



Opting in to Being a Psi Psi & Sigma Chi

The life of fraternities, including Sigma Chi, is at a crossroads... for both undergrads and alumni. Whether it is for bad or good is up to us, the Psi Psis. This *Saltine Sig* is a Psi Psi challenge to become engaged in building the next step. Let each of us recognize that seeing a problem is the opportunity to build something better and then to get engaged in building it.

Throughout this *Saltine Sig*, you will find writings on the current state of Sigma Chi and Psi Psi. Read beyond the lines, and find what they say to you about the opportunity to engage with your brothers and to establish true Psi Psi brotherhood.

The current divisiveness in our country has many seeking easy escapes, including alcohol and drugs—not to say that our undergrad experiences were monk-like. The explosion of impersonal communications has created a new scrutiny, from which deviations from newly defined norms have significant ramifications. The reports of fraternity hazing and alcohol abuse are not going away. We need to find solutions, or fraternities will perish.

The most important purpose and goal of our undergrad years was and always will be to prepare us for post-grad success... in business and in life. Refocusing on that reality is likely our best bet, as both undergrads and alumni, to redirect our future. Let's think it through, bring our best ideas, work together to identify who we are and what we seek, and create the real benefits of the lifelong Psi Psi and Sigma Chi experience.

Reach out to the brothers you know, and talk about how we can build this lifelong Sig future. We can help you connect with your classmates or with Sigs who live nearby or who simply share your business and personal interests. Go to psipsi.org, and update your own info so we can help you connect. Use the *Saltine Sig*, the website, and Psi Psi social media to hear what's happening and to share your ideas.

From undergrad and alumni input, we will create a proactive Sigma Chi/Psi Psi undergrad and alumni experience, one that we can individually enjoy and benefit from, and that can contribute to our unique shared brotherhood.

We look forward to hearing from you about your current Sigma Chi/Psi Psi experiences and your ideas on building our future.



Phil Oldham, ΨΨ'66
The *Saltine Sig* Editor
poldham405@aol.com

Opting In: Connecting with Your Psi Psi & Sigma Chi Brothers

Wherever you are, in whichever decade you graduated, whatever you do professionally, or whatever your interests might be, there are great connections to be made, with over 1,500 Psi Psis and 250,000 Sigma Chis.

I hear from our connected brothers about how great it is to share the fun and benefits of the Psi Psi and Sigma Chi brotherhood. So if you want to find out for yourself, here are the ways that you can make connections.

1. Start by **updating your contact information**. Real simple: go to www.psipsi.org and update. We can then connect you with Psi Psis and Sigs with whom you share common interests.
2. **Decide the kind of connection(s)**: Sigs from your grad class, living nearby, in your profession, or sharing your interests.
3. **Determine a media option that works for you**: *The Saltine Sig* (read and submit articles), the websites (Sigma Chi and Psi Psi), Facebook or social media, emails, and—the most beneficial—telephone or in person (attend or setup alumni events; see you at the Psi Psi Clambake in April and at Homecoming in the fall).
4. **Reach out to us** to help find the Sigs you want to get connected to or whose talents you want to put to work.
5. **Connect**, with an emphasis on seeking and participating in in-person events.

Beyond connecting electronically, get involved with your area alumni groups. Check out their events, and look to join in leadership roles, helping to build more Sigma Chi and Psi Psi advantages. You can find the clubs on the Sigma Chi website and in the monthly *Magazine of Sigma Chi*.

Major Policy Changes Announced, Address Hazing and Alcohol Abuse

If you are a regular consumer of news, you are undoubtedly aware that the Greek system is under siege on a national level. The range of crises includes numerous hazing-related deaths, requirements to be coed, universities not recog-

nizing single-gender memberships, etc. Sigma Chi Headquarters has been very proactive on many fronts of these issues. There was considerable background provided about the siege fraternities across the country are facing over misconduct

arising from hazing and alcohol abuse. A webinar broadcast January 15, 2018, announced five new policies that are in response to the issues of concern and are an effort to be proactive to control our
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Major Policy Changes Announced *(continued)*

own destiny. They are as follows:

1. Reinforcement of the prohibition of the presence of alcohol in connection with recruitment and pledging events.
2. Effective February 1, 2018, hard alcohol in chapter facilities is prohibited.

