



# NEW YORK ALPHA NEWS

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • CORNELL UNIVERSITY

## A LOOK BACK AND A LOOK FORWARD



**Gus Noojin '69 | President, New York Alpha Alumni Association**  
gusnoojin3@gmail.com

The weather gods smiled on us for Reunion 2019 this June. As you well know, four consecutive days of mild, dry, sunny weather is a rarity in Ithaca. It was the perfect backdrop for our annual alumni reception at Hillcrest. The recently refurbished deck was the preferred venue to enjoy the lake view, have a cold one (thanks again to Steve Hindy '71), reconnect with old friends, and make new ones. With 17 brothers and three little sisters attending, my class (the '69ers) had a memorable 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. It was the largest turnout ever for our class and included three first-timers. Other classes also made strong showings.

fund will be to sponsor the keynote speakers at the A.D. White Annual Summit for Greeks in November. The speakers will be three sets of parents who have lost sons in hazing incidents (none at ΣAE chapters). These same parents made a very impactful presentation at the ΣAE Leadership Conference in 2018. In anticipation of a large turnout, the event will be held in Bailey Hall. If you can make it to campus for this, I strongly encourage you to do so. Our hope is that this event will benefit the entire Cornell community.

Looking forward to 2020, we expect to be invited to apply for recognition by the university and, if successful, begin the process of estab-

we have done incredibly well at this, but more is needed.

For those who have faithfully supported us, thank you—and please continue. For those who want to help but have remained on the sidelines, see above. When it comes to donations, the number of donors is as important as the dollars raised. Continuing the sports analogy, as we approach the next application, it will be time for more of us to get off the bench and into the game. An important part of our application will be the chapter advising model. The model we have developed envisions a five-member (minimum) board of advisors that will meet monthly. Advisors will also be expected to interact with selected active members bi-weekly. While face-to-face meetings are desirable, teleconferencing will prob-

*“Looking forward to 2020, we expect to be invited to apply for recognition by the university and, if successful, begin the process of establishing a new ΣAE colony. We have been in contact with ΣAE National about the process. ... An important factor in a successful application will be to demonstrate strong alumni support.”*

Several key members of the Cornell administration chose to take time out of their Saturday schedules to spend time at our reception. Among these were Ryan Lombardi, VP student and campus life, Kara Miller McCarty, director of sorority and fraternity life, and Dale Williams, our good friend and key day-to-day contact in OSFL. It was important for them to see a large number of our alumni showing their interest and support. For administrators and alumni alike, where you show up says a lot about what is important to you.

Now to the near future. In the last issue of the *New York Alpha News*, we told you about the establishment of the George Desdunes Memorial Fund. Its purpose is to honor George's memory by investing in educational programs aimed at preventing the circumstances that led to his death. The first investment from the

lishing a new ΣAE colony. We have been in contact with ΣAE National about the process. National is prepared to develop and submit an application and to provide the resources to recruit new members and form a colony. We continue to maintain constructive relationships with the Cornell administration, and I believe they want us to be successful. An important factor in a successful application will be to demonstrate strong alumni support. We intend to be present to make this case when the application is reviewed by the growth committee.

What does alumni support look like? I am often asked, “What can I do to help?” Until now, my answer has been “come to Reunion, contribute to the Hillcrest Development Fund, and pay your dues.” Considering that we have not had an active chapter for nearly nine years,

ably be required for practical reasons. So you don't have to live near Ithaca to be an advisor.

This might sound like a big commitment, but it is important, and we need you now. This is my updated answer to those who've asked, “What can I do to help?”

Please stand with us!



## THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

**Jon Hyduke '06 | Outreach Committee Chair**  
[jon.hyduke@gmail.com](mailto:jon.hyduke@gmail.com)

This past June, I had the pleasure of returning to Cornell for Reunion Weekend. I got to meet so many brothers from several different class years. It is incredible how Hillcrest can bring so many different people together for one common purpose. Hillcrest means so much to so many people. We are fortunate to continue to have this place we can call home.

One of the highlights of the weekend was witnessing the class of '69 return for its 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. It was such an amazing thing to see brothers together after 50 years of friendship. Listening to them recount stories from 50 years ago, under the same roof, was truly special. Those moments are why I strive to give back. I want everyone to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in the halls of Hillcrest.

