

The SALTINE SIG



House Corp. Reports on a Great 2015–2016 Year

The 2015–2016 school year started out with a full house—32 living in for the fall semester and a slightly lower headcount of 28 living in the spring semester. Having the house at or near capacity is critical to keeping cost of room and board somewhat below what the university charges. We have enjoyed better control over cost using third-party outside contractors for janitorial/property maintenance and to run the board club operations. In fact, I think we have substantially improved the level of service at a comparable overall cost. Gill Grilling has done an excellent job as evidenced by more than a dozen live-out brothers joining board club. With nearly 50 brothers in the house around meal time it is literally a feeding frenzy. On the property management side, we passed our City of Syracuse Fire Department Life-Safety the first time for four years running. House Corp. was also recognized by the Sigma Chi Board of Trustees with an Outstanding House Corp. award (also four years running).

We have also taken steps to ensure the board is represented by more recent graduates. Thus, we welcome Connor Wilson '12,

Chris Dowd '12, and Keegan Slattery '13 to the board. We appreciate their stepping up and look forward to their help in shaping the future as we move forward.

I need to put in a plug to all those who read this edition of the *Saltine Sig* to visit our website—www.psipsi.org—to update your profile. We exchange data with Elevate (formerly Stewart Howe Alumni Service) to make sure it has the most current contact information for all our communications. The website is also used for all bulk-email, reunion-event notification so you will also be assured of getting notified of alumni events. Also, visit the Facebook page—Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity (Syracuse University)—for event RSVPs and last-minute updates and remember to post photos of your Psi Psi gatherings.

Clam Bake 2016 will be Saturday, April 16. All indications are for an excellent turnout. SU men's lacrosse plays ACC rival North Carolina at 4:00 p.m., which could very well be a preview of the NCAA championship. There will be a House Corp. meeting 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. followed by a Clam Bake lunch off the grill starting at noon. We look

forward to seeing you.

Guard well the honor of the Cross.

In hoc signo vinces,
Hank Suominen, Psi Psi '74, SU '78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue Inc
(aka House Corp.)
(617) 312-6800
hank@suomi33.com

Save the Date! CLAM BAKE 2016

Saturday, April 16

House Corp. Meeting

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Clam Bake

12:00 p.m.

SU vs. UNC Lacrosse Game

4:00 p.m.

State of the Chapter: Second to None

I am pleased to report that the Psi Psi Chapter is continuing to develop and progress in a positive direction. We were able to conduct a successful fall Rush in 2015, welcoming eight new members who showed they were worthy of bearing the White Cross upon their chest. We are certain that these young men will be able to carry on the rich history of not only Sigma Chi, but especially the Psi Psi Chapter.

In the fall semester of 2015, we teamed up with the women of Delta Delta Delta to hold a blood drive in collaboration with the American Red Cross in the Schine Student Center. We were more than successful in our efforts, exceeding the expectation set by the Red Cross and donating enough blood to save more than 163 lives. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the American Red Cross by holding more blood drives in the future at the chapter house and on campus. In

the upcoming semester, the university is looking to hold a campus-wide philanthropy in which each organization sets up its own booth on the quad to raise money for charity. As a chapter, we are looking to finally put our ideas for "Sigma Cheese" into action by selling grilled cheese to all participants. By combining this donation with our Derby Days donation to the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, we are hoping to make a lasting impact on the lives of many young people.

The dining situation in the house has greatly improved. We still have our favorite Chef, John, and his assistant, Becky, to make sure the men of Sigma Chi are well fed. We are lucky to have such a friendly relationship with our chef, who has been cooking in the house for more than a year. He is a great asset to the house, not only as a chef but also as a mentor, and has a chicken parmesan comparable to what grandma makes for Sunday dinner.

At the end of the fall '15 semester, new leadership was elected to preserve the Psi Psi Chapter as an exemplary chapter for Sigma Chis across the country. I, Nishan Ketchoyian '17, was elected as the new Consul; Matthew Cassidy '17 as the new Pro-Consul; Brett Coneeny '17 as the new annotator; Christian Scouarnec '17 as the philanthropy chair; Robert Solecki '16 as the recruitment chair; and Eric Santangelo '18 and Chris White '18 as the new social chairs. All of these men have taken on responsibility for the chapter with great pride and have been doing an exceptional job in their tenures thus far. The future is bright and we hope that these young men can continue to help us flourish as a chapter.

