

# THE LION'S ROAR

NY Epsilon • Sigma Alpha Epsilon • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Winter 2019

## PRESERVING OUR PAST, PROVIDING FOR OUR FUTURE



## NEW YORK EPSILON ANNOUNCES \$1,856,000 CAMPAIGN TO RENOVATE CHAPTER HOUSE

**More Than \$1,099,205 Already Committed from Loyal Brothers**

Our home at 12 Myrtle Avenue has impacted the lives of more than 1,100 young men initiated into the New York Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. It is where we worked and where we became men. It is a support system that provided a lifetime of friendships, contacts, social opportunities, and simply fond memories. We all gained from our time in the chapter and many of us can say it helped form who we are today. It is now time to pay it forward.

### FUNDING THE VISION

It is our honor and privilege to announce to you the next step in our journey at New York Epsilon: a major renovation and expansion of our chapter house. Over the past year, a building committee has dedicated time and financial resources to create a comprehensive plan for the house, and a strategy to bring it to reality.

Through careful evaluation of the capability of our alumni and the efforts of our partners in this endeavor, we have set a goal of raising \$1,856,000. The cost of the full renovation will be higher, estimated up to \$2.2 million, so we will borrow the remainder to fully complete the project. **Financial support from alumni will determine the extent to which we can fulfill this vision.**

New York Epsilon's need is great so we proudly announce to our alumni the official launch of *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* campaign. We are pleased to share that, with generous lead gifts, more than 59% of the campaign goal has already been reached! We now seek additional support from our loyal brothers, such as you, to reach our goal.

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# PRESERVING OUR PAST, PROVIDING FOR OUR FUTURE

## NEW YORK EPSILON ANNOUNCES \$1,856,000 CAMPAIGN

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### A PROUD HOME

We have maintained our chapter house over the years by replacing furniture and fixtures through undergraduate house bills and regular financial contributions by alumni. However, competition is increasing from new or newly renovated on- and off-campus housing. An impressionable 18 year old has many, attractive housing choices today. Let's ensure that New York Epsilon is one of them! In order to provide a safe, comfortable home for our undergraduate brothers, we must make a major investment in our facility.

### WITH YOUR HELP

In the coming weeks, you will receive additional information detailing our plans for the chapter house renovation and the ways in which you may help. We need support from all our brothers to stay competitive and provide a quality living environment that reinforces our history and reputation. Your support will ensure the powerful and lasting impact of Sigma Alpha Epsilon experience on the lives of young men attending RPI.

### YOUR LEGACY

The brothers who came before us started a tradition that each of us helped build upon. Today, we have the unique opportunity to repay what SAE provided us. To attain a top-tier status and attract the finest young men as SAEs, we must renovate this house we all love—and what an incredible legacy that will be! Please join us in honoring the brotherhood, camaraderie, and support this fine fraternity provided us—and make that same wonderful experience possible for generations to come.

Yours in the Bonds,  
**Don Vanderhoef '93**  
Chairman  
Lambda Alpha Epsilon Inc.

**Jonathan "Jerry" Witter '82**  
Secretary  
Lambda Alpha Epsilon Inc.

## INVEST IN NEW YORK EPSILON'S FUTURE

### Help Us Reach Our \$1,856,000 Goal

We are deeply grateful to the 35 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. Commitments are still needed from many more of our alumni to achieve our goal of \$1,856,000.

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)  
Dr. Robert B. Athanasiou '62  
David S. Haviland '64  
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)  
George Dulchinos '82  
Donald J. Vanderhoef '93

**12 Myrtle Avenue Society**  
(\$5,000 to \$9,999)  
Kenneth R. Watson '68  
Robert A. Whitby Jr. '68  
Arthur J. Stefanelli Jr. '76  
Peter A. Hutchins '79  
In memory of  
Dean Hamil '80 and  
Stewart Guild '81  
Donald Gillespie '11  
JP Hennessey '12  
Steve Wood '13

**Brotherhood Society**  
(\$2,500 to \$4,999)  
Robert P. Fopeano '51  
In honor of  
Forrest K. English '51  
Robert J. Zinser '73  
Carolyn & Chuck Roth '98  
John O'Neil '12

**Violets Society**  
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)  
Garry Capp '75  
Mark Lepofsky '85

### Campaign Status

#### At-a-Glance

As of January 4, 2019

Campaign Goal:  
\$1,856,000

Total Raised:  
\$1,099,205

Contributors:  
35

Show your  
support for  
New York  
Epsilon  
and donate  
today!



