

Sigma Tau Chi

Offering A Unique Learning and Social Experience at Oswego State Since 1946

2006 Celebrating 60 Years of Brotherhood

The year 2006 is a banner year for the Sigma Tau Chi Fraternity the Brothers and the Alumni.

≈ **This year marks 60 years of brotherhood for the Sigma Tau Chi Fraternity, on the Oswego State Campus.**

≈ **In November of 2006 the mortgage on the Grand House at 8 Montcalm St. Will be paid in full and the Sigma Tau Chi Alumni Association becomes the sole owner of the house.**

≈ **2006 will see a major renovation on the first floor of The House of Blue.**



2006.....

With a growing active membership.....

A strong and committed alumni association.....

The House renovations and ownership.....

The future looks bright as Sigma Tau Chi moves into the next 60 years.....

Come to Oswego and celebrate the 60th anniversary.....

more 



The Presidents Corner by Gerry Hendershot, President STCAA

Here we are rolling along into 2006 and we have much to celebrate. This year marks a significant milestone: Sigma Tau Chi's 60th Anniversary!!!! It doesn't seem that long ago that we got STCAA off the ground as a support group. It was the fall of 1999. Our fraternal situation was bleak and the House of Blue was surely headed toward closure by the spring of 2000. I recall the empty and sad feeling that came over me at that thought. Sigma Tau Chi has had a presence at SUNY Oswego since 1946. Sigma Tau Chi alumni stepped up, answered the call, and we find ourselves back on a success path working hand in hand with our active brothers...more cause for celebration!



I haven't done the research but, we may be the oldest contiguous fraternity on campus. I know Sigma Gamma was started in 1947. Wes Proctor (S'68) and I visited their house two summers ago. We were invited to stop by after we ran into a couple of their alumni at a local restaurant having lunch. They were in town making a valiant effort to make improvements to their house and keep it open. Unfortunately, the Gamma House was closed ("abandoned") in excess of one year. The city revoked their "grandfather status" for nonconforming use as a fraternity house. Gamma recently lost an appeal on that decision. I do not want to see our fraternity and beloved house come even close to the physical deterioration, financial, and legal situation that Sigma Gamma, another time honored fraternity, finds themselves in. I bring this up not to disparage Sigma Gamma. I refer to Sigma Gamma because of many similarities between them and us. Their house has a rich history. They have a great collection of actives, and their fraternity is rich in history and tradition, just like us.

So...what separates us now in what seems to be a fragile line between success and failure? I offer this answer. We got lucky with our timing. We had some actives in charge in 1999 who could realistically evaluate the situation they were in and called on their alumni for help. Last, enough of our alumni responded to avert a crisis that may not have been overcome. Since STCAA's inception in 1999, about one hundred alumni faithful annually work with our active brothers to help keep our fraternity and house together. Alumni brothers have contributed not only financially but, many have contributed countless hours of organizational tasks, house improvement projects, summer yard clean ups and lawn maintenance, and attending fundraiser events.

This is a collective "pat on the back" for those one hundred strong. Also, something of significance occurred at the December 3, 2005 business meeting. The active brotherhood donated \$500.00 to STCAA toward a house improvement. I find that extremely impressive because it demonstrates the commitment STC has toward working with STCAA for the betterment of the brotherhood and the house. It also demonstrates that STCAA is on the right track of instilling in our future alumni the need to stay involved and make a continued commitment to our collective fraternity.

The Presidents Corner

Continued from page 2

You've probably guessed by now there's a "pitch" coming. Maybe I can't help it as I'm a salesman by profession and it's manifested by the fact that Sig Tau is something I'm still passionate about since pledging in the spring of 1969. We have accomplished so much in the last almost seven years with only about 100 alumni answering the call in some capacity.

Frank Murano (S'68), STCAA Treasurer, and I look at our alumni database of approximately 700 plus and start daydreaming about how quickly we could accomplish so much more if we could only reach another 100 or 200 or 300 brothers. I've heard an old adage about organizations that goes something like this: 10% are the do'ers, 80% are the followers, and 10% will do little or nothing.

