

The SALTINE SIG



House Corporation Update From the Alumni President

The past year has been quite busy on several fronts. We have completed the transition of financial administration to an independent third-party accounting/bookkeeping firm, Sciarabba Walker & Company. They now handle sending out contracts, processing invoices, collecting housing and board fees, managing accounts payable, processing payroll, and preparing financial statements and federal tax returns. We have also updated our certificate of incorporation and bylaws to bring us up to date with New York State and federal law. We have filed for tax-exempt status and are now current on all federal and state tax-exempt return filings. At this point our "corporate house" is in good order.

The house will undergo its normal summer turnaround effort of cleaning, painting, and steam-cleaning carpets and furniture. We also have the five-year City



of Syracuse certificate of inspection this summer. We are scoping out and pricing a "gut to frame" of the basement ritual closet to make that space clean, conditioned, and secure with storage shelving to accommodate storage bins for ritual gear. We will make it a goal to re-do one room in the basement each summer with the hope of restoring the billiard room one of these years. The original pool table awaits its return once it has been restored. As you might imagine, we are always looking for ways to make these projects happen, and your financial support is always welcome.

We are about to embark on the update of the website, www.psipsi.org. Please take a moment to visit www.sigmachi.com and navigate to the profile-update link where you can update your contact information. The website update will include an interface with the www.sigmachi.com database to help us keep our records current.

I want to reach out to all alumni—1998 and prior—to support the alumni association. We need your support growing alumni programs like career mentoring and carrying out the fraternity ritual in a proper fashion. With the short term, "special alumni status" imposed on the 2005-2012 era, we need your support now more than ever. I hope you will make time at this critical stage of the revitalization of the chapter.

Mark your calendars: Homecoming 2013 is October 4-5. Orangemen play Clemson in the inaugural ACC football game. The House Corporation Annual Meeting will be Saturday, October 5, at 9:00 a.m. at the house. There will be a lunch off the grill before the football game—always a good time to be had by all. Hope to see you then.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Hank Suominen '78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue, Inc.
(aka House Corp.)

SAVE
the DATE

ORANGE CENTRAL 2013
OCTOBER 4-6

Join us in Syracuse for the Orangemen-Clemson football game, barbecue, and house corporation annual meeting on Saturday, October 5. More details to come!

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Psi Psi Chapter Is Moving On and Moving Forward

The 2012-2013 school year was one of great progression for the brothers of the Psi Psi Chapter. We are extremely grateful for our very generous alumni, who helped us again maintain our status as a Bell Chapter for the coming year. Our Derby Days philanthropy event was very successful in the fall, and in addition to other philanthropy events around campus, we were able to hold multiple blood drives with the American Red Cross, an event of which we are very proud. Our chapter initiated 10 new members in the fall and 17 in the spring, bringing our undergraduate roster up to 68 brothers for the 2013-2014 school year.

When Sigma Chi reinstated our charter in 2008, it marked one of the proudest moments in Psi Psi history. Our chapter had spent the previous 10 years rebuilding and working toward the ultimate goal of being recognized as Sigma Chis once again. During that time many traditions and rituals were created within Psi Psi, some of which permeated into our chapter's culture after we got reinstated. This

past spring, allegations of hazing were brought to light regarding some of the old Psi Psi rituals that our house had continued. After an extensive investigation by Sigma Chi HQ, and many brotherhood meetings within our chapter, we decided as a whole that it was time for us to move on, and to move forward.