## THE TIES OF 12 MYRTLE AVENUE

### Jonathan Witter '82 Volunteers Time and Talent to New York Epsilon



*“For many years, I and others have dreamed of updating the chapter house so that it can continue to provide a home away from home for students at RPI and brothers who are great leaders that follow a value system based on strong friendships. Now those dreams are finally coming to fruition, and we need the financial support of more alumni to see this through to have a home set up for another 60 years at scenic 12 Myrtle Avenue.”*

Through the influence of friends made in Crockett Hall and the Navy ROTC, **Jonathan Witter '82** came to know the bonds of the True Gentleman. “Having the entire membership of New York Epsilon Chapter living in the scenic 12 Myrtle made a nice micro-society and a home away from home environment. It was always great to return home from the shuttle, walk up the front walk, and open the door to the warmth of the house and the brotherhood.”

As an undergraduate, Jerry was strongly influenced by the friendships he built through daily dinners, singing after initiation ceremonies, and participating in the National John O. Moseley Leadership School. He took on leadership positions such as chronicler, social chairman, pledge educator, and eminent archon. “ΣAE gave me more passion for developing new ideas to help the chapter stay strong. It brought me out of my shell to be vocal and lead, all while learning how to do those things with the balance of friendships of the brotherhood.”

Even as an alumnus, Jerry continues this dedication through a variety of leadership roles. During his time in graduate school at RPI, Jerry took on the role of chapter advisor and stayed on through 2006 despite twice moving more than two hours away from Troy. “Each year, it is a new brotherhood, but the same core values must be nurtured. As chapter advisor I have the unique opportunity to see brothers grow in the chapter and RPI by moving through different roles.”

This experience opened doors to other roles such as Province Nu Archon for New York State, working with national ΣAE leadership schools and conventions, and working with the RPI Alumni InterGreek Council. His work both nationally and locally has led to numerous awards, including the ΣAE Merit Key, RPI Alumni Key Award, and the RPI Albert Fox Demers Medal.

Jerry encourages alumni and undergraduates alike to remain fully engaged throughout their career and to remember that supporting the *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* campaign is a great way to reconnect. “For many years, I and others have dreamed of updating the chapter house so that it can continue to provide a home away from home for students at RPI and brothers who are great leaders that follow a value system based on strong friendships. Now those dreams are finally coming to fruition, and we need the financial support of more alumni to see this through to have a home set up for another 60 years at scenic 12 Myrtle Avenue.”

As a senior advisory engineer for BWX Technologies, Jerry tries to remain involved with the LAE advisory board and house corporation board. “Commitment means determination to support that enterprise. Each year perhaps a different part of the True Gentleman has more relevance, but the biggest to me is the commitment to follow through with promises by being a person ‘whose deed follows his word.’” He can be reached at [jonathan.witter@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.witter@gmail.com).

## INTEGRITY OF A TRUE GENTLEMAN

### Jim “Surf” Owens '68 Donates Time and Resources to New York Epsilon

**Jim “Surf” Owens '68** first heard about ΣAE through a friend’s older brother. After deciding he wanted to see one of the best national fraternities for himself, Jim and his friend decided to scope out New York Epsilon before rush. “We drove out to find this colonial estate, which looked even more beautiful covered with snow. As they say, the rest is history.”

Even though Jim was not initiated with his pledge class due to low grades and an incomplete pledge project, after taking a leave of absence from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and New York Epsilon Chapter, Jim returned ready to prove himself. “I really want to thank my big Brother, **Jim Brown '66**, as well as **George Sherwood '65** for championing my cause. I vowed I would show I was worthy of being a member of ΣAE.”

His efforts came to fruition when he became an initiated member and had the opportunity to serve the chapter as social chairman. “Flunking out of RPI was one of the

best things that happened to me, although it didn’t seem like it at the time. Since the chapter treated me with loyalty and support, I decided to dedicate much of my adult life to paying New York Epsilon back.”

After joining the Navy Reserve and becoming interested in accounting, Jim ultimately decided to transfer to Syracuse University. However, his deep connection to New York Epsilon Chapter remained steadfast. “Looking back on all these years, there are many wonderful memories I pray I will never forget. I am proud to be a brother of ΣAE at New York Epsilon.”

