

Psi Psi Faces Unprecedented Times

Psi Psi Brothers:

2020: there has never been a more unprecedented time in higher education or within the fraternal community. However, Sigma Chi is navigating with a focus on creating a future that will be stronger than our past. We are leading with more resources and leadership training, reflecting that, as a fraternity and as Sigma Chi brothers, we "expect more."

As college students returned "to campus" this fall, they were met with all kinds of changes to the way they had previously been acclimated to college life. Social distancing requirements, gathering restrictions, and instructional changes served as a jarring force to whatever normalcy they had grown accustomed. College campuses have served as a center point for conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion, adding yet another layer of complexity to the lives of our undergraduate brothers.

ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS OF OUR FRATERNITY & OUR BROTHERS

Throughout the summer, antifraternity sentiment developed, and it was labeled "Abolish Greek Life" [AGL].

Sigma Chi scored a huge victory in defense of the fraternity experience. Sigma Chi joined federal litigation to challenge Harvard University's policy that sanctioned students for being members of unrecognized, single-sex organizations. In September 2020, Sigma Chi (and our interfraternal coalition) reached a settlement with Harvard that served to make sure that the policy would never materialize again.

Sigma Chi is also a leader in the interfraternal community in driving important action through federal and state legislation. Our platform is centered around advocating for appropriate protections for our members to be able to preserve their freedom of association rights, strengthening anti-hazing laws at the federal and state level, advocating for parity in tax codes, which would enable members to provide additional support to the more than 100 Sigma Chi-owned houses, and defending the right for our organization and our chapters to remain as a single-sex organization.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

After 165 years, we are now the largest and most widely respected fraternal organization in the world. Sigma Chi

BREAKING NEWS AT PRESS RUN

Effective February 11, 2021, Syracuse University has suspended the chapter and 15 members individually over allegations of an off-campus gathering that was deemed to be a "dirty rush" event. Sigma Chi Headquarters issued a similar determination, pending the outcome of an investigation. At this time, we are gathering facts that will be incorporated into a formal response to the university and Sigma Chi Headquarters.

is determined to carve our own path, instead of having it dictated for us.

Our future is being built on Sigma Chi "expecting more" of our fraternity and of each other. Sigma Chi is focused on providing our undergraduates and alumni brothers the resources to succeed and to lead on campus and in life. I'll mention one resource: The Sigma Chi Leadership Institute [SCLI], which has become the first Greek-letter organization to be an officially accredited institute of higher learning as the provider of leadership and character education. This is a huge differentiator for Sigma Chi.

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Undergrads celebrating a brother's 21st Birthday.

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President & Treasurer
hank@suomi33.com

Phil Oldham '66
Vice President
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John Bersani '79
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Connor Wilson '15
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Bill Gerbig '84
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Bill Beach '68
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Joe D'Eramo '12
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FOLLOW US

Follow the undergraduate chapter on
Twitter [@sigmachisu](https://twitter.com/sigmachisu).

Follow us on LinkedIn at
www.linkedin.com/groups/8811881/
Syracuse Sigma Chi.

Visit our website at psipsi.org.

Sigma Chi: Expect More

Being a Sigma Chi is much more than three years of undergrad life or the memories of those past times. We should and do expect more from being a Sigma Chi: undergrad or alumni. Today's Sigma Chi has elevated being a Sig to new levels of brotherhood and of preparation and support for leadership and success in life.

In this issue, you will read about how, even through the challenges of COVID-19 lockdowns, being a Sigma Chi makes the most of every opportunity, and it all begins with the unique bonds of brotherhood that never end. Just ask any Psi Psi Sigma Chi who has participated in a virtual reunion, participated in alumni chapter functions, or encountered another Sig as a neighbor, workmate, client, or any other personal or professional connection. The relationship is different from all others.

Beyond brotherhood, being a Sigma Chi undergrad or alumnus gives each of us so many tangible benefits. Flat-out, our fraternity provides more personal support to all aspects of our lives than any other fraternity. Below is a sample list of many of the success supporting initiatives and programs that Sigma Chi offers. There are so many, and they do so much that providing all the details would be a newsletter of its own. Take

the initiative for your own sake to check them out on sigmachi.org, then take advantage of being a Psi Psi Sigma Chi.

- Scholarships: from headquarters, alumni and undergrad chapters, and alumni related efforts.
- Sig brothers everywhere: 265,000
- Alumni chapters: 125 (one wherever you are)
- Sigma Chi professional and personal interest groups: from any profession to cigar smokers
- The Sigma Chi Foundation
- Sigma Chi Horizons
- Sigma Chi Leadership Institute (college accredited)
- Huntsman Cancer Center
- Our Sigma Chi Sweetheart program
- Sigma Chi Reach Out : mental health crisis support
- Sigma Chi communication and *The Magazine of Sigma Chi*

Just as you can lead a horse to water, taking advantage of all that Sigma Chi offers is up to each of us. For Psi Psis, that includes our website (psipsi.org) and Facebook and LinkedIn connections.

