

The SALTINE SIG



KEEPING PSI PSI STRONG

All should be happy to know that the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi is healthy. The undergraduate chapter is full of young men of good character. This spring of 2026, there are 25 pledges (at least one legacy) and 737 will be at full occupancy for the fall 2026 semester. The chapter is respected on campus by other Greeks and by Sigma Chi headquarters. They are having fun and maintaining a great GPA.



"Shining House on the Hill".

This positive news is particularly gratifying to the group of Psi Psi alumni who have supported the chapter for the past seven years. In that time, the chapter overcame COVID, SU suspension, charter surrender, and an antilegacy bias. Being an active volunteer has been very rewarding, not only working with the younger generation but with one another.

The current group of mid-'80s alumni sort of volunteered as a group. We had lived together at 737 and knew we could party and vacation together, but working together on a common cause has proven enlightening. I learned about John Honis's work ethic and leadership skills, while witnessing Bill Gerbig's thoughtfulness and wisdom. Jim Fini brought fresh perspectives. Hopefully, they learned that my steadfast optimism was justified. A group of men with different temperaments, talents and convictions.

This experience is not unique; in fact, it is the glue that has allowed Psi Psi to survive and to thrive for over 120 years. Looking back, it is rare that an individual decides to get involved; it is most common that a group of brothers who bonded as young Psi Psi's decide, as a group, that it's their time to carry the torch for a while.

I became close to Tom Woods (Consul 1950), and Bob Curran (Consul 1954). They shared how a group of WW2 vets helped guide the chapter through the 1950s and '60s. Another group from the 1960s, including Bill Beach, Frank Conlon, Ted Spall, and Phil Oldham, took their turn getting Psi Psi through the end of the century.

A group of close friends and brothers from the 1970s, including Hank Suominen, John Bersani, John Charters, Steve Oliva (from MuMu WVU) and others, stepped up and helped us get back on campus in the 21st century and advised the chapter for many years. A group of early '80s brothers, including Mike Yates and Brad Short, have kept the Alumni Association alive for decades.

So, my group of mid-'80s brothers have simply taken their turn to keep this remarkable brotherhood going. It's truly satisfying to see young men experiencing the bonds of Psi Psi and Sigma Chi here in 2026.

The experience is more valuable now than ever before: young men working together, gaining leadership experience, learning how to agree to disagree, and gaining life-long friendships. It's a unique brotherhood we have. It's been a privilege to be a part of.

Psi Psi will always face challenges. Current ones include SU's dorm build out and related Greek exemptions from SU housing requirements.

We also face major house physical upgrades. We have faced adversity for over 120 years. Without new younger volunteers, we won't be able to overcome current and future obstacles. I've been encouraged by conversations with Chris Dowd '12 and the 2020s brothers from Saratoga gatherings.

I've learned that becoming active in support of the chapter is not time consuming. Some join occasional calls; others tackle a task or initiative. On average, we might spend an hour or two per month (if available) syncing with the undergrads and whatever else is required at the time. We have flexibly and cooperatively taken different initiatives that matched our interest and experience. We certainly had some crisis times where a concentrated effort was required, but in general, things have flowed smoothly. Most of the house operations and finances have been automated or outsourced and so are less likely to get stuck in the muddy details of day-to-day operations.

Read on in this issue to learn about some of Psi Psi's priorities, discuss with your era brothers, and jump on in! The timing is great since the current group is around to help educate and mentor. It is truly rewarding; remember that the bond is reciprocal.

This rich heritage is rare in society today. Sigma Chi's vision is to inspire and to empower brothers to positively impact the world. Sigma Chi's mission is to foster a brotherhood of transformational leaders who are committed to friendship, justice, and learning. Psi Psi's tend to embrace this with gratitude, a Psi Psi swagger, and enough humor to keep our spirit of youth alive.

Proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially a Psi Psi.