EXCEPTION: From February 1, 2018, through August 1, 2018, chapters may organize social events in chapter facilities where hard alcohol is served only by a third-party vendor.

3. Effective August 1, 2018, all chapters must start and finish the pledge education program within a period of five weeks.
4. Effective August 1, 2018, no social events with alcohol may occur while recruitment or pledging operations are active.
5. Effective August 1, 2018, the maximum size of social events will be capped at three guests per member.

NOTE: Alumni are considered guests. In our case, where active undergrads typically number 75, a social event could have 75 members and 225 guests for a total of 300, subject to the maximum allowed by fire code, which is 228 persons.

The new policy will be provided shortly at sigmachi.org/policychanges. There are many other rules which were covered, such as what constitutes a Sigma Chi facility, the definition of which is being extended beyond the formal chapter house to include off-campus houses and apartments that are occupied by active members of the local Sigma Chi chapter. There are a host of potential conflicts with tailgating by alumni when undergrads are also present. Alumni reunions, such as Homecoming, which take place at the chapter house during the recruitment or pledge training "dry period," must also be alcohol-free.

It is important to note that, of the 61 members of the National Interfraternity Council (NIC), local chapters are being lost at the rate of more than one per day. With 242 active Sigma Chi chapters, having some 16,500 members, there are 117 house corporation-owned facilities, a capacity of 5,157 live-ins. Occupancy in these facilities is 4,362 (85%) and only 1,715 of these occupants are over 21 (39%). Consequently 61% of these occupants should not be consuming alcohol in any case.

There will be webinars in the near term to specifically address alumni events

Board of Directors Update: January 2018

We have had some turnover on the board of directors. Thanks to Doug Sedgwick, who has served since we came back in 2008, and Keegan Slattery, who served for the last three years. We welcome Joe D'Eramo '12. We have a vacancy on the board for the term ending in 2020 and encourage recent graduates to participate. You might wonder how you could participate in keeping our house corporation one of the best in Sigma Chi.

Below is an org. chart that identifies functions which need active effort by a board member to get the necessary work done. I will admit that, in the absence of a volunteer, it's sometimes easier to "just do it". At the same time, I realize that this is not necessarily in our best interest over the long term. So I make an open call for support from brothers who would like to roll up their sleeves and help with getting the good work done. We could use support in the following areas:

- **Social Media:** Working to keep the website updated, making sure it has

current editions of *The Saltine Sig* and the calendar is updated with reunions and house open/closing dates. Also administering our Facebook page.

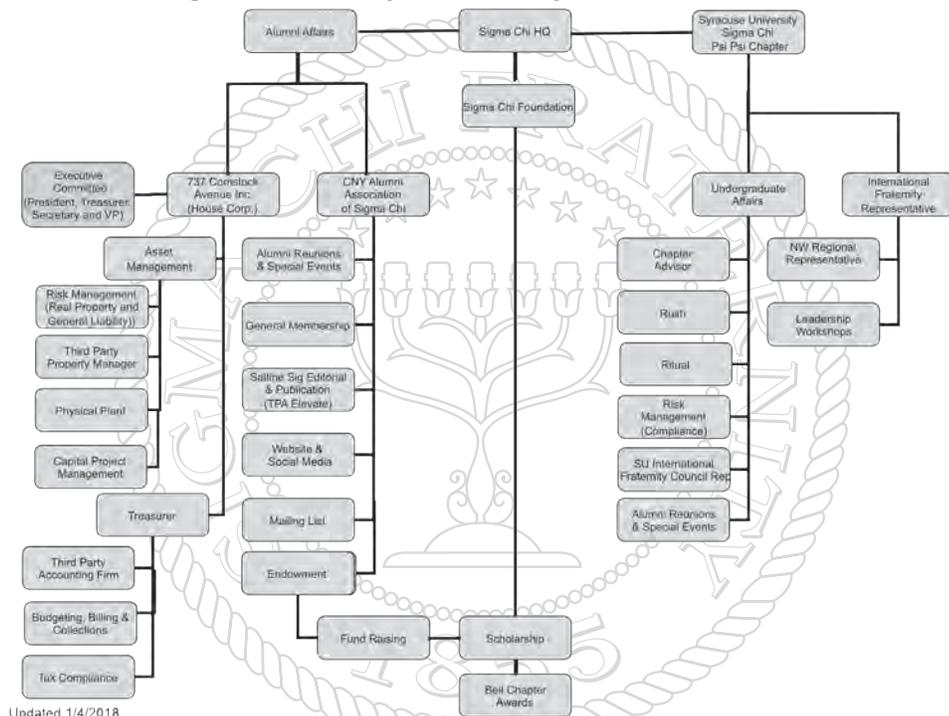
- **Scholarship:** Psi Psi has two sources of funds available for undergraduate scholarships:
 - Joseph Nelson Scholarship: administered by SU.
 - Psi Psi Scholarship Fund: administered by Sigma Chi Foundation.

