



# The Constantine Sig

Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi at the University of Virginia • Fall 2013

## PSI CHAPTER CALLS FOR ALUMNI SUPPORT Now Is the Time to Reconnect with Sigma Chi

As you know, Sigma Chi and the University of Virginia have been closely linked for more than 150 years. Our Chapter House has called 608 Preston Place home since 1951 and many generations of Psis have lived at that location. Most of us will never forget our times as undergraduate Brothers at Sigma Chi. Sure, pledgship was not easy and was not always fun, but that time served a purpose. We did work; we learned; we felt uncomfortable. But we developed a bond with all our Brothers and learned to live—to the best of our ability—according to the ideals and standards by which our Fraternity was founded. We grew up in our house and it was our home.

Our Chapter House has been a source of pride and our home for more than 60 years. Over the years, the house has been home to many Brothers and while

continual updates have been made to keep it a safe and engaging environment, ongoing repair will be necessary. The goal of the House Corporation is to provide the best learning, living, and leading environment that we can for members of Psi. Safety is our number one priority and is at the top of our list when allocating funds and planning projects each year. The House Corporation continues to look at our Chapter House and strategize the best possible solutions for the future. We are exploring the best solution for a modern, spacious facility that best serves the needs of fraternity men at the University of Virginia.

We encourage all members of Psi to get involved with Sigma Chi. There are many opportunities to volunteer with the Chapter and its members and we welcome your involvement. We have strong support from members of the House Corporation

and from many active alumni. As the board continues to strategize the best solution for the Chapter House, we ask for your patience and your support.

I continue to be amazed by the men I call my Brothers at the University of Virginia. From our youngest pledges, to our alumni across the decades, Sigma Chi continues to develop values-based leaders committed to the betterment of character and the community. I encourage you to stop by and visit the Chapter House when you are in Charlottesville. We would love to welcome you home!

In Hoc,

**James “Jim” Moore ’68**

Psi Chapter House Corporation President  
jamooore46@charter.net

## Sigma Chi Gave Alumnus Opportunities Jim Todd ’60 Maintains Fraternal Bonds

Attending the University of Virginia in the 1960s was a much different experience than it is today. When **Jim Todd ’60** came to the university it was an all-male school with around 10,000 students, and the fraternities held almost all leadership positions on the grounds and were the primary source of social life. After transferring to the university as a second-year student, he decided to join a fraternity for the social atmosphere. “I wanted to be part of the social life. A friend from high school, **Don Sours ’58**, encouraged me to check out Sigma Chi and I was impressed with the members that I met. Sigma Chi had a mix of students from across the country, while other fraternities often had a concentration of members from a specific area. Don convinced me Sigma Chi was the right choice and we have stayed in touch for many years. I cannot think of another Sig who has done more for our Psi Chapter than Don has.”

While earning his bachelor’s degree in commerce, Jim served the fraternity as the Pledge Trainer and Consul. He also was the student commander of the naval ROTC. After graduating with a BS in commerce from the University, he served two years at sea as a naval officer, and then returned to the University of Virginia for an MBA at the Darden School.

After spending most of his career running large companies in real estate development, creating major new communities with offices, shopping and housing, he decided to leave that business and start his own company three years ago. He now is the president of JWT Inc., an investment company for real estate and publicly traded securities in his family portfolio. “Sigma Chi gave me the opportunity to be involved in leadership positions and

it helped me develop my ability to handle the responsibilities that come with leading an organization. In addition to the leadership and social experience I gained, the Sigma Chi literature and ritual set forth a lot of thoughts on how you should live your life, and that is something that has stayed with me.”



Looking back, Jim said it was the relationships he developed with other young men from across the country that he appreciates most. “I grew up in Washington, D.C., and hadn’t traveled very much, so it was nice to meet and get to know people from all across the U.S.”

