

The SALTINE SIG



Great news *for* Psi Psi at SU

Last April, I wrote to you on the future of Sigma Chi at Syracuse University. Well, it looks like coming back is a reality! In this newsletter you will find several articles about what has occurred since our last *Saltine Sig*.

As you will see, things are really rolling—I mean *really* rolling. Led by the efforts of Butch Gilbert '77, we have received approval for Sigma Chi to return to Syracuse University from both Syracuse University and the Sigma Chi International Fraternity.

The International Fraternity sent a delegate—along with a panel of alumni, including the Grand Praetor—to review the members of the existing Psi Psi, Inc., Fraternity to determine if the members should be allowed to become new members of the revitalized Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi.

They all passed the review with flying col-

ors and are now considered members of the new Sigma Chi colony and have officially been invited to pledge Sigma Chi. (The normal process will take 12-14 months culminating with an initiation.)

The Central New York Alumni Association of the Sigma Chi Fraternity—centered in Syracuse—has been revitalized and has an active board of officers led by Brad Short '82.

Led by John Bersani '79, important fundraising to make needed improvements to the chapter house at 737 Comstock Ave. has already begun. Check out our goal and progress in John's article below.

The Central New York Alumni Association has scheduled a get together on a football weekend (SU versus Louisville) the weekend of October 20-22. Lots to talk about; come on up! We also have a website www.psiPsi.org. Check it out!

It has been a long time since we could share such good news with you. We will need your help to finalize the revitalization of Sigma Chi at Syracuse. The Central New York Alumni Association needs dues to support our mailings and events. Improvements to the house are necessary. Guidance for our new members is very important. Just communicating with us will be great.

As I said in the last *Saltine Sig*, the time is right and the need is there!

Sincerely,

William E. Beach '69
President
House Corporation

Psi Psi chapter house in need of repair, renovation

We have work to do! Our chapter house at 737 Comstock Ave. is in dire need of major repair, renovation, and restoration.

We have recently completed a thorough inspection of the house and developed a preliminary, but comprehensive, scope of proposed work and cost estimate for the project.

The house's major infrastructural systems—structure, roof, windows, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and safety/security—are all in need of attention. In addition, the aesthetics of the house, which as you all know were once its greatest asset, are also in need of major work—both the interior and exterior of the house.

The house is currently leased to the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity. Their lease

expires in July 2008, at which time we will take back possession and begin work. Our goal is to have the house back in shape for occupancy by undergraduate brothers in the fall of 2009. Until then, the undergraduate brothers will continue to occupy a rented house on Ostrom Avenue— which is quite small (with a capacity of only eight brothers) but is currently serving the needs of the 30-member Sigma Chi colony.

We have kicked off a major fundraising effort. Our goal is to raise \$1.25 million. The cost of the necessary repairs is estimated to be about \$1 million. I am pleased to report that we are—thanks to the generosity of 43 alumni brothers who have already "stepped up"—well on our way to achieving our goal. To date, we have raised

just shy of \$300,000. That's a great start.

Over the next few weeks, I will be reaching out to as many of you as I can. We need money—that's for sure—but we also need some individuals who can dedicate some of their valuable time to help in this effort. I hope to see many of you at the October reunion in Syracuse. I will get into more detail there.

In the meantime, please consider a pledge to this worthy cause. You will not only be helping to perpetuate our tradition at SU and the many memories that it evokes, but you will also be giving a great gift to future generations of young men at SU. A pledge form is included with this issue of the *Saltine Sig*. The form can be completed and mailed to me, or alternatively, just send me an e-mail.

These are five-year pledges to be paid in equal annual installments starting this year. Contributions will not be tax deductible, as the Internal Revenue Service, at least as of this writing, does not recognize fraternities as qualified tax-exempt entities.

Many thanks for your help.

In hoc,

John A. Bersani '79
Psi Psi Capital Campaign Chairman



save *the* date

OCTOBER 20-22, 2006

Make plans to attend our Reunion weekend.

Watch the Orangemen tackle the Cardinals, rekindle old friendships, and learn more about Psi Psi's future plans, for more information, contact Bill Beach at billbe@broadstonere.com.

