



SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

NEW YORK EPSILON CHAPTER

Spring 2016 Alumni Newsletter

The Newest Members Of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

In the Fall of 2015, we had a class of 13 initiate process). While there is no longer outstanding New Members. Rush for the campus was a little unusual with the atypical houses gaining high numbers and others a little lower. With no Greek Dean, the coordination of IFC and getting inroads in to promotion of Greek Life by the school is limited. For that reason, the IFC held a longer spring rush period at the start of the semester and NYEP participated for the first time in several years. We took on an additional 4 new members (remember the current SAE TGE mandate of 96 hours bid-to-

pledging, the classes still learn about SAE through the TGE Baseline Experience and other brotherhood bonding events. For the fall, Lip Synch made a return and the Fall class performed and brought home the Gold medal once again. Their video is online. We continue to recruit hard and well, and have had much success when we extend a bid to an individual. Through smart recruiting and a rigorous, successful New Member program, we continue to build the best brotherhood we can.

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Linkedin Sigma Alpha Epsilon
New York Epsilon

E-mail: alumni.nyep@gmail.com

Visit our Chapter website:

NYEpsilon.com

FALL 2015	HOMETOWN	MAJOR
Luke Bateman, 2018	Cambridge, NJ	DIS
Brian Choi, 2019	Harrington Park, NJ	MGMT/PDI
Justin Deak, 2019	West Islip, NY	Mechanical Eng.
Sam Fordyce, 2018	Raleigh, NC	7-year Med Program
Sergio Gomez, 2019	Indian Trail, NC	Computer Science
Jake Hood, 2019	Tallahassee, FL	Chem Eng.
Spencer Knowles, 2019	Gouverneur, NY	Nuclear Eng.
Eoin Llerena, 2019	Ronkonkoma, NY	Undeclared
Andrew Marino, 2016	Latham, NY	Civil Eng.
Alex Metrocavich, 2019	Chatham, NJ	Computer Science
Cole Reschke, 2019	Brooklyn, NY	Econ/ IT & webscience
Hunter Sanchez, 2019	Schodack, NY	Management
Sam Temlock, 2019	Westport, CT	Electrical Eng.
SPRING 2016	HOMETOWN	MAJOR
Chun YoungChul, 2019	New Windsor, NY	Computer Science
Byron C. Flynn, 2018	Waldorf, MD	Nuclear Eng.
Cole A. Kern, 2018		Aeronautical Eng.
Sean-Philipp Scharsig, 2019	West Chester, PA	Mechanical Eng.



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RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Markus Ricardo '17 attends ΣΑΕ Eminent Archon Institute



This past winter break I had the opportunity to attend the 3rd annual EA Institute in Chicago. There I attended seminars pertaining to my duties as Eminent Archon and learned some important tools I can use as the leader of our chapter. Some of the seminars included How to Run an Efficient Chapter Meeting, Making the Most of Executive Council, and Risk Management. My favorite segments; however, were the breakout groups

where me and a group of brothers from around the country would speak with an SAE advisor about instilling some zeal into our brothers and about problems we have had and how we handled them. This was the most valuable experience of the trip. Hearing about the problems other chapters are facing makes me proud to be a brother of this chapter. Although we are not perfect, we are pretty damn close.

This was the second event I attended hosted by national, but this time I traveled alone. They put us up in a Marriott International previously owned by an alumnus. He gave us a copy of his book

and gave a lecture on being an active leader. Anyways, my roommates were very nice guys and it was an enjoyable experience exploring Chicago with them. I usually realize the appreciation I have for SAE any time I am home hanging out with my brothers, but I realized it this time in Chicago hanging out with complete strangers and getting along with them right off of the bat.

All in all, EA Institute was a valuable experience and I am glad I had the chance to learn more about my position and how to better lead our chapter.