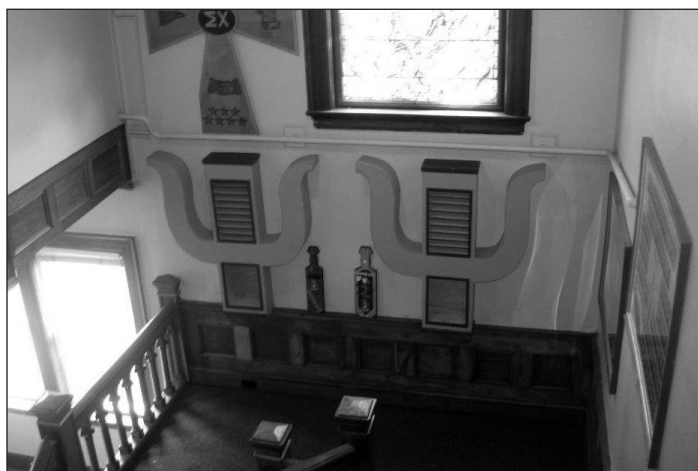
Following the investigation, we held elections for every executive board position, resulting in Griffin Dottle '14 as Consul, myself—Will Gerhard '15—as Pro Consul, and Eric McLee '14 as Annotator, among other newly elected officers.

This summer, we have two brothers going to Horizons, Aaron Lassin '15 and Malcolm Carayol '15, and our entire executive board will be attending Balfour Leadership Training Workshop. We will be working on the revitalization path at Balfour, a step that chapters across the country take when working through a transition period to help them revive and improve. In addition to the leadership conferences, we are in the works of planning a brotherhood I-Week in late

August to ensure that all of the brothers in our house know and understand all the necessary rituals that make Sigma Chi the greatest fraternity in the world. Lastly, we are looking forward to a planned brotherhood retreat in the fall, organized with the help of our chapter adviser, Ben Tashjian.

The future of the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi is very bright. We've been proactive with Sigma Chi and our Housing Corp. throughout this rebuilding period, and are enthusiastic about the positive changes that we are implementing. This entire experience has helped everyone in our chapter grow together, and the strength of our brotherhood has never been greater. By the time the 2013-2014 school year rolls around, we will have made many positive changes. These changes and the renewed strength of our brotherhood will only fortify and expand our role as leaders on this campus.

In Hoc,
Will Gerhard '15
Pro Consul

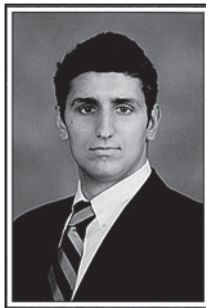


Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Executive Board 2013-2014



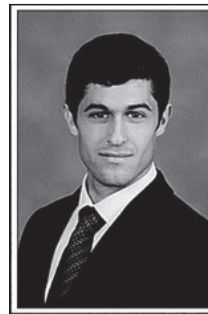
GRIFFIN DOTTE

Griffin Dottle
 Consul
 Class of 2014
 Hometown:
 Summit, New Jersey
 Major: Geographic
 Information Studies



WILL GERHARD

Will Gerhard
 Pro Consul
 Class of 2015
 Hometown:
 Watchung,
 New Jersey
 Major: Broadcast
 and Digital
 Journalism



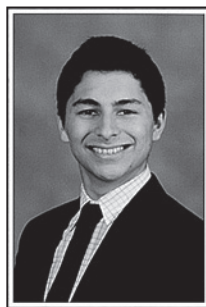
ERIC McLEE

Eric McLee
 Annotator
 Class of 2014
 Hometown:
 Yorktown,
 New York
 Major: Information
 Management and
 Technology



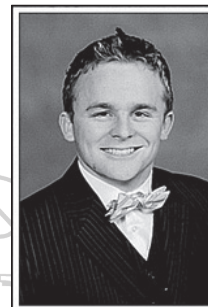
AUSTIN WENTWORTH

Austin Wentworth
 Quaestor
 Class of 2016
 Hometown:
 Stamford,
 Connecticut
 Major: Finance



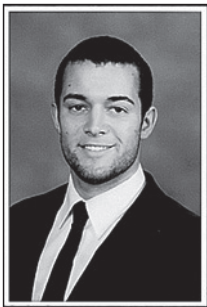
CARLOS GUARDIA

Carlos Guardia
 Risk Manager
 Class of 2015
 Hometown:
 San Juan,
 Puerto Rico
 Major: Pre-medical/
 Biology



