



NEW YORK ALPHA NEWS

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ΣAE TO RETURN TO HILLCREST



**Gus Noojin '69 | President,
New York Alpha Alumni
Association**

gusnoojin3@gmail.com

By the time you receive the fall edition of the New York Alpha News, undergraduate ΣAE's will occupy our century-old chapter house

for the first time in over 12 years. The reason for this hiatus is well known: the tragic passing of **George Desdunes '13**, a piece of our history we must never forget.

The phoenix, a symbol of our fraternity, is an apt metaphor for the path from that tragedy to this rebirth. It began with a strategic plan, anchored by the aspiration to create a chapter that could serve as a model for Greek life at Cornell and elsewhere. Along the way, events on campus fueled anti-Greek sentiment, and our first application for reinstatement was rejected. We navigated these

and other hurdles, in my opinion, by being consistent. We held fast to the aspiration, and most important, you, our alumni, were unwavering in your support.

Your support of the Hillcrest Development Fund allowed us to put the house in great shape. The recently completed renovation of the ground floor is the capstone of that effort. Your willingness to contribute your time and talent has also been critical. For a long while, there wasn't much to do but wait. Now, when our plate is full, when I ask for help, the answer is almost always "of course," without hesitation.

Ron Skalko is currently living at Hillcrest, serving as an "on the ground" member of Dave Martin's chapter advisory board. Thanks to Ron Demer's effort, restored composites, memorials, and other memorabilia will be in place by the time the actives return. Work is underway on a new memorial to **George Desdunes** (see nearby). **Steve Sinaiko** and **Corey Jackson** are working on meal service and a kitchen rehab. The actives are busy fulfilling

the requirements to earn a charter from National.

Despite this building momentum, challenges remain. Compared to other fraternities, rush was reasonably successful, but not sufficient to fill the house. To make the operation financially viable, we will need to lease some of the rooms to non-affiliated students. We have engaged a consultant to help with this task. We expect that brothers living together at Hillcrest will promote group cohesiveness and personal development. Furthermore, we hope that having a top-of-market chapter house to display will improve recruiting results.

We knew this rebuilding project would be a challenge. We are now getting a taste of what that really means. With your continuing support, I am confident we can build a chapter we can all be proud of.

Yours in the Bonds,

Gus Noojin
Gus Noojin '69



EMINENT ARCHON'S LETTER

Jake Salas '24

NY Alpha Brothers:

Hello! My name is **Jake Salas**, and it is truly an honor to be the new eminent archon of the chapter. I am a junior in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, concentrating in entrepreneurship. As a transfer from The College of New Jersey this past fall, I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of our 24 current brothers this year. The welcoming nature of all the alumni has helped me feel at home here at Cornell.

A few updates: rush has been a great success. We have welcomed nine new members to our class and truly believe we have added some of the finest gentlemen to our roster. While 15 was our target number, we opted for quality over quantity. Although we move into Hillcrest in the fall of 2023, we were permitted to use the house for rush events, and this was a major contributor to our success. So, on behalf of all the brothers, we would like to thank you for your unwavering support. We are looking forward to moving into

the house this upcoming fall and maximizing our opportunity to expand our brotherhood and to increase our influence on campus.

Brothers have been getting involved in a range of philanthropy over this past semester. As a collective, we spent over 80 hours volunteering with Cops, Kids, and Toys, a local organization that aims to bring gifts to underprivileged children in Tompkins County during the holiday season. We plan to maintain this relationship and to continue volunteering our time into next fall, when their toy collection cycle restarts.

Before we move on to some more exciting news, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight one of our new brothers in the chapter: Chris Bird. "Bird," as we call him, is actively engaged in ROTC on campus. He reports for training four days per week, clocking in at 5:30 am, and runs about 20 miles per week on average. Meanwhile, Bird has been an exemplary new member, encouraging his brothers, leading the group, and helping make my life easier. His commitment has impressed all

of our brothers, and I am proud to say that he is one of my two new little brothers.

