

The SALTINE SIG



Get Your Spring 2016 Planners Out for Psi Psi Alumni Clam Bake!

Clam Bake 2016 will be special for Psi Psis—a continuation of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Psi Psi House Corporation. With big plans in the works and the spring dates to be set, leave time next spring for fun, games, and good times with your Psi Psi brothers.

Connect With Psi Psi Happenings & Your Brothers

Psi Psi keeps you connected to what is happening with your fraternity and your Psi Psi brothers four ways:

The Saltine Sig: a twice-a-year publication by mail to your home address.

www.psipsi.org: with 24/7 access to what's happening and to engage with your Psi Psi brothers.

Psi Psi on social media: Facebook, etc.

Psi Psi emails: to keep you informed about information and events. IMPORTANT: If you did not receive an email re: the annual meeting and Homecoming by the time you receive this *Saltine Sig*, it is likely that we do not have your email address. You can add your email address and update your contact information on www.psipsi.org. So log on, catch up, and stay connected.



Come Home for a Special Weekend

It's the 50th Anniversary of your Psi Psi House Corporation ... so come on home for a very special 2015 Psi Psi annual meeting and Homecoming ... and special Reunions for the Psi Psi classes of 1965, 1980, 2005, and 2015!

Whether you have been back to SU recently or not in years, now is the perfect time to "come home" to 737 Comstock. Our Psi Psi home is getting ready to celebrate 50 years of Psi Psi alumni memories. Come back and share the memories with your Psi Psi brothers and create new connections. Psi Psi Homecoming dates are October 22 to 25.

While we live in an electronically connected world, nothing can replace the in-person experience of getting together with brothers back at our 737 Comstock home.

Psi Psi House Corp. 50th Anniversary Homecoming will feature our annual cookout

and other events that are in the process of being finalized, so keep an eye on your email. If you are not certain that we have your email address or other contact information, check your profile on the psipsi.org website.

Beyond sharing Psi Psi memories, this year's Homecoming will also launch Psi Psi Connections—building the new Psi Psi database and relationships, based on who you are now—where you live, what you do, and what your passions are. The bonds of brotherhood work best when they connect with current shared lifestyles. With thousands of Psi Psis (and 244,000 Sigma Chi brothers), there are plenty of brothers we can connect you with.

So plan on being there for old Psi Psi 737 Comstock memories and start building new and lifelong Psi Psi relationships.

Phil Oldham '66

Getting 737 Comstock Ready to Celebrate!

Getting 737 Comstock ready for its 50th Psi Psi House Corporation anniversary required a very special effort and lots of TLC. Summer 2015 turnaround took on a new meaning without the years of "having done it before" with the capable hands of Rich and Deb Redhead. Our new property manager, Jim Whitbread, was certainly up to the task and did not miss a beat. He was also supported by a crew from the property management company of fellow house corporation board member Steve Oliva, which we appreciate very much. Aside from the usual staple removal, spackling, and painting, we took on the following projects:

- The small single bedroom off the large room at the top of the second-floor stairs was finally gutted to the frame, spray foam insulated, and refinished. At press time, we are awaiting a roofer to apply a single-ply membrane to end the ice dam related leaks once and for all. I think that roof has been leaking during the winter for the past 45 years.
- Laundry room in the basement was gutted and an epoxy floor was placed. We refurbished the washers and dryers and—yes, we finally took out the coin operators. Free laundry at Sigma Chi!
- We replaced about 50 pieces of slate in the foyer repairing the membrane at the same time.
- The staircase bannisters were reinforced, the

stair treads re-secured, and a new carpet was installed. Same for the back stairs.

- All the toilet-flushing hardware was replaced and shower surrounds repaired.
- Several truck loads of trash were removed from the basement, and many of the rooms were painted.
- Ritual closet was cleaned, and a new commercial grade dehumidifier with condensate pump was installed.
- The boiler was outfitted with a remote fault monitoring package with auto dialer.
- The 50-year-old dishwasher was replaced with a modern dish/pot washer.
- The parking lot was sealed and restriped and is now the sole responsibility of the chapter going forward. They collect the parking user fees from here on and get to maintain the parking lot.
- We replaced most of the dining room tables and chairs. Some new TV room furniture was purchased to replace those worn out.