Jim challenges alumni to remember what their brothers provided them with in their undergraduate years and return the favor. In 1970, Jim was greeted with open arms and an opportunity to run for the LAE Board of Directors at Alumni Weekend. Since that day, he has served on the board as a non-officer and successor to

*(Continued on page 6)*



*“Since the chapter treated me with loyalty and support, I decided to dedicate much of my adult life to paying New York Epsilon back.”*



# ACHIEVING THE NEW YORK EPSILON STANDARD

## Chapter Maintains Excellence and Devotion to Brotherhood

On behalf of the New York Epsilon Chapter undergraduates, I am pleased to express our full support of the *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* campaign. We are committed to what the future holds for New York Epsilon and take great pride in our history and the reputation alumni have created for us to uphold. Membership in Sigma Alpha Epsilon has been the principal part of all our college experiences. It has provided us with the initial structure we need to succeed in college and in leadership opportunities. It has also provided us with the best friends and times we could hope for.

### JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR CHAPTER'S GROWTH

The renovations for the chapter house will allow two major things to transpire. First, it will provide members with a state-of-the-art facility to live in, fostering a better atmosphere for members to thrive. Second, the renovation will help the chapter be more competitive with the recruitment of new members. Most other RPI fraternity chapter houses have recently been updated and this is our chance to remain as top contenders in the Greek community. With a renovation, the physical structure will stand as a testament to our dedication and fuel the brotherhood for generations.

At the beginning of this semester I was confident that New York Epsilon would be able to thrive and grow despite the sanctions handed down to the entire Greek system by the RPI administration as they implemented a Task Force review. The restrictions included no alcohol in houses, no social events with alcohol, and rush being delayed until October. It allowed NYEP to focus all the spare time to build a stronger brotherhood and to commit more hours toward philanthropy and community service.

Now that we're at the end of the semester, I can say that we have absolutely done just that. We have truly prospered and become a better, stronger brotherhood these last five months. With 40 undergraduate actives, we've become a very close-knit group with no cliques or subgroups. We welcomed in a great class of 17 new members, bringing us up to a 58 total this upcoming spring. We're inspired to continue our intramural sports leadership after finally getting the Barker Trophy back in our hands. Our health and safety inspection received the best score out of all chapters on campus with an outstanding 98.77%. In reality, the RPI sanctions were a blessing in disguise because they allowed us to focus on the house and improve ourselves, our operations, and our brotherhood. I'm handing over the reins of New York Epsilon to Andrew Dumont, who will lead the chapter through the spring 2019 semester. I have complete faith and confidence that Andrew will do great things for this house.

Phi Alpha,  
**Christopher Pybus '19**, Eminent Archon Fall 2018  
ea@nyepsilon.com | (813) 523-5789