More than anything else, our group is excited to finally relocate to Hillcrest in the fall. I was always told that "thank you's" only go so far... With that being said, I would formally like to invite all of you to a reunion event next fall during Homecoming. The brothers and I would like the chance to get to know you all, and this event will truly be our homecoming. We have a couple special ideas in contention right now: the *Hot Truck* revival, *Cornell Chicken*, and some limited edition ΣAE gifts for all of those that attend. We hope to see all of you there!

If you have any questions or concerns or if you'd like to hear more about any of this, I assure you there's much more; please do not hesitate to reach out. My contact information is accompanied below by Ron Skalko's, my go-to guy, live-in advisor, and fundraising chair. I hope to hear from all of you soon!

Jake Salas: 732-567-8215; jgs282@cornell.edu

Ron Skalko: 678-923-6005; rls73@comcast.net



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UPDATE YOUR EMAIL

We want you to be in the loop! Please confirm we have a good email for you. We periodically send updates, reminders, and good wishes at the holidays electronically. This saves time and money and keeps you informed. To check your information, go to www.sae-cornell.org and log in. You can view and update your contact information.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: BILL PEREZ '69



Bill Perez '69

William "Bill" Perez graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in government. From 1970 to 2004, he worked at S.C. Johnson, which sells familiar products such as Off, Ziploc, and Pledge. After starting off in sales and becoming the youngest GM in Spain, he ran Latin America, became COO, and then spent eight years as CEO. He went on to serve as CEO of both Nike and then Wrigley. Bill has served on several boards, including Whirlpool, Johnson & Johnson, Campbell Soup Company, Kellogg, Hallmark, and Nike. He is also an emeritus trustee of Cornell. His son, David, graduated from Cornell University in 1995 and was also a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, having served as eminent archon one term.

You pledged ΣAE with 50 other brothers? Can you discuss what that was like and why everyone wanted to join ΣAE? Are you still close with your pledge brothers?

People wanted to join ΣAE because it was probably considered the best house on the hill. It had a lot of great people, several very visible athletes, and a unique little-sisters program. While there were 51 of us in total, I was not allowed to formally pledge until the beginning of my sophomore year. I think about eight pledged in the fall (43 spring and eight the following year). Your social life was somewhat guided by your fraternity affiliation, and ΣAE had a wonderful reputation.

I am still close to a number of ΣAE brothers. I had dinner with Hank South and his wife recently. We organized a Chicago mini reunion last summer and had nine brothers show up. I believe, at our last reunion, we had the largest contingent at the reunion. Will be getting together with a couple more brothers and a little sister in Naples in March. Two brothers with whom I went to high school remain close today: Cle Austin and Russ Trier. Without their endorsement, I'm not sure I would have made the ΣAE cut.

You have been CEO of one private and two publicly traded companies. What advice would you give to those who want to advance their careers in large organizations?

The fact that I was on academic probation after my freshman year (the reason I could not pledge in the spring) should serve as evidence that there is not a direct correlation between academic achievement and career progression. The biggest strength I had was probably that I cared about people and the people knew, I cared about them. I tried to learn everybody's name and visited all factory shifts (2:00 am in a factory is not quite as resting as 2:00 am in your bed!). Went to employee weddings (when invited!). Not sure I ever gave a direct order. My preference was to persuade folks to move in a certain direction. I used humor as often as relevant; it was about having fun.

I was also driven to make the numbers, whether I was selling Raid to a supermarket or pitching a multimillion-dollar plan at Wal-Mart. I always used to say you can't argue with feelings, you have to argue with facts, and you had to be prepared, do your homework to gather those facts. Set clear objectives and define and rate potential outcomes while setting objectives. Data drives correct answers.

I probably felt the greatest pressure to perform in the family-owned company. In a public company, you are working for a large number of anonymous share owners. In a private company, you are working for a family, and a large portion of the family's wealth is tied up in the company. If you don't perform well and the company does not perform well, the results can be devastating. Think about the family betting the bulk of their net worth on a single non-family member.

