

# NY Epsilon of SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

## Eminent Archon Report– Derek Ashcroft '08



Brothers of New York Epsilon, we have reached the culmination of our chapter's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary and are now making preparations to carry NYEP through the next half century. I was happy to see so many brothers from so many classes come together for this fall's alumni weekend which for the first time, coincided with our undergrad formal. The result was several generations coming together and sharing stories and reinforcing why we all joined Sigma Alpha Epsilon in the first place. We are happy to welcome eleven pledges into our chapter and look forward to another strong rush this coming semester. As our Greek system continues talks with Rensselaer's administration over their "Greek Initiatives," we must take full advantage of the spring rush and its associated traditions as long as we can. I am happy to announce that at this past summer's Leadership School, we received the Chapter Achievement Award for **the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year** and take pride in continuing the streak through successful recruitment, philanthropy and chapter management.

## Rush Report – Erik Swanson '08



This year's recruitment period was both exciting and successful. We completely changed our recruitment ideology, focusing on building solid relationships, rather than just holding large events. We also began to brand an image to the house this year, which is only the beginning of a larger marketing campaign. We held events that showcased SAE like the *Third Annual Community Enrichment Dinner* which saw fifteen prominent guests of the RPI administration. At the end of recruitment period, we chose fourteen new pledges to sign our house including three for the spring. We are continuing to change our recruitment strategies as the proclivity to join fraternities is declining nationwide. We are continually striving to improve our Rush, the gentlemen to whom we extend bids, and our house as a whole. We welcome the new pledges and look forward to another successful

## House Manager– Mike "Patches" Holihan '08



This semester was pretty terrible for problems with the house. Currently the fire alarm system is offline due to problems with the sensors in the garage and causing false trouble alarms. Also, there seems to be a broken pipe in the basement lounge which is causing flooding and a nasty stench. Both washers have seen better days and currently LAE is working on new washers and dryers for the spring semester. As for good news, we had a very productive work week. Floors got redone, shutters repainted, dinning room and tv room got repainted and there was some gardening for preparation for rush. There are many repairs that need to be done and donations will help greatly. Thank you.

## CRC Report – Steve Knapp '09



New York Epsilon has once again accomplished high standing in the eyes of RPI administration, the Troy community, and our neighbors. This fall we hosted our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Farkouh Field Day after it was postponed from the spring semester. It was the grandest Farkouh Field Day to date with a bounce house, dunk tank, concession stands, and a mounted police officer. We also hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Community Enrichment Dinner at the house and were honored with the presence of administrators, neighbors, alumni, and rushees. Our alumni weekend 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was a huge success. This year we had a formal dinner and dance at Phelan's in Clifton Park to celebrate the benchmark. It was here that we honored recently retired chapter advisor Jonathan "Jerry" Witter and also recently retired province archon and long time friend of the chapter Fitzgerald Lauture. With the current crossroads that Greek Life faces on campus, New York Epsilon is truly looked upon as a chapter to be modeled after.

## Pledge Report – Nate Anderson '07



The NYEP Fall 2006 pledge class is progressing quite well. So far, they have bonded with their fellow pledge mates and brothers through scavenger hunts, sporting events, community service events and just hanging out around the House. Their pledge project is in the works renovating the Scholarship Room into a sort of board room for EC and LAE meetings. There are eleven pledges in total comprising of six sophomores (including two, five-year architecture students) and five freshmen. The class includes

## Fall 2006 Pledge Class

Caleb Cammock	2009 Mech	Bronx, NY
Jim Croke,	2010 EE	South Hadley, MA
Michael Dennis	2010 Arch	Athol, MA
Adam Gomez	2009 Mech	East Meadow, MA
Andrew Gudmundsen	2010 Mech	Clifton Park, NY
Matt Hammond	2010 Aero	Black River, NY
Jonathon Kohl	2010 CompSys	Harleysville, PA
Joseph Leeds	2009 Biology	Martinsville, NJ
Bryan Michalis	2009 Civil Eng	Holland, PA
Nick Profita	2010 IT	Clifton Park, NY
Ben Rosenthal	2010 Arch	Mendham, NJ

## New Elections at End of November:

EA Cary Klemm	<a href="mailto:klemmc@rpi.edu">klemmc@rpi.edu</a>
EDA David Roberge	<a href="mailto:roberd2@rpi.edu">roberd2@rpi.edu</a>
Rush Chris Petrino	<a href="mailto:petric@rpi.edu">petric@rpi.edu</a>
Pledge Sal Mangano	<a href="mailto:mangas@rpi.edu">mangas@rpi.edu</a>
House Manager Steve Knapp	<a href="mailto:knapps@rpi.edu">knapps@rpi.edu</a>
CRC Ray Nassar	<a href="mailto:nassar2@rpi.edu">nassar2@rpi.edu</a>
Steward Derek Ashcroft	<a href="mailto:ashcrd@rpi.edu">ashcrd@rpi.edu</a>
Social Chris Olivares	<a href="mailto:olivac@rpi.edu">olivac@rpi.edu</a>

