

# The SALTINE SIG



## PSI PSI BEYOND 2026

As we celebrate 24 new brothers and mourn the loss of others, 2026 is proving to be a pivotal year. The undergraduate chapter is coming off a record setting Derby Days, and the house is full of young men of good character. SU has a new chancellor who has announced significant fiscal challenges. New dorms with hundreds of beds rise around 737 Comstock that will generate much needed revenue for the university. Society is starting to question the value of a university education while experts say colleges face a demographic cliff of college-age potential students.

A group of AAB and House Corp members held a weekend strategic retreat in July to assess and plan for what's next. We focused on three initiatives.

1. Achieve the fraternities' strategic vision and objectives.
2. Provide a stable and supportive meeting and living environment.
3. Engage alumni in support of the mission where necessary.



*Psi Psi's home since 1969.*

Expect to hear more as we move into the fall semester and 2027. We have already implemented new rules for the chapter regarding the number of social events per week and are enforcing the overall fraternity's ban on hard liquor. We spent a significant amount of time on what the future holds for the chapter house and potential use of a property management firm. Finally, we focused on where we need alumni support to achieve our objectives.

We'll need alumni to step up support as we prepare for an exciting future. Expect to hear more specifics of how your engagement will impact our success. Fraternal life and particularly Sigma Chi is offering today's young men an education for life and friendships that endure.

Carpe Diem brothers.

**Ted Collins '84**  
Saltine Sig Editor  
Alumni Advisory Board



## CHAPTER ETERNAL



*1947–2026*

### Remembering William "Bill" Beach '69

I was fortunate to have known Brother Bill Beach since he pledged Sigma Chi at Psi Psi. I had the honor of initiating him in April, 1966 when I was Consul. I served on the House Corporation with Bill for more than 15 years. He was a life-long friend, a man whom I was proud to call my brother.

Let me be very direct. **There would not currently BE a Psi Psi chapter at Syracuse without the actions of Bill Beach.** After graduation, Bill became a member of the House Corporation and served on the board until 2017. He was president of the House Corporation and the **driving force** behind it for more than **40 years**—40 years!

In his House Corporation role, Bill was the leader of the effort to retain the chapter house at 737 Comstock Avenue when the chapter lost its charter in 1999. He resisted offers from other fraternities and sororities that wanted to buy the house and pressure from the University that wanted to demolish it to make room for new buildings. Bill worked out a plan to rent the house to another fraternity during the period of Psi Psi's fall from grace. Then in February 2008 when Psi Psi was reactivated, the funds Bill accumulated from rent were used to renovate the house for the brothers. This included new bathrooms, updating and repairing floors, electrical, heating, carpeting, tile, paint and cabling as well as myriad improvements in brothers' rooms. All this work was LED by Bill Beach and was paid for from funds that Bill accumulated during the chapter's absence. We owned the house with no debt thanks to Bill's efforts.

Bill also shouldered most of the load of the Central New York (Psi Psi) Alumni Association for 25–30 years. He handled all the alumni mailings, led planning for Homecoming activities and worked tirelessly with the Psi Psi alumni to see the chapter reinstated at Syracuse.

In addition, Bill mentored countless Psi Psi undergraduate brothers and more often than I can count, he made the 100 mile drive from his Rochester home to Syracuse to meet with brothers and University personnel to deal with the many issues that come up in the life of a chapter.

