



Our New President Shares House Corporation Updates

Brothers,

I am honored to have been elected president and treasurer of the house corporation. I have big shoes to fill given Bill Beach's ('69) nearly 40 years of leadership; it goes without saying that such a long period of service is simply incredible. I am hopeful that Bill will continue to offer his considerable experience to the deliberations of the board as we move forward. As much as he has earned the right to rest on his laurels given all that he accomplished, organizations of all types benefit from the input of their past presidents, and I trust this one will be no different. Bill, thank you for your dedicated years of service—we would not be here today without your many years of leadership.

One of the most important goals I have—especially given the loss of the charter in 1998 and its subsequent reinstatement on February 17, 2008—is to close the decade

of “generation gap” in alumni involvement. Most of the board members are of the late 1970s and early 1980s era, and we need to strive for involvement from more Sigs who live in Central New York and alumni from recent graduating classes. We will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the rechartering in February 2013. This would be a great opportunity to use one of our traditions—the Clambake—to celebrate the return of large numbers of recent graduates.

In the near term, I will focus on updating our approach to business administration to reduce the burden of “bookkeeping” on the house corporation leadership—a truly thankless task that can be outsourced. We also need to bring alumni relations into the social networking era—although some of us may not use Facebook, our more contemporary alumni and undergraduates certainly do. I set up a Facebook group “Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity (Syracuse University)” to

move in that direction. Postings to date range from humorous to highly complimentary about the state of the house. In time, with support from the undergraduates, we will overhaul our website to enhance our bulk email capabilities, alumni database administration, and “push” calendar notifications for upcoming events to improve alumni outreach. While the chapter house is in excellent condition and so far, is the only Greek house to pass City of Syracuse fire inspection on the first attempt—we will undertake a long-term capital requirement assessment to ensure we develop the financial resources to maintain its condition. This way, we can continue to serve the needs of the undergraduates for housing, board club, and social events. After all, it's a fraternity house that we have to maintain to overcome the pounding it takes in the ordinary course of its existence. We will complete the capital campaign, under-

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Bill Beach '69 is a Brother With a Deep Sense of Personal Responsibility

Brothers,

This letter for the *Saltine Sig* is to commemorate the accomplishments of one of our own, who, for more than 40 years, has taken it upon himself to ensure that the legacy of the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi at Syracuse University continues in perpetuity; that man is Bill Beach '69.

Bill Beach was one of the undergraduate brothers who was intimately involved in moving Psi Psi from its former location to 737 Comstock Avenue. After the acquisition of the property, which included recovering money from the Colgate Chapter when it acquired its property, Bill has been actively involved in managing the property and mentoring generations of Psi Psi brothers. In fact, Bill has served on the house corporation in one form or another since graduation—an accomplishment I think we can all agree is above and beyond the call of duty.

Bill Beach has devoted his life to ensuring that the undergraduate brothers of the Psi Psi Chapter have always possessed a



Bill Beach handing over the key to the house at the rechartering ceremony.

home to call their own. His selfless efforts to secure, maintain, operate, and protect our home during the past 40 years are absolutely heroic. As a Psi Psi since 1974, I know of no other brother who has stayed actively involved for this amount of time. Bill Beach personifies everything good that Sigma Chi embodies. His leadership,

perseverance, integrity, and commitment is why he is so respected as someone who takes his responsibilities very seriously, and why he is such a strong role model for the undergraduate chapter.

I am also convinced that had it not been for Bill Beach, the chance of Psi Psi returning to Syracuse University would be very slim. The mere fact that we owned the house with no debt was a major factor in the university administration and Sigma Chi Headquarters moving our return to SU forward so quickly. Once Psi Psi was an official chapter of Sigma Chi, Bill immediately turned his attention to the renovation of the property to provide a safe, clean, and beautiful living environment for our undergraduates to succeed in their academic and social efforts on campus.

