



NEW YORK ALPHA NEWS

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • CORNELL UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



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

gusnoojin3@gmail.com

In my letter last Fall, I highlighted the new role we alumni will play in supporting the active chapter now that they have returned to Hillcrest. To recap, we still need volunteers for the Chapter Advisory Council and the Alumni Association Board; we still need your donations to the Hillcrest SAE Development Fund to maintain and improve our century-old home.

But there is a second component of the Alumni Association's mission: to maintain and enhance connections among the alumni of New York Alpha. Our signature event in support of that part of the mission is held during Reunion

Weekend each year. The dates for 2024 are June 6 – 9 and the classes ending in 4's and 9's will have their official 5-year reunion, but alumni from all class years are welcome. If you would like to stay in the house, contact Darryl Tom (darryl.tom@gmail.com).

The agenda for the weekend is relaxed and flexible – to meet your needs. On Friday afternoon, stop by the house at your leisure, bring the family and browse around. Check out your old room, the Sieling Lounge and, of course, the deck. Hopefully, you will be impressed with the condition of the house and observe firsthand what your investments in the Hillcrest Development Fund have made possible.



On Saturday afternoon, the Alumni Association board meets in the library, and you are welcome to sit in. Following the board meeting, at 4PM, is the Alumni reception. This is the prime opportunity to meet up with classmates and get to know brothers from other generations. Also, key Administration representatives usually stop by and you will have the opportunity to get their perspective on the Greek community. All these activities are supported by your dues, so please respond to the recent solicitation, and help us do more of this.

I hope to see you at Hillcrest in June. If you can make it to Ithaca, it will be well worth your while. Phi Alpha!

Gus Noojin

Gus Noojin '69

EMINENT ARCHON'S LETTER



By Jake Salas '25

As the eminent archon of New York Alpha, it's my privilege to update you all on the happenings of the chapter. Since rechartering, our brotherhood has continued to grow and embody what it means to be a True Gentleman. From philanthropy to leadership to brotherhood, our chapter has been building a legacy that honors what our alumni have built and

accomplished. We are thrilled with how the chapter has progressed over the past year! Recruitment Chair Alden Hey and Assistant Recruitment Chair Austin Friedman organized an extensive week of events, culminating in the second-largest class among all 30 Cornell fraternities! The Epsilon class is now the largest class in the history of New York Alpha's post-2022 return to campus. The class includes 21 True Gentlemen from across a wide variety of states and every college at Cornell. We are proud of the leadership and dedication these young gentlemen have and will continue to show as brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon!

Additionally, brothers Joe Mehran and Felipe Lopez have been hard at work setting up a number of philanthropy events. The biggest event on our

calendar is our partnership with Alpha Xi Delta to host their Rose Gala. The Rose Gala is an annual event to raise money for charities including FosterClub and StandUp for Kids. This event is planned to be the largest philanthropy event hosted at Cornell this year. Another large project we have taken on is helping the local community through The Lundberg Project. We are helping The Lundberg Project's Fruitful Foundations campaign by partnering with local Cornell graduate students to raise money for the planting of native fruits to fight food insecurity and reduce carbon footprint by growing superfruits in Ithaca gardens. We are very excited to help with this initiative and support our Cornell Community. Lastly, through our dedication to bettering the community, we recognize how fortunate we are to be in the positions we are in. Thus, we have signed up to work with the Salvation Army as well as a local soup kitchen.

The brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon recognize the opportunity we have to make a positive impact on the community and strive to do so throughout all aspects of our chapter. Thank you so much for your support. Being a brother of NY Alpha has been life-changing for us all, and we wouldn't be here without your help and guidance. We are looking forward to the year ahead of us and can't wait to shape our future and the development of the chapter. Phi Alpha!