We have an application process set up on the website, so we need a brother to update the application forms for the current year, assess what funds are available, solicit applications, evaluate them, and make an award recommendation at a board meeting.

If you have interest in helping out, let me know.

IHSV,
Hank Suominen, ΨΥ'74, SU'78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue, Inc.

Sigma Chi Fraternity – Psi Psi Chapter – Alumni Affairs



that might coincide with the chapter when school is in session to provide guidance toward ensuring compliance. We will have updates in future editions of *The Saltine Sig*.

If you have questions about an alumni event taking place at the chapter house, be

sure to contact the chapter leadership in advance about the new policy.

Hank Suominen, ΨΥ'74, SU'78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue, Inc.

Report from the House Corp.: January 2018

To manage the process of balancing required work and capital requirements, we work with a rolling ten-year capital requirements plan. We reassess the condition of the physical plant and forecast the cost of doing the work. Here is a quick recap of what has taken place over the last ten years:

- 2008 Perform major renovations prior to returning.
- 2011 Upgrade internet access to a wi-fi network.
- 2012 Replace boilers with high-efficiency boilers for domestic hot water and perimeter heat.
- 2013 Install CCTV at exterior perimeter; do gut-to-frame rehab of ritual closet.
- 2015 Complete gut-to-frame rehab of basement room under living room and replace the basement stairs.
- 2016 Instal new electric service and new distribution panels; upgrade fire-protection risers; overhaul laundry room; add new roof over rear second-floor back bedroom and do a gut-to-frame rehab.
- 2017 Rewire second- and third-floor outlets; replace lighting with LED fixtures; add new emergency lighting; extend fire protection into all bedrooms; install new

fire alarm panel and devices; install fencing at rear property line; replace ice machine and freezer; upgrade internet access to fiber circuit with upgraded wi-fi.

Here is a link to photos, which are also on the psipsi.org website, of the house at the time of turnover in August 2017: leagueathletics.com/Pictures.asp?album=20035&team=0&n=85364&org=PSIPSI.ORG.

With four years to pay off the term loan needed to cover the cost of completing the 2016–2017 work, we have some time to consider what the next round of work will be. Here is a link to the current ten-year plan, which is on the psipsi.org website: s3.amazonaws.com/files.leagueathletics.com/Text/Documents/19719/82895.pdf.

In summary, we have work to do on interior doors and hardware, replacement of the foyer and dining-room slate floors, gut-to-frame rehab of remaining basement rooms, major renovation of exterior envelope (siding and roof), driveway repair, and basement foundation damp proofing.

Bottom line: keeping 737 Comstock Avenue in great shape is a worthwhile challenge to keep up with.

Guard Well.

IHSV,
Hank Suominen, ΨΨ'74, SU'78
President and Treasurer
737 Comstock Avenue, Inc.
(a.k.a. House Corp.)



House Corporation Board

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The Importance of Brotherhood, from Touchdowns to Goals to Baskets

Upon graduating high school, most of us thought we were stepping away from the Friday-night lights and hanging up our cleats one last time. However, being a brother of the Psi Psi Chapter has allowed many of us to avoid the pangs likely felt by Johnny Manziel during his NFL tenure, during which he presumably yearned for the days passed of athletic prowess and success. From a vast variety of club teams to intramurals, we've continued a proud campus athletics winning tradition in our chapter.

