

### **SAE National Leadership School January 2024**

- Travis Johnson (Spring 2024 EDA)

Attending the Sigma Alpha Epsilon 85th National Leadership School was an enriching experience for the brothers who attended, Jacob Norton, Gavin Garrison, and myself. Opting for the Management track, I deepened my comprehension of my duties as the Eminent Deputy Archon and House Manager within our fraternity. I found the team building and goal setting sessions to be beneficial, offering a glimpse into the operations of other  $\Sigma$ AE chapters nationwide. The discussions on chapter and community issues are particularly crucial for our collective success, as many other chapters encounter very similar issues to us. The leadership skills I gained have been invaluable, not only for our fraternity engagements but also for my personal growth and future professional roles. The highlight of the 85th Leadership School was discovering the multitude of diverse approaches to leadership, recruitment, and rituals adopted by different



chapters. I am eager to implement these innovative strategies for the advancement of our chapter. I highly recommend our younger brothers take advantage of this enriching experience and Leadership attend School next year, as it has been incredibly rewarding for me.

Delegates Travis Johson, Jacob Norton, Gavin Garrison

## **Life without a Chapter House/Home**

- Jason Persan, Spring 2024 Alumni Chairman While we are extremely grateful for the renovation of our beloved chapter house, living without it presented a test. It has tested the strong bond between the brothers over the years and I can say with certainty that we have all maintained a deep connection. In its absence, we have scheduled numerous events around campus and at certain brothers' apartments to keep our strong unity intact. We are thankful to have such kind brothers who are willing to host certain events and offer up a space where everyone can come together. RPI has been extremely helpful by letting us book rooms in the Union for weekly chapter meetings.

### **Spring 2024 Eminent Archon Report**

- Gavin Garrison (Spring 2024 EA)

We are extremely happy to have hosted the Province Nu Convention on April 12th and 13th. Each chapter in the province sent multiple members to come together and plan for the future. Numerous important topics like alumni engagement, navigating life after college, and understanding ritual in its entirety were all discussed. Not only were brothers of all years able to gain knowledge and learn more about what it means to be a brother of SAE, but they were also given advice to help navigate life as a whole. Additional discussions occurred about leadership development and offered advice for how everyone can become a more well-rounded individual. All of the topics discussed are crucial to ensure the growth and prosperity of every chapter. Not only did these talks help individual chapters but also reinstated the importance of a strong connection between the chapters. To wrap up the Province Nu convention, elections were held for key provincial positions, where Gavin Garrison, EA Spring 2024 was elected to Province Recorder



Province Archon Edwin Gonzalez, Spring EA Gavin Garrison, Fall EA Kaan Lus. Past Province Archon John Sebalos

#### Fall 2024 Alumni Reunion and Homecoming

While not quite to the reoccupation of the Chapter House, we will have some celebrations coinciding with RPI's Bicentennial Sept 27-29 (https://reunion.rpi.edu/)





### **Renovation Project update**

- Lucas Rice, Class of 2014

First, I apologize for the lack of updates on the house. The renovation has kept us busy, but we're committed to sharing more frequent updates through the NYEP website, newsletter, Alumni Facebook group, and Instagram.

More importantly, I want to sincerely thank each of you. This project wouldn't have been possible without your support, whether you donated or not. Let me explain.

Every brother who did a crew, helped on workdays, fixed something, or took care of any task—big or small—played a part in getting our house to where it is today. It's remarkable that, despite all the wear and tear, the house remained in as good shape as it was. But the house was "tired" and needed a lot of work. Even as the renovation, I think it's important to set realistic expectations and share a financial update.

The total cost of the renovation will be about \$2.8 million—nearly double our original estimate, which included both the renovation and a planned addition.

