

Headquarters Returns Psi Psi Charter

The active undergrads, now down to just 14, submitted the applications for reinstatement of the chapter to both Syracuse University and *Headquarters*. We received great news from Sigma Chi *Headquarters*: CAMAC (the disciplinary arm of *Headquarters*) voted to recommend to the executive committee the return of the charter which was done on June 8, 2022. Syracuse University provided their approval in late July. We are back in the eyes of *Headquarters* and SU!

With this important milestone behind us, we now need to focus on the reinvigoration of alumni support of the chapter. With a very strong Alumni Advisory Board in place, they are focusing on supporting each chapter leadership position with a member of the AAB mentoring the position to provide advice and continuity from one



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Psi Psi is Back!



Fall '80 Pledge class and AAB members Ted Collins and John Honis join the spring '19 and fall '19 pledge classes to celebrate the return of the Psi Psi Chapter on Jim Dandy Day at the Saratoga Racetrack. Appropriately, Jim Dandy was a 100:1 long shot that beat Triple Crown winner Gallant Fox 100 years ago. Long shot Psi Psi also beat the odds!

We should all celebrate. One year ago, we surrendered our charter to Sigma Chi headquarters and were suspended by SU. Several undergraduate brothers faced possible expulsion. We de-lettered and closed 737 Comstock and lost a year's revenue. We were facing the possibility of not coming back for at least a decade. Alumni donations had declined. The return of Psi Psi was a long shot.

One year later *Headquarters* has returned our charter and SU has lifted the suspension. No one was expelled. 737 Comstock will again be open this fall with the Sigma Chi sign proudly displayed on the front of the house. 24 students are expected to move in for the fall semester. We are up to 87 alumni donors.

This was a team effort of the undergraduates, Alumni Advisory Board, and House Corp with support from our chapter advisor, grand praetor, and *Headquarters* staff. Whew...we made it! All should celebrate.

Hank shared this with me: "I have sometimes wondered: why forge ahead? As a Finn, there is this explanation: Sisu, a term unique to Finnish culture, is extraordinary determination in the face of extreme adversity, and courage that is presented typically in situations where success is unlikely. It expresses itself in taking action against the odds and displaying courage and resoluteness in the face of adversity; in other words, deciding on a course of action, and then

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House Corp Officers

2024

Brad Short '82

*President
Alumni Association*

Bill Gerbig '84

Secretary

Steve Oliva MuMu '91

Connor Wilson '15

2023

Bill Beach '69

Past President

Paul Artruc '84

Dante Sesti '19

Hunter Viscarello '16

Joe D'Eramo '12

2022

Hank Suominen '78

President & Treasurer

Phil Oldham '66

Vice President

John Bersani '79

Chris Dowd '12

Consul Message



The past two years have been strenuous times for the active brotherhood of the Psi Psi Chapter. We were exiled from our home at 737 Comstock Avenue for the 2021–2022 school year. We were condemned by the university, lost our status of good standing, and found ourselves in a seemingly hopeless situation. I knew that in these dark times, our fraternity desperately needed courage. We needed to be willing to stand up for what we believed in and willing to accept the consequences of the difficult road ahead. As time passed and our numbers continued to dwindle, the spirit of Sigma Chi began to shine through individual officers that stepped up and inspiration spread through the rest of our small group like wildfire.

I am incredibly proud to report to you

that through the valiant efforts of a group of active brothers known as the “FOUNDERS,” who worked in collaboration with the Alumni Advisory Board, the university, and headquarters, we persevered and restored our beloved Psi Psi chapter to good standing with Headquarters and Syracuse University. The chapter house at 737 Comstock will be at almost capacity for the upcoming school year, and we anticipate the recruitment of many new members into our Preparation for Brotherhood program this fall. Words cannot express my excitement to lead our chapter through our much-anticipated Homecoming to campus this year. I invite all brothers to commend the intrepid efforts of everyone who willingly answered the call to restore the charter and the honor of the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi.

In hoc signo vinces,

James Insogna-Donarski '23

Consul

What Happens to My Annual Dues?

The Central New York Alumni Chapter Executive Committee (President **Brad Short**, VP **John Trop**, Treasurer **Mike Yates**, and Secretary **Bill Gerbig**) met recently to discuss this question. We agreed that our overall mission is to promote alumni interaction and involvement with the chapter and grow the size and influence of the alumni chapter. Therefore, our budgeting needs to be done with that goal in mind.

