



# NEW YORK ALPHA NEWS

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • CORNELL UNIVERSITY

## NY ALPHA RETURNS TO THE HILL



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

I have wanted to write this column for a long time—more than 11 years. I am now excited to report that ΣΑΕ returned to the Cornell campus on March 3 with the initiation of 12 young men to the NY Alpha Emerging Chapter. Achieving this milestone was made possible by the support of three key constituents: the university administration; the ΣΑΕ National Fraternity; and you, our dedicated alumni. A central factor in gaining support from the administration was our commitment to apply the lessons learned from George Desdunes' tragedy and build a chapter that would serve as a model for Greek life at Cornell and elsewhere. ΣΑΕ National staffed and ran a successful recruitment process. Furthermore, the fraternity service center has built an impressive array of resources and programs to support the new chapter. Perhaps the most important factor was the demonstration of consistent support by our alumni. Your donations to the Hillcrest Development Fund allowed us

to invest \$1.7M during the 11-year hiatus to make Hillcrest a competitive housing option for our members. The excellent work by our alumni board and its committees demonstrated strong commitment. Strong turnout for reunions was another visible indicator of alumni engagement.

requirement). Secondly, **Dave Martin '94** has recruited and tasked an alumni advisory board. In addition to meeting periodically as a group, each board member will have a one-on-one mentoring relationship with one of the chapter officers. I have appointed Dave to chair this important board. Finally, your continuing financial support of the Hillcrest Development Fund will allow us to keep our early-20th-century home at 21st-century standards and become an important recruitment tool.

### Now the hard work begins...

Now the hard work begins. The charter members of the Emerging Chapter are tasked with recruiting enough True Gentlemen to fill the house by fall 2023 when they return to Hillcrest. Also, there is an extensive list of requirements that must be met to earn a full charter. To be successful, they will need your continuing support.

It has been a long challenging journey, but we are now in a position to act on our aspiration to create a model chapter. It is time to double down on what got us here. Let's show our new members what real alumni support and engagement looks like!

Yours in the Bonds,

*Gus Noojin*  
**Gus Noojin '69**

We plan to provide that support in three ways. First, we will fund an advisor, trained by ΣΑΕ National and living in Ithaca, for the '22-23 academic year (this is a new Cornell

## NY ALPHA INVADES NEW ORLEANS

Many brothers descended on New Orleans for a casual reunion November 4-7, 2021. Thursday evening, a late dinner was held at the famous Commander's Palace. Friday started off with a brunch at The Court of Two Sisters then a casual walk-around the French Quarter with dinner. Late-nighters enjoyed the music of John Papa Gross, a local musical group. Saturday everyone went to the extensive WWII museum.



# Do You Want To Know The Impact Of Your SUPPORT OF NEW YORK ALPHA?

## Hal Sieling '62 | Facilities Chair

[halsieling@aol.com](mailto:halsieling@aol.com)

It was not long ago that we all wondered whether NY Alpha would ever occupy Hillcrest again. Now not only will we, but we already have a handful of new members ready to go, more soon to follow, and a date for the return.

That puts a lot of pressure on the rest of us to get the house ready for the '23 fall move-in which is not far off in terms of time after long years of waiting. A lot has already been done to get Hillcrest ready but there is still much more to do and we must quickly mobilize. Click on this link <https://www.sae-cornell.org> to see a slideshow of what has been done already. I think that you will be impressed but there is still much more to accomplish.

The **Peter Heylin '65** suite is now finished and ready for a gent from national to live in it and train the new members sufficiently to warrant earning a charter necessary for forming the new chapter. Included in that project are new luxury vinyl tile flooring and soon new furniture.

The south stairway project work was delayed while the house was occupied but soon will get back on track.

The rec room project plan is in the process of getting final Cornell approvals expected soon before getting bids for the project. Expectations are to do the work in late fall this year, due to contractor availability and cost.

With a bit of luck, we are hoping to do some or all of the bedroom floors right after the rec room project wraps up. We plan to use luxury vinyl tile like in the Heylin suite.

There are probably at least a dozen other projects that we will try to wrap up as well prior to the fall '23 occupancy. With a little luck, hard work, and a lot of support from our generous alumni, most of this will happen on time and before the move-in.

