



SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

NEW YORK EPSILON CHAPTER

Spring 2014 Alumni Newsletter



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This Fall Semester, Fall 2013, we had another large class containing 22 outstanding New Members, 1 of which is from outside the United States. Over the course of the semester these New Members have been trying to leave their mark on the New Member process. They have done a remarkable job clearing the trails of a nearby cemetery, building a new bar setup in the basement, repainting a room in the basement, being well connected with the sororities, and winning Best Costumes in the Greek Lip Sync (which has all new categories for winning instead of the usual Top 3), continuing the winning streak of our New Members for the past 4 years. It has been a very cohesive class, and as New Member Educator, I really looked forward to their Phi Alpha Week, which we again created an enlightening experience. They have worked very well together thus far, and I expect that to continue to be the case when they are brothers. As a class of 22, they will boost our brotherhood numbers to 96 total, the largest we have ever been, and also the largest fraternity on campus. We continue to recruit hard and well, and have had much success when we extend a bid to an individual. Through smart recruiting and a rigorous, successful New Member program, we continue to build the best brotherhood we can.

Sean Burden	Lake George, NY
Loren Cao	Latham, NY
Ranjeev Chabra	Syosset, NY
Bryan Dieudonne	Delray Beach, FL
Brendan Dix	Amherst, NH
Hyung Kim	Edmonds, WA
Sam Krickellas	Brooklyn, NY
Orion Kubat	Bozeman, MT

New Member Hometowns

Gary Liskovich	Brooklyn, NY
Anders Maraviglia	Bethesda, MD
Samuel Mayo	Westborough, MA
Karl Meier	Washington, NJ
Kevin Mullin	Quincy, MA
Blake Neyland	Upton, MA

Trevor Quintana	Fort Collins, Colorado
Paul Revere IV	Centerville, MA
Markus Ricardo	Brooklyn, NY
Logan Rotolo	Traverse City, MI
Jan Schnewlin	Zurich, Switzerland
Adam Stanczyk	Grand Island, NY
John Sweet	Troy, NY
Andrew Yonchak	Strafford, NH

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Hosts Extra Life Marathon At RPI

New York Epsilon's philanthropy took a different turn last fall. On November 2nd, our fraternity hosted the first annual RPI Extra Life fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Extra Life began in 2008 with a young girl named Victoria Enmon. Victoria's battle with acute lymphoblastic leukemia inspired the Sarcastic Gamer Community to send video games and buy gifts for Victoria as a means to lift her spirits and to take her mind off the terrible situation in which she had been placed. Throughout the years, the generous deed of the Sarcastic Gamer Community evolved into what Extra Life is today: a 25-hour gaming marathon to support children like Victoria who are fighting for their lives in Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

A few brothers here at New York Epsilon proposed the idea of running this event at RPI and the brotherhood pledged to support the cause. Much planning and hard work went into Extra Life, and in its first year at RPI, the event was a great success. Participants were asked to receive pledges from friends and family members for each hour that they planned to take part in the event. Lump sums of money could also be donated to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals on behalf of a participant. RPI Extra Life drew over 100 participants to the Student Union, and we raised just under \$2,400 for the CMNH at Albany Medical. The gratification we received from helping those in need is comparable to no other, and we only anticipate greater numbers in years to come.



New York Epsilon Reviewed By ΣΑΕ Regional Director Kovalan

Recruitment and Retention

A college fraternity exists on the premise that man is by nature a social being and wants to associate with his fellow man. He cannot associate equally with all of them, or even many of them, but he may enjoy a close relationship with some of them. And fraternity provides a structure, an environment in which intimate friendships can flourish. It is by no means the only kind of organization in which a student may find friends. Indeed, the typical student requires no organization at all to enable him to make friends, nor does anyone in a fraternity confine his friendships exclusively to fellow members of the group. But a fraternity does foster brotherhood in an extremely effective way, its members drawn together by shared goals and common experiences.

Meets Expectations

- 40+ Members or Average Fraternity Size
- Calendar and Marketing
- Defined New Member Invitation Process
- 80%+ New Member Retention

Exceeds Expectations

- Recruit 1/3+ of Current Members within Last Year
- Recruitment Skills Training
- 365, Year-Round Recruitment
- Recruit Upper-Classmen and Honor Initiates
- New Member Scholarship
- 100% New Member Retention

Chapter does extremely well within recruitment and ensuring that you are bringing men into the chapter that can continue to contribute to the overall success long term. I think there is a strong emphasis internally for the chapter's recruitment efforts and certainly pays off with amount of bids extended each year. I think one area to continually look at is the bidding process and amount of brothers to extend vs. not extend a bid to. Overall I think the structure is there but may need to be modified to reduce time spent in discussion related meetings. Continue to stay connected with men who ultimately didn't accept bids to allow for possibility of future acceptance.