Phi Alpha, Markus Ricardo '17

Sam Mayo '17 Attends ΣΑΕ Ritual Institute



This past semester I attended the DeVotie Ritual Institute, which is also known as Ritual School. This intense two-day training program takes place at our headquarters at the Levere Memorial Temple in Evanston, Illinois, and a more perfect site for this institute most likely does not exist. The building itself is filled to the brim with references to our history and our ritual, and I consider it a great privilege that I was able to attend. In those two short days, I gained a brand new perspective on what it means to be a brother in Sigma Alpha Epsilon, especially in the context of our ritual and what it means to us as a chapter.

Before going to Ritual School, I had served two semesters as Herald, the officer in charge of all things ritual-related in the chapter, which includes answering ritual questions up to organizing and directing initiation ceremonies. By the time I left for Evanston, a new Herald had already replaced me, but I wanted to attend for my own personal fulfillment. I had heard great things about Ritual School from previous attendees and I wanted to bring back some renewed zeal for fraternity life, as I knew that my own zeal had begun to wane as the end of my senior year approached. But this experience pro-

vided me with so much more than just zeal.

Over the course of those two days, we were given the opportunity to attend a variety of elective seminars and discussion groups that revolved around different aspects of the ritual and SAE history. Our nametags had barcodes on them that allowed the facilitators to track which sessions we went to, and while this was a little Orwellian, it made sure we got the full experience by ensuring that every spare minute was filled with learning about the ritual. Each session provided me with a new forum to learn about other chapters and discuss our perspectives on the teaching, implementation, and meaning of our ritual. Several plenary sessions also allowed me to listen to some great orators that spoke about the history of our fraternity, the current state of affairs in the organization, as well as the meaning of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and our motto Phi Alpha. I was blown away by the intensity of it all, and by the end of the two days I felt much like I did after I was newly initiated and ready to make the best of my life as a fraternity man.

The most important thing that I took away from Ritual School was the importance of keeping the ritual alive in the chapter. I talked to a seemingly endless amount of brothers from many different chapters across the country that spoke of how far their chapters had drifted from our core

values, and I know now that what we have at New York Epsilon is something special. We, unlike many other chapters, care deeply about our ritual. We place great emphasis on the proper execution and meaning of the ceremonies involved and we impart on new members the great magnitude and severity of the words and actions that make up our ritual. We must continue to do this, and we must also strive to improve in this aspect in whatever ways possible. It is my duty as a senior member of this chapter to impress upon more junior members that what we learn in the ritual is something so special and honorable that to let it fall by the wayside does an immense disservice to active brothers, all of those that have come before you, and all of those who will come after you. It is our duty as active members to keep the ritual as it was meant to be: a living, breathing document. The vocabulary and syntax might seem out of date at times, but its meanings and implications know no temporal boundaries. If we are to remain strong as a chapter and as a national organization, the importance of proper implementation and intense discussion of the ritual must remain at the forefront of our minds. I hope that through my actions that I can imbue upon New York Epsilon a sense of confidence in our knowledge of the ritual and its implications so that we can better instruct new members and continuously reinterpret and revisit its meanings.

ΛAE House Corporation Update

It has been an extremely busy fiscal year thus far for LAE. We completed the architect feasibility study and concepts for an addition to the main house, which were presented at the fall alumni weekend. From that, the Phoenix Task Force (PTF) continued its work in rounding out the potential work for just a major renovation with no addition and in reviewing aspects of doing a capital campaign to finance whatever project is recommended. A number of contracted major work items were completed to catch up on recurring facility upkeep. Besides the main Widow's Walk flat roof and many windows being replaced over the summer of 2015 (\$18,000 + \$10,000), we fixed a lot of wood trim that had wet/dry rot and gutters and downspouts (\$5,300). We scheduled to replace the third floor showers over the winter break, which when things were opened up involved repairing a lot of water damaged subflooring (added up to \$15,000). Then during the night of Jan 14th the boiler had a feedwater fault and tried to heat the house with no steam – it overheated and cracked. Luckily the fire alarm system, which we through was spuriously going off, was actually detecting the overheating in the room and the last fire department visit discov-



ered the break. Scrambling to get heat back to the house, local alumni and some undergrads back the week before classes kept the pipes from freezing, despite one weekend outside temperatures dropping to the single digits. A new one was installed over two days to the tune of \$17,500. We are hoping to get some insurance coverage for this accidental fault of the system, especially since it was just 2 years beyond warranty from when we replaced it in 2004.

