

# THE LION'S ROAR

NY Epsilon ♦ Sigma Alpha Epsilon ♦ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

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Fall 2019

## PRESERVING OUR PAST, PROVIDING FOR OUR FUTURE

### ADDITIONAL ALUMNI DONATIONS ESSENTIAL TO CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

#### NY Epsilon's Future Is in Your Hands— *Will You Take Action?*

Who was your best friend at ΣAE?  
Who inspired you as an undergraduate?  
What did you learn about leadership?  
How is your life better because of NY Epsilon Chapter?

If we were to ask every brother these questions, it's guaranteed their answers would vary. We hope they would all agree that while each ΣAE experience is unique, they are all a positive reflection of their time spent at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. We hope you look back on this truly life-changing experience at New York Epsilon Chapter and recall the many benefits your ΣAE membership brought into your life.

**With the season of giving and perpetual hope upon us, we are reflecting on such questions and all that we are thankful for, including the support of the NY Epsilon brotherhood.**

We thank the 117 donors for their generosity and unwavering support of the place that helped us grow into capable leaders in college and beyond. And to those who have delayed your support, we hope you'll look back at your ΣAE experience and see what lifelong gifts it has given you. Remember, all donors who pledged \$2,500 or more will have their name included on a plaque permanently displayed in the newly renovated chapter house.

To date, 13% of our alumni base has expressed their gratitude for their ΣAE experience by supporting the *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* campaign, but we must see an increase in alumni support before we can break ground. The average participation in Greek campaigns is 25%, and we strongly feel that this is an attainable goal for our campaign.

Closing the gap between signed pledges and the campaign goal balance of \$552,920 is imperative to providing our chapter with solid financial footing and reducing the burden of debt incurred by construction costs. **We must raise these remaining dollars—we need your attention and action right now.** If 200 alumni could commit to giving \$500 per year for the next five years, it would bring us a long way to meeting the gap and allow us to be better positioned to accomplish the full scope of the project, rather than scaling it back.

We sincerely hope that you will consider making a first-time gift or extending your pledge if you have already made the leap to give back to New York Epsilon. Please look at the donor list in this issue and reach out to any brothers from your class whose names you don't see—we would be ecstatic and beholden to have even more brothers help us secure Sigma Alpha Epsilon's future at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



#### Campaign Status *At-a-Glance*

*As of November 25, 2019*

**Campaign Goal: \$1,856,000**

**Total Raised: \$1,303,080**

**Contributors: 117**

There's still time to make your mark. As you sit around the table counting your blessings this holiday season, don't forget everything you've gained through the NY Epsilon brotherhood.

In the Bonds,  
**Don Vanderhoef '93**  
Chairman  
Lambda Alpha Epsilon Inc.

**Jerry Witter '82**  
Secretary  
Lambda Alpha Epsilon Inc.

# PRESERVING OUR PAST, PROVIDING FOR OUR FUTURE

## THANK YOU, BROTHERS, FOR YOUR COMMITMENTS OF \$1.3 MILLION

### *Have You Given to New York Epsilon's Capital Campaign?*

New York Epsilon is thankful for the 117 brothers who have pledged to the *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* campaign. These alumni are committed to ΣAE's values and laying a foundation for New York Epsilon's bright future. We need your help to reach our \$1.856 million goal.

All donors contributing a minimum of \$2,500 or more to the campaign, over a five-year period, will be recognized on a donor wall displayed in the chapter house. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 so that we may make a correction.

**Founders' Society**  
*(\$250,000 and above)*  
David V. Raphael '99

**Minerva Society**  
*(\$100,000 to \$249,999)*  
The Lion Fund of LAE, Inc.  
David J. Colten '72  
Eric C. Wenberg '88

**Lions' Society**  
*(\$50,000 to \$99,999)*  
James P. Owens '68  
Carl E. Meyer '69  
Jonathan "Jerry" Witter '82  
Todd S. Cieplinski '92  
In honor of  
Mark C. Terrano '89,  
Ajay K. Kotha '93, and  
Dennis C. Wassung Jr. '94

**True Gentleman Society**  
*(\$25,000 to \$49,999)*  
Michael K. Weiner '89  
In memory of  
Don Farkouh '89 and  
Mark Hier '91  
Erik M. Aarts '90  
David Gutmann '90  
David S. Lowe '90

