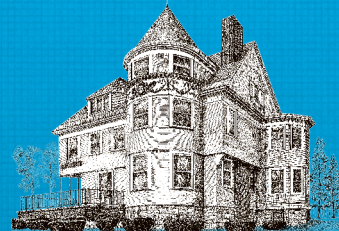


The SALTINE SIG



Reflections: 2020–2023 From Darkness to Sunlight



737 Comstock Ave

Looking back three years ago to 2020, at this time of the year, we heard grumblings about a virus that was getting some traction, starting from a conference at the Marriott Long Wharf hotel in Boston. At the time, COVID-19 was not the household word that now carries with it such a terrifying meaning: donning masks, isolation, ICU stays with no family allowed, political unrest, economic uncertainty, and conduct rules that seemed to change without notice, all happening with no end in sight. On top of all that, the chapter was accused by SU of a hazing incident in February 2020, leading to suspension of the chapter while the investigation was carried out. As you know, nothing happens quickly with COVID-19 around. SU shut down the campus and sent students home at spring break, which forced the closing of 737 Comstock Avenue, and shortly thereafter, there was virus terror across the country with seemingly no pathway forward—unfamiliar territory

(continued on page 5)

Psi Psi: Survive → Thrive ARE YOU IN?

Psi Psi survived; it was not a foregone conclusion nor is continued survival assured. We do have a unique and fleeting opportunity to set a new path for a Psi Psi Chapter that avoids the mistakes of the past. We need alumni and particularly younger alumni to assist on this transition. The next 18 months are the most critical.

Since you are reading this, I challenge you. If you greeted a friend recently with the Sigma Chi handshake, I challenge you. If you have been to a brother's wedding, a brother's funeral, or gone on a trip with brothers, I challenge you. If you have friends you call "Gooch," "Bullethead," "Batman," "Passthejelli," or some other wild nickname, I challenge you. Any of the above means Sigma Chi has had an impact on you. Now is the time for alumni to step up; we can't do it without you.

We urgently need more alumni to get involved. I am the youngest "new blood" on the AAB, and I turned 60 this year. If we don't get younger alumni involved, we won't survive. We need to pass along institutional knowledge we have absorbed. We have certain eras where interest and support are strong, but we are missing so many years of Psi Psis. In fact, we hear almost nothing from Psi Psis who graduated between 1995 and 2018.

We need to create a more active alumni-engagement program. (Anyone want to help?) As we work toward a more organized approach, there are simple things you can do to meet the challenge.



Brothers Post Initiation, November 2022

We are looking for relatively local Psi Psis to occasionally join chapter meetings, held every Sunday at 6:00 or 7:00 pm. Perhaps once a semester, see the house, meet the undergrads? We need a few alumni to participate in the April initiation. We routinely receive alumni dues from roughly only 90 out of over 1,000 living Psi Psis. We would love to have you join us at the spring clambake or fall Homecoming. Encourage friends or family sons, brothers, or nephews attending SU to check Sigma Chi out.

I understand many stopped paying alumni dues because the chapter has been suspended too many times. To be clear, alumni dues go to the **alumni association**, not the undergraduate chapter. They help pay for The Saltine Sig, as well as events such as Homecoming and the clambake. No matter what happens with the undergraduate chapter, dues are welcome to help alumni stay in touch.

(continued on page 5)



House Corp Officers

2024

Brad Short '82

*President
Alumni Association*

Bill Gerbig '84

Secretary

Steve Oliva MuMu '91

Connor Wilson '15

2023

Bill Beach '69

Past President

Paul Artruc '84

Dante Sesti '19

Hunter Viscarello '16

Joe D'Eramo '12

2022

Hank Suominen '78

President & Treasurer

Phil Oldham '66

Vice President

John Bersani '79

Chris Dowd '12

Alumni Advisory Board

2023

Cobie Beach '18

Ted Collins '84

Jim Fini '83

John Honis '83

Greg Sozek '83

Scott Ward '83

Consul Message



Brothers,

The 2022 fall semester was an incredibly important step in Psi Psi's journey back to normal operation. To have 737 Comstock financially viable and to show our commitment, every brother in the 2023 graduating class broke tradition and lived at 737 Comstock during their senior year. We ran a successful recruitment process under direction from Recruitment Chair Alexander Kim, accepting a fall '22 pledge class of 28. We incorporated an exemplary pledge learning program.

