

The SALTINE SIG



House Corp President Shares House Updates

Summer 2013 House Preparations

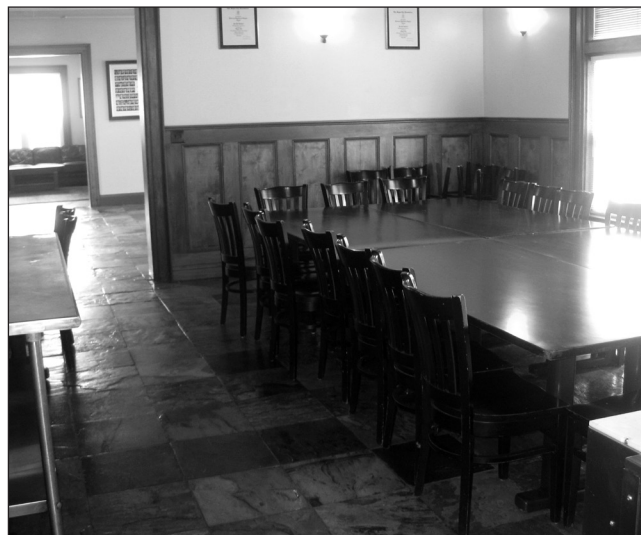
The work to prepare for the school year keeps the house staff busy all summer. Led by House Corp Property Manager Rich Redhead and his wife, Debbie, all "the normal work" was done, like clearing and cleaning rooms house wide. On a rotational basis, rooms are painted and carpets are replaced. This year we employed undergraduates Luke Walsh and Pat McGowan, who did some of the heavy lifting and some of the tedious-but-extensive staple removal work before we cleaned and repaint-

ed all common area walls. We steam-cleaned carpets and furniture, scrubbed, and refinished all hardwood floors with Tung oil until they shined. The foyer and dining-room slate floors were worked over to repair any loose tiles before re-sealing. The exterior work included some siding replacement and re-painting, roof inspection, and some work on the yard. This summer, with the support of alumni donations, we undertook the "gut to frame" rehab of the basement ritual closet. This project will serve as the template for getting a couple of basement

rooms done each year. We also have the original pool table in storage awaiting refurbishment. It would be nice to have the Pool Room back in service one of these days. We also installed closed-circuit camera monitors to cover the exterior perimeter of the house and did some upgrades to the security system itself. We are current with all of our City of Syracuse inspections.

Fall 2013 Update

We have the house in excellent
(continued on page four)



Psi Psi Chapter's Future Is Bright

Brothers,

Below is something I wrote up to give you all a look into our recent trip to BLTW at Purdue. Undergraduate brothers in attendance included Consul Griffin Dottle, Magister Ken Brophy, Recruitment Chair Pat Flanagan, Tribune Tom McCarthy, Social Chair Connor Wilson, Bryson Walker, and me.

At the 2013 Balfour Leadership Training Workshop at Purdue University, our chapter was placed on the Revitalization Path to focus on revamping our pledge process and restoring the Sigma Chi ritual in Psi Psi. Our workshop facilitator was Tom Wimberly (Georgia Southern '78), Chairman of the Sigma Chi Crossroads and Lifeline Committee. Amid all of the meetings and speeches over our five days at Balfour, there were three moments in particular that will remain significant for Psi Psi for many years.

On the second day of BLTW, Grand Consul Mike Greenberg spoke to the 2,000-plus brothers in attendance about what the future holds for the Sigma Chi Fraternity, particularly the fraternity's re-strengthened commitment to cracking down on hazing. In front of the hundreds of Sigma Chis attending the first session, Grand Consul Greenberg singled us out in the crowd and referred to our chapter as having a "terrible" and "egregious" hazing problem. During that time all eyes in the

theater were on us, and it was embarrassing—embarrassing that we had let people down and that a negative example was being made of us.

