

NY Epsilon of SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

Eminent Archon Report – Adam Rivard '09



The NY Epsilon of Fall 2008 is unlike any group of guys I have had a chance to work with. The house is overflowing with eager brothers willing to do everything and anything needed to be the best house on campus and in the nation. We are utilizing the committee system within EC to allow for all the new guys in the house to step up and play an integral role in achieving our goals. Our main goal coming into this school year is to bring the Zeal Award back to NY Epsilon and we are well on our way. I encourage everyone to check out the online newsletter monthly for updates on our progress, and I look forward to seeing everyone at alumni weekend.

EDA Report– Nicholas Profita '08



With the house full to the brim with 33 brothers, this semester will be a great chance for SAE to get even closer together. Although the beginning of the semester will be devoted mostly to rush and the pledges, there are still many events planned to make sure there is plenty of brotherly bonding. We will still be having our weekly "manversations" which are simply friendly debates on a chosen topic. An EDA day is the big event being planned for this semester and so far it looks like it will consist of playing indoor paint ball during the day and everyone going to a hockey game at night. It has been great to see how well everyone is working together with such a full house and I am sure things will continue to run this smoothly for the rest of the semester.

Rush Report – Adam Gomez '09



After taking a break from rush last spring, the brotherhood is anxious to jump back into the excitement and enjoyment of fall rush. The new brothers from last fall are especially excited to experience rush from the side of a brother. Fortunately, their enthusiasm and excitement has rubbed off on the older brothers. We are looking to establish a large pool of prospective pledges during rush, from where we can filter a 20-25 man pledge class. The rush team has worked diligently this summer coordinating events, establishing the rush budget, and outlining a smooth plan for this year's rush. I am very thankful for their efforts and support.

IFC has decided to start an IFC rush during the first week of school, where fraternities are encouraged to promote Greek Life and our houses. One of the events are Meet the Greeks. This year we blew the competition out of the water. The last IFC event is a block party for the fraternities out near the Pawling area. We hoped to make the event a success as well. Individual chapter rush begins on Saturday, August 30th. We kick it off with a volleyball and barbeque at the house and end it with a nice dinner on September 25th. You better believe NY

Epsilon already has their game face on. If you have any questions feel free to send me an e-mail at gomez@rpi.edu.

House Manager – Andrew Brooks '10



I am proud to say that 12 Myrtle Avenue is continuing to improve. The house is in superb condition as we have recently completed our work week for the 2008 – 2009 academic year. Much of our focus was placed on aesthetic improvements for the house including interior and exterior painting, yard work, a door and many doorknobs, thorough cleaning, and refinishing the hardwood floors.

We are in the final stages of remodeling the third floor bathroom, and we have much more house improvements on the way including repairing the roof, replacing an exterior door, repairing a leak from the middle floor bathroom, fixing the dining room radiator, and refinishing the floor in the garage. As the semester continues, I am confident that the house will continue to be restored to its pristine condition that matches its rich character.

CRC Report – Kevin Fort '10



We have several dates set for our upcoming community relations events. The community enrichment dinner is scheduled for Tuesday September 16th and the Farkouh Field Day is on October 5th. We are also planning several other fundraisers to try and raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. We are trying to do a Troy Beatification Event, which will involve some kind of project to clean up Troy. Some possible ideas are a landscaping project or work on a basketball court. We are seeking sponsorship from local and national companies to try and raise the money we need for the projects. We are hoping for a lot of brother and community involvement as well as higher monetary values raised than in previous years. Any ideas or suggestions for making our events more effective would be appreciated (fortk2@rpi.edu).

Reminder: Visit the website for more specific monthly undergraduate officer updates: www.nyepsilon.com

The 23 strong Fall 2007 Pledge class after initiation.



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Fall 2008 Work Week Pictures:



Brothers trimming shrubs behind the volleyball court.



Finished table made for the new lounge in the basement.



Brothers painting the kitchen, one of many painting projects during work week.

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 LAE Chairman: “Jerry” Witter ‘82

LAE has been busy again with managing both physical plant issues as well as mentoring the undergraduate leadership. RPI Greek Life continues to evolve with social, recruitment, and housing. There may be changes to require sophomores to live in “campus” housing and for now Greeks are in that mix, but may require us to do our billing through the bursar in order to allow students to maintain a shift to housing grants for financial aid. Despite what RPI puts out in publications, some of RPI’s actions continue to make it challenging to maintain a vibrant fraternity experience.

For the house maintenance we’ve contracted another \$26,000 of work for the third floor and middle head bathrooms, floor refinishing, driveway patches, and main roof repair. We are continuing the strategic planning work of the SAE 2011 committee to make sure we are prepared for NYEP housing issues beyond our 50 years at 12 Myrtle Avenue. In 1989 we had the SAE 2000 task force that helped set the stage for many years of LAE actions. We need a new guiding plan for the future. The SAE 2000 report along with past house assessments can be found on the chapter website (www.nyepsilon.com/lae.htm). We will have another working meeting during the fall alumni weekend. If you are interested in participating with setting the direction for the next major phase of LAE operations, please contact us.