As an undergraduate, I have interacted with Bill several times and the house corporation, and although I didn't always agree with some of their decisions, I was treated

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Psi Psi Has Had Another Successful Year of Social Events



It is amazing how quickly another academic year at Syracuse has come and gone. For the brothers of the Psi Psi Chapter, there certainly was no shortage of activity as every season brought on something

new for the brotherhood.

This fall, we had the pleasure of initiating nine new brothers into our brotherhood—another great addition to the house. However, the undeniable star of the fall semester was Sigma Chi's annual philanthropy Derby Days. Our week of fundraising efforts (which involved several events with different sororities) culminated in nearly \$10,000 and several hundred pounds of clothing to give away to charity (and in the spirit of good fun, the winning sorority was Kappa Alpha Theta). Also during the fall semester, we held a successful blood drive right in our house at 737 Comstock; a

convenient location and the desire to give back led to a great turnout of donors.

This spring brought yet another successful rush process as we extended 16 bids and added 13 new members who are ready to begin their journey through the pledge process and ultimately become great additions to our house. With the help of their Magister, they will learn their materials and the process of becoming a brother of Psi Psi and Sigma Chi, as well as a member of the entire fraternity system in general.

The rest of the semester promises to be busy as we look forward to more philanthropy events on campus and around the community, including another blood drive and a Home Run Derby. At the end of April, we will be welcoming a number of alumni—who helped make Psi Psi what it is today—to our Clambake and tailgate for the Syracuse men's lacrosse game. Psi Psi has also taken to the advent of

social media as a way to keep in touch with brothers from the past and present. There is now a Facebook group open to alumni and current brothers. Our website (www.psiPsi.org) has also been updated to include the contact information and photos of current brothers, as well as a calendar of events to keep everyone informed on the happenings of our chapter. It was important for us to be able to utilize these online tools as a quick and efficient way to keep in touch with everyone in the Psi Psi network.

Again, the brothers of Psi Psi take nothing for granted, and we realize the fortunate position that we are in to help our campus and the greater Syracuse area. We are proud of where we have come from, we are excited about where we are, and most importantly, we are motivated by where we are going.

Ryan Johnson '14
Chapter Editor



Consul Sums Up the Spring Semester



The Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi is one that truly prides itself on the brotherhood we have developed over the years. We are extremely excited for the continuing development of this chapter after yet another successful spring rush process. After a weeklong rush, we have 13 new, young men embarking on their pledge journey.

Here at Sigma Chi, we pride ourselves on our ability to be able to give back to the communities at Syracuse University and in the greater Syracuse area. We understand that it is not only our responsibility, but also a privilege for us to give back. We have several philanthropy events planned for this semester on and off campus. After the success we had the previous semester, we plan on holding another blood drive in our house, which is open to anyone who would like to donate. We also plan on holding a Home Run Derby and a lacrosse tournament for youths in local parks around the university. Our on-

campus activities include SigEp dodgeball, the Psi U Futsal soccer tournament, university-sponsored toy drives, and volunteering for the Special Olympics. Every member of Psi Psi takes it upon themselves to get involved in the community, and that is truly what makes our house special. Toward the end of April, we look forward to our Clambake and tailgate for the Syracuse men's lacrosse game, welcoming back a number of our wonderful alumni.

We realize how fortunate we are and, not taking that for granted, we feel it is necessary to donate our time to the community. We are currently the top contender for the President's Cup on campus, and we hope to cap off the school year with a victory. It is not only our camaraderie as a brotherhood, but also our desire to better ourselves and the community around us that makes our chapter of Sigma Chi so special.

Keegan Slattery '13
Consul



House Corp. Updates

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taken through Stewart Howe, to renovate the house; we hope to collect a substantial portion of the outstanding pledges so that we can pay off the mortgage balance and operate debt free going forward.

Board members will be leading a project or two, and they will need volunteers from time to time. We all can't be physically present at all times, so I am working through the details of setting up virtual meetings through www.gotomeeting.com, for the purpose of accommodating people who cannot be present at meetings. Virtual meetings will allow brothers to call in via phone or internet and see, hear, and participate in the meeting as it unfolds. For those without the ability to join the meeting online, you can simply dial in and participate in a conference call while looking at handouts distributed in advance.

