

The SALTINE SIG



From the Sigma Chi Fraternity 70th Grand Consul

Having received a copy of the Psi Psi undergrad spring newsletter, I was deeply honored to have been asked to contribute an article to the Psi Psi *Saltine Sig*. I am very proud to see that Psi Psi undergrads more than doubled their goal in raising money through Derby Days! Just as importantly, I am very pleased to see that they do not just raise money—they also emphasize actual volunteer time. Fraternities get a lot of negative press, yet wonderful work, as exhibited by Psi Psi philanthropy, too often goes unnoticed and unappreciated.

I am proud that Sigma Chi refuses to be measured by the unacceptable, delivering its best. We do good, simply because it is the right thing. A practice that is fostered from alumni to brother to pledge will go a long way in developing character for success as a lifelong Sigma Chi

I am particularly pleased to see the creation of the Psi Psi Alumni Big Brother (ABB) program. It is wonderful that the chapter is fostering a culture of mutual alumni/undergrad communication, respect, and support. There is no better teacher than a mentor brother who is willing to model the way. I hope that we alumni can match the undergrad dedication to philanthropy. We can learn from each other how much having a mentor meant to us, or would have meant to us.

Let's show everyone that we are proud to be Sigs!

W. T. (Tommy) Geddings Jr.
Gamma Nu '85
Sigma Chi Fraternity 70th Grand Consul
(International President)

A Year to Celebrate...and Build upon

By Phil Oldham '66

Editor | *The Saltine Sig* | poldham405@aol.com

The 2018-19 school year was a great year to be a Psi Psi/Sigma Chi—undergrad or alumnus. In this *Saltine Sig*, you will read about the many events, accomplishments, and, most importantly, the building of connections between alumni and undergrads.

Very simply, there are so many benefits of being a connected Sigma Chi today, so we 1,500 Psi Psis should at least check out what can work for each of us. Here are some connection options:

- Check out the website (psipsi.org) and connect on Facebook...and read the *Magazine of Sigma Chi*.
- See that your contact info is up to date—it will allow us to keep you

informed—you can do it on the website or let me know directly.

- Reach out to your classmates to keep connecting, or reconnect. I can help you find a missing brother. Become a decade class point person. I can help make it easy.
- Check out the Sigma Chi National website to find the Sigma Chi alumni chapter in your area, attend local alumni events, and enjoy the professional and personal connections.
- Become a **Psi Psi Alumni Big Brother** (ABB), the win-win relationship between Psi Psi alumni and undergrads.

Take the time to enjoy being a Psi Psi/Sigma Chi!

SAVE THE DATE FOR ORANGE CENTRAL!

Syracuse University Homecoming Weekend

(Orange Central) will be September 13-15, 2019

**** See enclosed flyer for details ****

We look forward to seeing you back at 737 Comstock before Syracuse takes on Clemson in the Carrier Dome!

Chapter Awards and Recognition

Every year, Syracuse University hosts the 44 Stars of Excellence Gala to recognize student contributions around campus and in the community. This year, former Pro-consul and current Executive VP of IFC, Hunter Acone '19, took home the "Unsung Hero Award." Sam Mooney '19 and Patrick Feeney '19 were also nominated for awards for their efforts as Derby Days chairmen. Seon Layne '20 was elected as the new IFC VP of Diversity and Inclusion for the 2019-2020 school year. Congratulations to Bill Beach '69 on his induction into the Order of Constantine.



Hunter Acone '19 poses with his "Unsung Hero" plaque.

Chapter Recruitment Update

In spring 2019, the Psi Psi Chapter welcomed 22 new members. On March 31, we initiated these young men as Sigma Chis, having found them worthy of carrying forward the values and traditions of our fraternity. We look forward to watching their continued growth as members of the Psi Psi Chapter. Thank you to Greg Sozek '79 for taking part in our special ritual.