### 2018 NY EPSILON CHAPTER OFFICERS

Eminent Archon  
**Andrew Dumont**  
ea@nyepsilon.com

Social Chairman  
**Eoin Llerena**  
eoinllerena@gmail.com

Eminent Deputy Archon  
**Nicholas Tull**  
eda@nyepsilon.com

Risk Manager  
**Kyle Melvin**  
kylemelvin99@gmail.com

Eminent Treasurer  
**Adam Owens**  
treasurer@nyepsilon.com

Member Educator  
**Alexander Chun**  
youngcc3157@gmail.com

House Manager  
**Christian Assimus**  
houseman@nyepsilon.com

Steward  
**Chris Pybus**  
cwpybus@gmail.com

Rush Chairman  
**John Orozco**  
rush@nyepsilon.com

Ritual Chairman  
**Leonidas Tsapatsaris**  
leetsapatsaris@gmail.com

Alumni Relations Chairman  
**John Conlin**  
alumni@nyepsilon.com

Scholarship Chairman  
**Michael Levine**  
ml.hawks12@gmail.com

Community Relations  
**Leonidas Tsapatsaris**  
leetsapatsaris@gmail.com



## Welcome Fall 2018 New Members

**Andrew Deandrade** | Needham, MA | Business & Management  
**Kyle Duff** | Kingston, MA | Computer Science  
**Wyatt Gibbons** | Elizaville, NY | Physics  
**Jason Inzeo** | New City, NY | Chemical Engineering  
**Aidan Kolar** | Sayville, NY | Aero/Mech Eng., minor in Comp Sci  
**Marty Kuras** | Oak Ridge, NJ | Mechanical Engineering  
**Jake Lapierre** | Winslow, ME | Computer Systems Engineering  
**Nick Lennox** | Uxbridge, MA | Computer Science  
**Ethan Malila** | Exeter, NH | Mechanical/Aeronautical Engineering  
**Jared O'Connor** | New Fairfield, CT | Computer Science  
**Thomas Ranney** | New City, NY | Electrical Engineering  
**Cameron Smith** | Warrenton, VA | Aerospace Engineering  
**Carter Springer** | Lake Luzerne, NY | Mechanical Engineering  
**Dominic Sy** | River Edge, NJ | Mechanical Engineering  
**Liam Tracey** | Bardonia, NY | Civil Engineering  
**Joseph Travers** | Acton, MA | Computer Systems Engineering  
**Charles Villagran** | Miami, FL | Computer and Systems Engineering



The champion team captains with the Barker Trophy for 2017-18.



*The Class of 1968 crew at Fall 2018 Alumni Weekend*



*Brothers repair and clean the chapter house.*

## RPI CREATES GREEK LIFE TASK FORCE TO ASSESS AND RECOMMEND ENHANCEMENTS

Over the past couple of months, RPI has taken action to form a Greek Life Task Force to review and develop outcomes on how to strengthen the community. Principles to guide their work are sustainability, community, and citizenship and these include reviews in 10 topic areas. While it has been a challenging process with the suspension of social events with alcohol, having Greek chapter houses be dry for the semester, and deferring rush until October 19, some areas of concern for housing were things we were proactively pursuing with our renovation project started years before the formation of the Task Force. We do feel confident that the RPI Greek community will be stronger on the back side of this if the stakeholders are organized and can have constructive dialogue with the RPI administration.

We believe that NYEP will be well positioned to succeed in any new environment that will evolve to prioritize and recognize chapter accomplishments for chapter operations, housing

environments that foster living and learning, and member leadership development. Indeed, the actives were one of the most successful in recruitment with 18 new members, the second largest out of 25 fraternities. Jack Conlin '20, NYEP alumni relations chairman and newly elected IFC president for 2019, has served on the GLTF discussion panels. The culture for chapter operations, house maintenance, and healthy and safe choices for social and living conditions remain a forte of NYEP and the LAE House Corporation relations to the members and the chapter house.

The report of findings and recommendations was supposed to be out by the time of this writing, but alas, RPI has been running late on a number of actions with the GLTF. The outcomes will be out for community comment and will be discussed early in the spring semester.

Read more about the activities of the GLTF here: <https://info.rpi.edu/greek-life-task-force>

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Richard Norman Kopeck '58** entered Chapter Eternal on December 25, 2017. He and his wife, Alma, lived in Sunnyvale, Calif., for many years for Dick's career and remained there after he retired.

**Garry J. Cap '75** suddenly entered Chapter Eternal on December 1. He and his wife Dorothy lived in Wilmington, DE. Garry served as steward and on the LAE board. His son Jonathan is an ΣAE from U. Pitt (PAXO) and he is the chapter advisor to PATG (West Chester).

**Andrew J. Brooks '10** entered Chapter Eternal December 24, after a long battle with a rare form of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Martyna, and their daughters Kristyna and Natalia. He served as house manager and after his return to Saratoga, on the house corporation board. Andrew was a dedicated submariner in the US Navy, a loving husband, and a wonderful friend.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**John Brueger '52** and his wife, Mary, live in a wonderful retirement home in Ann Arbor. They are both in good health and enjoy many activities offered in the area. E-mail: mollyjon2@yahoo.com

**Herbert Clark '53** plans to be back for the Class of 1953 five-year reunion in 2018. He lives in Cockeysville, Md. E-mail: herb1080@gmail.com

**Robert Kosky '58** and his wife, Mary, moved into a senior retirement community in May where their

home duties are provided for. They are both still active at St. John's UMC. Robert is a minister leader, sings in the chancel choir, and enjoys participating in the CSRA New Horizons Band with his alto saxophone. E-mail: koskyr@bellsouth.net

**Horst Tebbe '63** is proud that his last child, Simon, just graduated from Northeastern. E-mail: tebbe@alum.rpi.edu

**Kenneth Watson '65** is enjoying retirement. He and his wife, Chuddy, travel to warm places in the winter and have time to visit with grandchildren. Two grandchildren are in Maryland and two are in Michigan. Kenneth also likes to watch minor league baseball. There is a Double-A team in Hartford and he has traveled to areas in Pennsylvania such as Allentown, Reading, and Scranton, as well as Rochester, Syracuse, and Buffalo. He lives in Northford, Conn. E-mail: kenandchuddy@gmail.com

**Charles Learoyd '67** completed college in 1975 after a stint in the U.S. Navy. He has been retired for 11 years from Raytheon after a long career in military satellite communications. Charles enjoys volunteer work, music, and many other hobbies. He lives in Boxborough, Mass.

