



NEW YORK ALPHA NEWS

NEW YORK ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • CORNELL UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Gus Noojin '69
President,
New York Alpha
Alumni Association
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As you can read in the articles elsewhere in this issue, our chapter collegiate continues on a positive path. Another solid Fall recruiting

effort has increased the membership to the point that the house should be routinely full. This will put the chapter on firm financial footing and chapter operations are improving each semester. This is all good news, but we cannot afford to take our eye off the ball. Your continued support, with time, talent and treasure, will be required to ensure the chapter continues to progress.

With that said, I want to highlight another aspect of the Alumni Association's dual mission: to foster a connection among the alumni of New York Alpha. The largest and best-known activity supporting this part of the mission is the annual gathering on Reunion Weekend. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with your classmates and meet alumni from other eras. With the opportunity to stay in the house, it is now easier to organize a group to

attend Reunion and have a perfect venue to renew old connections and make new ones. Last June, many took advantage of this opportunity and the available rooms were fully booked. With a caterer operating the kitchen, it is also easy to organize a dinner at the house. Whether you are a regular Reunion attendee or have never been, reach out to your classmates and organize a group to attend. The more the merrier!

Some classes have groups that get together regularly or take trips together. These ad hoc gatherings are also an important part of maintaining connections. If you are part of such a group, try to make it bigger and better organized. If this sounds interesting to you, invest a little effort to see if you can get a group together. The more of these we have, the better connected we will be.



Another event that has been successful in the past is a gathering around the Red Hot Hockey game in Madison Square Garden. Difficulty finding a suitable venue and getting seats together have dampened participation recently, even though many brothers attend the game. What we need is someone from the NYC area to take charge of this event. The actives would be keen to make the trip if a gathering were organized. Are you that person? You could make a meaningful contribution and have a good time as well. If you are interested, please contact Darryl Tom.

I often ask "What does success look like?" When it comes to our Alumni Association, to me it looks like a thriving active chapter and a well-connected alumni base. Please join me to make this a reality. Phi Alpha.

Gus Noojin
Gus Noojin '69

EMINENT ARCHON'S LETTER



Justin Alvarez '27

Phi Alpha Brothers! My name is Justin Alvarez, and I am honored to serve as Eminent Archon for New York Alpha for the Fall 2025 semester, marking my second term in this role. I am a junior at Cornell University studying Government and Art History and a proud member of the Epsilon Class, initiated in Spring 2024. It continues to be a privilege to lead our chapter as we build upon the strong foundation established by my predecessors and strengthen our presence on campus.

As we enter our second year at Hillcrest, Sigma Alpha Epsilon has become recognized as a leader within Cornell's Greek community. With more than 70 active brothers, our bonds continue to grow through shared travel, mentorship, and social involvement. Brothers hold leadership positions in organizations such as Big Red Hearts, Cornell MergerSight, the Bee Club, and PAD Pre-Law Fraternity, and this year we expanded our presence by having members join PGN

Business Fraternity, Cornell Finance Club, and the Cornell Consulting Club. We are also proud to have founded the Cornell Golf Club, which has quickly become a hub for students passionate about the sport.

Our recruitment efforts this fall have been exceptional. We initiated 12 new brothers into the Theta Class, our largest fall class yet, with interest in spring recruitment continuing to grow. The new brothers represent a diverse range

of backgrounds from across the country and world, including members from Dubai and Singapore, further enriching the global and academic diversity of our house.

On the philanthropy front, we continue to advance our community impact. Our ongoing partnership with NMDP has brought us close to joining the national leaderboard, and our Philanthropy Chair recently spoke with Hannah Blenden, SAE's National Director of Philanthropy, about partnering with Unspoken Smiles, a nonprofit focused on preventing children from dying from preventable oral health diseases. Although not one of SAE's officially endorsed charities, Hannah expressed strong enthusiasm and shared that a successful event or campaign could lead to national recognition through SAE's social media platforms and potentially a feature in the national magazine.

At Hillcrest, we have continued making meaningful improvements for both current and future brothers. This year, we completed a major floor renovation, replacing carpet tiles with hardwood flooring, and built a golf simulator, inspired by our growing golf culture and the success of the Cornell Golf Club. The simulator will be available during Reunion Weekend, offering alumni and actives an exciting way to connect and celebrate our progress.

We are also seeing increased alumni engagement, with more frequent visits to Hillcrest and a growing effort to bridge the gap between the rechartering and current chapter generations. Your involvement and mentorship remain invaluable to our success and identity as True Gentlemen.



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JOE MEGIBOW '91

Joe Megibow graduated from the Cornell School of Engineering in 1991, and he received his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 1996. In June 2025, he became CEO of cpap.com, previously having served as CEO for Casper, a mattress company, CEO for Bright Cellars, a wine subscription company, and Purple, another mattress company.