Annual LAE Board/ Executive Council Retreat

The chapter leadership and LAE board met for the 7th year at Mark Wilensky’s ‘96 summer house on the coast of Maine. We had four undergraduates and ten alumni share ideas for LAE and Chapter management with a focus of LAE operations for the next 1-2 years. There was also time for socializing and networking so that better relations between the active and LAE alumni members can be realized. We formed four committees to help us with operations and adherence to our bylaws:

- Finance – Mark Murdoch, Johnny Bogdan, ET
- House Maintenance – Nick Mandelenakis and Kurt Spiegel, House Manager
- Alumni Relations – Maura Spiegel, Matt Jeffers, Alumni Relations Chair.
- Continuing Ed – Jared Ray, John Thomas, EA

If anyone is interested in helping with these please contact “Jerry” Witter at jonathan.witter@gmail.com.

LAE Phonathon 2008

The results to date for the 2008 phonathon have \$18,590 collected of the \$22,000 pledged. This is from 140 donors, with another 60 potential donors still out there. So far we are ahead of last year’s campaign, but we’ve still sent out reminder letters in hopes of coming even closer to our \$20,000 goal. *The chapter website has updates for phonathon.* We continue

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to appreciate the great support from the alumni. (You can send your donations to: 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 Hier Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Stuart Guild Memorial Scholarship Fund (both scholarships are tax deductible).

This year's top ten lists for class donations and participation percentages showed great strength of the classes of 1968, 1972, 1982, and 1995.

Class	Amount	Class	Participation
1999	\$1,300.00	1966	38.46%
1995	\$1,100.00	1982	35.29%
1982	\$1,075.00	1961	30.00%
1988	\$1,000.00	1968	29.41%
1966	\$770.00	1962	27.27%
1972	\$750.00	1983	27.27%
1992	\$750.00	1976	27.27%
1968	\$650.00	2006	23.08%
1971	\$575.00	1975	23.08%
1990	\$500.00	1967	23.08%



Jim "Surf" Owens (second from left) with the LAE Board during presentations/discussions at the 2004 LAE/EC Retreat. Surf is retiring this year after 40 years of service to NYEP.

Here is a rough schedule for the weekend (including the alumni vs. active soccer game sometime):

Friday

- 6-8:30pm Greek Chowderfest at Hefner Alumni House
- 8 pm SAE 2011 Task Force meeting
- 9 pm BYOB Social - controlled and chill

Saturday

- 9 am Golf outing
- 1 pm BBQ at house & SAE2011 discussions all day
- 3:30 pm LAE shareholder meeting
- 4:30 pm Open Hour tours
- 5 pm BYOB reception at house
- 6 pm Dinner at house – alumni and parents
- 9 pm BYOB social event (casino night?)

Sunday

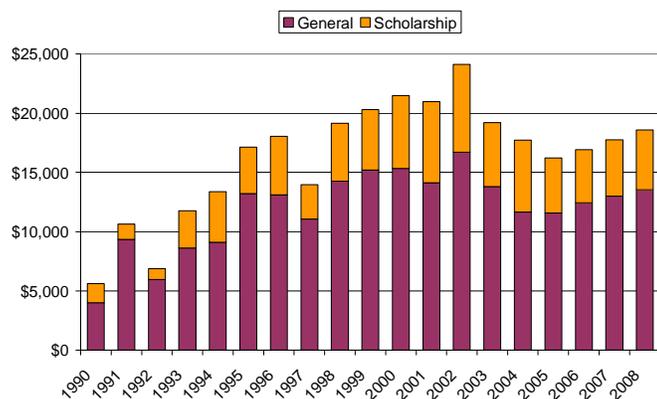
- 10 am Brunch
- 11 am SAE2011 follow-up meeting

Please RSVP for Alumni Weekend! We need to know numbers so we can order food for the dinner on Saturday. And oh yeah RPI took over the Best Western downtown for new dorm space so Latham Circle, Wolf Road, or East Greenbush are your best bets for hotel space.

Renewed Call for Lower Risk Behavior by Alumni

Last year's call for better risk management practices worked well as the alumni weekend coincided with RPI family weekend and the first semester of the new campus social/alcohol policies. We avoided chapter, neighbor, and campus complaints last year and we hope to build upon that for this year. The BYOB and central distribution worked well and so we'll have souvenir cups again. We will be having a big dinner at the house on Saturday evening, so we hope to positively impress the parents and new pledges with who we really are as a chapter. Therefore, we are requesting again that if you are coming back just to party, please broaden your view of the purpose of the weekend. If you are coming back to socialize responsibly, to share some past stories, to see how your brothers have aged, to see how the chapter is doing now, and to perhaps support LAE and the undergraduates with their endeavors, then we'll have a great weekend planned for you.

