



NEW YORK ALPHA NEWS

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • CORNELL UNIVERSITY

NY ALPHA APPLIES FOR RECOGNITION



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

SAE operated continuously on the Cornell campus for 120 years, and it has been nearly 10 years since the chapter was disbanded following the tragic death of George Desdunes '13. Now, I am pleased to report we have taken an important step forward: in September, SAE National and the NYA Alumni Association applied for recognition by the university.

That said, there are still several hurdles to clear in Cornell's expansion process before we can rejoin the Cornell community. Our application will be reviewed by a Growth Committee appointed by the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life (OSFL) and comprised of about a dozen alumni, faculty, staff, and students. In addition to the written application, Grant Maris, Director of Expansion at SAE National, and I will meet with the committee (virtually, because of COVID-19) to answer any questions they have. The committee will then recommend whether to accept or reject the application. Normally, the committee would make its recommendation by the end of the fall semester; however, it may take longer because the committee is operating virtually. If approved by the committee, the Interfraternity Council will have to vote to accept the new chapter.

At that point, SAE National would be permitted to recruit and form an asso-

ciate chapter. We have worked closely with Grant and his team to prepare an application that we believe offers a compelling case to rejoin the Cornell community. SAE National will provide resources to recruit new members, form an associate chapter, and support chapter development. To obtain a national charter, a new chapter must complete certain tasks and meet a stringent set of requirements. This process typically takes 12 to 24 months. If we can meet this timeline, SAE could return to Hillcrest in the fall of 2023.

The application we submitted has three parts: a letter of intent, an expansion proposal, and an alumni support statement. The letter of intent lays out how SAE will partner with the university to become a contributing member of the university community. It describes how SAE will address issues of specific interest at Cornell (for example, diversity/inclusion/equity, alcohol management, hazing prevention). Also included are lessons learned from George's tragedy and how we intend to incorporate those going forward. The expansion proposal describes the SAE philosophy, as well as its standards, processes, and programs. You can read all three elements of the application at SAE-Cornell.org in the member area under "Reinstatement Application" (log-in required).

As I wrote the alumni support statement, I was reminded how incredibly supportive and loyal you, the NY Alpha alumni, have been and how effective your Alumni Association board has been over



these 10 long years. The fact that we're still standing is a testament in itself! As an alumni association, our role with respect to the chapter collegiate is to support the chapter and its members with our time, talent, and treasure. To provide advice and counsel, we have developed a new chapter advising model (see Dave Martin's article on page 3). Thanks to your financial support, we have invested \$1.7 million to make Hillcrest a desirable living environment (see Hal Sieling's article on page 2). To demonstrate our ongoing support, we reached out to some of our loyal donors and asked for a five-year commitment to support a new chapter. We are extremely gratified that you stepped up with over a half million dollars of pledged support to the Hillcrest Development Fund. This is a strong statement that positions us solidly for success. You can see the Alumni Support Statement at SAE-Cornell.org in the member area under "Reinstatement Application" as well.

I hope to have good news to report in the next issue of the New York Alpha News, if not before. With the support and resources of a strong national fraternity and an engaged and committed alumni base, I am increasingly confident we can realize the aspiration from our strategic plan: to develop a chapter that serves as a model for Greek life in the 21st century.

REUNION 2020: VIRTUALLY A SUCCESS

Darryl Tom '92

darryl.tom@gmail.com

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cornell cancelled in-person Reunion, and instead turned to virtual events. NY Alpha followed suit and hosted a virtual Reunion on Saturday, June 6, 2020, via Zoom, since many people were already experienced with teleconferencing due to the quarantine.

There were five virtual rooms to join (nicknamed the Chapter Room, Glenwood Pines, Hot Truck, The Palms, and Hillcrest). Individual classes were encouraged to organize their own reunions and reserve virtual rooms. The classes of 1969, 1988, 1990, and 1994 did so.

In addition, there was a three-hour current events discussion that was moderated by **Jake Schaible '89** and **Bob Little '90**. **Dr. Richard Colvin '88** spoke on COVID-19, including the standard of care at Boston hospitals as well as vaccine development. **David Einhorn '90** spoke about the effect of COVID-19 on the economy. Finally, **Svante Myrick '09**, current mayor of Ithaca, spoke about Ithaca and race. Over the course of the entire three hours, attendance peaked at about 46 people.

OPEN YOUR HEARTS AND WALLETS TO NY ALPHA!

Hal Sieling '62 | Facilities Chair

HalSieling@aol.com

The year-end total for the Development Fund in June 2020 was \$41,000, off significantly from 2019 when generous alumni contributed nearly \$78,000. We might expect this considering how long the chapter has been closed, but hope moving forward things will change and we will get back up to the expected norms.