Did you ever hold any officer positions while in ΣAE? Has your affiliation with ΣAE influenced your career in any ways?

I never ran for office—not that I would have necessarily won—but I now view this as a missed opportunity. Gus Noojin is a great example of person who put his ΣAE leadership experience to good use in the business world. As an undergraduate, you want to build a resume that makes you attractive to potential hiring companies. I was fortunate to have the fact that I had been raised in Colombia and was fluent in Spanish, that was a point of difference that I tried to leverage in my job search. I used that Spanish during my sales pitches in the inner city of Cleveland; most of the sales people could not communicate in Spanish.

The greatest influence ΣAE has had on my career is that it allowed me to form lifelong friendships. Let me give you an example; after being fired by Phil Knight at Nike, I was hustling to find a job. I was invited to interview for the CEO position at one of the world's largest hotel chains but didn't know much about hotels. Spent an hour on the phone with Russ Trier and another hotelier, cramming for the interview, and the interview went well. I had a good shot at the job but decided to take the Wrigley position. Not sure how far I would have gone in the hotel process without Trier's shared wisdom.

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

Leverage the fact that you are part of a start-up in your job search. You have a spirit of adventure and a willingness to create a path rather than traveling along the old highway. Restarting ΣAE is like starting a company, launching a new product. You are helping create something pretty much from scrap. A lot of hard work will go into the restart, there will be disappointments along the way, but at the end of the day, you will have a great sense of accomplishment and a new set of lifelong friends.

What are some favorite memories as an ΣAE?

My favorite memory was a pledge party my sophomore year where I met my wife. We used to bus in girls from other schools, and in this case, there was a busload of Elmira College students, where she went to school.

But, there were so many other great memories: parties, dinners with Buster our cook, (unsuccessfully) trying to pay off the new wing, cheering on the ΣAE jocks, winning in intramural sports, big pool games, bridge in the library, and trying to build the best pledge class on the hill every year. As I look back at my Cornell years, without a doubt, ΣAE was at the forefront of my memories.

THE LOST PLANTATION

Anthony “Tony” J. Ayer ‘60

You recently asked me for some back history of our extraordinary discovery of a “lost” Danish Westindian sugar and rum plantation in the Caribbean. It had been abandoned after a hurricane in 1898. The tropical jungle took over and covered it with vines, waiting to be discovered. We found the historic ruins on the island of St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands group of spectacularly sun-drenched and gleaming sand—tourist destinations to dream of. These islands had previously been colonized by the Danish government.

As a child, I was fortunate to grow up in the tropics, only leaving for further education state-side, culminating with a degree in philosophy at Cornell University in the very cold north of Ithaca, New York. For a Caribbean raised youth, I was pretty much frozen until being rushed by ΣΑΕ. I joined a group of students who knew how to survive and appreciated the joys of college life. New York Alpha was—and I hope still is—a warm welcoming house to students from a variety of home locations and upbringing traditions. It was a wonderful three-plus years.

Returning to St. Croix after graduation in 1960, I found an opportunity to establish my own Real Estate firm, and for the next 20 odd years, I gravitated toward specializing in historic preservation of the older Danish colonial structures that resonated with the history of plantations, pirates, and sugar and/or rum fortunes. I “recycled” and restored several of these stone buildings into income production, helping revitalize Frederiksted, a small town on St. Croix. My firm, in addition to normal activities of rental, retail sales, apartment creation, and management, branched out into land subdivision and sales. But, my fascination with the early history of the colonization of the sugar islands became my focus.

A long story short, in 1983, I guess I was in the right place at the right time. I came upon a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire a large tract of old Danish sugar-estate parcels, including some 2,000 feet of beach and coral waterfront. Finding

like-minded partners, we secured the 200 acres of property and began clearing away the jungle, saving the old growth trees, cutting in dirt-road access trails, and finding a surveyor who was willing to locate the boundaries hidden away in the jungle bush—shades of Harrison Ford and the lost.

