE this weekend in June was the camaraderie at Hillcrest—old friendships renewed, new ones being made. Since I've returned only every five years for my official class reunions, this was my first time to attend an "off-year" reunion. I am always amazed how easy it is to pick up right where you left off with people you knew at SAE many years ago (approaching 50, in my case). Our common bond—our experiences at Hillcrest—makes it easy to form the board sat in and contributed to the new friendships, even across generations.

The weekend kicked off on Friday with Family Day, an informal event during which

brothers drop by with family and friends, tour the house, and find out who's in town. Some brought a picnic lunch or ordered pizza while others played games outside. It was an all-day affair, so it was easy for people to stop by before or after other events they were attending. Needless to say, it was a very laid-back experience. In all, 35-45 brothers, along with guests, showed up sometime during the day.

On Saturday, the alumni board met in the afternoon. About half the board members attended in person, while the rest dialed in. A half-dozen brothers not on

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Kevin Merriman '88 (left) with Gus Noojin '69.



SRO crowd at Hillcrest on June 10 for Reunion.

Recent Grad? Hyduke Has a Message for You!

Brothers,

You've heard the news. The application for NY Alpha's reinstatement has been submitted. Thank you to all who have spent countless hours getting us to this point. And although this is a significant step, our journey is far from over.

In June 2016, I attended my 10-year class reunion in Ithaca. It was then that I heard the call to get involved. Over the past 12 months, I have focused my efforts on young-alumni engagement. With the help

of Jon Hill '03, Adam Schulman '09, and members of the alumni board, we have designed an outreach strategy targeting young alumni. Many of these ideas came from discussions with NY Alphas like you. You contributed, without even knowing. See how easy it is!

In all seriousness, we encourage everyone to get involved. We understand that our fellow brothers are busy with careers and families, but even small contributions make a huge difference. Easy things like paying

your annual alumni dues go a long way. Now more than ever, we need all brothers to come together for our common cause.

As we move forward with young-alumni engagement, we look forward to hearing from you as you share your thoughts, comments, and ideas. Please do not hesitate to reach out!

Jon Hyduke '06
jon.hyduke@gmail.com

Reunion

(continued from front)

meeting. The business of the meeting was handled in short order, but the post-meeting conversations bridged the gap until the alumni reception began.

Total attendance at the reception was approximately 65. Attendees enjoyed a variety of offerings generously donated by alumni, including Steve Hindy's ('71) Brooklyn Brewery and the Nicholson brothers' (Brian and Mark, both '94) Red Jacket Orchards. The highlight of the reception was the presentation of the True Gentleman Award to Kevin Merriman '88, past president of the NYA Alumni Association. The spring edition of the *New York Alpha News* chronicled how deserving Kevin is of this award. We also recognized Ron Demer '59, who received the Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award for 2017 at Homecoming. In addition, we presented an MVP award to Lisa Wood of Elevate/Stewart Howe for 35 years of behind-the-scenes service to NY Alpha. Finally, I was excited to announce that we are moving forward with our effort to reinstate the NY Alpha Chapter. In fact, a very important guest at the reception was Kara Miller, the newly appointed director of Cornell's office of sorority and fraternity life. We were honored that she chose to attend our event.

Nearly everyone attending marveled at what good shape Hillcrest is in. The \$1.5 million investment we have made really shows. The class of '67 made a good showing for its 50th reunion, with six signing in at some point during the weekend, while the class of '62 had eight brothers plus wives and significant others for its 55th.

Will you be there in 2018? Make plans now to come see Hillcrest in her second century and



The perfect Cornell Reunion shot (l to r): Mike Cooke '92, Darryl Tom '92, Steve Nicholas '92, Kari O'Conner '92, and Keith Barr '92.



Mike Slusar '86 (right) pets the lion while Hal Sieling '62 stands guard.

experience the friendship and camaraderie that abound during Reunion. It's one thing to read about it but quite another to experience it. If you haven't been to a Reunion at Hillcrest lately, I encourage you to make a plan to experience it firsthand, whether it's your Reunion year or not.

Gus Noojin '69
gusnoojin3@gmail.com

Live in or traveling to NYC?

DON'T MISS RED HOT HOCKEY!

How about meeting up on Saturday, November 25, at Brother Jimmy's BBQ (416 Eighth Ave.) before the **Red Hot Hockey** game between **Cornell** and **Boston University** at Madison Square Garden.

