We have been fascinated, and quite frankly impressed, with the numbers surrounding the Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future campaign. Some numbers you have seen before, such as our $1.856 million campaign goal and the estimated $2.5 million project cost. Here are some other interesting figures from the campaign that we thought you may enjoy reading about.

94: The number of generous brothers who have donated to our campaign.

$1,232,030: The amount donated to the campaign. Gifts of $50,000 and more are eligible to be 100% tax deductible through the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation. Gifts of all sizes can be accepted through Lambda Alpha Epsilon; though not tax deductible, they are greatly needed to minimize the debt on this project.

$41.67: Dollars per month for five years (a total of $2,500) to have your name on a prominently displayed plaque in the chapter house, in recognition of your generous gift to this campaign. Pledges may be spread over a five-year period, helping maximize your support.

$623,970: The gap between our campaign goal and current dollars raised. To keep this project on time and to secure the necessary financing, it is imperative we reach $1.856 million. A gift of any size will make an impact and help us reach our goal.

1968: The class with the most campaign donors. The class of 1968 leads the way, with six donors or 40% of the members giving to the campaign. Help your class increase its giving participation by making your gift today.

1/2019: When we publicly announced our fundraising campaign. Since then, we have raised an additional $100,000. This is excellent progress, but we must continue this strong momentum. Financial support from alumni will determine the extent to which we can fulfill this vision. The active members are looking forward to having a new home, not only to live and study in but also to recruit another strong group of young men.

∞: The symbol for infinity. That is the potential lasting effect of any size gift to this campaign. Our fraternity is more than just a building, as the life lessons and friendships far transcend any facility.

We want you to be a part of these numbers that are impacting the future of New York Epsilon! Please send in your pledge form today to help us exceed our goal. All gift levels are appreciated and needed!
We are deeply grateful to the 94 brothers who have pledged to the Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future campaign. These alumni recognize the importance of ensuring the future of New York Epsilon and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude from their personal experience. We are close to our goal, but commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our goal of $1.856 million.

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
- George Dulchinios ’82
- Donald J. Vanderhoef ’93

**12 Myrtle Avenue Society**
($5,000 to $9,999)
- John C. Busse ’63
- George B. Sawyer ’68
- Kenneth R. Watson ’68
- Robert A. Whitby Jr. ’68
- Frederick L. Lichtenfels ’76
- Joseph P. De Roy ’76
- Arthur J. Stefanelli Jr. ’76
- 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

**Brotherhood Society**
($2,500 to $4,999)
- R. Kirk Filbey ’94
- Dennis C. Wassung Jr. ’94
- Donald Gillespie ’11
- JP Hennessey ’12
- Steve Wood ’13

**Violets Society**
($1,000 to $2,499)
- Robert P. Fopeano ’51
  In honor of
  - Forrest K. English ’51
  - Joseph M. Mosca ’52
  In memory of
  - Richard Oehl ’52
  - Paul M. De Vivo ’64
  - C. Peter Smith ’67
  In memory of
  - Jim Ducharme ’67
  - Kenneth P. Jamrogowicz ’73
  - Robert J. Zinser ’73
  - James C. Bischoff ’75
  - Bob Rainey Jr. ’75
  - Bob R. Hammer III ’77
  - Stephen Sakamoto ’80

In memory of
- Dean Hamil ’80
- John R. Phillips ’81
- Mark S. Davis ’84
- Eric C. Saenger ’86
- Carol and Don Birks ’87
- Mark L. Wilensky ’95
- Carolyn and Chuck Roth ’98
- Nick Mandelenakis ’02
- Dave Herkenham ’10
- John Thomas ’02
- John O’Neill ’12
- Benjamin Clemence ’13
- Charles P. Holt ’68
  In memory of
  - John M. Heagney ’66
  - Steven M. Seelinger ’68
  - Garry Capp ’75
- Donald J. Parker ’78
- Andrew J. Ford ’82
- Mark Lepofsky ’85
- Jeffrey C. Wilcox ’85
- Blaine W. Davis II ’88
- Dang M. Vo ’94
- Nathaniel Ford ’97
- Michael D. Campanelli ’07

**To make a gift, use the enclosed pledge form or visit http://bit.ly/SAE_RPI. You may also call our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661.**
The ΣAE chapter house impressed Tom Morgan ’72 with its physical presence, as well as its setting in a residential neighborhood away from campus. “The men in the house, however, were what made joining and living there so enjoyable; a good mix of backgrounds, majors and interests. I would not have had such a well-rounded college experience if I had lived-in anywhere else.” For him, it felt like going home every evening.

Tom’s experience as a ΣAE prepared him to work with others, step outside his own viewpoint, and see others’ motivations in a fresh way. Another unexpected attribute gained from the brotherhood was learning to navigate home ownership problems. “Whether it was a simple repair or a more involved problem, there always seemed to be a brother who knew what to do.” The same was true with academics. When struggling, there was a brother willing to help with a course he had already taken. As far as success, Tom shares his advice with undergraduates, “An RPI degree will be like a passport into the real world. I had no idea when I got it, how much that diploma mattered in the world of engineering, science and technology.”

ΣAE also helped Tom develop as a problem solver, to learn persistence and how to gain insight from the ideas of others. “I am a senior scientist at the Rensselaer Institute for Data Exploration and Applications, RPI’s data analytics research program. I also spend time working with Earth and Environmental Science students on projects for the Jefferson Project at Lake George. Lessons learned as an undergrad still apply to my day-to-day research activities.”