Phil Oldham '66
Saltine Sig Editor

What Happens to My Annual Dues?

The Central New York Alumni Association's primary mission is to promote alumni interaction and involvement with the chapter and to grow the size and influence of the alumni association. Our budgeting is guided by that mission.

Our largest single expense is managing the database. We employ Elevate to publish and distribute *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 the chapter house.

Social: Reconnecting and staying in touch with old friends is the number one reason that we stay involved, and it supports our mission well. Dues paying members are not charged for attendance at Homecoming or Clam Bake, and additional events can also be subsidized, subject to 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.

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Sigma Chi Reach Out: a Mental Health Resource

These are very different and isolating times for all Sigma Chi brothers: undergrad or alumni. One new reality is our ever-growing mental-health challenges. Sigma Chi is addressing this need by providing direct support through **Sigma Chi Reach Out**.

Support from skilled professionals is only a smartphone, tablet, or phone connection away. It is available for download via the Apple App Store or Google Play/Android. This free application has ready-made access at the push of a button to a wealth of resources that are **available 24/7 and are anonymous and accessible at no cost**.

Beyond smartphones or tablets, there are toll-free numbers which can be accessed 24/7/365.

Mental health challenges can be ongoing or in an instant. **Be prepared: simply plug them into your phone and save them as a contact**, or write them down in a planner or other place where you have ready access:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255
- Talk One2One Telephone Counseling: 800-756-3124
- SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) Helpline: 800-487-4889

While offered by Sigma Chi for Sigma Chi brothers, for all the right reasons, it is being made available to anyone. They do not have to be Sigma Chis, just people in emotional need. So, share this special Sigma Chi resource with anyone you care about.

This service was created by Sigma Chi Brother Jesse Trout, CHC, CPCC, PCC. His contact information is 931-249-8926, trout_jesse@yahoo.com.

Check out our new online giving page:
www.alumnirecords.org/psipsi



Building Your Career Network with Sigma Chi

In a world where the job market has never been more dynamic and competitive, existing network connections are a critical starting point for new college graduates. It opens doors to new opportunities and creates bridges to experiences you might not have thought were on the table. However, connections don't just emerge out of thin air. It requires effort to build trusted connections that can help your career. Luckily, your choice to become a Sigma Chi provides a premier, ready-made network that is just waiting for you. Sigma Chi is one of the largest Greek organizations in the world, with upwards of 265,000 members from 315 active and inactive undergraduate chapters in the United States and Canada. The national Sig network includes tons of household names that you actually have a lifetime connection with. *Our Psi Psi* Chapter has over 1,200 entrepreneurs, investors, artists, C-level execs, and just plain smart successful guys. Brotherhood is a lifetime benefit. There are many alumni who are willing to provide guidance in post-graduate careers; however, it's up to you to reach out.

At Psi Psi, our three main alumni organizations are the House Corporation (manages chapter house), the alumni advisory board (advises chapter leadership), and the alumni association (Saltine Sig, events). The couple

dozen alumni brothers who make up these organizations volunteer their valuable time to keep Psi Psi sustainable and *cohesive*. *Simply* put, without them, especially House Corp. and guys like Bill Beach and Hank Suominen, Psi Psi would have shut down years ago.

These active Psi Psi alumni are now relaunching the Alumni Big Brother program using LinkedIn, a tool most of us are already familiar with. You can access the private group, Syracuse Sigma Chi Psi Psi, at www.linkedin.com/groups/8811881/. The AAB administrator will validate that you are a Psi Psi undergrad or alumnus in good standing and admit you to the group. Here, the field is open for all of us to contribute, connect, help, and get help. This group will not be moderated, which means it's only as good as we make it, so step up and reach out. However, it has already helped recent Psi Psi grads find jobs, even during this crazy pandemic. Take advantage of the knowledge and insight that is within your reach. Do not be afraid to utilize the resources put in front of you that could potentially change your career path for the better!