And we also did all of the usual maintenance of the kitchen equipment, the exhaust hood and fire extinguisher system, fire alarm, emergency lighting, sprinkler system, doors and door hardware, general roof repairs, and grounds maintenance.

737 Comstock has been a special home to each Psi Psi, so please join your Psi Psi brothers

(continued on page three)

Reasons for being a Psi Psi Sigma Chi

Brothers, it's time to enjoy today's reasons for being a Sigma Chi/Psi Psi.

Whatever your current connection with Sigma Chi, or with any of your brothers, please read on to know why now is time to enjoy and benefit from what Psi Psi brotherhood can mean to you—right now.

Psi Psi and 737 Comstock was likely a special place to you during your undergraduate years at Syracuse. You had the opportunity to live "in the moment" of shared experience and brotherhood. Today Psi Psi is here to be an important "of the moment experience" for the dozens of current undergraduate brothers—and for the thousands of Psi Psi alumni and the 244,000 Sigma Chi national brothers—including very much yourself.

You have likely stayed connected with some Psi Psi brothers, or have enjoyed encountering Sigma Chis at work and play. It's instant bonding and a great feeling. The benefits of Sigma Chi brotherhood are literally lifelong, if you allow them to be.

Today our brothers (of each graduating era) are spread across the U.S. (including in your own backyard), in a multitude of professions (including yours), with many passions and interest (also including yours). Wouldn't it be a pleasure to connect with those nearby, same interest brothers?

A call to connection action: The goal is simple—connect you with your brothers, based on who and where you and they are today. If you want to make a connection to your brothers with shared class years, shared locations, shared professions, or shared interests, simply respond to me. Just email me that you want to connect, letting me know your class year, your current location, business, and interests. I will respond to discuss how you can enjoy today being a Psi Psi Sigma Chi.

Essential to connecting our brothers is having accurate contact information. You can check or update your profile on www.psiPsi.org.

With Homecoming and the annual alumni meeting coming up in October (22–25) now is the perfect time to begin to make Psi Psi connections.

Each of us has special talents and passions—and for the retired of us, the time and desire to renew relationships. There are many opportunities for you to apply and share your talents and time with your Psi Psi brothers and the alumni chapter. All you have to do is reach out to me, any of the Psi Psi alumni officers, or the website to see how Psi Psi can put your assets to use for brotherhood.

Of course, one of the best ways to support and benefit from being a Psi Psi

of Sigma Chi is to join your many brothers who have paid their annual Psi Psi alumni dues, which supports all our efforts to connect and support our Psi Psi brothers—alumni and undergraduate.

Phil Oldham, Psi Psi '66
poldham405@aol.com
(914) 834-6739

Psi Psi By the Numbers

Psi Psi founded: 1904
Current undergraduates: 45
Total initiated brothers: 1,656
Total living brothers: Approx. 1,400
of states with Psi Psi: 41

Top 10 states with most Psi Psi's (approximate):

New York – 455
Massachusetts – 165
New Jersey – 112
Florida – 88
Pennsylvania – 77
California – 71
Connecticut – 60
Maryland – 45
Virginia – 33
Georgia/Texas (tie) – 23

2015 Clam Bake Recap

This past spring's annual Psi Psi Chapter Alumni Clam Bake was considered a roaring success. Approximately 10 alumni made the trip back to 737 Comstock for the annual clam bake tradition. Although not as many alumni made the trip as in years passed, participation from the brotherhood was at an all-time high with around 40 brothers stopping by throughout the day to spend time with and talk to the alumni who did make the trip.

Chef John, coming up on his one-year anniversary of working at the house, did an awesome job of preparing an incredible spread for everyone to enjoy. John prepared fresh clams, stuffed clams, and clam chowder in addition to a traditional barbecue assortment of hamburgers, hot dogs, corn, and a variety of side dishes. We were blessed to have great weather for the entire day with sun and temperatures around 65 degrees. House Manager Jim assisted in the set-up and organization of tables and chairs

in the backyard, which allowed everyone to sit outside and enjoy their food and the nice weather. I took the reins and served as a liaison between House Corp. and the house for the planning and execution of the event.