Ted Collins '84

Alumni Advisory Board

Saltine Sig Editor

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HOUSE CORP REPORT: 2026

We had an inspection of the property undertaken by headquarters Constantine Housing Initiative (CHI) this past fall, which served to confirm the issues we are managing need to be addressed over the long term: overall building envelope consisting of roof, windows and doors, siding with a few modifications to the rear entry, basement and south egress. A few other issues were raised that we promptly took care of like patching the basement floor, painting the walls of the main basement area at the bottom of the stairs and correcting a few life safety devices. The prop storage room, also used for painting digits, was left as is. Over winter break we refinished the hardwood flooring on the first floor. There is more that needs to be done.

Reunion Ideas

For any groups that want to have a reunion, the Chapter House can be made available to use as a base for your event from mid-June to mid-August. The Chapter House and all bedrooms will be ready for the fall semester so for those who want to stay at 737 Comstock you will need to bring a pillow, linens, and a fan. To set this up, I need a group leader to take responsibility for the weekend. I will assist in finding a local chef to prepare a group dinner and give you an Instacart list for ordering provisions from Wegmans, who will deliver to the house. You will need to make arrangement with our property manager for post-event clean up. During past events we have played golf at Green Lakes State Park and Turning Stone on three awesome courses. Non-golfers have headed to the Finger Lake wine region for wine tastings. And there is plenty of time to catch up with your brothers.

Hank Suominen '78'

President 737 Comstock Inc (House Corp)

THANK YOU, BROTHER PHIL OLDHAM!



Phil Oldham '76 has announced his retirement from our Psi Psi House Corporation. Phil has been the long-time Psi Psi House Corporation vice president and has also been awarded the Outstanding Alumni Chapter Officer of the Year for his tenure as president of the NYC Sigma Chi alumni chapter. Phil was honored with the Seven Lights Alumni Award in 2021.

Phil shared a few years ago "Seeing Psi Psi leadership step up to build our chapter has been a start. Each of us needs to understand and experience that being a Psi Psi and Sigma Chi is a lifelong advantage and day by day effort."

I'm sure we'll see Phil at future homecomings, and I know he'll be supporting and rooting for the Psi Psi Chapter for many years. Phil, thank you from all of us. for your unwavering support. You have been fighting the good fight for decades!

ORANGE CENTRAL HOMECOMING

Thank you to everyone who joined us on campus for a wonderful Orange Central Homecoming 2025! More than 1,000 alumni, students, and friends enjoyed celebrating what it means to be Orange. Our 2026 Homecoming weekend will be Nov. 6-8 2026 when the Orange host Clemson. Until then, check out the photos from memorable 2025. We'll look forward to seeing you in November.

HOUSE CORP OFFICERS

Term Ends 2028

Hank Suominen '78

President & Treasurer

Vacant

Vice President

John Bersani '79

Chris Dowd '12

Term Ends 2026

Bill Beach '69

Past President

Paul Artruc '84

Dante Sesti '19

Hunter Viscarello '16

Joe D'Eramo '16

Term Ends 2027

Connor Wilson '15

Steve Oliva '91

Brad Short '82

Alumni Association President

Bill Gerbig '84

Secretary

ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

John Honis '83

Jim Fini '83

Bob Quackenboss '87

Phi Chapter Lafayette College

Ted Collins '84

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP: Psi Psi Initiatives

SU Greek Alumni Alliance: We need an advocacy group of Greek alumni to support initiatives and matters of critical importance to Greeks campus wide. We need volunteers to take leadership with the existing Comstock Greek Alumni Alliance to build an overall SU Greek Alumni Alliance. The most critical issue is sophomore housing exemptions from their two-year dorm commitment to allow freshman spring initiates to live in the chapter house in their sophomore year. We need Psi Psi leadership to help unify the Greeks and to articulate the value of the Greek system to a Syracuse University that will be trying to maximize dorm income, which puts our houses and chapters at existential risk. We have gathered alumni contact information from other fraternities and sororities and now need to put energy behind this effort.

A related effort should leverage our existing Greek cooperative, which shares things like snow plowing and property management, to rejoin SU's food contracts to leverage better discounts for our board club.

Capital Projects: We need volunteers with property management and construction experience to oversee the ten-year capital-improvements planning process and the summer turnaround effort. The heavy lifting will be the building envelop project, for which we have a permit set of plans prepared by QPK. Strategic discussions on long-term options should also continue.