Annual Phonathon Total Donations



Phonathon Donations since 1990 – we're slowing regaining to the donation levels of late 1990's.

Alumni Weekend October 17-19, 2008

We had ~40 alumni back for the Fall 2007 Alumni Weekend and we hope many come back this year. It is a special year as after 40 years of being the Treasurer of LAE, Jim "Surf" Owens '68 will be retiring. If you have any stories to tell about Surf, please send them to John Thomas (jtsae@hotmail.com). We'll have the usual schedule of activities plus some special events. It is RPI's combined Homecoming and Family Weekend. We're going to have a dinner at the house after an afternoon of meetings, tours, and BYOB reception. Because the weekend has some special events for Friday and Saturday, we'll be charging a small fee of \$25-50 to cover some of the expenses for the weekend.

Classes of 53, 58, 63, 68, 73, 78, 83, 88, 93, 98, and 2003 make an effort to come back for your 5 year anniversaries!

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Alumni News – We need it!

If you have news you'd like announced, send it to Anthony Guidarelli (guidaa@rpi.edu) or newyorkepsilon@yahoo.com or drop us a snail mail note. Visit the website at www.nyepsilon.com.

Help NY Epsilon Philanthropy!

Send Kevin Fort (fortk2@rpi.edu) contact information for any business that would be interested in being a corporate sponsor for our events.



New York Epsilon received a great recognition! Our chapter was honored by the Mayor of Troy as well as the entire City Council for the work we did on Earth Day this past spring. Brothers from our chapter went to the local cemetery to clear out brush, clean up shrubbery, reset knocked down gravestones, and clean up garbage. In addition, other brothers went to a nearby park to do similar environmental cleanup. After witnessing the character of our house and our dedication to the community, the Troy City Council invited us to City Hall on Thursday, September 04, 2008 to present us with a plaque and personally thank us for the kind deed. New York Epsilon is extremely proud to bring positive press to both the RPI Greek Community and Sigma Alpha Epsilon nationally. It is great to receive positive recognition for upholding the ideals of our fraternity and the True Gentleman.

Put on your Calendars now! October 17-19, 2008

- October 17-19 – Fall 2008 Alumni Weekend
- December 8 – NYEP Chartering Anniversary
- February 14 – Big Red Freakout
- February sometime – Initiation of Fall Class
- March 6-15 – Spring Break
- March 23-25– LAE Phonathon 2009

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

Ways to Support NYEP while helping SAE and RPI

We have a Chapter Endowment Fund at National called the “Don Farkouh/Mark Hier Memorial Fund for New York Epsilon” that supports sending undergraduates to National Leadership School. Currently it has \$7500 in it and has been somewhat stagnant except for some 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.

You can support Greek Life at RPI and get an RPI donation credit to boot. The OFSA Dean is meagerly funded at \$4000 – less than 1/10 the cost of one student to attend RPI. Earmark a donation your company match to support Greek Life to “Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.”

SAE 2011 Task Force

Last fall we kicked off a task force to review the housing situation for NY Epsilon. The teams reviewed the SAE 2000 report and strategies implemented for LAE. Not a lot of work has been done, but we'd like to increase the efforts as we head to our 50th year at 12 Myrtle Avenue. We have completed around \$350,000 of projects since that road map was established and now it is the time for a new road map.

The primary tasks of the 3 sub-groups are to address:

- Needs for Modern Fraternity Housing
- Long Term Funding Strategies
- Lessons Learned from others renovation projects

LAE Board of Directors Elections

There are two positions for 4-year terms that are up for election. If you are not attending, please send your proxy vote to LAE Chairman “Jerry” Witter '82 (jkwitter@alum.mit.edu) or by mailing the ballot below to him at 1388 Hooper Road, Forest, VA 24551. If you are interested in running for a board position, let us know and come to the meeting to be elected.

Candidate biographical information:

- Open:** we need a candidate!!! Maura Spiegel may re-run
- Open:** we need a candidate!!! Matt Jeffers may re-run

----- PROXY -----

For the position of Lambda Alpha Epsilon Board of Directors, Please have the Secretary of LAE represent my proxy and the annual Corporation Meeting to be held October 18, 2008.

Signed _____
Signature

Print name class

Indicate your vote for the following (2 four year terms)

Write In _____

Write In _____

NY Epsilon of SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

12 Myrtle Avenue

Troy, NY 12180

Address Correction Requested

NYEP Alumni/RPI Family Weekend – Oct 17-19, 2008



Steve Knapp '09 and Don Gillespie '11 repair motion sensor lighting during Work Week 2008. With a membership 66 strong and 33 brothers living in, a lot of projects were complete during this annual tradition of preparing the house for school and rush.



James "Surf" Owens (1968) pictured here kneeling front right from ~1965 is retiring after many long, but successful years as LAE Treasurer. We'll celebrate his service at this year's alumni weekend in October.

NY Epsilon Newsletter September 2008