

THE Chrome and BLUE of ALPHA CHI SIGMA



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Graduation...it is an end and a beginning. With over a thousand of our Brothers going through graduation this spring, I want to congratulate all of you on passing this important milestone. Best of luck in your journeys in the chemical sciences.

Like ratty Salvation Army couches, we leave many things behind when we graduate but Alpha Chi Sigma is not one of them. We are Brothers for life and each year we will send you a copy of *The HEXAGON* to help you keep in touch. I want you to think about your Brotherhood as a part of your life that transforms at graduation but is not left behind. I, and so many other Brothers in the Professional Branch, can attest to the value of staying active in the Fraternity after college. My best friends today are Alpha Chi Sigma Brothers who have also believed in the value of living the Three Objects, and they are a treasure greater than any Philosopher's Stone. Check out the Welcome to the Professional Branch article by GPA Jon Wenzel in this issue for ways to keep involved.

For those of you who are not set to walk across the stage and into the Professional Branch this semester, you have a lot to do before summer.

- Have an executive session to plan activities for the fall so you will hit the ground running.
- Arrange meetings between incoming and outgoing officers so important information does not get lost.
- Get your updated chapter registry and other paperwork submitted on time so your chapter can earn Star Chapter Awards.

Graduation

*By Patrick J. Johanns,
Alpha Theta 1981, Grand Recorder*

- Submit your bid if your chapter wants to host Conclave next year.
- Buy sunscreen. Sunburns bite.

Alas, we cannot celebrate Alpha winning the men's NCAA basketball tournament. No chapter at Duke so no congrats going out that way. Congratulations are in line for Barbara Johanns, Alpha Theta '04 and my partner in life, who took the gold. She was the only person to choose Duke to win in the Alchemical Madness Bracket competition and thus ended up winning our competition. GCA Helen Webster, Alpha Rho '94, showed her skill in taking the silver and Bluegrass DC Merryn Cole, Alpha Theta '03 finished bronze. I finished 7th out of the 37 brackets in our competition which was good enough to quiet Grand Historian D. Mitch Levings (11th). GMC Kip Nalley was a contender in the early rounds before he faded and finished 32nd. Join us next year!

Welcome Graduates to the Professional Branch

by Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel, Delta, 1996 - Grand Professional Alchemist

Graduation means so many things: farewells, parties, gifts from the parents and grandparents, the start to a career, a start to graduate school, or the beginning of vacation. Many of us are excited to start a life that has been years in the making. Many of us are sad to leave familiar faces and places behind. However, part of your college life that creates some of the most exciting, heart-warming, and vibrant Alpha Chi Sigma memories can continue as new experiences; the Professional Branch awaits! On the day of your initiation, it was mentioned that Alpha Chi Sigma is a lifelong experience. It truly is for those who chose to make it so, and for many of us it continues! How? It is easy! You do it by staying in touch! For those of you who are going to graduate school at a university that has a chapter, reach out, they would love to welcome you. If there isn't a chapter, we can help you start one. Just contact the National Office. For those who are leaving for that great industrial or government job, congrats! There are several Professional Chapters and Groups throughout the country where Brothers meet to socialize and perform outreach activities. Indianapolis Professional Chapter has dinners throughout the year, Washington Professional Chapter has Shrimpfest in the Fall, and Delaware Valley Professional Chapter attends Iron Birds games, just to name a few. If there is not a Professional Chapter or Group in your area, you can start one! It is pretty easy and we can help. Just reach out to the National Office! How cool would it be to have your name as a founder on a Professional Chapter charter? You can also volunteer to help your District Counselor and serve on the district committee visiting chapters and helping put together district meetings. We also have several committees



to be involved with, such as the ritual committee. For those of you interested in participating in national governance and would like to help to grow the Professional Branch, you can run for Professional Representative. If you have an idea of a new program you would like to get started, contact me at gpa@alphachisigma.org. We are excited to invigorate the fraternity with fresh ideas. Finally, if life gets busy, stay in touch and participate in our annual solicitation. A donation of \$25 or more allows you to continue to receive all four issues of *The HEXAGON*. Life in the Professional Branch can be exciting and transformative; we help each other ranging from career advice to new friendships. Just like the Collegiate Branch, what you put into the Professional Branch you get out of it, all you have to do is stay in touch. Contact the District Counselor or Professional Representative in the area that you live or contact the National Office at national@alphachisigma.org or 800-ALCHEMY.