It would be fair to say that the drop was similar to the lack of substantial progress in getting projects done at Hillcrest, which obviously reflects the impact of social unrest, the funk in peoples lives, uncertainty, and the pandemic impact on the population as a whole.

But, if you are in charge you cannot accept that, so the thing to do is come up with a plan. That is exactly what we did! Enter the "Silent Development Fund" effort, a detailed, well thought out and disciplined plan re-

quiring minimal staffing to execute. But, the proof is in the pudding, as the saying goes.

Over \$500,000 was raised since August 1 by just five brothers who reached out to potential donors.

Not bad huh??? That would be a weak response to the results.

The best ever would certainly be more appropriate.

What more could we ask for, you might say? Well, I would say we are not done yet so get out your computer and send a five year commitment to gusnoojin3@gmail.com right now! Join those who committed already.

If you want more details about how the program works, email **Gus Noojin '69** or myself, or call me directly at 760-436-0762.

It is now time to stand by NY Alpha as we move ahead!

EXECUTING THE PLAN!!

Hal Sieling '62 | Facilities Chair

halsieling@aol.com

First of all, we would like to thank all of you who made a recent financial commitment to NY Alpha! Your support drives our success!!!

This has been a tough year everywhere. The virus, civil unrest, fires, extreme weather, and related impact on the economy and our American fabric are a major hit for all of us.

So too has our ability to get things done at Hillcrest.

Earlier in the year, after several

months of inaction, the grease trap in the kitchen was finally properly sealed just in time for use in the fall.

I have too many times mentioned that the safety fix for our new deck was just about done. Well, finally I can say that the metal parts have been fabricated and are now being galvanized prior to attachment to the building. The next time I mention it the project will be complete.

The Treadwell library, the Great Hall, and the north living room on the first floor have all been worked on over the past few months and are looking good, but are not quite

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ΣΑΕ

CHAPTER ADVISING – CALL TO ACTION

Dave Martin '94

dcm1@cornell.edu

Brothers:

One of the critical tenets of New York Alpha's application to Cornell University for reinstatement this fall is our chapter advising model, which provides an interactive link between our eventual active chapter and a dynamic advisory board intended to assist the active brotherhood with governance and policy issues as the chapter grows. Each advisor will serve a two-year term, and pair with a specific officer in the active chapter to develop a strong relationship and rapport. He will assist that officer with the discharge of his duties relative to the chapter, development of a strategic plan for his office, and to support the officer in general decision-making and problem-solving through the officer's term. The overall advisory board will work together with the active chapter to help the actives achieve their long-term goals and ensure compliance with key Cornell and SAE National policies that are critical for our long-term success.

We have been fortunate to have keen interest both from our own New York Alpha alumni, as well as other SAE alums, Cornell faculty, and Cornell staff in joining this advisory board, but we still have several openings that may be a great fit for you! Perhaps you have a special ability to connect with undergraduate-aged students, a strong financial background that might be helpful for a treasurer to lean on, great leadership skills that an eminent archon could take advantage of, food service experience that the steward might be able to draw from, marketing and communication experience that

the eminent chronicler may use, risk management expertise for the EDA/risk manager ... I could go on and on. There's a place for each of us!

While being near Ithaca to potentially support some face-to-face interactions would be great, this is not a prerequisite for all roles, since we are all well-equipped with tools for effective remote communications these days. One advisor will serve as a live-in advisor, having residence at Hillcrest and interacting on a daily basis with the members of the active chapter; the balance of the advisory board will be asked to meet on a biweekly basis with their paired chapter leader, as well as to participate in a monthly advisory board meeting.

We plan to elect the initial advisory board in advance of the election of the first group of undergraduate leaders for the new chapter, once approved by the university. This will allow the advisory board to begin work immediately with the chapter leaders, as they take on their very important role associated with the chapter's return to Cornell.

I know from my personal discussions with a lot of you that many of you want to know "what you can do to help?" This advisory board is a great opportunity to jump in and offer your expertise for the long-term good of the chapter.

If you would like to learn more about these advisor roles, or if you would like to nominate yourself or another individual for a position on the advisory board, please reach out to me at *dcm1@cornell.edu* for further information.



EXECUTING THE PLAN!!

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complete. The trim has been addressed as have the walls and ceilings in all these rooms. The beams in all the rooms have also been refurbished. It is the first time in more than 15 years these areas have been enhanced, and the first time in many more years that all these rooms have matched one another.

The paneling all the way up the stairs, the stairs themselves, and the banisters will all be refinished during the balance of this year or early in 2021.

The finishing touch will be decorative new wrought iron grills forged into attractive designs for the three fireplaces. The fireplaces will remain unusable because of fire safety considerations.