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**Out and About on Campus:** <http://news.rpi.edu/campusnews/>  
 From RPI Campus News Oct 2, 2006: Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
 Host 3rd Annual Community Enrichment Dinner



From RPI Campus News Oct 23, 2006: Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
 Hosts 18th Annual Farkouh Field Day  
<http://news.rpi.edu/campusnews/update.do?artcenterkey=1789>



be setup in the driveway to monitor cars parked there, door locks will be reinforced, and the main door locks will be upgraded to electronic keypad locks. We are looking at increased security measures and enhanced cooperation with Troy PD and Public Safety to ensure the safety of chapter members and their guests.

Our chapter house has definitely seen better days. We have had to spend a large amount of money this past year to keep the structure up to code and provide infrastructure to let the undergrads run day-to-day operations. Expenditures include refinishing the wood floors, refurbishing a number of the bathrooms, and multiple fixes to plumbing problems as they occur. Near future items include new washers & dryers, an overhaul of the fire alarm system, and a full evaluation of the plumbing system. To this end we are considering not making our annual Lions Fund contribution to ensure we have the house up and running to maintain membership numbers.

Our phonathon this year will be extremely important. Please get together with members of your class or other classes and attempt to sponsor one of our improvements so we can continue to provide a high quality of life and attract the best the RPI undergraduate community has to offer. I look forward to seeing many of you at alumni weekend this spring.

### ??? Phonathon 2006

The results are in for the 2006 phonathon and we did alright, but continued our downward trend in overall donations. As of December we had \$16,925 collected from 148 donors. There were a few holdouts and missed chances from past donors. We are continuing work to improve the phonathon for next March and hope to surpass our old goals of \$20,000. *Check out the chapter website for the donor listing.* Are you going to let your classmates beat you in 2007? This year's top ten lists for class donations and participation percentages showed great strength of the classes of 1968, 1972, 1976, 1982, and 1995

### Lambda Alpha Epsilon News

Mission Statement: *Lambda Alpha Epsilon exists to provide and protect a beneficial undergraduate experience and meaningful member relationships through dedicated alumni participation and efficient use of alumni resources.*

#### From the ??? Chairman: Keith Cormier '04

Brothers, the past year has been full of challenges from the House Corporation perspective. We have seen a few problems with the Troy community & our neighborhood, as well as a number of issues with our aging house. Through all this our tight relationship with the undergrads has helped us to quickly remedy most of the issues, and shown us how we can further improve communication to allow for faster resolution in the future.

The chapter has had instances of vandalism, theft, and breaking & entering over the past semester. LAE takes the safety of our undergrads very seriously and are taking steps to improve the security in and around the house. Motion detector lights will

Class	Amount	Class	Participation
1982	\$1,650.00	1982	58.82%
1988	\$1,050.00	1978	46.15%
1995	\$1,000.00	1968	35.29%
2004	\$830.68	1956	33.33%
1999	\$829.00	1980	33.33%
1968	\$725.00	2004	28.57%
1993	\$625.00	1958	28.57%
1990	\$600.00	1983	27.27%
1964	\$575.00	1972	27.27%
1986	\$550.00	1976	27.27%

The Lion Fund for long term saving has continued to meet its investment goals, reaching \$75,000 in August 2006. Just look how Erik Aarts '89, Eric Wenberg '88, and Dennis Wassung '94 masterfully managed the account. The scholarship funds have over \$80,000 that continues to grow each year and allows LAE to award 2-3 scholarships of at least \$1,000 each.



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## Alumni Weekend October 2006

We had 63 alumni back for the Fall Alumni Oct 16-18<sup>th</sup>. We had a great mixer at the house Friday night with a band (OK so they were a little loud). The alumni won the soccer game on Saturday (well, OK there were only 4 actives playing). Saturday banquet was also the formal for the actives, so we all got to share in the current social scene. A slides show by Nate Anderson and John Thomas (along with Mark Wilensky and Matter Jeffers) caught rare photos of Jerry for his early days and throughout his career as Chapter Advisor. Nick Mandelankis was re-elected to the board and Jared Ray was also elected. Jerry Witter was elected to fill the spot vacated by John Thomas who is taking on the Chapter Advisor duties. Board Officer Elections saw Keith Cormier again to LAE Chairman, Jared Ray to Vice-Chair and Jerry Witter to Secretary. *Check out the list of attendees at the NYEP website.*

