

THE LION'S ROAR

NY Epsilon ♦ Sigma Alpha Epsilon ♦ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



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FALL 2022

PRESERVING OUR PAST, PROVIDING FOR OUR FUTURE



REPORT FROM LAMBDA ALPHA EPSILON

I am paraphrasing, but if man is truly a social being and in his proper sphere only when associated with his fellow man, the last two and a half years have been a struggle to sustain intimate friendships. RPI has a new incoming President this Summer and I think we all hope that this transition will bring an administration that is more open to listening to Alumni and Undergraduates that are a part of the Fraternity and Sorority community at Rensselaer.

NY Epsilon has sustained well over the last two years where many groups have struggled. I want to give tribute to the Active Brothers from the last few years. They have persevered through shutdowns, remote learning, little to no social functions, increased scrutiny, and constant testing to remain part of the campus protocol “Bubble”. Tribute also to the Alumni who helped create the standard and guidance that kept us open and viable during the times when other Greek properties were forced or decided to close. Thanks to your continued support over the years, NY Epsilon and LAE, Inc were fiscally sound and had the stability to maintain 12 Myrtle Ave, have a successful recruitment / rush period and maintain a network of support and contact.

As we look forward to the new era of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at RPI, we are poised to renovate the Chapter Property and renew the Bonds we share. The Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future Campaign, while falling short of our Goal of \$1.856 Million, is being used to update and remodel 12 Myrtle Ave with the future looking goal of an addition to accommodate our Active Brothers in a safe, inviting, and socially engineered home. There is a new and exciting donation channel where Alumni can donate directly to the NY Epsilon Chapter through RPI and take advantage of corporate matching and tax deductible status. The House Corporation is excited for all the people who have said (for the last 22 years) “I will not donate while the current administration is in place”, to have this channel in place. This gives you a vehicle to show RPI you are true to your word AND have the funds go directly to help the NY Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

We are also excited about the first in person Homecoming Alumni Weekend this Fall since 2019. We need to renew the Bonds. We have lost some outstanding friends and Brothers recently - we shall celebrate their spirit and memory. We shall look forward to the future and laugh about the past. We have missed some milestones but have a huge upcoming celebration of 75 years since Lambda Alpha Epsilon was formed! Please join us in building toward a Phi Alpha future. Fraternaly,

Don “Buck” Vanderhoef
Chairman, LAE Inc
lae.chairman@gmail.com

UPCOMING SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

Lambda Alpha Epsilon is hosting the annual shareholder's meeting on October 8th, 2022.
More information can be found at nyepsilon.com/alumni.php

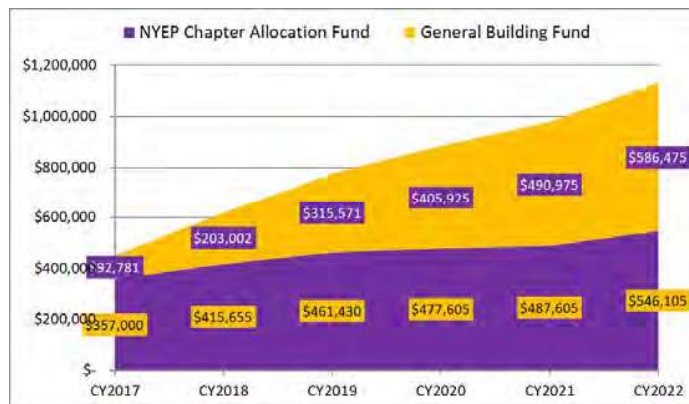
ALUMNI SUPPORT NEWS

We are nearing the end of our formal 5 year period for the “Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future” capital campaign. As of June 30, 2022, we’ve received \$1,132,580 in donations, with \$546,105 to our SAE Foundation Chapter Allocation Fund and \$586,475 to the LAE Building Fund. The years of COVID were a bit rough for our starting on target to our ultimate goal of \$1,856,000 with currently \$1,392,000 pledged. We still have close to \$290,000 in outstanding contributions for the LAE Building fund and \$72,000 for the Chapter Allocation Fund. We know there have been some tracking issues and communication issues with some of the follow-up pledge reminders, so we’ll redouble our efforts to send out some news directly from LAE finance team because we really need the pledged commitment to allow us to minimize the loan we’ll need to take out to complete the project, which will start at the end of the Spring 2023 semester.

Last fall we did establish another giving avenue to support the chapter via donations to RPI and a Sigma Alpha Epsilon Chapter Support Fund. To date 13 other fraternities have set up funds and have made use of them to help offset maintenance expenses and mortgage payments they might otherwise be passed on to the undergraduates. Information about the SAE fund can be found at the RPI giving page: <https://giving.rpi.edu/fraternities-and-sororities/>. It is a great way to donate with easier access to corporate matching and use of any retirement fund’s required minimum distribution. Now that RPI has a new president, it makes it a little more palatable to donate to our alma mater and know it will get directed to the SAE chapter. Several alumni have tested this donation avenue, and we can confirm that the donations flow through to the chapter as promised. So far we’ve had \$8,800 in donations made to the fund and we’ve used \$1,500 to buy a new kitchen refrigerator and \$3,000 for emergency plumbing repairs.