SPRING 2019 PLEDGE CLASS (*indicates Psi Psi legacy)

- | | |
|---|--|
| Tim Arnold '22*
Mansfield, MA | Dylan Katz '22
Northport, NY |
| Luc Ayoub '22
Greenwich, CT | Zach Katz '22
Wayland, MA |
| Jack Bautista '22
Westport, CT | Jack Kelly '22
Cleveland, OH |
| Krit Chatikavanij '22
Bangkok, Thailand | Jared Leveson '22
Princeton, NJ |
| Connor Crowley '22
Bedford, NY | Tommy Nolan '22
Acton, MA |
| Chris Dalo '22
Mahopac, NY | Miles Reines '22
Palo Alto, CA |
| Vincent Fraioli '22*
Pound Ridge, NY | Tommy Rodriguez '22*
Concord, MA |
| Spencer Frybergh '22
Parkland, FL | Nico Rossi '22
Westport, CT |
| Dylan Gordon '21
Boston, MA | Chris Smallwood '22
Shrewsbury, MA |
| Luis Hernandez '22
Manhattan, NY | Nick Valentino '22
Staten Island, NY |
| Alex Jebaily '22
Staten Island, NY | Joey Viviano '22
Manhattan, NY |



The spring 2019 pledge class poses for a picture after initiation.

Psi Psi 2019-2020 Chapter Officers

Michael Howard
Consul

Jack Brotman
Pro Consul

Dawit Melke
Annotator

Rodrigo Altamirano
Kustos

Edward Guy IV
Magister/Webmaster

Seon Layne
Recruitment Chair

Karl Donovan
Risk Manager

Chapter Excels in Athletics Across Campus

Our brothers continue to excel in all levels of athletics at Syracuse. Psi Psi has a number of intramural teams, including a hockey team, two basketball teams, two flag football teams, and two soccer teams. We also have many brothers who play on club teams, including five on the club baseball team, two on the club basketball team, four on the club rugby team, and

one each on the club lacrosse, hockey, and soccer teams. Our brothers even make an impact at the varsity level, with Javier Ruiz '19 serving as a manager for the men's basketball team and Andrew Blutig '18 and Matthew Pignatella '18 managing the women's soccer team. Luc Ayoub '22 is also set to walk-on to the men's lacrosse team next fall.



The intramural hockey team celebrates another championship.

Chapter Shatters Philanthropy Records

Psi Psi continues to prove that service as a team is an important part of being a Sigma Chi. The chapter raised \$68,000 during Derby Days for cancer research, shattering its old record of \$27,000 (and its goal of \$30,000). Proceeds went to Huntsman Cancer Foundation, Children's Miracle Network, and the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

This was only a highlight of a year of philanthropy and service. Psi Psi set a record, donating two full boxes of clothing to the Syracuse Rescue Mission. In October, Psi Psi co-hosted the "Sigma Hoops" charity basketball tournament with Phi Beta Sigma (a multicultural fraternity). In February, Psi Psi hosted their bi-annual blood drive. In April, Psi Psi joined with sorority Alpha Phi for their inaugural "Sig-Fil-Aphi," selling Chick-Fil-A Sandwiches



The brotherhood poses in front of the chapter house for the annual Derby Days picture.

and nuggets at the Alpha Phi Chapter house, and the spring pledge class packed

and distributed lunches to the homeless in the "We Rise above the Street" campaign.

Summer 2019 Projects and Turnaround Work

When the undergrads clear out the house after graduation, the summer turnaround gets underway like clockwork—summer 2019 is no different. We have a very ambitious list of summer projects before us for 2019.

First, we filled two 30 cubic yard dumpsters with what seems to be a spontaneous generation of trashed couches and other items. The subsequent major undertaking is the removal and replacement of the foyer and dining room stone floor and the side stairwell flooring. Demo and preparation for new hardwood flooring in the foyer and dining room took a week, which found the sub-flooring to be in good condition. Installation of new oak flooring and application of an industrial grade sealant took another week, followed by sanding down and refinishing floors in the library and living and TV rooms. A composite rubber with gel coat finish is being installed in the side stairwell and self-serve food prep area. We are finishing up the final phase of the electrical rewiring of the house, with the cut-over of the basement and first floor circuits to new branch circuit breaker panels, adding/replacing a few outlets in the kitchen and throughout the main floor, and replacing the lighting in the dining room. The fire escape has been inspected, and new galvanized treads are being installed. We are replacing the exterior doors and several interior fire doors. We are



Stone flooring ready for its upgrade.

replacing common area furniture throughout the first floor with new couches, side and coffee tables, and benches, and completely replacing dining room tables and chairs. A new grill with a timer-controlled hard-piped gas supply was installed to eliminate the hazard of having bottled propane gas stored in the house.