CHAPTER ADVISING

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Officers

President

Augustus "Gus" Noojin '69

Secretary

Stephen Sinaiko '89

Treasurer

Eric Jorgensen '84

Board Members

Chapter Advisory Chair

David Martin '94

Fundraising Chair

Benjamin H. Roberts '10

Facilities Co-chairs

Cory Jackson '86

and **Gregg Klein '06**

Outreach Chair/Newsletter

Darryl Tom '92

Website Chair

Jon Hydeuk '06

Chuck Chiemelu '12

Andy Rung '03

Neil Teague '66

Emeritus

Hal Sieling '62

Jim Becket '85

Mike Slusar '86

By Dave Martin '94

Chapter Advisory Board

Brothers:

Thanks to all of you who have visited the house recently while you have been on campus for various events, to see your children, etc. The active brothers really love the interaction they have been able to have with alumni, whether in a formal setting (like the re-chartering event last fall) or just for informal drop-ins when you happen to be in the neighborhood. I get such positive feedback from the actives after every one of those interactions, so keep them up! This is the best way to pass on the history and traditions of ΣΑΕ and Hillcrest, and you guys are doing a great job.

There are lots of ways to be involved with the chapter, such as roles on our advisory board mentoring and coaching the officers, helping with key house operations functions, and providing internships, career advice, and even job placement for our newer brothers. I'd encourage you all to jump in where you see fit. I think you will find the interactions fulfilling and I know the active brothers appreciate your involvement and contributions! Please reach out if you are looking for ways to get involved.

Hope to see many of you at Reunion Weekend this summer.



A GROUP OF ΣΑΕ BROTHERS HIT THE SLOPES

By Chris Saxman '88

A gathering of NY Alpha brothers took place at the end of January at Steamboat Springs. Mark Ahrens '88, Jeff Long '89, Steve Sinaiko '89, Steve Labowitz '92, Chris Saxman '88, and Lori Osgood (Jeff's lovely girlfriend) spent three days skiing great snow and eating great food prepared by brothers Labowitz, Saxman and Long. We started planning next year's trip before this one was even done.

By Chris Bonn '94

New York Alpha was well represented in February as brothers from the mid-'90s gathered in Eden, Utah to enjoy fantastic snow for four days.

Pictured at the base of Snowbasin are Zach Taylor '93, Christian Bonn '94, Kirk Vashaw '94, Brian Anderson '94, Brian Nicholson '94, Andrew Lodge '95, Mark Murphy '96, Adam Lorenz '96, Lars Weber '96, Gian Fabbri '96, and Chris Morrison '97.

Many glasses were raised, many stories were told, and much ibuprofen was consumed! All agreed to plan an even bigger "snow-reunion" next winter; reach out to Brian Anderson '94 for details.



DOUGLAS CROWE CU (ILR) '63

By Arthur Poole '64

In my junior year at Cornell. I was privileged to room with Douglas Crowe '63 and Charles Rhodes '63 in an apartment in Lansing. Charlie was one of the smartest people I had ever met, and Doug was one of the most interesting. In those days, the engineering programs took five years to complete. Charlie stayed an extra year and was awarded two Bachelor's of Science degrees—one in mechanical engineering and one in electrical engineering. Doug managed to "bust out" at least once (possibly twice!) primarily due to his devotion to NY Alpha of ΣAE. He began in arts but later switched to ILR where he graduated. He then did his required service as an ROTC graduate in the Army and unfortunately gave his life in the Vietnam War.

This article is devoted to Doug's activities serving ΣAE.

Doug matriculated at Cornell in 1957 and was immediately drawn to fraternity life. At that time there were over 50 houses (there are now fewer than 30!) but in rushing the following spring he was most impressed with ΣAE and pledged

there. He was initiated in the spring of 1958.

The fall of Doug's sophomore year, Cornell began excavation for what was to become Uris Library. At that time there was a kind of "mini gorge" between Hillcrest and Alpha Delt. At the time, the parking lot was about 20% of its current size. Doug noticed the daily caravan of dump trucks hauling material away to create the subfloors of the new library, and he made inquiries as to where they were taking the material. He was informed that they were taking the material down the hill, through the city of Ithaca, and finally dumping the debris on the west side of the lake. It was at least an hour's trek back and forth.