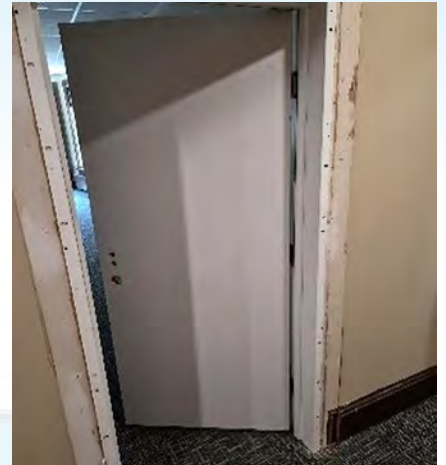
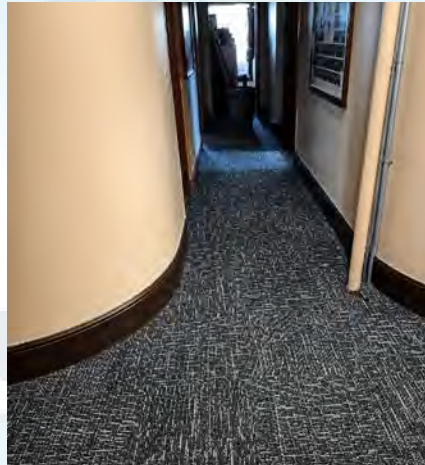
Obituary Link: [millerfuneralandcremationservices.com/obituaries/?id=2679](https://millerfuneralandcremationservices.com/obituaries/?id=2679)

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## HOUSE CORP REPORT: SUMMER 2026

Summer 2026 turnaround was ambitious as we moved forward with the planned replacement of all common area bedroom doors with heavy duty fire rated door and cipher, locks using a standard size door throughout. We also replaced all carpeting house-wide with carpet tile, refinished the first-floor common area floors and replaced a number of windows and adjacent exterior facade areas where it was failing. As for the grounds, the front yard was re-landscaped to deal with the replacement of the water main to the house, which was completed last summer, and the parking lot was seal coated and restriped.



The SU Ostrom Street dorm project now looms five stories above our parking lot. We are pressing SU for an appropriate landscaping solution to properly screen us from the monstrosity that will take away our morning sunrise. This follows our loss of the sunset with the construction of the Life Sciences Building back in 2008.



**SU Housing Policy for Dorms:** We have what I believe to be a potential showdown between the Greek Life community and the University over sophomores' two-year commitment to be living in the dorms in the fall 2027 academic year. Here is the issue; seniors typically live out of the chapter house, so current juniors have to sign leases in August to have access to off-campus housing. SU announces the sophomore housing exemptions in March. If come March 2027 SU decides to end sophomore dorm exemptions to fill the new dorms coming online in September 2027 with seniors already committed to a live-out lease obligation, we would only have juniors able to live-in and with the usual 50% going abroad in the spring semester, we would likely have 25 live-in the fall and 15 live-in the spring semester. This would mean we have a revenue shortfall of roughly 20 "heads-in-beds" or an under capacity of 33%. If all fees had to rise by 33%, we would be highly uncompetitive with dorms or private housing options. We desperately need an alumni volunteer to take the lead on advancement of the SU Greek Housing Alliance. We need to leverage the SU Greek community giving against the SU Housing Policy. We need to activate both alumni and on-campus student engagement on this issue to avoid having our business model shatter before our eyes. With the new chancellor making a big issue of not meeting enrollment targets, there is no way they will sacrifice dorm revenue unless they realize they will lose Greek donors to a larger extent. Think about it this way; with roughly 30,000 Greek alumni, if 20% are regular donors of \$500, that is equal to \$3 million which is roughly the income Greeks collect for the 600 beds in the system. If we don't rally the Greek community, our days will be numbered. Who is going to help me take on this challenge?

**Hank Suominen '78 (#937)**  
hank@suomi33.com  
617-312-6800



## HOUSE CORP OFFICERS

### Term Ends 2028

**Hank Suominen '78**

*President & Treasurer*

**Vacant**

*Vice President*

**John Bersani '79**

**Chris Dowd '12**

### Term Ends 2027

**Brad Short '82**

*Alumni Association President*

**Bill Gerbig '84**

*Secretary*

**Connor Wilson '15**

**Steve Oliva '91**

### Term Ends 2026

**Paul Artruc '84**

**Dante Sesti '19**

**Hunter Viscarello '16**

**Joe D'Eramo '16**

## ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

**Ted Collins '84**

**John Honis '83**

**Jim Fini '83**

**Bob Quackenboss '87**

*Phi Chapter Lafayette College*

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**Brad Short '82**

**Bill Gerbig '84**

## DERBY DAYS SUCCESS: PSI PSI TOP FIVE IN US

Sigma Chi's annual Derby Days philanthropy week returned to Syracuse University this spring, bringing together students from across campus to support the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. Under this year's "Chi-Lympics" theme, the event featured all 13 Panhellenic sororities competing in a week of fundraising, service, and friendly competition. By the end of the week, our Derby Days had raised an incredible \$201,619.01, a massive increase from last year's total of \$157,087 and a new chapter record.