Of course, with a house the age of Hillcrest, I'm quite sure there will be other projects that will pop up. All of these projects are paid for by generous donations from alumni. We thank all of you who participated and hope more of you will line up now that success and our hopes are on the horizon.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KEITH BARR '92

*Keith Barr graduated from the Cornell School of Hotel Administration in 1992, where he is currently a member of the Dean's Advisory Board. He has been the CEO of Intercontinental Hotel Group since July 2017 and lives in London with his family. Keith joined IGH in 2000 and has been a member of IHG's executive committee since April 2011 and served as chief commercial officer (CCO) for four years before being appointed CEO.*



*Keith Barr '92*

*While at ΣAE, he served as house steward, where he planned weekly menus, kept the walk-in refrigerator stocked with chicken pucks, and organized parents' weekend. He currently serves on the board of Yum! Brands (KFC, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut).*

## **How did you rise the ranks to become CEO?**

After graduation from the hotel school at Cornell, I went to work for a small hotel company that was led by several Cornell grads. It was a great experience, and that company grew to be one of the largest independent hotel operators in North America. The company was later acquired by what is today IHG Hotels & Resorts and I joined them. I worked my way up to hold a number of senior roles in our Americas division across a variety of disciplines. I then moved with my wife and family to Australia to run our business in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific. Soon thereafter, I was asked to move to China (not an easy move from the beaches of Sydney) to lead our business there which today is our fastest growing business globally. I later became the chief commercial officer for the group based in the United Kingdom and became CEO almost five years ago. It has been an amazing experience traveling the world built on the foundations I learned at Cornell and at ΣAE!

## **What advice would you give to others who want to advance their careers in large organizations?**

When I am asked for career advice, I always give the same answer. "Always be learning, be inquisitive, have integrity, and take some risks as there is no one

path to success!" When I was 21 years old and entering the workforce, I thought I knew everything and had my career mapped out. The older I got, the more I realized how much I did not know, how much I could learn from others, and the value of taking risks, but most importantly, the importance of leading with authenticity and integrity.

## **How has your affiliation with ΣAE influenced your career?**

I never realized how much I would learn about leadership and friendship during my time at NY Alpha. It helped shape me into the man, father, husband, friend, and leader I am today. There were so many big and small lessons learned and opportunities to grow as a young man that I would not have had if I had not joined ΣAE.

## **What advice would you give to the young men who are restarting NY Alpha?**

You will be at the heart of rebuilding a place that will build the leaders for the next generation in business and society. You will learn about governance, communication, collaboration, and debate, which are all critical skills more so now than ever. That is a big responsibility and I'm sure you are up to the task with the support of the alumni who love NY Alpha.

## **A favorite memory as an ΣAE?**

That's a really hard question to answer as I have so many great memories of my time at the house and lifelong friendships that were formed: listening to Pat Waters and Marc Gutt '90 play music on the deck, cooking (with a lot of help) for everyone at Homecoming and parents' weekend, playing foosball, just sitting around talking after a long hard day with great friends, and the great feeling of returning to the house each year. I guess my best memory is that we are still making memories as brothers when we reconnect each year, tell the same stories for the 30th time, and laugh even harder each time. Brotherhood is for life!



Join Us In Welcoming  
**THE NEW  
BROTHERS OF  
NY ALPHA**



**AMAR VYAS '24**

Amar is a sophomore government student, minoring in business and information science, from Cleveland, Ohio. I worked at a boutique consulting firm in Cleveland last summer, working on a grant application from the U.S. Department of Transportation, as well as seeking FDA approval for a breakthrough drug therapy for a diabetes symptom. This upcoming summer, I will likely be working in Houston at Royal Dutch

Shell in their supply-chain division, intending to eventually work in energy-focused investment banking, PE, or consulting. Outside of IBC, I am in a government fraternity (POLIS), Cornell Intellectual Property and Ethics Club, Mock Trial, and the FZAE Project Team on the business side. I am also a die-hard NY Jets fan. I chose ΣAE because I wanted to be part of a community that lasted well beyond my time at Cornell and to form bonds with my brothers that otherwise I wouldn't have been able to. Amar has been elected president of this new class.



**WILLIAM P. FALB '24**

William is from Ithaca, New York, is an information science major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). I care a lot

about my reputation, and I thought it would be in my best interest to join an emerging chapter. In addition, I want a close and small brotherhood, which my best friends are a part of.