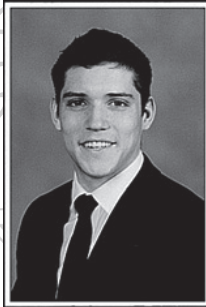
KEN BROPHY

Kenneth Brophy
 Magister
 Class of 2014
 Hometown:
 Freehold,
 New Jersey
 Major:
 Bioengineering
 and Economics



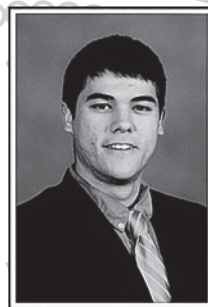
PATRICK FLANAGAN

Patrick Flanagan
 Recruitment Chair
 Class of 2015
 Hometown:
 Huntingdon Valley,
 Pennsylvania
 Major: Television,
 Radio, Film



CONNOR WILSON

Connor Wilson
 Social Chair
 Class of 2015
 Hometown:
 East Hanover,
 New Jersey
 Major: Policy
 Studies, Physics



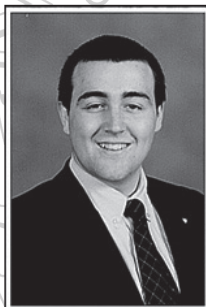
LIAM McNIFF

Liam McNiff
 Kustos
 Class of 2015
 Hometown:
 Saugerties,
 New York
 Major:
 Environmental
 Engineering



AARON LASSIN

Aaron Lassin
 Philanthropy Chair
 Class of 2015
 Hometown: Kendall
 Park, New Jersey
 Major: Public
 Relations



THOMAS McCARTHY

Thomas McCarthy
 Tribune
 Class of 2016
 Hometown: Glen
 Mills, Pennsylvania
 Major: Sports
 Management

Psi Psi alumni send their news

Austin L. Cline '50 wrote: "I read with interest the news of Psi Psi and feel sad that more of my classmates aren't on the list of donors. My years at Syracuse were great years, and I married my Psi Psi sweetheart while we were in college. I have been a lifelong Sig since the 1980s, and it has been a great reminder of past years. It is sad that I hear from none of my classmates. I have great memories of our organizing many Miami Triade formals with big bands coming to play at our dances; Claude Thornhill and one of the Dorsers. I have been retired since 1993, having represented a school bus manufacturer (Thomas Built) for many years. I wish you all in our chapter the best of things to come. Sigma Chi will be in my memories forever. I hope to have a White Cross ending. I'm proud to have retired after 29 years in the U.S. Navy." Reconnect with Austin at 11 Bristol Cir., #1, Delmar, NY 12054.

"My son, Jim, and his family took Ann and I to Syracuse for the Homecoming game this past November," writes **Albert H. Frankenbach '52**. "It was a great game, and we all enjoyed it!" Get in touch with Albert by writing to 125 Halsey St., Southampton, NY 11968; annboo53@aol.com.

George H. Babikian '53 and **Neal McDough '88** are the only two Psi Psi Sigma Chi's ever awarded the status of Significant Sig by the International Sigma Chi Fraternity. Send congratulations to George at 1805 Paseo Del Mar, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274; or to Neal at 1801 Ave. of the Stars, #308, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

William E. Larson '53 is getting older year by year. He wrote: "Come join me! We'll sit on the front porch and watch the sunset over fields of soybeans and corn with a cool glass of iced tea. I'm on the wagon. My family is hale and hearty, and all working at the present time; several little ones running around ... grandchildren that is. Place your bets on the Cincinnati

Reds!" Keep in touch with Bill at 2750 Stillwell Beckett Rd., Hamilton, OH 45013; tlaron@siscom.net.

