



The Constantine Sig

Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi at the University of Virginia • Winter 2023

PSI IN SECURE HANDS

Jim's Final Presidential Update

BOD MEETING RECAP

The Psi of Sigma Chi House Corporation held its annual Board of Directors meeting on October 8. At the meeting, we covered the standard list of agenda items, which included an update from the undergraduates (see their article on page 3 for details), a status report from our House maintenance contractor, notes from the UVA Foundation's Historic Renovation Corporation, discussions on future Alumni communications (including this newsletter), and a presentation of current finances by Treasurer **Scott Waskey '88**.

Some key things to pass along:

- ▶ There are 56 active Brothers, and 608 is fully occupied.
- ▶ 608 is in solid physical condition.
 - ▶ On June 6, the Constantine Housing Initiative, affiliated with Sigma Chi Headquarters and its Risk Management Foundation, inspected 608. Our property is insured by RMF, and these inspections of all Sigma Chi properties help keep everyone's insurance costs down.
 - ▶ The inspection, checking the interior and exterior to identify safety, security, fire hazard, and mechanical issues, was helpful and thorough. Of the inspection team's 60 findings, 52 were resolved before the undergraduates moved in for the fall semester, seven were completed over winter break, and one (non-safety) issue has been deferred for funding reasons. HRC continues to do an outstanding job maintaining the House.
- ▶ Our financial condition remains strong with almost \$150,000 in operating cash, about \$200,000 in remaining pledges, and \$650,000 in long-term debt.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

We also held BOD officer elections, added some new directors, and said farewell to several long-serving individuals, including **Tom Washburn '70** and **Bret Holden '83**. These two individuals have contributed to the BOD's and Chapter's status as one of UVA's premier fraternities as much as, if not more than, any other Psis; they are highlighted to the right.

The new directors, unanimously elected, are **Dave Holmes '84**, **Todd West '84**, and **Dave Helfgott '85**. Many thanks to them for volunteering to serve. Lastly, we voted on the Board officer slate: **Mark Senell '87** was elected as the new president, while **Chris Komelasky '00** will continue to serve as VP, Scott Waskey as treasurer, and **Kurt Rupprecht '04** as secretary.

As I sign off on my last update, I want to thank all who made my job easier, including the BOD, HRC, and undergraduate officers. I am grateful for your commitment to Psi and 608, and I consider myself blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know you and work with you to ensure Psi remains a wonderful place to be a Brother.

To Mark—thanks for agreeing to take on this role. I know I leave the House Corporation in great hands!

In Hoc,
Jim Mallon '81
President, Psi of Sigma Chi House Corporation



TOM WASHBURN '70

Tom served on the Board since 2007 and assumed responsibilities as treasurer in 2014. (I view the treasurer as the most important position on the BOD, and Tom



exceeded in his duties!) Consider all that transpired during his tenure: the initiation of the capital campaign, identifying funding organizations for donations, tracking those donations, identifying construction and long-term financing options for the two separate phases of this \$2.5 million construction (the Chapter House addition and the renovation), and coordinating annual House rental income and donations with House maintenance and mortgage payments. This was all a herculean effort that he made seem easy. Tom leaves the House Corporation's finances far better than he found them.

BRET HOLDEN '83

Bret joined the BOD in 2014, but his contributions to Psi go well beyond that. He and **Steve Herbert '68** served as capital campaign co-chairmen



from 2014-21. They both worked tirelessly to raise more than \$2 million—and Bret's personal contribution alone amounted to *more than 10%* of our total donations. He also volunteered to supervise the construction of the new wing, and he and his general contractor helped reduce construction costs significantly. Bret's on-site presence on an almost daily basis ensured a result that most groups can only dream of—a quality, beautiful, under-budget project. His generosity, time, expertise, and practicality were indispensable in this endeavor.