In Hoc,
Dylan Honis '21
Jim Fini '83

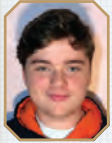
Psi Psi Officers



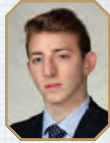
Consul
Nick Valentino '22



Pro Consul
Miles Reines '22



Magister
Joey Viviano '22



Quaestor
Christopher Dalo '22



Ritual Chair
James Amarante '22



Annotator
Alex Jebaily '22



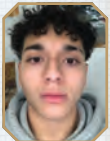
**Risk Manager/
COVID-Coordinator**
Chris Smallwood '22



Recruitment Chairman
Russell Walker '21



Philanthropy Co-chair
Luc Ayoub '22



Philanthropy Co-chair
Pat Romero '22



Scholarship Chair
Luc Ayoub '22



Scholarship Co-chair
James Donarski '23



Scholarship Co-chair
Kevin Hughes '23



House Manager
Chris Smallwood '22



Steward
Zach Bauer '24

Proud to be a Sigma Chi, Particularly at Psi Psi

These are the times that try men's souls, or at least their resolve. From the pandemic, to suspensions, fiscal duress, a hostile Syracuse University, and a hostile social environment, the Psi Psi Chapter has been under siege. Yet, I have been humbled by those fighting the good fight.

The undergraduates came together in the fall 2020 semester and followed difficult COVID restrictions and requirements: no social, no visitors, no in person rush, no intramural sports. This was particularly difficult on brothers not living in the house, because they were not allowed to visit. They also stood their ground and represented themselves and Sigma Chi with dignity against the unfounded allegations of Syracuse University from the spring 2020.

The undergrads also stepped up to participate in the Sigma Chi Leadership Institute (SCLI) pilot. Sigma Chi is the first and only fraternal organization that can claim that it operates a fully licensed educational institution from which our members can gain real transferable life skills and credentials in the field of transformational leadership. The Sigma Chi Leadership Institute is a groundbreaking advancement in the fraternal space. Participation is now on hold until the current suspension issues are addressed. I was also impressed by the applications for our scholarship programs: many 3.5, 3.8, and 4.0 GPAs. They are certainly students of fair ability.

House Corporation President Hank Suominen '78 has continued his impressive contributions. Quite simply, the Psi Psi Chapter would not have survived without his efforts. Hank came up with COVID-19 protocols that allowed us to safely open the house and has managed the House Corporation finances in a very difficult time. John Honis '83, a member of the alumni advisory board, worked hard with the undergraduates to straighten out chapter finances and to create a playbook for the future.

In addition, John spearheaded the chapter's response to the unwarranted allegations of Syracuse University in 2020 and coached our brothers falsely accused. Parents of the students were rightfully very grateful for John's efforts.

Kudos to Cobie Beach, who has taken on the mantle of chapter advisor. We all owe him a hearty thank you for taking on this very important role. Cobie is a 2018 Psi Psi graduate who lives in Pittsford, New York. He has earned the respect of the undergraduates and the alumni boards.

There are many who deserve our thanks, and I'm sure I'll miss a few, but I'd like to mention NYC Alumni Association President Phil Oldham '66, and Bill Gerbig '84, Mike Yates '82, and Brad Short '82 for their active leadership of the Sigma Chi Central NY Alumni Association. Also, Jim Fini '83, Greg Sozek '82, and Scott Ward '83 have actively helped the alumni advisory board do all we can to help Psi Psi thrive in these difficult times.

All of these efforts keep me cautiously optimistic about the future of the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi.

Ted Collins '84

Psi Psi Faces Unprecedented Times

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The main thing that gives me hope for the future is my interactions with the young men who populate our active chapters. Despite all of the challenges they have faced, I have witnessed firsthand some of the strongest leadership I have ever seen. Our young men have an incredible capacity for leadership, resiliency, and optimism. If you don't believe me, go see it yourself. And when you find it there, think about what Sigma Chi did for you to turn you into the man you are today

Sincerely,
Michael Church, Illinois '05
Executive Director

House Corp. Financial Overview: Winter 2021

House Corporation is run by alumni who volunteer their time. That means none receive any financial compensation to provide administrative oversight of 737 Comstock Avenue Inc. Alumni support in this fashion lowers the out-of-pocket cost to operate the chapter house by 15% to 20%, compared with commercial real estate, which pays a market rate for third-party investment management. The successful operation of commercial real estate requires diligent oversight and planning to ensure the property is maintained to serve the needs of those who use it: in our case, providing housing for the undergraduate members of the chapter. House Corp. strives to provide the undergrads with an excellent living environment in the chapter house so that undergrads may have the fraternity experience we all appreciate. The house is operated on a “revenue is equal to operating expenses” basis.