When all of that is completed, we can go back to working on the rec. room in the basement, which was put on hold a while back. That is a big project, as you know, and we hope that it is on our horizon to do.

So thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Hillcrest Development Fund over the years. We hope you get a chance to enjoy the results!



Bill “Shifty” Schumacher ‘57 and Amelia recently moved three miles but still reside in Mansquan on the Jersey Shore. They bought and reconfigured a one level house, adding an apartment for his adult daughter. His other children and two grandchildren live nearby. Bill was number five in the “boiler room” of the great 1957 Cornell eight that won the Henley Grand Challenge Cup Regatta in July 1957 at Henley-on-Thames in the U.K. It was the first time that a Cornell crew had competed in the Grand Challenge race since 1895. Two class of ‘58 SAEs—’58 Commodore Glenn Light and the late George Bullwinkel—went to Henley as spares. Bill stays in touch with John Sargent ‘61, and is retired after a long career with the Stanford Research Institute, established by the Stanford trustees in 1946 as a center of innovation to support economic development. You can reach Shifty at wschu@aol.com.

James P. Baden ‘61 writes, “Still pretty much isolated as of May 2020. Light at the end of the tunnel. Weather is perfect. No coronavirus (yet). Still singing barbershop music on Zoom. Please take care of yourselves.” (27 Dolphin Point Ln., Hilton Head Island, SC 29926; jpbadenmd@gmail.com)

Marshal Case ‘64 writes from southern Vermont: “All is well here at the farm as my wife, Joanne, and I focus on fixing fencing of seven acres of horse paddocks, the usual chores outside, and new gardens being planted (almost complete). Inside work is with collaborative projects with a strong focus on the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network of 200 locations. We won’t be able to make our spring travel to Oregon with the field science, but plan on Cape Cod and the coast of Maine as soon as we get the green light for safe travel.

Our governor is outstanding with his leadership and ‘pace’ with each next step.” (408 Ehrich Rd., Shaftsbury, VT 05262; marshaltcase@gmail.com)

Peter Young ‘11 writes, “I graduated from Penn State in December 2019 with a JD and MBA. I am working for Deloitte supporting the U.S. Treasury and its foreign investment (CFIUS) mission. My wife, Erin, and I recently purchased a home in northern Virginia. My new contact information is 905 Dominion Ridge Terrace, Herndon, VA 20170; peter.d.young2020@gmail.com.”

The family of **Anthony Stewart Esposito ‘67** wrote: We are sad to report Stewart passed away on March 8, 2020. He will be greatly missed. He attended Cornell and was born in 1945. He loved school and all his classmates and the experience of being part of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

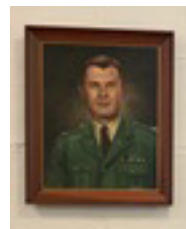
CHAPTER TRIBUTES



John (Jack) C. McCormick ‘57. Jack died in 2005. He donated funds to update Moakley House and McCormick’s Grille at the Golf Course. This was placed at the Grille in his

memory in August 2020. Jack grew up in Binghamton and graduated from Cornell University in 1957. He joined Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, where he was called “Black Jack” (a term used to describe Irish people with dark hair and eyes thought to be descendants of shipwrecked Spanish Armada sailors of the mid-1500s). Jack played varsity golf. He was editor of the Cornellian Yearbook, and a member of Aleph Samach and Quill & Dagger, the junior and senior men’s honorary societies espousing leadership, service, and character. He was elected president of Quill & Dagger. Jack was commissioned in the U.S. Navy Reserve, serving two years be-

fore earning an MBA from Columbia. He joined General Foods, leaving to become president and CEO of Swisher Cigar Company until his retirement. He returned to campus every year at Reunion and/or Homecoming. Jack passed away in 2005, leaving a bequest to modernize Moakley House and McCormick’s Grille.



Douglas Crowe ‘61. Captain Crowe died in Vietnam. This bio, Washington Vietnam Wall rubbing, and painting given by his parents is on display in the Army ROTC

Cadet Lounge and will remain there until SAE returns to campus.

Robert Crosby ‘65. LTJG Crosby was killed in Vietnam in an accident. His parents gave us his Swift boat flag. The flag, and tribute with his bio, medals, and Washington Vietnam Wall rubbing,



are on display at the Cornell NROTC unit until SAE returns to campus.



Chapter Eternal

W. Dean Ferres III ‘50

February 25, 2020

Thomas A. Zimmerman ‘63

January 22, 2020

William M. Arnold ‘66

August 5, 2020

A. Stewart Esposito ‘67

March 8, 2020

John W. Hughes ‘70

August 18, 2020

Steven Jeffrey Klein ‘77

November 29, 2019

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