Jim has maintained the friendships he made while an undergraduate. “**Mike Daniel ’58** has been the leader in arranging for seven or eight of us in the Washington area to get together for lunch, travel to football games with our families, and other social events. I see **Jim Palmer ’60** regularly in the Washington area and in Delaware where our families vacation.” The Sigma Chi connection with these men has stayed strong for a lifetime.

Jim lives with his wife, Sharon, in McLean, Virginia, and they have four children and seven grandchildren. He serves on boards for the University of Virginia’s business school and its foundation, helping the university succeed and move forward. He and Sharon enjoy playing golf, traveling, and spending time with their grandchildren. “I am certain the lifelong friends I developed in Sigma Chi at U.Va. are representative of what Sigma Chi’s experienced for generations in the Psi Chapter,” Jim said.

## History Highlights:

*We are inspired by our past as we look forward to our future!*

### THE BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD SURVIVE THE CIVIL WAR

Although Sigma Chi was founded at University of Virginia before the Civil War, the demands of war strained the bonds of brotherhood. Virginia's Psi Chapter, originally Rho Chapter, was the twelfth Sigma Chi chapter, and the last chapter founded before the outbreak of war. The recognized founding date is December 10, 1860.

In 1861, when the state of Virginia passed an ordinance of secession, Sigma Chis were called home and to the war front. Many Psi members can be found on the Confederate rosters, several serving the cause until the southern surrender in 1865. The four years of war caused a hiatus for Sigma Chi, but the fraternity was not forgotten.

**Harry St. John Dixon 1861** served in the 11th Mississippi Infantry in 1861, followed by Company D in the Washington Calvary, and he remained in service with the 28th Mississippi Volunteers until the end of the war. Dixon was influential in recruitment of Sigma Chi members after the war and took charge of safe-guarding the Chapter's important documents during wartime. Archives for Sigma Chi had been taken to Monticello Bank in Charlottesville, but Dixon had taken special care to send the charter and other precious documents to the home of fellow Sigma Chi **Henry Ewing 1861** in Nashville. Records were returned to Virginia during the fall of 1866.

The Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi was reorganized after the Civil War in 1866, and at this time Rho Chapter had been established in Indiana and the University of Virginia Chapter became Psi. Dixon kept a diary all his life and later became the first Grand Historian. His dedication to the ideals of Sigma Chi was evidenced by his tireless efforts in post-war recruitment. In his words, written more than 100 years ago but still descriptive of that found in the hearts of today's Brothers, Harry St. John Dixon spoke of the virtues of the Men of Sigma Chi:

*More than 20 years ago I became a Sigma Chi. In my Chapter was collected around me a number of chivalrous sons. A fearful war swept over the country and separated us to meet no more. Many of them surrendered their lives to their country, others have since passed away in the general chaos that ensued, but in my heart, and I am sure in the hearts of all who survive those days, the memories and the friendship then engendered can never pass away. In that circle every sentiment of honor and manliness was cherished, every precept of good morals and uprightness was inculcated. We do not wear our badges for show, but because to us they were emblematic of the gentleman. They spoke to us then, as they speak to us yet, of those things that are noblest in human nature.*

— **Harry St. John Dixon 1861**

## HOUSE CORPORATION ASKS BROTHERS TO SUPPORT PSI CHAPTER

Updating and maintaining a 60-year-old Chapter House takes a lot of time, effort, and funds. 608 Preston Place is currently home to 18 Brothers, and each year capital expenditures are made to keep the house a safe place for them to live. This summer, the House Corporation made the following improvements:

- Renovated first and second floor bathrooms
- Refinished floors
- Restored original exterior white trim paint

In order to preserve the Chapter House for future Sigma Chis and to meet the needs of the 21st century fraternity man, the House Corporation will be sending out a letter later this fall asking for financial support from Brothers. The contributions received as a result of this appeal will be used for additional improvements to the Chapter House.