**Robert Durej '71** is thinking about moving from southern California to northern California. He bought a 1957 Chevy last year, which has kept him busy. E-mail: rjdurej@gmail.com

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Calendar of Events

Greek Leadership Summit –  
Feb. 9, 2019

Spring Alumni Weekend –  
March 30, 2019

Fall Alumni Weekend –  
Oct. 11-13, 2019



# INTEGRITY OF A TRUE GENTLEMAN

(Continued from page 3)

**David Haviland '64** as treasurer. Despite his retirement from LAE, Jim has remained devoted to ΣAE as an alumnus, attending events and donating to the *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* campaign.

Whether it is through a donation of time or resources, New York Epsilon will remain strong for future generations due to its dedicated alumni. "All alumni should try to connect with those with whom they attended school. The friendships that were established as brothers is for life, not just four years."

Jim lives in Lake Forest, Calif., with his wife, Ann. The couple met when Jim and his ΣAE brothers went caroling at her sorority at SUNY Albany. He can be reached at james.owens@cox.net.

**New York Epsilon has exciting news! Turn to page 1 for details.**



At Fall 2018 Alumni Weekend, George Sawyer '68 presents a Coat of Arms blanket to the Eminent Archon Chris Pybus '19.

# THE LION'S ROAR

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New York Epsilon Chapter of  
Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
P.O. Box 442100  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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*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.*

## ALUMNI UPDATE

(Continued from page 5)

**Gerard Szatkowski '73** is still working on satellites. He has a cottage in the Thousand Islands, and he hopes to see everyone soon. E-mail: jakeszat1@gmail.com

**Daniel Buechler '81** retired from Raytheon Company in July 2015 after 34 years. He took a job with Brandes Associates Inc. and now works for the U.S. Navy as a contractor. Daniel lives in Ventura, Calif. E-mail: dwbuechler59@gmail.com

**Haresh Israni '81** worked 11 years straight without a vacation (Silicon Valley startup lifestyle!). He took a three-month sabbatical, which turned into a one-year sabbatical, which eventually turned into an early retirement. He travels often with his wife, Teri, and loves it. "I often think of my years at RPI/ΣAE and I'd love to reconnect!" E-mail: hni.buys@gmail.com

**Mark Davis '84** and his wife, Ines, play in a small band for enjoyment. Their oldest son graduated from Towson University and is now a NASA contractor. Their younger son is a sophomore at Purdue University. Mark invites anyone coming to the Baltimore area to look them up. E-mail: philmont77@comcast.net

**Daniel Griswold '04** just bought a house in the foothills of the Rock Mountains west of Denver. Dan and his wife, Valerie, are settling into Colorado life with their beagle, Clover. E-mail: dgriswold@gmail.com

**Benjamin Hecht '13** completed serving in the Peace Corps in Zambia April 27, 2017. This marked the end of 27 months with the Rural Aquaculture Promotion project (fish farming). Now that Benjamin is back stateside, he's ready to embark on a new career path. E-mail: hecht.benjaminlee@gmail.com

**Derek Roberts '13** moved to Colorado a little over a year ago. He works for United Launch Alliance where he is a propulsion systems design engineer. He works on tests for a new rocket. He and his girlfriend have three dachshunds and enjoy taking them to the dog park. Derek hopes to head back east soon. E-mail: danjhiker@gmail.com

**Dylan Quinn '15** is living the life in Vermont on the 23rd out of 46 New York High Peaks. He is working toward his structural engineer license. E-mail: dylanq17@gmail.com

**Find Us Online**

**Website:** <http://nyepsilon.com/> • **Facebook:** RPI Sigma Alpha Epsilon - New York Epsilon Chapter  
**Alumni Facebook:** SAE RPI Alumni and Actives • **LinkedIn:** Sigma Alpha Epsilon - New York Epsilon