The SAE Financial and Housing Corporation has put out some new resources for chapters to use for everyday operations and longer term planning and financing. (<http://saefandh.com/>). As you can tell we've been fortunate to be able to spend money and also save money to smooth out financing larger projects. With our strong alumni donation sup-

port, we are able to do this without charging the undergrads room & board at the campus rates.



Architect rendering of one PTF concept

Alumni Weekend— April 8-10

This Spring alumni weekend our tentative plan is to play golf or paintball! Normally attendance is lower in the Spring, so we are trying to do a new, fun event—paintball! There will be a barbecue during paintball. The Phoenix Housing Task Force will host another information session about the ideas for scope and progress for the future of NYEP chapter house. The following day we will hold our LAE board meeting. It should be a great weekend.

Friday:

5-10 p.m. Welcome Home (BYOB)

Saturday:

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Golf & Volleyball
BBQ during afternoon
5 p.m. Phoenix Housing Task Fo

Sunday:

10 a.m. LAE Board Meeting



LAE will be hosting the annual phonathon this year in early April, so if you see a 518-276-xxxx phone number or some random cell phone, it will be one of the undergrads reaching out to you. Last year we did finish of the year with \$44,100, with one very large donation making up for missing a year and an average donation of \$171 from 141 donors. We are hoping to get back up to more than 200 donors with a targeted average donation of \$150. We do have the ability to take online donations if you visit the website. With the donations over the years we've been able to plan and pay for the annual maintenance and bigger renewal projects. We also fund the educational funds from which we send delegates to leadership school and offset

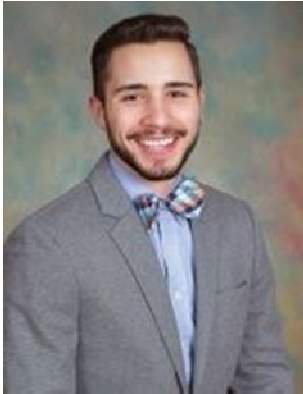
Annual Phonathon April 3, 4, 10

costs of attending RPI. Other programs LAE supports are sending the Eminent Archon to the EA Institute and a delegate to the Ritual Institute held at the Levere Memorial Temple.

Related to alumni relations, we completed a database update over the winter break, so hopefully we've gotten the address and phone numbers in better shape. We are still struggling with keeping up with where the younger alumni end up. We have signed up to be a prototype/beta tester of a content management system being developed by SAE national in partnership with MemberPlanet. We have also looked into using places like Little Green Light and Salesforce, or simply updating our MS Access interface. With a new system in place, hopefully our communications and membership maintenance will grow more integrated and easier for future continuity.

Save the Date: Fall Alumni Weekend - October 7-9

House Manager Marco LoBosco '17 to Bike Across USA



We are incredibly proud to say that our brother Marco LoBosco '17 will be participating in the 4K For Cancer ride this summer! He will be traveling with a group of college-aged students on a 70 day, 4000+ mile bicycle ride from Baltimore to Portland. Marco is riding for his grandma, his aunt's cousin's wife Janet, and everyone who has been or is affected by cancer. The opportunity to ride across the country with the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults is like no other and will be no easy feat. When asked why he decided to do this, Marco said, "I was first attracted to 4K for Cancer because it would require me to push myself mentally and physically but most importantly

help others when they need it most. I see this as a chance to support and raise awareness not only for the Ulman Cancer Fund but the cancer community as well. This ride allows me to see the country in its raw beauty and hopefully inspire others.

Marco is doing this as a part of an effort to raise money for the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults."