Room rent pays for real estate taxes, property insurance, water, gas, electricity, internet and common area cable TV, mortgage cost, maintenance costs, common-area and bathroom cleaning, trash removal, snow removal, landscaping, and any other repair and maintenance items, all of which amount to “cost of current operations,” approximately \$200,000 per year. We also assess the condition of the physical plant (mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, and building envelop) and provide sufficient reserves under a ten-year capital plan, which currently anticipates \$840,000 of future projects. For reference: since 2012, we have invested over \$400,000 or around \$50,000 per year. We take the “cost of operations” plus the 10% of the ten-year capital plan amount to arrive at the total cost of operations, approximately \$284,000 per year.

The approach to funding the total cost of operations attempts to ensure everyone who uses the chapter house pays their fair share. Budgeting is somewhat of an iterative process that works as follows. First, the room rate is based on the SU split double, with a discount of 15%, which makes up room rent. We also assign a fee to all live-out members—the Common Area Access

Agreement—which is targeted to cover approximately 20% of the total cost of operations. To cover the cost of furniture, each live-in pays a furniture fee (first-time, one-time) which provides for mattress, dresser, and common-area furniture. We add up the total of those sources (actual live-in commitments for the year multiplied by the room rate plus actual live-outs times the CAAA fee rate) to arrive at total revenue or total cost of operations. We have a chapter house capacity of 30, or 60 “heads in bed” for the full academic year. Often we are not at capacity and make up the shortfall with an under occupancy surcharge, which is assessed to all active members. We have arrived at this methodology over the years from a trial and error “lessons learned” process. Many have asked why the service includes daily janitorial services or if the active members should be undertaking maintenance, like painting and cleaning, as a way to lower cost. The answer is simple; this is the level of service provided by our competition and conforms with the recommendations of the Sigma Chi Board of Grand Trustees.

Here is a snapshot of the House Corporation’s typical year and current financial condition. The chapter has 77 active members, with 30 living in the chapter house. In a typical year, revenue

from room rent totals \$252,000 at \$4,200 per semester, and the common-area access fees would add to \$41,600 at \$400 per semester per live-out. However, this year, due to restrictions associated with COVID-19, live-outs could not access the chapter house, so those fees were waived. Also, one live-in did not attend. As a result, the budget for the current year is balanced by the underfunding of the ten-year capital plan.

Form 990 “Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax” is filed with the IRS annually, and copies are posted to our website, www.psipsi.org. A bank loan, taken out in 2018 to fund a portion of the fire sprinkler and electrical upgrades, has a balance around \$15,000. Our current cash reserve of \$300,000 is equal to roughly 1.5 times the “cost of operations” or around 40% of the ten-year capital plan. We are of the view that a conservative reserve is appropriate given the uncertainty of the relationship between the chapter and the current SU administration and the exposure to events outside our control that could result in loss of operating income.

Hank Suominen '74
President & Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc
(aka House Corp.)

What Happens to My Annual Dues?

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Scholarship: We contribute to undergraduate scholarships based on each individual’s contribution to the undergraduate chapter and their financial need. We also consider the individual’s efforts to promote alumni involvement.

Chapter House: 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 experience when we visit 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 in holding any of the four offices, please let us know.

We hope 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

Form 50 Financial Process

Sigma Chi is a national organization with a hierarchical structure whose foundation consists of more than 250 chapter and colonies throughout the country. At Psi Psi, we have three components responsible for the operations of the chapter house. It is important to note that House Corp. and the AAB are staffed by volunteer alumni brothers who freely give large amounts of their valuable time to help the chapter. None of them benefit in any way financially from their involvement. The benefit they receive is the satisfaction of living out the principals of the Jordan Standard.

House Corp.: The owner of the property at 737 Comstock Avenue is 737 Comstock Avenue Inc. (aka, House Corp.), is a 501(c)(7) not-for-profit, non-charitable entity known under IRS regulations as a social club. While the entity technically is operated subject to the direction of its members, only those in good standing (those who pay annual dues) are eligible to vote for and participate on the board of directors, which elects the officers who manage the business. The members have no financial interest in the assets or liabilities of the entity, and in the event of dissolution, the members do not benefit as the net assets, if any, would be gifted to an entity with a similar business purpose of running housing for a men's college fraternity, most likely the Sigma Chi Foundation.

The Chapter comprises the undergrad *brothers in good standing*. Through their elected leadership, they run key functions like recruitment, financial, initiation, ritual, and non-profit events, and they ensure compliance with university regulations. Given unfortunate recent financial issues, the chapter is now responsible for its own board club. It also collects various chapter dues.

Chapter Advisor and Alumni Advisory Board (AAB): The chapter advisor and five alumni make up the AAB. Their main role is to advise the chapter on important best practices around financial operations, ritual, bylaws, and risk management. Formed in late 2019, the AAB has already proven to be invaluable in helping the chapter survive the false hazing charges filed by the university in 2020.