**New York Epsilon Society**  
*(\$15,000 to \$24,999)*  
Robert B. Athanasiou '62  
David S. Haviland '64  
Robert R. Dorsch, Ph.D. '65  
James R. Pluta '70  
Thomas R. Morgan '72  
Robert Vaughan '72  
David Ho '80  
In memory of  
Dean Hamil '80 and  
Stewart Guild '81  
Matthew D. Jeffers '97  
Lucas Rice '14

**Phi Alpha Society**  
*(\$10,000 to \$14,999)*  
Len Bower '69  
Michael J. Jiminez '72  
George Dulchinos '82  
Mark W. Berube '84  
Donald J. Vanderhoef '93

**12 Myrtle Avenue Society**  
*(\$5,000 to \$9,999)*  
John C. Busse '63  
Robert P. Shaffer '64  
George B. Sawyer '68  
Kenneth R. Watson '68  
Robert A. Whitby Jr. '68  
Joseph P. De Roy '76  
Frederick L. Lichtenfels '76  
Arthur J. Stefanelli Jr. '76  
John C. Bischoff '78  
Donald J. Parker '78  
Peter A. Hutchins '79

In memory of  
Dean Hamil '80 and  
Stewart Guild '81  
Paul T. McGuire '80  
George A. Earle III '82  
Glenn A. DeFriest '83  
R. Kirk Filbey '94  
Dennis C. Wassung Jr. '94  
Donald Gillespie '11  
JP Hennessey '12  
Steve Wood '13  
Dante Gizzi '15  
In honor of  
The Fall 2011  
New Member Class

**Brotherhood Society**  
*(\$2,500 to \$4,999)*  
Robert P. Fopeano '51  
In honor of  
Forrest K. English '51  
Joseph M. Mosca '52  
In memory of  
Richard Oehl '52  
Paul M. DeVivo '64

David C. Hoffman '66  
C. Peter Smith '67  
In memory of  
Jim Ducharme '67  
Robert W. Peters '69  
Rufus "Dee" Sams III '69  
Thomas W. Easterly '70  
Michael W. Fedak '71  
Kenneth P. Jamrogowicz '73  
Jake Szatkowski '73  
Robert J. Zinser '73  
James C. Bischoff '75  
Bob Rainey Jr. '75  
Robert H. Hammer III '77  
Stephen Sakumoto '80  
In memory of  
Dean Hamil '80  
John R. Phillips '81  
Andrew J. Ford '82  
In memory of  
Stewart Guild '81  
Mark S. Davis '84  
Steven P. Brodfuehrer '86  
Eric C. Saenger '86  
Carol and Don Birks '87  
Mark L. Wilensky '95  
Christopher Downey '96  
Carolyn and Chuck Roth '98  
Francisco J. Ferrer Jr. '99  
Peter M. Marafioti '01  
Nick Mandelenakis '02  
John Thomas '02  
Dave Herkenham '10  
John O'Neil '12  
Benjamin Clemence '13

**Violets Society**  
*(\$1,000 to \$2,499)*  
Douglas Porto '52  
In memory of  
Robert G. Todt '53  
Richard A. Miller '66  
Charles P. Holt '68  
In memory of  
John M. Heagney '66  
David E. Bischoff '68

Steven M. Seelinger '68  
R. Keith Belyea '72  
Garry Capp '75  
Paul F. Callaghan Jr. '80  
Carlos J. Hidalgo '82  
Mark Lepofsky '85  
Jeffrey C. Wilcox '85  
Blaine W. Davis II '88  
Dang M. Vo '94  
Nathaniel Ford '97  
Michael D. Campanelli '07

**Phoenix Society**  
*(Up to \$999)*  
Stephen G. Ruggles '54  
Richard Q. Schmidt '56  
Nicholas S. Payne '60  
Arthur J. Mason '61  
Philip D. Thompson '64  
Jonathan H. Morgan '74  
Richard R. Enwright '76  
Kevin Coons '77  
Richard F. Pond '78  
In memory of  
Dean Hamil '80  
Dan Buechler '81  
In memory of  
Dean Hamil '80 and  
Stewart Guild '81  
Gary L. Chin '83  
Dan Jacobius '86  
Hung Cheng '89  
Paul J. Messer '90  
Robert F. Steele Jr. '90  
Joe C. Zaremski '94  
Jake Hiltz '97  
Eric Andreassen '03  
Louis Polsinello '04  
Scott Owens '07  
James Croke '10  
John H. Knight '12  
Jordan Stambler '14  
Kevin Mullin '17

# STAYING IN TOUCH WITH ΣAE

## DAVE GUTMANN '90 DRIVEN TO SUPPORT NEW YORK EPSILON'S FUTURE

Whenever **Dave Gutmann '90** returns to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute campus, many great memories of his undergraduate experience in New York Epsilon Chapter start coming back to him. Dave is excited to see the ΣAE chapter house more often and wants to show it off to his family. His gift to New York Epsilon's capital campaign helped ensure that his wish will be granted.