Alumni Engagement: We need to increase the number of alumni who pay annual dues to be a member in good standing. We have about 1,400 active members: about 75% with good mailing addresses and about half with good e-mail addresses. The Psi Psi Facebook group has around 400. Only a hundred or so pay annual dues. Even small donations inform us that you're out there and care. We can leverage additional funds to put on social gatherings and to find better ways to enjoy fellowship with each other. This ties into our communications initiative.

Homecomings and Reunions: We need volunteers to liaison with the chapter for Homecoming and the annual meeting. This role needs to be an advocate for generating interest in reunions through the "era captain" approach.

Communications, Social Media, & Website

Are you getting bored of Ted Collins going blah, blah, blah twice a year in an e-mailed PDF or physical mailing of The Salting Sig? We are... We believe The Saltine Sig should continue and would benefit by more stories and pics from our alumni. It's also our "paper of record" for annual meeting notices. However, it's stale in this day and age. Psi Psi alumni deserve more modern platforms and ways of staying in touch and soliciting engagement. A great opportunity is there for Instagram, Google Groups, X, etc. We'd like to see volunteers who can help us build a more modern communications strategy and approach using something beyond e-mail and the US postal service.

The Psi Psi (<https://psipsi.org>) website has been improved, but alumni have not been active in posting photos from social gatherings, road trips, and all the fun everybody is having getting together with their Psi Psi brothers. I'm optimistic that Psi Psi alumni engagement and shared laughter will expand when we reach brothers where, how, and when they prefer.



Left to right: Ted Collins '84, Brad Short '82, John Honis '83, Bill Gerbig '84

First Steps in Rebuilding the Bridge to All Mid-'90s and Post-2008 Psi Psis:

Like most families there will be disagreements... and there may even be fights. But ultimately the goal of any family, or in this case a brotherhood, is to eventually let go of the past and come together as we look to the future.

Many of us have long since moved on from our college days and are now at pivotal inflection points in our careers, building our futures, and contemplating how/if we will be supporting families. It is not lost on me that volunteering for and donating to (i) The Psi Psi Alumni Association and (ii) the Alumni Advisory Board is understandably low on the priority list for most.

All that said, it is becoming inexorably clear that we must begin the small, but symbolic, steps of bringing brothers back into the fold. By recognizing the hurt that many mid-1990s and post-2008 Psi Psis feel from how situations were handled in the past, and letting go of blame on all sides, we can begin to address the looming cliff of the mid-80's brothers who will eventually need to pass the torch. That void will be catastrophic if no one speaks up now to mobilize action.

On behalf of the brotherhood,
Christopher Dowd '12
Billy Butler '10



Christopher Dowd
Class of 2012

As a Psi Psi brother who entered the chapter in fall 2010, I benefited tremendously from the immense amount of work that went into the return to 737 Comstock Avenue. For me personally it was the efforts of those brothers who came before me at 781 Ostrom Avenue that I thank for my becoming a Psi Psi. It was their dogged persistence to recolonize, and their infectious energy and sense of accomplishment in getting back on campus that ultimately drew me in.

In my life I have had some true tests of faith thrown my way, but it has never ceased to amaze me how the friendships I have developed here have surpassed my wildest expectations in providing a rock-solid foundation with which to ultimately recover.

In all honesty, I, like many of you, don't necessarily know the current undergrads, and I have felt some of the same slights you may have over the years. But I am committed to maintaining the institution of Psi Psi and paying it forward in the hope that it can provide the magnitude of support I found in the system right when I needed it most.

If you are reading this letter and would like to slowly begin easing back into the fold, please email me with your (i) cell phone and (ii) mailing address to dowd.christopher6@gmail.com and I will begin personally compiling a list of those who are interested in doing more.

Christopher Dowd '12

DERBY DAYS 2026

Three years ago, in 2023, we brought Derby Days back to campus. Since then, we have broken Syracuse University's single organization fundraising record three different times, broken our previous year's total three different times, and raised a combined total of over \$300,000. Last year, we raised just over \$157,000 and ranked 5th nationally among all chapters.

We plan to keep every bit of momentum rolling for this year and have set a goal of \$175,000, which is easily achievable with the reach that our incredible alumni network has.