Over the past year, working with two

different chapter leadership teams, the AAB has uncovered a disturbing legacy of ignoring chapter financial obligations by a not-small number of brothers. Our data shows that the trend began in earnest in 2015 and has unfortunately resulted in 47 brothers who owe money to either House Corp. or the chapter. The majority of brothers (34) on the list are alumni, starting from 2015 through the 2020 graduating class. But even more disappointing, there are 12 undergrad brothers, including three who currently live in the chapter house, on this list. Many attempts have been made to contact and collect balances owed for things like dues, board club, and house damage, but to no avail. These brothers are putting the sustainability of the entire chapter house at risk.

The Sigma Chi constitution and our chapter bylaws are clear about what happens in this situation. They give the authority to either chapter leadership or a group of five alumni to request expulsion of brothers not in good standing. So, it is with a heavy heart that I announce that a group of alumni has requested Form 50 for the 47 delinquent brothers. The requests have been reviewed by Grand Praetor John Predmore and submitted to national for the final review. When a Form 50 is approved by national, a brother is removed from the national and chapter roster and no longer eligible to participate in any future Sigma Chi functions.

However, the expulsion process also provides a reprieve to be restored to "good standing" for brothers who pay their debts within one year of being issued the Form 50. All the brothers have been notified by email of the Form 50. We sincerely hope they quickly realize the value of being a Sigma Chi and make good on their obligations. I cannot think of a more basic life skill to have than to keep promises. That said, we alumni continue to remain hopeful that Psi Psi commits to re-establishing a culture of keeping promises, respecting the house, and not discriminating against legacy pledges.

For undergrads, chapter leadership is in possession of the delinquent list. If you have any questions about this process, you can also reach out members of the AAB.

Jim Fini '83

Psi Psi takes NYC

The Big Apple is home to a great many Psi Psi alumni and the destination for Psi Psi undergrads. Psi Psi has taken over NYC Sigma Chi, creating more opportunities for our undergrads and alumni.

- Psi Psi, with over 200 alumni, is one of the largest chapter groups in the NYC area.
- Over the last few years, more Psi Psi undergrads have headed to NYC than any other location.
- The NYC Alumni Chapter is led by Rob Case '66 as VP and Phil Oldham '66 as president.
- Psi Psis dominated the NYC/LA holiday zoom party and most other NYC alumni event.

Take advantage of being Psi Psi / NYC Sig; check out the NYC Sig website (nyc.org) and Facebook (facebook.com/groups/nycsig/). You can also be invited to NYC LinkedIn and the many Sig shared interest groups.

Phil Oldham '66
NYC Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter
President

Psi Psis Join Holiday Zoom

A dozen Psi Psi alumni brothers joined in the first NY/California bicoastal holiday Zoom party. With alumni from many East and West Coast chapters, Psi Psis dominated the evening.

The event included addresses from Grand Consul Steve Schulyer, Executive Director Mike Church, and leaders from the Sigma Chi Foundation. The highlights include meeting two international sweethearts: Lauren Lewellan (current), and Metta Krach (1997-'99). We toasted our sweethearts and serenaded, singing the "Sweetheart Song." The evening concluded with a one-hour Psi Psi-only sharing of Psi Psi memories.

Consul Review: Fall 2020

"During the fall 2020 semester, the Psi Psi Chapter has overcome a list of obstacles never faced before. This ultimately resulted in the chapter coming together in a way that has strengthened the brotherhood and preserves our existence at Syracuse University. With only live-in brothers being granted access to the chapter house, we have greatly depended on services such as Zoom to close the distance between the fraternity members. With probation still hanging over our heads from spring 2020, the executive board has diligently worked with the AAB to settle debt, prevent COVID, and defend the house.

Upon being elected, I knew there would be no room for error, because the university would jump to "squish us like a bug." The spring 2020 pledge class was initiated during the fall 2020 semester. We relied heavily on the support of alumni, such as Greg Sozek, Bill Scott, and Dawit Solomon, to provide a ceremony that was as close to normal, with preventative steps being taken to avoid infection.

The Psi Psi Chapter needed to be suited with COVID preventative equipment in order to confidently open the chapter house to live-ins upon returning in August. Hank was able to find a facial recognition device that identifies the individual and automatically logs their temperature. This device is used daily when entering the house. Any abnormal temperature triggers an alert, which means the individual will report to the Dome for further testing. Our house manager, Christopher Smallwood, doubles as our COVID coordinator and has done an outstanding job at preventing the spread. Unfortunately, the school experienced a severe outbreak on campus, which resulted in 22 to 24 brothers testing positive for COVID. This resulted in COVID positive brothers having to isolate in the chapter house.