"I'm in Troy a couple times a year, so I know the house needs some significant work," Dave said. "The fact that **Jerry Witter '82** is still involved in the chapter gives me confidence that ΣAE will develop True Gentlemen for years to come. It was an easy decision to invest in the long-term health of the chapter."

Dave considers himself lucky for having joined ΣAE when he was a freshman at RPI. As a member of the soccer team, he didn't have much time to go through fraternity recruitment. But when many of the varsity players happened to be ΣAEs, Dave and some of the other freshmen on the team decided they wanted to be a part of the chapter. He considers joining ΣAE to be one of the best decisions he's ever made, which is why he wants fellow alumni to join him in setting up a bright future for New York Epsilon.

"If you believe that ΣAE helped you get through RPI and had an impact on the type of person you are today, then you should at least



***"If you believe that ΣAE helped you get through RPI and had an impact on the type of person you are today, then you should at least make a commitment to contribute a small amount over the next five years. I believe the renovations are relatively modest and most certainly needed."***

make a commitment to contribute a small amount over the next five years," Dave said. "I believe the renovations are relatively modest and most certainly needed."

The lessons Dave learned from the classes of 1987 and 1988 helped him not only during his time at RPI, but early on in his career as well. He started his career as a sales account executive and analyst at Procter & Gamble and spent more than a decade working in sales and marketing for Coca-Cola.

"I've been fortunate to work with intelligent, high-integrity individuals while representing world-class brands," Dave said. "Because of my wife's career at UPS, we have been able to live throughout the United States and even for a few years in Brussels. The moves are often challenging but always rewarding in the end."

Despite the moves Dave has made, he's stayed in touch with brothers from his class. He's hopeful for many great friendships to be formed in New York Epsilon thanks in part to the upcoming renovations.

"[The NY Epsilon house at] 12 Myrtle is a great looking house from the outside," Dave said. "I'm actually looking forward to taking my parents through the newly renovated house and being proud of how it looks on the inside."

You can connect with Dave at [dgutmann@comcast.net](mailto:dgutmann@comcast.net).

*Editors note: Dave was the IFC president who was instrumental in the process by which the community of alumni, students, and RPI administration developed and approved the original Relationship Statement contract in 1990.*

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Mark Berube '84** entered Chapter Eternal on July 29, 2019, following a long battle with colorectal cancer. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from RPI, Mark joined Analytical Services Inc., a non-profit organization supporting the Air Force in Arlington, Va. He married his high school sweetheart, Karen, and had three children, Alexandra, Nicole, and Matthew. Mark was very active in supporting his family's life and career goals.

**Charlie Holt '68** entered Chapter Eternal on October 29. In the dorms freshman year, Charlie roomed with Dave Bischoff '68, next to Russ Surveyor '68 and across the hall from Bob Whitby '68. Charlie married high-school sweetheart, Fran, and they lived in Puerto Rico for a time. Bob Whiteby and his wife, Gerry, visited them as did many other ΣAE

brothers, taking advantage of their wonderful hospitality. Among his many other accomplishments in life, Charlie recently authored a book, *The Briefcase*, which is available on Amazon.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**Kenneth W. Mathews '64** plays racquetball and walks/jogs 2.5 miles three times a week. He enjoys traveling and goes on a cruise each year. Kenneth lives in Georgetown, Texas. Email: [kmattx@mac.com](mailto:kmattx@mac.com)

**Daniel J. Griswold '04** and his wife, Valerie, welcomed a daughter, Hazel Elizabeth, to the family on December 16, 2018. She came two weeks early and thankfully not on Christmas! Daniel is living a great life in Lakewood, Colo., playing in the mountains as much as he can. Email: [dgriswold@gmail.com](mailto:dgriswold@gmail.com)



# RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

## How Dedicated Is Your Class to New York Epsilon?

**M**any of the closest bonds built at New York Epsilon are often between brothers from the same class. Show your ΣAE pride by helping your class achieve the highest number of donors and dollars raised during New York Epsilon's *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* capital campaign.