"Mary and I are now Florida residents at 2055 Aberdeen Ln., Apt. 202, Naples, FL 34109," reports **Robert M. Curran '54**. "We spend summers at our home on Canandigua Lake."

Richard L. Booth '56 spends his time on the Bristol Valley Theater board (president) and Sweden-Clarkson Recreation board. There are good plays scheduled for the 2013 season, including *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Richard has four children and six grandchildren. His daughters are in Brockport and Raleigh, and his son (a Sig from Cornell, where he is on the board of trustees) is in Charlottesville, Virginia. Send greetings to Richard via postal mail at 5103 Cheshire Glen Rd., Canandaigua, NY 14424; or via email at rlboothsr@gmail.com.

Robert F. McMeekin '56 recently talked to **Ken Sparks '56**. Robert's starting a second career teaching little girls about big bad Sigs. He also talks and corresponds regularly with **Vince Ceriello '58**. Robert has a new rich girlfriend in Oregon "who feeds, clothes, and nurtures him." Robert and his girlfriend are trying to set up a cruise through Italy in the near future. Contact Robert via postal mail—19158 Avenue of the Oaks, Apt. B, Newhall, CA 91321; or via email at tamster714@aol.com.

Robert F. Clark '71 would like to hear from any brothers presently living in Florida (6957 Floristana Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940; bob-georgi99@cfl.rr.com).

"Great job that **Bill Beach '69** has done supporting the house and house corporation," writes **Dennis J. O'Brien '72**. "Also, thanks to **Butch Gilbert '77** and **Hank Suominen '78** for taking on additional responsibilities supporting the house and its activities." Contact Dennis at 95076 Woodberry Ln., Amelia Island, FL 32034; dobrien523@aol.com.

Harold B. Gilbert '77 attended BLTW this past summer with **Hank Suominen '78** and saw Psi Psi awarded another Peterson Significant Chapter award. "Proud to be ... especially a Psi Psi." Write to Harold at 114 E. Davis Blvd., #12, Tampa, FL 33606; or send email to hgilbert@tampabay.rr.com.

"As a member of the Manchester, New Hampshire, Sigma Chi Alumni Association, for the past four years, I have been an alumni adviser to the Sigma Chi Psi colony at the University of New Hampshire," reports **Adam Hildebrand '80**. "On April 27, the colony was installed as the Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Chi. It has been a tremendously rewarding experience, and I enjoyed witnessing the Grand Consul place the badges on 40 fine young men." Send congratulations to P.O. Box 528, Meredith, NH 03253.

Scott J. Fitzgerald '97 reports that the house looks great, and to keep up the good work! Write to Scott at 38 Pleasant St., Norwell, MA 02061; fitzlaw1@gmail.com.



CHAPTER ETERNAL

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

Donald E. Dick '64
September 23, 2011

Bruce R. Sharpe '68
November 13, 2011

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.



737 COMSTOCK AVENUE INC.

June 2013

A Special Report to the Psi Psi Chapter Alumni:

That song lyric we hear so often “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger” is certainly a candidate for the Psi Psi Chapter 2013 theme song. With a somewhat rocky start to the spring 2013 semester that included the sudden departure of more than 10 brothers who decided at the last minute to study abroad, we survived financially having adopted an austerity budget to get by. With a great run by the Orangemen in the NCAAs, it seemed all was good. Pledge training was on-track to finish on-time (something that did not happen in the fall 2012 term and got the chapter in hot water). Initiation was scheduled a week ahead of the April 6 deadline, which then apparently took place without any issues—it is always comforting to reach a milestone uneventfully. And then, all hell broke loose when I got word from the Grand Praetor John Predmore and Eddie Banks (the director of Syracuse University IFC office) that there were allegations of hazing at Sigma Chi. During an inspection of the chapter house, IFC officials were told there was “post-initiation training” activity taking place. With the chapter reluctant to fully describe the ritual activity to IFC and their explanation not making any sense to IFC—it seemed to IFC there was a cover-up of what appeared to have potential to be acts of hazing. The IFC, confused over the incomplete account they received, was prompted to contact Sigma Chi HQ and confer on a course of action. It was decided that Sigma Chi HQ would take the lead on the investigation and make recommendations for what to do with the chapter. With that understanding in place, Sigma Chi HQ put the chapter on notice that there was sufficient evidence of acts of hazing and put the chapter on a 45-day suspension. HQ decided shortly thereafter that a full membership review, instead of an outright suspension of the charter, was warranted given the chapter’s otherwise good track record (Peterson Awards two of the past three years, excellent reputation on campus, etc.).