If you would like to donate please follow this link: <http://4kforcancer.org/profiles/marco-lobosco/>. Phi Alpha Marco!

NYEP's Communiveristy

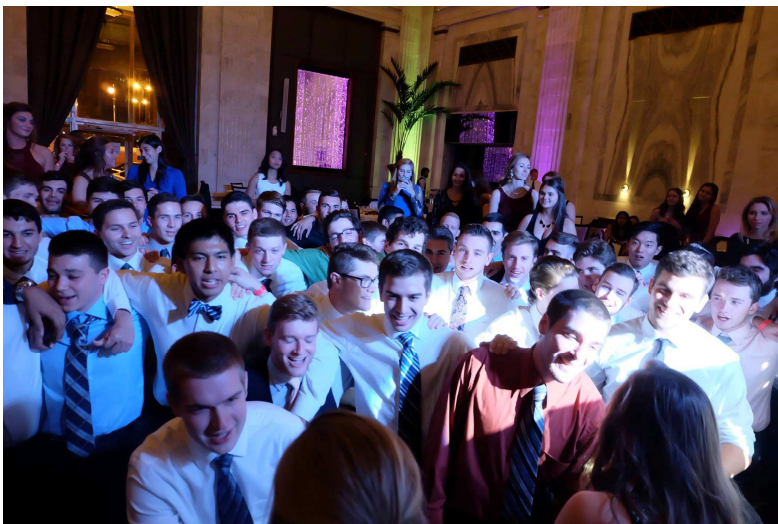


There are many upcoming service opportunities that NY Epsilon will be participating in.

Our True Gentleman Day of Service is Saturday April 16th, where brothers will be doing one of three things: cutting down trees and repairing rutted roads at the Mt. Ida Cemetery, cleaning up the trails at Frear Park, and helping out with Habitat for Humanity. Also, the brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon will be participating in and raising money for Relay for Life, which is the weekend of April 29th.

This past Saturday was the Relay for Life Kickoff. Several brothers will be participating in our annual event, Sigma Alpha Hairsalon, where brothers volunteer to have their haircut by the highest bidder. There are also many events leading up to this weekend, including a sports tournament on March 5th for basketball, soccer and volleyball; a Super Smash tournament on April 2nd; and various fundraising events in between. On the same weekend as Relay, brothers will also be volunteering at Albany Special Olympics' Spring Games. Also, any fundraising ideas are welcome and can be e-mailed to me at shearz@rpi.edu.

Zach Shearin, '18



Brothers singing Violets at Brother's Lettering ceremony during Fall 2015 Formal

Academics Changing: RPI's Summer Arch

In September, RPI announced yet another initiative for the student life experience – the Summer Arch pedagogy. "The Summer Arch is a restructuring of the Rensselaer academic calendar. It creates additional opportunities for experiential learning that complement curricular and co-curricular offerings at Rensselaer." It will be mandatory for rising juniors to attend a full summer semester (*and more than likely forced to live on campus*) - the Summer Arch - between their sophomore and junior years, followed by an "away" semester taken during either the fall or spring of the student's junior year. It is stated by RPI that Residence Life is developing comprehensive plans to ensure students are housed in living and learning communities to support students and their development, however, to date the Rensselaer Alumni Association and the Alumni InterGreek Council have been unable to participate in discussions that could identify unintended consequences or impacts to 30% of the student population. The school intends to increase the class sizes as well as a means to help with the budget issues, though that will not help the high student-to-faculty ratio RPI already suffers. Finding co-ops or study abroad opportunities for ~700 students each Fall and Spring (and somehow evenly balance when students are "away" from campus) may also be a challenge. RPI likes to tout the Northeastern Co-Op program with its relations with over 3000 companies, but Boston is a little different than Troy, and to tout the Dartmouth quarters self selection of semesters to attend, but RPI is not a liberal arts school like Dartmouth. For more information please go to the Summer Arch website: <http://provost.rpi.edu/summer-arch/>