The following day, our seven Psi Psi undergraduate representatives and Chapter Adviser Ben Tashjian had a meeting with Grand Consul Mike Greenberg, Grand Pro Consul Mike Ursillo, and other members of the

Sigma Chi Chapter and Member Accountability Committee (CAMAC) regarding the hazing allegations that resulted in the loss of a fall

pledge class, among other sanctions. We presented them with an executive summary of what we have done and an action plan for the coming months to ensure that we will move forward embracing Grand Consul Greenberg's anti-hazing leadership. We conveyed to them that we are ready to embrace the full Sigma Chi ritual, and that we are ready for a fall pledge class. They were thoroughly impressed by our commitment to make positive changes, and the meeting could not have gone better. Grand Consul Greenberg and Grand Pro Consul Ursillo said that they would favorably reintroduce our case to CAMAC, suggesting that the committee reconsider their original sanctions.

On the last day of the workshop, all of the revitalization teams met together to share their progress with the rest of the

chapters and Grand Consul Greenberg, among others. Earlier in the week, the Colgate University chapter had heard about our situation in the Province Workshop session and asked for some advice to try and combat a hazing problem of their own. After we spoke to them they said that if there was any hope for their chapter to eliminate their old ways, it was because of the guidance we gave them and the commitment they saw in us to changing our own problem. They shared this at that final revitalization workshop, and Grand Consul Greenberg was, again, impressed. At that moment he told us that everyone was on our side, they wanted to see us succeed, and the Psi Psi Chapter could be the heroes in Sigma Chi's commitment to ending hazing across its 200-plus chapters worldwide. He subsequently announced that he would grant us our request, and that we would regain a fall pledge class contingent on the completion of the action plan we had presented at our meeting with him earlier in the workshop.

The 2013 Balfour Leadership Training Workshop could not have gone better for the Psi Psi Chapter. We have Sigma Chi's full support, and the future of the chapter is extremely bright. As our workshop facilitator, Tom Wimberly, said, "Psi Psi is not a good chapter. It is a great chapter."

In hoc,
Will Gerhard '15
Pro Consul

Derby Days: Making a Difference "for the Kids"

Martin Luther King Jr. once said "not everybody can be famous, but everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service." Service is one of the most important ideals to the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi. Individually we are good men, but when we come together to help the community we do great things for those in need. That is exactly what we did during Derby Days this past fall. Raising more than \$13,000 for children in need, we banded together as a house to try and make a difference in the Syracuse community.

Led by the Derby Daddy, Ryan

Johnson, this week-long event was an amazing success with activities such as penny wars, chasing for hats, selling shirts, and a cook off. Not only did we and the many members of the various participating sororities have a blast, but we were also working together to do something good. Ending the week with the annual Chariot Race (sponsored by Red Bull), the Psi Psi Chapter brothers were able to look around and see what had been accomplished. We not only put on an incredible week-long event, but we did so with a philanthropic mindset and the goal of

raising as much as possible.

The motto of the week was "For the Kids" and it couldn't have been more fitting, as all of our hard work and effort was for the children in the greater Syracuse area, and we were able to make a small, but significant difference. It is our hope that we can continue the success of this year's Derby Days in the upcoming years and that we can live every day with the goal of helping others at the forefront of our minds.

William O'Brien '16

College Is Four Years. Sigma Chi Is Forever.

Several years ago, I joined a fledgling group of Sigma Chi alumni from assorted out-of-state colleges for the purpose of starting an alumni association in New Hampshire. Little did we know what was in store for us.

At first, we had "Attitude Adjustment" meetings at local watering holes every couple of months. Then, out of nowhere, we were contacted by National. The Sigma Chi expansion committee had New Hampshire in its crosshairs. It is the responsibility of the local alumni association to advise and nurture local colonies along toward installation. And after installation, it is their responsibility to continue as alumni advisers to the chapter.

