



NEW YORK ALPHA NEWS

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • CORNELL UNIVERSITY

SAMMY GONE: PREPARING TO RESTART



**Gus Noojin '69 | President,
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The countdown has begun! The planning phase is nearing completion and the execution phase is about to ramp up. This fall, we and ΣAE National plan to host a virtual town hall for interested segments of the Cornell community. We will discuss our plans to return to campus and address any concerns. Later in the semester, the recruitment team from the ΣAE Fraternity Service Center hopes to start a social media campaign to begin contacting prospective members. By the next issue of the New York Alpha News, I hope to be able to report the establishment of the new version of New York Alpha. The new entity will be called an "emerging chapter" and will begin work to meet the extensive requirements to receive a full charter from ΣAE National.

This fall, students returned to the Hill for in-person instruction after more than a year of virtual learning. Despite high vaccination rates throughout the Cornell community, the detection of an alarming number of positive COVID-19 cases caused restrictions to be temporarily increased, including deferring several on-site alumni events. I report this as a reminder that the pandemic is not over, and our plans are still subject to change if the virus spikes again.

Since we decided to rebuild the chapter, we have held fast to the aspiration to apply the lessons learned from George Desdunes' ('13) tragedy and create a chapter that could serve as a model for Greek life at Cornell and elsewhere. As we approach the time to act on that aspiration, it is fair

to ask, "What would that look like?" For me, it looks like a chapter built on three pillars: scholarship, service, and leadership development. The foundation for these pillars would be a culture of respect: respect for each other, respect for the community, respect for the organization, and respect for the chapter house.

Building the right culture will start with recruiting students who are willing to commit to these principles. They will need access to high-quality programming and have multiple layers of advisory support

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(read: adult supervision). The ΣAE Fraternity Service Center offers many programs to support chapter and individual development as well as a roadmap to earn a charter. There are robust modules on diversity/inclusion and risk management, to name a few. In addition, ΣAE National requires a minimum grade point average and number of community service hours. The "emerging chapter" will have multiple layers of support. An alumni advisory board will be trained and ready to operate by the time the new chapter is formed. A chapter development advisor will be on campus for the first year of the new chapter's development (a new Cornell requirement). Finally, when the new chapter returns to Hillcrest, they will have a live-in advisor.

Concerning Hillcrest, the agreement whereby ΣAM occupied Hillcrest for three years has expired and SAMMY has vacated the property. Unfortunately, there was damage to the house beyond normal wear and tear, which occurred mostly dur-

ing the final year. As a result, the house is currently unoccupied. Our facilities committee is working closely with the Cornell Housing group to return the house to its former condition (including removal of ΣAM signage). We have offered Hillcrest for use, as needed, for general student housing until fall 2023, when the new chapter is expected to return. You can be assured that *not one penny* of the funds you have generously donated to the Hillcrest Development Fund will be used to repair damage done by SAMMY.

The Hillcrest Development Fund will be used exclusively to fund capital improve-

ments that will make Hillcrest a competitive alternative to the new housing being built by the university (for details, see Hal's column). Since being approved to return, donations have picked up substantially. Through June 30 (the end of the fiscal year) the development fund received \$118,500 and dues receipts were \$18,000. This is thanks, in part, to those who made a five-year commitment. If you made a five-year commitment and have not made your first installment, now would be the time. I am inspired by the generosity of all who have pledged or donated. It sends a powerful message to the university and the new members we will soon welcome.

I hope you are as excited about this next chapter in our history as I am.

Yours in the Bonds,

Gus Noojin '69



LET'S MAKE MORE POSSIBLE TOGETHER

Hal Sieling '62 | Facilities Chair

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The future of New York Alpha starts now, but the planning, execution, and results of all our efforts in many areas to build a better, stronger, and lasting chapter are *Beyond Today and Beyond Tomorrow!* Clearly, accomplishing our goals will take time, perseverance, and require lots of hard work on everyone's part. Who knew that the world itself would be in such turmoil this long after the onset of COVID-19? It simply makes things more difficult. Some of you might recall that most of the common area has been nicely renovated. Now we need to upgrade the rest of Hillcrest and get ready for our return. I'll run through a few of the things we have on our agenda moving forward:

- Peter Heylin Suite—Eventually, these two rooms will be for our resident advisor. The rooms need painting. The trim will get a dose of brown similar to the paneling upstairs in the common area. We are going to replace the flooring with luxury vinyl flooring which eventually might also be done in the Hillcrest bedrooms.

- South Stair Project—There is a landing on these stairs that requires fixing because of a dangerous crack. Currently, this project is stuck in the design phase, so we do not have the exact timing for completion.

- Rec Room—A year or so ago the planning was essentially completed for this project, but we delayed executing the work until now because we did not want to interfere during occupancy by others. We are now reviewing our earlier work to determine costs and see if any changes are warranted.

We have another seven or more projects that we are trying to make happen as we move forward and will hopefully finish most before our occupancy of Hillcrest. As you might guess, in a building this large and old, there is always something else to do... and then you start over.

For those of you that can see the obvious need to do more, dig deep and make it happen!

So, all of this is why our work is Beyond Today and Beyond Tomorrow!

David B. Lipsky '61 - Very regrettably, my wife Sandy died (suicide) in 2020. We met in high school in 1956. Sandy was a "little sister" to me and I visited her regularly. I retired on December 31, 2018 after 50 years on the faculty at Cornell. I served as Dean of the ILR School (1988–1997) and was co-founder of the Institute on conflict resolution at Cornell in 1996. I served as co-director of the Institute from 1996–2016. I've volunteered to be part of the Advisory Committee for the team working to get us back on campus.