A team of six was mobilized and a membership review was scheduled for April 19-20, 2013. In the meantime, the chapter prepared a seven-page *mea culpa* as to what they did, why it was wrong, and what they were prepared to accept as punishment. Each member was given a choice to sign a Recommitment Agreement and participate in an interview, or opt out, which would mean they would be entering the equivalent of a “no contest” plea. As it turns out, 100 percent of the chapter elected to participate (except for those not available because they were studying abroad or were otherwise off campus). With that done, interviews for 70 members took place over the next 24 hours. Late Saturday night, the membership review team announced to the chapter that its charter was safe. Here is what they found: While there were no acts of hazing that were associated with forced consumption of alcohol or endangerment of physical well-being (usually the most classic of hazing, which is of a criminal nature), there was conduct that was inconsistent with the Sigma Chi ritualistic standards and anti-hazing policies. An excerpt from the membership review committee’s final report:

The review panel uncovered a variety of activities that unquestionably violate Sigma Chi policy, including making the pledges sit in uncomfortable positions for long periods of time, verbal harassment at “line-ups” (which sometimes included forced wall sits or exercises), personal servitude and mind games designed to confuse or throw the pledge off track. The activity that got the attention of the university is “I-period,” described in more detail below. All of these activities must cease immediately.

In addition, the chapter was cited for poor execution of those portions of the ritual they did carry out and a number of risk-management issues. It is fair to say that many of the things that were wrong were found to have been done in the 1970s-’80s era, and these actions are simply no longer tolerated. Standards have changed, and it is critical the mindset of the undergraduate chapter and alumni adapt to the rules of the day. Sigma Chi HQ issued an Action Plan, which stipulates what must be done over the next 12 months. The chapter is on social suspension and is not allowed to conduct recruitment activity for the fall 2013 semester; it must also undergo a variety of rehabilitative activities, which will

(continued on reverse)

refocus on strict compliance with Sigma Chi Standard Operating Procedures and Ritualistic Statutes. In addition, in order to provide for a period with no outside influence, alumni from 2005-2012 have been barred from participating in any undergraduate activities, including making any visits to the chapter house without permission from the Grand Praetor until June 1, 2016. If you are alumni from this era, you must contact Grand Praetor John Predmore to obtain written permission before you visit the house. John can be reached at johnpredmore@sigmachicago.com or (585) 259-6272. There have been a number of other changes designed to ensure the chapter leadership is properly educated and is given an appropriate transitional exchange of information.

I have confidence in the chapter's newly elected leadership team—led by senior Consul Griffin Dottle and junior Pro Consul Will Gerhard—will be capable of directing the effort required to comply with the terms and conditions of the Action Plan. Make no mistake about the severity of what the chapter just went through—this was a near-death experience for the Psi Psi Chapter. It is now crystal clear what is expected of the chapter. There is zero tolerance for any conduct that does not clearly comply with the official Ritualistic Statutes of Sigma Chi Fraternity. I hope you will join me in offering your support to the undergraduates by doing your part to ensure compliance with the Action Plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at hanksuominen@verizon.net or (617) 312-6800.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hank Suominen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hank Suominen '78
President & Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue, Inc. (aka House Corporation)