

# THE LION'S ROAR

NY Epsilon • Sigma Alpha Epsilon • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



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Fall 2017

## NEW YORK EPSILON REVITALIZES ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAM



Upon graduating from RPI, we all leave ΣAE with high hopes of keeping our brotherhood close to our hearts. Unfortunately, we quickly find that many new interests—careers, families, and civic activities—can create valid diversions. The day-to-day activities of life take over and, before long, we fall out of touch and begin to wonder what happened to our brothers. Without a solid alumni relations program in place, our members lack the means for staying connected to the fraternity.

With this in mind, our new annual alumni relations program is designed to help our members stay in touch and to cultivate awareness and involvement in ΣAE at RPI. There are several elements that are key to the program's success.

We will mail two newsletters each year containing alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various chapter activities, and current lists of undergraduate and alumni officers.

Once a year, we will send out a biographical update that allows alumni to update the information we have on record. In fact, many

of you have received this mailing already! Altogether, the updates are a vital tool in maintaining our records and our ties with one another.

The Lambda Alpha Epsilon board leadership is making long term plans for the future of the chapter house. We are strategically assessing the membership needs to make sure we can offer a competitive, safe, and attractive home at RPI. We will keep you updated as our plans progress.

We had a great alumni weekend 2017 with more than 100 alumni attendees spanning back to 1951, including a strong showing from 1967, 1972, 1982 and 1992. The alumni (of course) won the soccer game 7 to 6! Thank you for your continued support of our chapter through alumni involvement and guidance. If you ever find yourself in Troy, we would love for you to stop by the chapter house to reminisce and visit with undergraduate members.



Fraternally,  
**Don "Buck" Vanderhoef '93**  
Chairman LAE, Inc.  
lae.chairman@gmail.com



## Advancing the Highest Standards David Haviland '64 Reflects on a Lifetime of True Gentleman Values

After visiting 24 of the 30 fraternities at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, **David Haviland '64** felt overwhelmed with the sheer number of choices. While some chapters fell to the wayside, New York Epsilon proved their welcoming nature, sense of humor, and commitment to ideals greater than themselves. "From the time I became a member, I felt invited to truly become part of the fraternity. I was challenged to manage and improve the chapter through leadership positions and campus opportunities."

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## David Haviland '64

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David accepted opportunities such as eminent chronicler, treasurer, archon, varsity team manager, and, ultimately, a position on the Rensselaer Union executive board. "Without New York Epsilon, I doubt these opportunities and incredible learning experiences would have come along."

While David and his brothers faced their share of challenges, living at 12 Myrtle Avenue served to strengthen their brotherhood for the future of the chapter house. Programs such as the neighborhood engagement program stand as a testament to this brotherhood. "Thanks to a lot of hard work by many brothers over the years, New York Epsilon is regarded as the model good neighbor across the RPI Greek community."

*"My time with New York Epsilon taught me how to become an active and committed part of something larger than myself—an organization driven by values of The True Gentleman. As a result, I've spent my life committed to institutions and groups of people united by such values."*

Whether piling into cars for intramural games or exulting a hockey victory, David fondly remembers the easy camaraderie. "While all students participate in events like this, the sense of group enterprise and well-being created true bonds among us."

David encourages undergraduate members to seek out opportunities to become part of organizations they feel passionate about. Greek life is the key to realizing such aspirations to provide a solid foundation for their formative years, and in their alumni years as well.

Without Greek life, David would never have partaken in the opportunities he was presented with. "My time with New York Epsilon taught me how to become an active and committed part of something larger than myself—an organization driven by values of The True Gentleman. As a result, I've spent my life committed to institutions and groups of people united by such values."

Not only has David enjoyed his time serving on New York Epsilon's house corporation board as treasurer and president, he also has had the privilege of serving RPI for 40 years as professor, dean, and vice president before his retirement. He can be reached at havild@rpi.edu.



## FORGING FRIENDSHIPS OF SINCERITY

### David Lowe '90 Thankful for Bonds with New York Epsilon Brothers

Entering his sophomore year at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, **David Lowe '90** found a true connection with the New York Epsilon Chapter. He found both the undergraduate members and alumni to be a well-rounded and genuine community that strove to support each brother. "Having a group of friends you can rely on with the right mix of academics, social, and campus involvement made me proud to be a member then and now."