We initiated the fall '22 pledge class in November. We now have a brotherhood of 41. I am incredibly proud of the work my team did during this bounce-back semester and am looking forward to another successful recruitment process in the spring. As I spend my last semester here at SU, living in the dome room at 737, I plan on reflecting upon and implementing the core values, particularly high ambition, of the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi to help set the right path for the future.

In hoc signo vinces,
James Insogna-Donarski '23
Consul

Graduating: Leaving Psi Psi but Bringing It with You



It was bittersweet leaving SU and the Psi Psi Chapter after graduation. Most of my class of 2022 have scattered to New York City, Boston, Charlotte, and Los Angeles. We all loved the time we had together and the memories and friendships we made, but we left ready to settle into our adult lives and to become the best versions of ourselves.

The greatest thing about fraternity is that it's for life. The friendships we made extend beyond our time in college. A group of us Psi Psis were headed to Boston. We all had different start dates to new jobs; some were working remote, others in the

office. Navigating the Boston rental market was challenging, as I'm sure it was for other cities as well. I have ended up sharing an apartment with two other Psi Psi brothers in Boston. Supporting each other and sharing new job experiences has eased our way into the working world.

The groups of us who are in Boston and New York still spend a lot of time together outside of work, going to restaurants, skiing, golfing, and working out together. Psi Psis for life.

In hoc signo vinces,
Dylan Honis '22

What Happens in Vegas... Returns to Vegas!



Joining last year's trip were (spring '88) Rich Waisfisz, Steve Pharis, Frank Kalata, George Panas, Tom Miller; (spring '87) Guy Naylor, Bill King; (fall '86) Jon Krahulik, Bill Kispert; (spring '86) Chris Ellis; (fall '85) Mike Daponde, Jon Brovitz; and the oldest and wisest of the trip, (spring '85) Mike Kimber.

In early 2017, an idea was put forth by Psi Psi **Tony PasstheJelli** (fall '87) to initiate a Sigma Chi reunion weekend. Assisted by **Saul Waisfisz** (spring '88), a mass e-mail was sent out, and in October 2017, a gathering of Psi Psis took place in Las Vegas. Attending were 44 brothers (a nice number nod to SU), representing pledge classes ranging from fall '85 to spring '95 and states spanning from Hawaii to Maine.

On the five-year anniversary of that trip, once again the idea was floated, and although we didn't reach the same numbers, the assembled group enjoyed fantastic dinners and some pool-time bonding and were together to watch Syracuse almost

repeat the upset of Clemson that occurred in our 2017 trip.

We're hoping to make these reunion weekends happen more frequently and in different locations. Talks have started to plan the next weekend back in Syracuse! Perhaps at the clambake? Here's to hoping everyone who reads this gets involved with Psi Psi and makes every effort to attend the next go-round!

Happy and healthy 2023 to you and your families!

In hoc signo vinces,
Tony Pascarelli '87

Save the Date

Homecoming / Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 30, 2023

SU vs. Clemson

'Cuse will open its conference slate by hosting the team that has claimed seven of the last eight ACC titles. Clemson will visit the Dome on September 30, coming off a 10-win season last year. Despite all the success that the Tigers have had against the rest of the league, Syracuse has been one of its toughest matchups of late. 'Cuse has played Clemson to the final possession in four of the past six meetings, including a thrilling upset in 2017. It'll also be an enticing matchup for Orange alumni, because it'll serve as Orange Central weekend. More details to follow.

Psi Psi Officers



James Insogna-Donarski '23
Consul



Benjamin White '23
Pro Consul



Aidan Headrick '23
Pro Consul



Brady Carpenter '23
Annotator



Max Calderon '23
Magister



Christoffer Ostergaard '23
Risk Manager



Matthew Hirsh '23
Recruitment Officer



Timothy Hughes '23
Philanthropy Officer



Joseph MacDougall '23
Philanthropy Officer



Richard Lugo '23
Social Chairman





Psi Psi Ramsey Ludington '48 Enters Chapter Eternal

Ramsey Ludington '48 entered the Chapter Eternal early in January 2023. He was 95, and up until his stroke, continued to live what his family believes is a life of achievements. Ramsey was a Life Loyal Sig. He paid his Psi Psi annual alumni dues in May of 2022. He likely crossed paths at Psi Psi with brothers recently written about in *The Saltine Sig*, such as **Woody Vosler '46**, **Tom Woods '50**, **Dealton Smith '21**, and the Curran brothers.