Our largest single expense is with Elevate, formerly Stewart Howe, who manages our database. They are responsible for publishing and sending the *Saltine Sig* and other correspondence as necessary. Providing this service to fraternities and sororities is their specialty, and they have served us well over the years.

The remaining funds are divided between social, scholarship, and “737 Comstock”:

- **Social** – Reconnecting and staying in touch with old friends is probably the

#1 reason that we stay involved and it supports our mission well. We recently decided that dues-paying members will not be charged for Homecoming or **Clam Bake**, and additional events can also be considered, subject to the availability of funds. If you have an event in mind that supports our mission and would like us to consider a contribution to encourage involvement, please contact anyone on the executive committee.

- **Scholarship** – We have contributed to undergraduate scholarships with House Corporation in the past, based primarily on contribution to the undergraduate chapter and need. Going forward, we will consider what the individual has done to promote alumni involvement when awarding scholarships. Along with House Corp, the alumni chapter has encouraged these efforts, and the scholarship allows us to emphasize its

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Psi Psi Officers Fall 2022



**James
Insogna-
Donarski
'23**
Consul



**Aidan
Headrick
'23**
Pro-Consul



**Jordan
Edelstein
'23**
Annotator



**Ian
Spector
'23**
Quaestor



**Zach
Bauer
'23**
Kustos



**Grady
O'Neill
'23**
Magister



**Alex
Kim
'23**
*Recruitment
Chairman*



**Matthew
Catanzariti
'23**
*Risk
Chairman*



**Connor
Tarpey
'23**
Webmaster

House Corp. Report

Over the last two years, we weathered the back-to-back crises of COVID-19 and a vacant property. It will be great to have active members in residence once again. The current plan is for a fall 2022 occupancy of 24 and 22 in the spring 2023 semester. We are in the process of doing the normal summer turnaround work like replacement of carpet, cleaning, and life safety systems inspections. We had a failure of the boilers over the winter and were fortunate to find the next generation hi-efficiency boilers in stock.

We are looking forward to Homecoming on October 1, 2022, at which time we will also hold the Annual Meeting includ-

ing elections. Those who cannot attend in person will be able to log in via Zoom; see the notice enclosed for more information. As always, I need to put in a plug for increasing volunteer support by participating in the Alumni Advisory Board which provides direct support to the chapter operations. If you would like to learn more about how you can participate, please let **John Honis** know via email jwhonis@icloud.com and he will get you up to speed.

In hoc signo vinces,
Hank Suominen '78
President & Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.

Annual Meeting

August 1, 2022

To the Alumni of Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity:

The Annual Meeting of 737 Comstock Avenue Inc. will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. virtually via Zoom:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88119659009>

Meeting ID: 881 1965 9009

Passcode: 092744

Dial In:

[929-436-2866 \(New York, US\)](tel:929-436-2866)

General members are welcome to attend and speak at the meeting. Active members, which 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 the 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
President & Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.
(aka House Corp.)



Psi Psi Consul attends Horizons Huntsman Leadership Summit



James is all in on Sigma Chi and Psi Psi

Psi Psi Consul **James Donarski '23** had the opportunity to attend the Horizons Huntsman Leadership Summit in July. Horizons is a leadership development experience for qualified undergraduate Sigma Chis who wish to improve their understanding of leadership as it relates to personal development, group dynamics, and intentional efforts to make positive change in the world. The program is offered at no cost to the participants thanks to the generous support of the Sigma Chi Foundation, Sigma Chi Canadian Foundation, and the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.



While in Utah for the Huntsman Summit James had the opportunity to connect with alumni brothers Jim Fini '83 and Scott Ward '83 who both live in the Park City area.

The Horizons program was held in an ideal setting (Snowbird, Utah) for outdoor adventure, interactive learning, and inspired reflection. Participants begin their experiences through a series of reflective and thought-provoking questions in the application process, continue learning through pre-session readings, and then immerse themselves in a whole brain learning experience that engages their minds and bodies onsite in Snowbird, Utah. Finally, participants continue their Horizons experience through post-session mentoring by alumni and follow-up electronic leadership lessons and guidance.