"I can't name many opportunities that have been more rewarding than being able to play alongside my brothers and to lead the team to victory," said senior Nate Segal '18, looking back on his career in club athletics. Nate currently holds the position of team captain on the Syracuse club basketball team. He and sophomore Seon Layne '20 have led the team to a division title and a current number-one ranking in the country. Also in line for a preseason all-American nomination, Nate is one of the many Psi Psi faces leaving their legacy during their undergraduate times here. Attend a club baseball game here at SU, and you can find numerous brothers in the starting lineup, such as Pat Doherty '18, Ian Fister '18, Theo Resnick '19, Mike Arnold '20, and Consul Brandon Das '19. Buy a ticket to a club lacrosse game, and you can watch junior Jake Slye '19 dominate the midfield.

Beyond club sports, intramurals provide another fantastic opportunity for many

members of our house to experience the countless benefits of sports, such as teamwork, community, and dedication. Hockey season is a fan favorite among the men in the house, as they root on their brothers who play for the beloved Crammouths hockey team each week. This tradition has become a proud staple in the Psi Psi Chapter, and the Crammouths have brought home the gold for two of the last three years. Moving off the ice and onto the field, the Sigma Chi intramural flag-football team made waves this past year, securing an undefeated championship season under the lights of Skytop Field. Not only were the faces of Psi Psi on the field, they were also along the sidelines, supporting the team throughout the whole season. "If I could relive that moment every day of my life, I would. I love this team, and I love my brothers and all their support," said junior Adam Gottsch '19 with a grin when recalling the final moments following their big win.

From touchdowns to goals to baskets, all the members of the Psi Psi Chapter can agree on one thing: the importance of brotherhood. These combined experiences have highlighted the value of teamwork and strengthened our bonds within the house. By teaming up and pooling our time and effort, we are able to see what we are truly capable of together.

In Hoc,
Corey Sandler '19

State of the Chapter

CONSUL'S REPORT

As we move on to a new calendar year in 2018, the Psi Psi Chapter looks forward to continued success in all facets. Last fall, we welcomed 11 new members into our brotherhood, each personifying the morals of the Jordan Standard. We are excited for these new initiates to keep up their pursuit of the great aims as they learn and grow as young men in the years to follow.

This spring semester at 737 Comstock Avenue, the brotherhood had much to prepare for and to look forward to. Our philanthropic efforts continue to be influential within the Syracuse community. The fall brought another successful blood drive with the American Red Cross in the chapter house at 737 Comstock. We were able to exceed our goal of participants through the support of the entire university and Greek community, and ultimately, we provided enough donations to save an estimated 84 lives.

We also have been preparing for the annual Derby Days philanthropy week this spring. We had a very successful Derby Days last spring, helping to bring together many groups on campus, all in the name of helping those in need. The efforts of the brotherhood and those of our sorority participants enabled us to make a donation of \$25,000 for the fight against cancer. Over the years, the Derby Days philanthropy week has had a profound impact on both the Greek-life and Syracuse communities, because we are able to come together to contribute funds for the Children's Miracle Network, the Upstate Galisano Children's Hospital, and the Huntsman Cancer Institute. The ability to come together as a cohesive group on campus to provide support for those who need it most is truly a blessing for all those involved and a sense of pride for the Psi Psi Chapter.

Members of our newest pledge class also took the time to provide more direct aid to those within the greater Syracuse area through volunteer work at the Good Samaritan Center of Syracuse. Over a course of multiple visits, the brothers helped to serve meals to those less fortunate in the community in an effort to make our city a little brighter.

Following a semester with a third-party vendor supplying food for the brotherhood, we returned to kitchen staff and a chef for the spring 2018 semester. The new head chef, Jorge, has entered 737 full of energy and passion for his craft. He has been very

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Psi Psi Chapter undergraduate brothers after a recent intramurals victory.

State of the Chapter *(continued)*



Psi Psi Chapter undergraduate brothers during 2017 Syracuse Derby Days.

proactive with the brothers to help create a menu that best fits the needs and wants of those on the meal plan. We look forward to prolonged success with Jorge and his staff as we hope to create enjoyable dining experiences within the house.

We have continued our strong relationship with our house-maintenance manager, Lisa. Day in and day out, her hard work and attention to detail make the lives of all that enter the house more enjoyable. Lisa is always there to lend a helping hand and shows great patience as problems arise and are dealt with. We can all say that 737 Comstock Avenue would not continue to be what it is without the dedicated aid of Lisa and her staff.