PRESIDENTIAL INFLUENCE



Welcoming the New President

I'm honored to be elected as the new Psi president, and I look forward to spending time and working with my fellow board members, Psi alumni, our Chapter advisor, and the undergraduates. Jim, Tom, and Bret leave large shoes to fill, and my hope is to carry on with their great work and commitment to Psi. I welcome new directors **Dave Holmes '84**, **Todd West '84**, and **Dave Helfgott '85**, and I thank them for their service to Sigma Chi.

As you all know, this fall was very difficult for everyone in the UVA community, UVA athletics, and the student body after a senseless shooting that left three students dead. That puts a lot of things in perspective for me, and I hope the UVA family and Psi will continue to grow and heal as we take solace in the brotherhood of our community and fraternity.

I hope to see many of you this coming spring at reunions weekend. Until then...

In Hoc,
Mark Senell '87
HRC President



Orah (or as our UVA Navy ROTC members say—HooRah!). That battle cry is from our outgoing president, the “Colonel” **Jim Mallon '81**, as he hands the baton to our new BOD president, **Mark Senell '87**.

Jim, our former House kitchen manager, assistant social chairman, and 25-year USMC leader, has stepped back from his position on the House Corporation after many years of service to our Psi Alumni. Following years of learning the ropes from **James Moore '68**, Jim picked up the reins on the tail end of our largest capital campaign and House renovation. This was during an important transition of some longtime board members and during what became the global COVID pandemic.

Needless to say (and as expected), Jim rose to the challenge to give back to support the fraternity through a time when strong leadership and focus were required, leaving our House, Alumni, and brotherhood in a much better place. Along that path, he helped strengthen the local Charlottesville community, University, and Sigma Chi national relationships.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Jim as he was pulled into the House Corporation when we needed more support to better organize and sustain efforts in the early period of the capital campaign. Jim had the vision and energy to reinvigorate the program and engage a wider set of era and class leaders to drive us forward. As soon as he started, it was clear that his approach, his willingness to give back, and his willingness to do whatever was needed would be an asset not only to the campaign, but also to our broader House Corporation.

Over the years, he continued to step up and helped create a more disciplined House Corporation underpinned on the core values of accountability and mutual respect. He was able to blend that structured leadership style with a good dose of humility and humor, creating a stronger team. Jim has a high bar for excellence, and his patience was (rightly) tested on many occasions, including when he would receive late-night calls from our Chapter advisors to help navigate some “interesting” challenges with the undergraduate Brothers. By balancing that high level of accountability with trust and fairness, he has helped shape the leadership development of our next wave of Psi Alumni.

When you think about the meaning of what the Semper Fi motto represents to any Marine, it's no question that sentiment has carried him in all he has done. That ability to remain always faithful and go the extra mile has left an imprint on Psi. We sincerely thank you for everything you have done, Jim, and wish you the best in your next chapter!

In Hoc,
Chris Komelasky '00
Vice President

Resource Management ♦ Keeping the House Maintained

Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi House Corporation continues to maintain a solid financial position. The balance in our operating account is approximately \$150,000. The budget for 2022-23 is, as usual, essentially breakeven.

Now that House renovations are complete, the House Corporation's attention turns to ongoing maintenance. In addition to working with the actives to keep damages to a minimum, we have a goal of increasing funds allocated to our major maintenance reserve, which is built into the current budget.

The House Corporation has two loans with Virginia National Bank, one interest-only “pledge loan” based on outstanding capital campaign pledges on which principal is paid down as we receive the pledged amounts, and one conventional commercial mortgage with standard principal and interest.

If you have an outstanding pledge amount, please make every effort to pay them as soon as possible to avoid refinancing the conventional mortgage at a higher interest rate.

In Hoc,
Scott Waskey '88
Treasurer



A Fulfilling Fall

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SPRING

Reflecting on the Fall

Psi Chapter recently wrapped up a fantastic semester filled with many exciting events, including Mom's Weekend, where we took the mothers to a tailgate and wineries in the Charlottesville area, and Dad's Weekend, which featured grilling and enjoying tense college football games between Penn State and Michigan as well as Alabama and Tennessee. Our annual Halloween party, Christmas Semiformal, and Secret Santa gift exchange were a few other highlights of the fall.