We will then go about the "normal items," including repairing staple damage, preparing and painting all walls and ceilings in the common area, replacing carpet as needed, replacing damaged window treatment, and inspecting all bathroom fixtures, repairing as needed. We go through all bedrooms, repairing damaged ceiling tiles, walls, window treatments, and carpet, repainting as needed. We inspect all life safety (fire sprinkler

system, fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, and fire alarm devices), kitchen (range, fryer, refrigerators, freezer, and dishwasher), mechanical plant (boiler and forced hot air furnace), and laundry equipment.

It is a major undertaking that would not be possible without the capable support of our property manager, Jim Whitbread, and his support team, led by Lisa Leonard. And, once again, mega snaps go out to Board Member Steve Oliva '91 for his support during the heavy lifting on the flooring and door replacement renovation work. Not only did he secure an excellent subcontractor price for the work, but he donated his project management time. I cannot thank him enough for his contribution.

It's a grind, and while I know you have heard about it before, because we do it every summer, the house will once again be ready to go for fall 2019 when it opens on August 23 at noon. I am looking forward to an awesome Homecoming when SU plays national champion Clemson on September 14.

IHSV,
Hank Suominen '78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.
(aka House Corp.)

Psi Psi Launches Alumni Big Brother Program

This spring, Psi Psi launched the Alumni Big Brother (ABB) Program. It gives our undergrads the opportunity to each select an ABB, based on shared professional and personal interests and geographic proximity to where they live now or hope to live post-grad. The program is open to sophomores (who are ready to pick their majors) through seniors looking to build post-grad Sigma Chi connections.

The response from undergrads and alumni was encouraging. Over 35 undergrads signed up, providing their professional and leisure interests, current hometowns, and

post-grad hoped-for locations, along with statements to help make the right connections. About the same number of alumni have signed up, providing their matching interests, locations, and comments. Initial matches will be made over the summer. It is hoped that all undergrads will have been matched up by Homecoming, with ABBs showing up to meet their Undergrad Little Brothers (ULB) face to face. To make that happen, we need more alumni to step up.

A special thanks to undergrad Pro Consul Jack Brotman '21, who promoted and pulled together his brothers and their ABB

connections' interests. You can check out the ULBs on the Psi Psi website.

I strongly encourage all Psi Psi alumni brothers to consider becoming a Psi Psi ABB. It is truly a win/win way to give back, and to assertively build the future of Psi Psi. To learn more, simply email or text me at poldham405@aol.com or 914-906-5937 and I will follow up with you.

Phil Oldham '66
914-906-5937
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737 Comstock Avenue Inc. Bylaw Update for Leadership Progression

Historically, House Corp. has been led by one alumnus who has served in the capacity of president and treasurer, often for a decade at a stretch. Notable House Corp. leaders have included stalwarts like Frank Conlon '49 in the '60s-'70s, followed by Bill Beach '69 in the late '70s and '80s, with a stint by John Bersani '79 in the mid-'80s, who turned the reins back over to Bill Beach circa the late '80s. We had a hiatus on campus from 1998 to 2006, during which time Bill oversaw the lease of the house to Sigma Alpha Mu. We recolonized the chapter beginning in 2006, re-chartering in 2008, including a major renovation of the house. Bill passed the leadership reins to me in 2011. At this point, we have had leadership eras covering each decade, so it is time to make some changes to facilitate the next generation of leadership.

During my tenure I have taken steps to ensure we have appropriate third-party support—via accounting firm Sciarabba Walker & Co LLP of Ithaca, NY (SW&CO)—for the day-to-day business administration tasks: room contracts, development of the operating budget, billing and collection, accounts payable, bank account reconciliation, financial statement preparation, and tax compliance. I am working to develop standard operating procedures and policy to guide SW&CO, allowing them to carry out the actual work with input sought from board leadership for approvals and exceptions to policy (like granting extended payment terms in cases of financial need). The goal is to eliminate the workload on the president and treasurer roles, allowing them to set policy and oversee the administrative effort without actually having

to do the underlying work, so they can devote time to initiatives like scholarship programs, campaigns for funding long term capital requirements, and carrying out the long-term capital project work.

So where do we go from here? At the Annual Meeting held at Homecoming on September 14, I will be proposing a bylaw change that will facilitate a two-year rotation of the House Corp. leadership, whereby we elect a president-elect (PE) and treasurer-elect (TE), who will serve two-year terms: the first year as PE/TE, essentially shadowing the president and treasurer to learn the roles and responsibilities. Then, at the following Annual Meeting, the PE and TE will automatically be anointed president and treasurer, with an election held for a new PE and TE. Then the cycle will repeat.