The impact was so great that Dave chose to live in the chapter house both his junior and senior year as well as take on the challenging position of treasurer. Dave retrospectively notes how the brotherhood created a ripple effect throughout his life.

His best friend and roommate subsequently became the best man at his wedding and supported him through various life milestones. "Remember to experience the whole journey of ups and downs. Talk to your brothers about your life experiences because they will always provide a space free of judgement and filled with trust."



*"Life is about the people you enjoy it with and being able to reconnect is just one of the ways we can ensure we're building a sustainable future and strong brotherhood for our members."*

Even when Dave was diagnosed with cancer, he found his brothers right beside him despite living across the country. Having such a supportive brotherhood to fall back on in his time of need proved the bonds transcend far beyond physical boundaries. "Life is about the people you enjoy it with and being able to reconnect is just one of the ways we can ensure we're building a sustainable future and strong brotherhood for our members."

Today, Dave is thankful for the 27 years of lifelong friendships he has enjoyed because of New York Epsilon. He has carried the life skills of teamwork and responsibility instilled in him from the brotherhood throughout his career. "Remember everything the chapter has provided you, and, even if time has passed, to reach out to a brother, because once you talk it's like you were together just yesterday."

Dave and his wife, who he met at RPI, are blessed with three beautiful children. He works as a sales manager for Verizon and can be reached at loweds@yahoo.com.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### Chapter Eternal

**Peter Le Count '51** passed on to Chapter Eternal peacefully on June 4, 2016.

**Forrest "Woody" K. English '51** passed on to Chapter Eternal on August 15. He was the founder of the NY Epsilon Chapter and led acquiring the first chapter house at 7 Hawthorne Ave in 1950.

**Francis Brosnihan '72** passed on to Chapter Eternal on January 9, 2016. He had a few years

of retirement after 30 years as an engineer for the U.S. Department of Energy.

### Alumni News

**Robert Vanderminden '51** celebrated his 90th birthday and is still working for enjoyment. His wife passed away a number of years ago, but he has 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He occasionally rides horses and lives in Granville, N.Y. E-mail: bobsr@telescopecasual.com

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# UNDERGRADUATES PRIORITIZE ACADEMICS, RECRUITMENT, AND BROTHERHOOD

## Alumni, Get Involved with the Undergraduate Members

New York Epsilon has been very successful in working toward its goals this semester. We have been largely focused on the recruitment of quality new members. This new member class is already developing a unique and active personality, which should serve our chapter well into the future. In addition to recruitment, we have been working toward improving the chapter GPA by 0.15 points. We have also been very competitive in Interfraternity Council league sports and beruit league.

### NY Epsilon History Discussed at Alumni Weekend

I enjoyed meeting many alumni brothers during this past Alumni Weekend. I was very impressed by the turnout and hope you had the chance to meet some of the active undergraduates. It always amazes me to see brothers coming back and picking up right where they left off. The stories **Bob Fopeano '51** shared about the formation of New York Epsilon and the friendship with the founding father **Forest K. English '51** really put the history of the chapter into perspective and how important it is to continue the tradition of excellence.

### Brothers Implement Mentorship Program

The chapter has been implementing a new academic mentor program. This program pairs brothers with expertise in specific subjects with other brothers currently taking those classes. In addition, brothers with strong academic performance will be paired with a new member of the same major to make sure their first semester at RPI is a strong one.

### Chapter House Improvements

We've seen many improvements to the chapter house. The basement lattice was completely removed and a new painted lattice was installed. The lighting in the foyer, TV room, and dinner room was replaced with modern LED lights with dimmer switches. The volleyball court wood siding was



*One of the New York Epsilon brother crews serving the community on True Gentleman Day of Service.*

replaced and the sand was tilled. The largest and most time-consuming project was the striping and repainting of the outside shutters. The class of 1992 lion painting in the basement was retouched by **Chris Michelangelo '19** and is now at its previous glory.

The overall state of the chapter is strong. Brothers are excited for social and non-social events. The overall atmosphere is one of driven men striving to do better. We encourage alumni to stop by and see for themselves how the traditions of New York Epsilon are alive and well.