With much of our debt being settled,

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1960s Psi Psi Zoom Reunion

Twenty-six Psi Psis from the classes of 1964 to 1970 gathered via Zoom in January, sharing memories and getting reacquainted. During the 2½-hour reunion, we shared stories of Psi Psi undergrad life, as if they happened yesterday, including the many adventures from the snow storm of 1966. It was great to see the 1966-'68 group, who provided the connecting bridge for all the stories. Big and little brothers reconnected, and all got the chance (not without wonderful interruptions) to tell about what they are up to today and one Psi Psi memory. We also remembered the many of us we have lost.

As a result, future Zoom gatherings will be scheduled, and a '60s Psi Psi Facebook group set up.

Reunion attendees, in the screenshot pictured above, are as follows (L-R): (row 1) Skip Stanger, Phil Oldham, Ted Spall, Jack Smolik, Dick Cipperly; (row 2) Bill Scholsser, Dan (John) Elek, Joe Durzo, Molly (Phil) Powers, Bruce Braun; (row 3) Colin Jones, Ken Nelson, Bob Bathrick, Dick Prenot, Glenn Cole; (row 4) Howard Raabe Jr., Jim Caskie, Brian Mihalik, Greg Gordon, Bill Beach; (row 5) Norm Stewart & Dave Ulrich (no photo), Bryan Leather, Michael Sussman, David Poole, Don Schefmeyer.

New Psi Psi Chapter Advisor

I am excited to introduce myself as the new chapter advisor for the Psi Psi Chapter as of last February 2020. I grew up in Pittsford, New York, graduating from Pittsford Sutherland High School in 2014. I then came to Syracuse University to study sports management and was a spring 2015 Sigma Chi initiate. I served as questor for one year. I graduated in May of 2018, and since then, I lived in Chicago for eight months, working for US Soccer as a post-grad intern, and I am currently living in Rochester and working for Waste Harmonics,

a third-party trash broker. My dad and both of my sisters also attended Syracuse University.



With both my dad (Psi Psi '69) and my sister (Kappa Alpha Theta '11) still involved with their Greek organizations, I am excited to continue that family tradition. I have had a great time working with the newly founded AAB and the undergraduates, as well as corresponding with Sigma Chi Headquarters. I am looking forward to what is in store this year with Psi Psi.

Cobie Beach '18

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the house is nearly zeroed and is allowing for improvements to the chapter. Our treasurer, Christopher Dalo, has done an immense amount of work, along with alumni John Honis, to make the best of our time indoors and to catch up on past-due bills. With these funds finally being where they belong, we have been able to afford renovations that have greatly improved the live-in quality. Our dynamic duo of Lisa and Jim have been extremely attentive to repairs and maintenance during these times. The white room in the basement has been converted into a fitness room, because the university greatly restricts access to recreation centers on campus. This project is ongoing, and we are looking for additional equipment; please get in touch if you can help us out!

Looking ahead at this spring semester, we plan on taking a pledge class of at least 30 brothers to compensate for not participating in fall rush for preventative reason. With spring rush being entirely online, we are extremely thankful for the guidance of our chapter advisor, Cobie Beach, who has done an outstanding job at guiding us through the hoops and keeping us on track. Overall, I believe our chapter has leaped back to life after being pressed during the spring.

Derby Days was cancelled last spring, and so, we plan on setting a goal this semester that puts us back on track with the \$68,000 collected in the spring of 2019. Whatever we do now, we always put our best foot forward and set extremely high expectations, holding one another accountable along the way. This allows us to set the best example for the most recent pledge class, who will be expected to shoot even higher than we have already when the time comes for elections. With the house having all hands on deck, I am extremely excited to see where this semester takes us.

Nick Valentino '22
Consul

Superbowl Story: Psi Psi Brother Helps Brother across Generations and Cultures

When I first met Siddharth (Sid) Nigam from Mumbai, India, it was about 10 years ago at a rush event at UNH, where I was involved as an alumni advisor and president of House Corp. Sid pledged that semester and went on to become a great brother and a good friend. Shortly after he graduated, Sid called and asked me to write him a recommendation for the Sigma Chi Herschede Engineering Scholarship, as he was dead broke and looking to move on to graduate school. Of course, I accepted. I recall closing out the letter I wrote by stating "If Sid Nigam doesn't get this scholarship, please send me the name and address of the brother who does. I want to go meet him and shake his hand". (LOL!)

Well, Brother Sid got that scholarship and went on to grad school and, subsequently, an incredible job offer. His account of what happened after that continues below. I would like to emphasize to all undergrads that there are a lot of EX scholarships available. Some of which get no applicants. Go for it!