## Phonathon Annual Alumni Donation Drive

We missed a few of you during this year's Phonathon, but we know some of you would still like to donate. We continue to appreciate the great support from the alumni. (Jim Owens, 24586 Via Tequila, Lake Forest, CA 92630). Make them payable to the funds we have available: Lambda Alpha Epsilon (non-tax deductible general fund), Don Farkouh/Mark Heir Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Stuart Guild Memorial Scholarship Fund (both scholarships are tax deductible). You can also donate online at the chapters Omega Financial link: <https://www.omegafi.com/NNK5UK>

## SAE Launches Capital Campaign to Advance Fraternity

At the fall alumni weekend, Don Parsons of the SAE Foundation presented an overview of the Campaign to Advance SAE. Their plan is in 5 years to raise \$28.5M for 210 chapters. This will be focused to 6 key initiatives with most going back to chapters in the form of support programs like EA leadership school, endowed funding of delegates to Leadership School, and volunteer education. Each chapter is targeted to raise \$125,000. Don and Jerry took an initial look at how that may be possible. Though daunting, it appears if we can create a pyramid of donors we can help reach the chapter goal that National has set. We need over five years 2-\$10,000, 2-\$7500, 5-\$5000, 25-\$1000, and 31-\$500 donors. This can be supported in various ways (stocks, insurance, estate, etc.) but direct donations are the best. Any excess would go to our chapter endowment fund that we have at the SAE Foundation. For more information please contact Jerry Witter '82

## Ways to Support NYEP while helping SAE and RPI

We have a Chapter Endowment Fund at National called the "Don Farkouh/Mark Heir Memorial Fund for New York Epsilon" that supports sending undergraduates to National Leadership School. Currently it has \$6300 in it and has been somewhat stagnant except for LAE donations to it. We can use up to 6% each year for scholarships, but it can't drop below \$5000. If you are thinking of donating to national, keep this fund in mind.

If you are thinking of donating to RPI and the Rensselaer Renaissance \$1B campaign, support Greek Life (meagerly

funded at \$4000 – less than 1/10 the cost of 1 student to attend RPI) by earmarking it and your company match to "Dean of Students Office – Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs"

## Alumni News – We need it!!!!

If you have news you'd like announced, send Ray Nassar '08 an email ([nassar2@rpi.edu](mailto:nassar2@rpi.edu)) or drop us a note. Visit the website at [www.nyepsilon.com](http://www.nyepsilon.com).

## Alumni Get-together in Washington, DC for Hockey Night

John Bogdan '86 organized a NYEP Alumni night at the Washing Caps. Keith Dupont '91, John Bogdan '86, Sam Pascarelle '87, Marc D'Amore '87, Russ Haynel '85, Hagan Blount '01, Mark Lepofsky '85, Nish Narechania '04, Jerry Witter '82, Justin Naughton '97, and Erik Anderson '97 met up for some dinner, refreshments, and catching up after too many years of not seeing each other. Can you believe, four Ph.D.'s in the group. After the game, the crew met Brian Pothier (2000 RPI Hockey grad and Caps top defense) and gave him a book about the history of RPI Hockey.

## From the Archives:



*A League Championship Hockey Team 1994? Who is in this?*

## Put on your Calendars now! April 14, 2007

We are shifting some things around due to Freakout being so early and fewer hockey players. Softball a/o Volleyball better?

January 20 – Big Red Freakout

February sometime – Initiation of Fall Class

March 3-11 – Spring Break

March 25-27– LAE Phonathon 2007

April 14 – Move of Alumni Weekend – softball and volleyball

June 7-10 – RPI Reunion weekend – golfing possible?

October 19-21 – Fall 2007 Alumni Weekend

Check out: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/newyorkepsilon>

**Classes of 52, 57, 62, 67, 72, 77, 82, 87, 92, 97, and 2002 should make a special effort to come back for your 5 year anniversaries! Plan now for your summer and fall 2007. Spring Alumni Weekend 2007 includes Volleyball Tourney.**

# NY Epsilon of SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

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Address Correction Requested



3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Enrichment was another big success under the dinner tent in the front yard. We made the Campus News many times. Here Dave Haviland '64 is talking to the brothers and guests.



Alumni get together went to Washington Capitals game and met Defenseman Brian Pothier (from RPI hockey team '00) afterwards. See the story inside

Hello from NYEP!



Happy New Year!

LAE Phonathon in March - LAE Volleyball April 14, 2007