Throughout the week, participants took part in a variety of events, including Sign-a-Sig, donation and cash wars, Pie-a-Chi, Sink-a-Sig, a clothing drive benefiting the Rescue Mission of Syracuse, a candlelight vigil, and the annual dance competition. Additional fundraising efforts included T-shirt sales, banner competitions, restaurant fundraisers, and online donations, giving students, alumni, family members, and friends multiple ways to contribute. In addition, this year marked the first ever Call-a-thon event at Syracuse, connecting with over 1,300 Sigma Chi alumni and raising nearly \$100,000 in just four hours at the beginning of the week.

Every event helped raise money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, which funds groundbreaking cancer research, treatment, and education through the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

The success of this year's Derby Days was made possible by the generosity of hundreds of donors and the hard work of the Sigma Chi brothers, participating sororities, and countless volunteers. Raising more than \$200,000 in just one week is a testament to what Psi Psi and the Syracuse community can accomplish when they come together in support of a meaningful cause. The record-breaking total will help further the Huntsman Cancer Foundation's mission of improving cancer prevention, advancing research, and working toward future cures.

**Yousef Yaqub**

Derby Days Co-Chair

## SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING

Save the date for Homecoming 2026 on Saturday, November 7. Football vs. Clemson at the Dome. Game time TBD. We encourage all and especially recent grads to return for a great day celebrating Psi Psi of Sigma Chi!





## CONSUL MESSAGE

The 2025–2026 academic school year was successful for Psi Psi. We were proud to initiate 24 new brothers in the spring class which increased the total brotherhood count to 91 by the end of the school year. The strength of the chapter was evident this year in our Derby Days success. Thanks to the help of our alumni, actives, and our Derby Days chairs Jack Cohen and Yousef Yaqub, the chapter broke our own Syracuse University record, raising \$201,619 for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. This record placed us 5th in the country, which is a massive accomplishment for the chapter. I'd like to give a special shoutout to our sister sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, who broke the national sorority record, raising \$55,437 for our Derby Days alone this year. Additionally, the chapter successfully ran another Sig-Fil-Aphi philanthropy event with the sisters of Alpha Phi where we sold Chick-Fil-A to raise money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation and Alpha Phi Foundation. Overall, the 2025–2026 academic year was a testament to the strength, dedication, and continued growth of Psi Psi, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.



*Left to right:*

*Johnathan Bunnell, John Mahler,  
Andrew Sondej, Sam Sharp.*

that we are excited to take back to campus in the fall and feel very prepared to once again lead the chapter through another semester.

For more frequent chapter updates, follow @sigmachisu on Instagram. And as always, I'm very proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially a Psi Psi.

**Johnathan Bunnell '27**  
Consul

This summer I had the opportunity of attending both the Huntsman Retreat of Excellence and Horizons Session 3. I was accompanied at the Huntsman Retreat of Excellence by our Quaestor Sam Sharp, philanthropy chair John Mahler, and former Consul Andrew Sondej. We were flown in a day early and able to bring four brothers due to us being in the \$200k club, which was a privilege not many other chapters had. It was a truly amazing experience to golf and network with alumni, tour the University of Utah's football stadium, and visit the Huntsman Cancer Institute. The Institute was beyond inspiring, and it was an honor to step foot in such an accomplished and powerful facility. After the Huntsman Retreat of Excellence ended, Sam Sharp and I bused over from Salt Lake City to the Snowbird resort in Alta for Horizons Session 3. We were both pleasantly surprised with how much we were able to learn about ourselves and leadership in just ten days. It was great to meet Sigs from all over the country and learn from their experiences. We learned many valuable lessons