So four years ago, the process began at UNH. With recruiting help from National a colony was formed, and we alumni were charged with the task of teaching a group of young men what it meant by thought, word, and deed to be a Sigma Chi—to be held to a higher standard than the next guy; that no achievement is accomplished without sacrifice and service; to go through life with a deep sense of personal responsibility; to forever be a credit to the fraternity.

Despite the 24/7/365 pressures of owning a small business in the middle of a recession, not to mention living

nearly two hours from the UNH campus, I threw myself into the task—even to the point of attending the leadership training workshop at Purdue in 2012. Finally, this past April, the Lambda Sigma Chapter (40 charter initiates) of Sigma Chi was installed at UNH. I was one of two alumni proudly presented with the Grand Consul's Citation; the highest honor he can bestow upon any brother.

Being a part of all this has been indescribably inspirational to me. Our Lambda Sigma brothers have very quickly become the top fraternity at UNH. Whenever I attend a meeting or social event, I feel like I'm 20 again. Every time I see their young faces, I immediately absorb the energy, enthusiasm, and excitement that can only come from knowing that I once vowed to endeavor to retain the spirit of youth. I constantly remind each one of them that college is only four years, but that Sigma Chi is forever.

I have never once in my life heard a brother of any age say "I was a Sigma Chi." It's always "I am a Sigma Chi."

More than 30 years after graduation, my involvement with Lambda Sigma has reminded me that we are all Sigma Chi's until the day we walk down to those dark waters. And, no matter how far removed from college you may be, as a Sigma Chi you are still held to a higher standard.

I am telling you my story not for self gratuitous purposes, but with the intent of inspiring you to give back in whatever manner you are capable of to that which you owe so much. Many great brothers have carried the torch at Psi Psi—DeAlton Smith, Frank Conlon, Bill Beach, Butch Gilbert, John Bersani, and Hank Suominen, to name a few. Currently Psi Psi is experiencing a huge generational gap in our alumni participation—starting from those who graduated in the early '80s right through till today. I find this surprising and disappointing. I challenge you to get involved; to dust off your badge so that it may gain new luster. I guarantee you, the rewards shall far outweigh the effort.

In hoc,
Adam "Otto" Hildebrand '80



Adam Hildebrand presented with Grand Consul Citation.



Adam Hildebrand, Hank Suominen, and Lambda Sigma Chapter brothers having an early morning breakfast at BLTW.

Brothers Work to Improve Psi Psi Chapter

Brothers,

Since the events of April, Psi Psi has gone through a whirlwind of change. New chapter officers were elected and with that came a surge of energy. During the summer, the executive board and I have worked with great gusto to address the Sigma Chi headquarters sanctions and make the best of a bad situation. The highlight of the summer was our successful meeting with Grand Consul Mike Greenberg and Grand Pro Consul Mike Ursillo, after which they agreed to favorably support our appeal to the CAMAC committee for a fall pledge class. I could not be more proud of the guys who drove all the way out to Purdue University to fight for the betterment of our chapter. I would like to thank Pro Consul Will Gerhard, Recruitment Chair Pat Flanagan, Social Chair Connor Wilson, Magister Ken Brophy, Tribune Tom Macarthy, and Bryson Walker. I would also like to thank (and continue thanking) Ben Tashjian, our chapter adviser, for his unwavering support throughout the years.

That being said, the road ahead is long and arduous, as we still have much to improve on. We have already completed our Strategic Visioning Workshop with excellent brother participation. On September 7 and 8 we held Mission 365 to improve our knowledge of the ritual. We have much to improve besides the pledge process as well; I hope to bolster chapter attendance and improve accountability among officers and brothers alike. I am also committed to leaving the house as beautiful as it was when we moved in this year.

We have so much going for us, so many resources aligned to help, that the future looks much brighter. I pray we do not forget, "to whom much is given, much is expected."