## New Website Gives Opportunity for Better Engagement Alumni Encouraged to Visit Site, [www.psiofsigmachi.com](http://www.psiofsigmachi.com)

If you are like a lot of Psi alumni, you may not have been to the Psi of Sigma Chi website in some time. That will hopefully begin to change. After many years having partnered with the University of Virginia Alumni Association to help manage our digital presence, the House Corporation Board of Directors has made the decision to move to a third-party provider that can offer more flexibility and customization of the content, allowing more timely and relevant information available to members of all ages.

The start of that change is underway as the newly managed site has just launched and the Board of Directors will be looking to add additional content over the next year. We envision this website to be the portal for prospective members, active Brothers, and alumni to come together and find the information they need relating to Psi Chapter. In this day and age, we want to be more engaged with our members and need the content

that we currently share via the *Constantine Sig*, mailed correspondence, and other channels to be seamlessly accessible in a centrally managed digital platform. Some of this vision includes having all of you able to:

- Read articles on alumni and other Chapter news that has previously only been available in print form
- Find archived *Constantine Sig* newsletters
- See the schedule of upcoming alumni events and who is planning to attend
- Read and submit career and life updates for our ongoing alumni news section
- See contact information of Brothers
- Browse photo albums of our time in the Chapter and alumni events
- Ask questions and provide feedback to the House Corporation Board of Directors
- Take part in polls or provide thoughts on other issues/concerns facing the Chapter
- Make online contributions to support Psi Chapter

- Connect with others via established social networking platforms (e.g., LinkedIn, Facebook)

As we create this new experience, we will also be looking to ensure that the right level of privacy is enabled with controlled access to different pieces of information. The bottom line is that we want to be more actively engaged and connected to each other and we want this website to be one of the vehicles to better support you. When you have any questions related to Sigma Chi, we want this to be one of the first places you go to get those questions answered.

What else would you be interested in seeing in the website? We are open to feedback and would love to hear what additional functionality and capabilities could be valuable to add. Please share any thoughts with Website Coordinator **Chris Komelasky '00** at [komo@alumni.virginia.edu](mailto:komo@alumni.virginia.edu).



## BROTHERS EXCEL AFTER LEAVING CHARLOTTESVILLE

### *Psi Chapter Looks Forward to Fall Semester*

The Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi looks forward to a fulfilling and exciting fall semester at the University of Virginia. Completing the 2013 academic year with an average GPA of 3.3, the Psi Chapter continues to demonstrate its commitment to holding high academic standards. It has been bittersweet waving goodbye to the class of 2013, but we are excited to welcome 24 new pledge members into the Chapter this fall.

#### Recent Alumni Succeed After Graduation

Our recent graduates are moving on to a wide variety of impressive positions in their first year out of school. Our graduates joined firms like Blackstone, Deutsche Bank, Accenture, Harris Williams, and Houlihan Lokey. We are also very excited that several young alumni are part of Teach for America, Venture for America, and other teaching programs abroad. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck in the working world and hope they will return to

the University often to stay connected with the undergraduate Chapter.

#### Chapter Plans Upcoming Events

With undergraduate members back on the Grounds, the Chapter calendar continues to fill with academic programming, leadership opportunities, Brotherhood events, and social functions. An annual white-water rafting trip, a Wild, Wild West party, and a '90s-themed social are all planned for this fall. With these events and more in the works, all Brothers are looking forward to spending time together.

#### Alumni Encouraged to Connect with Chapter

We hope to see many alumni at the Annual Pig Roast on October 26. This event will allow alumni to reconnect with their pledge Brothers and get to know all the undergraduate members. The Chapter will also host tailgates at the Lawn rooms of Brothers [Jeff Roberson '14 \(27\)](#), [Nick Cafero '14 \(49\)](#), and [Michael Bugas '14 \(51\)](#).

We welcome all Psi alumni to join us at these great events.

Charlottesville continues to be an exciting place for the Psi Chapter, and we hope everyone will continue to stay in touch.