Maybe we can't reach 100% of alumni out there. But...two groups we need to stay focused on. One is the 10% do'ers. Succession is key to keeping an organization moving forward. Many of our STCAA officers will be in their last year of eligible service coupled with the fact that no one wants to be overburdened to the point of burnout. We are fortunate that a couple of young brothers are interested in positions. However, vacancies will arise and volunteers will need to step up.

The second group to focus on is the 80% of us out there. We need to count on our strength in numbers, our 80% guys (YOU) to step up...each individual that makes up our 80%. It is STCAA's most immediate need now to have you get involved in whatever capacity you can. And, YES, in many cases it boils down to financial support. Geographics, job, and family constraints limit what a brother can do time-wise and that's understandable. But, I'm asking each and every one of you to take a few moments after reading this and think back on what Sig Tau meant and means to you. Who do you count as your best friends for life? Who were you with during some of the best times of your life? If a lot of positive thoughts begin to surface, then I'm asking you to get involved in whatever capacity you realistically can.

This is a pivotal year for STCAA. The house itself at 8 Montcalm St. is in decent shape. There have been plumbing, heating, and electrical upgrades as well as significant replacement of windows. We are about to do a cosmetic renovation of the chapel (living room), main hall, and the dance floor (dining room). We will be borrowing funds via an internal funding source so we can commence the

work in June this year. The Executive Committee of STCAA believes we can receive support from those 100, 200, 300 or more of you we haven't heard from yet.

STCAA recognizes the importance of developing the actives as responsible men, citizens, and future STCAA members. We're enhancing our mentoring program as we grow and with our increased momentum, it is imperative that we increase our visibility with the active community. Your support of STCAA directly affects and improves our ability to successfully mentor our actives.

This year is pivotal in another respect. Let's take this tremendous celebratory opportunity, Sigma Tau Chi's 60th Anniversary, and make it our best year ever. To that end, we don't just want your money. We want YOU to make every effort to attend this year's Alumni Weekend 60th Celebration October 6- 8 at the house. We are planning a number of events for all ages . A committee of our women are planning events of interest for women. It will be a good opportunity to see the improvements to the house & I'm especially excited to see some of the cosmetic improvements to the first floor common areas after having worked on other basic improvements. I'm optimistic we will have a huge turnout for this special year event. I want to rent a party tent for the back yard to accommodate everyone. That will require more long range planning and therefore, your advance commitment to attend is even more critical.

I cannot emphasize enough what makes these reunions most successful and enjoyable is knowing people. So, get out your address books or email lists. Start contacting your old buddies and pledge classes. Get a group together and commit to each other (and us) to attend. Do it now while this message is still fresh on your mind. The Alumni Weekend Committee will work extra hard between now and October 6-8 to make it a weekend everyone will fondly remember for years to come.

\$TX By the Numbers..... The treasurer's Report

by Frank Murano STCAA treasurer

Treasurer's Report Spring 2006

The years 2003, 2004 and 2005 brought in \$7474, \$6925 and \$8650 respectively in alumni dues donations . Last year we had a total of 74 alumni contribute to the cause. Nice job guys!!!!



This year we are off to a slower start than previous years in that we have only collected from 6 people for a total of \$550 of which one donation was \$1,000. Last year at this time we had 10 alumni paid for a total of \$1000. So we have a long way to go to catch up to last year. In addition to alumni dues we also raised \$1328 on the golf tournament last June and another \$600 for

How The Money Was Spent

Balance of Doors, casings and locks for the bedrooms:	
Labor& Materials	\$ 3,368.44
Postage and cost of Newsletter.....	\$ 992.03
Roof Repairs	\$ 320.00
Heating & Plumbing	\$ 29.97
Flat Roof Repair.....	\$ 396.43
Porch Roof.....	\$ 320.00
Electrical	\$13,572
Total:	\$ 19,398.40

We finished off all the interior doors this year. As was in the last newsletter, Mike Loeffert, Wes Proctor, and Anthony Carnevale brought in a fire inspector and had him make out a list of all the fire hazards he could find. We budgeted \$7,000 for all of this work and by the time we finished we ended up spending \$13,572. We usually keep to our budgets because of cash flow but most of these repairs and upgrades were for life safety issues and we felt that we could not eliminate any of the work.