Psi Psi Consul James Donarski with Sigma Chi Grand Consul Tim Sanderson

James commented: "Through the generous efforts of the Sigma Chi Learning Institution the start of my Horizons journey provided me with the tools I will need to lead the Psi Psi Chapter through a successful scholastic year. The bonds I forged here at Snowbird I will carry with me throughout my lifetime."

Annual Dues

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importance and reward the initiative in support of our mission.

- **"737"** – We all like to see a well-maintained and equipped chapter house when we visit 737 Comstock Ave. Improvements to the property or amenities that enhance our experi-

ence when we visit are also a good use of your annual dues and support our mission.

The dispersal of funds is not fixed and is based on the best opportunity to invest your contributions in what we feel to be your best interests. We welcome your feedback, input, or involvement in these decisions. If you are interested in serving on the executive committee or holding any of the four offices, please let us know.

Hopefully, this will encourage you to continue with your annual contribution, increase the amount you contribute, or maybe add this to your budget if you have not been making an annual contribution. We appreciate your generosity and want you to know that by contributing, you strengthen the alumni organization and its connection with the undergraduate chapter.

Bill Gerbig '84

Farewell to the Class of 2022

After nearly two years of COVID-19-induced hysteria, the Class of 2022 graduated this past May with some sense of normalcy. The graduating commencements were held in person, Marshall Street was bustling, and 737 Comstock Avenue was active again hosting the graduating seniors and their families. It was an unprecedented period in our history, and despite all the challenges, 33 Psi Psis graduated and will start a new chapter in their lives.

Although the chapter had been suspended for almost two years, the graduating seniors, House Corp, and the Alumni Advisory Board petitioned the university to allow a graduation party following commencement. There were several constraints imposed but it was a small price to pay to reopen the house and congregate one last time before leaving.

Approximately 150 people attended the event; the house looked great and the weather was uncharacteristically good. It was also a great opportunity to get to know the graduating seniors and their families better. Throughout the day several alumni also stopped by, and we all immediately began visiting our old rooms and telling tall 737 tales. It was a great weekend that was only made possible by those who share the common bond and friendship of Sigma Chi.

The graduating seniors planned and paid for the food and refreshments and cleaned up afterward. There was plenty



of good conversation, music, food, and a Wiffle ball game or two. We all had a good time; we will miss these guys. The last two years have been rough on the chapter, brothers, and alumni, but we got through it together.

I am sure everyone who attended this event came away very proud to be affiliated with Sigma Chi, and with each of these young men and their families. I talked to many of the seniors about how important it is to become active alumni for future generations: possibly for one of their own sons one day (my pledge number was 1063. 37 years later, my son Dylan came through as 1963). It was worth the fight

to see them graduate and I believe they will value their affiliation with Sigma Chi for years to come.

As the Class of 2022 moves on to the next stage of their lives, I hope you will all remember the bond that exists between all of us and find a way to give back to Sigma Chi. Each one of you has contributed to the betterment of the chapter, and as alumni, those behind you will be counting on your guidance and support.

Congratulations to the Class of 22 and I hope to see you at Homecoming this fall!

In hoc signo vinces,
John Honis '83

Headquarters

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officer to the next. Chapter Advisor **Cobie Beach** is following in the footsteps of his father **Bill Beach '69** in providing direct support to the chapter on those tasks involving *Headquarters* like recruitment, pledge training, and compliance with ritualistic statutes

governing the conduct of initiation and chapter meetings. There are a number of chapter officer mentoring positions that are not assigned at this time so if you would like to provide support, please let **John Honis** know via email at **jwhonis@icloud.com** and he will get you up to speed.

We are looking forward to getting into

the good work of supporting chapter operations while re-establishing the undergraduate ranks to pre-suspension levels where we were among the strongest fraternities on campus.

In hoc signo vinces,
Hank Suominen '78
President & Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.



Tom Woods White Rose Ceremony

Tom Woods '50 | Germany Front Line 1945



On The Line

I had the honor of leading Sigma Chi's White Rose Ceremony at the burial of our brother **Tom Woods '50** who entered the chapter eternal in December 2021. I followed the Honor Guard playing taps. It's amazing that I knew our consul from 1950 and now am working with our consul from 2022. Tom would be happy about our recent progress.

The White Rose Ceremony is Sigma Chi's only public ritual. Brothers **John Woods '84** (Tom's son), **John Honis '83**, **Geoff Geruso '85**, and **Dylan Honis '22** participated. Tom's family and friends were deeply touched by our tribute.