In the process, we uncovered the vine shrouded stone ruins of an abandoned Danish sugar and rum plantation, later identified as Estate Mount Washington. After some persuasion, my wife agreed that it could be an opportunity to build ourselves a new unique home within the stone ruins. At the same time, we could set an example of meaningful preservation of the rich history of early colonial development, both for tales of success and, at the same time, to reveal the tragic history of human suffering caused by the slave trade that made it possible.

In clearing out the jungle growth, we found an entire sugar production industrial complex, the early stone sugar crushing mill, a village of 17 stone cottages for the enslaved worker families, an infirmary or “sick house,” stone stables, a three-story stone rum barrel storage warehouse, the stone water cisterns for the rum distillery copper worms, a two story dungeon, and the ruins of a hurricane destroyed large “greathouse” home for the plantation owner and family.

We were overwhelmed by what we had found, but with encouragement from friends and fellow historic preservation advocates, we undertook a three-year restoration and reconstruction process, including a trip to Copenhagen to unearth the history of the plantation and to begin the recreation of the plantation, including the great-house. In the process, we discovered an original watercolor of the plantation, dated 1839, as well as the entire list of the owners names and the names of the enslaved workers, their skill level, and religion. The Danish government kept meticulous records as part of their census duties.

All these historic records are now in the library archives of the Estate Whim Museum (another of our favorite island treasures), a well restored sugar plantation and library repository.

During the three-year restoration process, we realized that we would have to order some 20,000 board feet of mahogany and “green heart” for flooring, roof beams, and trim (direct from the Amazon, the only termite proof wood available). We also realized that, in recreating a historic home, we would have to furnish it with the age appropriate mahogany furnishings of the period, so the three years stretched on for several more, with furniture restoration, antique auctions, and additional reconstruction of some of the other structures. This included the search for authentic sugar-crushing machinery. We eventually found this in Santo Domingo. This effort would help tell the story of human suffering, as well as the international growth of the sugar trade with the colonial north of the United States and the empires of European nations. The story of slavery and its evils had to be a history lesson long to remember, so not to be repeated.

Estate Mount Washington became our home for the next 35 or so years until we decided that simplifying our lives and downsizing was becoming so necessary and appealing. Recovering from the devastation of several hurricanes in 2017 helped us to consider retirement as a worthwhile goal. I closed my real-estate firm after 55 years, and we moved out of the hurricane belt to the Pacific Northwest.

I leave the reader with this thought:

History is not a thing
Or a possession.
It is a concept
A spirit
It has value
And there is a duty
To preserve it
It needs to be understood,
Respected and safeguarded.
We need to learn from it.
Prevent repeating its mistakes.
To know where we are headed,
We need to know where we have been.

— Anthony J. Ayer

GASPARILLA PIRATE FEST ROAD TRIP

About 20 brothers headed to Tampa in January for the annual Gasparilla Pirate Fest Parade, which is a day-long event with floats and people dressed as pirates. Thanks to Tampa residents **Mike Giuli ‘88** and **Mike Kraskow ‘86** for organizing.

Also in attendance (pictured right) were **Ron Skalko ‘73** and wife Lorraine, **Darryl Tom ‘92**, **Joe Gray ‘87**, **Rich Meisner ‘86**, **Rob Ceske ‘89**, **Cory Jackson ‘86**, **Mike Slusar ‘86**, **Steve Bahriahtaris ‘86**, **Jamie Foster ‘87**, **Jeff Handleman ‘87**, **Mike Goldgof ‘86**, **Jeff Long ‘88**, **Steve Sinaiko ‘89**, **Ray Hsiao ‘88**, **Ray Hill ‘85**, **Steve Glossner ‘87**, **Tom Harner ‘86**, and **Jim Dickey ‘86**.



BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT: THE RIGHT TIME...

Mike Slusar

It's the right time to join the NY Alpha Alumni Association Board: just in time for the arrival of the new active chapter at Hillcrest in fall 2023. With over 100 years of board service experience retiring this year, we need your help in guiding both the active chapter and the NYAAA forward. Retiring members include **Hal Sieling, Jim Beckett, Mike Slusar, and Jamie Wright.**

There are usually two meetings a year of the entire board: one at Homecoming and one annual meeting in June around Reunion weekend, which can be attended in person or by phone. Committee meetings are as needed throughout the year.