Adam "Otto" Hildebrand '80

When the brothers at the Lambda Sigma Chapter of Sigma Chi said that

the fraternity is composed of brothers possessing different temperaments, talents, and convictions, I thought it was just a marketing gimmick to lure people into joining the fraternity. They weren't wrong. This is a feel-good story about how two polar opposite

Sigma Chi brothers from different chapters, generations, countries, temperaments, talents, and convictions went to the Superbowl a few years ago, and how one brother (the older, retired, Syracuse alumnus) kept his word and bought a Superbowl ticket for the other (still a student).

Adam "Otto" Hildebrand or Hilde (as we call him) and I could not be further off on opposite sides of the spectrum in our temperaments, talents, and convictions. When I first joined the fraternity, he was a semiretired, born-and-bred Pennsylvania native who went to Syracuse some decades ago and was then living in New Hampshire, often visiting our chapter, Lambda Sigma, at the University of New Hampshire. I was an international student from Mumbai, India, saving money and funding myself through college with jobs and scholarships. Everything about us was on opposite ends of the

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Superbowl Story

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spectrum: political views, food preferences (Hilde can't handle spice), and even money in the bank—let's just say I was closer to \$0. We often butted heads during our get-togethers, and I didn't care much for some of his political stances, but we always maintained respect for each other.

Well, after about six years of schooling (four undergrad for a BS in mechanical engineering and international affairs in New Hampshire and two in grad school for an MS in mechanical engineering in Colorado), funded in part by Sigma Chi's Herschede Engineering Scholarship, I was thrilled to receive an amazing job offer to start off my career with Deloitte Consulting, working on cloud engineering consulting. As all millennials do, I decided to share that on my social-media platforms to celebrate the achievement with friends and family back in India. Here is what Hilde commented on that post:

"Brother Sid. Such tremendous accomplishments. I am so very proud to call you brother. Keep 2/4/18 free for a trip to Minneapolis. If the Pats make it all the way, you are coming to Superbowl 52. MY TREAT! Do not disappoint!"

After reading that, I thought to myself "Neat, I might get to experience the Superbowl for the first time if the Pats probably make it." This was sometime in November 2017, so the Pats still had a long way to go, but Tom Brady was their quarterback, so there was still hope. They managed to win nine and lose only one game since I made the post, and surely enough, they were going to the Superbowl. So naturally, I went back to that post and said "@Hilde, are we going to the Superbowl or what?" And Hilde, being a man of his word, bought me a ticket to watch the game live in Minneapolis! What happened at the game is something I do not wish to recall because I have "Fly Eagles fly" permanently etched into my brain, but rest assured, there were tons of laughs during the trip. Special thanks also to another SU alumnus and brother, Jake Romano, who picked us up at the airport and

hosted me at his house in Minneapolis until we left for the game.

It was a memorable trip, only soured a little by the Patriots losing. I realized how strong the brotherhood truly is, regardless of whether you joined four years prior, in my case, or 42 years ago, in Hilde's case.

IHSV
Sid Nigam



Psi Psi's at Oak Hill Country Club (L-R): Bill Gerbig '84, Ted Collins '84, John Honis '83.

SU Dorms Coming to Ostrom Avenue

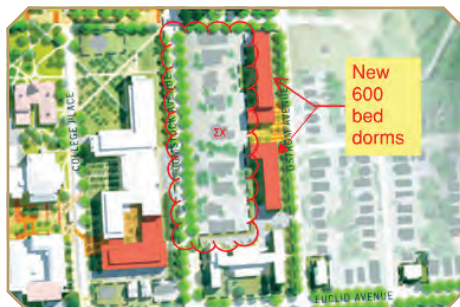
There once was a time when 737 Comstock Avenue was two blocks "off campus." With the construction of the SU Life Sciences Building across the street, the campus perimeter was moved to just outside our front door. Now, according to the Syracuse University facilities master plan, circulated as the Campus Framework, our property is soon to be inside the campus perimeter. Consistent with the master plan, which was developed over the fall-2014 through summer-2016 time frame, the demolition of dwellings along Ostrom Avenue was recently completed to prepare the site where two 600-bed dorms are proposed to be built.

As the details of the Campus Framework emerged, concern arose over the potential for thousands of pedestrian trips through our parking lot. We had a property survey and a title search done to determine if there were any easements across our property, allowing for the cut-through pathway between Ostrom Avenue and Comstock to be used as a matter of right. Fortunately, we found no such easement or access

rights existed in the title to the property. A chain-link fence was installed to prevent further use of the cut through, and fortunately, there have been no objections raised since it was installed.