After the clam bake, Hank hung around and conducted registration for housing for the upcoming school year. The house is currently slated to have its largest population in years with 32 brothers scheduled to live in this fall. After the clam bake and housing registration wrapped up, a few alumni hung around for the rest of the afternoon to experience a typical nice-weather afternoon on campus with the brotherhood and a large collection of sorority sisters. A great time was had by all, and we are certainly looking forward to another extremely successful clam bake in the spring of 2016.

Brett Polinsky '17
Pro Consul

Rush Maintains Strong Brotherhood

We take great pride in our ability to recruit young, ambitious individuals whom we believe resemble the qualities of a Sigma Chi. Last spring's recruitment process was carried out seamlessly, and this fall we expect more of the same.

In the past year we welcomed 27 new members to the house, 10 in the fall and 17 in the spring. We plan to host events, inviting Rush hopefuls to gain a better understanding of the ins and outs of Rush, and what we as a chapter pride ourselves on. As a chapter, we hold Rush above all else in importance to maintaining a strong, successful brotherhood. As in years past, our new members are transitioning very quickly to the brotherhood, taking on leadership roles on our executive board and making leaps to ensure our chapter remains prosperous for years to come. I look forward to running a successful recruitment for the chapter this year, and thus ensuring the house years of sustained success.

In Hoc,
Robert Solecki '16
Recruitment Chairman

The SALTINE SIG Published by Psi Psi of Sigma Chi at Syracuse University for its friends and members. News and photos should be sent to: Alumni Records Office, Psi Psi of Sigma Chi, Syracuse University, P.O. Box 876, Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.

Chapter Makes Strides in 2015

With my first official semester as Consul being in the books, I have to say that I am more than pleased with the continuing progress the chapter has made. We continue to be a role model on campus and the perfect example to prove that you do not have to haze to remain a dominate force on the SU campus. We have just lost a great group of seniors. But with that loss, we also have a phenomenal gain of 17 new brothers who pledged this past spring. Together, we plan to keep the house moving in the right direction and further teach them the ways of Sigma Chi and the Psi Psi Chapter.

This summer we achieved one of the greatest accomplishments for our chapter since I pledged in the spring of 2013. As most of you know, that year we were disciplined for hazing. At the summer 2013 Balfour we were defined as a CAMAC Chapter. We were constantly being watched and received visits from national to make sure we could change. We were doubted and made an example of, but we would not let that stop us. The next year, my sophomore year, was our biggest struggle because we had to prove to national and our campus that we could reform and step away from many of the

things we used to do. That summer, the summer of 2014, we won an award for being the most improved Sigma Chapter. This year at Balfour, with all the work we have put in the past two years proving we could learn from our mistakes, we won the Peterson Award, the highest honor you can receive as a chapter. The transformation we made is one that is unheard of, and I know that we will only continue to grow and thrive from where we are now.

Sigma Chi has also instituted a new program to eliminate all hazing. They will be having an amnesty program where chapters can submit their pledge processes for national for review. We will be participating in this program, as well as the new anti-hazing initiative that Sigma Chi plans to roll out the following year. Our biggest goal at this time is to remain a positive force in the eyes of national and the Syracuse University campus, and I believe both of these things will help us in doing so. As for other things we have going on this year, in September we will be hosting Derby Days. Any alumni support and donations would be greatly appreciated. This year's should be better than ever, and we are looking to get the entire campus involved in

order to raise as much money as we can for the Children's Miracle Network and Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Campus will also be undergoing some changes this year. Eddie Banks, a good friend of mine and the director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs at Syracuse, will be leaving campus to pursue a new career at the University of Pennsylvania. Eddie fought for us back in 2013 when it looked like our charter was going to be revoked and all hope was gone. Through my time as president and on the Interfraternity Council, Eddie was always a person I could talk to and was always willing to help me when I was struggling and would give me suggestions on what to do with the chapter. He ran Greek life on the campus for eight years and would always tell me crazy stories about things some of you alumni used to do in the past. I will be doing the best I can to be an active member of the decision process on who will take over Eddie's role because I believe having a good relationship with whomever is in that position is extremely important for the continued success of our chapter. I look forward to seeing you all on Alumni Weekend and Homecoming!