Ramsey grew up and graduated from high school in Fulton, New York. After high school, he studied at Syracuse University. He served his country during World War II as a member of the US Navy in the Pacific Theater. After his military service, he graduated from the University of Miami Law School and returned to his hometown, where he had a private law practice for some 50 years.

Community was always important to Ramsey. He was a longtime member of the Fulton Salvation Army board of directors and was honored several years ago as a 60-year member of the Fulton Kiwanis Club. Throughout his life, he was a very proud American, who flew multiple American flags at his summer home at Mexico Point on Lake Ontario and sang "God Bless America," mostly off key every July 4th, as well as other appropriate occasions.

Ramsey was a life learner and became a licensed pilot and held a general-class amateur radio license. In recent years, he continued to take various amateur radio classes.

His most proud personal achievement was the building of his 32-foot Tahiti Ketch II, Ramsey's Dream, mostly during his retirement years. Ramsey and his wife Shirley got in their RV and traveled to boat build-

ing school in Maine and returned with a blueprint plan. His son **Spencer Ludington '82** and family friend **Tim Johnston '83** recall a crate that contained lead pipe fittings that Ramsey had gotten from local plumbers in Fulton. Ramsey cooked and melted down the lead pipe and lead fittings to form the lead keel of the boat that he would build. Twelve years later, he could be seen out on Lake Ontario, enjoying sailing his *Ramsey's Dream*, with its tanbark-colored sails.

Ramsey's Dream also sailed down the Intra-coastal Waterway, a trip that started in Brewerton and ended in Key Largo, Florida. There were other sailing trips to the Oswego Harborfest, to Kingston, Canada, and to the Clayton Boat Show.

His son **Spencer Ludington '82** grew up with **Tim Johnston '83** and **Tom Johnston '80** in Fulton, New York. All become Psi Psis and were inspired by Ramsey's remarkable life. He was a living example of the Jordan Standard.

Obituary:

<https://obits.syracuse.com/us/obituaries/syracuse/name/ramsey-ludington-obituary?id=38556087>

Ramsey can rest in peace knowing he fought the good fight and gave new luster to the White Cross of Sigma Chi. All honor to his name.



Ramsey's Dream

Chapter Eternal

Thomas Dadey '56

May 28, 2021

Robert Keenan '54

June 24, 2021

Ramsey Ludington '48

January 3, 2023

Raymond Swierczynski '52

April 22, 2021

David Lyon '69

September 13, 2020

www.psipsi.org

Reflections '20-'23

(continued from page 1)

for all of us. Business were shutdown, all but first responders and medical professionals were sent home. It was an awful time.

Fast forward to summer 2020, House Corp. made the very difficult and well-considered decision to re-open the 737 Comstock Avenue for the fall 2020 to spring 2021 academic year, with strict limitations to allow only live-ins to use the property as a chapter house. We installed temperature scanners with facial-recognition technology to attempt to provide early warning of any potential COVID-19 exposure and to provide a means for compliance with the SU Stay Safe Pledge. While the fall 2020 semester was somewhat uneventful, SU closed the campus after Thanksgiving Break for the rest of the semester. Upon return to campus after winter break, before rush officially started, the chapter was accused of violating the SU Stay Safe Pledge when there was a gathering of more than 10 in an off-campus apartment to watch a hockey game, including a few potential new members and a few who were under age 21. This incident

led to SU charges of "dirty rush" and endangering minors under the age of 21 by providing access to beer. The chapter was suspended by SU and HQ, which resulted in not having a spring 2021 pledge class. Upon graduation in May 2021, the chapter headcount was down to around 50. With the chapter suspended by both SU and HQ until July 2022, we made the very difficult last-minute decision not to open 737 Comstock Avenue for the fall 2021 to spring 2022 academic year and to de-letter the property. While it was a very dark time, we embarked on a mission to comply with the SU and HQ mandates and to return to good standing. Weekly meetings were held with the Alumni Advisory Board, now two years since forming, and the chapter leadership, ultimately leading to the return of the charter by HQ and SU restoring the chapter to good standing. The property was reopened for the fall 2022 to spring 2023 academic year with 24 live-ins, only nine of whom were among the 14 remaining active members. With considerable support of HQ and the AAB, the chapter was able to conduct rush for the first time in two years, leading to the training and initiation of a pledge class of 28. Going into the spring 2023 semester,