Once again, this fall, the chapter had the pleasure of hosting our regional director, John Kovalan, for his annual evaluation. The structure of the criteria has been changed from a quantitative to a qualitative report. There are seven different sections of chapter operations that are examined: Advisers and Alumni, Campus and Community, Education of a True Gentleman, Health and Safety/Housing, Management and Finances, Recruitment and Retention, and Ritual. Each section has a handful of basic requirements to be considered "meeting expectations." There are additional items that can give the section an "exceeds expectations" rating, which is ultimately up to Kovalan if he thinks the section deserves said rating. Four sections received "exceeds expectations," marking the chapter as a whole as "exceeding expectations." A sample of an evaluated section is above. Overall, Kovalan is pleased with the performance of the chapter. His largest concern is the resistance of the chapter to change and trying new things. Kovalan also offered advice and examples to many of the officers of how other chapters have moved forward.

The 2013 Tough Mudder



Above: The first group of finishers for "Team JKK" at the 2013 Tri-State Tough Mudder Race. (Back Row, left to right): Loren Cao, Paul Detwiler IV, Ben Clemence, JP Hennesey, Keegan Mik, Adam Rivard, Loucas Nestoros, Chris Chang, Lucas Rice, Stephen Silber. (Front row, left to right): Colin Krum, Don Gillespie, Paul Mier, Alden Chaisson

Undergraduate and alumni members came together at New Jersey's Raceway Park this past Columbus Day Weekend to partake in the Tri-State Tough Mudder race in an effort to raise funding and awareness throughout the New York Epsilon community for the Wounded Warrior Project on behalf of 1st Lt. Jonathan Kim Khol. Boasting one of the largest teams at the event, the collective group of over 50 participants battled over 11 miles of obstacles through mud, freezing water and electric shocks to finish the toughest obstacle course on the planet as a team.

Alumni Spotlight - Rich Enwright '76

During the past Alumni vs. Actives soccer game, many of the new members to the brotherhood had the pleasure of meeting one alumni who has been very involved and active, Rich Enwright. Rich is a member of the spring of 1973 pledge class and graduated RPI in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Throughout his time as an active brother at New York Epsilon, Rich lived in the carriage house and was the assistant house manager. His big brother is Robert Olsson '75, and he had one little brother, Kevin Coons '77. Furthermore, Rich was an editor on the RPI magazine, "The Editor".

As a brother, Rich was involved in many aspects of the fraternity on a national and regional level. In his sophomore year at RPI, Rich was part of a small group of brothers that traveled to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan for a chapter instillation. Further, Rich was directly involved in the organization of Cook regional meetings hosted both at New York Epsilon and other chapters. He had even met the Eminent Supreme Archon at several of these meetings.

After graduation from RPI, Rich went to Pennsylvania State University Graduate School to earn his masters in electrical engineering. He now lives in Churchville, Pennsylvania and works on a team of developers for Argon ST, a subsidiary of Boeing. He has been part of the same developing team since 2000. Today, in addition to his work, Rich Enwright has a registered amateur radio license from the FCC and is a member of the Battle Ship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. He helps maintain, restore, and repair all the equipment in the radio museum aboard the Battle Ship New Jersey, demonstrates the use of equipment for educational programs, and mans the amateur radio station. Additionally, he trains other operators on how to use the equipment. Rich also enjoys keeping up with the newest technologies, saying he has been since the novel 4004 Intel processor released in 1971.

Almost every year, Rich tries to come back to RPI during alumni weekend to participate in the annual Alumni vs. Actives soccer game. He has been playing soccer since he was a young man, playing in the IFC league while at RPI, and to this day playing in pick-up leagues in his area. One of Rich's goals is to still be playing soccer at 60, and he is turning 60 this year! I know we all can't wait for the 2014 SAE New York Epsilon Alumni Weekend when Rich will be able to complete this long term goal.



Alumni Weekend - April 11-13

This Spring alumni weekend our tentative plan is to play paintball! Normally attendance is lower in the Spring, so we are trying to do a new, fun event—paintball! There will be a barbecue during paintball. The Phoenix Housing Committee will host an information session about the ideas for scope and progress for the future of NYEP chapter house. The following day we will hold our LAE board meeting. It should be a great weekend.

Friday:	
5-10 p.m.	Registration and Welcome
Saturday:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Paintball
3-5 p.m.	Volleyball at the House
5 p.m.	Phoenix Housing Committee Info Session
Sunday:	
10-12 a.m.	LAE Board of Directors Meeting

Join the SAE RPI Alumni and Actives Facebook group for more frequent news. Please register for the upcoming Spring alumni weekend at http://nyepsilon.herokuapp.com/alumni_weekends.

Save the Date: Fall Alumni Weekend - October 10-12



Annual ΛΑΕ Phonathon March 30-April 1

When you get a unknown 518 area code on your caller ID, it won't be RPI, but it will be NYEP calling for our annual phonathon. Last year we had our 2nd highest level of donations at \$34,500 for our scholarships and general funds, even though our donor levels were down to 151 from our high of >200. We gave out \$5,000 in scholarships/grants last year and continued to grow our Lion Fund savings for future housing. Additionally we continued to support the maintenance and upkeep of 12 Myrtle Avenue through our staged projects.