Board and committee roles needed include helping with fundraising, national convention attendance, facilities, getting Hillcrest ready for occupancy, chapter advisory, alumni outreach, and secretary work. Committee roles are a good way to ease your way into board membership. **It's your time** to make a difference for one of your favorite places on earth, the fraternity that has helped mold your life, career, and friendships.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact **Mike Slusar '86** at mike@brandar.com or **Mike Giuli '88** at wooden5@aol.com.

DON'T FORGET TO DESIGNATE PART OF YOUR CORNELL GIFT TO SAE!

To double the impact and giving credit of your Cornell gift, write in the **"Hillcrest SAE Development Fund #780108"** on the memo line of your check. By allocating your gift



to SAE, both Cornell and SAE are credited with the full amount of the donation. The check is counted twice, once by Cornell and once by SAE. You receive full credit and recognition for your gift with Cornell, including the various giving societies. And if you are giving in conjunction with your reunion or graduating class, your gift receives full class credit for that, too. You can allocate your Cornell gift to SAE by visiting the Cornell alumni website and using the secure Cornell online gift form located at giving.cornell.edu/give. Select the "Other" button as to where to direct your gift and then use the name of our fund and fund code, **"Hillcrest SAE Development Fund #780108,"** in the comment section. Gifts credited to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund are used to fund major renovations and capital improvements to Hillcrest and also to support undergraduate program initiatives. Thank you!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ANDY RUNG '03

Board Role: Represent NY Alpha on the Alumni IFC, member of the chapter advisory board, and attending the National Convention to represent the board.

Bio: Crew is what brought Andy to Ithaca, where he was recruited to row at Cornell. Ironically, it was also crew that led him to join SAE. "After many years of many hours a day at rowing, I was burned out and gave it up, and I joined SAE in my sophomore year." At SAE, he was pledge-class president, assistant social chair, and steward.

He graduated Cornell in 2003 with a BA in history and a minor in English. In 2013-2014, he received an MBA and MS from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Andy worked for Philip Morris USA for the next 15 years, moving from Rochester, New York, to Richmond, Virginia, to Seattle, Washington, to Louisville, Kentucky, and now back to Richmond again. He held various management positions in that time, running different sales organizations and supply chains and leading strategic teams. In 2019, he left Philip Morris and moved into the tech space for a company called Cornerstone OnDemand, where he has been for the last three years, recently having taken over team lead in sales.

GREG KLEIN '06

Board Role: Use his relevant engineering, management, and facilities experience to work on the facilities committee with Bob Kolton.

Bio: After graduating in 2006 from the engineering school, he moved down to New York City, where he began a career on Wall Street in foreign exchange. He spent seven years at Barclays Capital and two years at UBS, leaving the industry as a director of foreign-exchange-derivatives trading. In 2014, he launched a company with his brother, BoomerangNYC. The business was a laundry and dry-cleaning delivery service powered by an app, servicing over 1,000 customers in the first year throughout lower Manhattan. After two years in the industry, he sold the company and exited the laundry business. In 2016, he moved up to Boston, where his now-wife was attending business school. He joined five employees in a house in Cambridge, where we built the world's single largest website for tours and experiences:

PlacePass.com. His role was running operations, and Greg was part of the senior team that landed deals with Marriott International, Marriott Vacations Worldwide, Hertz, United Airlines, and Southwest Airlines, ultimately raising around \$25M in strategic investor funding. Greg left PlacePass at the end of 2019 to run Boston for Sonder, a hospitality company looking to disrupt the traditional hotel industry. As general manager, he oversaw all real-estate decision making, facility management, and hospitality operations. In 2022, Greg's role expanded into his current responsibility, where he oversees Sonder's largest region, Montreal to Washington DC, with over 120 employees, 1,700 units, and \$60M in revenue.