Psi Psi: Survive → Thrive

(continued from page 1)

The Challenge

We are no longer under SU suspension and are back in good standing with Sigma Chi HQ. We have 24 brothers living in the house and 41 current brothers. We own 737 Comstock Avenue debt free. We have a strong House Corporation and Alumni Advisory Board (AAB). An enviable position, yet we face significant head winds.

None of the current undergrads have had mentorship from older brothers; none have orchestrated or experienced a "normal" initiation. Almost all officers are new

to the job. They have no experience running a chapter. Syracuse University and society in general have inaccurate hostile perceptions of fraternities. SU has continued its real estate expansion to the point where Sigma Chi is an island surrounded by university properties and soon-to-be new dorms. The Zeta Psi house next door at 733 Comstock is now closed and owned by SU. Getting waivers to live in a fraternity has gotten more difficult as SU wants the residential income.

We have a short-term opportunity to set a new path. The AAB has implemented a biweekly review process that includes chapter penalties to make sure the basics are adhered to: pay your bills, participate in the brotherhood, don't trash the house. Sounds simple, but experience has made

the chapter is now 41 strong and looking forward to a recruitment effort, which is underway at the time of this writing, with the chapter seeking quality over quantity. Think Jordan Standard. It was an incredible effort by actives and alumni to pull off saving the charter from what would inevitably have led to the departure from SU for a long time.

Why share all of this? Well quite simply, a debt of gratitude is due all those undergrads and AAB members who participated in this thankless effort. My hat is off to all of you, with mega snaps for showing up when it mattered most.

In hoc signo vinces,
Hank Suominen '78

President and Treasurer
hank@suomi33.com
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.
(aka House Corp.)

Editor's note: Hank took the lead on all these efforts. He was awarded the Sigma Chi Seven Lights award last year, an honor presented to an alumnus for 10 years of exceptional service to the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

it necessary to spell out those basic expectations clearly. We have stressed quality over quantity (think Jordan Standard) when it comes to recruitment. *We have new by-laws on the recruitment and pledging of Sigma Chi legacies. They are key to a thriving future.* The treatment of legacies in the recent past was not only disgraceful but set the chapter back in significant ways.

We have challenged the undergraduate brothers to become a Peterson Significant Chapter. The Peterson Award recognizes chapters that achieve excellence in all operations, including academics, philanthropy, recruitment, and ritual performance. We have a solid foundation to build upon. We have the finest

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Psi Psis Gather to Honor Significant Sigs in NYC



Psi Psis gather in NYC to honor and celebrate Bob and Tony's achievements.

The Sigma Chi Foundation held an event in New York City this fall to honor the careers of longtime IBM executive **Bob Lord**, Syracuse 1985, and financial service industry leader **Tony Huck**, Wisconsin-Madison 1985. Both were honored with the Significant Sig award in 2022. Hosting the event were Sigma Chi International Headquarters 72nd Grand Consul Tim Sanderson, Western 1985, and Sigma Chi Foundation President Ashley Woods, East Tennessee 2000.

I was happy to see a large contingent of Psi Psis, including Psi Psi Significant Sig **Joe Durzo '67** and NYC Alumni President **Phil Oldham '66** at The Players in Manhattan. The Players is the oldest New York City membership club still in its original home. The 1847 Gothic Revival-style mansion on Gramercy Park is a treasure of the Gilded Age and was a beautiful venue to honor Bob and Tony.