Neil A. Schilke '62 – Looking forward to 60th Reunion in 2022. Hope to see you all with Bing, Woody, Nisbet, Hal, Ryan, and other '62 ΣAEs.

Thomas William Itin '57 (right) was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who. He was endorsed as a leader in the field of entrepreneurship. Read the complete article on the ΣAE website at tinyurl.com/pknb58bu.



(Left) Email from **Peter Kaplan '74** – After not seeing one another in-person for a while, it was wonderful to have Peter and his wife at Hillcrest. Cornell lax player **Tony Skalko '73** and one of his three "kids" who he invited by for a visit should not be surprised as formally dressed up as

(Below and right) Lorraine and **Ron Skalko '73** stayed with Peter Kaplan '74 at his home in Bedford, NY. On the same trip they stayed with **John Lerew '73** on the 700-acre Lerew apple orchard in York Springs, Pennsylvania.



uddenly) on April 13,
and visited Hillcrest
ulty of the ILR School.
er of the Scheinman
director of the insti-
Board members on

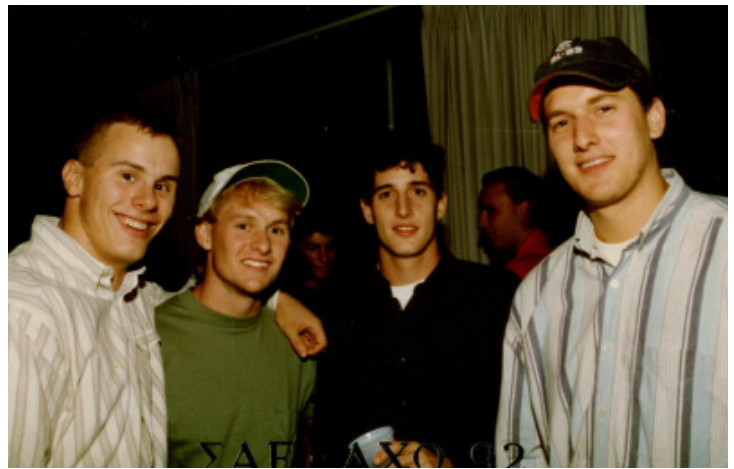
Hopefully on campus



for close to 50 years,
re a visit from former
cazzero '75, his wife,
ds". Anyone stopping
feel compelled to get
s we did.



Below is a recent picture of **Sean Egusa '90** and **Brendan O'Neill '93**.



Aaron Bailey '93 posted some pictures from Σ AE in the 1990s.



(Above) **Steve Labovitz '92** posted that he got engaged again.



STAY IN TOUCH

The success of NY Alpha depends in part on the participation of alumni. Please take a moment to share something by using the enclosed news form or by visiting the "submit news items" page at sae-cornell.org and filling in the online form.

Moving? Be sure we have your new address and contact information.

Visit the website: www.sae-cornell.org



STAY CONNECTED...

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.sae-cornell.org

If you don't already have a login, please request one. Once logged in, you will have access to member-only content and contact information, including the ability to search for your classmates, suitemates, etc. The website also provides you with an opportunity to update your own contact information, so you don't miss any of the latest news from ΣAE.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteer! We are looking for volunteers willing to help provide content for the website and newsletter, assist with reactivation of the chapter, and provide mentoring and advice to the recolonization class. Consider volunteering your time to make our chapter stronger. Contribute to the Hillcrest Development Fund.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Consider a lasting gift that will support Sigma Alpha Epsilon long after you are gone. By including NY Alpha in your estate plans, you ensure the long-term health and success of our fraternity. Here's what you and/or your advisor might need to know: the most common ways to include NY Alpha are through your will or life insurance. Sample language: I leave the sum of (\$xxxxxx.xx or xx% of my estate) to: note either Cornell University for the Dev. Fund / or to SAE National for NY Alpha their general purposes.

**This information is not presented as legal or tax advice. Always consult your advisors for any questions you may have.*

Richard A. Graddock '65

I'm sure many of you from the '60s era remember Rich Graddock for his big smile, great personality, and heart of gold. He was a true New Jersey Irishman through and through and eventually become an Assistant State Attorney general for New Jersey. His first venture out of New Jersey was to Coconut Grove, Florida, where he served as an Assistant District Attorney for the county and then worked in the investment business with another of our brothers. Later, he moved to the West Palm Beach area where he worked for that city and lived out his life.

Rich was always late for everything and can be fondly remembered for calls saying he would not be on time for one thing or another because of a flat tire. You might say he exaggerated this, but don't you know others who have had flat tire issues ten or more times a year?

Late in life, he had numerous health problems, but he never mentioned them at all, even to his friends. He always checked up on what was going on at NY Alpha and was actually hoping to return to Ithaca one more time next June. He passed away recently, just before his 78th birthday and all of his friends that we know were as surprised as we were to learn about it.

Richard Graddock is gone but not forgotten!

Chapter Eternal

Ferdinand P. Schoedinger Jr. '42

September 16, 2017

Sydney Parker Trewin '45

January 25, 2021

Edwin F. Chobot Jr. '47

August 1, 2020

John B. Stewart '47

–

Wade H. Lowry Jr. '48

December 24, 2016

Vincent C. Hughes Jr. '51

December 22, 2020

William A. Sumner, Jr. '56

October 29, 2019

James J. Russell '60

October 11, 2021

Christos Hadjitheodorou '61

–

Richard A. Graddock '65

–

William B. Reynolds '65

September 6, 2021

Samuel A. DiSalvo '69

July 1, 2021

DON'T FORGET: LOG ON TO 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 or to Alumni Records Office, NY Alpha Alumni Association of ΣAE, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

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