BEN ROBERTS '10

Role: Ben Roberts is joining the board with an interest in attending the SAE National meeting and helping Andy Rung to serve as liaisons to SAE National and its many resources. Ben is also helping to form the George Desdunes Memorial committee for Reunion 2023.

Bio: Benjamin Roberts began his career in business-to-business sales, supporting outbound teams at Idealab, and Insight Venture Partners portfolio companies. Today, he makes up two of the 44 years of financial advisory experience at The Roberts Group, inside Merrill Lynch, Bank of America. He also serves as cochair of the Native American Professional Network for the bank.

CHUCK CHIEMELU '11

Role: Chuck is joining the board primarily to help us with the activities needed to get the house ready for the undergraduate chapter in fall 2023 and to help John Hyduke with the new website construction. That said, Chuck would also like to attend the SAE National meeting this year with Andy Rung and Ben Roberts.

Bio: Chuck has a background in marketing and digital media. He has expertise in performance marketing across programmatic display, video, and paid social media. He is currently a senior product-marketing manager at Amazon Music. Prior to Amazon, he worked as a performance marketing manager at Reality Labs (Meta Quest), as well as a senior growth marketing manager for Airbnb.



RETURN TO HILLCREST THIS JUNE FOR REUNION

ALUMNI NEWS

Roy Hassel '57: Enjoying my 23rd year of retirement with Judy, my wife of 62 years, now in my family home in Hartsdale, New York. I was a certified Methodist pastor and administrator for 42½ years. After Cornell, I earned a MDiv at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, in 1960 and went back in 1975 to get my DMin. We have four children: Jeff, ex-directory of the Asheville (North Carolina) Humane Center, Susan, a VP of BEA career services in Pennsylvania, and twins Cindy and Steve. Cindy developed CK Designs, and Steve is in the finance field. We share about four months at our Adirondack cottage on a lake in Wells, New York. We have been blessed with a meaningful career, family, and retirement.

WWW.SAE-CORNELL.ORG

Ron Skalko '73
rls73@comcast.net

Reunion 2023 is just a few months away, June 8 to 11. 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 to 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 ΣAE "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.

REUNION WEEKEND SCHEDULE FOR NY ALPHA ALUMNI

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

1:00 pm until dark: open house

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

2:00–4:00 pm: class gatherings (email us if you want contact info for your class for planning purposes!)

3:30 pm (approx.): Q&A session
Discussion of our vision and strategy for recolonization.

5:00 pm: gathering on the new deck to catch the sunset and to toast Reunion attendees

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

12:00 noon: Hillcrest doors open around noon

2:00 pm: NY Alpha Alumni Association board meeting in the Treadwell Library

4:00–6:00 pm: alumni reception

5:15 pm: awards ceremony

Reserve a room at Hillcrest. This reunion, brothers can stay in Hillcrest for free on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please contact **Darryl Tom '92** at darryl.tom@gmail.com for more information.

Please note: parking at Hillcrest will be at a premium this year. Please "car pool" if possible, especially on Saturday. If the lot is full, Libe Slope is available and an easy walk away.

CHAPTER UPDATE

David Martin '94 | Chair,
Chapter Advisory Board

Greetings brothers!

Our chapter on the hill is having a busy spring semester, and on behalf of your advisory board, I can report that we are marching steadily toward the goals of both officially rechartering and occupying Hillcrest!

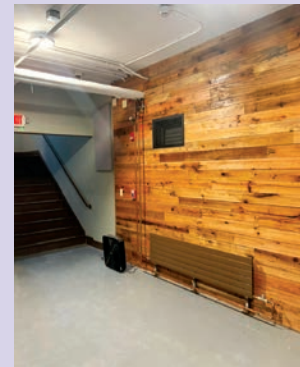
The brotherhood currently stands at 24 members after a solid rush at the start of the spring semester. We have a great, diverse group of guys on campus, from all over the country and from just about every college, with members involved in a variety of other campus activities. It has been great fun watching them form intramural teams, plan get-togethers, and also strategize for things like rush to continue building the group. It is easy to see that we have men of great character carrying the torch for New York Alpha!