Since I had nominated Bob, I was invited to introduce him and to provide the assembled brothers a positive update on the status of the Psi Psi Chap-

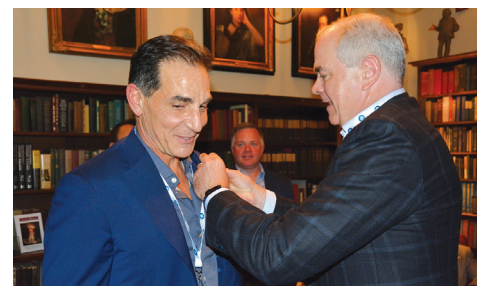
ter. Bob's family was there to help celebrate. I could tell Bob was touched by the strong showing of over a dozen Psi Psis. How great to have your friends, family, and brothers recognize and celebrate your success!

Bob's comments included that becoming a Psi Psi of Sigma Chi was a milestone on his journey to success. He shared that being a senior VP in a worldwide company like IBM provides a platform to help transform the world. The Psi Psis then retreated to a local watering spot to toast Bob, share laughs, and tell tall tales.

We've recently hung plaques at 737 Comstock for Psi Psi **Bob Lord '85** and Psi Psi **Nate Andrisani '92**, who join the previous 13 Psi Psi Significant Sigs. Both exhibit the Jordan Standard. It was a great event; congrats Bob!

Link to event pictures:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=sigmachifoundation&set=a.482664107224966>



Link to a short event video starring Psi Psis:

<https://www.facebook.com/sigmachifoundation/videos/652804039699122>

In hoc signo vinces,

Ted Collins '84

Saltine Sig Editor
Alumni Advisory Board
tedcollins1@gmail.com



PSI PSI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI

2022 HONOR ROLL of DONORS

Gifts reflected from
January 1, 2022,
through
February 6, 2023.

*In the future we will align
with the Psi Psi fiscal year of
July 1st-June 30th.*

Thank you to all the brothers listed below whom 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

Nathan Andrisani '92	Robert Lord '85
James Bersani '80	Paul LoVullo '85
Bruce Braun '64	Brian MacConnell '82
James Fini '83	Jonathan Penn '81
Daniel Gelman '83	William Rhudy III '78
William Gerbig '84	Thomas Simeone '86
Geoff Geruso '85	Gregory Sozek '81
Harold Gilbert '77	Theodore Spall Jr. '69
Adam Hildebrand '80	David Van Stone '77
John Honis '83	

BALFOUR SOCIETY

\$250-\$499

William Beach '69	Douglas Miller '84
John Bersani '79	Frederick Norfolk Jr. '89
David Birnbaum '85	Dennis O'Brien '72
Warren Boin Jr. '76	Todd Parker '84
Maurice Curran '83	David Poole '70
Robert Curran '54	William Regan '88
Christopher Dowd '12	John Romanow '80
Peter Hennigan '79	Neil Roth '81
Thomas Johnston III '80	Kip Sanford '88
Timothy Johnston '83	John Scheler '94
Kieran Kennedy '87	Henry Suominen Jr. '78
R. Michael Kimber '89	Christopher Tarro '92
William Kispert '89	Matt Teitelbaum '13
Brian Kmito '92	Bradley Waller '84
Scott Marzullo '88	

CONSUL'S SOCIETY

\$100-\$249

Scott Baird '85	Ramsey Ludington '48*
Edgar Bierdeman Jr. '70	William Munger '75
Alan Bishop '82	Paul Norcross '74
Scott Bounty '81	Benjamin Nummy '91
Judd Caplain '82	Sean O'Connor '92
John Charters '80	Stephen Oliva Jr. '91
Richard Cipperly '64	Craig Renfrow '77
Edward Collins '84	John Saven '70
Gianfranco Culotta '94	Anthony Scarpino Jr. '76
Paul Curtis '74	Douglas Sedgwick '80
Robert English '70	Brad Short '82
Robert Fessler '85	Constantine Skamas '87
James Foreman '75	Gregory Timmons '95
Anthony George '85	John Trop '84
James Greiner '87	Matthew Troy '89
Michael Hale '96	Scott Ward '83
Chester Klimek '75	James Woodman '74
Francis Koziuk '71	Michael Yates '82
Michael Ladwig '86	Chauncy Young '70

