

House Corp. Report

Lately, I feel like a broken record: same news, different year. Or maybe insanity has set in... you know the saying, trying the same approach every time and just hoping for a different outcome? We have been stuck in the same wash cycle for a couple of years now. The alumni support of chapter operations has vastly improved with the participation of the newly formed Alumni Advisory Board back in January 2020. We have many lofty goals on our agenda; however, the SU administration's anti-Greek mindset has sidetracked those efforts, putting us on the defensive for the last two years. Frankly, it has been awful to experience first-hand. If it was not for the engaging support of John Honis, Jim Fini, Ted Collins, Scott Ward, Greg Sozek, board member Bill Gerbig and new chapter advisor Cobie Beach, all of whom particulate in a weekly status call, there might have been a different outcome.

We are steadfastly working with the chapter on the requirements to be returned to good standing by SU and headquarters, something I am optimistic will happen in 2Q of 2022. We have made a commitment to the 14 undergraduate Psi Psis that the House Corporation will re-open the property as a chapter house during the fall 2022–spring 2023 academic year, provided they are able to enlist enough live-in non-members to reach the occupancy of 28 people each semester. The undergraduate brothers who will be active on campus as seniors will have the mission to graduate while

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Psi Psi Connections: Ties that Bind



Psi Psi Brothers and their families Bethany Beach, Delaware, August 2021. Connections! Pictured: Nate Andrisani, Andrew Perry '93, Chad Bollweg '93, Rich Waisfisz '90, Jon Parella '91, Tony Pascarell '91, Jeff Marciano '91, John Cicerone '92, Steve Tiches '90, Chris Tarro '92, Cicci Culotta '94, Andy Loiacono '93 (Name order not in sync with picture).

The Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi is at a critical juncture. I thought it appropriate to focus this edition of the Saltine Sig on our connections to the past, present, and future. After all, why are you reading this? Why does it matter?

A core group has spent the last few years meeting weekly with alumni, undergraduates, Sigma Chi International Headquarters, and SU to work through suspensions, charter surrender, finances, and the path to reinstatement. We have been building on the efforts of those before us. Many might think we're wasting our time. Times have changed, universities are adversarial, society thinks fraternities are drunken dens of sexual harassment and privilege. The next generation does not see the benefits of what we represent. Alternative housing is available with more amenities and privacy than a fraternity offers.

Why then are so many alumni and undergrads working hard to be reinstated? Why should you care and what

role can you play? I believe we are more relevant now than ever. Today's undergraduates have different temperaments, talents, and convictions. They're different races and come from different socio-economic circumstances, promoting fairness, justice, and learning. Sounds to me just what the world needs.

At the end of the day, what really matters? What makes you happy? What do people look back on late in life? What I see and hear is all about connection, whether it be family, friends, society, or career. I hear about the positive impacts and overcoming adversity. I come from a large family and have a large circle of non-Sigma Chi friends. They are incredulous about our Sigma Chi mosaic of deep friendship, mutual support, and core values. I think they are also a little jealous of our laughter recounting past times and recent get-togethers.

This issue highlights some of those connections and a plea for you to reconnect with our future. We need you

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Consul Message



Zach Bauer '23

I write from Castle Court apartments, as our beloved home of 737 Comstock Avenue is closed this year. After being formally suspended in June of 2021, the Psi Psi chapter of Sigma Chi is now inactive in both the eyes of Sigma Chi International Headquarters and Syracuse University. Though we are not operating as an active chapter on campus and can't participate in the everyday activities of a true Sigma Chi, we still find time as brothers to hang out with one another, attend meals, and not let the bond of our fellowship die. Considering our current status as a fraternity, we are

unable to participate in any social, brotherhood, or philanthropic events.

It is painful not having the platform to give back to the community in the same way as years past. Not having access to the chapter house has been the worst of the consequences we've faced. Not having a centralized location for congregation and a place where we as brothers can bond has been demoralizing.

All these factors have played a role in the determination of our junior class to revitalize and reinstate the Psi Psi chapter of Sigma Chi on campus. Both my current pro-consul brother James

Insogna-Donarksi and I have headed up a team to meet the reinstatement requirements outlined by Sigma Chi International Headquarters and Syracuse University. We have taken time to edit our bylaws and revamp our risk management plan as required. This semester we will be having meetings and educational sessions with both the university and Sigma Chi to meet the additional requirements outlined in the suspension.

Gentleman, I am optimistic about what the future holds for the Psi Psi chapter of Sigma Chi. I cannot stress enough how important this reinstatement process is for our fraternity. We continue to be grateful for the help of the Alumni Advisory Board during this process.

I leave you with a quote: "Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties and obstacles vanish"

-John Quincy Adams.

Brothers, I dream of the day when my brothers and I will be able to roam through the halls of 737 as the eyes of our former brothers watch over us from the composite-filled walls, but for now, we must be patient and persevere.