In hoc,
Griffin W. Dottle '14
Consul, Psi Psi Chapter

I Discovered Who I am at Horizons

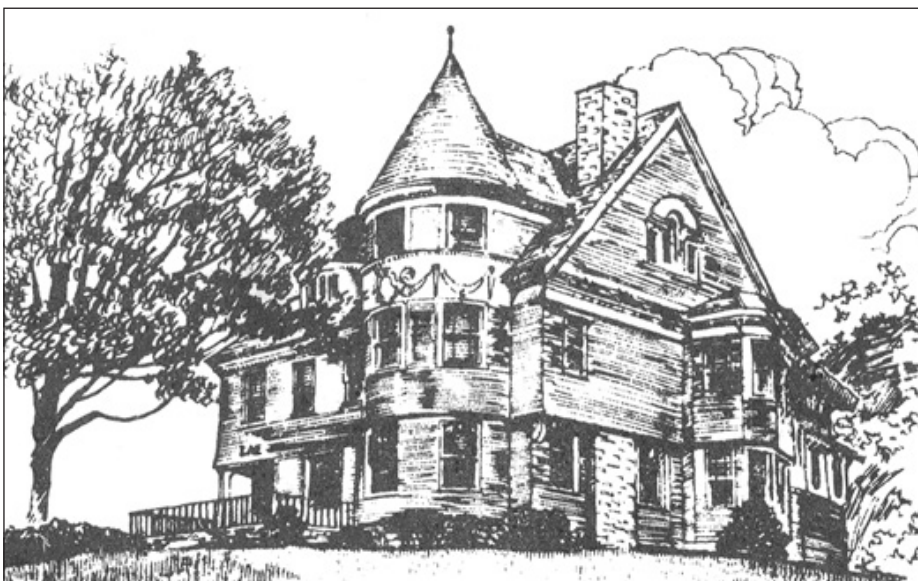
Being a part of Horizons wasn't like anything else. When you join Sigma Chi, you of course understand that you're joining an organization where brotherhood means more than anything else, but when you head to Utah, you truly understand the idea of brotherhood and, most importantly, the idea of yourself.

It is hard to explain the experience we had, due to the immense amount of bonding and personal activities we go through while in Utah, but the main thing every other brother should know about Horizons—or Sigma Chi in general—is that you will encounter different temperaments, talents, and convictions whether you encounter them while

having a conversation in your chapter, community, or career; whether the participants are Sigma Chis or not, the ability to understand other people and ourselves will always reign supreme.

I am so glad I got to go through Horizons and graduate from it. The experiences I had in Utah will stretch farther than many lessons learned at school. I made many new best friends, gained a mentor, and developed a better understanding of who I am and who I want to be. I thank the donor every day who made this possible.

In hoc,
Aaron Lassin '15
Philanthropy Chair



House Corp President Shares New House Updates

(continued from page one)

shape—we think the house looks great—for another school year and hope you will come back for a visit.

At Homecoming, the annual meeting was held, including elections. We welcomed Chris Dowd '12 and Evan Monahan '12 to the board, which was expanded to 12 members. We are seeking another board member, preferably from those who have joined since 2008.

Check the Psi Psi Facebook page

for updates on sporting events and Reunions. Clam Bake will be Saturday, April 12, 2014. See flyer for details. One final note: please visit the Sigma Chi alumni website page and update your contact information. We update our mailing lists twice a year based on the Sigma Chi database.

In hoc signo vinces,
Hank Suominen '78
President & Treasurer

Before, During, and After: Ritual Closet Makeover



Psi Psi alumni send their news

"There are now four Boin Sigs," announces **Warren E. Boin '42**. Catch up with him by email at weboin@verizon.net or postal mail at 4 Prudence Lane, Morristown, NJ 07960.

After transferring to Gamma Phi (Miami) and graduating from the University of Miami School of Law in 1952, **Ramsey G. Ludington '48** enjoyed a long law career, retiring in 2006. You'll now reach him in the snowbelt at 217 Oneida St., Fulton, NY 13069.