To give you a brief overview we got all the fire alarms in working condition. Every room in the entire house was checked for hot spots in plugs and lines. Any loose wire, molding fixtures or plugs were either secured or replaced. In conjunction with the life safety issues we replaced all the common light switches with either motion sensors or timer switches to reduce the electrical usage. Our utility bills for the house have gone up almost 30% because of rate increases so we are hoping that these measures will help reduce our total electric usage

As per the previous newsletter we had a shortage in operating funds to pay for these repairs so an alumnus loaned us \$4500.00 interest free to take care of the debt. As alumni contributions come in for this year we will pay off that debt.

On the active membership side we had thirteen brothers living in the house this semester and we are planning on having over 17 for the fall semester. We made some changes to how we rent out rooms at the house this past year. Actives now rent them out for six months. The leases run from 2/1 to 7/31 and 8/1 to 1/31. We also raised the rent last semester to \$1400 to stabilize the balance of money due to operate the house. It has been a challenge to make this work especially since the college only allows juniors and above to live off campus. In addition to that, as I have stated, the utility costs took a huge increase this year so we will probably have to increase the rent again.

Just a reminder that we mail out dues billings a year from the last time you made a payment. If you think we made a mistake or you have not received a bill in a long time please let me know via e-mail at Frank@lrmp.com or 1-800-564-3773 ext 204. Please remember that all of your donations go toward either renovation on the house or the small amount of money that it takes to run the STCAA.

As a constant reminder please make sure you also send us any change of mailing address or e-mail.

THE HOUSE Renovations for Sigma Tau's 60th

By Wes Proctor Alumni at large

What better way to celebrate 60 years than to give back to the organization that has left us with memories that bring a smile to our face. In an effort to do something special this year, it has been decided to renovate some of the common areas on the first floor. The primary candidate is going to be the living room (or chapel as it is now called). Much of what is there is still sound - a tribute to the original builders of the house in 1847. But it needs a serious facelift, and in some cases a bit more. With that in mind, we are going to repair the main ceiling, strip and insulate the walls, replace the wood wainscoting that extends 4' up the walls, repair the damaged ceiling and wall area in the front bay window area, and refinish the hardwood floor. There was considerable discussion about the fireplace, but for now we will limit that work to applying a smooth stucco finish above it. Most of the trim is in reasonable shape, and will be left intact, as will the built-in wooden shutters. The two doors into the room will be repaired.



The Montcalm St. entrance hallway is in serious need of a new floor. One section by the bar doorway needs some structural repair. Once that is done, one-piece sheet vinyl will be installed. This material has the advantage of being more durable than other types of finishes. In fact, that is what is in the hallway that leads past the

years! The paneling in the main will also receive some windows that bring back the will be removing the ceiling, re- and refinishing the hardwood new ductwork to heat that area

a contractor. This is a lot of and there will be plenty of other contribute sweat equity. We



kitchen, and has survived for 40 hallway will also be replaced. The dining room (dance floor) upgrades. In addition to the new fabulous view of the lake, we insulating and re-sheetrocking, floor. We will also be installing once again.

Most of the work will be done by work and best left to the pros, work for those who want to have several estimates, but

right now it appears that we will need \$30,000.00. We are going to raise this through donations rather than to re-mortgage. Frank Murano (S'68) has come up with a plan where alumni will contribute \$2000.00 each (payable at \$500/year over 4 years, if needed) to give this plan a serious head start. As of May 12th, we had pledges of \$21,000.00, So we only need an additional \$9000.00 to fully fund the project. We realize that not everyone can afford this amount, but we know that collectively it can be done. A pledge class of 10 brothers at only \$200 each adds up in a hurry. So, challenge yourself, challenge your pledge class, and let's "Git er Done!"



Up-Coming Events

- ➔ **7th Annual Alumni Weekend, Oct 6th - 8th 2006**
See page 9 and the web site for details
- ➔ **Oswego Harborfest July 27th - 30th 2006**
Meet at the house.
- ➔ **Annual Summer cleanup at the house Saturday July 15, 2006.** Check the Web site for details to come
- ➔ **Winter 2006 STCAA / STC BUSINESS MEETING December 02, 2006** at Fallbrook, SUNY Oswego.