IRS e-postcard reminder for Collegiate and Professional Chapters

Collegiate and Professional Chapters whose gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less are required to annually file an electronic Form 990-N, or e-postcard, with the IRS.

The e-postcard is due each year by May 15th. Don't put Alpha Chi Sigma or your chapter's tax-exempt status in jeopardy! Each chapter should have received an email with instructions and reminders from the National Office. Additional information can be found on the website. Please contact the National Office with any questions.



2015 Professional Fraternity Association's Leadership Academy

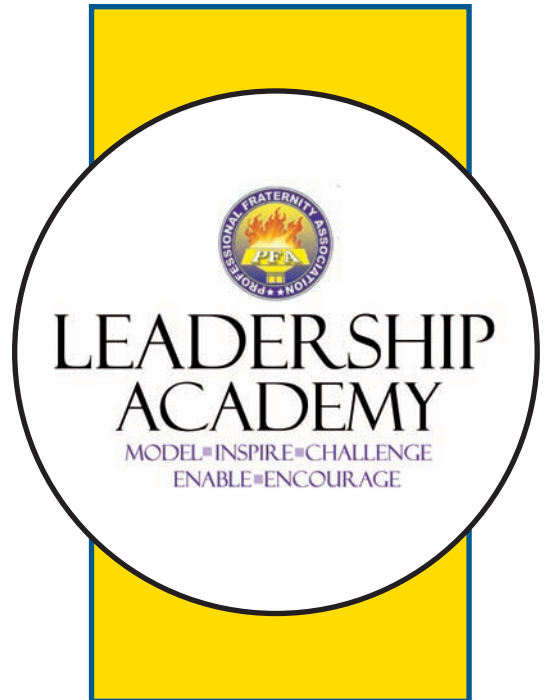
Students! Interested in leadership training?

This May, The Professional Fraternity Association (PFA) will host its inaugural Leadership Academy at the Hilton Atlanta Airport. PFA represents over 100,000 undergraduate and graduate students on over 1,000 campuses across the nation, in professional fields such as agriculture, business, engineering, law, medicine, music, nursing, pharmacy, and more.

Alpha Chi Sigma wants as many collegiate members to attend as possible, so the Foundation is generously offering to reimburse \$100 per person to offset some of the registration fee! This will be limited to 30 people, up to 6 people per chapter, until May 1. After the deadline, any monies remaining are unlimited to chapters. Collegiate members will need to register themselves, and then contact the National Office for your reimbursement.

The 2015 Leadership Academy will be held May 29-31 at the rate of \$91/night. Reservations can be made with Hilton (1-800-445-8667 – Group Code: PFA or online here). Registration is \$149 per person, and includes two lunches, LPI Co-Curricula educational materials, student self workbook, facilitation leadership by PFA member groups, and the opportunity to meet and learn from your peers in other fraternal groups! Curricula is based on the Kouzes-Posner Leadership Challenge. Universities often have funds available for students to attend leadership programs so check with your university when you register.

For more information, [click here!](#)



Submit your bid to host the 53rd Biennial Conclave



Does your chapter want to host the 53rd Biennial Conclave? Now is the time to prepare your chapter's bid.

If your chapter would like to submit a bid, you must gather information about facilities, room and board, accommodations, estimated transportation cost, local area items of interest and more.

Visit the [national website](#) for the list of bid documents. These documents will help your chapter determine if you have the resources necessary to host a Conclave. It also will guide you through the process of creating a bid for consideration.

The deadline to submit bids to the Supreme Council is April 30, 2015. Please contact the [National Office](#) with any questions.

Officer Transition Meetings

by Helen M.M. Webster, Alpha Rho, 1994 - Grand Collegiate Alchemist

With the end of the spring semester quickly approaching, many chapters will elect new officers. For those interested in running (if you haven't already done so), approach the person currently holding the office, and ask them questions about it. What they like, what they don't like, current timelines, etc. Also – ask them about any improvements or changes they would make to the office, or how it is run.

Consult your chapter's bylaws, the National bylaws, as well as the newly revised Manuals of Procedure (MOPs) for additional information and insight.

Once elected, help start the next year off right by holding officer transition meetings before everyone leaves for the summer.

These meetings don't have to be long or boring. You can get pizza, have all of the officers meet at once and break into groups, or meet one-on-one over coffee or lunch.

You will want to review what happened last semester, areas that you think need improvement, activities that were well received, and highlight urgent dates and possible pitfalls that your successor might run into.