I look forward to working with all of you over the years to come, and I have no doubt we will have a lot of fun while completing the important tasks at hand. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Hank Suominen '78
House Corporation President & Treasurer
hanksuominen@verizon.net
(617) 312-6800

Psi Psi Brotherhood Events Remain Successful; Chapter Remains Strong



It should no longer come as a surprise, but every year, I continue to be amazed at the strength of the Psi Psi brotherhood. Our time together is not constrained to organized social or philanthropic events, but also includes new weekly brotherhood events.

This semester, we started a Monday night brother bowling event where brothers meet up to go to a local bowling alley for a couple hours. Every Friday at the house is "Movie Friday" with a projector and stadium seating. Throughout the week, nearly every intramural sport

at Syracuse is represented by a team of Sigma Chi brothers, ranging from basketball to soccer and even handball.

There is a laundry list of events that the brothers of Psi Psi participate in and to avoid being monotonous, I will not name them all, but I mention these for a very specific reason. It reminds me of how proud I am to be a part of this brotherhood, and the strong presence we have around campus because of our involvement. The Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi is the most cohesive group of men I have had the privilege to be a part of, and I can only see this house getting stronger in the future.

Tim Freitag '13
Pro Consul

Bill Beach

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fairly and with respect as a brother; Bill always gave me the benefit of the doubt. I think the undergraduates who lived in the house since the fall of 2008 would agree that even when the chapter and house corporation had differing policies and practices, Bill would lead us to a better compromise with which everyone could agree.

The time to pass the baton to a new generation of house corporation leaders is at hand. However, I needed to let all my Psi Psi brothers know that Bill's efforts for the past four decades are greatly respected and appreciated. Please join me in congratulating him and remember to thank Bill the next time you see him. I am honored to be his friend, and humbled to call him my brother.

In Hoc Signo Vinces,
Butch Gilbert '77

Educating the New Members

The spring semester has solidified once again the presence that the Psi Psi Chapter holds as a core member of Greek life at Syracuse University. As the Magister, I have had the opportunity to instill the rich history of our chapter, Sigma Chi, and the entire fraternity system into our 13 new members. This semester's pledge class has a passion for the materials and a deep understanding of the principles of this house just as the many pledge classes before them. I look forward to furthering the education of these men as they progress toward completing their pledge process and becoming brothers of Psi Psi.

Colin McGunigle '13
Magister

Becoming a Brother

I am a newly initiated brother of Sigma Chi. The entire pledge process was something I will never forget. The bond that was formed between my entire pledge class will last for the rest of our lives. The feeling you experience once you are initiated is like none other. To be recognized as a brother of one of the most established fraternities—not only at Syracuse University, but throughout the entire country—is unbelievable. The people I have met so far, are people I never would have met unless I had joined this fraternity. But, they are also people that I can connect with on an entirely different level than people who are exactly the same as me.

Aaron Lassin 'YR
2012 Spring Pledge Class



Our flag, which flew at Ground Zero in New York City—a gift from New Jersey/9-11 Memorial Foundation Chairman Rick Cahill, father of Psi Psi Pat Cahill '14.

SIGMA CHI

The SALTINE SIG

Published by Psi Psi of Sigma Chi at Syracuse University for its friends and members. News and photos are always welcome and should be sent to: Alumni Records Office, Psi Psi of Sigma Chi, Syracuse University, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

Psi Psi alumni send their news

David E. Lain '52 wrote to us in September and reported, "We recently moved from Woodlake CC to a place in Southern Pines, where we overlook four fairways—it's a great retirement community. I'd like to hear from **Donald Fryer '54** (my little brother) and **Ernest Schwab '54**, my roommate. Sorry to hear about the passing of **Bill Lowe '51** (my big brother) and **David LaBau '51** (our great Consul in 1950). Let me congratulate all the active members of the chapter for the great success in bringing Psi Psi back to life. Whether you receive the President's Cup or not, you sound like brothers I'd be happy to associate with. My 40 years in the Kiwanis organization in caring for the children and needy in the community (to the tune of \$50,000 a year) have given me a lot of satisfaction." Reconnect with David by writing to 141 Crest Rd., Southern Pines, NC 28387.