After graduating from Cornell, Joe worked for General Motors/EDS in their advanced technology group. In 1999 he was part of the founding team at a software company that successfully sold to IBM in 2012. He gained B2C experience working at Expedia and American Eagle Outfitters.

While at SAE, he served as Eminent Treasurer during his senior year. He currently serves on the board of Lamps Plus. Joe spends most of his free time with his 3 boys (21, 18 and 14) and his wife of 25 years.



Joe Megibow '91

1. You have been recruited to serve as CEO for four different companies (as opposed to being promoted from within). What does it take to come in and run a company like that—what qualities make up a CEO? What are your first steps when you hit the ground running as CEO?

When I was younger, I loved taking apart broken things and fixing them, which is part of why I was drawn to engineering school. Each of the four companies I've run were negative cash-flow turn-arounds, so I guess I'm still taking apart broken things and fixing them. In each company we had to get laser-focused on the unit economics of the business – i.e. find the factors that drive us to positive cash-flow. The playbook becomes very focused on only a few things, and getting every employee aligned with only those few things, along with a heavy dose of individual accountability. It works. To simplify a bit, my role comes down to: hire the best people I can, make sure we are all playing the same game, make sure they are set up for success, and help them achieve their full potential, both as individuals and as an organization. And to make sure there is cash in the bank.

2. What advice would you give to others who want to advance their careers in large organizations or, in your case, be recruited as CEO?

At Cornell I took downhill skiing as a class, and the instructor was always telling us, "if you aren't falling, you aren't learning." It is true in business too. So my advice: fall a lot and learn a lot. Never stop being intellectually

curious. Executive roles require breadth of knowledge, so find opportunities to work with new areas of business.

3. How has your affiliation with SAE influenced your career?

My entire Cornell experience is intertwined with SAE brotherhood. In class, I learned a lot academically. Through my time with SAE, I learned even more... about life, friendship, responsibility and the value surrounding yourself with people you trust and respect. My career grew on top of that foundation.

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

First off, thank you! SAE belongs at Cornell and I'm thrilled that NY Alpha is finally becoming a reality again. At the heart of SAE is true brotherhood. Brothers take care of each other. I wish that on all of you. Find that again and preserve it.

5. A favorite memory as an SAE?

I have so many great memories. While the big events, such as the beach party, Paddy Murphy, century club, and road trips are easy to put on the list, it was the every day experiences that I find myself reminiscing about most. For example, pickup games of foosball. The weekly brother dinners, or just frying up something quickly late at night on the grill. Even just hanging out in a brother's room watching TV or just killing time. They were great years.

GUATEMALA TRIP

By Cameron Nejat '24

My name is Cameron Nejat, Class of 2024 and current Master of Public Health student, as well as the Live-In Advisor at SAE. Two years ago, I joined three other students on a trip to Guatemala to support potable water and sanitation projects led by New York Alpha alumni Bruce Clemmens '72 and Ron Skalko '73.

That experience profoundly expanded my worldview—seeing the realities of rural poverty and being able to make a tangible difference was both humbling and motivating. More importantly, it shaped my career path. During that trip, I met another New York Alpha alumnus, Dr. Paul Wise, whose mentorship inspired me to pursue a career in public health and complete my MPH.

This experience has had a lasting impact on who I am today. I'll be returning to the mission this winter (January 2-12, 2026) to lead a construction project with several current NY Alpha sophomores. After completing my MPH, I will attend New Jersey Medical School, and I truly believe that my time volunteering in Guatemala was one of the most pivotal experiences in my personal and professional growth.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining: Email Can68@cornell.edu; Phone: 917-363-1396

This year, Cornell reunion was held from June 5-8, 2025. There was a broad turnout of classes, with 27 people occupying the house, including: Ron Skalko '73, Ray Hsiao '88, Mike Giuli '88, Eric Yermack '88, Larry Rosen '88, Rick Lowe '90, Geoff Ryan '90, Bob Little '90, Todd Girshon '90, Louis "Lou" Alex '90, Mitch Kahn '93, Tom Holland '95, Mark Bacinich '95, Bill Robinson '95, Greg Zinberg '95, Doug Greer '95, Andrew Lodge '95, David Perez '95, Marc Wood '95, Arlen Moller '00, Ben Hussa '00 (and son Charlie), Matei Sanders '01, Jonathan Sun '01, Charles Kunken '05, Jonathan Miron '10, and Greg Narayan '10. John Ishihara '95 stayed in Collegetown, and we also had folks from 1964 and 1965.