CONTRIBUTORS

Up to \$99

Chad Bollweg '93	Paula Lyon
Alan Bradt '62	<i>In Memory of</i>
Robert Case '88	David Lyon '69*
J. Theodore Cochrane Jr. '71	Jason McGrath '95
Ronald Danis '82	J. Philip Oldham '66
Edward Donnon '81	John Predmore '79
Douglas Graham '61	Robert Ruggiero '74
Eric Green '90	Christopher Scobell '06
Alice Keenan	Michael Stevens '66
<i>In memory of</i>	Stephen Tiches '91
Robert E. Keenan '54*	Scott Ziegler '82

*Deceased Brother



Psi Psi Alumni Send Their News

John Saven '70: Retired in 2016. Now serving as vice chairman of the board of a nuclear power plant in Washington. Three daughters and four grandchildren who keep me busy.

Chauncy Young '70: Ran across **Ted Spall '69** and his wife Sue while out for dinner with a friend at Eric's Office Restaurant in Canandaigua a few weeks ago. We reminisced for a while, and this got me thinking that it has been a long time since I paid dues and updated my information Psi Psi. I am still living in the underground, passive-solar, super-insulated house I built back in the early '80s, when I was in contracting. It is showing 40 years of wear and tear, yet I plan to stay here forever, if I live that long. I hope to get the sagging ceiling in the guest bedroom repaired soon, because it looks a bit ominous when sleeping there. Still visitors are welcome. I am slowly closing my now small financial-planning practice, as well as my very small massage-therapy business. At the

same time, I am very busy volunteering with Victor Hiking Trails, doing trail work in the area. I have gone back to school again part time. This time, I am taking classes at FLCC in the college's horticulture department's cannabis track. My interest is mostly from the medical side and the entourage effect of the plant's various cannabinoids and terpenes. I am deeply intrigued by the idea of growing my own once NYS promulgates the regulations, making it legal to do so, and teaching a class on the topic at the local library.

Mark Conley '79: I opened Cotton Hollow Kitchen with my wife, Joanne, on October 25, 2019. It's been a heck of a ride trying to survive. We are still standing, and the future looks better as we face the fall.

James Bersani '80: After 36 years with Limited/L Brands/Bath & Body Works, I have retired. I look forward to staying connected with my Sigma Chi brothers, including many lifelong friends.

Psi Psi: Survive → Thrive

(continued from page 5)

house and location of any SU fraternity. "The shining house on the hill."

Sigma Chi is one of the largest and most successful fraternities in the world. Psi Psi has an amazing career network. The experience of Sigma Chi, coupled with our Leadership Institute, is providing education in leadership and life skills that Syracuse University and society seem to have abandoned. Sigma Chi International Headquarters is focusing our efforts on enabling men to become leaders who will in turn positively impact the world.

Please reach out to us and ask, "how can I help?" I have found my involvement re-

warding: connecting with old friends, learning old stories, and helping young men. The alumni actively supporting the chapter are doing what they can when they can. No one will be committing to time-consuming obligations unless they want to; we understand all lead busy lives. To not only survive but thrive, we need more ideas, energy, and participation from all. Remember: the bond of our fellowship is reciprocal.

As always, we'd love to hear from you; please share a recent or "back in the day" picture; tell us a story that will make us laugh; inspire us.

In hoc signo vinces,

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

Clam Bake 2023

Schedule of Events

April 28, 2023
FRIDAY

Early arrivals to meet at the chapter house

April 29, 2023
SATURDAY

9:00 am-11:30 am
House Corp. meeting

11:30 am-3:30 pm
Lunch, with a card game to follow

Location
Chapter house
737 Comstock Avenue, Syracuse

www.psiPsi.org

Admission at no charge for dues paying member of the alumni association; all others \$50 at the door. RSVP required for securing food order.

Contact
Brad Short: bshort3@csc.com

Follow Us

Follow the undergraduate chapter online at:

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Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity

Twitter: [@sigmachisu](https://twitter.com/sigmachisu)

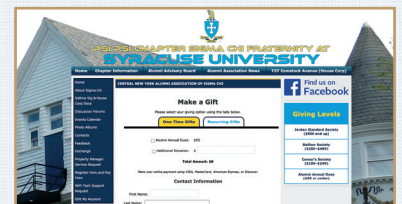
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