We also competed in the UVA Intramural Sports Fraternity League this fall. Our football team made it to the semifinals, while our soccer team won the championship.

Looking Forward to Spring

We are excited to welcome new members into our brotherhood through the recruitment process. Our two recruitment chairmen have lined up exciting events for prospective new members. Furthermore, we are looking forward to Derby Days and our Parent's Formal. These events are scheduled for March and April, respectively.

We would also like to thank our outgoing officers who dedicated their time to growing and maintaining our Chapter. Finally, we are pleased to announce Psi's incoming Chapter officers, listed below. We look forward to seeing how they continue to build up our brotherhood as the spring semester rolls around.

In Hoc,
Shaurya Nayyar '25
 Incoming Quaestor



Psi brothers at the Delta Gamma Parent's Formal.



Brothers spending time with their moms at a local Charlottesville winery.



Brothers and their dates at our annual Christmas Semiformal.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

OUTGOING

Consul
Patrick Hourican '23

Quaestor
Jamie Garrison '23

Magister
Henry Haywood '24

Kustos
Taylor Aukward '24

Philanthropy (Derby Days)
 Chairmen
Ryan Post '23
Christian Marinaro '24

Pro Consul
Neil Malik '23

Social Chairmen
Mateo Aguiar '24
Matthew Hanley '24

Recruitment Chairman
Jake Hibarger '23

Scholarship Chairman
Andreas Kamali '24

Brotherhood Chairman
Will Bell '24

Annotator
Chris Daleo '24

Risk Manager
Jay Chadha '24

INCOMING

Consul
Henry Haywood '24

Quaestor
Shaurya Nayyar '25

Recruitment Chairman
Joseph Connors '24

Kustos
Preston Rosh '24

Philanthropy (Derby Days)
 Chairmen
Sasha Pasmanik '25
Sam Suppes '25

Pro Consul
Ben Stone '24

Social Chairmen
Zach Overstreet '25
Aidan Silverman '25

Assistant
 Recruitment Chairman
Adam Snyder '25

Scholarship Chairman
Michael Armentrout '25

Brotherhood Chairman
Taylor Aukward '24

Annotator
Will Bell '24

Magister
Christian Marinaro '24

Risk Manager
Chris Craft '24

House Manager
CJ Owen '23



The Constantine Sig

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Connect with Psi Chapter Online



www.psiofsigmachi.com



Psi of Sigma Chi Alumni



Psi of Sigma Chi - UVA

Bell Chapter Sponsorship

Ensuring the Sigma Chi Experience for All Brothers

We previously discussed how costs associated with fraternity membership have risen dramatically in the past decade. Unfortunately, Psi Chapter has some current undergraduates struggling to afford the benefits of membership in Sigma Chi.

To that end, we are excited to announce that Psi Chapter is in the process of sponsoring a "Bell Chapter" at the Sigma Chi Foundation!

The Sigma Chi Foundation has given out \$611,000 in scholarships in the current school year. The Thomas Cowen Bell Challenge program allows Alumni Brothers to invest in the future of Psi Chapter.

Through your unrestricted, tax-deductible charitable contribution, you can help support Psi Chapter with academic scholarships.

Chapters can be sponsored as a "Bell Chapter" on an annual basis of \$10,000 or permanently endowed at the \$250,000 level. At the \$10,000 annual level, we would sponsor three \$1,000 scholarships, travel stipends to regional conferences, and a Chapter retreat.

When the "Bell Chapter" is completely set up at the Sigma Chi Foundation, we will provide a direct link to make it easy for you to contribute. If you have questions in the meantime, please feel free to email me at todd.west@wfa.com.

In Hoc,
Todd West '84