Thanks to Dave Perez for organizing a bbq dinner for some, and to Ron Skalko for coordinating things on the ground.



By David Martin '94, Chair

Greetings Brothers:

The active chapter is settling into their third fall back in Hillcrest, and the semester has started off well. The chapter continues to grow, adding a class of 12 upperclassmen new members this fall, and now with 67 total members in the chapter. I just returned from a visit to Ithaca during Homecoming weekend, and had a lot of time to interact with the brotherhood, and can report that they are living and enjoying the fraternal experience that we all remember so fondly. As they were preparing for Homecoming events, as well as a large concert they were hosting, the brothers also made time to host a very nice dinner event on the deck for several key members of the Cornell Student Affairs and Sorority and Fraternity Life groups, with the intention of improving relationships at various levels of the university community.

We continue to need alumni to assist with the advising function that is critical to the fraternity operations today. Having spent the better part of the past four years working directly with the chapter members, I can assure you that this is a rewarding and very important activity. Specifically, we need volunteers that would like to engage one-on-one with key officers on a regular basis, and will also be seeking a volunteer to step up and take on the role of lead advisor in the near future. If you have an interest in serving the chapter in this way or have a recommendation for someone that may be interested, please contact me, or anyone on the board, to discuss. In this day and age, with Zoom, and other communication channels, this group of advisors doesn't necessarily need to be local to Ithaca, although among the group, we do need to have some flexibility for some local engagement with the active chapter on a fairly regular basis.

If the advisory board isn't for you, I would definitely recommend you find other ways to interact with the active chapter, as this is an important way to connect our active chapter to our alumni community. We have some plans in the works for a more formal career network to use as a framework for interaction, as well as to assist actives with internships and longer-term jobs after graduation. But, just as important and meaningful, simply stopping by the house to have a meal with the guys to get to know them and talk about your experiences with the fraternity, your Cornell involvement, your career, etc is a great opportunity to connect. Please contact me for ways to engage or ideas for additional avenues we can create for positive alumni-active interaction.

FROZEN APPLE 2025

Cornell Men's Big Red Hockey will play Boston University over Thanksgiving weekend on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 8 pm at Madison Square Garden for the annual Frozen Apple hockey game. There is interest with several active brothers to meet some alumni before the game, whether you are going to the game or not. If there are alumni who are able to spend some time at a nearby bar that evening, please email darryl.tom@gmail.com.

ALUMNI NEWS

On January 25, 2025 on North Captiva Island in Florida Tom Harner ('86) got married to his lovely bride Deborah Hudson. This is Tom's first marriage, an event many said would never happen leading to now debunked rumors that Pigs were seen flying and that hell had actually frozen over. Tom just wasn't willing to compromise until he found the right woman and it has been a great decision. As Tom says "We're simply better together." According to at least one SAE who attended the event and has gotten to know her "Deb is absolutely brilliant, charming, and beautiful. I can see why it took Tom more than 60 years to find a woman of her caliber."

On November 9, 2025, Keith Barr '92 was inducted to the 2025 Cornell Hotel Society Hall of Fame.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Jack Bierhorst III '58

John William (Jack) Bierhorst '58 has passed away. A&S, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Quill & Dagger, Widow Editor (student-produced humor magazine at Cornell University that published from 1894 through the 1960s)

After Cornell, Jack was an advertising copywriter with the J. Walter Thompson Agency in the Mad Men era, and a classical concert pianist before his voluminous work on native American peoples.

Personal: Born September 2, 1936, in Boston MA; son of John William (a mechanical engineer) and Sadie Belle (a commercial artist; maiden name, Knott) Bierhorst; married Jane Elizabeth Byers (a graphic designer), June 25, 1965; children: Alice Byers. Education: Cornell University, B.A., 1958.

Career: Writer. Former concert pianist and writer for an advertising agency.

Member: The Nature Conservancy, Rondout-Esopus Land Conservancy (board of advisors), American Anthropological Association.

John Cabral '87

After a long period of declining health, John died peacefully under hospice care on August 15, 2025. While his journey was marked by struggle, it was also marked by strength, humor, and an enduring love for the people and places that mattered to him.

Many of you know that John lived with the challenges of alcoholism, and while that disease took a toll on his body, it does not define the full truth of who he was. He was a complex man — intelligent, stubborn, funny, and fiercely loyal to those he loved. His story was not easy, but it was real, and it shaped all of us who walked beside him.

The relationship with his fraternity brothers was without a doubt the strongest and most enduring bond in John's life. Those friendships remained a vital part of who he was, through every chapter. The laughter, loyalty, and brotherhood you all shared never left him.