My introduction to the ceremony follows: **Tom Woods** was proud to be a Sigma Chi. 72 years ago he was consul of the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi at Syracuse University. Tom had the honor and distinction of becoming the 515th initiate in the then 50-year history of the chapter.

30 years and 500 young men later I had the privilege of being initiated into the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi. I'll never forget

that day as I turned and saw the pride and joy on Tom's face as he pinned the White Cross of Sigma Chi over his son John's heart. During the same ceremony my brother John Honis was also initiated. Two years ago, John had the pleasure 40 years and exactly 900 young men later to pin the Sigma Chi badge on his son Dylan. Also joining us is brother Geoff Geruso.

For the next 41 years after my initiation, whenever I saw Tom, he always greeted me with our public Sigma Chi handshake.

"His loyalty was grounded in the faith that fraternalism stands finally for better citizenship, for a more noble civilization, and for the higher ideals of life in its service to man and reverence to God."

Tom was proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially at Psi Psi. May he rest in peace.

So mote it be.

Ted Collins '84
Saltine Sig Editor
Alumni Advisory Board



You crawl from your sack with grunt and groan
For your Buddy has done his tour
The night noises whisper in a muffled tone
And there's rain and cold to endure,

As you settle down with your feet on a rock
The water is seeping in
You feel for your rifle to unsnap the lock
And a click is just like a din,

You stir with suspicion at an unknown whirl
And your hand is on a grenade
You hope against fate it's the wind in a fir
How long for the darkness to fade?

No second sound to disturb your ear
But the visions you see are a fright
You wait in vain for Jerry to appear
Hope he, too, has his watch in the night,

But suddenly you start as a rifle cracks
And a burp gun begins to spit
The chills begin to crawl up your back
It must be the flank that's hit,

You mumble a prayer along with a curse
The night holds secret its gore
Except for the 'plunk' and mortar shell bursts
The darkness is silent once more,

And so you gather a bitter hate
You loathe the bloody grind
Rear echelon scoffs at your cynical state
You're a 'doughboy' that's holding the line,

Your thoughts slide away in the midnight hush
To things that could be at home
You gaze blankly ahead at the rustling brush
Breathe a prayer that you dream not alone,

With a weary sigh you rouse your mate
He answers with a growl and a curse
Drags himself out at a snail-like rate
And the night rolls on like a hearse.

by **Thomas Earl Woods**

*Tom wrote this from a fox hole on the front line.
He was 20 years old at the time.*



PSI PSI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

GIVING YEAR: JULY 1, 2021, TO JULY 30, 2022

JORDAN STANDARD SOCIETY (\$500 OR MORE)

Daniel H. Gelman '83	Adam M. Hildebrand '80	Paul W. LoVullo '85	William P. Rhudy III '78	Theodore F. Spall Jr. '69
William S. Gerbig '84	John W. Honis '83	Brian S. MacConnell '82	Thomas J. Simeone '86	Mark C. Tinker '73
	Robert W. Lord '85	Willard Todd Parker Jr. '84		

BALFOUR SOCIETY (\$250-\$499)

James L. Bersani '80	Robert M. Curran '54	Harold B. Gilbert '77	Frederick J. Norfolk Jr. '89	John A. Scheler '94
John A. Bersani '79	Christopher H. Dowd '12	Peter E. Hennigan '79	Glenn S. Nunnamaker '78	Henry C. Suominen Jr. '78
David K. Birnbaum '85	James W. Fini '83	Thomas J. Johnston III '80	Dennis J. O'Brien '72	Christopher T. Tarro '92
Bruce B. Braun '64	Geoff D. Geruso '85	Timothy J. Johnston '83	David W. Pietrowski '85	Matt Teitelbaum '13

CONSUL'S SOCIETY (\$100-\$249)