"Marilyn and I are still hanging in there after 65 years," reports **Austin L. Cline '50**. They still spend summers in the Thousand Islands and a couple months in Indian Shores, Florida, with occasional visits to Hilton Head. He adds, "We hear little from

our college friends." Get back in touch with Austin by mail: 11 Bristol Circle, #1, Delmar, NY 12054.

David E. Lain '52 sent along his appreciation for **Hank Suominen '78** for helping the chapter through its crisis. He enjoyed reading about fellow Sigma Chi brothers **Austin Cline '50**, "**Boo**" **Frankenbach '52**, **Bill Larson '53**, and **George Babikian '53** in the last *Saltine Sig*. Dave welcomes mail at 141 Crest Rd., Southern Pines, NC 28387. "Keep up the good work!" he adds.

"Good job, Hank!" exclaims **George H. Babikian '53**. Catch up with him at 1805 Paseo Del Mar, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274.

"I'm still with it at age 84," declares **William E. Larson '53**. "Living on the farm, but no more cows. Now it's strictly corn and beans." Toby reports that he and his wife enjoy pretty good health, though he uses a walker due to lower-leg injuries sustained in an accident on I-95 several years ago. But "no complaints!" Check in with him at 2750 Stillwell Beckett Rd., Hamilton, OH 45013.

"All the best!" writes **Robert M. Curran '54**. Reach Bob by mail at his wintering grounds: 2055 Aberdeen Lane, Apt. 202, Naples, FL 34109; or by email at marrobcurr@mac.com.

Retired from both Pan Am (in 1991) and Flight Safety International (2008), **Ernest A.** (continued on page six)

Psi Psi alumni send their news

(continued from page five)

Schwab '54 enjoys tennis, golf, and skiing. He hears occasionally from **Ed Kupillas '53** (whom we'd appreciate an address for!) and sees **Don Fryer '54** and **Bob Hick '54** from time to time as well. Ernie makes his home at 2615 Majestic Dr., Wilmington, DE 19810. Get in touch by email: easchwab@verizon.net.

Robert F. McMeekin '56 toured Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, and Thailand last April with his eldest daughter. "Great cruise and a great way to bond with your kids." The previous year, he cruised South American with his middle daughter, and in 2011 it was New Zealand and Australia with the youngest. He advises brothers, "During Christmas and New Year's, try it with your kids." Bob was planning a trip to Italy early this year with **Vince Ceriello '59**—"two dirty, old, wild and crazy guys. Wealthy widows will never be the same." Find out more by writing "Irish Bob" at 19158 Avenue of the Oaks, Apt. B, Newhall, CA 91321.

"Still enjoying living in San Diego," writes **William H. Hilsdorf '60**. He's eight miles inland from the beach and two miles north of downtown. Bill reports that he keeps his heart and arthritis problems in check by swimming at the YMCA every weekday—for at least 40 minutes! He wants to know if anyone ever hears from **Jan Sturdevant '58** or **Doug Graham '61**—"or any of the other three who worked to get Psi Psi back at SU in 1959-'60." Bill, who describes himself as "90-percent retired," lives at 2122 30th St., San Diego, CA 92104.

James McKee III '70 sent along the following personal/professional update: "After 35 years of owning my own CPA firm by myself or with partners, I am selling my practice and starting a new job as CFO of two small manufacturing firms. I look forward to the challenge." Jim makes his home at 174 Finney Blvd., Malone, NY 12953. Email him at jim@jimmmckee.com.

"Enjoying life as an empty-nester," declares **Warren E. Boin Jr. '76**. Catch up with him by email at warrjr@aol.com or 3315 Whitesworth Rd., Phoenix, MD 21131. One of the afore-mentioned Boin Sigs, Warren Jr. is vice president of marketing and card

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programs for World Fuel Services, Inc.