Zach Bauer '23
Consul



Psi Psi undergrads enjoying a holiday gathering, December 2021

House Corporation 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

Forrest “Woody” Vosler: Psi Psi Medal of Honor Winner

On December 20, 1943, the 358th Bombardment Squadron, 303rd Bomb Group out of Molesworth, England flew a combat bombing mission to Bremen. A year before the pivotal Battle of the Bulge, one American airman, 20-year-old Tech Sgt Forrest L. Vosler, would be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Vosler, at 6’3”, was deemed too tall to serve in B-17s (6’0” was the maximum)



but he bribed the doctor at his physical to allow him to continue. He was promoted to sergeant at the completion of his training in late May 1943. At approximately 8:30 AM on December 20, 1943, Vosler took off on his fourth combat mission. His aircraft, on its 28th combat mission, was a B-17F named the “Jersey Bounce Jr.” She had already been flown by eight other crews and would have been considered a “lucky ship.”

Jersey Bounce, Jr. had flown unscathed from the flak from below and the fighters to reach their bomb run. But as soon as bombardier Lieutenant Monkres announced “bombs away,” the big bomber shuddered and began to lose power. Four bombers were damaged and out of the formation. German fighters swarmed and one by one, they decimated them and shot them down until Jersey Bounce Jr. was the last.

A German fighter hit the tail with exploding 20mm shells that wounded one of the crew members, George Buske, who called

out on the intercom that he was wounded. Vosler, in an interview, later would recall that “there was a lot of shrapnel coming through the aircraft. I don’t know where it came from, but to the best of my belief, it was pieces of our aircraft... I was hit in both legs. I stood there for a few moments, terribly scared... I could also feel the blood flowing down my legs.”



“Several things went through my mind,” he remembered. “One of them was that there was no question about my getting the Purple Heart. My next thought was that ‘this is a very serious business I’m in, and I’ve got to do something to protect myself or I’m not going to make it.’ I figured I’d got an armor-plated chair and it curled up around my back. As I sat there contemplating my next move, I thought how silly my actions were because I didn’t know where the next bullets were going to come from. I had to have the chair facing the right direction, or this wasn’t going to work. It wasn’t going to stop any bullets. So, I figured: ‘If this is the way it’s going to be, at least I’m going to die standing up. I’ll do the job. I might as well just get up because I’m not going to protect myself with this chair. This is stupid!’”

Vosler opened the hatch and added his machine-gun fire to that of the top turret gunner, but there were so many German fighters that it appeared

the sky was full of them. Vosler cut loose with his .50 caliber and hit two fighters with the same burst. “My first burst

knocked pieces on the left side of his wing off,” Vosler said. “I was actually after the engine or the pilot. I moved the gun rapidly over to try to get him. I was firing as I turned, and I went right across the stabilizer (of Jersey Bounce) and put a hole in it because this gun had no stops. Our plane seemed to be flying all right, so I didn’t bother Henderson with a little thing like hitting the stabilizer.”

Vosler’s goggles fogged up and as he pushed them on his forehead, another exploding 20mm shell exploded on the breach of the machinegun and wounded him badly in the chest and his face, damaging the retina on his right eye. At first, Vosler panicked, thinking he was



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Tom Woods Son of Bitche



Tom Woods Psi Psi '50 was part of the 100th Infantry Division that sailed to Europe in October 1944. The first elements were sent into combat at St.

Remy in the Vosges Mountains on November 1, 1944, and drove against the German Winter Line. The 100th took Bertrichamps and Clairupt, pierced the German line, and seized Raon-l'Étape and Saint-Blaise-Moyenmoutier.

In December 1944, the division went on the offensive in the vicinity of Bitche, France. The division occupied the nearby areas of Wingen and Lemberg after fierce fighting on December 6-10. The division then advanced to Reyersweiler and Fort Schiesseck, which fell after heavy assaults. The division was ordered to halt its attack and to hold defensive positions south of Bitche as part of the Seventh Army during the Battle of the Bulge. Thanks to a stout defense, the men of the 100th later became known as the "Sons of Bitche". In March, Bitche finally fell to the 100th Infantry Division. Tom suffered multiple bullet wounds during the battle.

Tom returned home with honors including

the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was proud to be a "Son of Bitche." Tom enrolled at the College of Forestry at Syracuse University under the GI Bill. While at Syracuse, Tom was captain of the Syracuse University Ski Team and Consul of Sigma Chi in 1950. He was friends with Ed Curran '50 and enjoyed living at 129 College Place. He was a Life Loyal Sig.

Tom certainly retained the spirit of youth. He was an active member of the Elks Club, Boy Scouts of America, 70+ Ski Club, and an avid skier, camper, and sportsman. He particularly enjoyed teaching his grandchildren to ski. Tom was able to live independently to the end. All of Tom's kids know the words Tom said at every meal: "Thank you for thy many blessings; keep us from harm." I am proud to have called Tom Woods my friend and brother.

