



# NY Epsilon 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Weekend

## Open Letter to Alumni and Undergraduates Attending Alumni Weekend 2011

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*John Thomas, Chapter Advisor*

*“Jerry” Witter, Chairman, Lambda Alpha Epsilon, Inc.*

The upcoming weekend is looking to be well attended by more than 140 alumni and guests from many classes over the 60 years of NY Epsilon existence. They include several alumni who first lived at 12 Myrtle Avenue. We are looking forward to a great time reconnecting with classmates and meeting brothers. With that said, however, there are some major social and risk management pressures from  $\Sigma$ AE, RPI, and Troy Police that will influence how the weekend needs to be managed in order to keep the chapter around for another 60 years.

Because of this unique alumni weekend and the risk atmosphere on campus, the Actives and Alumni together will be implementing and enforcing some house rules. The chapter has already instituted many of these for undergraduates as the result of recent campus incidents and  $\Lambda$ AE supports these for the general operations of the chapter and the management of the alumni activities at the chapter house:

- There are many events at the house that must handle more than a hundred guests, so many common rooms will be set-up for those events and they can't be used to sleep at the house.
- The chapter house is at line-in capacity this semester and the undergrads will have their own guests in their rooms, so please use the group rate of \$99 per room with free parking for the weekend at the [Crowne Plaza in Albany](#) (call Matt Jeffers for a room 518-727-7530).
- Parking is limited at the house for the numbers expected so we've arranged for a bus to run between the hotel and the house all afternoon Saturday and extra busses for the evening to get back and forth to the banquet in Albany. We encourage use of the busses or to carpool.
- During the time of the banquet dinner from 4:30-11 pm on Saturday, the Chapter house needs to be off limits for security against stolen items and for avoidance of issues with Troy Police making a visit. The past few weeks on campus and at  $\Sigma$ AE there have been several incidents that have raised the awareness and presence of law enforcement. So go to the dinner party or go elsewhere during this time.
- Alcohol is allowed at the house, but it must be limited to BYOB beer (no kegs) and/or wine in accordance with  $\Sigma$ AE and RPI policies – *no higher alcohol content liquids*. We'll have alumni weekend stadium cups for drinks to help with distribution and cold repository for beer behind the bar.
- Following RPI Social Policies, the weekend events at the Chapter house have been registered with RPI Office of Greek Life. This means there will be a check-in list, the events must end by 2 am, and we'll have a hired security guard to help each night.
- We've made arrangements for free cover and use of a reserved room at [Jillian's](#) in Albany for Friday and Saturday night. We encourage folks to attend the nightly events at Jillian's or other places instead of the house in order to avoid having crowds and noise issues that would prompt visits from the police.
- Saturday night after the banquet, folks are strongly encouraged to stay in Albany at Jillian's, Biergarten, etc. or to go downtown Troy. For travel back to Troy after the busses have stopped, arrangements have been made with Albany Capitaland taxis (518-453-8888) for a \$25 flat fee if not staying in Albany.
- The Chapter house will be closed to non-residents during these times:
  - Saturday 2:00 am – 7:00 am - Saturday 4:30 pm – 11:00 pm - Sunday 2:00 am – 8:00 am
- Follow situation protocols and the lead of the EA and  $\Lambda$ AE officers if something happens:
  - For various level of problems, escalated response from: Sober Host(s) talking, to Security guard talking, to call police and inform Dean Matt Hunt of the incident
- We encourage you to make your visits to the chapter house during the long lunch and tours on Saturday and the brunch on Sunday. We'll have some limited arrangements for parking at the house lot and on Myrtle Ave. Do not use the church lot unless we've made arrangements on Saturday for during the day (otherwise you will get towed by the church) and for sure not on Sunday.

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*OK, so for some more background on why AAE and NYEP have implemented these House Rules:*

Within the Realm of ΣAE there have been several alcohol related deaths and near misses. These have resulted in many lawsuits and settlements. These are paid for by the undergraduate members in the form of Risk Management Fees. These increase this year from \$170 to \$240. At the summer ΣAE convention, a motion was made to have ΣAE go to Alcohol Free Housing. While it did not pass, the split was nearly 50:50 and is likely to come again in the next biennium – especially given the \$25M lawsuit from the Cornell death incident in February. ΣAE's rules and policies are outlined in the [Minerva's Shield](#), which includes BYOB, no liquor, and no drinking games. With the attendance of the Province Nu Archon Steve Tricarico and the Eminent Supreme Chronicler Gregory Brandt, there is added pressure for all of us to better follow the ΣAE policies.

More locally and of immediate concern, on the RPI campus this fall there have been many alcohol related incidents implicating many other chapters. They will likely go on suspension, or at a minimum on social probation. Though RPI has also banned hard alcohol, these incidents allegedly have had it involved. Any event that has an incident or report and has any hard alcohol at the event will suffer the full consequences of violating the RPI student handbook policies. These incidents have caused Troy Police to take a greater interest in activities in student housing, with Greeks being an easy target. Each night of the Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend the chapter was visited by the police – not due to a complaint, but just due to an enhanced policing posture. This kind of increased scrutiny happened in 2004 when many campus incidents happened and in the Fall of 1999 when NYEP was among the chapters suspended for alcohol violations. NYEP is currently a role model for the Institute and IFC in social (and many other areas as well). This is a result of hard work and consideration of risk management practices, but, honestly, also by a little luck. We do not want to put ourselves in the position of not being able to defend ourselves or exist on campus when we have so many good things happening within the Chapter at this time.

This alumni weekend is a special celebration weekend for NYEP's 60<sup>th</sup> and 12 Myrtle Avenue's 50<sup>th</sup>. We will have over 140 alumni back with many from the 1960's and 1970's, who were the first generations to live in our home at 12 Myrtle, as well as the more recent classes. We will be able to showcase the undergraduate active chapter who were recognized as one of the John O. Moseley Zeal Chapter nominees at this past summer's Leadership School for the excellence in operations and brotherhood. Because of this year's broader and larger attendance, we want the experience to be good for everyone across the years and we want to preserve the brotherhood and chapter house we've enjoyed for over 50 years.

Given all of these considerations, we need to follow the protocols listed above so that NY Epsilon is able to continue our unique brotherhood for a long time to come.