We continue to maintain the various scholarship funds and use them to support undergraduates through a revised application and award process. In total we have more than \$263,000 in our scholarship funds. Last year we gave out \$6000 in scholarships from the Don Farkouh/Mark Hier and Steward “Skeeter” Guild memorial scholarship Funds to Jonathan Wong (Dec 2021), Ethan Malila (May 2022), and Thomas Ranney (May 2022). We are making use of the James Michael Joly Zeal Fund for the delegates to the SAE John O Moseley Leadership School, which is to be held in person in Evanston, IL in August, where we have 4 undergraduates attending. If you’d like to donate to one of our LAE Corporation funds, you can do that online through our PayPal links, which can be found here: <http://www.nyepsilon.com/donate.php>

Jonathan “Jerry” Witter (1982)



PHOENIX TASK FORCE & BUILD BOARD UPDATE

Brothers, it has been a challenging few years for everyone and even with many headwinds, we continue to move forward on our housing project. Due to a number of factors, we have decided to proceed with a renovation of the existing 12 Myrtle Ave structure and not pursue an addition at this time. Factors informing this decision included continued the less than supportive atmosphere on campus for the Greeks, reduced Brotherhood and recruitment numbers, the COVID-19 pandemic, material costs, supply chain issues, the underfunding of the Capital Campaign and, most recently, inflation and rising mortgage rates. In addition, although we were trying to break ground this fall, the LAE board decided to delay the start to enable more planning time amid resource limitations (e.g., materials, sub contractors). This delay means groundbreaking on the renovation will be Fall 2023.



With the focus on the renovation and more time to plan, we have been working to make sure that we can accomplish as much as possible with the funding we have been able to raise. In the last few months we have been working to finalize our demolition and construction documentation, get funding estimates, line up potential banks for loans, and lock in contractors. We recently finalized most of the mechanicals and are currently slated to get the construction documents (CDs) back from the Architect by the end of July. In addition, we have requested bids for asbestos abatement as we discovered minor concentrations throughout all the plaster in the house. Although most of the house tested “trace” or <1%, 4 out of 100 samples tested around 1.5% and we felt it was necessary, through multiple conversations with abatement experts, architects and contractors, that it would be better to abate than encapsulate.

We have also begun to work with the undergrads to find housing as a group while the renovations are underway in Fall 2023. The brotherhood recognizes the importance of cohabitating to maintain daily interactions. Considering the economic environment, our high level estimate is that the renovation alone will cost about \$2 million. Since we do not want to take out a large loan, and our capital campaign pledges & contributions are lower than initially expected, we will need to make sure we right-size the project.

This includes the possibility that we will need to perform certain work in phases, reserving major investments like a new roof for the future. We will continue our work with alumni, undergrads, the contractor, and the architect to make sure we have a plan in place and do not put the structure or our organization at risk.

As always, we welcome your ideas, comments or feedback. Please feel free to reach out to Don Vanderhoef (lae.chairman@gmail.com) and Lucas Rice (Lucas.n.rice@gmail.com).

PRESERVING OUR PAST, Providing for Our FUTURE



FALL 2022 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Eminent Archon
Jack McCoy '24

Eminent Deputy Archon
Wyatt Gibbons '22

Eminent Treasurer
Colin Farley '25

House Manager
Jacob Schmitt '24

Health & Safety
Lucian McMenemy '24

Alumni Chairman
Gavin Garrison '25

Community Relations Chairman
Aaryaman Thuloj '25

Brotherhood Chairman
Armando Guzman '22

Social Chairman
Aaron Lockwood '24

Rush Chairman
Kaan Lus '25

Member Educator
Travis Johnson '25

Stewards
Jack Manville '25 and
Vishnu Kchittiboorna '25

Recorder
David Lattimore '24

UPCOMING DATES

August 22-28
NYEP Work Week in Troy, NY

August 29
Fall 2022 Semester Classes
Begin

October 7-9
RPI & LAE/NYEP Homecoming
Weekend, Troy, NY

December 8
NYEP 71st Anniversary of
Chartering

December 10-20
Reading Days and Finals

OFFICER REPORTS

RUSH

After enduring tough recruiting years during COVID and approaching a large senior graduating class, the house knew this would be an important year for rush. The tone was set by our passionate fall rush chair Austin Borina last semester, and we had a great showing of brothers at all rush events, including bowling at Uncle Sam's Lanes, poker nights, ax throwing, BBQ and lawn games. The beginning of the spring semester was met with the rise of the Omicron variant, and the IFC rush schedule came down to a scramble after weeks of delays as we waited for school protocols. However, we adapted and overcame this semester, ultimately signing 18 brothers for a total of 22 total new members this year. This class of fine young men will ensure we keep our presence strong on campus in the coming years. It truly was a house effort and we're very happy with this year's success in recruitment.