Ted Collins '84

Tom Woods Connections



Ted Collins, Tom Woods, John Woods

The first of many, almost surreal, connections between our families is the fact that my dad and Tom Woods Psi Psi '50 were both 20 years old as they sailed to Europe in the fall of 1944. My dad recalled that

the Atlantic voyage was as calm as could be, but when they went past Gibraltar and entered the Mediterranean Sea the waves became huge. Dad recalled that most of the soldiers were seasick, but he and his buddies were on the bow having a great time getting soaked.

My dad's 48th Tank Battalion was part of Patton's Third Army, while Tom's 100th Infantry division was part of the Seventh Army. They fought close to each other, including in the Vosges Mountains, which my dad said was the world's worst tank terrain and was bitterly cold. Dad's best friend was killed by a sniper shot to the forehead their first week in Europe. Battle became hand-to-hand for the 100th Infantry. Tom Woods went to church every Christmas Eve for the rest of his life to pray for the German soldier of similar age that Tom had bayoneted in a literal fight to the death. In March of 1945, Tom was shot in a fierce battle.

At his 90th birthday celebration, during a quiet personal conversation, I said, "Tom, that's a lot of birthdays. Tell me about an

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Ted with Tom's granddaughter Carly SU v. ND football game at Yankee Stadium.

Dealton Smith Connections

Dealton Smith Psi Psi 1921 was a World War I veteran, a corporal in the 59th Pioneer Infantry whose motto was "Let 'em have It." Dealton was 20 years old when the 59th saw hard fighting as a part of the Fourth Division in Champaign in the Aisne-Marne engagement, in Lorraine at St. Mihiel and at the Meuse-Argonne. In the Aisne-Marne offensive, the regiment did gallant service against the Chateau-de-Diable north of the Vesle

as Germans in American uniforms." Dealton returned from combat and graduated from SU in 1921. While at SU, Dealton played on the SU lacrosse team, which had just started up a few years earlier. After graduation, Dealton coached football, basketball, and baseball at Manlius High School and became district superintendent for the Onondaga County School District. He held Sigma Chi near and dear to his heart.

in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen... however—he married a widow!"

Otto recalled that a large number of Psi Psis attended his funeral in 1980 and recalls his wife and family were very appreciative of the show of support and respect by the large group of Psi Psi undergraduates in attendance.



Dealton with Mike and Otto in the late 1970s at 737 Comstock

River. In this action "a squad of machine gunners, in woolen olive drab uniforms were sighted approaching the flank of the 59th from the direction of the Chateau-de-Diable. Cautioned by one of his men that the approaching men were American, the sergeant commanding the flank platoon yelled, 'they come from the wrong direction, let 'em have it.' The dead men were later identified

Adam "Otto" Hildebrand Psi Psi '80 writes: Dealton Smith was the embodiment of brotherhood. I think back and I don't remember him as some old guy that just stopped by once in a while because he had nothing else to do. Sigma Chi was very important to him. He wanted to be involved with the undergrad brothers. He reached out in conversation to everyone within earshot. He taught us how to play dominoes. He'd take us to a bar near his home called "The Gulch." He even gave us advice on talking to girls. And he always wore a suit. He stopped by when nothing in particular was going on as much as he did for chapter meetings and social activities. He always had a good joke to tell or an old fraternity song to sing. One year we had a chapter meeting that happened to occur on Washington's (actual) birthday. Dealton gave his GO, reminding us of the importance of remembering how great a patriot George Washington was, culminating in 'He was first

Hank Suominen Psi Psi '78 shares: "God bless the stoic heroes who went about their business quietly making a positive impact along the way. Dealton repeatedly told this joke about an Onondaga tribal leader woman who looked at herself in the reflection of the waters of what was at the time the unnamed Skaneateles Lake, and she admired the long reflection of herself in the water, saying, 'Ah, skinny at last,' and so that's how the lake was named."

Mike Yates Psi Psi '82 writes: "Dealton believed in lifelong learning. Every time we saw him, he'd ask, 'What did you learn today you didn't know yesterday?' He would not let up until you told him something, anything. What you learned in class, about life, anything! I used that same question with my kids. I'd always start with, 'You know what Dealton would ask...'" Al Bishop Psi Psi '82

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Bob Curran Connections

My family moved to Pittsford, NY, in 1968. We moved into a new neighborhood built on what had been the closest farmland to this historic canal village. Many Psi Psis have a connection to Pittsford, including Bill and Cobie Beach and Ted Spall. It turned out to be quite the Irish neighborhood with families such as the Mooneys, Flynns, Boyles, O'Reillys, and the Collins and Curran families.

The Curran family lived down the street. Both of our families were active at St. Louis Catholic church. I was the youngest of seven children and became a friend and schoolmate of two of Bob Curran's eight children. Five of Bob's children and three Collins kids ended up attending Syracuse University. My sisters Marcia and Claudia both were Kappa Kappa Gammas at SU (another sister was a Kappa at St. Lawrence University).