Feedback or comments on the Newsletter contact Barrie Gorman at bgorman@entergy.com
If you would like to contribute an article to the next newsletter please contact me.



The 2005 Golf Tournament

By Jason Wright

The 5th annual STCAA Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, June 4th, 2005 at the prestigious Auburn Country Club. Finally the weather cooperated and it did not rain! A total of 75 of active brothers and alumni brothers participated from active brothers all the way back to 1966. Financially a grand total of \$ 1328.00 was raised which will be used to fund house renovation and support STCAA activities. All of the brothers had a great time retelling stories and of course having a few beers. Everyone had some sort of crazy and unbelievable story to share while they played a no pressure round of golf with their old friends. For those of you who have not played golf ever before or only a couple of times, this format would be a perfect fit. The scramble format of the tournament allows all four people to hit a drive. You then pick the best shot and everyone hits from there. Even on the greens, everyone gets to putt until the ball is holed out. This could be the opportunity for you to pick up the game of a lifetime.

For myself, golf is a game of a lifetime that you can learn as a child and play throughout your entire life. Similarly, the brotherhood of Sigma Tau Chi is something that can be shared and relived throughout your lifetime. I encourage those brothers that have not played in this tournament to do so. This alumni tournament could be the second time in a year, Alumni Weekend being the first of course, to see your lifelong friends and brothers to relive the best of times we all had at the House of Blue. I hope to see many new faces there this year as well as the many new friends I have made at this unforgettable event. May the Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other.
Billy "Jason" Wright F82

EDITORS NOTE:

The 2006 Alumni Association golf tournament has been cancelled due to the recent unavailability of the Auburn Country Club. We want to recognize the generous support that Gary Gauthier has provided to the alumni associating in sponsoring this event and providing for the use of the course for the past 5 years at no cost to the Alumni Association. This has been our largest fund raiser over the years. A special thanks to Gary for going above and beyond in supporting all the brothers of Sig Tau and the Alumni Association.

There will be a Golf Tournament this year as parts of the 7th annual Alumni Association weekend. Please visit the Sigma Tau Chi web page for details as they become available. Plans are to re-establish the annual golf tournament in 2007 in the general

syracuse/Rochester/Oswego area. If you would like to be a member of the committee, a volunteer or have a suggestion for a course please contact frank Murano via E-mail Frank@lrmp.com.

Sigma Tau Chi web site update

By Nick "Rudy" Drogo, Vice President STCAA

The Sigma Tau Web Site has been recently updated to except secure online transactions and have more user functionality.

Members of of the Sigma Tau Chi Alumni Association voted to expand the current web site at the last business meeting. The overall goal of the change was to provide a way for members to make payments online in hopes to encourage more members to attend alumni events and show their support. Over the past few months the Sigma Tau Chi web site has undergone a major change that will allow its members to perform online transactions for alumni events, alumni dues, alumni donations and merchandise purchase. The use of new technology has not only provided a secure payment method for members but also a gateway for Sigma Tau Chi members to stay in touch with each other with the newly created member database. The website will also still also be a great resource to find the latest news on the fraternity and upcoming events.

All features on the site are free and to take advantage of these new features you will just need to take five minutes and register your name.

For additional information about the newly designed web site please take some time to visit it.

[Http://www.sigmatauchi.org](http://www.sigmatauchi.org) ✨

LAST TOOL.....

by Cruse

STANDING

Greetings Bros,.....A few years ago, as the STCAA was starting to pick up steam and do some great things for the future generations of Tools, I decided that I wanted to get involved. One problem, shortly after graduating from Oswego, myself and several other brothers moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where we all still live and now have families and careers down here. Being a Long Islander, trips back North have been to the Island, and I have had few opportunities to get back to 8 Montcalm. That said, if I were going to help out, it would not be by attending functions, volunteering at cleanups, etc., it would be monetarily, admittedly, I am bad with sending in membership money each year. So I came up with an idea for a fund raiser to benefit the STCAA. I am glad to say that in year three, only with the involvement of the brothers, this has turned out to be a success.