Jack McCoy '24
Rush Chairman

ALUMNI

We are happy to announce that this year we will be holding an in person alumni weekend. The alumni weekend will take place at 12 Myrtle Ave beginning Friday, October 7th through Sunday, October 9th. This weekend also coincides with RPI's alumni weekend. This weekend will be a great opportunity for our brothers to connect with alumni and rekindle the connection between active brothers and alumni. Some of the current plans for the coming alumni weekend are: a memorial service for brothers who have passed, yard games at 12 Myrtle, the LAE/NYEP annual chapter/shareholder meeting, dinner at 12 Myrtle, and a night out at a local pub. Please remember that RPI still is a dry campus, so no alcohol will be allowed at the house. We hope to see you all there!

Gavin Garrison '25
Alumni Chairman
alumni@nyepsilon.com

EMINENT ARCHON REPORT

Continuing our successes last semester, the brotherhood has continued to grow, and we have been enjoying living together with our house at nearly full capacity and are excited about the potential upcoming renovations. We have had a tough time navigating the challenges posed by global events these past few semesters, but we are pushing ahead stronger than ever.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

As always, our members continue to engage in activities outside of the house, most notably sports and clubs. We have had brothers participate in swimming, rugby, motorsport, soccer, and other scholastic clubs, and along with that we continue to be a dominant force in IFC sports making it to the finals for all sports offered in the spring semester (Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball). We have been focused on giving back to the community this semester and have run a few successful Community Relations events and had brothers volunteer at the Mohawk Humane Society.

GOING FORWARD

As I am coming to the end of my term as Eminent Archon for this fraternity, I have realized the responsibilities and challenges that come with the position and have been thankful for the ways it has allowed me to grow. As someone who is graduating and leaving this house, it has been amazing to see new members step up to fill positions and help keep the flame burning which would not have ever been possible without their contributions. While our house will be the youngest class wise it has been in some time, I have no doubt that the house will be in the good hands of the people who come behind us. I leave a personal and heartfelt thank you to LAE and all the undergraduate officers who continue to support and improve the brotherhood for others going forward with the goal of keeping the fraternity we hold so dear a home for our brothers for many years to come.

Phi Alpha
Armando Guzman '22
Eminent Archon Spring 2022



SPRING 2022 CLASS

Zack Medina
Millington, NJ
Civil Engineering

Jacob Norton
San Diego, CA
Mechanical Engineering

Jack Manville
Scotch Plains, NJ
Mechanical Engineering

Nicholas Florentino
Massapequa, NY
Civil Engineering

Liron Alishahian
Great Neck, NY
Aeronautical/Mechanical
Engineering

Jackson Tandler
Guilford, CT
Mechanical Engineering

Vishnu Kchittiboorna
Mansfield, MA
Computer Science

Rohan Thumma
Brewster, NY
Biochemistry and Biophysics

Aidan Nuttall
Hingham, MA
Mechanical Engineering

Andrew Herron
Enfield, CT
Chemical Engineering

Kaan Lus
Johnson Chesterland, OH
Mechanical Engineering

Daniel Kirtman
Mount Sinai, NY
Computer Science

Aaryaman Thuloj
Edison, NJ
Computer Science

Perry Ghosh
Newtown, CT
Business Management

Gavin Garrison
Manasquan, NJ
Electrical Engineering

Colin Farley
Cranford, NJ
Computer Science

Kiel Polito
Wilton, CT
Mechanical Engineering

FIND US ONLINE

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in [www.linkedin.com/
groups/1834691/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/1834691/)

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New York Epsilon Chapter of
Sigma Alpha Epsilon
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
12 Myrtle Avenue
Troy NY, 12180

Address Service Requested

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.

CHAPTER HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND OCTOBER 7-9TH, 2022

- Visit RPI's schedule, which are intended to be in-person on-campus: <https://reunion.rpi.edu/>
- RPI Social and Alcohol Policies dictate that no alcohol can be at the Chapter House, so we've arranged for a cash bar evening social gathering at local favorites.
- Ryan's Wake Friday evening Oct 7th 7-11 pm (new upstairs bar and back deck overlooking the river).
- The Ruck (alumni know as Sutter's) Saturday Evening Oct 8th 7-11 pm (top two floors)
- Classes gathering with special anniversaries, such as Class of 1982, may choose to have separate dinners with the RPI schedule or other venues in the Tri-City area. We can help with a list of places, if interested.
- Saturday afternoon the annual LAE, Inc. - NYEP Chapter business meeting will be held.
- Afterwards, a memorial service will be held for brothers who have joined Chapter Eternal the past two years with a tree planning for Mark Berube '84. Some of the other brothers passing were Dr. Bob Athanasiou '59, Thomas "Beefy" Sayuk, '80, and Chris Pybus '19.
- Sunday morning, we'll close out the weekend with an informal brunch at the chapter house.