The Future of 12 Myrtle - Moving Forward

In the Fall 2013 Alumni Newsletter, I provided an update on the housing situation that New York Epsilon has been facing. In summary, for a number of years, we have had over 70 Active Brothers and only 35 fit in the Chapter House. Having less than 50% of the chapter living in makes it harder to come together as a brotherhood. The Alumni Housing Board, LAE, is trying to come up with the optimal long-term solution to bring brothers together.

Since then, the alumni board has been moving forward in a timely yet cautious manner. There are many internal questions that must be answered before moving forward. The biggest and most fundamental are what size fraternity do we want to be, what is the purpose of the housing aspect of our fraternity, how many brothers should be housed under one roof, where did this housing "problem" come from, and is it temporary.

Mark Wilson '83 and myself have been working with the LAE board to answer these high level questions and to narrow down the "big picture" purpose of the project. As we believe we have begun to understand the "who" and "why" we next look to the "how" - how will we fix the problem. There are many options including renovating, expanding, moving; as well as the flip-side of the equation: to limit bids. While it would be great to stay at 12 Myrtle, all options must be looked at in order for the brotherhood to not just survive the next 60 years, but to prosper.

Looking at the options before us, we have started to find the hurdles that must be overcome for each choice: from dealing with the Troy Planning Board to assessing the structural integrity the house, there are many. We are taking steps to understand each problem in order to protect our investment and help ensure whatever decision made is the right one.

We also understand that many brothers, current and alumni, have strong feelings about their chapter house. In order to help better understand how the alumni feel, we created a housing survey as part of the last newsletter, but it was very long and we didn't get the amount of responses we were looking for. As part of moving forward we want to try a smaller, simpler survey. There is a hard copy in this newsletter. Simply cut it off, place it in the prepaid envelope and send it back. For the more tech savvy you can go to this URL (<http://tinyurl.com/NYEP-Stg1-Survey>) to fill it out.

This is your chance to "opt-in" to this project; to have a say. While everyone might not know the condition of the house or how its actives feel about it, this survey asks these 2 most important questions: "do you want to help?" and "what general approaches would you support", because we won't be able to do this project without the support of many alumni. The roles of a dedicated team to move any project forward and then a large fraction of alumni for financial support when that time comes was reinforced by the recent completion of the major renovation of the Sigma Chi house.

As we move forward there will be many opportunities for alumni to get more information, and to be involved in the process. During the Spring 2014 Alumni weekend (April 11-13) we will host a more in depth discussion to make use of the survey data and meet face to face some new brothers who are interested in helping and bring the concepts forward to the big alumni weekend in the fall (Oct 10-12). We are in the process of setting up an alumni workday in the summer to bring actives and alumni together to network and fix up the house - Think of it as an outward bound experience to strengthen your relation to your past while helping the foundation for future generations of NYEPs. Stay connected by joining the 300+ member "SAE RPI Alumni and Actives" Facebook group, joining the alumni mailing list and updating your contact information during phone-a-thon. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email me. Thank you and Phi Alpha. Lucas Rice '15 (soccerguylr@gmail.com)

Please fill out this survey, detach, and return in the enclosed envelope.

Question 1: We have a lot of Actives (about 90), but can house less than 35. Overall, what should we do?

- A. Limit Bids (so there are less "out-of-house" Actives)
- B. Figure out how to house "a few" more brothers
- C. Figure out how to house "a lot" more brothers
- D. Do Nothing. (House 35. Have no limits on Bids)
- E. I don't know and/or I don't feel qualified to answer

Question 2: If it is decided to HOUSE MORE ACTIVES, which of the following would you be most comfortable supporting? (Check all that apply)

- A. Demolish the house at 12 Myrtle and build an all-new bigger one
- B. Move to a bigger house/ property
- C. Renovate and add an addition such that more fit at 12 Myrtle Ave.
- D. Buy an additional house close to 12 Myrtle
- E. Buy an additional house close to campus
- F. I don't know and/or I don't feel qualified to answer

Question 3: If it is decided to LIMIT ACTIVES, which of the following would you be most comfortable supporting? (Check all that apply).

- A. Status quo. Continue to do small and mid-sized improvements to the house as we have over the past 30 years.
- B. A one-time major renovation of the house at 12 Myrtle, keeping the size the same
- C. Move to a newer, "better shape" house, of about the same size instead of renovating
- D. I don't know and/or don't feel qualified to answer

Question 4: When you were RUSHING, how much did the 12 Myrtle Avenue physical building and grounds affect your decision to pledge SAE.

- A. It was a huge part of my decision
- B. It was a decent part of my decision
- C. It was a small part of my decision
- D. It was not a factor in my decision

Question 5: As an ACTIVE, how much did the 12 Myrtle Avenue physical building and grounds affect your overall college experience.

- A. It was a huge part of my experience
- B. It was a decent part of my experience
- C. It was a small part of my experience
- D. It was not a factor in my experience

Question 6: How involved would you like to be with the new housing process?

- A. I don't need to hear much about it
- B. Updated once in a while (newsletter, email, e.g.)
- C. I'd like to hear more and take a longer survey to provide more input
- D. I'd like to volunteer my time to work directly on the project

To fill out electronically, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/NYEP-Stg1-Survey>