## PSI PSI OFFICERS



JOHNATHAN BUNNELL  
CONSUL



LIAM MOON  
PRO CONSUL



EDDIE GARCIA  
ANNOTATOR



SAM SHARP  
QUAESTOR



LIAM TALBOT  
MAGISTER



JOSH COSTA &  
JAKE SANDS  
RECRUITMENT CHAIRS



PAULINO HERNANDEZ  
PHILANTHROPY CHAIR



GRANT WAGENBACH  
RISK MANAGER



STAMATI MAKRINOS  
HOUSE MANAGER



BEN GOODMAN &  
TIM HARWICK  
SOCIAL CHAIRS

## CHAPTER ETERNAL



1998–2026

### Remembering John Aviles '20

We are saddened to hear of the passing of John Aviles. As a member of the Alumni Advisory Board, I had the pleasure of working with John on matters related to his role as Chapter Quaester. Through our work I got to know John and we kept in touch since his graduation from Syracuse; checking in on his career and providing advice and help where I could. John was a pleasure to know and work with; energetic, intelligent and hardworking with a great sense of humor. I am very proud to have called him my brother. He will be missed by the many who had the benefit of knowing such an outstanding individual.

He has entered the Chapter Eternal way too early. All honor to his name.

**John Honis '83**  
Alumni Advisory Board

Obituary Link: [clavinfuneralhome.com/obituaries/john-aviles](http://clavinfuneralhome.com/obituaries/john-aviles)



# CHAPTER ETERNAL

*Remembering William "Bill" Beach '69  
Continued from Page 1*

In 2009, the Fraternity recognized Bill's leadership and contributions to Psi Psi by awarding him the **William T. Bringham Best House Corporation Officer Award**.

Bill Beach was a brother who gave selflessly and tirelessly of his time to advance the cause of the Psi Psi Chapter without seeking any limelight. In 2019 he was inducted into the **Order of Constantine**, the highest honor that the Sigma Chi Fraternity bestows upon one of its members. Bill was one of only 900 brothers to be inducted into the Order since its inception in 1948. I knew and loved my Brother Bill for more than sixty years. I will miss him always.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

**Joseph J. Durzo '67**

Significant Sig, 2016

Order of Constantine, 2023

Emeritus Chairman, Sigma Chi Foundation  
Board of Governors



*Attending celebration of Bill's life (left to right):  
John Forste, Brian Mihalik, Ted Spall, Bob  
Brenna, Joe Durzo, Paul Norcross, Jim Foreman.*

Bill Beach was Big Brother to Charlie Summerall, my brother-in-law. Charlie married his Sigma Chi Little Sister, Sally Summerall, who also happens to be my sister. Both Bill and my days at Psi Psi were overseen by House Corp president and treasurer legend Frank Conlon, who was Bill's immediate predecessor. Frank set the standard for how House Corp was to be run and when Bill stepped into Frank's shoes, they fit him perfectly. Bill's demonstration

of excellence in his role was recognized by his being awarded the William T. Bringham Best House Corporation Officer Award in 2009 and he was recipient of the Order of Constantine in 2019.

Bill was present in person for many of the Homecoming Annual Meetings and regular House Corp meetings where we could always count on his introspective insights on the issues at hand. As we go forward in these challenging times, many will wonder 'what would Bill have thought about this issue?' as we contemplate our future. Rest in peace Brother Bill, you will be sorely missed. All honor to your name.

**Hank Suominen '78 (#937)**



*Sent on behalf of the entire chapter.*

Bill was the first person I met after my parents dropped me off at DellPlain Hall. We walked down to Marshall St. to buy some accessories for our rooms. Bill was two doors down on the same floor for freshman year. We pledged together in spring 1966 and roomed together in DellPlain Hall our sophomore year and for two more years in the fraternity house. Consul and pro consul positions were intertwined our junior and senior years.