"The great work of Hank and Bill has inspired me to renew my alumni dues," writes **Stephen H. Estberg '78**. "A shout-out hello to the pledge class of spring '77." (418 Weldon Dr., West Chester, PA 19380)

While in Philadelphia last year for NCAA Lacrosse Championship Weekend, **Henry C. Suominen Jr. '78** ran into **Tim Johnston '83** and had dinner with **Alan Krochtengel '79** and **Glenn Nunnemaker '78**. He continues, "Also caught up with **Zach Krochtengel '09**, just back from the Middle East. In addition, I had a conversation with **William Hilsdorf '60** [see Bill's own news note above], who called about the state of the chapter—a good sign that alumni care about Psi Psi." Keep in touch with Hank by email at hank@suomi33.com or postal mail at 8 Viles St., Weston, MA 02493.

Scott A. Marelli '79 reports: "I went to the initiation ceremony for Beta Upsilon Chapter (Washington State University) in September. It was great to see the ritual after so many years and brought back great memories of Psi Psi. Proud to be a Sig. *In hoc*." Swap some memories with him by email at s.marelli@yahoo.com or postal mail at 662 Lyons Ave., NE, Renton, WA 98059.

Best silver-anniversary wishes to Nancy and **Brad J. "Shorty" Short '82**, who celebrated 25 years of marriage last year. A son, Colin, who graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in May 2013, followed in Brad's athletic footsteps and played four years of varsity lacrosse. In fact, Colin was named honorable mention All-American in his senior year. He now lives in Alameda, California. "Shorty" is a procurement account rep at Computer Sciences Corporation. He and Nancy live at 6400 Bessbrook Dr., Jamesville, NY 13078. Email him at bshort3@csc.com.

"I am very pleased to see Psi Psi back at Syracuse! Thanks to all who contributed their talents and financial support," writes **Michael D. Yates '82**. He and Vanessa are "empty-nesters" now, with the last of their five children having embarked for DePaul in Chicago this past fall ("unfortunately no SU students"). Mike adds that he's now

running Tactair Fluid Controls ("a very exciting aerospace hydraulics company") after being promoted to president a year ago. He invites anyone visiting the Skaneateles area to contact him. (myatesmikey@verizon.net; 42 Hannum St., Skaneateles, NY 13152)

"It was great to ski with Turk and Fini again this year!" reports **Scott S. Ward '83**. "And fun to keep up with bros on Facebook!" You can also check in with him at ssward930@charter.net or 1129 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale, CA 91208.

Life is great for **Pierre J. Morrisseau '85**, who was promoted to CEO of BHL Insurance in the beginning of 2013. He lives with his wife, Joye, and their two adult children in Fayetteville, just outside Syracuse. In his not-so-spare time, he flies remote-control airplanes, "seriously" works on his golf game in the summer, skis in the winter, and still manages to make the never-ending repairs to an 86-year-old home. "Lucky" adds that he still keeps in touch with **Terry Summers '85**, **Joe Lane '85**, **Doug Miller '84**, **Bill Gerbig '84**, **Doug Sedgwick '80**, and **John Trop '84**, who all live in the Syracuse area. Get in touch with Pierre at pmorrisseau@bhlinsurance.com or call (315) 225-7627.

Congratulations to Melinda and **Christopher K. Ellis '89** on the birth of their fifth child, a girl, Tatum Ellis, in February 2013. Chris is enjoying life in Dallas with his growing family, now at four girls and one boy. "Would love to hear from fellow brothers/classmates!" Contact ckellis@sbcglobal.net or 4427 Enfield Dr., Dallas, TX 75220. Chris is president and owner of Land First, Inc., which purchases, develops, and markets unique waterfront properties and rural forest acreage on pristine lakes, wilderness rivers, and by state forests in upstate New York.

From the Grand Praetor...

We're pleased to share the following note from John Predmore in this issue. A graduate of Kettering University, he lives in the Rochester area:

"As Grand Praetor of Northwestern New York Province, I am working with the chapter's undergraduates to fulfill the fraternity's and university's requirements to return to good standing. I have full confidence in the current leadership of the chapter. I hope the alumni of Psi Psi Chapter continue to show their unwavering support for the active brothers."