Alumni association needs *your* help

We are happy to report that this issue of the *Saltine Sig* finds the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi back on track.

It's been eight long years since the Psi Psi charter was revoked by the International Fraternity and Syracuse University withdrew its recognition of Sigma Chi as a university-sanctioned social organization on the SU campus. That dark past is now behind us.

Almost a year ago, a group of interested alumni brothers gathered in Syracuse to jump start a re-colonization effort. Since then, a lot has been accomplished:

- The International Fraternity has endorsed the return of the Psi Psi Chapter to SU;
- Syracuse University has approved the return of Sigma Chi to the SU campus;
- A new alumni association has been formed and kicked into gear—the Central New York Alumni Association of Sigma Chi;
- A “founders” pledge class of 30 young men has been recruited, extensively interviewed, and found worthy by an alumni interview board headed by Grand Praetor Barry Van Vleck and supported by Mike Church, Sigma Chi's director of new chapter development. These young men will soon start their pledge program under the guidance of an alumni advisory board.
- A major fundraising effort has been started, with almost \$300,000 already pledged.

What does all this mean? It means that the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi is on track to be fully re-colonized and recognized by the International Fraternity and Syracuse University next fall. Until then, we will be operating as a Sigma Chi colony, known as Sigma Chi Psi. Our proud tradition at SU will continue.

Although there is ample reason to celebrate, our work is far from finished. For several reasons—to celebrate our accomplishments thus far, to reconnect with old friends, and to hear about the work ahead of us—we invite you to visit the SU campus the weekend of October 20 for what promises to be one of largest Psi Psi reunions in many, many years. See page one for more information.

In hoc,
Harold “Butch” Gilbert '77
Alumni Coordinator
Psi Psi Re-Colonization

Notes *from* the alumni meeting

The Central New York Alumni Association of the Sigma Chi Fraternity held its first meeting on March 22, 2006.

Our purpose is to not only maintain and promote true friendship among the brothers of Sigma Chi, but also to assist with the re-colonization of the Psi Psi Chapter at Syracuse University.

At the first meeting, we reviewed the proposed bylaws of the association and elected officers. They are as follows: President Brad Short '82; Vice President John Trop '84; Secretary Pierre Morrisseau '85; Treasurer Mike Yates '82; Chapter Editor Paul Artruc '86; Undergraduate Liaison Committee, Bill Gerbig '84, Doug Sedgwick '80, Paul Norcross '74, Joe McHarris '81, Tom Johnston '80; Social Chairman Tim Johnston '83.

There was much enthusiasm and anticipation at this meeting regarding the rebirth of Sigma Chi at SU. The association hosted a meeting in April on the SU campus with delegates from national and the university, as well as around 75 alumni from all over the

country. A dinner was held afterwards and many stayed throughout the weekend—renewing old bonds and creating new ones.

With Homecoming quickly approaching, the association met again on September 6, 2006, to discuss our financial status, ratify the bylaws, and plan the events for Homecoming weekend.

Also discussed were the formation of an alumni advisory board and the appointment of a pledge adviser—both critical elements to the success of the re-colonization efforts. Brother Jeff Potter (University of Rhode Island '89) has agreed to be pledge adviser and we fully support his efforts and appreciate his dedication.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2006, and we encourage any Sigma Chi alumni to join us. Details can be found on psipsi.org.

In Hoc,
Paul Artruc '86
Alumni Chapter Editor

Log on to Psi Psi's new website



Thanks to Hank Suominen '78 and his efforts, Psi Psi now has a website. Yes, we are certainly moving up.

The website is www.psipsi.org, and you can sign on by going to this site and clicking “join,” where you will be asked a series of questions about who you are, your year of graduation, e-mail address, etc.

Once you join, you will be able to—eventually, as we develop this site further—see our calendar of events, read alumni news, check on our fundraising, check on the activities of our local alumni association, and inquire about other alumni.

The possibilities are limitless. Sign on and join today!