After college we lost touch except to attend Gigi and Bill's wedding in Letchworth State Park. Both of us were busy raising our respective families. We got reacquainted when we built the Beach's their first Spall home. Many get

together at Canandaigua Lake, Vero Beach, Florida, and Syracuse football and basketball games followed. Several times we were hosted by Don Schefmeyer at his private dinner club in Palm Beach.

Our relationship grew stronger as the years went by. My wife Sue and Gigi formed a very tight bond. Spall Homes had the privilege of building the Beach's a second home a few years ago. Bill was a special guy and a special friend. A dedicated family man with a successful career in real estate. He did it all.

The White Cross of Sigma Chi has gained new luster through his life.

In hoc,

**Ted Spall '69**

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

We are saddened to learn of  
the passing of our brothers:

William H. Hillsdorf '60  
June 9, 2025

Bruce B. Braun '64  
December 8, 2025

William E. Beach '69  
July 23, 2026

William P. Rhudy III '78  
May 4, 2026

John B. Aviles Jr. '20  
June 3, 2026

# ΣΧ



## PSI PSI OF SIGMA CHI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

September 1, 2026

To the Alumni of Psi Psi of Sigma Chi Fraternity:

The annual meeting of 737 Comstock Avenue Inc. will be held on Saturday November 7, 2026, 10:00 am at the chapter house and virtually via Teams. The Teams link will be posted on the [www.psipsi.org](http://www.psipsi.org) calendar.

General members are welcome to attend and speak at the meeting. Active members, who are dues paying members in good standing of the Central New York Sigma Chi Alumni Association, will vote on corporation matters coming before the annual meeting, including election of the board of directors. There will be a House Corporation meeting following the annual meeting at which officers will be elected.

In hoc signo vinces,

**Hank Suominen '78 (#937)**

[hank@suomi33.com](mailto:hank@suomi33.com)

President & Treasurer

737 Comstock Avenue Inc.

(aka House Corp.)

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Robert G. Bowles '51:** I've made it to 99th birthday—100 on August 6. Still retired, just puttering around fixing this or that. A little carpentry, a little brick work, a little tile work. No more stage work. Dancing and sing a little if I can find a venue. Drive my truck off and on. Have a life partner. Life is great!! Miss my guys at 129 College Place! Spent many an afternoon on the football field (as a cheerleader). We made *Life Magazine* one year.

**Brian J. Mihalik '70:** After arriving at the loading dock of DellPlain Hall in September 1965, Dr. Brian Mihalik finally ended his love of university life when he retired from higher education on August 15, 2025, with the status of professor emeritus. Many of my experiences as a SU undergraduate, master's, and doctoral student shaped my interactions with students in my 45 years as a university faculty member and eventual administrator. To my students, I was simply known as Dr. "B." After leaving Syracuse with three degrees, I continued my doctoral studies at Temple University while working full time in local suburban government. I have taught at Temple, Clemson, Georgia State, Oklahoma State, SUNY Brockport, Virginia

Tech, and finally the University of South Carolina (USC). My area of research was focused on the legacies of the Olympic Games and global tourism. After stepping aside as an academic Dean at USC, I revisited my love of filmmaking that began at the Newhouse School with fellow Sigma Chi/SUAVS brothers Joe Durzo, Bill Beach, and Larry Rathman. During my final years at Carolina and continuing into my current retirement just outside of Clemson, South Carolina, my wife, Linda, and I are producing 360° Virtual Reality (VR) videos focusing on the Olympic Games legacies and global tourism. Don your Meta Quest headset and immerse yourself into Bear Lake at the Rocky Mountain National Park: [tinyurl.com/RMNP-BearLake](http://tinyurl.com/RMNP-BearLake).

**Chauncy C. Young '73:** Finally retired from financial planning in 2025. I still live in the house I built in 1981–1982. I am still very active with a local trail group in charge of trail creation/maintenance. I touch base with Roger Salmons every few months.

