



## Moving Forward ... Plus Your 2019 Reunion Challenge!



As noted in the last issue of the *New York Alpha News*, your alumni association board is continuing to work on things that we control and that will enhance our case for recolonization when

the time comes. The facilities committee continues to look for a feasible approach for transforming the basement to create a welcoming gathering space and recreation area. This is not an easy task in the face of high construction costs and limited funds. But the committee is determined, and I am confident it will find a way.

Work is continuing to develop a robust model for advising a new colony and, eventually, an active undergraduate chapter. The efforts to find and deploy other best practices will increase as we approach the submittal of the next application. I continue to believe that these efforts will significantly strengthen our next application.

As noted previously, we continue to have productive dialogue at multiple levels in the university administration. Our message has consistently been that we want to create a model chapter and be part of the effort to improve the Greek system at Cornell.

Meanwhile, SAE National continues to demonstrate that it is serious about adherence to its standards for behavior. A key part of rebuilding the SAE brand has been National's commitment to closing chapters for health and safety violations or behavioral concerns. It is a difficult decision to close a chapter, but when the wellbeing of brothers is compromised, it is necessary to

act decisively and consistently, sending a clear message in the process.

Your alumni association board recently unanimously approved the creation of the George Desdunes Memorial Fund. The fund's

Alumni can make tax-deductible donations to Cornell designated for the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund. The first investment by the fund will be to sponsor the keynote at the annual AD White Greek Summit in

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mission is "to honor the memory of George Desdunes '13 by investing in educational programs aimed at preventing the circumstances that led to his death." The operative concepts in this mission are prevention and education. The intent is to provide educational programs that help students recognize risks and take appropriate action when faced with potentially dangerous situations.

Both Cornell and SAE National feature education as part of their recently announced reforms. Our intent is to find ways to complement these programs without duplicating them. The board's fundraising committee will be tasked with finding suitable programs and recommending them to the full board for approval. Funding will come from the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund, which also funds capital improvements to Hillcrest.

November. The speakers will be three sets of parents who have lost sons in hazing incidents. These parents made a very impactful presentation at last year's SAE Leadership Conference.

Reunion 2019 is fast approaching! As noted in the last issue of the *New York Alpha News* (continued on page four)



**Join us for Reunion at Hillcrest!**  
June 6-9

## Reunion Weekend Schedule for NY Alpha Alumni

### *Please note:*

**Parking at Hillcrest will be at a premium this year. Please carpool if possible, especially on Saturday. If the lot is full, Libe Slope is available and an easy walk away.**

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 7**

**1:00 p.m. until dark**

#### **Open House**

This is a great time to visit Hillcrest on your own with family and friends.

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

#### **Class gatherings**

(email us if you want contact info for your class for planning purposes!)

**3:30 p.m. (approx.)**

#### **Q&A session**

Discussion of our vision and strategy for recolonization.

**5:00 p.m.**

**Gathering on the new deck to catch the sunset and toast Reunion attendees**

### **SATURDAY, JUNE 8**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Hillcrest doors open around noon**

**2:00 p.m.**

**NY Alpha Alumni Association board meeting in the Treadwell Library**

**4:00-6:00 p.m.**

**Alumni reception**

**5:15 p.m.**

**Awards ceremony**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Class of '69 dinner in dining room**

## Return to Hillcrest this June for Reunion

Reunion is just two months away, June 6 to 9. It's a great time of year in Ithaca, and we're making plans for events at Hillcrest to make it memorable. We encourage all of you to stay engaged and support the work of NY Alpha!

Each year we offer a little more incentive to increase participation during the long weekend. Over the last six years, we have had more participation each year. This June we are expecting a record turnout.

It doesn't have to be your reunion year for you to visit Hillcrest on this June

weekend! Several members of the NY Alpha board have formed an SAE "Continuous Reunion Club." We come back every year because we have so much fun! In fact, you can have more fun in non-reunion years because there are fewer class-based social obligations.

Please join us! If I can be of any assistance in your planning, I'd love to hear from you.

Ron Skalko '73  
rls73@comcast.net

## Facilities Report: Upgrades, Improvements Underway and on the Horizon

Our main progress at Hillcrest this year has been installation of the radon mitigation system and some work in the kitchen. The radon project was necessary because after testing it was determined there was a problem in the basement. Accordingly, a system was installed to blow air out of the basement area into the atmosphere above the roof. It is a fairly common problem around Ithaca. Fortunately, the solution was pretty straightforward and not too expensive.