"At 82, I took a miss-step in the bathroom, fell on my right side, and broke my hip," reported **William E. Larson '53** in September 2011. "I spent two months in the hospital in recovery and now use a walker to move around the house. Otherwise, I'm fit as a fiddle. What a way to waste the hottest summer I can recall. My grandson Matthew got married with my great-granddaughter in the wedding party. It seems like the horse doesn't go before the cart anymore. Sorry to hear of friend and brother **Bill Lowe's (51)** passing—he was a great guy. I heard **George Babikian '53** is now a university trustee—wonderful news! I'm still on the farm after 35 years. I don't do the work anymore, but I like to sit on the porch and watch." Get in touch with William at 2750 Stillwell Beckett Rd., Hamilton, OH 45013; tlarson@siscom.net.

Robert F. "Irish Bob" McMeekin '56 had plans to attend the 55th class reunion this past September, but his niece decided to get married on September 10, 2011. "Irish Bob" told us that **Ken Sparks '56** received an alumni award—"where's my award for living with him during our freshman year and again in 1960 after we were discharged from USMC?" "Irish Bob" went to Australia and New Zealand this past December, and South America in February. He is glad Psi Psi is back on campus! Catch up with Robert by writing to 19158 Avenue of the Oaks, Apt. B, Newhall, CA 91321; or by sending email to tamster714@aol.com.

"The best news is that my son was initiated

into Sigma Chi at the University of Southern California, Alpha Upsilon Chapter, in the spring 2011 pledge class," reported **David R. Poole '70** this past September. "I was there to place his badge on him in the initiation ceremony, the first I have seen in 40 years. It is unchanged, and as moving as when I last participated at Syracuse. He is proud to be a Sig, and I was delighted! The second best news is that after building homes in San Diego for 30 years, I will retire next year. I recently attended the SU/USC football game in LA and bumped into **David Hulihee '71**, who told me that **Jim Matsukawa '70** has passed away. Any Sigs in the area, get in touch when you travel through San Diego." (8245 Thimble Ct., San Diego, CA 92129; dpoole8227@gmail.com)

"In March 2009, I went back to Iraq for another tour with the Marine Corps," writes **William Todd Parker Jr. '84**. "I returned to the states in September 2010 and was released from active duty at the end of March 2011. I was fortunate to be called back to work by my employer in May. I look forward to getting back up to SU soon." Send congratulations to Todd at 13528 Copper Bed Rd., Herndon, VA 20171; wtparkerjr@yahoo.com.

Christopher K. "Metro" Ellis '89 wrote to us in January and reported, "In 2012, we have about 30 new lake properties we own (Land First), and they are now available. They are

located one hour north of Syracuse. Check them out at www.landfirstny.com." Stay in touch with "Metro" by sending postal mail to 4427 Enfield Dr., Dallas, TX 75220; or by sending email to ckellis@sbcglobal.net.

Matthew R. "Matt" Francis '91 is going on 13 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. He says it is great to see Psi Psi thriving! Matt is looking forward to hanging out on the front porch next time he is around—now that 20 years have gone by since the last time he was at hallowed 737. Keep in touch with him at 1041 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo, CA 94960; mattfrancis02@gmail.com.

deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of:

John E. Searight '42
February 16, 2011

Francis E. Hardy '49
June 6, 2011

Edward J. Belinski '50
February 13, 2011

Donald E. Dick '64
September 23, 2011

Kenneth C. Mard Jr. '71
October 22, 2010



Brothers Mike Cote '76, Ted Collins '84, Brad Short '82, Warren Boin Sr. '42, Butch Gilbert '77, and Bill Gerbig '84 gathered for a picture in the chapter house foyer.