This also is a great time to pass along any documents, keys and anything that your successor will need. Don't forget to use the tips and suggestions under the "How Do I" tabs on the National website. And don't forget about the MOPs that were mentioned before. We have them available for each officer position.

As always, contact the GCA for any additional information or questions.

Your chapter will be one step ahead when your officers have the entire summer to think about and plan for the fall!

PointWorthy Provides New Way to Donate to Alpha Chi Sigma

Looking for a new way to give back to Alpha Chi Sigma? Do you have unclaimed credit card loyalty points or points about to expire but not enough to use? PointWorthy is here to help! PointWorthy's mission is to unlock billions of dollars of value in loyalty points for charitable donations. The website allows you to connect directly to Alpha Chi Sigma, as well as many other non-profits, to donate your credit card loyalty points.

Simply go to Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity (or go to www.pointworthy.com and search for Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity Natl Office). Once you link your account to PointWorthy, you can donate your points directly to the Fraternity (for example, 2,500 ThankYou® Points from Citi is \$25.00 to Alpha Chi Sigma).

Even better news – 100% of your donation goes directly to Alpha Chi Sigma. PointWorthy does not keep any of the donation! Donations you make to Alpha Chi Sigma are tax deductible and documentation of your giving history is available through PointWorthy. For more information and to see other charities you can donate to, visit www.pointworthy.com.



Meet the Supreme Council



Spotlight on Kip A. Nalley

Alpha Sigma, 1990 - Grand Master of Ceremonies

I pledged Alpha Chi Sigma at the University of Arkansas in the Fall of 1990. The chemistry department at the University of Arkansas was a small department, and there were only a few chemistry majors. So when I

was approached to join the fraternity by the older members presenting in chemistry class and by my lab TA, I was very interested in a community of people with common interest in science. During the pledge process, balancing the rigors of the school year, as well as the pledge tasks, was very difficult. I cannot express enough gratitude for the help the older students and grad students gave me to get me through the process – including a night-time drive around Fayetteville to gather enough signatures for my wooden AXE at the last minute. One telling thing about this trip was not only the fact that the Brother driving helped me get around, but every Brother who came to the door to see me holding my AXE was willing to sign and was happy to help me become a Brother.

While I was a collegiate member of the Alpha Sigma Chapter, I served a year as Reporter and two years as Master of Ceremonies. I am very proud of the skills I learned in these roles. I was able to build my communication and time management skills. Streamlining an initiation ceremony that used to take all night, to a few hours with some effective scheduling and rehearsal was a big accomplishment for me. There was also a time where issues within the chapter threatened to divide members into factions, tearing it apart. The perseverance of the chapter officers and the brotherhood we had developed as pledges and members allowed us to move past the issues and rebuild a strong chapter. As we were going through this difficult time, the support of the Chapter Advisor (OA Col. William Myers) was essential to the survival of the chapter. One of the things that I have discovered was the amount we can learn by observing the way people handle difficult situations.

During my time at Alpha Sigma, I visited other chapters. First a road trip to Gamma Theta to help with their initiation and later to the now defunct Beta Theta Chapter. I also attended my first conclave in Indianapolis, IN in 1992, mere days after my 21st birthday. These experiences opened my eyes to the greater organization that is Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity. The Conclave experience is unparalleled in the ability to demonstrate the true definition of brotherhood. The 1992 Conclave was noteworthy as the debate centered on the first version of the Risk Management Policy. As we vigorously debated the policy over several days, we also gathered for volleyball games and evening festivities where policy adversaries were treated as best friends. This is the magic of Conclave and of our fraternity as a whole. Brothers, young and old, from all the Chapters around the country can come together and behave as if they are long-lost friends. Brothers can have strong differences in opinion and still treat each other with respect and friendship befitting Brothers. This is what sparked my interest in being part of the national organization and I have attended every Conclave since.

After my time at Alpha Sigma, I have moved around quite a bit. First to San Diego, then to Dallas, and now to my current home in Maryland. Through these moves, Brothers have helped me along the way. At each place, Brothers welcomed me and helped me to assimilate into a new area. It is often difficult as an adult to find friends in a new city. The fraternity has given me a built-in support network that has made it easier to move around and not feel isolated. During my travels, I served as DC twice; SWDC while in San Diego and SCDC in Dallas. When I moved to Maryland, I was recruited to be an officer in the Washington Professional Chapter. First as VP and then as President. Each of these roles has helped build my skill set that enables me to do the job I do now-product manager and principal investigator for Sophic Alliance Inc., which involves a lot of consulting and client interaction. Our primary product is a curated cancer biomarker knowledgebase that I manage, develop, and configure for our customers in government, academic and pharmaceutical

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Spotlight on Kip A. Nalley

Alpha Sigma, 1990 - Grand Master of Ceremonies

organizations. As a scientist going through a Ph.D. program, there are not a lot of opportunities to build skills in non-technical communication. Working with the fraternity has filled that gap and advanced my career in ways that I never could have imagined when I pledged so many years ago.