In the kitchen, new lighting was installed, and the step under the stove was

floor was also installed in the walk-in.

We continue to work on ideas for the rec room project, but no timetable has been agreed on at this point. We are looking into using Ardex as the flooring in the rec room. It is a self-leveling floor compound that's substantially cheaper than tile. It would have a slightly institutional/industrial look, and is not as fancy as tile, but its lack of seams and grout would be good for cleanup—something our next generation of house managers would appreciate. It can also be tiled over in the future if we determine that we want another

**"The kitchen work was paid for by Cornell as part of our agreement to let SAM use the house."**

finally removed to allow proper cleaning under the equipment. The biggest chunk of work was redoing the dishwashing room. Easy-to-clean wall covering was installed and a new ceiling put up to help exhaust the steam generated in the room when operating the dish machine. The kitchen work was paid for by Cornell as part of our agreement to let SAM use the house. A new

finish.

Two cottonwood trees were taken down to prevent damage to the wing roof and eliminate debris that frequently plugs up the drains.

Next up during spring break is some asbestos abatement on the main stairs and also in the rec room area.

Come take a look at Hillcrest during the Reunion festivities in June. Reunion is going to be a big deal this year. We expect a record turnout, especially by '69 brothers for their big 5-0. Classes of '64, '59, '89, '94, '09, and others will be well represented too.

We add our thanks especially to the alums who continue to give to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund.....are YOU one of them?

Hal Sieling '62  
halsieling@aol.com



## Class of '59 Set to Return for Its 60<sup>th</sup>

June 7-9, 2019, is the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion of my SAE pledge class. We entered Cornell in the fall of '55 and pledged in January of '56, just in time to celebrate SAE's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary that March with a formal

recall ever having it again at SAE. Every time I have lobster now I think back to that night, and to the wonderful years it launched.

The next day the new pledges were

Eshbaugh, and I. Ted Munday and Bill Tyler may make it. Not attending for various reasons are Hugh Zimmers, Jim Glenn, Art Geoffrion, Howie Miller, and Dick Hyde. As of the time of this writing, we have

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dinner and dance celebration with the Syracuse chapter. We were the first Cornell class that was not rushed upon arrival in an effort by the university to let freshmen acclimate to college life before joining fraternities.

The final Friday rush dinner on bid night included a lobster dinner at Hillcrest. I had never tasted lobster, and do not

asked to identify any good freshmen they knew who had not pledged. Jim Glenn was one of a few who were brought back for another look. He was pledged, became president of our pledge class, and was eminent archon and a Sphinx Head in his senior year.

Returning in June will be Kent Hewitt, Bill Kingston, Jim Hobson, Jim Day, Hardy

not heard from Rennie Boericke or Bob Brothers.

Deceased are Lew Barnes, Gene Case, Jay Cavanaugh, Jim Haskins, Stu Knight, Tom Marshall, Dick Rogus, Ron Self, Todd Jenkins, and Warren Wagner.

Ron Demer '59  
rondemer1@gmail.com

## Inspired by your upcoming Reunion? Share our vision!

Dear Fellow Brothers,

Since 2011 we have overseen significant improvements and restoration at Hillcrest totaling over \$1,500,000! Truly, that is an amazing accomplishment. Of course, we are not finished. We are now in the active planning stages for the public areas on the bottom floor as well as our kitchen. We can transform

Fund is tax deductible.

Those of us on the alumni board of NY Alpha express our sincere appreciation for your past support of both Cornell University and our fraternity. We are hoping that we can count on your participation once again this year as we approach the close of this year's Cornell Fund year.

**"Despite adversity, you have been steadfast and very generous to Hillcrest and the New York Alpha Alumni Association."**

these spaces to become well used activity areas for the active brothers of Hillcrest. Of course, your continued financial support is needed.

Despite adversity, you have been steadfast and very generous to Hillcrest and the New York Alpha Alumni Association. Through everyone's efforts we have achieved some amazing results, and I am confident we will continue to do so.

Please remember that giving to SAE through Cornell will double the impact of your gift. It will count once for Cornell and once for NY Alpha. You can also double the amount of your gift with corporate matches! And don't forget, a gift through Cornell to the Hillcrest SAE Development

You can mail your gift to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund #780108, or you can give to SAE through Cornell's secure alumni website using this link: <http://www.giving.cornell.edu/give>.

We look forward to having you join the brothers who have already allocated at least part of their Cornell giving this year to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund. In return, the volunteers on the SAE alumni board promise to keep working hard on your behalf to bring SAE back to Cornell.