In my conversation with Bob, he recalled looking out his bedroom window and seeing the Collins' entire home in flames one cold November morning with my sisters on the garage roof after escaping through a bathroom window. My parents and I escaped from a second-story bedroom window. Mom, likely in shock, just sent me off to school. My routine was to walk to the Curran's and Bobby Curran and I would walk to school together. That morning, Mrs. Curran took one look at me and brought me in to scrub the soot off my face and give me fresh clothes that didn't reek of smoke.

I didn't realize until decades later that Bob Curran was a Psi Psi Sigma Chi. I'm proud to call him my brother.

Ted Collins '84



Honis Connections

John Honis '83 and I pledged together in fall 1980. We joined Sigma Chi with different temperaments and experience. I had just graduated high school and turned 18



right before the semester started. John was a few years older and knew a number of Sigma Chis from his hometown Syracuse. The following year we lived next door to each other in the front rooms on the second floor of 737 Comstock.

We had become friends during pledging and had a blast the next two years. Boy, could John stir up some fun (he still does). "Turk" exploits are fondly recalled by many. We had a bit of yin and yang going on as

he tended to push the limits of "fun" as I often cautioned restraint. Looking back on those years I'll wager many would agree that similar balancing acts occurred over the years and kept things seriously fun within (often stretched) boundaries. I believe that balance skewed towards less restraint the last few years. Fewer brothers experienced the bonds, mutual respect, and balance gained sharing a home.

John and I essentially lost touch the next few decades as he was slaying dragons in New York and Dallas while I was living in the "wilderness" of Saratoga Springs. Roughly a dozen years ago John relocated to Saratoga Springs to raise his family and we reconnected. We started golfing, boating, dining, and hanging out frequently. Our wives have become best

friends. The four of us vacation together a few times a year. We still have that yin and yang dynamic as John shows me how to speed up and I show him the value of slowing down.

John and I were founding members of the Psi Psi Alumni Advisory Board. We have learned that we not only can play together but we can work together bringing different talents and perspectives. It's been an exasperating but rewarding experience.

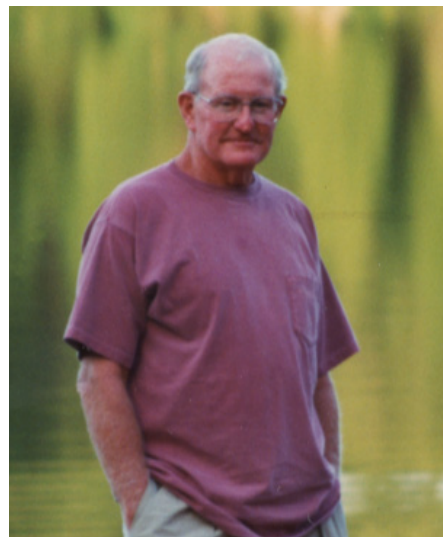
John's son Dylan Psi Psi '21 also ended up attending Syracuse. John was thrilled when Dylan pledged Sigma Chi and had the delight of pinning the badge on his son at initiation, exactly 900 brothers after him. Dylan lived in the house the next year and I have enjoyed meeting many of his Psi Psi friends. They share the comradery and respect for each other that is at the heart of the Sigma Chi experience. Dylan graduated in December as a stalwart brother of the group helping navigate Psi Psi through suspension and save it for another generation.

I am looking forward to the next few decades of adventures with my friends and brothers John and Dylan Honis. I look forward to seeing more Sigma Chi legacies playing a key role in the future of Psi Psi. Proud to be a Sigma Chi, especially at Psi Psi.

Ted Collins '84



Robert Curran, Psi Psi '54



I had the opportunity to recently catch up with Bob Curran, Psi Psi '54. Bob is enjoying living in Naples, Florida and turns 90 this year. Bob followed his brother Ed Curran, Psi Psi '50, to Syracuse University. Both brothers became Consul of Sigma Chi.

Bob shared how Ed and then Bob were first attracted to joining Sigma Chi. It turns out that many veterans were attending SU on the G.I. Bill and SU had veterans living all over the city of Syracuse due to a housing crunch. Ed noticed Sigma Chi had a nice house at 129 College Place and ended up pledging Sigma Chi. Bob had been awarded a swim team scholarship and was living where many athletes did, in prefab housing on Irving Avenue just below the old Archbold Stadium. When Bob was elected consul his senior year, he moved into Sigma Chi at 129 College Place.

Bob led a very busy life at SU. He was consul of Sigma Chi fraternity and president of the St. Thomas More Chapel in 1954. He belonged to the Orange Key Junior Men's Honorary and the Tau Theta Upsilon Senior Men's Honorary. Bob was also captain of the Syracuse

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Sigma Chi Leadership Institute

Editor's Note: The Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi was slated to participate in the initial rollout of the Sigma Chi Leadership Institute. Due to our suspension, we could no longer participate. We will be joining the program when the suspension is lifted. The Transformational Leader program is the first and only accredited leadership experience offered through a fraternity.