**PATRICK F. JENNINGS '25**

Patrick is from New York, NY is a human biology, health, and safety major in the College of Human Ecology. I see an opportunity

to replicate the fraternal experience I had at my all-boys high school. I also appreciate the opportunity to create a modern-day fraternity and receive guidance from incredible alumni.



**MASON KIM '25**

Mason is from Henderson, Nevada, and majoring in biomedical engineering. It's an amazing opportunity to

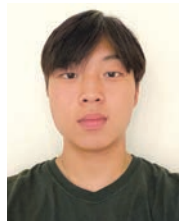
be part of something of your own and have the chance to challenge the stereotypes of Greek life.



**SAHITH KURAPATI '25**

Sahith is from Reading, Pennsylvania, and majoring in information science in CALs. He joined to have

the ability to create [his] own fraternal experience.



**JONATHAN LIM '25**

Jonathan is from Ithaca, New York, is majoring in policy analysis management in the College of Human Ecology. He's interest-

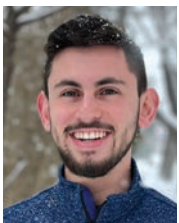
ed in beginning something great and bonding with his fellow brothers.



**ETHAN E. MARKOWITZ '24**

Ethan is from Ithaca, New York, is majoring in hotel administration in the Hotel School. This is a great opportunity to build some-

thing of my own, but with the help of a great alumni support base.



**PETER M. McMANUS '24**

Peter is from Niskayuna, New York, and majoring in civil engineering. I chose ΣAE because it exemplifies an organization that encourages both personal

and professional growth, as well as bonds that have the potential to last a lifetime. I also chose ΣAE because the NY Alpha Chapter's rebirth allows for a combination of rich traditions and institutional change for the better on a fundamental level.



**MARIO PENNA '25**

Mario is from the Bronx, New York, is studying applied economics and management at the Dyson School of Applied Economics

and Management. On why he joined ΣAE: "I am very interested in fostering deep, meaningful brotherhood connections as ΣAE, as I was fortunate enough to experi-

ence many of the brotherhood values ΣAE stands for at my all-boys Catholic high school in New York City and would like to continue fostering those values at Cornell. Additionally, I am very excited about the entrepreneurial aspect of building ΣAE from the ground up and working closely with local nonprofits and charities as philanthropy and service chairman."



**MATTHEW D. PUZZINI '25**

Matthew is from Charles Town, West Virginia is majoring in hotel administration in the Hotel School. He joined ΣAE for brotherhood and is excited to help

re-found a legacy!



**CLAY WHEELER '23**

Clay is from Ithaca, New York, is majoring in math arts and science. He joined ΣAE for the unique opportunity to gain experience starting a new institu-

tion with a capable group of guys.

# NY ALPHA ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

**William Neuenschwander III '53:** Good luck with your revitalized chapter. It must have been agonizing. I'm not familiar with any living brother of my heritage living here in the Northeast. [I would] like to know if any exist.

**James Otis Marshall '57:** Soon to be 89 but still going. Operate the Jim Marshall Farms Foundation "where animals help people." I am a vet, you know.

**James P. Baden '61:** Still in Hilton Head, practicing at Volunteers in Medicine. Barber shopping—past president of the local chapter. Great living here. [I] do see Bill Standon who lives nearby.

**Bill Jordan '62** writes: "I have a congenital distal neuropathy that limits my mobility and cannot make the trip from Florida to Ithaca. I deeply regret not making my 60th reunion and wish all my fellow brothers the best. My support of ΣAE will have to remain financial." Reach him at: [wfordan@earthlink.net](mailto:wfordan@earthlink.net).

**Neil A. Schilke '62:** To all '62 ΣAEs. Our 60th reunion is "the last big round-up!"

**Bill Perez '69** hosted a mini-reunion last October for some of his '69 classmates at his Chicago penthouse (see picture to right).

**Ron Hewitt '69:** My wife Shirley and I had the joy of spending time with Jeanne and **Gregg P. Otto '69**. Always good to catch up. Still miss some of those "Good Ol' Days!" Shirley and I celebrated 52 years of marriage on 10/4/21. We see Jeanne and Gregg Otto, Debbie and Jim Heeps,

and also Terri and **Ernie Dunn '68**. We vacation in Phoenix for four months.

