

The SALTINE SIG



PSI PSI RECAP

Our brotherhood is strong. The chapter has 69 undergraduates. Spring '25 resulted in a successful rush of 26 new brothers and record-breaking fundraising for Derby Days. We continue the Psi Psi tradition of great undergraduate leadership and undergrads have engaged with Sigma Chi International training, Grand Chapter, and Horizons. Most importantly, they are indeed worthy brothers exhibiting good character and financial accountability. This year, the focus is on winning the Peterson Significant Chapter honor.



Spring '25 initiation.

Alumni interest and participation have been on the rise. We had the best-attended Homecoming in a decade last fall. We encourage all of you to join us on October 18 for Homecoming and the football game vs. Pitt. I'm encouraged that many graduates from the past five years plan to attend. We also had a good alumni turnout in March for the celebration held at SU's Lubin House in NYC. Thank you to all dues-paying alumni; we have seen an increase, which is greatly appreciated.

Hank's stewardship of 737 Comstock Avenue continues to be prudent and comprehensive. We have had good occupancy,

which is critical to our financial survival. We continue to be wary and vigilant with Syracuse University. Currently, freshmen must live in campus housing, sophomores must apply for exemptions to live in a Greek house, many juniors are opting for a semester abroad, and the trend has been for seniors to live in apartments. With new dorms being built, SU's desire to fill beds and our need to have sophomores live in are going to be in conflict. We would welcome you joining our effort to address this concern with SU and other Greek organizations.

More alumni are participating in our Alumni Advisory Board, and we need new volunteers to join House Corp. and the Alumni Association. It's not that much work and it is very rewarding. In summary, while the Psi Psi Chapter is doing well, we cannot be complacent.

Ted Collins '84
Alumni Advisory Board
Saltine Sig Editor
tedcollins1@gmail.com



HOUSE CORP REPORT: SUMMER 2025

We started out with only one project planned for the summer 2025 turnaround: the replacement of the original domestic water service line and the addition of a drywell to ensure the basement subdrain fully discharges. We then added a few items like repointing the front steps; replacing all CCTV devices; purchasing new couches and lounge chairs; replacing about six bedroom doors and doing major repairs on a few more; and refinishing the first-floor oak flooring. And that is on top of house-wide cleaning, painting, blind replacement, bedroom turnaround (paint and ceiling tiles), carpet steam cleaning; laundry equipment refurbishment, and groundskeeping. We also got all of the life safety testing done so we are ready for inspections by the City of Syracuse Fire Department. Overall, we made progress improving the property post-graduation weekend, so that was a silver lining to all the work done by our property management team. Once again, thanks to Steve Oliva for pitching in with some of the heavy lifting trade work and

thanks to Doug Sedgwick for giving us very competitive pricing on the furniture replacements.

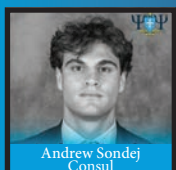
SU Ostrom Avenue Dorm Project Update

The SU Ostrom Avenue dorm project is advancing with site work, building the 20-foot-high retaining wall at our property line. After the administration ended discussions with the Comstock Greek Alliance to secure an access agreement in exchange for a permanent exemption for sophomore housing waivers, we are no doubt going to face an occupancy issue if only juniors and seniors can live in starting in the fall of 2027 when the dorms are expected to be occupied. I welcome feedback on what to do given that many juniors go abroad in the spring and seniors typically reside in off-campus housing. My current thought is to migrate to a singles-only occupancy where the quality of the rooms gets upgraded with queen-sized beds,

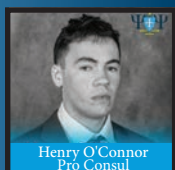
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PSI PSI OFFICERS



Andrew Sondej
Consul



Henry O'Connor
Pro Consul



Jack Cohen
Annotator



Nate Margolin
Quaestor



John Costa
Magister



Eddie Garcia
Risk Manager



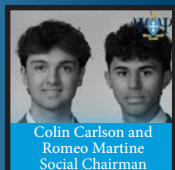
Gavin Johnston
House Manager



Pierce Honeyman
Recruitment Chairman



Will Avon
Philanthropy Chairman



Colin Carlson and
Romeo Martine
Social Chairman



PSI PSI OF SIGMA CHI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

August 10, 2025

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 18, 2025, at 10:00 am at the chapter house and virtually via Teams. The Teams link will be posted on the 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 the election of the Board of Directors. There will be a House Corporation meeting following the annual meeting at which officers will be elected.