I will stay on for the next cycle, extending my direct involvement by a year to facilitate

an appropriate transition. The goal will be to avoid having to serve in either or both roles for a decade or longer, as has been our past practice. The role cannot and should not be so overwhelming that the obligations prevent people from serving. Fresh ideas and energy are critical to keeping our efforts relevant to the needs of the current times.

I am looking forward to a hand-off a House Corp. in good financial condition, with the house in good physical condition, to the mid-'80s era of leaders ready to inject fresh energy into the next decade of running 737 Comstock Avenue Inc. for the 2020 decade.

Guard well the Honor of the Cross.

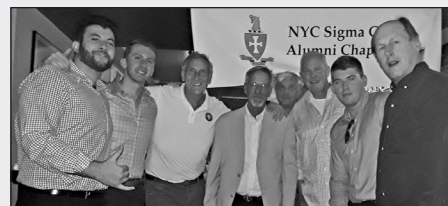
IHSV,
Hank Suominen '78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc. (aka House Corp)

Psi Psi Class of 2019 Welcomed in New York City

On June 6, the New York City-area Psi Psis hosted our newest Psi Psi alumni, who will now call NYC their post-grad home. The event was held at Marshall Street, an SU NYC home decorated with SU memorabilia. It was an evening of building professional and personal connections for both the new and reconnected alumni. The evening was sponsored by the Psi Psi Alumni Chapter, which paid for the club's famous atomic wings and other house specialties.

On June 15 (after *Saltine Sig* press time), the NYC Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter welcomed the class of 2019 from chapters all

across the country at the NYC Sigma Chi social home, Slattery's (36th Street, east of 5th Avenue). An open invitation: when in New York City, come feel at home for lunch, drinks or dinner at our two Sig locations!



A few of the new and old alumni at Marshall Street.

Psi Psi Clambake 2019 a Great Success

By John Honis '83

It was another cold and blustery April day in Syracuse, but that didn't stop a record number of alumni and undergraduates from attending the annual Sigma Chi Psi Psi Clambake. From as far away as California and Florida, brothers traveled from all over the country to participate in the clambake, happy hours, House Corp. meetings, pub crawls, and dinners. Alumni and undergraduates discussed Psi Psi and Syracuse University stories that spanned more than 50 years—from living at 737 Comstock to Jim Brown at Archbold and lacrosse games in the dome—it felt like just yesterday when we were all there!



F-bombs away! Just because we got older does not mean we lost the spirit of youthful indiscretions!

The weekend kicked off with a group of alumni getting together for happy hour at the Sheraton Hotel—a good spot to get the weekend going. From there, we all went our separate ways with a group of '80s alumni hitting Marshall Street and the downtown Armory until closing. Saturday started bright and early with a well-attended House Corp. meeting, led by Hank Suominen '78 and the rest of the board. In attendance were past and present House Corp. members as well as several brothers spanning some 50 years. Many topics were discussed, and progress was made on issues that will

affect decades of brothers to come. Many thanks to those who have served tirelessly on House Corp. and are committed to supporting the next generation of leaders.



Alumni and undergraduate brothers share stories and memories.

After the House Corp. meeting adjourned, the clambake went into full swing and lasted well into the afternoon. Jack Brotman '21 and many undergraduates did a great job of hosting the event, from set-up and clean up to providing food, beverages, and some great discussions and games with alumni. As the evening rolled on, the alumni were replaced with a sorority, but the alumni were more than happy to make room for the new guests (although a few stayed on). Many of us went our separate ways, but some decided to pick up where we had left off the night before.



Mid-'80s-era Armory Square dinner: Brad Short '82, John Honis '83, Greg Sozek '82, Scott Ward '83, Geoff Geruso '86, Ted Collins '84, Jim Fini '83, Bill Gerbig '84, and Hank Suominen '78.

Many thanks to all those who organized and attended—and to those who didn't, you missed a great event, and we hope to see you next year!!!

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Follow Us

Follow the undergraduate chapter @sigmachisu for updates on philanthropies, brotherhood events, and other happenings from 737 Comstock.

Visit psipsi.org for information for and about Psi Psi alumni, events, House Corp., and many other things related to Psi Psi and Sigma Chi.