Game time is 8:00 p.m.

Join other NY Alpha Alumni who will be there for drinks, dinner or both. Kids welcome!

http://www.brotherjimmys.com/eight_ave

Sign up at alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org



A '69 mini-reunion (l to r): Gus Noojin, Lyle Tutbill, Bob Kolton, and Frank Powell.

Demer '59 Receives Rhodes Award



In celebrating the 23rd anniversary of the Frank H.T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Awards, the highest honor that Cornell confers on alumni volunteers, we congratulate Ronald Demer '59, one of several winners for 2017. Ron has earned this award with his devotion, long service, and commitment to his alma mater. Along with the other recipients, he combined great skill, experience, wisdom, and the true spirit of volunteering. He was his class president for a number of terms, a member of Quill and Dagger, and is a generous financial supporter of Cornell. In addition, he is a longtime board member of NY Alpha and served as chapter advisor.

Geoff Ryan '90
gwryan913@gmail.com

Rising to the Challenge

(continued from front)

between the rooms to facilitate traffic flow and open the area up. We are also planning new and improved ceramic wood-grain flooring as well as new wall finishes. Indirect lighting and temperature control will also be installed in all areas. I'm excited about seeing the rec room space develop into a place where brothers can gather, find others to talk with, and relax.

On behalf of the NY Alpha Alumni Association, I would like to thank each of you for your continued interest, support, and donations of both time and treasure. By naming the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund as the designee of your next Cornell Fund donation, you can do your part to support our ongoing efforts and update our cherished home. Your tax-deductible gift supports both Cornell and SAE and will help us build an SAE chapter that is "the model for Greek life in the 21st century."

Ron Skalko '73
rls73@comcast.net

Hillcrest Improvements Continue to Impress!

Hillcrest is in better physical shape than it has been at any time since the early '60s. Spending nearly \$1.5 million on renovations in the past six years has had a significant and dramatic impact—with more to come.

Although the project was finished a little late, the new deck is a thing of beauty. We've included a photo here, and there are more at the facilities link on our website. Thanks to generous alumni contributions, our brand new deck is safe, beautiful, and fitting for Hillcrest's future. The deck remains a key feature of NY



The new deck: a thing of beauty!

Alpha and still offers the best lake view in town.

Next up on our list of projects is to create a versatile and compelling magnet space for social contact/activity in the north end of the basement (formerly the chapter room and surrounding rooms). Having a "rec room" in this area where students can hang out is an obvious advantage, as it is away and distinctly separate from the bedrooms and the more formal first floor. A designated rec room promises students a relaxing place to gather any time of day or night to find people watching TV, playing games, or just socializing while others are upstairs studying, sleeping, or tending to other things.

The first step in developing the rec room concept was a facilities team study combining the expertise of brothers in the hospitality business, an architect, and others who added visuals of the "look and feel" of the space. The design firm work-

ing on the project is taking into consideration what today's students need and want in spaces like this, along with collecting information about how the area has been used by residents in the past.

There are essentially four rooms involved. The former chapter room would be the main area for a giant TV and sound system. The other rooms would be fitted with table games, such as pool, air hockey, foosball, Ping Pong, etc. A second TV will be in the west room, which will be furnished with high-top tables and chairs. A table with charging ports and perhaps a card table or two might be included as well.

The ambiance will be casual, with good lighting, temperature control, attractive walls and flooring, and comfortable furniture that can be easily moved around. This makes the space versatile and adaptable for many occasions.

The next step is for the design firm to generate great conceptual ideas for this space using its expertise with similar projects. Our ideas will be added to theirs so they can put together a final recommendation for our approval. Then the firm's task will be to develop plans and the work papers for construction bids. Ceilings, walls, floors, and wall openings are all up for grabs. The furnishings and games will be the purview of the facilities committee, with eventual input from the design firm and prospective users.

We anticipate that construction costs will exceed \$150,000, so support from alumni will be critical to its completion. We have been so fortunate already, with a tremendous outpouring of support building in recent years, and we hope this will continue apace.

Construction is slated for next summer. Some preliminary work will also be done in the kitchen during this timeframe, but additional kitchen upgrades will be needed prior to re-occupancy. Fortunately, much of the groundwork for the kitchen has already been done by the facilities committee.

A bit further down the road, cosmetic work is also needed in several common areas of Hillcrest. But more on those projects later.