Psi Psi alumni send their news

James L. Francis '38 writes, "I enjoyed the all-day enthusiastic meeting April 29 at Syracuse concerning the revival of Psi Psi to a Sigma Chi standard of excellence. Let's all give a hand." Jim also notes that he is "blessed with good health." Write to him at Acacia Village, 2160 Bleecker St., Apt. 311, Utica, NY 13501.

Russell F. Cahill '49 writes, "It was great to see a copy of *The Saltine Sig* again. I sure appreciate what your group is doing to help get Psi Psi back on campus. I was in the house on University Place starting in the fall of '44 with a year out for the Navy. The returning veterans were a great bunch—serious, but some good parties. You didn't have a pledge who fought on Guadalcanal as a Marine! I was back on campus for our 50th reunion in 1999. Many changes, but some of the old landmarks still there. Seeing Machinery Hall turned into a computer lab was the biggest shock for an old engineer. My best wishes for getting Psi Psi active again." Write to Russ at 10049 Rosemere St., Elyria, OH 44035; jeanandruss@aol.com.

"Still living in the gated community of Woodlake Country Club, living on the lake and near one of the two golf courses," writes **David E. Lain '52**. "Just recovering from quadruple bypass heart surgery, but doing well. Still married to my second wife of 11 years, Lynn. I missed not having a fraternity house to visit at my 50th. Good to hear about the rejuvenation of our house." Write to Dave at 693 Rosebud Ct., Vass, NC 28394; dlain@earthlink.net.

William "Toby" Larson '53 writes, "Graduated from the college of forestry. Spent most of my life making paper for Champion in Hamilton, Ohio, and Pasadena, Texas, winding up in corporate with purchasing and transportation. Married in 1954 to the love of my life, Margery, and still going strong after 50 years. Three sons and a daughter with four grandchildren. We seat 17 for Thanksgiving. Live in the country. We have a 155-acre farm. Hope you are successful in bringing Psi Psi back to life." Keep in touch with Toby at 2750 Stillwell Beckett Rd., Hamilton, OH 45013.

"Retired in 1993 as president of Arco Products Company," writes **George H. Babikian '53**. "Am currently an SU trustee and get back to Syracuse two to three times a year." Write to George at 1805 Paseo del Mar, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274.

"I have worked and lived in San Diego, California, for the past 35 years," writes **William**

H. Hilsdorf '60. "I still live in a four-unit property I purchased in 1979. I am overweight, but generally healthy for 68. So, Psi Psi is trying to restart again in Syracuse? I was part of a chapter revival in 1958 along with **Doug Graham '61**, **Jan Sturdevant '58**, and some others. We did it, and you can, too! Wonder where Doug and Jan are today. Good luck to you all!" Write to "Smiling Bill" at 2122 30th St., Ste. C, San Diego, CA 92104.

George H. Stanger Jr. '64 writes, "I retired from the New Jersey Judiciary after 22 years on June 1, 2005. During the last five years, I was assignment judge for a three-county judicial district in southern New Jersey. We have two children—a son who is a teacher in Vineland, New Jersey, and a daughter who is a child psychiatrist in New York. I am spending my retirement traveling, hunting, gardening, and cutting firewood." Send "Skip" greetings at 424 Stow Creek Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302. E-mail him at ghsstow@aol.com.

J. Phillip Oldham '66 writes, "After many years working for ad agencies and media companies, I decided to head off on my own—setting up TargetVision, a TV/electronic media program sales company. In this now independent role, I take on projects I want to do. I have been the editor of a TV-trade publication. I consult with the Pappas Communication TV Stations and USA Network daytime. I am married to Diane, have three grown daughters, and three grandkids. We maintain our season tickets to SU football and take the four-hour ride up on fall weekends." Write to Phillip at 81 Pine Brook St., Larchmont, NY 10538. E-mail him at poldham405@aol.com.

Theodore F. Spall Jr. '69 writes, "Sue and I are still married and residing in Rochester, New York. Our oldest daughter, Stacey, works in the family business. We have three grandsons—5, 3, and 2. Youngest daughter teaches math in Vail, Colorado (single and looking). I see "Beach" frequently. Waiting for him to look older! Good luck with getting the chapter reinstated at SU." Write to Ted at 9 Grandhill Way, Pittsford, NY 14534; tspall@spallhomes.com.