Graduation Year	Amount Donated	Active Brothers	Campaign Donors	Class Participation Rate
1951	\$2,500	4	1	25%
1952	\$3,500	3	2	67%
1953	\$0	3	0	0%
1954	\$500	5	1	20%
1955	\$0	4	0	0%
1956	\$25	3	1	33%
1957	\$0	9	0	0%
1958	\$0	7	0	0%
1959	\$0	3	0	0%
1960	\$100	6	1	17%
1961	\$50	7	1	14%
1962	\$21,455	8	1	13%
1963	\$5,000	12	1	8%
1964	\$22,600	12	4	33%
1965	\$18,000	5	1	20%
1966	\$3,500	9	2	22%
1967	\$2,500	12	1	8%
1968	\$67,000	15	7	47%
1969	\$65,000	14	4	29%
1970	\$17,500	16	2	13%
1971	\$2,500	13	2	15%
1972	\$142,000	10	5	50%
1973	\$8,000	10	3	30%
1974	\$250	7	1	14%
1975	\$5,500	12	2	17%
1976	\$15,100	11	4	36%
1977	\$3,250	10	2	20%
1978	\$10,250	12	3	25%
1979	\$5,000	8	1	13%
1980	\$22,500	13	4	31%
1981	\$2,700	11	2	18%
1982	\$69,500	15	5	33%
1983	\$5,100	10	2	20%
1984	\$3,000	12	1	8%
1985	\$2,250	10	2	20%
1986	\$5,100	11	3	27%
1987	\$2,500	19	1	5%
1988	\$101,000	14	2	14%
1989	\$25,100	11	2	18%
1990	\$75,350	16	5	31%
1991	\$0	12	0	0%
1992	\$50,000	19	1	5%
1993	\$10,000	18	1	6%
1994	\$11,050	19	5	26%
1995	\$2,500	13	1	8%
1996	\$2,500	18	1	6%
1997	\$16,600	12	3	25%
1998	\$2,500	7	1	14%
1999	\$252,500	20	2	10%
2000	\$0	7	0	0%
2001	\$2,500	16	1	6%
2002	\$5,000	16	2	13%
2003	\$100	22	1	5%
2004	\$250	19	1	5%
2005	\$0	16	0	0%
2006	\$0	8	0	0%
2007	\$1,100	19	2	11%
2008	\$0	11	0	0%
2009	\$0	20	0	0%
2010	\$3,000	23	2	9%
2011	\$5,000	13	1	8%
2012	\$9,800	18	3	17%
2013	\$8,500	14	2	14%
2014	\$250	19	1	5%
2015	\$5,000	21	1	5%
2016	\$0	15	0	0%
2017	\$500	16	1	6%
2018	\$0	14	0	0%
2019	\$0	12	0	0%
2020	\$0	11	0	0%

## Alumni Engagement Comes in Many Forms How Can You Help ΣAE?

**PROVIDE** your email address to receive our digital updates (we're likely missing it). Reach out to us at alumni@nyepsilon.com.

**UPDATE** your contact information for our database by filling out the form found at <http://bit.ly/2WV15ib>.

**ATTEND** New York Epsilon events. Search "RPI Sigma Alpha Epsilon - New York Epsilon Chapter" and "SAE RPI Alumni and Actives" on Facebook to find out about upcoming chapter functions.

**REFER** an incoming freshman you believe would be a True Gentleman. Contact Recruitment Chairman **John Orozco '20** at [rush@nyepsilon.com](mailto:rush@nyepsilon.com) with their information.

**MENTOR** an undergraduate. Contact Chapter Adviser **Steve Wood '13** at [stevewood.sae@gmail.com](mailto:stevewood.sae@gmail.com) or Eminent Archon **Nick Mesibov '20** at [ea@nyepsilon.com](mailto:ea@nyepsilon.com) to find out what this could look like.

**PROVIDE** referral to internship opportunities at your companies for juniors who all need some career advancement experience during their away time in the fall or spring of their academic year after spending summer on campus. Contact **Cameron Smith '22** at [alumni@nyepsilon.com](mailto:alumni@nyepsilon.com) and join our Linked In community at [www.linkedin.com/groups/1834691/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/1834691/)

**DONATE** at [www.nyepsilon.com/](http://www.nyepsilon.com/) donate to support our general operating fund, Don Farkouh/Mark Hier Memorial Scholarship Fund, Stewart "Skeeter" Guild Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the James Michael Joly Zeal Fund.