This increase is largely due to challenges we've all faced over the past few years—COVID-19 and the subsequent rise in costs. COVID delayed our timeline and brought inflation, especially in the construction industry, which was hit hard by the supply chain crisis. There were news stories in 2022 about how the cost of 2x4s nearly doubled. And while we saw some relief by the time we started in 2023, prices were not going back to what they were in 2018

To keep costs down, we had cut some of the updates. We couldn't replace the slate roof, refinish the basement floors and walls, add new lights to the volleyball court, build a brick wall on the side of the property, or professionally landscape the grounds.

However, we prioritized all the interior spaces and did manage to keep many planned improvements. We added a sprinkler system for safety, an HVAC system with air conditioning, and improved insulation throughout the house.

We also made other updates to improve life for undergrads with upgraded wired internet, leveled floors, reframed sagging walls, and upgraded the lighting.

With the total cost now at \$2.8 million, and after raising \$1.1 million through fundraising and using \$500,000 from our savings, we are taking out a loan for around \$1.1-1.4 million to finish the project.

We had two main goals when we started this project: to refresh the house so it's a place our active brothers want to live and hang out, and to do so in a financially responsible way that keeps rent reasonable. Even though we had to cut some improvements and take out a larger loan than expected, I'm excited to say we're still on track to meet both goals.

As we near this next milestone of the renovation being completed, it's time to get excited. This house will be where the next generation of True Gentlemen learns, gathers, and grows for the next 75+ years. It will also be a place where alumni can reconnect.

But remember, this is just a milestone, not the finish line. We'll need ongoing support from everyone—undergrads and alumni alike—to reach our final goals. It will take another 5-7 years of support, in time, effort, and financial contributions, to get 12 Myrtle where we truly need to be. We may have just risen from the ashes, but we still have some work to do before we learn to fly.

I hope to see you at alumni weekend! And as always, if you have any questions, concerns, or want to help out, please don't hesitate to ask. Please visit our Instagram and facebook postings for movies and photos

https://www.instagram.com/sae\_rpi\_alumni/# https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAE.RPI.Alumni.Actives/

Phi Alpha, Lucas



Back of house in April with new windows installed





View from stairs to Foyer and Chapter Room in April



Foyer looking to the Backdoor (still old stairs) in late July

### Alumni Homecoming Weekend Sept 27-29, 2024

While 12 Myrtle occupancy has been delayed until November, we will be hosting activities to celebrate the in coordination with RPI's Bicentennial and the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of Lambda Alpha Epsilon. It will be held September 27-29, the same weekend as RPI's Reunion & Homecoming. To learn more about RPI's schedule visit: https://reunion.rpi.edu/

For questions email us at <u>alumni@nyepsilon.com</u> and <u>lae.secretary@gmail.com</u>

Here is a rough schedule of activities. Please be on the lookout for updates on the <a href="www.nyepsilon.com">www.nyepsilon.com</a> website and on our social media



Front Left Third floor (Room 302) in April



Front Left Third Floor (Room 203) in Late July

#### Friday 9/27

- RPI: Men's Soccer Game against St Lawrence
- RPI: Bicentennial Drone Show Anderson Field
- SAE: Ryan's Wake Phoenix Backroom 7-10 pm

### Saturday 9/28

- SAE: LAE/undergraduate Chapter meeting
- RPI: Bicentennial Block Party at '86 Field
- SAE: Tours of 12 Myrtle Ave Renovations
- RPI/SAE: All alumni Cocktail Reception 6-7 pm

### **Sunday 9/29**

- RPI/SAE: Closing R&H Brunch Heffner House
- SAE: Tours of 12 Myrtle Ave Renovations

New York Epsilon of SAE 12 Myrtle Avenue Troy, NY, 12180

Address Service Requested

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**Street Address** 

City, State ZIP-code

Fall 2024 Newsletter of the New York Epsilon Chapter of  $\Sigma AE$ 

We're nearing the end of our 1.5 year \$2.8M renovation construction project of 12 Myrtle. See the rewards of our Lion's Fund and *Preserving Our Past, Providing for Our Future* Capital Campaign and help us continue more annual support for the NYEP Chapter