The chapter did host their second round of elections in December 2022 and so had their first leadership transition as a group. I want to thank **Amar Vyas '24** for his leadership as the initial EA, starting back in February 2022; there was certainly plenty to do as the chapter was formed, and Amar invested a lot of his time and energy to get us where we are today. I would like to welcome **Jake Salas '25**, who is an

active ΣAE transfer from the College of New Jersey, as our new EA; he has brought both new energy and vision for the chapter. I also would like to thank the rest of the leadership group, many of whom are continuing in their original offices, as we move toward rechartering.

Speaking of rechartering, the brothers hosted an ΣAE National consultant in early February for some additional training, as well as to evaluate our progress to-date. The brothers are doing a good job of completing the myriad of tasks that are required for chartering, and we are currently targeting our official rechartering during the fall of 2023.

The other extremely exciting thing happening next fall will be the reoccupation of Hillcrest by the undergraduate brothers. As you can imagine, having a house to live in together will be a real game-changer for the guys on campus, and they are all looking forward to that. The house is in great shape, with the basement recreation area project just being completed and with the overall maintenance level of the house being as high as I have seen it in more than years. But, there's lots to do, as you can imagine, to get ready to move back in: from kitchen and food service, to furniture, deciding who gets what rooms, etc., etc., etc. So, as you can imagine, we have a flurry of activity planned for this spring to make sure that our "occupation" goes without a hitch.



Recently completed Sieling Lounge.

Special thanks to our advisory board, who continue to be good sounding boards for the active brothers, and especially to two really key members: **Art Poole '64**, who has devoted a lot of time to working with the university and helping to develop the housing budgets for the coming year, and **Ron Skalko '73**, who, as many of you know, has been serving as the live-in advisor on campus (and more specifically, living at Hillcrest) and being our "boots on the ground" working with the undergrads.

Should you have an interest in joining the advisory board or getting more involved with the undergraduate chapter, please reach out anytime; there are lots of opportunities. It has been a great experience to connect with the undergraduate brothers on campus. Just the act of sharing some of our traditions with the brothers goes a long way!



Glenn Light, BME '59, MS '62, of Los Angeles, California, passed away after a long battle with chronic lung disease and is survived by his wife, Ruth, and family. An ΣAE fraternity brother at Cornell, Glenn was a spare on the undefeated Cornell Henley-on-the-Thames (England) World Championship rowing crew in 1957 and was elected commodore (captain) of the 1958 crew. He was a member of Quill and Dagger and Tau Beta Pi.

Bill Standen, our long-standing president of many terms over our middle-alumni years, passed

away after battling cancer. Bill also was ΣAE and Quill and Dagger and very active in campus life. He will be remembered especially for his successful efforts in getting his fraternity brothers back to the hill for Reunions. Ron Demer '59 reminds us that Bill and Sheila met at a Barcelona bullfight when Bill was a midshipman on summer cruise in the Med and Sheila a UConn grad on tour, thus starting, as Ron put it, "a Hemingway romance that lasted 65 years." Bill will be greatly missed, and we extend our sympathies to Sheila and family and also to Ruth and family over their losses.

DAVID LIPSKY '61

On January 17, 2023, **Brother David Lipsky '61**, joined the Chapter Eternal in Ithaca at the age of 83.

Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, he learned the art of negotiation, working alongside his father in his haberdashery, Ray's Men's Shop. "I waited on customers; it was a major part of my education," he said in a 2013 interview. "My father was a good tutor... the way you sold was being of maximum service to the customer ... Those were formative experiences that carried over and served me well."

Dave transferred to the ILR school at Cornell in 1958 from Lehigh University as a sophomore. After graduation, he received his doctorate in econom-



David Lipsky '61

ics from MIT in 1967 and taught at SUNY Buffalo. He later joined the Cornell University faculty in 1969, where he served as dean of the ILR school from 1988 to 1997 and was the founding director of the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution. He was a professor emeritus of industrial and labor relations and the Anne Evans Estabrook Professor of Conflict Resolution, focusing on negotiation, conflict resolution, and collective bargaining. He taught his last class in December 2018.