Tom has been active with the Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future campaign and shares, “It was satisfying to come back to the Troy area after many years and get more directly involved as an LAE board member. The experience of living in the house is not all that different from years ago, although the building is showing its age and needs our help.”

He recognizes the chapter’s strength due to the continued work of the actives in recruiting, the financial support and time the alumni contribute. Tom urges his brothers to keep their contact information up-to-date. “You might be surprised to discover how many brothers are interested in touching base via phone, email or even at the house to catch up on life’s journeys and hash over old times.”

Living locally has allowed Tom to dedicate time to chapter operations. And an element Tom noticed when reconnecting with NY Epsilon was how constant the chapter has been over the years. He encourages his brothers to look back at what NY Epsilon did for them. “After all these years, getting back together, even if just on the phone or for a weekend, to talk about old times and compare life experiences is a pleasure.” He reminds them to look back as time passes too quickly, pausing to relive a little of the past with old friends and recharge for the future. You can hear more about why Tom supports the campaign via email at trm13411@sbgglobal.net.

NY Epsilon Shows Leadership on Campus and in the Community

I’m happy to report the continued strength and vitality of the brothers of NY Epsilon. Having initiated 17 men in the fall 2018 pledge class, we are eager to see these exceptional men step up into leadership positions as they become upperclassmen. We are inspired by the generosity of our alumni for the campaign to renovate our home and want to contribute by leading by example in the RPI community and proving the members of ΣAE are True Gentlemen.

MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

Our philanthropic efforts are as strong as ever. We love supporting the Troy Boys and Girls Club every year with Farkouh Field Day! Brothers volunteered at the event while kids enjoyed an obstacle course, face painting, and a cotton candy machine. Last fall, we also hosted a bake sale with Alpha Phi. The funds raised were used to support the B+ Foundation, a children’s cancer charity that helps kids through financial assistance, research and advocacy.

NY Epsilon did fairly well in recruitment relative to the other chapters on campus. While the RPI Greek Life Task Force delayed recruitment until October, NY Epsilon decided to not formally recruit in the spring, instead participating in informal recruitment with targets for men to join as sophomores.

THANK YOU, LOYAL ALUMNI

As one of the largest fraternities on campus, New York Epsilon bears a great responsibility to the community, our collegiate institute, our neighbors near 12 Myrtle Avenue, and current as well as future members. By following the creed of The True Gentleman, the chapter helps mold fine young men into better citizens, scholars and leaders to benefit themselves and others during their time here at RPI and after.

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

(Left) Alumni vs. actives soccer game last fall.
(Right) We hosted a bake sale with Alpha Phi to support the B+ Foundation.
Update on RPI Greek Life Task Force and Campus Student Life

The Greek Life Task Force (GLTF) has been somewhat dormant since January 2019, despite promises of communications and actions in a letter posted on March 15, 2019, by LeNorman Strong (https://info.rpi.edu/greek-life-task-force). The Alumni Inter-Greek Council (AIGC) continues to receive little information from the RPI administration. AIGC was notified by the Greek Life Commons that the Board of Trustees received an update at the meeting held during graduation weekend—not following March time frame as originally planned.

The biggest uncertainty is RPI stonewalling on the recommendations and may not allow first semester students to participate in fall 2019 recruitment. Only upperclassmen will be allowed in the fall and freshmen would be deferred to the spring semesters. Some feel this could be better; however, the impacts of Summer Arch and new handbook policies should be assessed before implementing deferred recruitment—as was recommended in the GLTF report. None of the GLTF implementation teams have been established, nor any charter or timeline planned. The National Interfraternity Conference and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Service Center representatives have been involved and offering counsel on how NYEP and the RPI IFC can proceed.

In parallel with the Greek Life Task Force work, the RPI administration was also working (without earnest participation of the Student Union leadership) to update the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities. “Effective May 19, 2019, a new edition of the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities is available via the Dean of Students website at https://info.rpi.edu/dean-students/student-rights-responsibilities-and-judicial-affairs. The handbook, which reflects the values, beliefs, and expectations we have as a community of scholars, lays out Rensselaer students’ rights and the responsibilities to help ensure mutual respect, integrity, and an environment where all students can effectively pursue their educational goals.”

This update includes a significant tightening of alcohol policies and sanctions by continuing the ban of alcohol and other drugs in the chapter houses enacted by the GLTF in the fall of 2018 and extending it to “all Institute owned, controlled, or affiliated residential facilities that house undergraduate students.” RPI took the NIC resolution ban (https://nicfraternity.org/nic-fraternities-vote-to-ban-hard-alcohol/) on hard alcohol (defined now as 15% or more alcohol by volume) at facilities and went a step further by banning all alcohol in houses and requiring all events with alcohol to be somewhere other than a chapter house and serviced by a licensed third-party vendor.

The undergraduate chapter adapted to the recruitment and social policy changes last year fairly well and will continue to evolve with the rest of the Greek system and entire student body. The LAE House Corporation Board continues to be supportive of the chapter during these times needing great perseverance and remains determined and enthusiastic about completing the capital campaign and chapter house renovation project to help ensure New York Epsilon’s future.

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 HOMECOMING WEEKEND
September 27-29, 2019
VISIT THE CHAPTER HOUSE, BOND WITH YOUR BROTHERS