Sigma Chi decided to forge its own path to determine its future, making a courageous decision to enter uncharted territory by creating its own leadership institute and, at the time, faced great uncertainty by looking to achieve national accreditation for this new entity, a venture that had never been accomplished within the fraternity industry. It was a calculated plan that integrated the social skills members learn from the traditional fraternity experience with an ambitious certification and validation of an accreditation status recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, thus quantifying the Sigma Chi leadership experience. From the highest educator in the land: to be a Sigma Chi is synonymous with being a certified leader.

"No one would argue that we're not facing a lot of big challenges in the world today

and that the pace of change is accelerating. Problems are more complex and interconnected today— we need leaders who can bring diverse teams together to tackle tough new challenges," says 64th Grand Consul Keith Krach, Purdue 1979. "This is why I believe we need to help develop the next generation of bold, principled, transformational leaders who can help address our challenges and make sure tomorrow's world is a better world for everyone."

To build their own vision of Sigma Chi's leadership development was daring. It was bold. It was vintage Sigma Chi. This light of high ambition is exactly why the world expects more of Sigma Chi and why Sigma Chi Leadership Institute was born to deliver transformational leadership tools for all Sigma Chi members.

"Sigma Chi is a pioneer as a leadership development organization that is preparing young men to learn how to lead authentically and to follow their values with character throughout their lifetimes as they make a difference in the world through their leadership," best-selling leadership author, Significant Sig and Order of Constantine Sig Bill George, Georgia Tech 1964, says. "There is no better place to learn how to lead, as I did, than in your local chapter, which is a microcosm of the real world."

Sigma Chi's vision to proactively transform what it means to be a fraternity man through leadership development was a bold one. It meant taking fraternal tradition and infusing it with innovation. From putting on their pledge pin through youth, manhood, and old age, Sigma Chi has a

leadership strategy for all of its members in all walks of life.

"Sigma Chi's No. 1 priority is preparing our members for success throughout life, and we take this obligation seriously," says Sigma Chi International Fraternity Executive Director Mike Church, Illinois 2005. "We decided that the way to do that was to ensure that the offerings we provide in the areas of personal and leadership education are the best available anywhere – that they are truly transformational. We landed on pursuing a path of building an accredited institute to handle this audacious task because we wanted to ensure that our efforts were validated at the highest level available."

Sigma Chi is in the arena. It wants all of its more than 265,000 living members to join it. If you're an alumnus, join the Sigma Chi Facilitator Academy to teach the transformation of tomorrow's Sigma Chi leaders. If you're an undergraduate, enroll in one of the available leadership certificates in Sigma Chi Leadership Institute and use the Transformational Leader program to recruit the next generation of men in the arena for Sigma Chi.

Our fraternity, our campuses, and our communities need such men. Let every man who leaves our chapters be such men. "The world is crying out for transformational leaders," Bill George adds, "for those who lead authentically and follow their purpose with courage can have a positive impact on the world."

Jim Cogdal
Bradley 2003 SCLI Executive Director



Dealton Smith Connections

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shares: "Watching the Super Bowl was always a big event at Psi Psi. We would move the TV into the larger living room so everyone could watch. One year, Dealton showed up with a bushel basket of apples extolling the health benefits of the fruit. He spent the entire evening watching the game with us and doling out his apples. He was always

a hit at little sister events! After he passed away, we thought it only fitting to name the library room after him. Education was a passion for him, so it only made sense."

Ted Collins '84



House Corp. Report

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working hard to re-establish our ranks and reputation on campus.

Physical Plant Status: We have two caretakers living in the residence, so we have eyes on the property. One of the two boilers failed, with the remaining one holding on. We filed a claim under our boiler and machinery insurance policy; however, round one was a denial, which is typical. I have filed an appeal in the hope they will reconsider given we have a good record of conducting annual service and the other boiler is operational. Hopefully we can complete the repairs in the spring as no spare parts were available due to the COVID-19 impact on supply chains. All of our other issues have not gotten any better or worse.

Financial Status Update: In February 2022 we made the last payment on the

bank loan taken out in 2018 to cover the cost of upgrading the fire protection system and fire alarms and re-wiring and re-lamping the second and third floors, so we are debt-free once again. With the property closed for the fall 2021-spring 2022 semester, we have no operating income other than some minor revenue from operating the parking lot. As of February 1, 2022, we have cash on hand of \$262,149 with a \$50,000 stand-by line of credit so we have been able to weather the shortfall in income. As mentioned above, with the chapter returned to good standing, we will have rental income once again in the fall 2022 semester. We have operated with fiscal conservatism over the years while getting the most important capital repairs done at the same time. Under the circumstances, we are in decent financial

condition.

I'll take this opportunity to make a plug about reunions. The mid-70s-80s reunion will not be taking place. With COVID-19 travel restrictions being lifted people are traveling to destinations previously restricted opting out of the reunion. We will try again next year. In the meantime, save the date for Homecoming 2022 taking place Saturday October 1, 2022—details will be in the Summer 2022 edition of *The Saltine Sig.*

IHSV,
Hank Suominen '78
President & Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.

Robert Curran, Psi Psi '54

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University crew team and captain of the Syracuse University swim team.