In Hoc,

[Morgan Lupton '15](#)

Tribune



## SIGMA CHI ALUMNUS HELPED PRESERVE THE HONOR SYSTEM

### Thomas Hall '02 Served as Honor Committee Chairman during 2001 Scandal

In the fall of 1998, [Thomas Hall '02](#) was introduced to [Peter Leary '00](#) at an event at Alumni Hall. At the time, Peter was a Vice Chairman of the University's student-run Honor Committee. Little did Thomas know, Peter would influence him over the years as a student and as a leader on the Grounds. "Sigma Chi was a great experience for me," Thomas said. "There were all sorts of leaders in the house, leaders like Peter. There were student leaders in the Chapter House and they all did things at U.Va. that set a great example."

Thomas would quickly become a leader in Sigma Chi and on the Grounds, through his involvement on the Honor Committee. The University's Honor System was founded in 1842 based in part on values and ideals set forth by Thomas Jefferson. It is administered only by students elected to the Honor Committee and only students serve as jurors at honor trials. If a student is caught in a significant act of lying, cheating or stealing, and the act is committed with knowledge, the Honor Committee administers the system that ultimately decides the student's guilt or innocence.

While the student body elects each member of the Honor Committee, the Honor Committee itself selects its officers, including the Chairman. In 2000, when Thomas was a rising third year, he was elected to this prestigious office—a position usually held by a fourth-year student. "It was a 30- to 40-hour-a-week job on top of school work.



It was a very serious responsibility, but it was something I had always wanted to do," he said.

In April 2001, Thomas had just been re-elected as the first two-time Chairman in the Honor system's history. On a sunny, spring day that month, Sarah Hobeika, who served as an Honor advisor, walked in and said, "Thomas, you aren't going to believe what just came in the door." Just weeks before the end of the semester, Thomas was faced with more than 150 cases of cheating and plagiarizing committed by U.Va. students in Professor Louis Bloomfield's "How Things Work" physics class. As the Chairman of the Honor Committee he was responsible for overseeing the judicial process to determine the consequences for those accused students, some of whom would be permanently expelled from the University.

For Thomas, the process required hours upon hours of work and investigation. "The previous year, there had been 60 cases of cheating. And

then, suddenly, there were 150 cases all at once. I knew it was going to be an enormous workload and that we would spend hundreds of hours of student time on each case that went to trial," he said. "For a lot of people, it meant that involvement in the Honor Committee went from being a part time activity to a full time commitment."

The cheating scandal quickly gained national attention and Thomas was fielding calls from reporters for the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, all wanting comments on the situation. Thomas also appeared on CNN and on NBC's *Today Show*. "It was a big deal and people were paying attention," he said. "It made my last year of college a little bit different from everyone else's."

Thomas graduated with a degree in history and government, next earning his master's degree at the London School of Economics, then his law degree at the University of Virginia. He served as the Psi chapter advisor from 2004 to 2006, then on the Psi House Corporation from 2007 to 2012. In 2006, Thomas married his Sigma Chi sweetheart, who is the same former Honor advisor who alerted him of the cheating scandal, Sarah. The couple has two daughters, Julia and Martha, and live in Washington, D.C., where Thomas works as a white collar prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice. In his free time, Thomas enjoys keeping up with U.Va. sports, traveling, and chasing around his two daughters. E-mail Thomas at [tbwhall@gmail.com](mailto:tbwhall@gmail.com).

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Francis K. “Smokey” Williams '50** entered Chapter Eternal on July 17, 2013. Smokey was always proud to be a University of Virginia graduate and a Sigma Chi. He was 90 years old and is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and his three children.

**Joseph E. Burlas Jr. '56** entered Chapter Eternal on August 27, 2012. In 2001, he was inducted into the Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame and between 1981 and 1984 served as commander and editor-in-chief of the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* newspaper in Japan, overseeing the writing and printing of 40,000 copies each day. While at the Pentagon, he was also credited with modernizing the publishing of all Army newspapers. Joe received numerous medals and honors, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, The Legion of Merit, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. He is fondly remembered by his family and friends as a man with wit and a teasing good humor. His greatest joys were his wife of 55 years and his three children.