**SHARE** your copy of *The Lion's Roar* with brothers, family, and friends. Let them know that New York Epsilon is stronger than ever!

*We would also like to give a special thank-you to the annual phonathon donors from 1992 to 2016 who contributed to the Lion Fund and allowed it to be used for \$150,000 contribution to the capital campaign.*

Eminent Archon  
**Nick Mesibov '20**  
ea@nyepsilon.com

Eminent Deputy Archon  
**Edwin Wallis '20**  
eda@nyepsilon.com

Eminent Treasurer  
**Adam Owens '21**  
treasurer@nyepsilon.com

House Manager  
**Christian Assimus '20**  
houseman@nyepsilon.com

Recruitment Chairman  
**John Orozco '20**  
rush@nyepsilon.com

Alumni Relations Chairman  
**Cameron Smith '22**  
alumni@nyepsilon.com

Community Relations Chairman  
**Andres Ramos '21**  
andy.ramos.18@gmail.com

Social Chairman  
**Justin Miklos '20**  
jtmiklos@gmail.com

Risk Manager  
**Jared O'Connor '22**  
jroconnor1331@gmail.com

Member Educator  
**Kyle Melvin '21**  
kylemelvin99@gmail.com

Stewards  
**Lee Tsapatsaris '21**  
leetsapatsaris@gmail.com

**Max Kestenbaum '21**  
maxkesty@gmail.com

Ritual Chairman  
**Lee Tsapatsaris '21**  
leetsapatsaris@gmail.com

Scholarship Chairman  
**Max Kestenbaum '21**  
maxkesty@gmail.com

## New York Epsilon Wins Barker Trophy, ΣAE National Awards

### *Undergraduate Brothers Enjoy Helping Others*

The New York Epsilon Chapter has had a great 2019. In addition to repeating as the Barker Trophy champion for the 2018-19 school year as the top chapter in interfraternity sports, we won ΣAE national awards for outstanding financial and property management.

### *Taking Pride in Philanthropy, Community Service*

Despite the Institute's new rules deferring recruitment for freshmen, New York Epsilon has one of the largest new member class of any fraternity on campus with six new members. The brotherhood has spent much of its time focusing on philanthropy and community service events, volunteering at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, as well as the Troy Boys & Girls Club. At the chapter's annual community enrichment dinner, we raised nearly \$300 for the B+ Foundation, which raises money for families with children who have cancer.

### *Networking within New York Epsilon*

New York Epsilon has also instituted new programs to help brothers with professional networking. Prior to the September career fair, we hosted mock interviews and resume critiquing sessions to help brothers prepare to meet with companies. We are thankful to have wonderful alumni who have helped connect brothers with prospective employers. We are creating an alumni database with the goal of helping brothers network with each other and find career opportunities.

### *Seniors Set Up for Success*

Brothers are looking forward to the spring 2020 semester and the upcoming formal recruitment period for the freshman. We are excited to bring in a large freshman new member class and host several fun events. As a member of our large senior class, I'm grateful for everything New York Epsilon has offered me. The seniors of New York Epsilon are bound to accomplish amazing things, and we have ΣAE to thank for it.

Fraternally,  
**Nick Mesibov '20**  
Eminent Archon  
ea@nyepsilon.com



*The chapter volunteered at the Mohawk Humane Society last September.*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**Alex Aung**  
Redding, Calif.

**Henry Heffernan**  
Chappaqua, N.Y.

**Andreu Russo**  
Barcelona, Spain

**Armando Guzman**  
Raleigh, N.C.

**Albert Nova**  
Saugerties, N.Y.

**Ira Toracinta**  
Kittery, Maine



# THE LION'S ROAR

NY Epsilon • Sigma Alpha Epsilon • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

New York Epsilon Chapter of  
Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
P.O. Box 442100  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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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.

## Did You Know? ΣAE FAST FACTS



Total chapters:  
**212 with nine colonies**



Average chapter size:  
**48 members**



Initiated members since  
our founding:  
**334,727**



Number of living alumni:  
**239,158**

## Happy Holidays from New York Epsilon!

*New York Epsilon appreciates the efforts and dedication of its alumni who have made the chapter one of the strongest fraternities at RPI. We wish our best to you and yours for a fun and safe holiday season! Remember that you always have a second home here at New York Epsilon.*

## FIND US ONLINE



WEBSITE  
[www.nyepsilon.com](http://www.nyepsilon.com)



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RPI Sigma Alpha  
Epsilon - New York  
Epsilon Chapter



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and Actives



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