In Hoc and Guard Well,
Hunter Viscarello '16
Consul

Balfour Reflections: Psi Psi Takes Home Peterson Award

This year's Balfour Leadership Development Workshop took place on the campus of Bowling Green State University in western Ohio. Six brothers from the Psi Psi Chapter made the long drive from Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and southeastern Pennsylvania to represent the chapter, as well as gain valuable skills and development in leadership and teamwork. Representing the chapter was Brett Polinsky '17 (Pro Consul), Alexander Magers '17, Matthew Cassidy '17, Zachary Lanzer '17, Bernardo Rodriguez '18 (Ritual Chair), and Senith Thiruchelvam '18. Through the generous contributions of many Psi Psi alumni, these six gentlemen were able to attend Balfour free of cost. It is those contributions that also allow Balfour to be hosted on a beautiful up-and-coming campus like Bowling Green State University. The brothers are extremely appreciative of the donations of alumni who make events like this possible.

Throughout the conference the brothers participated in a variety of workshops and events, some tailored by position, others for the Psi Psi Chapter as a whole. Working with Adviser Jose Tovar (Sam Houston State University, 1986), and Adviser Ben Tashjin (Rochester Polytechnic Institute), the chapter worked to develop a Strategic Initiative Development Plan to implement for the upcoming school year. Throughout the few days the chapter discussed a variety of topics pertaining to chapter operations, chapter finances, recruitment, and the current evolving Greek life community on campus in Syracuse

that they currently operate within. Current strategic initiatives that the chapter plans to focus on in the coming year includes leadership development, ritual reinforcement, financial responsibility, and on-campus and community involvement.

In coordination with the international fraternity's imperatives and the chapters current performance and operations, these four areas were determined to be areas of focus for the coming year. These imperatives will help to accomplish the chapter's mission statement that was developed at Balfour: "To foster and develop worthy young men into future leaders and gentlemen of their respective communities, contributing to the improvement and influence of the present and future of the Syracuse University campus and community." The brothers believe that this mission statement is reflected in the goals and imperatives that we outlined. While at Balfour the brothers were able to network and connect with more than 1,500 Sigma Chis from around the world, as well as almost 500 faculty, alumni, and facilitators. While at Balfour, the chapter was recognized as a Blue Level Thomas Cowan Bell Chapter. In addition the chapter collected the "Province Balfour Award" for alumni and former Consul Will Gerhard '15, which recognizes him for his service and dedication to the chapter and fraternity. The chapter was also honored with a "Legion of Honor" award that is given to chapters that operate commendable scholarship programs to help every brother achieve academic success.

The workshop was deemed a success and

great time by the brothers in attendance. We look forward to increasing chapter attendance at next year's workshop. In addition, the chapter was rewarded for all of its hard work over the past few years with a Peterson Award. This award is the highest honor the fraternity can bestow upon a chapter, and is awarded for outstanding achievement in all major areas of chapter operations and programing. It is a symbol of dedication, idealism, and achievement.

In Hoc,
Brett Polinsky '17
Pro Consul

*Getting 737 Comstock
Ready to Celebrate!
(cont'd)*

in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Psi Psi House Corporation at Psi Psi Homecoming and the annual meeting on Saturday, October 17. Check out the updated website at www.psipsi.org and the Psi Psi Facebook page for updates. Hope to see you then.

In Hoc Signo Vinces,
Hank Suominen, Psi Psi '74, SU '78
President & Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc.
(aka House Corporation)

Psi Psi alumni send their news

Vince Ceriello '59 writes, "In total retirement mode after managing VRC Consulting Group for 30 years and teaching graduate school for 15 of them. I don't remember how I found the time to work ... now I am volunteer CEO at Medford Senior Center and CFO at Rogue Vally Symphony Guild. **Bob McMeekin '56** and I had a blast on a gigantic cruise ship out of Barcelona ... five meals a day and wall-to-wall blue-haired old ladies ... great entertainment in every way! When you want to visit God's country, look me up in Southern Oregon—vrceiello19@msn.com."

William Hilsdorf '60 is still retired and still alive. He wrote, "A note for the historian: In the fall of 1958, I returned to the Syracuse campus after doing two years of army active duty. **Doug Graham '61, Jan Sturdevant '58** and I together with three others worked to get reinstated on the university campus. Doug was the drawing force of the group. We lived together (I believe) and the chapter was reinstated sometime in 1959 or 1960. We separated as a local fraternity—Sigma Chi Psi during the interim. Our chapter has had a number of ups and downs. I'm glad I was part of one of the 'ups.'" Reconnect with Bill at 2122 30th St., Ste. C, San Diego, CA 92104.