**John “Jack” Melnick '58** entered Chapter Eternal on August 21, 2013, at the age of 78. In 1971, two years after Republicans swept all four House of Delegates seats in Arlington, Va., Melnick was part of a Democratic counterpunch that won all but one of those seats back and saw the return to Richmond of Mary Marshall, a beloved figure in county Democratic politics. Melnick served three terms in the General Assembly, then in 1977 launched a bid for the Democratic nomination for attorney general, but fell short. Jack is survived by his wife, Majory, and their four children.

**George C. Salley '58** entered Chapter Eternal on November 16, 2012, in Middlesex County Va., He led a renaissance life and was intrigued with all things mechanical. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children and five grandchildren.

**Bryan W. Heath '94** entered Chapter Eternal on August 4, 2013, at his home in Birmingham, Ala. Bryan loved the outdoors, enjoying sports, hunting, and fishing. He was genuinely kind and shared his love for youth by coaching youth baseball and football in his community. Bryan was dedicated to his family and friends, especially his two children, James and Ellie, whom he loved dearly. Bryan is leaving a heritage of integrity, hard work, and love for his family and friends.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**Ralph T. Waldrop '50** was named a Knight of the Legion of Honor by the French government in 2010. He turned 91 in June and enjoys time with family and friends. E-mail: ralph.waldrop@trifectasres.com



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Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi  
at the University of Virginia  
P.O. Box 442100  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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## Homecoming 2013

Join Psi Brothers on Saturday, October 26, at noon for the Annual Pig Roast at the Sigma Chi House as part of Homecoming weekend. E-mail **Locher Grove '13** at [lmg3j@virginia.edu](mailto:lmg3j@virginia.edu) with any questions.

**James R. Palmer '60** is still running his own business in Springfield Va., while enjoying life with his 15 grandchildren.

**William P. Schofield Jr. '68** retired from the Foreign Service. He and his wife, Pat, live in Washington, D.C., and are in touch with several Psi alumni. Bill does some part-time work at the State Department and continues learning to play tennis. E-mail: [wmschofield@aol.com](mailto:wmschofield@aol.com)

**Steven G. Walther Sr. '71** gets together with fellow Brothers from the class of '71 every year in October in Charlottesville. “We’d love to have more Sigma Chi alumni!” He currently lives in Rochester, N.Y. E-mail: [swalther@waltherealtors.com](mailto:swalther@waltherealtors.com)

**William O. Reeside Jr. '77** and his wife, Sandy, recently took a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic. They provided eye, dental, pharmacy, and general medical care to about 2,000 people. They are especially appreciative of two Psi Brothers, **Jeff Mintz '77** and **Jim Evans '00**, who helped finance the trip.

Bill said, “Psi of Sigma Chi gave me a solid base on which to build a wonderful life—which has many more years of service to go.” The couple resides in Fort Mill, S.C. E-mail: [liberty76@comporium.net](mailto:liberty76@comporium.net)

**Gregory L. Beach '93** attended the 20th reunion of the class of '93 in Charlottesville with **Kevin Boyce '93** and **Jeremy Doyle '93**. He lives in Centreville, Va. E-mail: [gbeach@atlanticexhibits.com](mailto:gbeach@atlanticexhibits.com)

**Thomas B. W. Hall '02** and his wife, Sarah, welcomed a daughter, Martha Weatherly, on May 31. They currently live in Washington, D.C.

**Thomas K. Plofchan III '10** resides in Sterling, Va., and after he graduated, he moved to Cairo, Egypt, to continue studying Arabic and work on his master’s in Middle East studies. In 2011, he began working for CNN. He now works for Deloitte Financial Advisory Service, working mainly in network mapping. E-mail: [tom.plofchan@gmail.com](mailto:tom.plofchan@gmail.com)