**William Kilmartin '71:** In August 2021 at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Aviation Officials, Bill was inducted into their Hall of Fame. This recognition reflects his career in public service and focused on his 10-year term as the comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Peter Kaplan '74:** Middle-aged. Old. Still young and young. Finally met Jamie's boyfriend's dad; I don't think we embarrassed her. Phyllis Arena visited us for the weekend and came to the event. Previous weekends with Bruce, Tony, Larry, Armis, Jen, Tony, Susan, and Evan. Hope the family is great. Come visit!

**Ron Skalko '73:** Sorry to report that **Gordon H. Gowen '52** passed away on March 24, 2022. Some of his best years were those he spent at Cornell according to his wife Betty.

Brother **Jim Tabor '63** retired from the US Navy after 22 years of service, achieving the rank of Commander running a ship repair facility in Little Creek, Virginia. He was on land for almost all [of his service] except a tour on a DD (destroyer) as an ensign following his two Cornell degrees, a bachelor's of metallurgical engineering and a master's in engineering. [His] shore assignments included teaching at the Naval Academy and shipyards in Naples and Yokosuka, Japan, his favorite duty station where Jim and his wife, Linda, enjoyed exposure to a very different way of life. They still correspond with several Japanese friends.

After retirement, they lived in Boone, North Carolina, and are now in Boiling Springs, South Carolina, an hour and a half from their two children and their families. Travel is their hobby. They have visited about 70 islands or countries and have more planned. Jim is available at [taborjbb@gmail.com](mailto:taborjbb@gmail.com). Jim visited Regensburg, Germany last November 2021 (see photo below).



*Mini-Reunion: (left to right): Rich Cohen, Gregg Otto, Hank South, Gus Noojin, Mark Ostendorf, Bob Kolton, Bill Perez.*



*Taken after a sausage-making class in Regensburg, Germany last November 2021.*

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## Arthur V. N. Brooks '58

July 6, 2021

A lawyer, at Cornell he was in Quill and Dagger, the senior honorary; a founding member of the Sherwoods a cappella group; and president of the student council and ΣAE.

## Richard Hyde '59



Richard Hyde '59

Richard "Dick" Hyde died October 31 in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He attended the University of Minnesota before transferring to Cornell for his BA and then went to the Michigan Law School. After several years with

a firm in San Francisco, he moved to Chicago and worked for United Airlines for 30 years. He relocated to Suwanee, Georgia in 2013 to be near family.

Dick was an avid traveler, and passionate about aviation and WWII history. A member of the Commemorative Air Force, he dedicated his time to preserving WWII planes and hitched rides in B-25 bombers and Dauntless carrier scout/dive bombers. Dick also shared his extensive knowledge of WWII with others in St. Louis and Atlanta.

He kept up with ΣAE brothers in recent years, meeting Ron Demer for lunch when Ron visited family in Atlanta during the Christmas holidays. Dick would get together with Jim Day in New York for lunch whenever he and either his wife or two sisters could schedule a week-long visit to the "Big Apple" to see Broadway shows, explore the city, and visit friends.

## James H. Russell '60

James H. Russell (Jay) '60 passed away in October. After Cornell, he served in the US Army as a First Lieutenant and graduated from the University of Oklahoma Law School. He was Cornellian editor, following ΣAE's Jack McCormick, Jim Hobson, and Hugh Zimmers, and was in Quill and Dagger. Jay and Mary settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Russells were friends of Gwen and Jim Glenn '59, residents of nearby Taos.

## Christos Hadjitheodoro '61

Christos was an exchange student from Greece who came to Cornell in the late 1950s to study civil engineering. He was initiated into ΣAE. After Cornell, he taught at the University of Puerto Rico and then returned to Greece to join the civil engineering faculty at the University of Patras. He died in 2015.

## Theodore "Ted" C. F. Munday '59

ΣAE Theodore "Ted" Charles Fegley Munday, 84, of Kendall Park, New Jersey, died October 21, 2021, at Princeton Medical Center. He graduated from Cornell with an AB in 1959 and from Iowa State University with a PhD in 1964. He retired in 2003 after 39 years as a research chemist in research and development, primarily at FMC Laboratories, Princeton, with numerous patents and publications.