Psi Psi Alumni Send Their News

California, Here We Come

Nearly 1,300 Psi Psi alumni are spread across the USA. Not surprisingly, the three most Psi Psi-populated states are New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Interestingly, the fourth is California, with 84 Psi Psi brothers. Below is the list of known Psi Psis by state:

New York	346
Massachusetts	157
New Jersey	108
California	84
Florida	74
Connecticut	68
Pennsylvania	67
Maryland	36
Virginia	27
Illinois	25
Texas	22
North Carolina	21
Georgia	19
Colorado, Ohio	16
Rhode Island	15
Washington State	11
Arizona, Maine, Oregon, Vermont	8
Hawaii, Indiana, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Wisconsin	5
Minnesota, Nevada	4
Alabama, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Tennessee.	2
Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah, Wyoming	1

If you would like to find those who live near you, simply let me know.

Phil Oldham '66
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Don't Be a Lost Psi Psi

We Psi Psis are constantly on the move. In the process of life, we change addresses (mail, email, and phone) and often become disconnected from relationships and the professional and personal advantages of being a Sigma Chi today. We are missing email addresses for more than 500 Psi Psi alumni, hence a formidable list of "lost brothers."

Check out your own email status on our psipsi.org website. While you are on the site, you can update any contact info and catch up on all that is current with Psi Psi. There is a lot happening for Psi Psis from every grad class.

Robert G. "Rabbit" Bowles '51 writes, "Only 93, so still working on the place. Driving tractor, weed-wacking, pruning, painting, planting, etc. Went on the Honor Flight to D.C. last May. Had a blast. Met many great people. Saw all the memorials. A lot of laughter and tears. If you know a veteran, see that he or she goes on the trip. It is a must. In touch with a few brothers. After all, there are only a few." Catch up with Rabbit at 1096 Calle Del Rancho, Box 5633, Oracle, AZ 85623 or r.bowles6@icloud.com.

Bob "Irish Bob" McMeekin '56 wrote in December, "Swam December 1 in a meet and some 83-year-old kid beat me. Usually, I've outlived the competition. I'm in touch with **Vince Ceriello '59** and my freshman roommate at Skytop, **Ken Sparks '56**. Off in July with my three daughters on a cruise to Alaska. My granddaughter is in charge." Catch up with Irish Bob at 19158 Avenue of the Oaks, Apt. B, Newhall, CA 91321.

George H. "Skip" Stanger Jr. '64 writes, "I have been retired from the New Jersey judiciary for 13 years, after 22 years on the bench. In 2018, Judy (KKG '66) and I sold our farm in New Jersey and moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, near our

Chapter Eternal

S. Herbert Shears '38

September 3, 2018

Walter G. Slazik '48

February 5, 2018

Gerald E. Clarke '61

February 27, 2019

Retraction

Apologies to **Steve Nagy '91** for mistakenly listing him as deceased in the winter 2019 issue of *The Saltine Sig*. Steve is alive and well, living in Wayne, New Jersey.

daughter and her family. Almost as much snow as Syracuse! Lots to do here with Dartmouth College lectures, programs, and many other senior-oriented activities. We can't wait for the 2020 political season because Hanover is a "must stop" on the primary trail for both parties. Would like to hear from other '64 Psi Psis and others from the '720 Comstock days." Get in touch with Skip at 36 Etna Rd., Hanover, NH 03755 or gshstow@aol.com.

Calling All New York City-Area Psi Psis

Not surprisingly, we Psi Psis are among the largest group of Sigma Chi alumni in the New York City area. With so many of us and thousands of Sigs from all chapters, there are many professional and personal reasons to be connected. Whether you are a new grad (looking for professional growth), a suburban Sig (with a family), or retired (with time and experience), being a NYC Sig can be a real advantage.

So, this is my Psi Psi challenge: join me as part of the NYC Chapter, putting Psi Psi and yourself at the center of these advantages. With new 2019-20 leadership to be determined in the fall, bring your talents and interests for socials, sports, philanthropy, social media, and finance to NYC Sig engagement. This is not another obligation; it is a Sigma Chi opportunity.

To be a part of NYC and suburbs Psi Psi/Sigma Chi, just let me know. We can talk about opportunities and benefits.

If you live in the NYC area and have not received an email from me re: NYC Sig life, we don't know that you are here. Please respond to me with your current address and email address.

I also encourage you to plan on two fall NYC connection events: a fall welcome to new 2019 grads and tailgates for our Columbia University Sig football players. Columbia University provides the free suds and hotdogs for all NYC area Sigs.

Phil Oldham '66
New York Alumni Chapter
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