An internationally esteemed leader in his fields,

Dave continued to publish research until 2019, having published over 70 articles and book chapters, and was author or editor of 15 books and monographs.

In 2013, he received the Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship in recognition of his inspiring teaching of undergraduate students. He was awarded the Groat Award by the National Academy of Human Resources, ILR's highest alumni honor, and received lifetime achievement awards from the Labor and Employment Relations Association and the American College of Civil Trial Mediators.

Dave and his wife and high school sweetheart, Alexandra "Sandy" Lipsky, lived in the Belle Sherman neighborhood in Ithaca for over 50 years. Sandy died in April 2020.

REMEMBERING DAVID LIPSKY '61

According to **Hal Sieling '62**, "Dave Lipsky was a great guy and a true gentleman. When I came to campus, Dave was the first person I met during a welcome to Ithaca and Cornell gathering on campus. He sold me on fraternity life and was responsible for me coming to ΣAE. As many of you know, he made significant contributions to ILR as a teacher and then head of the department. He also made significant contributions to ΣAE in his own quiet way. In my contact with him recently, he never complained about being ill. That was Dave in a nutshell. He was the type of brother who always gave more than he took."

According to **Todd Girshon '90**, "David Lipsky was one of our most favorite professors at ILR. A great teacher, mentor, and brother. We were especially proud when he became dean of the ILR school. I took his collective bargaining course, and the union-management negotiations group project was one of the highlights; it likely contributed to my decision to ultimately become a labor- and employment-law attorney. I also always enjoyed seeing Dave and his wife Sandy every year at the annual ILR awards din-

ner in New York City. He embraced us as ΣAE brothers, and I always enjoyed hearing him talk about his fond memories at ΣAE in the 1960s, including the milk punch parties. We will miss him."

According to **Dan Markofsky '91**, "During my time at the ILR school (1987–1991), Dean Lipsky was always a friendly face. Brother Dean Lipsky knew those of us who were also brothers, like Alex Bernstein '91. Industrial and labor relations is not exactly a light subject, but Brother Lipsky humanized it. It made me feel more connected to my college and my fraternity when the dean would exchange the fraternity handshake. I'll never forget that handshake moment in the Ives Hall courtyard at graduation."

According to **Alex Bernstein '91**: "My most memorable recollection of Dean Lipsky was at an ΣAE dinner. We were on double secret probation, and Randy Stevens, head of IFC at Cornell and the man who had put us on probation, was also at the dinner. Dean Lipsky told a joke; it went something like this: 'Randy Stevens and Dean Lipsky had passed, and both were on clouds. On Randy Steven's cloud was a beautiful woman of the Sports Illustrated variety. On Dean Lipsky's cloud was the most heinous of a woman.

Dean Lipsky looked up from his cloud; he had lived a good life, followed all the rules, so he asked God, 'Why am I being punished in this way? Why does Randy Stevens get to live the rest of his life with a beautiful woman on his cloud, and get I this heinous witch of a woman?'" Looking at Randy Stevens, Dean Lipsky continued: 'God responded by saying, "About the woman on Randy's cloud, that's her punishment." The joke and the laughter that followed broke the ice, and Dean Lipsky's wit in that moment has stayed with me for all these years. I know the cloud he is on now is populated with loved ones and with things that have brought him joy throughout his life."

According to **Benjamin Roberts '10**: "The Saturday morning after my 21st birthday, we had our collective bargaining group roleplay, overseen by Professor Lipsky. He and I spoke afterward, discovering we were both left-handed, transfers to ILR, and New York Alpha brothers. I'll never forget his advocacy for Greek life self-governance, and he credited balancing the house budget as his first brush with leadership. The last time we spoke, he congratulated me on getting married, and when I tried giving him credit for recent successes in my career, he assured me he played 'a minor role at best.' That's just the kind of brother he was."

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