NFL Season 2005 began the 3rd Annual Last Tool Standing Contest. These type of contests have been very popular in offices for several years now. The way it works is you pick one NFL team per week to win. If your team wins, you go on to the next week, if your team loses you are out. The Last Tool Standing wins. The cost is \$20 to enter, I take 50% of the funds collected and send that up to STCAA to use as they see fit, the other 50% is paid out to The Last Tool Standing. In year one, STCAA used the \$470 donation to install a series of windows on the Dance Floor. The same was done in year two, we were able to raise a bit more, and the \$490 raised was used to purchase another series of windows on the Dance Floor. Personally, I found raising money to be used on the dance floor very fulfilling as I spent countless nights mutated there at 3am perfecting the art of striking out.

As I begun getting entries for this past year, I challenged myself. Year one had 47 entries, year two had 49 entries, I aimed big, I wanted to double the entries in the third year. I wanted to hit 100

brothers participating, though I did not reach that goal, we did get up to 66 participants this year. With the \$660 that was raised, STCAA was able to install one of the needed skylights. Congrats to the brothers that have been The Last Tool Standing these three years. In the inaugural season, after duking it out with Dom Amendolia 'Guinea' S'92 for a few weeks at the end of the season, John Fabrizio, Fabz S'91 took home the title. Year two, yours truly and Mike Miller, F'86 were the final two, but a stupid pick by me, gave the title to Miller. This past year, Guinea S'92, redeemed himself in a three way bout with Jon Yourman S'95 and Steve Kalies '66. It ended in week 16 when Guinea went against his Jets and took the title. When asked what he thought about his hard fought victory all Guinea would say is 'It's not about the money, all I know is that my wife wears colors and I still can't be done'. Kind of an odd response, but it is what he said.

For me, Last Tool has been a great opportunity to both reconnect with some of the guys that I have lost touch with, as well as getting to know, albeit through email, some of the guys in the generations before me, that made The House of Blue what it is today. Through the first three years, the goal of raising a few bucks has worked out. And only with the involvement of the brothers going forward, this fund raiser will be able to send up a few bucks each year. Individually, \$20 is nothing, but coupled with 65 other guys, some good things can certainly be done with it. Watch your email towards the end of the summer for the 4th Annual Last Tool Standing, like year three, my goal is to double the entries. I can only do it with your participation.

YIB,
Cruse S'94

60th Anniversary Plaques and Clocks made by Howard Botting Sp 86



In honor of our 60th anniversary I have designed a commemorative plaque and clock for Sigma Tau Chi. Plaques and clocks are made from 1/2" thick DuPont Corian solid surface material, this is the same material you can buy for \$58.00 a square foot at Home Depot or Lowes for your kitchen countertops. All images are CNC machined (think of the process you've seen when watching them make custom wheels for American Chopper show on the Discovery network) into the Corian material and painted with Fusion paint. Sample plaque pictured is approximately 14" by 17" and the 1968 Lemans clock shown is 15" wide and 20" tall. These are quite heavy and weigh approximately 8 pounds and come with all mounting hardware and screws. Sig Tau Clock would look just like the plaque with crest and text. Numbers around perimeter can be numbers, letters or symbols. I can add text to personalize for names or personal mottos, for perhaps pledge classes or family trees.

My co-worker has been designing and selling personalized house signs and fishing "themed" clocks for anywhere between \$90-\$120 depending on details and size.