Hank Suominen '78

President and Treasurer

Psi Psi 1974, SU 1978

737 Comstock Avenue Inc.

(aka House Corp.)

hank@suomi33.com

617-312-6800



CONSUL MESSAGE

The Psi Psi Chapter finished the 2024–2025 school year in excellent fashion. We initiated 26 new brothers in the spring semester and we are very excited to see what they contribute to the house. Sig-fil-Aphi 2025 was yet another successful philanthropy leading up to Derby Days. With the sorority Alpha Phi, we sold food from Chick-fil-A to raise money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation and Alpha Phi Foundation. Derby Days was once again a great success, as we broke our own Syracuse University record with \$157,087 raised for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation in just five days. Kappa Kappa Gamma repeated as this year's sorority winner, raising \$36,235 during the competition. I want to give a special shoutout to our now-graduated Brothers Chris Biniaris and Max Calderon, who were this year's Derby Days Chairmen.

This summer, I had the privilege of going on multiple Sigma Chi trips, all of which were incredible experiences. I started at the

Horizons Leadership Summit Session 1, at the Snowbird Resort in Utah. It exceeded all my expectations and provided me with invaluable life skills to improve my leadership as Consul of the Psi Psi Chapter and beyond. Following that, I attended the 85th Grand Chapter in Denver, Colorado. It was great to meet brothers from other chapters across North America, and I had the privilege to see Hank Suominen, our House Corporation President, get inducted into the Order of Constantine. Congratulations, Hank! Following that, for the second year in a row, I attended the Huntsman Retreat of Excellence (HROe) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Brothers Eddie Garcia and Nate Margolin also went to the HROe this summer. It was a terrific experience to celebrate our chapter's achievements, as well as the achievement of Sigma Chi as a whole, exceeding \$5 million raised for the Huntsman

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HOUSE CORP

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perhaps air conditioning on the third floor, and bathroom renovations (which will have to be done one way or another). While the cost of occupancy per person would go up, the quality of living space would improve despite the loss of camaraderie that comes with roommates. In the meantime, we will expand the Comstock Greek Alliance into a much larger SU Greek Housing Alliance to organize a larger constituency to push back on SU when the time comes. If you would like to participate in that effort, we can use someone to represent our interests.

Grand Chapter 2025

I was a first-time attendee of Sigma Chi Fraternity's Grand Chapter this year in Aurora, Colorado. Grand Chapter is the gathering of undergraduates who conduct the official business of the corporation regarding a variety of important tasks like updating the bylaws. It is also an opportunity for alumni, like me, to be recognized for their service to the Fraternity with the Order of Constantine, or for life time accomplishments with the Significant Sig awards. I was honored to be among those who have given back so much to the Fraternity. It was noteworthy that my service has been almost exclusively at the chapter level, whereas many were recognized for their work at summer workshops, as Grand Praetors, and their HQ roles. There is nothing better than giving back so future generations of Sigs will have the experience that includes so many lifelong friendships that originate from having the common bond of Sigma Chi.



Hank Suominen receives the Order of Constantine at Grand Chapter.



Left: Order of Constantine members from all years. Right: Order of Constantine Award.



At the closing dinner, I just happened to be seated next to one of the members of the 2013 Membership Review Team. For me, it was an awkward moment at best. I took the liberty of bringing up how damaging the HQ decision was to have banned pre-2013 alumni from the chapter house for several years. While it was not an easy discussion to have, I felt it was important to address how the ban was impacting alumni participation from that era even now, 12 years later. Before our discussion got too heated, we concluded by simply agreeing that we disagreed. With that conversation in mind, I want to reiterate to the pre-2013 era alumni that this was a HQ decision, not one made by alumni or House Corp. While

I cannot apologize on behalf of HQ, I can reaffirm that we were disappointed when that provision was handed down and were left with enforcing the "visit with only with permission of the Grand Praetor," which several of you did without issue. Thankfully, we got through that dark cloud and survived COVID, after which we were down to just seven actives to now where we have an active member roster of 69. We have many reasons to have comfort in the current state of the chapter, Alumni Association, and House Corp.

Hank Suominen '78

President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.
(aka House Corp.)

CONSUL MESSAGE

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Cancer Foundation in the 2024–2025 school year. I've now had the privilege to visit the Huntsman Cancer Institute three times; it is truly a miraculous place. That experience further motivates me to push the Psi Psi Chapter to continue to grow for next year's Derby Days and beyond.

Other brothers also had Sigma Chi travels this summer. Nate Margolin attended the Horizons Leadership Summit Session 4, and Matthias Sarnblad and Ben Goodman attended the Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop. For more frequent chapter updates, follow @sigmachisu on Instagram.

As always, I'm very proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially a Psi Psi.

Andrew Sondej
Consul



Andrew Sondej, Nate Margolin, and Ed-die Garcia representing Psi Psi Chapter at the Huntsmen Retreat of Excellence.



Psi Psi 150K Club at the Huntsmen Retreat of Excellence.