Unfortunately, I cannot do this alone. I need the help of each and every one of you. The easiest way to contribute is to pay your annual alumni dues. This goes a long way in supporting our efforts. As a reminder, we now allow payment of these dues via PayPal to make it easier than ever. Go to [www.sae-cornell.org](http://www.sae-cornell.org), click on "How to Give" on the left side of the page, and select the PayPal option. In addition to paying your annual dues, I encourage you to reach out to your brothers. We're always looking for ways to stay in touch and engage our alumni community.

## TWEAKING THE TIMELINE ON OUR GRAND PLAN FOR HILLCREST

**Hal Sieling '62 | Facilities Chair**  
[halsieling@aol.com](mailto:halsieling@aol.com)

As some of you will recall, we have had the chapter room area on target for restoration for quite some time. While the planning for that has continued and is only a few weeks from completion, we have decided to put execution of that major project on the back burner until we get approval of our application to return to campus.

When the above work has been fully planned and executed, we will once again turn to the rec room project. By then, of course, we hope to be past getting our reinstatement application approved.

I can't forget to ask if you want to know the real impact of alumni support on these projects! You can see firsthand if you tour the facilities section of your website, [www.sae-cornell.org](http://www.sae-cornell.org). But returning to Ithaca for Reunion gives the best opportunity to see how we are progress-

*"You are the center of a vibrant network of more than 1,100 alumni who represent the highest ideals of leadership and brotherhood, values that are on display every year when more than 100 brothers return to Ithaca to celebrate our bonds, rain or shine."*

At Reunion we identified that some of the common areas, especially on the first floor, are looking tired and need some "TLC" to bring them back to an acceptable standard. Accordingly, we have asked Bero Architecture to give us a proposal to upgrade some of the common areas on the main floor and to restore components of the staircase work all the way up to the third floor.

Additionally, we will be fixing the minor safety issue on the new deck to our satisfaction. It has taken far longer to agree on how to proceed than expected, but we are close to getting the fix done.

ing on ensuring that Hillcrest is a competitive facility for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century college student.

You are the center of a vibrant network of more than 1,100 alumni who represent the highest ideals of leadership and brotherhood, values that are on display every year when more than 100 brothers return to Ithaca to celebrate our bonds, rain or shine. Your repeated giving enriches this network and ensures that our team has the capacity to support our programs and beloved Hillcrest. That's what's in it for you and for all of our alumni. It's called teamwork. Brotherhood is for life!



*Cornell vs. Colgate hockey game at Lynah Rink in January (left to right): Jamie Wright '90, Eric Wenger '90, Todd Girshon '90, Jeff Marks '91, Jay Schiff '88, and Geoff Ryan '90.*



*Mark Dembo '87 and Steve Sinaiko bumped into each other at the Dairy Bar during Homecoming 2019.*



# PLEASE BE A PART OF THE PLAN!

**Ron Skalko '73 | Fundraising Chair**

*rls73@comcast.net*

This fall marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of my Cornell experience. Lorraine and I entered Cornell in the fall of 1969. During that time we endured four of the most tumultuous years in Cornell's history, yet we have returned to Hillcrest every year for the past 50 years.

I am very pleased to report that our fundraising efforts continue to meet our ongoing goal to carry out our strategic plan for Hillcrest's repair and upgrades. We raised almost \$80,000 during the fiscal year that ended in June. We have invested over \$1.7 million in improvements to Hillcrest since 2011. Thanks to all of our loyal NY Alpha alumni, we continue to make a significant contribution to our favorite home away from home. This is exceptional alumni commitment by any measure!

In pursuing our long-term plan, we are now entering a phase that addresses many decor issues and items that generally affect the aesthetics of the house. There are plans to make significant improvements to the chapter

room and the rooms that immediately adjoin it. The current plan is to reconfigure the area as a rec room, which would include creating a TV-viewing area and installing games like indoor shuffleboard, darts, and a pool table. Some walls would be opened up between the three rooms to increase traffic flow. We are also planning new flooring, new wall finishes, and new lighting for all areas.

*"Thanks to all of our loyal NY Alpha alumni, we continue to make a significant contribution to our favorite home away from home. This is exceptional alumni commitment by any measure!"*

On behalf of the alumni association board and your fellow NY Alpha alumni, we would like to thank you for your continued interest, moral support, and donations of time and treasure to keep the renovation of Hillcrest moving forward. Please support continued improvements to Hillcrest with a donation during the 2019-2020 year!

## REUNION 2019

The weather gods smiled on us for Reunion this year . . . and Hillcrest was again "home" for returning alumni. Among the highlights were the class of '69 celebrating its "big 5-0." More photos at [www.sae-cornell.org](http://www.sae-cornell.org).