With the 2026 Winter Olympics, we want to embrace both the Olympic spirit and Syracuse's cold weather to introduce this year's theme: "The 2026 Derby Days Chi-Lympics!"

To donate, please visit our link:

<https://hope.huntsmancancer.org/gentoend/syracuse-university>

Something new and exciting that we are bringing to life this year is the first-ever Derby Days Alumni Call-A-Thon. This event will engage the entire Syracuse Greek Life community to connect with all the people who have come before us. We invite you, the alumni, to be a part of our success and the generation to end cancer. We have had such amazing involvement from all our alumni in the past, and we want to get you even closer to the action. We look forward to sharing more details as we get closer to the event, so keep your ringers on when the time comes!

I am extremely proud to represent our chapter and keep building on all the success we have had in the past. Cancer, in one way or another, has affected so many of our lives, and we are grateful to have a community that supports our goals.

Let's shatter our own record again and put Psi Psi even more on the map!

If anyone has any questions or wants to get involved, don't hesitate to reach out to jack.cohen75@gmail.com

IHSV,
Jack Cohen '26
Derby Days Chair



CONSUL MESSAGE

This past fall 2025 semester was one to remember back at 737 Comstock Avenue. The Psi Psi Chapter was grateful to initiate six new brothers, and we have a 25-man pledge class this spring 2026.

The brotherhood made its return to Montreal for a formal in early October, which was an amazing weekend experience. We also made our way back to Catherine Valley Winery for an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon with our sisters in Kappa Kappa Gamma. Overall, the fall semester created many memories and strengthened our friendships. The Psi Psi Chapter is growing stronger than ever.

Philanthropically, the fall semester included the first-ever KKGolf event, co-hosted with our neighbors in Kappa Kappa Gamma. Alpha Phi was crowned the winner on the sorority side, and the Psi Psi Chapter was victorious on the fraternity side.

The event was a great time for all who participated and gave us a strong kickstart to our Derby Days fundraising for the spring. The brotherhood also debuted its first-ever blood drive with our friends at Delta Gamma, reaching the maximum number of donations possible. This was a massive success benefiting the American Red Cross. For the spring 2026 semester, we have our annual Sig-Fil-Aphi philanthropy event with Alpha Phi, led by our philanthropy chairman, John Mahler. Following this, we are excited for our very own Derby Days week, orchestrated by our senior brother, Jack Cohen. For more information on this year's Derby Days, please see Jack's segment of The Saltine Sig, filled with this year's events and aspirations. I am beyond blessed and grateful to have been elected to represent such an amazing and accomplished group of men, and I am excited for the future of the Psi Psi Chapter and what's to come. Proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially a Psi Psi.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Johnathan Bunnell '27



PSI PSI OFFICERS



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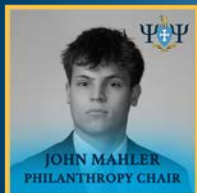
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ALUMNI NEWS

Kenneth R. Sparks '56: I think most of my classmates have graduated to the chapter Eternal, but I seem to be doing fine. Still writing music and performing in Virginia and Florida (during the first four months of the year). So happy to see the chapter doing well.

Jeffrey F. Parker '72: The golf match between the class of '72 v '73 was renewed in the fall of 2024. It was the 7th annual clash with the class of '72 reestablishing its dominance with a 3-2 match victory over class of '73 Rich Parisi and Doug "Mugger" Munsell. The win vaulted the class of '72: Jim Grosso and Jeff Parker back into the overall lead with three wins, two loses, and two ties. The eighth annual tourney will take place in Syracuse in late September. The trophy, the legendary "Stagamone Squirter", sits proudly on the mantel in the dens of both Grosso and Parker. We expect it to remain there for years to come.