"My wife, Coco, and I live in South Bend during

the summer and Palm Beach during the winter," reports **Don Schefmeyer '69**. "We enjoy traveling and took the Orient Express from Paris to Istanbul on my 65th birthday. I saw **Joe Durzo '67** and **Sandy Buck '68**, along with **Tim Stebbins '68** this past winter in Florida. We always see **Ted Spall '69** and **Bill Beach '69** on business trips to Rochester." Get in touch with Don by writing to 63262 Orange Rd., South Bend, IN 46614; or by sending email to dschefmeyer8@gmail.com.

"It is hard to think that my Sigma Chi son has finished five years at the University of Southern California with a bachelor degree in electrical engineering and computer science," reports **David Poole '70**. "Jeanette and I are proud of him and can now retire without worry in San Diego!" Send congratulations via email to dpoole8227@gmail.com.

Robert Hoyt '87 retired from practicing law. He is currently building spec houses in Greenwich, Connecticut. Robert enjoys sailing, especially offshore ocean racing like Newport–Bermuda, Fastnet Race, Sydney to Hobart, etc. He writes, "Overall, very grateful ... life is good!" Keep in touch with him by sending postal mail to 14 Butterfly Trail, Dartmouth, MA 02747; or by sending email to rob@robertfoleyhoyt.com.

Fall 2015 Executive Board

Consul: Hunter Viscarello '16
Manchester, New Hampshire
Economics Major, Education Minor

Pro Consul: Brett Polinsky '17
Avon, Connecticut
Dual Major in Marketing & Management

Annotator: Gabino Avila '16
Van Nuys, California
Entrepreneurship Major

Quaestor: Joseph Leem '16
San Diego, California
Exercise Science Major

Magister: Sean Tandy '17
Montrose, New York
Broadcast and Digital Journalism Major

Kustos: William Carew '17
Simsbury, Connecticut
Dual Major in Entrepreneurship & Marketing

Recruitment Chair: Robert Solecki '16
Glastonbury, Connecticut
Political Science Major

Risk Manager: Zachery Lattimore '17
Chelmsford, Massachusetts
Sports Management Major

Social Chair: Nishan Ketchoyian '17
Binghamton, New York
Dual Major in Real Estate
& Entrepreneurship

Social Chair: Eric Santangelo '18
Montclair, New Jersey
Entrepreneurship Major

Philanthropy Chair: Christian Scouarnec '17
Rockland, New York
Pre-Medical

Tribune: Dante Sesti '18
Oyster Bay, New York
Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamic

Ritual Chair: Bernardo Rodriguez '18
Bronx, New York
Dual Major in Communications Design
and Advertising

House Manager: Jared Huston '17
Green Pond, New Jersey
Mathematics Major

Chapter Eternal

Quentin E. Armstrong '52
February 11, 2015

Ronald J. Summers '52
December 11, 2014

Richard D. Dadey Sr. '54
December 5, 2014

Charles A. Clark Jr. '55
March 11, 2015

J. Jerrold McCarron '71
November 30, 2014

Peter Ebeling '72
March 23, 2014

Horizons: Giving Back to the Community

Looking back on my Horizons experience I can't be happier that I had the opportunity to travel to such a beautiful destination. I was able to learn about myself, and the rich history of Sigma Chi and other chapters all across the country. Being in the mountains set a great stage allowing you to open up and embark on journeys that not everyone is fortunate enough to experience in life. I was able to learn from every single brother who was around me because everyone there brought something unique to the table, and when it all came together great things happened. I am going back to my chapter with new things that have been implemented in other chapters to help us be the best we can be. Horizons showed me how important it is to have a positive mindset, a plan, and good people around you looking to make strides in this world.

The trip to The Huntsman Cancer Institute has left an everlasting impression on me and has really motivated me to do anything I can to make our Derby Days the best the Psi Psi Chapter has ever had. The visit goes to show that every chapter's efforts to raise money and awareness is having an impact on the lives of people every single day. The Huntsman family has created a wonderful environment for people to work toward recovery from a terrible illness. Our visit to the institute teamed with the activities we did throughout the week showed how important it is to give back and be there for those in need and those who are there for you.

Guard Well,
Nishan Ketchoyian '17