*'89s Rob Ceske, Rick Watt, and Steve Sinaiko.*



*Class of '69: Saturday night dinner.*



*Class of '69: Saturday night dinner.*



*Class of '69: Friday beer lunch.*



*Class of '69: Saturday night on the balcony.*





# NY ALPHA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES



**Dave Hugle '56** reports: "My partner, Haggai, and I are happy in our new digs in the Tamalpais retirement complex in Marin. Actually, we've kind of taken over. We're both on the resident board, where Haggai will be taking over as first VP and I'm assistant secretary. I'm also head of dining services (echoes of my steward's job at ΣAE), and Haggai has started the enrichment committee, bringing in speakers, recitalists, and museum docents. A few aches and pains that are slowing us down a bit naturally, but we're hanging in there." In the accompanying photo, above, Dave is seated. Some of his extensive modern art collection is visible. Drop him a note at 501 Via Casitas, Apt. 221, Greenbrae, CA 94904, or davidhugle@gmail.com.

This past January, **Dave Lipsky '61** began his retirement from Cornell. An ILR school professor (and its dean from 1988 to 1997), Dave also served 20 years as director of the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution at Cornell. He's currently adjunct professor of law and the Anne Evans Estabrook professor of dis-

pute resolution (endowed chair). Email him at [dbl4@cornell.edu](mailto:dbl4@cornell.edu) or write to him at 241 Valley Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

Reporting a new postal address is **Jim Tabor '63**: 209 Longmont Dr., Boiling Springs, SC 29316. Email reaches him at [taborjb@bellsouth.net](mailto:taborjb@bellsouth.net).

**Paul Dickinson '85** writes from Johns Creek, Georgia, that he wishes a Phi Alpha to all his fellow brothers. After graduating from Cornell, Paul earned his Ph.D. in polymer science from UConn (in 1990) and has had "a technically challenging career in telecom ever since." (He's currently the director of technology partnerships for Dura-Line.) He adds that many of his brothers will remember his girlfriend, Linda, who has now been his wife for 31 years. His 25-year-old son and 23-year-old daughter are UGA grads and are out on their own. Paul invites brothers to reach out if ever in the Atlanta area: [pdickinson02@gmail.com](mailto:pdickinson02@gmail.com); 210 Lake Heights Dr., Johns Creek, GA 30022.

"I had a great time with the brothers from the classes of 1969, '89, and 1994 at their reunion in Ithaca in June," announces **Greg Coladonato '93**. He continues, "And I had such a good time at my reunion in 2018 and my wife's in 2017 that now I'm considering crashing the reunion celebrations of 1990 and 1995 next summer!" Catch up with Greg at [gcoladon@gmail.com](mailto:gcoladon@gmail.com) or PO Box 1138, Mountain View, CA 94042.

## Chapter Eternal

**James F. Shequine '49**

July 11, 2018

**Will Walter White III '52**

May 16, 2019

**John Dean Twiname '53**

March 12, 2019

**Robert P. Ackert '55**

October 1, 2018

**Arthur Hitchcock Adams '63**

April 30, 2019

**Newman M. Marsilius III '68**

February 19, 2019

**Richard A. Hayes '75**

January 12, 2019



*Pictured are nine brothers who attended the services: Rob Ceske '89, Chris Hasser '90, Greg Coladonato '93, Gary Fisk '90, Bob Little '90, Brent Vallat '87, Steve Sinaiko '89, Mark Ahrens '88, and Chris Saxman '88.*

On July 21, 2019, Little Sister **Lauren Flato Labovitz '89** tragically passed away after suffering a brain aneurysm on July 10, 2019. She was married to Brother **Steve Labovitz '92**. The two met through **Ben Richardson '89** in 1989, were married shortly after college, and have two children, Gabrielle, who is starting school at Colorado State University studying interior design, and Jake, who is in high school.

Doctors believe that a disease called Vascular Ehlers Danlos Syndrome is the cause of this and a prior aneurysm Lauren suffered. For those who are interested, the family asks that donations be made to Compassion & Choices, whose goal is to help improve care and expand options for end of life ([www.compassionandchoices.org](http://www.compassionandchoices.org)) or Defy Foundation, which is committed to finding a cure for Vascular Ehlers Danlos Syndrome ([www.defy-foundation.org](http://www.defy-foundation.org)).

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

New York Alpha News is published by the NY Alpha Alumni Association for our members and friends. News and pictures may be sent to [alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org](mailto:alumnirecords@sae-cornell.org) or to Alumni Records Office, NY Alpha Alumni Association of ΣAE, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

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