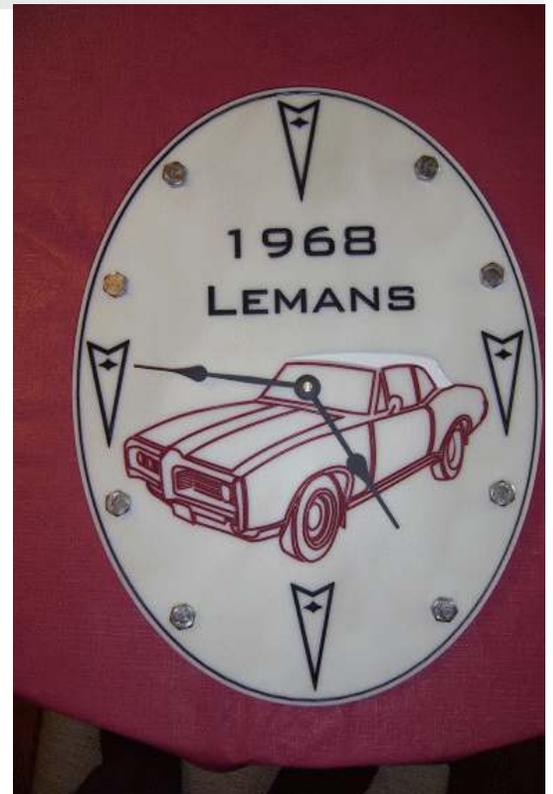
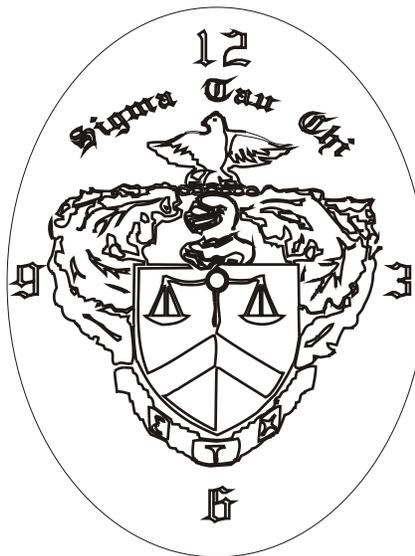
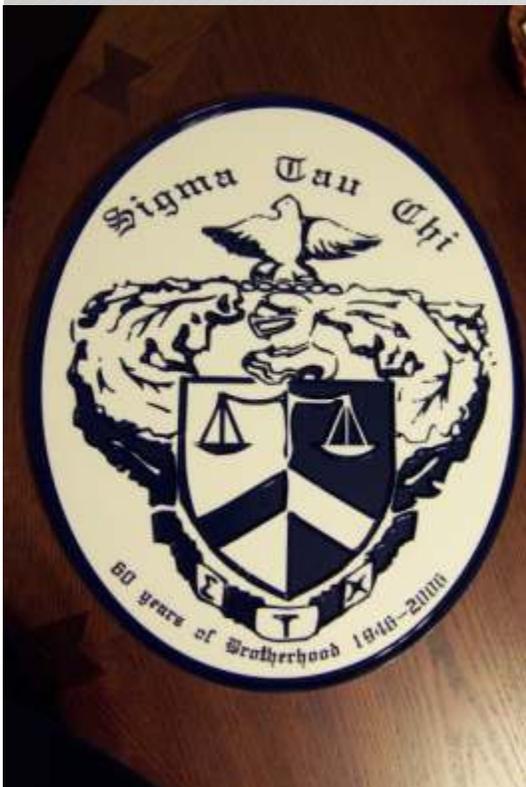
As a fund raiser I will make theses and donate profits to the Alumni Association. Plaques will sell for \$80.00 and clocks for \$110.00 each. For anyone interested in other custom designs please contact me for pricing.

I will donate any proceeds from Sig Tau Brother Purchases back to the Association.

Howard Botting Sp 86

>(315) 452-5561

>Techteacher5561@hotmail.com



7th ANNUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND

OCTOBER 6, 7 and 8, 2006

- ★ **Friday Night get together at the Press Box**
- ★ **Clam Bake at the house Saturday afternoon and evening**
- ★ **Comedian for early Saturday evening entertainment**
- ★ **Live Music after dinner**
- ★ **Sunday, Softball game between the actives and the Alumni**
- ★ **Golf outing Sunday afternoon**
- ★ **Special events for the ladies and a campus tour**
- ★ **Don't forget Monday is a holiday, great for traveling**



SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- ★ **This is our most important fund raiser of the year, PLEASE plan on attending**
- ★ **Call a friend or pledge brother to join you**
- ★ **A good time is ALWAYS had by all**