Doug contacted the construction company to see if they would be interested in dumping the fill in our "gorge," which was just five minutes from the Uris library site. The answer was an immediate "YES!" And so began the construction of the Hillcrest parking lot. Doug then worked with our resident "chef" Buster to provide coffee and donuts for the truck drivers. This was done so that they would dump the material in an orderly manner at Doug's direction. There may have been a charge for final grading, but knowing Doug, I believe that he negotiated a "freebie" with the contractor as the contractor had saved so much money.

Unfortunately, this project began Doug's first trek toward "busting out," as he devoted more time to his unofficial role as Director of Dumping than to class!

As soon as Doug arrived back on campus (from his bust out) he began working on an addition to Hillcrest to accommodate what he perceived as a need for more bedrooms, a larger dining hall, and a kitchen on the same floor. Doug's tireless efforts in fundraising from individual alumni and the New York Alpha Association resulted in the west wing that now adorns Hillcrest. There is no doubt in my mind that without Doug's efforts, there would be no addition to Hillcrest.

In October of 1962, U-2 Spy Planes discovered that the Russians were installing missiles in Cuba, just 90 miles from the south coast of Florida. Finally, on October 22, 1962, President Kennedy called a news conference in which he declared that Cuba was to be blockaded



from any ships, Russian or not, that carried offensive weapons entering its waters. Doug Crowe was astute enough to ask the Eminent Archon to adjourn the regular Monday night chapter meeting so that we could listen to the president. Doug's sense of history meant that the actives of ΣAE witnessed that historic event. I, for one, will never forget it.

During the Christmas holiday of 1963, Doug called me at my home in Connecticut and asked if I would be willing to contribute \$200 which, with a \$200 contribution from him, would fund the purchase of an ice machine for the house. I agreed and ΣAE had its own ice machine, something no other house had! We charged the going rate for ice until our investment was returned, and then it was free ice for the house. (Hal Sieling did a similar thing a year earlier with a jukebox he obtained. We were charged a nickel a record until it was paid for and then Hal removed the coin box and we danced for free.)

In the spring of 1963, the ROTC program held a formal ball. Doug, by now one of the senior members of the Army program, came to me as eminent treasurer of the house to see if we could host a pre-ball dinner for the upper echelon. I talked with Fred Marks (House Steward) and "Chef Buster," and we decided to present the idea to the members. The brothers approved the idea and agreed to act as waiters. The centerpiece of the buffet dinner was a steamship roast. Chef Buster, dressed in white with the requisite chef's hat, carved perfectly roasted beef for the guests. The dinner was a resounding success, ΣAE received much praise, and we made a profit of around \$3,000 for the house!

Douglas Crowe was an amazing member of our fraternity and I often wonder what he would have gotten up to in his later life had he not been tragically lost during the Vietnam War. Phi Alpha, Doug, wherever you are.

FUNDRAISING CHAIR'S LETTER

By Benjamin H. Roberts '10

Thanks to all those who supported Cornell Giving Day this year. Over 44 donors contributed online, raising over \$28,000 for the Hillcrest ΣAE Development Fund. That does not include the \$45,000 matching gift by the class of 1969 in recognition of their 55th reunion. We are extremely grateful for all your support, and if you didn't participate, there's still time to give a suggested \$211 to the fund!

The Hillcrest ΣAE Development Fund is primarily used to fund renovations and capital improvements to Hillcrest. Because our house is university-owned, gifts are tax deductible and eligible for corporate matching. Since 2010, the fund has allowed us to renovate the new Sieling Lounge, a full room reconfiguration; repair the new wing roof; replace the window and deck replacements; and refurbish the kitchen (over \$1.725 million in total improvements).

Now that the house is again occupied, it is especially important to make your donations so that Hillcrest remains the best-looking house on campus. As we are an emerging chapter, the house is still not completely full of brothers, making the support that much more important.

The other way to support NY Alpha is to pay your annual alumni dues. This fund allows the NY Alpha Alumni Association to maintain our website and alumni directory and all the wonderful digital improvements we have in the pipeline. We also use this fund for alumni events during reunion and other ways to get you back on campus enjoying the house.