Through the implementation of the new Sigma Chi P4B online pledge learning program, the Psi Psi Chapter has continued to successfully initiate new members who are truly worthy of the White Cross. P4B was put in place to create a pledge program that every chapter can execute the exact same way, giving all Sigma Chis a common experience, regardless of chapter. As with all novel systems, we had to work out the kinks to make the process run smoothly, but we have adjusted and have seen the benefits the program provides. P4B allows a positive learning experience for new members awaiting initiation and efficiently helps our magister translate the values and ritual of Sigma Chi.

Our chapter advisor, Mark Howard '80, has been an essential and irreplaceable tool when it has come to the transition to P4B. Mark, an alumnus of the Psi Psi Chapter, provided the brotherhood with frequent guidance and communicated aspects for improvement. His dedication to the ritual and transition to brotherhood was evident when he was able to help our chapter with initiation in past semesters, enhancing the enjoyment of welcoming new brothers into Sigma Chi. We thank Mark for his great

work and look forward to his continued involvement with our chapter.

The Psi Psi Chapter continues to head in the right direction. In a time when a negative stigma has become associated with fraternity life, the brothers of 737 Comstock are working to display the Greek community as a whole in a positive light. Through our pursuit of friendship, justice, and learning, the brotherhood continues to be a collection of individuals whom those at the university can look to as models. I feel very optimistic about the future of the Psi Psi Chapter and am proud to uphold the tradition for which it stands.

In Hoc, Brandon Das '19
Consul

RECRUITMENT CHAIR REPORT

This previous fall semester, we were lucky enough to add 11 extraordinary new members to the Psi Psi Chapter. Being the head of the recruitment process can be both a tiring and trying endeavor. However, I felt it was one of the most rewarding processes I've had throughout my time as a member of this chapter. I had the pleasure of working with a highly motivated group of brothers who recognize that this chapter is what it is because of the people who embody it. The other members of the chapter were eager and willing to step up when the time came, and it was because of this that

I believe our most recent rush process was such a success. For these reasons, I was extraordinarily excited to get the preliminary stages of spring rush under way. I felt that acting as recruitment chair has been the best opportunity I've had so far to leave a legacy on the Psi Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi. I look forward to recruiting fine new men into this remarkable organization.

Strong Arms, Brandon Renick '18
Recruitment Chair

ACADEMIC REPORT

One of our goals over the past few years has been to raise the standard of academic excellence that exists within the house. Through the strategies put in place to increase academic accountability, we have found great results, having increased our house GPA significantly throughout this time.

Moving forward, we hope to expand upon these strategies, via the implementation of scheduled study groups for shared classes among brothers. We also hope to increase the number of brothers seeking scholarship opportunities in order to better recognize their academic achievements. We look forward to continuing to cultivate the academic environment that already exists and to allow the hardworking brothers to be recognized for their scholastic strides.

In Hoc,
Khalil Jean-Baptiste '19, Pro Consul

BROTHERS ABROAD

Every semester here at 737 Comstock, we see a mix of brothers come and go, embarking on adventures to foreign lands, taking advantage of the several study-abroad programs the university has to offer. "The best time to travel is when you are young; there are so many places to see," stated Ayal Pessar '19 as some helpful advice for the younger brothers of the Psi Psi Chapter. The experience is beyond anything that could be offered in the confines of a classroom; our fellow brothers journey out to gain unparalleled knowledge in various countries around the world.

Ayal and Evan Surrick '19, both juniors, ventured through Spain and Australia respectively during their fall semester. Their time away enlightened them to the distinctive cultures present in the countries they visited while they immersed themselves in the sights, cuisine, and lifestyle of the cities. These expeditions were not just limited to Spain and Australia, but also other locations in Europe, such as Amsterdam, Ibiza, and Prague, to name a few. They returned this spring semester, offering accounts of their expeditions, which proved to be incredibly worthwhile.

We now look forward to the return of our brothers Matthew Abt '18, Patrick Fee-ney '18, Adam Gottsch '19, Luke Kushner '18, Samuel Mooney '18, Joseph Potenza '19, and Jake Slye '18, who are currently away, taking advantage of academic opportunities abroad, and who will return to Syracuse after the spring semester.