Paul L. Artruc '85	Gianfranco P. Culotta '94	Francis M. Koziuk '71	Stephen A. Oliva Jr. '91	Gregory J. Timmons '95
Scott W. Baird '85	Michael T. Cummings '91	Michael Ladwig '86	David R. Poole '70	John V. Trop '84
William E. Beach '69	Paul A. Curtis '74	Joseph D. Lane '85	Neil A. Roth '81	Edward B. Turetzky '78
Alan S. Bishop '82	Joseph D'Eramo '12	James J. LaVine '52	Kip A. Sanford '88	Bradley H. Waller '84
Alan W. Bradt '62	Anthony P. George '85	Jason A. McGrath '95	Anthony A. Scarpino Jr. '76	Scott S. Ward '83
Judd A. Caplain '82	Michael P. Hale '96	John M. Miller '82	Douglas D. Sedgwick '80	Michael D. Yates '82
John C. Charters '80	Stephen F. Hartman '73	William C. Munger '75	Brad J. Short '82	Scott E. Ziegler '82
Edward G. Collins '84	R. Michael Kimber '89	Paul E. Norcross '74	Constantine Dean Skamas '87	
	Chester R. Klimek '75	Sean P. O'Connor '92	Eric R. Southard '81	

CONTRIBUTORS (UP TO \$99)

Robert H. Bathrick '64	Robert W. English '70	Gregg R. Lawler '83	Robert F. McMeekin '56	Michael R. Stevens '66
Chad C. Bollweg '93	Eric M. Green '90	Ramsey G. Ludington '48	J. Philip Oldham '66	Stephen C. Tiches '91
J. Theodore Cochrane Jr. '71	Kieran M. Kennedy '87	David T. Lyon '69	Christopher J. Scobell '06	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Psi Psi Alumni Send Their News



Left to Right: Tom Dominici, Glenn Nunnemaker, Butch Gilbert, and Tom Ansel.



Left to Right: Tom Dominici, Dorian LoPinto, Dave Anderson, Dave Castle, and Jeff Hoffman.

Glendon Bibbins '58: Sigma Chi is a great fraternity, maybe the best. When I pledged Sigma Chi at Syracuse, we had a terrific house in a great location. The location was too good because when I came back from summer vacation, I learned that the university had taken over our house for the university. They gave us a piece of junk as a substitute. My fellow brothers and I spent the rest of our time at Syracuse living in an attic near Marshall Street.

Alan Bradt '62: My graduation was in 1961 and my initiation in 1962, which was the first time Psi Psi was reinstated at Syracuse.

Paul Curtis '74: All is good. Back on the tennis courts, M & A is booming, and my experimental forest is growing. Oh yeah, and the trout are biting.

Butch Gilbert '77: Here are some pictures from my era (see photos above).

Psi Psi is Back!

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adhering to it even if repeated failures ensue. Sisu entails an element of grim stress management."

Now the real work begins. I'm encouraged by the energy of the remaining 14 undergrads. Note that due to COVID-19, the house closing, and suspension they have little to no experience in running a fraternity. Hence the call out to younger alumni to help mentor them. They are looking forward to the next rush/pledge recruiting period this fall. Our consul attended the Huntsman Summit and we have officers attending the Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop in August. We mutually have an opportunity to set the right course for Psi Psi into the future.

We need your help, particularly from brothers who graduated after 2008. Most of the alumni active in this process are in

their 60s. Without support and involvement from those younger, our future will be challenging at best.

We have had an uptick in alumni donations; thank you! We respectfully ask for more of you to donate. Donations have remained static, but our costs are increasing. With the house open again we have plans for Homecoming and Clam Bake. The higher quality *Saltine Sig* is more expensive, and we don't want to return to lower quality or limit distribution.

We had four brothers (see above) respond to request for stories and pics. Thank you! I encourage all to send pictures and/or tell us a story of how Sigma Chi has impacted you. Entertain us! You can send them to me at tedcollins1@gmail.com.

In hoc signo vinces,
Ted Collins '84
Saltine Sig Editor
Alumni Advisory Board

Chapter Eternal

Carl Bauer '51

December 15, 2021

Robert Schultz '76

December 25, 2020

Thomas Woods '50

December 28, 2021

Follow Us

Follow the undergraduate chapter online at:

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Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity

Twitter: @sigmachisu

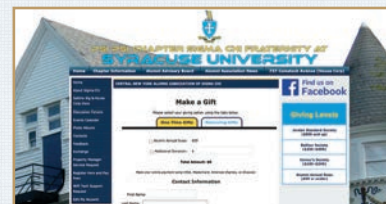
Instagram: @sigmachisu

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Visit our website at: www.psipsi.org

Check Out Our New Online Giving Page



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