To learn more and donate your \$211 online, please visit sae-cornell.org/ways-to-give.

ALUMNI NEWS:

JAMES MARSHALL '57

Great career as a veterinarian. Went back for the 65th reunion; just two showed up. Had a horse farm where I bred, trained, and raced both standardbred and thoroughbred horses. Had some fast ones and slow ones. Built a swimming pool for horses, a great way to train horses. My son Peter, my partner in the horses, died in 2018. No more horses without Peter. It seems that all my friends are dead. If anyone remembers me, give me a call (680-242-9310) on my 90th b-day: Nov. 4, 2023.

WILLIAM ESHBAUGH '59

We have just moved to a retirement community, The Knolls, of Oxford, Ohio. We moved from our home of 54 years which we built.

JAMES BADEN '61

Working at Volunteers in Medicine, singing barbershop society, and am a board member at Seabrook Retirement home.

DAVID NISBET '62

Fully retired now after a career in high-tech businesses here in the Boston area. Enjoy traveling with my wife, Regina. We traveled to Germany last summer with Bing and Mary Carlson, to Munich and the Alps; attended the famous Passion Play in Oberammergau.

NEIL SCHILKE '62

Ro and I continue to enjoy life in Michigan. Still golfing and bowling, although not very well. We have enjoyed traveling the world, especially cruising. Next stop is Bordeaux and then Paris, where we will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary.

MARSHAL CASE '64

My focus continues to be on "saving" wildlife and wildlife habitat. "Our" oceans are in serious trouble, and there is great need for collaboration among all "nations."

PETER MULBURY '66

G. daughter, Ella Wilmot, now a freshman at Cornell on the lacrosse team!

RONALD HEWITT '69

Spending eight months in New Hampshire and four months in Phoenix. Keep in touch: rshew@tds.net.

STEPHEN AICHELE '70

Still married (51 years) to Carol Tanner Aichele (class of '72, Delta Gamma and little sister of ΣAE) with three children and eight grandchildren (oldest is freshman at Penn State and youngest in kindergarten), all of whom live close enough to see regularly. Stayed in the Navy after NROTC at Cornell and retired after 25 years as a captain, USNR. Just became "of counsel" at Sack Ewing LLP, a 400-attorney law firm where I'd started in 1978 and where I had served as managing partner and, later, as chairman. Served on local boards and commissions for 15 years, and then as general counsel of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under Governor Tom Corbett. Quite interesting since Carol was serving as secretary of state of Pennsylvania during the same four years. Quite a ride! Now settling into grandchildren, travel, board service, and projects, in that order.

WILLIAM MCCUMISKEY '70

Still a PGA golf instructor, as well as a substitute teacher at Plainview and Farmingdale high schools. Wife, Maria, will retire this year from teaching. Children graduating from Clemson (Rosie) and teaching business at Geneseo (Willie).

SUDIP THAKOR '86

My youngest fam, twin girls Maya (CALs) and Lena (Arts & Sciences), are sophomores at Cornell now. My older two are both Cornell grads: Eric (CALs, 2018) and Anjali (ILR, 2019). So, we are now a six for six Big Red family, and I cannot wait for ΣAE to be reinstated at Hillcrest. I have the greatest memories. Thanks.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Jim Forsythe '90

March 15, 2024



Jim Forsythe '90 passed away on March 15, 2024, after succumbing to injuries sustained during a kite surfing accident.

Jim was the founder of a non-profit called Citizens for Sound Money. He was also a pilot for the US Air Force and a former New Hampshire senator.

He leaves behind a wife, Alexandra, and two children. A memorial is being planned for May 18, 2024, in the Washington, DC, area. If you would like to share stories for the celebration, please contact Alexandra at anforsythe315@gmail.com.

Edward D. Hill Jr. '54

November 30, 2022

Alphonse "Skip" J. Homicz Jr.

January 10, 2023

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.

Alumni communication services provided by [Elevate](https://www.elevate.com) | programs@elevateims.com | 607-533-9200 | [@elevateims](https://www.instagram.com/elevateims)