A gentle man who encouraged many, he was an Eagle Scout, a member of ΣAE social fraternity, and a participant in many musical activities. Ted loved to run and enjoyed racing, camping, hiking mountains, and baseball, especially with his family. His younger brother, John Munday, also Cornell ΣAE, eulogized him as "a leader in my life and my mentor." Ted died of COVID-19.

## William "Shifty" Schumacher '57

Submitted by Ron Demer '59

William "Shifty" Schumacher '57 passed away in August from multiple myeloma and related complications. He was one of seven Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers that rowed crew. In 1957, his senior year, his "heavyweight eight" was undefeated, and Cornell sent them to the Henley Royal Regatta in Henley-on-Thames to compete for The Grand Challenge Cup for the first time since 1895. Glenn Light and the late George Bullwinkel, both '58 ΣAEs, were spares.

Bill was #5 in the boat, part of the "engine room," the super-strong guys that powered the shell. Each race at Henley involves two boats. Cornell drew a first-round bye and met a determined Russian crew in the semifinals. The Big Red broke the course record, beating the Russians by eight seconds (two boat lengths). Next, they met Yale in the final for the third time that year, winning by half a length with a final sprint at 40 strokes a minute, breaking its new Henley record. The

## Chapter Eternal

### James W. Armour Jr. '50

February 10, 2022

### Kuhl C. Green '50

May 2019

### Gordon Gowen '52

May 3, 2022

### Donald R. Huene '55

July 5, 2021

### William J. Schumacher '57

August 14, 2021

### Arthur V. N. Brooks '58

July 6, 2021

### John Lauren Tracy '58

February 1, 2022

### Richard Allison Hyde '59

October 31, 2021

### Theodore C. F. Munday '59

October 21, 2021

### James J. Russell '60

October 11, 2021

### Christos Hadjitheodoro '61

2015

### Thomas P. Hoekelman '62

January 27, 2022

### John P. LaMacchia '87

October 1, 2021

unbeaten 1957 Cornell eight were US IRA (Intercollegiate Rowing Association) and Henley Champions.

He was a member of three Cornell honorary societies: Pros-Ops, the chemical engineering academic honorary; Aleph Samach for junior men; and Quill and Dagger for senior men. He subsequently received a PhD in chemical engineering from Cornell and became close to the late John Sargent, ΣAE '60, who was also in the chemical engineering doctoral program.

Shifty met his wife, Amelia, when teaching chemical engineering in Argentina with the

*Continued on Page 6*



Peace Corps. He had a distinguished engineering career at *SRI International (Stanford Research Institute International)*.

There is some dispute regarding Bill's "Shifty" nickname. His high school classmate, **ΣAE Dick Peterson '57** (deceased) attributed it to Bill's moves on the dance floor, while Bill maintained that it was his prowess on the basketball court.

In 1991, I went to Henley in early July for the Regatta. The ladies wore hats and dresses below the knee, and the men sported neckties and navy blazers, many with embroidered rowing college or club crests on the breast pockets. Champagne, cucumber sandwiches on crustless bread, strawberries, and whipped cream were plentiful.

The Henley Grand Challenge Cup has been awarded annually since 1839 except for during the world wars. The names of the winning oarsmen and the coxswain of each winning boat are engraved on the cup in a 1" x 2" area. During the Regatta, the cup resides in a tent where I found it with the 1957 inscription "W J Schumacher."

I sent Bill a Henley postcard writing: "At Henley, saw the cup with your name and had a big thrill!"

Four months later, Stanford invited Cornell, its sister school and the inspiration for the institution that Leland Stanford founded in 1891

(100 years ago), to a football game and alumni bash. I attended. After the game (Stanford, 56-6) I was outside the stadium when someone picked me (150 pounds) up from behind and tossed me into the air. It was Bill. Big hug and smile and "I loved your Henley card."

## 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 ΣAE 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.*



## A.D. WHITE GREEK SUMMIT October 16, 2021

Andrew Dickson White Greek Summit at Statler Auditorium on Saturday, October 16, 2021. NY Alpha sponsored the keynote speaker.



*Kara Miller McCarty, Lee May, Lori Hart, Keynote Speaker: Ron Skalko '73 and Dee Hawks.*

## 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. Please contact **Gus Noojin '69** at [gusnoojin3@gmail.com](mailto:gusnoojin3@gmail.com).

## OFFICIAL WEBSITE [www.sae-cornell.org](http://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.

**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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