One of John's greatest joys was visiting the U.S. National Parks. Being in nature reminded him of God's greatness — of beauty, vastness, and quiet that cannot be measured. He found peace in wide skies, mountain trails, and the sacred stillness of creation.

If you feel moved to honor his memory, donations to the National Park Foundation would be especially meaningful.

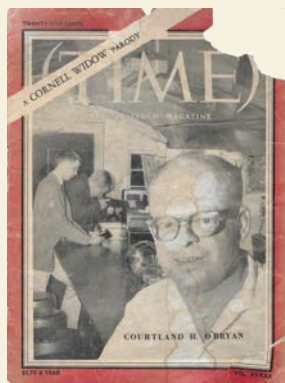
Roy Hassel '57

June 5, 1935 - October 13, 2025

The Reverend Dr. Roy Allan Hassel, husband of Judith Mowry Hassel, of Hartsdale, New York, died at home on October 13, 2025, at the age of 90, with his wife, Judy, and his four children by his side. Born in White Plains, New York, on June 5, 1935, he was the only child of Edna Hassel Benson and Roy Allan Hassel, Sr. and stepson of Julius A. Benson, all of whom predeceased him.

Raised in White Plains, he graduated from White Plains High School. He then attended Cornell University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree and was in the SAE Fraternity and rowed for the Crew team. He attended Drew University School of Theology, where he graduated with a Master of Divinity in 1960 and later with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1975. Roy was ordained an Elder in the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1960.

As a United Methodist pastor for forty years, Roy served churches in Kingston, NY, New Paltz, NY, Ridgefield, CT, and Westport, CT, in addition to being a District Superintendent. He and his wife and love of his life, Judy, made quite a team in ministry - serving Christ and making a life of deep and lasting friendships along the way. Following his retirement in 2000, he and his wife, Judy, moved to Hartsdale, NY, back to Roy's family home.



John Denniston '58 (BEP '59)

John passed away peacefully at Georgetown Hospital on Saturday, April 12, 2025. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Susan Russell Denniston, his three children, and five grandchildren.

John was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on June 3, 1936. His education included Walnut Hills High School, Cornell University for Engineering Physics, and Harvard Law School. He was a Fulbright Scholar and a rocket scientist with Rocketdyne in Pasadena, California. An Engineering Physics major, he was on the Men's Judiciary Board and a member of Quill & Dagger. He spent his entire legal career with Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, D.C., specializing in government contracts.

He was an adventurous traveler, including expeditions to the Himalayas, Andes, and St. George's Island. He enjoyed the outdoors, paddle sports, skiing, biking, and good food.

John Clingman Munday, Jr. '62

John Clingman Munday, Jr. '62, 85, of Chesapeake, Virginia, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his beloved family, on July 18, 2025. He lost his battle to aggressive lymphoma but finished his final race by entering Heaven to run the streets of gold.

Born in North Plainfield, New Jersey, John grew up in Cranford, New Jersey and participated in cross-country and track, Boy Scouts, and music activities. He was a trained classical pianist and an Eagle Scout. John was valedictorian in high school and graduated from Cornell University (Sigma Alpha Epsilon) with a B.A. in Physics. He earned his Ph.D. in Biophysics from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

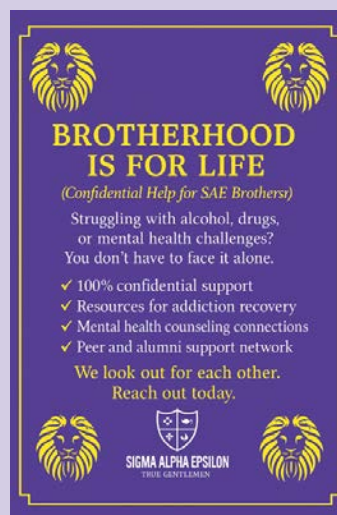
Establishing a distinguished career as both an instructor and a published research scientist, John taught science and environmental policy—among other subjects—at both graduate and undergraduate levels over a span of nearly 50 years. He held teaching positions at the University of Toronto and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary before becoming one of the founding faculty members of Regent University's Robertson School of Government (originally the School of Public Policy) in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

John played piano and stringed instruments in a wide variety of settings—from pizza parlors and mountain chalets to churches and ragtime festivals. Having composed 14 ragtime pieces over the span of 50 years, it was his lifelong, crowning achievement to receive the published copy of this ragtime portfolio just four days before he entered glory.

As a lifelong local runner, John completed 13 marathons, 26 half marathons—including New York and Boston—and numerous sprint triathlons. His commitment to health and nutrition enabled him to live an active, vibrant life—culminating in his final half marathon in March 2024 at the remarkable age of 83.

James Tabor '63

John passed away on September 18, 2025. He spent his career in the Navy. No additional information.



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