In my spare time, I play a lot of hockey – not well but I go for quantity over quality. I enjoy the exercise, competition, and comradery of adult league hockey. One of my teammates is Michael Webster, Brother and husband of GCA Helen Webster. For those keeping track, it's his second mention in as many Chrome and Blue issues. I also run and bike when I can. At home I have one pet, a cat named Peter Pan, who has tried to prevent me from writing this article.

Turn in a PBI form

Attention Collegiate Chapters with graduating seniors and members leaving your Chapter: Turn in a PBI form!

Current contact information is vital for our organization and helps keep our Brothers connected. The Professional Branch Induction (PBI) form notifies the National Office when members transfer from the Collegiate Branch to the Professional Branch, with or without a ceremony.

The information from the PBI form ensures that our database is current.

Keep these things in mind when filling out the PBI form:

- Include permanent email addresses that do not expire after graduation.
- Use a parent's address if the member is in an academic or career transition.
- Remind Brothers to visit the national website or contact the National Office to update personal information and preferences anytime there is a change.
- Submit the PBI form to reports@alphachisigma.org.



Star Chapter Award Criteria

The Grand Chapter presents the Star Chapter Awards to Collegiate Chapters for exemplary performance in several areas. The Star Chapter Awards are earned by Collegiate Chapters that participate and document a set number of professional, service and alumni activities. These documented activities are well above and beyond the level required for Alpha Chi Sigma to retain its tax classification status. Visit the [website](#) to see a full list of qualifications for the One-Star and Three-Star awards.



Gamma Nu Chapter's Family Science Saturday

by Merryn Cole, Alpha Theta, 2003 - District Counselor

Gamma Nu held their annual Family Science Saturday, providing chemistry demos and hands on activities. The physics department also hosted a room of physics fun. This spring, kids were invited to make slime, sample liquid nitrogen ice cream, and make shrinky dinks. They were also invited to watch a series of flame demos, a thermite reaction, homemade smoke bombs, elephant's toothpaste, carbon dioxide soap bubbles, and more. Each of the stations was staffed by brothers and pledges. They worked together to put on this well-attended public event.



Why should you take advantage of your Alpha Chi Sigma member discount with GEICO?

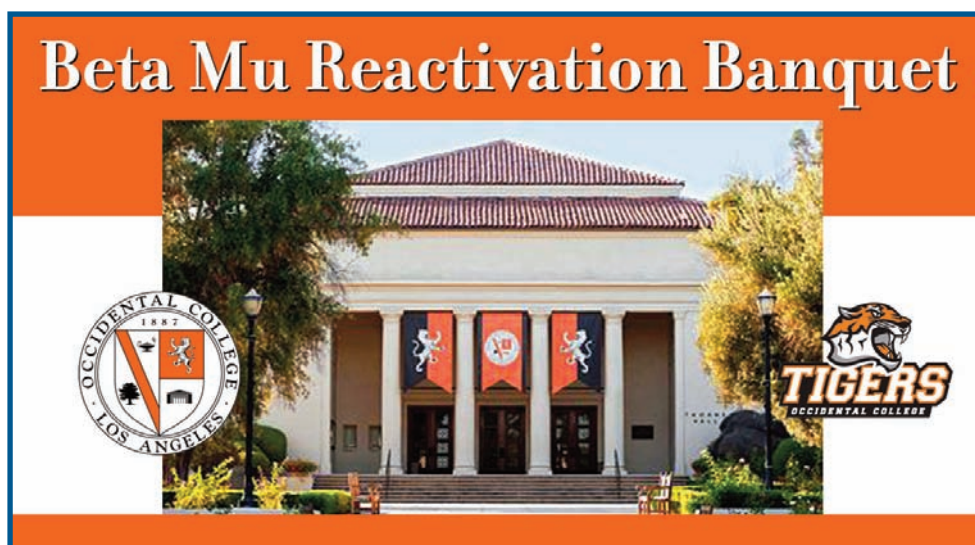
Since 2010, Alpha Chi Sigma has partnered with GEICO to provide its members with a great discount, and in turn GEICO has given back to the fraternity. Thousands of members have completed their quote over the years, and GEICO can help you save money, too. Even if you've already received a quote in the past, it's worth another look. With new rates in many states, you could find that your quote could be less than before. Maybe it's even less than what you're paying now.