Bob served in the United States Army Field Artillery as a lieutenant from 1955 to 1957. He had a long and successful career in the telecommunications industry from the mid-fifties to his retirement in 1990. Bob served on the board of directors of the SU Alumni Club of Rochester and was club vice president from 1985–88. He has been an SU Varsity Club member since 1960 and a loyal contributor to the Orange Pack's crew and swimming funds, SARA, and the Fund for Syracuse, as well as Sigma Chi Fraternity for several decades. Five of Bob's eight children and his wife, Mary Heinrich '55, have degrees from Syracuse.

Bob shared that a highlight of his alumni life was being awarded an SU Lettermen of Distinction award in 1997. Along with seven other winners, they were feted during half time of the SU vs Virginia Tech game in the Carrier Dome and honored at a black-tie dinner—what a thrill!

Bob has been following the saga of the Psi Psi Chapter and shares the concern of how SU is treating fraternities. He did share how the Chapter overcame some issues in the early 1950s. Most of the Sigma Chi's the last few years had been WW2 Veterans and a bit older. The new recruits were younger

that didn't follow the rules and created some "friction". He can relate to overcoming some "bad apples" and the need for continuity. He was chagrined to hear of the anti-legacy sentiment that had pervaded Psi Psi in recent years.

Bob has the Psi Psi Chapter in his heart and wishes us the best of success in overcoming suspension. He notes that some of his brothers recently passed. If anyone wants to reach out to Bob, his address is 2055 Aberdeen Lane, Naples, Florida 34109. Thanks, Bob, for sharing your memories and best wishes from all of us Psi Psi Sigma Chis.



Tom Woods Connections

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interesting one.” Tom went on to tell me the tale of his 21st birthday spent in an army field hospital recovering from bullet wounds. I asked if they sang him ‘Happy Birthday’ and he replied, “Hell no, no one knew it was my birthday. My friends were dying all around me.” In 1946 they both returned to the US, my dad to finish his senior year at Norwich Military College and Tom to enroll at Syracuse University on the GI Bill.

Fast-forward 30 years to the mid-’70s and Tom’s daughter Carol and my sister Lynn ended up on the same St. Lawrence University semester abroad in Africa. They ended up climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro together. Carol told me that it was the closest she had ever come to dying. A bitter storm had enveloped the mountain, and many got separated. She finally followed a guy down the mountain who was mumbling “I got to get off this F’in mountain.”

In the late 1970s, Tom’s son Tommy (who was attending Rochester Institute of Technology), my sister Marcia, and I were all ski instructors at Bristol Mountain south of Rochester. Tommy and Marcia dated for a number of years. Tragically, Tom’s oldest son Jimmy was killed in a car accident just a mile from our home in Pittsford in 1978. I was then introduced to Tom’s youngest son John Psi Psi ‘84.

John Woods and I ended up pledging Sigma Chi as freshmen together in the fall of 1980. One of the reasons we went to 737 Comstock Avenue for rush was because his dad was a Sigma Chi at SU. It was a powerful moment during initiation when Tom pinned the badge on John. He then chuckled and told me (after enduring initiation week) that I “looked a little rough.”

Tom ‘50 and John ‘84 introduced me to boating and camping on Lake George and

skiing at Gore Mountain after I moved to Saratoga Springs. I enjoy camping and skiing with the Woods family every year to this day. I became godfather to one of Tom’s grandchildren and have attended all his grandkids’ weddings and many of Tom’s birthday celebrations.

I enjoyed many a laugh with Tom. His family enjoyed how I could get him talking about his war experiences that they had never heard about (often after I had sneaked him a glass of Scotch). Sadly, cold waters dampened Tom’s feet right before New Year’s at the age of 97. He will be missed.

Read Tom’s obituary here:
www.sbfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Thomas-Woods-14/#!/Obituary

Ted Collins ‘84

Forrest “Woody” Vosler

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going to die right there. But he quickly regained his calm, saying he beseeched God to forgive him for “his bad days” while remembering his good ones.

The Jersey Bounce Jr. had been damaged so severely and flying so low to the ground that they were receiving ground fire. The pilot, Lieutenant Henderson, knew the B-17 wouldn’t make it back to England on just two engines, but headed out over the North Sea beyond the enemy’s reach. The crew was throwing everything overboard that wasn’t nailed down to lighten the weight. Vosler, crouched over his radio set, barely able to see, waiting to send an SOS after the aircraft was over the ocean, encouraged his fellow crew members to toss him overboard as well.

After ditching in the frigid water of the English Channel, the stricken aircraft was quickly filling with water. The crew

scrambled out on the wings. As the crew placed the severely wounded Buske on the wing, they tried to inflate the life rafts. But the unconscious Buske began to slide off the wing and into the water. And the nearly blind Vosler once again jumped into action.

“I jumped and held out my hand at the same time. I grabbed the antenna wire that runs from the top of the tail to just forward of the starboard radio compartment window,” Vosler said. “I prayed that it would hold, and I was able to grab Buske around his waist just as he was going into the water, sliding off the trailing edge of the wing.”