As we know the house took a hit in the spring of 2013, but these events have done nothing but motivate us to be the

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Brother Reflects on Horizons Experience

Looking back on my Horizons experience I couldn'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 one 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. It allowed me to bring back a lot of different things to implement within the chapter that I learned from other Sigs during my time in Utah. It motivated me to take responsibility for my chapter, and I believe it was a factor when deciding to run for Consul. It gave me the confidence I needed and showed me how much the brotherhood has to offer. 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 our chapter's 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.

Lastly, it is amazing how much support there is from Sigma Chi alumni to nurture growth within the organization and use their resources to help brothers become leaders in their own chapters and all other aspects of life. I was able to go on an all-expenses-paid trip that allowed me to learn so much, and I cannot adequately thank our huge pool of alumni who helped provide me with that experience.

Guard Well,
Nishan Ketchoyian '17
Consul

State of the Chapter

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best chapter we could be. Things have changed, but all for the better. We have adapted and the chapter is working to implement systems that fit with our goals to better ourselves everyday. We believe that by working together with national and the Interfraternity Council here on campus, we can continue on our pathway of success. We strive and continue to participate in as many events as possible with the Interfraternity Council and campus as a whole to further demonstrate that we are adamant about change throughout all fraternities, which will allow the Syracuse Greek community to continue to thrive.

As a newly elected Consul, I am excited to take on the responsibilities to keep our house alive and well on campus. I want many more young men who come to Syracuse to share the same experiences that I have been privileged to have inside the doors of 737 Comstock. I am enthusiastic to continue the recruitment of the finest men Syracuse University has to offer who we believe are fitting of the Jordan Standard. I wish for nothing more than to be able to come back to our chapter house to see young men working side

by side to strive for greatness and improvement in all facets of life.

The house continues to offer an environment that encourages excellence through hard work and fellowship. As I enter my fourth semester as a brother, I am eager to see what is to come in the future. As soon as you walk through the doors of the house, you can immediately feel the brotherhood and true friendship that is mutual among everyone inside. You can confidently go to any brother in the house to ask for help knowing it will always be there. We are constantly growing and learning from one another. Being a Psi Psi adds a dimension to your college experience that a majority of people are not fortunate enough to experience. I have learned just as much from the house as I have from my classes during my time here at Syracuse.

Becoming part of something that is bigger than yourself presents many different opportunities to a young man. The brotherhood that we have here at the Psi Psi Chapter is second to none, and we look to continue growing for years to come.

Guard Well,
Nishan Ketchoyian '17
Consul

Senior Spotlight: Will O'Brien

Will O'Brien is from New York City and majors in finance. Throughout his college career, Will has been involved in many activities on- and off-campus, taking full advantage of Syracuse and what the school and community have to offer.

A natural leader, Will was the president of his dorm freshman year, which eventually led to his position as a resident adviser sophomore year. Planning events throughout campus became commonplace, and Will ran a campaign educating students on drinking responsibly and how to stay safe. Will went abroad to Madrid with the Syracuse University program exploring Europe and gaining a better understanding of other cultures.

This leadership was not only limited to university roles as Will took many positions within the fraternity in his time as an active brother. Starting as the chapter



editor, he eventually became assistant magister learning the ins and outs of the position. The semester after he was elected magister, he attended Balfour to attain better understanding of how to run the pledge process the best way possible.

Will has helped the house not only by taking positions of leadership but by excelling in athletics and academics as well. Helping other brothers with their school work, specifically those in the business school, became a common activity Will could be seen doing. He also participates in as many philanthropy events as he can—the fact that Psi Psi has raised a great amount is certainly no coincidence.

Will hopes to find a career in finance or consulting after graduation. He leaves having made a lasting impact. We wish him the best of luck as he moves forward into the next stage of his life.

Derby Days: A Successful 2015 and a Promising 2016!

Derby Days 2015 was an immense success for the Psi Psi Chapter. Through the hard work of the brothers, and strong support and participation from all 12 sororities on campus, the chapter was able to raise a personal record of \$21,000. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and support of the SU Greek community, as well as continued support from The Social Life, a Greek life apparel company, and NRML, a boutique custom headphones company. Brother Gus Costalas '16 served as the chairman for Derby Days 2015, responsible for the planning and execution of everything Derby-related. The chapter's fundraising efforts were able to contribute

to The Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, The Huntsman Cancer Foundation, and the Somali-Bantu Community Association of Onondaga County.

The chapter looks to carry the strong momentum and success of last year's Derby Days into an even stronger and more successful Derby Days 2016. We hope to increase fundraising through more business partnerships, as well as expanded support from our chapter alumni and families. Stay tuned for more information regarding ways to get involved or contribute in the near future.