To ensure our property rights as a direct abutter are respected, we will retain local counsel to assist us in ensuring SU follows applicable City of Syracuse zoning and site-planning regulations. We will also enlist the support of the other eight remaining privately owned properties along the east side of Comstock Avenue. While it is unlikely there is anything we can do that would lead to stopping the project outright, we can make certain our interests are protected. A quick look at the site plan suggests there is insufficient access on all four sides of the building to provide for life safety access, among other things. If you are reading this as a member of the commercial real-estate community in design or construction and would be willing to lend support to the oversight, please reach out.

Hank Suominen '78



Left: University's Campus Framework plans, June 2016.



Right: February 2021 photo of the view to the east, toward Ostrom Avenue.

Psi Psi Alumni Send Their News

Carl Bauer '51 and his second wife, Alicia, live in a Venice, Florida, retirement community. "Great retirement choice, mainly because of the weather: sunny and warm.



We have been here nine years and *love it!*" Carl retired in 1988 in Arizona as a clinical forensic psychologist. At 92, he adds: "can't ski, play tennis, or even travel any more due to mental limitations." Drop Carl a note to let him know what you've been up to: cbauer3531@gmail.com; 930 Tamiami Trail

S. #409, Venice, Florida 34285.

Bob McMeekin '56 tells us that he is "still swimming and kicking butt in the 85-89 class. Truth be told, I've outlived the competition." He keeps in touch with **Ken Sparks '56** and **Vince Ceriello '59**. Keep in touch with Bob at 19158 Ave. of the Oaks, Apt. B., Newhall, CA 91321.

Phil Oldham '66 has been busy in retirement. He's on the Psi Psi board, the editor for *The Saltine Sig*, president of the NYC Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter, and region chair for the Westchester Lions Club. He also helped set up the Conejo Valley Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter. "I enjoy being a dad, a granddad, and an uncle. I split my time between New York City and Westlake Village, California. Favorite pastimes: swimming, travel, and connecting with Psi Psi and Sigma Chi brothers." Reconnect with Phil at poldham45@aol.com or at 81 Pine Brook Drive, Larchmont, NY 10530.

Chapter Eternal

Edgar A. Kupillas '53
September 6, 2020

Richard B. Dowd '58
August 10, 2020

Malcolm I. Ruddock '64
January 8, 2021

Keith R. Rodney '65
March 6, 2011

William A. Elliott '69
February 12, 2008

Where are they now? Psi Psi Graduates from Spring 2020

Sutton Barbato
Newport Beach, CA
Seeking full-time employment

Jimmy Barry
Boston, MA
Seeking full-time employment

Andrew Blutig
Nanuet, NY
Customer service assistant at Capelli Sport

James Carver
Boston, MA
Sales development representative intern at SparkChange

Griffin Cooney
Schenectady, NY
General Electric

Evan Gallagher
Miami, FL
Leasing consultant at PMG

Kyle Johnson
North Hollywood, CA
Event marketing specialist at Techtronic Industries

James Kang
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
Financial-planning intern at Northwestern Mutual

Vasilios Katsarakes
Andover, MA
Mechanical engineer in missile defense at Raytheon Technologies

Kyle Katz
Horsham, PA
Applying to grad school

Seon Layne
Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Corps member at Teach for America

Yari Magenheim
Mamaroneck, NY
Seeking full-time employment

Nick O'Connor
Mamaroneck, NY
Card operations specialist at StarStock Inc.

Michael Provazza
Washington, DC, area
Pursuing a law degree

Noel Romeu-Oliva
Madrid, Spain
Seeking full-time employment

Derek Wafer
New York, NY
Financial-planning intern at Northwestern Mutual

Mike Arnold
Greater Boston area
Risk assurance in the financial division at PWC

John Aviles
Brooklyn, NY
Seeking full-time employment in analyst/associate roles

Javan Bullock
Syracuse, NY
Returning to Syracuse University to pursue a master's degree

Ryan Clark
Hoboken/Weehawken/Edgewater area
Training to sell commercial doors at Mackenzie Group Inc.; also pursuing graduate school

Quinlan Hooker
Syracuse, NY
Returning to Syracuse University to pursue a master's degree

Joe Lombardi
Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Seeking full-time employment

Dawit Melke
Syracuse, NY
Returning to Syracuse University to pursue a master's degree

Matt Pignatella
New York, NY
Card operations specialist at StarStock Inc.

Harman Suri
Dubai, UAE
Seeking Full Time Employment

RJ Bebey
New York, NY
Seeking full-time employment

Logan Houston
New York, NY
Tax accountant at Ernst & Young

Justin Marderosian
Cranston, RI
Representative at Hasbro Inc.; Seeking full-time employment