The trawler picked the crew up and transported them to British PT boats that transported the crew to the hospital. Buske somehow managed to survive multiple surgeries and eventually returned to

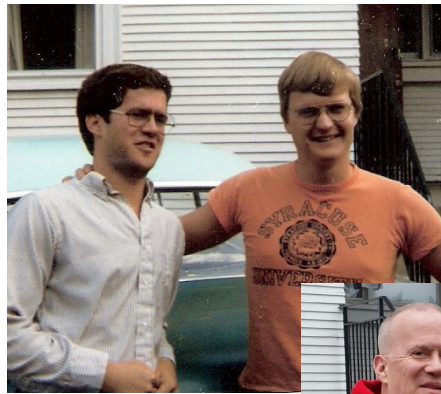
active duty, finally being discharged in September 1945. He died in 2003.

Vosler spent almost a year in the hospital, eventually regaining his sight partially. On September 6, 1944, he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was discharged from the Army Air Corps in October 1944. Having lost one eye and with blurred vision in the other, his skill as a radio operator got him a job as an engineer at radio station WSYR, in the Syracuse, New York area. He attended the College of Business Administration at Syracuse University and was initiated into the Sigma Chi fraternity. Forrest then spent a 30-year career with the Veteran’s Administration in Syracuse, New York, counseling other veterans and performing community service. He is truly an inspiration for all generations of Psi Psi brothers.



Psi Psi Emergency Contact Tracing

If you are in these pictures (or others in your photo albums) or know the people in them you may have been exposed to lifelong friendships, camaraderie, and a spirit of youth. Symptoms may include memories that make you smile, career advancement, and a willingness to assist brothers in time of need. It is imperative to reach out and at minimum let us know how you are doing.



Psi Psis Dan Davidson and Adam "Otto" Hildebrand in 1980 and again in 2016.



They are both optimistic about graduating before becoming Medicare eligible.

CDC AAB Recommended Guidelines

The health and survival of the Psi Psi Chapter depend on alumni volunteering in one form or another. At our most critical time in decades, we hope to hear back from many of you. Here is my take on the spectrum of your potential involvement.

Say a prayer for Psi Psi. Share this *Saltine Sig* with other Sigs you know. Get in touch with us and simply say hello. Support the Alumni Chapter with annual dues. Join in a quarterly or biannual House Corporation or Alumni Advisory Board meeting to hear what's going on. Share pictures and stories from "back in the day." Join in a Psi Psi reunion. Join us for a round of golf. Join the CNY or NYC Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter. Volunteer to reach out to your pledge or graduation classmates and ask them to get in touch. Let Syracuse University know you support Sigma Chi and the Greek System. If you have more time, let us know your area of expertise. We could use experience in law, public relations, social media, commercial real estate, fundraising, and influence on the SU administration. Encourage relatives and friends' kids who you believe would be a good fit for Psi Psi to rush in 2022 and beyond. Rebuilding membership is critical over the next few years.

We are at an "all hands on deck" time. Can we achieve reinstatement? Can we financially operate 737 Comstock Avenue? Can we instill in current and future young men why this matters, why this is important, and why the world and SU need the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi more than ever? With your help, we can answer these questions with a resounding "yes." Please use this link to tell us how you are doing and how you might be able to help: tinyurl.com/yzffryh.



Central New York Alumni Association of Sigma Chi – Syracuse

Pay your dues online at: www.alumnirecords.org/psipsi

Honor Roll for 2021–2022

February 26, 2021 – March 14, 2022

JORDAN STANDARD SOCIETY (\$500 or more)

James W. Fini '83
William S. Gerbig '84
Adam M. Hildebrand '80
John W. Honis '83

Willard Todd Parker Jr. '84
David W. Pietrowski '85
William P. Rhudy III '78
Thomas J. Simeone '86

Theodore F. Spall Jr. '69
Henry C. Suominen Jr. '78
Mark C. Tinker '73

BALFOUR SOCIETY (\$250 – \$499)

Nathan J. Andrisani '92
James L. Bersani '80
John Bersani '79
David K. Birnbaum '85
Bruce B. Braun '64

Robert M. Curran '54
Christopher H. Dowd '12
Geoff D. Geruso '85
Peter E. Hennigan '79
Glenn S. Nunnemaker '78

Jonathan B. Penn '81
Neil A. Roth '81
John A. Scheler '94
Paul L. Trombly '74

CONSUL'S SOCIETY (\$100 – \$249)

Scott M. Allen '88
Paul L. Artruc '85
William E. Beach '69
Judd A. Caplain '82
John C. Charters '80
Edward G. Collins '84
Ferdinand L. Coste '73
James Cowdrick '88
Michael T. Cummings '91
Paul A. Curtis '74
Joseph D'Eramo '12
Anthony P. George '85

Stephen F. Hartman '73
Kieran M. Kennedy '87
Chester R. Klimek '75
Michael Ladwig '86
Joseph D. Lane '85
James J. LaVine '52
Jason A. McGrath '95
Louis Mellen III '79
John M. Miller '82
William C. Munger '75
Sean P. O'Connor '92
Stephen A. Oliva Jr. '91