All of this has been possible because our alumni are rising to the challenge, for which we are deeply grateful.

Hal Sieling '62
halsieling@aol.com

ny alpha alumni news & notes



Pictured above, from left, are **Glenn Light '58**, **Bill Kingston '59**, and **Ron Demer '59**. Glenn and Bill stayed at Ron's home when they came to Ithaca September 29-30 to celebrate the '58 men's crew and its clean sweep in the IRA (Intercollegiate Rowing Association) races at Onondaga Lake in the spring of 1958. Glenn was commodore (captain). The Big Red won all three events: varsity, JV, and freshman. **Dave Nisbet '62** also attended the festivities. Ron makes his home in Ithaca at 48 Wedgewood Dr. (14850). Email him at rondemer1@gmail.com.



The painting of Douglas D. Crowe '61 has been professionally cleaned and restored in anticipation of its return to the Hillcrest memorial honoring Doug. A U.S. Army captain, he was killed in Vietnam. Doug's parents commissioned the painting and donated it to the NY Alpha Chapter.

Last January, **Bob McCabe '65**, former assistant coach for hockey, attended the 50th reunion of the 1967 Cornell Men's NCAA Championship team. If you visit Vero Beach, reach out to Bob at 248-421-7301 or RobertJMcCabe@aol.com.

Kudos to **Keith Barr '92**, who took over the reins as CEO of the InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) on July 1. Keith succeeded the

former CEO, Richard Solomons, who joined the IHG 25 years ago and retired on August 30. Brother Barr has been with the IHG for the past 17 years, most recently as chief commercial officer. He has also become a member of IHG's board. Keith has held senior leadership positions in IHG's Americas, Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Greater China divisions, including four years as CEO of IHG's Greater China business. Send congratulations to him at keith.barr@ihg.com.

Darryl Tom '92 writes, "In July, **Keith Barr '92**, who had just been promoted [see above], **Steven Nicholas '92**, **Mark Spaulding '92**, and I visited the serene waters of the Green River in Utah for a guided float fly-fishing trip." [Photo below.] "Everyone managed to haul in some trout." Darryl lives in Chicago at 1827 W. Cornelia Ave., Chicago, IL 60657. Email him at darryl.tom@gmail.com.



Greg Coladonato '93 reports that he and his wife, Maia (Kappa Delta '92), and three kids live in Silicon Valley. Greg hosts a Hot Truck party each fall, and all SAEs are welcome. Visitors to the Bay Area are welcome to reach out at gcoladon@gmail.com. (P.O. Box 1138, Mountain View, CA 94042)

Congrats are also in order for **Rob Ceske '89**, who has been elected to the board of directors of the Quill & Dagger Alumni Association. Rob has taken a new role at KPMG, now leading insurance risk. Rob makes his home at 165 Brewster Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583. Catch up with him by email at rob@ceske.org.

Chapter Eternal

Horatio Wood Bacon II '45

December 11, 2016

Russell O. Blaisdell '41

November 3, 2012

Rudolph C. Metzner '58

September 5, 2017

1992

It was my graduation year. It was also the year that one of the early web browsers, Mosaic (later Netscape), was developed, and the year that Congress allowed the internet to be used commercially. That certainly explains why I went through college without email or the internet, but it also explains why, looking back, I'm surprised that we didn't because we were so close to the "birth" of the modern Internet.

Electronic communication continues to evolve, and we hope to bring exciting news in the coming months as we work toward returning NY Alpha to campus. You will continue to receive the *NY Alpha News* delivered via postal mail, but we will also be reaching out through emails, as well as postings on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/saenyalpha/) and LinkedIn (search for the "Sigma Alpha Epsilon - New York Alpha" group).

Using the data maintained by our alumni relations vendor, Elevate Integrated Marketing Services (formerly Stewart Howe), we were able to pin each alumnus on an electronic map: <https://www.easymapmaker.com/map/SAENY-ALPHA> (password="hillcrest"). If you notice incorrect information, please email Lisa Wood at lwood@elevateims.com.

Brotherhood is for life. My best friends and the friendships we made were forged at Hillcrest.

That may not be true for everyone, but I would like to think that the one to four years you spend at Hillcrest mean something beyond your college years. Whether you're seeking career advancement or advice, business networking, or where to go for your next fly-fishing vacation, I encourage everyone to reach out to other brothers, whether you actually went to school with them or not.

Darryl Tom '92
darryl.tom@gmail.com

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