IHSV,
Anderson Serrata '19, Chapter Annotator

Psi Psi Alumni Send Their News

Austin Cline '50 and his sweetheart, Marilyn are still going strong after 70 years of sharing their life experiences. He writes: "Our lives have been family oriented, split between Navy retirement and business retirement. Lots of memories, few contacts. I guess our breed has faded into near extinction." Get back in contact with Austin, and let him know what you're up to: austincline@yahoo.com; 44650 South St., Box B-8, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607.

"Still going strong far a man of my 'advanced age,'" writes **Bob "Rabbit" Bowles '51**. "Still on the bike I pedalled across the country at age 73. Now in Arizona, after spending my life in California. I hear from **William 'Salty' Clotworth '48** via Facebook. Trying to contact **Austin Cline '50** in New York State. You present-day Psi Psis think of the 'good ole days' at 737 Comstock. You must realized that the 'good ole days' were at 129 College Place. You guys are living at the Zeta Psi house. You will keep up the good work no matter what the address. In Hoc!" Let Bob hear from you: bob@aspectmedia.com; 1096 Calle Del Rancho, Oracle, AZ 85623.

Robert Curran '54 and his wife, Mary, have been Florida residents for the past 15 years, making their home in sunny Naples. "As I write this, it isn't very sunny, having taken the brunt of a recent hurricane. No power, no water, and a big cleanup ahead. Other than that, all's well with us: health good, golf three times a week. Golf not so good, but out there playing. Go Orange!"

(marrobcurr@mac.com; 2055 Aberdeen Ln., Apt. 202, Naples, FL 34109)

Congratulations to **Robert "Irish" McMeekin '56**, who won two gold and two silver medals in swimming last August in LA at the World Police and Fire Games. "I talk to **Vince Ceriello '59** frequently and **Ken Sparks '56** a few times a year. I think we are the only ones still kicking from our era." Reconnect with Bob at 19158 Avenue of the Oaks, Apt. B, Newhall, CA 91321.

"Remember when the old alumni used to tell us those were the best days of our lives?", asks **George Cleantis '68**. "Well, now we are them, and they were right! Greetings to all. There are several people I'd like to hear from before the final curtain: too many to list. If you have the notion, hit me up (mclantisj@yahoo.com; 9 Old West Point Rd. East, Garrison, NY 10524).

'60s Psi Psis Share Email Group Chats

Eleven Psi Psis from the late 1960s (**Bill Beach '69**, **Dan Elek '67**, **John Forste '68**, **Colin Jones '65**, **Monty Johnston '66**, **Bryan Leather '66**, **Rick Lent '70**, **Brian Mihalik '70**, **Phil Oldham '66**, **Dick Prenot '66**, and **Jack Smolik '66**) have been catching up and sharing memories from undergrad days via an ongoing email group. If you would like to be part of this '60s communications group, reach out to any of us (Phil Oldham '66: poldham405@aol.com).

Chapter Eternal

Edward R. Buck III '68

August 14, 2017

Anthony Scarpino '76 says that any brothers visiting the Westchester area are free to contact him at the Office of the District Attorney for Westchester County: 914-995-4200. You can email him at ascarpino@westchesterda.net or write to him at 30 Brookwood Rd., Bedford, NY 10506.

Jim Fini '83 has survived another Florida hurricane ("two year living here and two evacuations"). He writes that he is looking forward to heli-skiing with brothers **Scott Ward '83**, **"Jake the Snake" Romanow '80**, and **John "Turk" Honis '83**. Keep in touch with Jim at jimfini@icloud.com or at 2230 Seaside St., Vero Beach, FL 32963.

Psi Psis Gather in Las Vegas

Early in 2017, I had the idea to try to get a gathering of Psi Psi alumni together for a reunion. I am not one for social media, so I relied on word of mouth and emails, which grew to a group email chain. We picked October 13-14 and decided on the Palazzo Hotel in Las Vegas as a destination.

We had an incredible turnout of 43 Psi Psi brothers. The pledge classes represented ranged from fall '84 to spring '95. We had brothers traveling in from all corners of the US, from Hawaii to Maine. The weekend consisted of two fun pool-side cabana days, two dinners, and a gathering to watch the SU football team upset the number-two Clemson team.

The reunions are a tradition we hope will continue and grow—how about other Psi Psi decades kicking off their own good new Psi Psi times together?

Anthony Pascarelli, ΨΨ'91



Psi Psi Chapter alumni out and about during the Las Vegas gathering.