Please join us in honoring Hillcrest again this year!

Ron Skalko '73  
Fundraising Chair  
rls73@comcast.net

## *Did You Know You Can Pay Your Dues with PayPal?*

Dear Brothers:

I hope you are aware that we recently launched a new way for you to contribute your annual dues via PayPal. We have received an overwhelming response since making the announcement in January. Thank you to all those who answered the call. We hope you find this new feature most helpful going forward.

New initiatives such as this are important as we continue our outreach efforts. Implementation of PayPal was something that materialized after receiving feedback from our community. I ask that people do not hesitate to reach out with any ideas. Constant collaboration is something that will allow us continued success in the future.

Jon Hyduke '06  
jon.hyduke@gmail.com



# ny alpha alumni news & notes

In November, '59ers **Jim Day** and **Dick Hyde** had lunch together in NYC. Dick was in town for his usual week's visit to the "big city," which had been delayed from June due to knee problems. He was there with his two sisters rather than his wife, and they really enjoyed their time together. They always like to catch up each year, as old age looms. Then Jim met with **Hardy Eshbaugh '59**, who was in NYC for his last Atlantic Salmon Fisheries Board meeting; he has served on the board since 2002. Hardy is doing well, and they had a great time reminiscing. Dick Hyde won't be able to attend Reunion because one of his nieces is getting married that weekend. The Eshbaughs and Jim Day will attend. Here are email addresses for all three: jcday0126@gmail.com (Jim), eshbauwh@miamiohio.edu (Hardy), and richardhyde@aol.com (Dick).

Writes **Ron Demer '59**, "When I saw **Cal Allen's** ('58) new email address [acamo3637@gmail.com], I thought it was Hawaiian—'aca moa.' Then I thought about it and recalled Cal's full name, which we all had to learn as pledges for important reasons such as this. Thus 'aca' stands for Abner Calloway Allen, 'moa' stands for Marsha O'Kane Allen, 36 is his birth year (1936), and 37 is her birth year (1937). His reaction: 'Damn, I thought that even the CIA would be stumped with that code.'" Catch up with Ron at rondemer1@gmail.com or 48 Wedgewood Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850.

"Looking forward to my 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion!" announces **Ron Hewitt '69**. Get in touch with "Sloth" by email at rshew@tds.net or by postal mail at 65 Checkerberry Lane, Henniker, NH 03242.

**Jon Hill '02**, along with his wife, Sarah, recently hosted an SAE get-together. **Ethan Auerbach '02**, **Chad Contino '03**, **Ben Salter '03**, **Jeff Massa '04**, **Ben Farrer '04**, **Jordan Funk '04**, and **Nate Resnick '04** were all in attendance, and between the eight of them, there were 13 kids in attendance—with two more on the way. Of the event, Jon says, "It was a lot of fun (but maybe not as much fun as we had at Ruloff's)!" Want to get in touch with Jon? Write him at 42 Springdale Rd., Scarsdale, NY 10583, or hilljonathan@hotmail.com.



*Zach Taylor '93 (left) and Jeff Robinson '91 (right) at the Cornell v. Harvard game in December.*



*From left: Eric Wenger '90, Steve Sinaiko '89, and Rob Ceske '89 at Frozen Apple game in November (vs. "Haaahvard").*

## Moving Forward...

*(continued from page one)*

York Alpha News, your alumni association will have access to Hillcrest Friday and Saturday of Reunion Weekend for alumni events. Friday will be an open house, which will be a great opportunity to bring the family, tour the house, meet up with brothers, enjoy the view from the deck, and interact with board members about our outlook and plans for the future. Saturday's alumni

association board meeting will be open to all interested alumni. This will be followed by the alumni reception. Even if it is not a reunion year for your class, come on out to see the facilities and enjoy the camaraderie at Hillcrest. If it is your year (the 4s and 9s), I hereby issue a challenge: My class is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, and we expect 30-40 brothers and spouses. Mobilize your class and see if you can top us!

Gus Noojin '69  
President  
gusnoojin3@gmail.com

## Chapter Eternal

**William J. Mann '53**  
October 6, 2018

**J. Brian Dillon '55**  
December 17, 2018

**David E. Cochrane '66**  
November 7, 2018

**Robert J. McFann Jr. '73**  
December 14, 2018

**DON'T FORGET: LOG ON TO [WWW.SAE-CORNELL.ORG](http://WWW.SAE-CORNELL.ORG) & UPDATE YOUR PROFILE!**