Richard L. Baird Jr. '70 (211 Overlook Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15216) writes, "In my advancing years I have purchased a motorcycle and look forward to visiting the Psi Psi chapter as soon as it reopens." E-mail Rick at rbairdjr@aol.com.

"Living on the edge of the Pacific Ocean in Moss Beach, California," writes **Edgar P.**

Biederman Jr. '70. "Two daughters in college at Boulder, Colorado, and Humboldt, California. Last 14 years in the investment business—institutional research. Eyeing Hawaii and Tahoe for R&R." Keep in touch with Ed at 106 Los Banos Ave., Moss Beach, CA 94038. E-mail him at ebiederman@sbcglobal.net.

"We returned to Massachusetts three years ago after living and working in London and Philadelphia for most of the mid to late '90s," writes **Richard M. Lent '70**. "My wife, Sharon, and I hope to make the small town we live in now our long-term home. But we continue to travel for work and have an apartment in Washington, D.C., where Sharon's work is based. I see **Joe Durzo '67** and **Pete Manning '70** regularly. I've also seen **Curt Young '68** and **Bob Putnam '70** in the last several years." Send Rick greetings at 154 Taylor Rd., Stow, MA 01775. E-mail him at browlent@aol.com.

Dennis J. O'Brien '72 writes, "I retired from Lucent Technologies in July 2001 and recently moved to Amelia Island, Florida, with my wife, Maggi. The house is open for any Sigs traveling in the area. Had **Tom Jennings '73** over for a few beers and good cheer." Write to Denny at 95076 Woodberry Ln., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. E-mail him at dobrien523@aol.com.

"Glad to hear we are headed back to campus," writes **Jeffrey F. Parker '72**. "My oldest daughter graduated from SU in 2004 and my youngest is a second-semester junior. Go, Orange!" Keep in touch with Jeff at 45 Morning Glory Dr., Easton, CT 06612; jfparker@herffjones.com.

Robert L. Brenna Jr. '73 writes, "Judy and the kids are great. I have seen my law practice grow and welcome back the opportunity to practice entertainment law after a hiatus for many years. I am experiencing the joy of double tuition this year. Also this year, I have been elected as vice president of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers." Keep in touch with Robert at 339 Embury Rd., Rochester, NY 14625. E-mail him at bobjresq@aol.com.

"After many years working in the non-profit management sector, I jumped on the tech treadmill for a second career in PC network administration," writes **Chester R. Klimek '75**. "I've been the Academic Computing Center manager for the past five years at Medaille College in Buffalo, New York. My wife of 23

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Psi Psi alumni send their news

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years, Kate, and I have two sons—Will, a recent Clarkson University EE grad, and Steve, a brand-new Orangeman. We enjoy our Adirondack summer vacations, especially our Eagle Cave explorations on Chimney Mountain." E-mail Chet at chet1@adelphia.net. Send him postal mail at 183 Fredericka St., North Tonawanda, NY 14120.

Harold "Butch" Gilbert '77 writes, "Currently, I am on the alumni advisory board for a new chapter at the University of Tampa. I am really enjoying being around undergraduates again. They keep me young! I hope everyone who gets the *Saltine Sig* will help us in our effort to bring Sigma Chi back to SU. We're off to a great start. Finally, please remember "our honor is in your keeping," and "I will endeavor to retain the spirit of youth." Write to Butch at 114 E Davis Blvd., #12, Tampa, FL 33606. E-mail him at hgilbert@tampabay.rr.com.

"Hard to believe I have a college sophomore at UF and an upcoming freshman also going to UF," writes **Edward B. Turetzky '78**. "My older son went Greek, but Sigma Chi at UF is a little different than the house we had in the late '70s. A hurricane finally clipped me last year, Wilma, but the damage was minor and all fixed up. Great to hear that there is interest in bringing Sigma Chi back to Syracuse. I notice a lot of familiar names—including one brother who gave the NSA the wrong info on me for my first job. No harm, as I got the offer anyway and went somewhere else. Best of luck in bringing back the house." Write to Ed at 10091 NW 13th St., Plantation, FL 33322. Send him e-mail at eturetzk@bellsouth.net.