Phi Alpha,  
**Matt Krecicki '18**, Eminent Archon  
matthewkreciki@gmail.com

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Social Chairman  
**Edwin Wallis '20**  
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Eminent Recorder  
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Chatham, N.J.

Health and Safety Manager  
**Cole Reschke '19**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

## ALUMNI UPDATE

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**Douglas Porto '52** is a charter member of ΣAE New York Epsilon Chapter. He and his wife, Ruth, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at St. Andrews Estates in Boca Raton, Fla. They are planning a trip to New York and Boston to visit their family. "I have great memories of making just an old house a 'home of brothers.' So happy you guys are still there in another house carrying on the traditions." E-mail: dougporto@comcast.net

**John Majane '53** has gotten the opportunity to travel the world, and reports that his grandchildren are doing great things. He has contributed to the space program, and enjoys racing sailboats. He lives in Bethesda, Md. E-mail: jamajane@verizon.net

**Kenneth Mathews '64** is a retired major in the U.S. Air Force. He was a fighter pilot for 20 years, and went on 100 missions in North Vietnam. His last job was in software phone support for IBM. He is now retired and in excellent health, living in Georgetown, Texas. He walks 2.3 miles a day and plays racquetball three times a week. E-mail: kmattx@mac.com

**Robert Shaffer '64** has retired from urban planning and design for the second time. He's looking for his next new challenge! E-mail: shafe.design@gmail.com

**John Decker '65** moved to Plymouth, Massachusetts in 2016. John is married to Anne and they have two children and six grandchildren. He still enjoys his career in executive consulting and writing. Check out his blog posts on LinkedIn (linkedin.com/in/johndecker). John is more than happy to help graduating seniors and alumni with the job search. He lives in Plymouth, Mass. E-mail: jdecker@mdlpartners.com

**Robert Olsson '75** retired after a 41-year career as the fire chief for the town of Hingham. His wife, Elizabeth "Clancy," retired from South Shore Hospital two years ago. They have four grown children who are all doing well. Two live in California and two live close to home. Bobo and Clancy love cruising in the Caribbean and look forward to spending time together. They live in Rockland, Mass. E-mail: mae10989@msn.com

**John Bischoff '78** believes retirement is on the near horizon. He and his wife, Robyn, have two grandchildren, ages 4 and 1. They live close by and are full of life and love. "Hope all is well at 12 Myrtle Ave."

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*Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending RPI, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.*

## FALL 2017 NEW MEMBERS

**Zane Buono**  
Aerospace Engineering  
Richmond, Va.

**Maxwell Kestenbaum**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Upper Saddle River, N.J.

**Andres Ramos**  
Business  
New York City, N.Y.

**Ethan Dela Cruz**  
Civil Engineering  
Morris Plains, N.J.

**Nick Mesibov**  
Electrical Engineering  
Tappan, N.Y.

**Jack Ryan**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Monument, Colo.

**Anthony Deliz**  
Mechanical Engineering  
New Britain, Conn.

**Adam Owens**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Greenwich, N.Y.

**Colin Smith**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Wellington, Fla.

**Bernard Gomez**  
Computer Science and IT  
and Web Science  
Indian Trail, N.C.

**Camilo Pareja**  
Mechanical and Aerospace  
Engineering  
Dover, N.J.

**Leonidas Tsapatsaris**  
Chemical Engineering  
Wyckoff, N.J.

**Daniel Jacobius '86** lives in Putnam County, New York. He has worked in the insurance and financial services business since 1988 and his office is located in Westchester County, New York. Daniel enjoys fishing, hiking, golfing, and con-

siders himself a lifelong NY Mets fan.

**Kevin McAlister '89** recently moved out of New York City to Armonk, N.Y., with his wife, Wendy, and 3-year-old daughter, Morgan.

## Find Us Online

**Website:** <http://nyepsilon.com/> • **Facebook:** RPI Sigma Alpha Epsilon - New York Epsilon Chapter  
**Alumni Facebook:** SAE RPI Alumni and Actives • **LinkedIn:** Sigma Alpha Epsilon – New York Epsilon