Brett Polinsky '17
Derby Days 2016 Chairman



SU Greeks Enjoy Increased Interest

This past semester, we were able to initiate eight new members to our brotherhood. We hosted successful potential new member events in order to showcase our house and those who occupy it. Overall we were very pleased with the way the rush process panned out. The newly initiated brothers have taken initiative in shadowing and even holding positions in the house, which is necessary in order to maintain a prosperous and thriving brotherhood. We are very pleased to expand our brotherhood come this spring, as the number of rushees for this upcoming semester is unprecedented at Syracuse University. This is not only great for us, but great for Greek life as a whole, and we intend to recruit the finest gentlemen this school has to offer.

We are very much looking forward to expansion as the strength of a fraternity comes from within. The brotherhood is only as strong as the pledge classes that supersedes the one before. We at the Psi Psi Chapter to continue to aid our community and nurture fine young men who are suited to handle anything and everything the real world may throw their way.

Bobby Solecki '16
Rush Chairman

Staying Connected Matters to Psi Psi Alumni

Psi Psis are connecting with brothers who live where you live, work in your business, and share your interests.

Believing that being a Sigma Chi – Psi Psi can become an important part of who we are right now. Last year we initiated "Psi Psis Connecting." The goal was to learn who we are today, identifying common interests—same graduating class, live nearby, in the same industries, share personal interests, etc. We began to reach out to brothers from the '60s, the '80s, 2015, etc.; brothers in New York, Pennsylvania, California; brothers who are in finance, media, education; brothers with young kids, with no kids, empty nesters; brothers who love to golf, ski, travel.

The result was the start of an expanded database that will help us offer Psi Psis the opportunity to make connections that match their personal and professional interests. You will be able to connect with your 1,500 Psi Psi brothers (and nearly 250,000 Sigma Chis nationally)—who attended school when you did, live where you live, are in your profession, have the same home life, and have the same interests.

It is likely that you have stayed in touch

with one or more of your Psi Psi brothers or have accidentally come across Sigma Chis at work or play. You know the unique bond that you shared. There are literally thousands of unknown Sigma Chi brothers who are in proximity to who you are today—with whom connecting would make your work more successful and your life more enjoyable.

Beyond Psi Psi, wherever you are there is a Sigma Chi alumni chapter nearby (122 of them)—for you to network, socialize, and share interests. Psi Psi, along with Sigma Chi National and the New York City Alumni Chapter is working to bring the advantages of being a Sigma Chi closer to each brother's current life. If you have not already provided your own "connection interests," now's the time for you to make the most of being a Sigma Chi – Psi Psi.

Three ways to benefit from and enjoy being a Psi Psi: (1) Decide you want to "be proud to be a Sigma Chi – Psi Psi." (2) Check out the direct and social media options to find out what it is to be a Sigma Chi – Psi Psi today and how to be a part of it. Here are some of the media connection options: *The Saltine Sig*: your twice yearly connection to Psi Psi; the Psi Psi website (www.psiPsi.org):

Find out about today's Psi Psi undergraduate and alumni life, and ways to reconnect—and enter your current information and find "like-minded" brothers; check out Psi Psi and Sigma Chi on social media; connect with your local Sigma Chi alumni chapter (there are 122), and find out how to network for professional, social, or simply to share interests with Sigs right where you live (find on the Sigma Chi website); receive and read the *Magazine of Sigma Chi*, the best publication in the fraternity world. Learn about why being a Sigma Chi is important ... and how Sigma Chi can help you and you can help your Sigma Chi brothers. (3) Take advantage of being a Sigma Chi – Psi Psi, by making the connection with the brothers you remember. Consider being a "connection leader" reaching out to the brothers you graduated with, live where you live, work in your business, or share your interests.

Enjoy being a Sigma Chi – Psi Psi. You can start by responding to the Psi Psi website or contacting me directly.

Phil Oldham '66
Saltine Sig Alumni Rep
poldham405@aol.com

Psi Psi alumni send their news

Austin L. Cline '50 is still going strong with his 1946 Sigma Chi Sweetheart, Marilyn, after 66 years. They are on the St. Lawrence River until they go to the Keys. Austin never hears from classmates but cherishes his life-loyal Sig status. Reconnect with him by writing to 44650 Box B-8, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607.

Robert F. McMeekin '56 reported, "Good year for me at 80 years of age. Went to San Diego in June for U.S. Police and Fire Games Championships. In July, I went to Fairfax, Virginia for the world championships and Utah for the world senior games. Find out about his medals: 19158 Avenue of the Oaks, Apt. B, Newhall, CA 91321.