Douglas P. Munsell '73: In last fall's annual golf tournament, the class of '73 (Parisi and Munsell) decided our four consecutive retentions of the trophy had been sufficient. Thus, in a show of the famous Sigma Chi etiquette, we allowed the class of '72 (Parker and Grosso) to claim a heretofore elusive victory. Congratulations, Jeff and Jim! September is coming soon, and we are not feeling as gracious this time around! In hoc -

Paul A. Curtis '74: Still running CMJ CPA Firm, 400 acre experimental forest in the Adirondacks and Panther Mountain Traders in Chestertown. Stop in and check out all the Adirondack craftsmen. Fishing, hunting and relaxing on Valentine Lake with three sons and three grandsons.

James L. Bersani '80: I have been enjoying retirement the past several years. I was delighted to gather together in Florida this past winter with fellow Psi Psis Danny Davidson '80, Scott Bounty '81, Judd Caplain '82, Brian MacConnell '82 and Ron Danis '82. It was like turning the clock back to spring break from many decades ago! Lots of laughs. The bonds of brotherhood/friendships from Sigma Chi are everlasting.

Michael D. Yates '82: Vanessa and I are enjoying our granddaughter Charlotte Jane.

Michael Kimber '89: My wife Sherri and I are moving from northern New York to Easley, South Carolina and will visit our lake house in New York during the summer. We hope to host a Syracuse/Clemson game gathering in the near future as we are about 30 minutes from Clemson.

CHAPTER ETERNAL



Saddened to see the passing of Bob English '70. All honor to his name. Bob lived a mile down the street from me in Saratoga Springs. We'd get together at least once a year over pints at the Parting Glass Irish Pub and trade Psi Psi stories.

Bob was proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially a Psi Psi. Bob paid his dues every year for decades. Bob had a notable career in tv production, including a key role broadcasting the 1980 Olympic Games in Lake Placid.

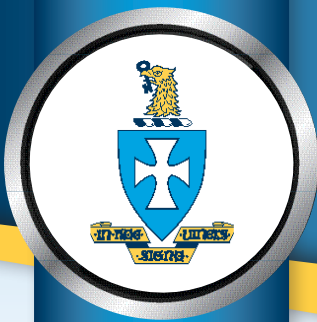
www.flynnbrosinc.com/obituaries/robert-english-2026

Ted Collins '84



Our Sigma Chi Brother John L. "Duke" Metroka passed away on May 18, 2024. Duke became a Psi Psi Sigma Chi in the fall pledge class of 1974. As an undergraduate, Duke loved athletics and will always be remembered for his hilarious sense of humor and infectious laughter. He was also renown for his fast-paced work ethic. In fact, I distinctly remember that he held the record for the most Dominoes Pizza delivered in one night: 53! After graduation, he moved to Atlanta and worked in a company founded by Psi Psi Sigma Chi Billy Peskin. But eventually, he returned to the Auburn, New York, area, where he ran a house-painting business. Everyone who knew Duke knew that he had many challenges in his life, but I'll choose to remember him as a true friend and a life-long Sigma Chi brother. The White Cross of Sigma Chi has gained new luster by his life. ALL HONOR TO HIS NAME!

www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/auburnpub/name/john-metroka-obituary



PSI PSI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI 2025–2026 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Gifts reflected from
July 1, 2025,
through
February 2, 2026.

Thank you to all the brothers listed below, who contributed to the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi at Syracuse University. If you have any questions about a donation, please contact us at alumnirecords@psipsi.org.

JORDAN STANDARD SOCIETY (\$500 or more)

James L. Bersani '80	Daniel H. Gelman '83	Glenn S. Nunnamaker '78
Warren E. Boin Jr. '76	Adam M. Hildebrand '80	David W. Pietrowski '85
Bruce B. Braun '64	John W. Honis '83	Thomas J. Simeone '86
Robert T. Quackenboss '87	Paul W. LoVullo '85'	Theodore F. Spall Jr. '69
James W. Fini '83		

BALFOUR SOCIETY (\$250 to \$499)

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William S. Gerbig '84	Andrew P. Loiacono '93	

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

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Michael Michael Kimber '89	Dante C. Sesti '18	Chauncy C. Young '73
Francis M. Koziuk '71		

CONTRIBUTORS

Daniel T. Donohue '72
Gregory A. Sozek '81
Dylan Honis '21

Thank You for Your Support

<https://psipsi.org/ways-to-give/annual-alumni-dues>

**denotes deceased*