William T. Pigott '79 writes, "I have been running a hedge fund for the last seven years in Summit, New Jersey. I am happily married with four children—two boys and two girls (18, 13-year-old twins, and 11). The oldest will be going to Princeton next year." Write to Terry at 30 Sherwood Farm Rd., Far Hills, NJ 07931; tpigott3@aol.com.

"I got married March 5, 2005, to Ashley," writes **James L. Bersani '80**. "I have lived in the Columbus, Ohio, area the past 20 years, but still visit my mom who lives in Syracuse. I am head of real estate for the specialty realtor Limited Brands, which owns Victoria's Secret." Write to Jamie at 21 Wiveliscombe, New Albany, OH 43054; jbersani@limitedbrands.com.

Scott S. Ward '83 writes, "I'm out in LA. Finally got married, have a stepson and stepdaughter, still with the Bank of America, still got the Turbo, sold the horse, still ski and shoot, and haven't gotten any better at the guitar. Where's Turk, Fini, Fester, Gilson, Eddie Paul Caspers, and Barkley B. Sheu?" Write to Scott at 1129 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale, CA 91208. E-mail him at sward930@charter.net.

Thomas J. Simone '86 writes, "After graduation, I moved to D.C. with **Mike Atkinson '86** and worked for a few years before going to law school. I moved back down to Washington and have been in practice since. I opened my current firm in 2002, practicing personal injury law." Write to Thomas at 2814 Evelyn Ct., Vienna, VA 22180; casucu@yahoo.com.

"Own a waterfront-development company with offices in Lacona, New York, and Dallas, Texas," writes **Christopher K. Ellis '89**. "Check us out at www.landfirstny.com. Married six

years and have a 2-year-old girl, Sienna Brook, 8-month old boy, Christopher, and third child due around Thanksgiving 2006. All is well." Write to Metro at 4215 Manning Ln., Dallas, TX 75220. E-mail him at chrisellis@sbcglobal.net.

Christopher T. Tarro '92 writes, "Currently, my brother and I own and manage an upscale Tuscan restaurant in Providence. I have been married for two years—with a son arriving last October." Write to Chris at 238 Atwells Ave., Providence, RI 02903. Send him e-mail at christopher.tarro@sienaprovidence.com.

J. James Bristow '95 reports that he is a ski guide at Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing in Lamoille, Nevada, and a ski patrol director at Porter Heights Ski Resort in Springfield, New Zealand." Keep in touch with Jay at P.O. Box 9138, Truckee, CA 96162; jjbristow@gmail.com.

deceased

We regret to announce the deaths of the following alumni:

Hugh D. Wharton Jr. '33
March 12, 2005

Conrad E. Hermsted Jr. '39
July 2, 2005

Huntley Stone '43

Robert A. Sanders '44
March 2005

John E. Piro '48
July 2, 2004

William S. Alden '49
December 2004

Edward G. Harris '54

John W. Jewell '62

Bruce W. Bux '69
January 30, 2003

W. Robert Ames '72
December 29, 2004

Brothers gather for golf outing

Eight Psi Psi's attempted to play golf on a great fall, September day. John Bersani '79, John Charters '80, Dan Gelman '83, Mark Conley '79, Roger Bayley '81, Jack Miller '82, Dave Merwin '80, and Gerard Barrieau '79 did some serious damage to the Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford, Connecticut. We had a great round of golf followed by cocktails and dinner, where we were joined by Brother Dan Davidson '80. Our conversation about Psi Psi returning to Syracuse was terrific. Rehashing some of our antics was most amusing. The thought of Mike Little '79, Dan Davidson, and Adam Hildebrand '80 together returning for the Reunion weekend was down right scary. The bonds of friendship and brotherhood that were established 25 to 30 years ago remain as strong as ever.