Harold "Hal" Johnson '58 retired from the U.S. Army 32 years ago, and retired from Kansas University Endowment Association as comptroller 15 years ago. He is enjoying retirement on beautiful Beaver Lake in Northwest Arkansas with his wife, Vicky. They have 14 grandchildren whom he joined on a white-water rafting trip down the New River in West Virginia this past summer. Hal also spends some time as a master-certified barbecue judge—"it doesn't get much better than that!" Catch up with Hal by sending postal mail to 18909 Coppermine Rd., Rogers, AR 72756; or by sending email to hal2y90@yahoo.com.

"Hello, Psi Psi, how are you?" writes **Monty Johnson '66**. "Say, who else is friends of Bill W.? Somewhat along these lines, I just finished writing a novel, *The House of Trees*. You can get to excerpts through Google. I'm

living here in the mountains of Virginia with my wife, Nancy. Daughter Grace is in Chicago and daughter, Ava, is in Houston. I keep in touch mostly with Norb-Stewart in Louisville, Kentucky. Any word on John Kelly? How did 1966 get to be such a long way away and yesterday?" Write to Monty at 160 Greenlee Rd., Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579.

"After 32 years as a trial judge and 40 years in public service, I have entered the private arena managing the trust and estate department of DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP in White Plains, New York," reports **Anthony Scarpino Jr. '76**. "Contact me to say 'hello' at scarpino2010@gmail.com."

Mike Yates '82 had a great Chicago-Mac sailboat race this year—third in cruising II and third in cruising overall! He is looking for any next sailing adventure so drop him a line at myatesmikey@verizon.net.

Kurt Lockwood '88 writes, "After 12 years as an in-house IP attorney with Boston Scientific, I have returned to private practice, joining the intellectual property firm, Kacvinsky Daisak Bluni, in Boston. My wife, Jodi, and I along with our son, Seth, and daughter, Maya, have been in Boston since 1998. We are happy to hear from any Psi Psi members passing through or visiting the area." (131 Bird St., Needham, MA 02492; kurtlockwood99@gmail.com)

"All is well after 23 years in New York City," writes **Mike Rutstein '91**. "Great to see brother Dacey recently and look forward to catching

up with the West Coast contingent during business travel this year. If you are in/visiting New York City, please reach out: mrutstein@strikeforcenyc.com."

Chris Tarro '92 is living in Rhode Island with his wife and boys, Christopher (9) and Nicholas (7). He left corporate America years ago to open a restaurant with his brother. Currently, Chris operates three restaurants throughout Rhode Island (www.sienari.com). He hopes to catch up with more brothers in the next year after taking great family vacation with **Nate Andrisani '92** and **Cicci Culotta '94**. Get in touch with Chris by writing to 28 Sophia Ln., Greenville, RI 02828; ctarro@sienari.com.

Deceased

Lee E. Hefpner '48

April 9, 2014

Robert F. Simpson Sr. '51

July 22, 2014

Lawrence J. Rusch '52

December 17, 1997

William Mutschler '55

July 25, 2015

Richard A. Anderson '56

September 16, 2015

Gregory Hamilton '89

October 2, 2015

Here are a few Sigma Chi statistics for all brothers to be proud.

- Active Undergraduate Chapters - 240
- Undergraduate Colonies - 8
- Alumni Chapters -122
- Current Undergraduates - 16,400
- Life Loyal Sigs - 40,480
- Psi Psi Alumni - 1600 approximately
- Sigma Chis living in the Northeast 25,000 approximately

A Magnificent 7 Sigma Chi Superlatives – Not the largest ...

1. We are fourth in the number of undergraduate chapters among Greek-letter fraternities.

2. We are fourth in the number of alumni chapters among Greek-letter fraternities.

... just the best!

3. We are second in the number of total initiates among Greek-letter fraternities.
4. We are first in the number of active and involved alumni among Greek-letter fraternities.
5. We have the best periodical among Greek-letter fraternities, *The Magazine of Sigma Chi*.
6. We have the largest contingent of Greek members in Congress, with 11.
7. We have the second-largest educational foundation among men's

fraternities, according to the FEA.

Over time, tens of thousands of Sigs have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to support their local chapters and our foundation. Tens of thousands of Sigs have contributed tens of millions of volunteer hours to make Sigma Chi the best it can be.

Those are the real superlatives of Sigma Chi, my brothers. They help to make our fraternity what it is today. Let's all become the individuals who, connected, will make it the best still tomorrow.

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