David R. Poole '70
Kip A. Sanford '88
Anthony A. Scarpino Jr. '76
Brad J. Short '82
Eric R. Southard '81
Christopher T. Tarro '92
Gregory J. Timmons '95
John V. Trop '84
Edward B. Turetzky '78
Scott S. Ward '83
James L. Woodman '74
Michael D. Yates '82

CONTRIBUTORS (up to \$99)

Robert H. Bathrick '64
Robert P. Bova '80
Alan W. Bradt '62
J. Theodore Cochrane Jr. '71
Robert W. English '70

Douglas L. Graham '61
Richard A. Harder HON '76
Gregg R. Lawler '83
Robert F. McMeekin '56
J. Philip Oldham '66

William R. Peskin '76
Matt Teitelbaum '13
Scott E. Ziegler '82

Active members in the mailing list database:

ALU = 1249 Lost= 209 or 17%

Psi Psi Facebook page:

468 members

Members in good standing (dues paying):

45 to date ← Thank you, dues payers, we hope to see 20 more next issue!

Pay your dues online at: www.alumnirecords.org/psipsi



Psi · Psi · Alumni Send Their News

Robert McMeekin '56: Still keep in touch with my freshman year roommates, Ken Sparks '56 and Vince Ceriello '59, whom I invited to pledge. Still swimming competitively, but the meets have been postponed due to COVID-19. I must confess that, at 87, most of my competitors are swimming in hell. Saddened by the passing of Rear Admiral Pete Demayo '56, a close friend, but I talked recently to Gen. Joe Brooks '56, who's doing well.

Stephen Hartman '73: Hi, old friends and Sigs. I finally made the move to retire to Florida in 2021. I sold my house in Waterloo, in April, and became an official Floridian in May. I live in Central Florida, northwest of Orlando. Lots to do down here, and I spend lots of time walking the nature trails with my dog, Napoleon, here in Legacy. A special hello to Jim Foreman '75 and Bob Brenna '73, whom I was able to visit at his beautiful lake house in June. In Hoc...

Paul Curtis '74: I attended the forestry school but became a CPA/Tax Specialist, CVA, and CMAA. However, I now have a 225-acre experimental forest in the town of Horizon in the Adirondacks, working seven days a week. Something's wrong with me.

Henry Suominen Jr. '78: Mid-'70s/'80s reunion was a blast! Was good to see a few "newcomers" to the reunion scene: Roger Bayley '81, John Charters '80, Dave Kaplan '80, Steve Lubelczyk '80, Jake Romanow '80, Dave Merwin '80, Lou Mellen '79, Mike Cote '76, and Bill Munger '75. Green Lakes, Turning Stone golfing, and dinners! Though 737 Comstock was a lot of fun, shout-out to the "regulars" Ron Andenmatten '75, Warren Boin '76, Bill Gerbig '84, John Honis '83, Larry Kloock '77, Glen Nunnamaker '78, Billy Peskin '76, Scott Ward '83, Rick Annenberg '77, Alan Krochtengel '79, Jim Fini '83, and Greg Sozek '81. Looking for a sponsor for 2022—it's easier than you think!

John Miller '82: Thank you for continuing to fight the good fight! Psi Psi Will Endure!

Jim Fini '83: I'm proud to report I attended my son Marcus' initiation into the Gamma Chi chapter of Sigma Chi at University of MD in Fall 2021. I hope to hear more alumni reporting future legacies.

Chapter Eternal

William G. Clotworthy '48
August 19, 2021

Thomas E. Woods '50
December 28, 2021

Donald M. Fryer '54
June 4, 2021

Thomas U. Cromwell Jr. '69
September 11, 2021

Thomas R. Ansel '75
December 28, 2019

Psi Psi Connections

(continued from page 1)

more than ever. Since assuming responsibility for the Saltine Sig I have gained the highest respect for Psi Psis in general and the 20-year-olds in particular. One hundred years of Psi Psis, 1921–2021, fighting the good fight for our country and our fraternity, are covered in this issue. We can't wait to hear your stories.

With the chapter under suspension, we were light on content. To paraphrase Thoreau, "I apologize for speaking about myself, but I know no one better, so blame it on my inexperience." The simple solution is to hear from you. I hope these stories inspire you

to share your connection stories with the brotherhood.

We have a remarkable cast of Psi Psi characters with historical perspectives and stories that are too rich to keep to ourselves. The next issue will be much thinner without your stories, pictures, and contributions. There is an enclosure provided in this mailing for you to use sharing your story or email me at tedcollins1@gmail.com. I hope you enjoy the updated look, feel, and content of *The Saltine Sig*.

Ted Collins '84

Follow Us

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

LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/groups/8811881/
Syracuse Sigma Chi

Visit our website at
www.psiPsi.org

Save the Date!

Homecoming 2022: September 29 – October 2, 2022