To complete your free, no-obligation rate quote, simply visit geico.com/greek/AlphaChiSigma or call 1-800-368-2734 to speak with an agent. Make sure to mention that you are a member of Alpha Chi Sigma so that you get the special discount, and the fraternity gets credit for the quote. Remember, every completed quote helps benefit Alpha Chi Sigma!

Already a GEICO customer? Make sure to let a GEICO representative know that you are an Alpha Chi Sigma member so they can add that information to your policy.



What's Happening Around the Fraternity



Beta Mu Installation

Alpha Chi Sigma - Beta Mu Reactivation Banquet

Host: Beta Mu Chapter

When: Saturday, April 25th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Where: Dumke Commons at Swan Hall 1600 Campus Rd Los Angeles, CA 90041

Cost: \$20

RSVP: Alexander Graves at gravesa@oxy.edu

Replies after April 1 will be taken on an availability basis.

Graduate Student Symposium

The University at Buffalo, home to Gamma Phi chapter, is hosting it's 33rd Graduate Student Symposium Monday, May 18th, 2015 until Wednesday, May 20th, 2015.

This event offers graduate students from institutions across the northeastern United States and Canada, a forum to present their research to an audience of their peers. The symposium is a three day event consisting of posters and presentations given by attending graduate students.

Three keynote speakers will also be highlighting recent research: Daniel Nocera, Rohit Bhargava, and Minkui Luo.

The abstract deadline has been extended to April 18th. (For more information: <http://www.ubchemgss.org/home>)



What's Happening Around the Fraternity

Bluegrass District Distiller/Brewery Tour in Kentucky



The Bluegrass District members will tour the Town Branch Distillery and Brewery at 3pm on June 27, followed by dinner; location TBA. The cost for the tour is \$30 per person; the cost for dinner will depend on the restaurant. The tour will be lead by the Master Distiller who is a chemical engineer! The tour includes both the distillery and brewery, followed by tastings in their private pub. Each person will also receive a Town Branch rocks glass as a souvenir.

For anyone interested in other activities during the day or weekend, please contact Merryn Cole. She can suggest wineries, distilleries, or other attractions in the Lexington area. For anyone who is planning to arrive Friday night, Merryn and Don will be grilling dinner and hosting brothers at their house!

Please RSVP by replying to the Facebook event OR by sending an email to bgdc@alphachisigma.org. Include a note if you are bringing anyone with you.

The Town Branch/Alltech Brewing website: <http://www.kentuckyale.com/>

How to request mailing lists

Would your chapter like to better communicate with its alumni? Or contact Brothers who live in your local area?

The National Office can provide mailing lists based on multiple criteria, including initiation chapter, location and other options.

To receive a mailing list, send your request, which should include the criteria for the search and the information you would like in the final list, to national@alphachisigma.org.

After submitting your request, allow at least five business days to receive the final mailing list.

For more information, contact the National Office.



2015 Scholar Award Winner

Eric Alexy, *Gamma Xi*, 2011

On behalf of the Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award Committee, we are pleased to announce that Brother Eric Alexy, *Gamma Xi* 2011, has been selected as the 2015 Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar.

Alexy will graduate next month from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, with an Environmental Science Minor. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA and stands at the top of his graduating class.

His undergraduate research, under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Lindsey, has included investigating early Earth plausible routes to biologically important molecules in order to elucidate the molecular origins of life, as well as developing next-generation light absorbing pigments for solar light-harvesting. Alexy has co-authored multiple publications, including "Panchromatic Absorbers for Solar Light-Harvesting" as the lead author. He has also presented his work at numerous conferences, both local and national.

Alexy is a student member of the American Chemical Society, Phi Kappa Phi (serving as Student Vice President), and College of Sciences Student Council.

Eric Alexy comes from a very diverse family, with immediate family members living in five different countries on three different continents. He is also very well-traveled, having been to eight different countries, including nearly a dozen separate trips to Europe. After graduation, he plans to pursue a PhD in Chemistry focusing on natural product synthesis and reaction methodology development.

Congratulations to all of the nominees for their hard work and to Brother Alexy on his selection as the 2015 Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar.

Thank you to the committee members for their thoughtful consideration of the nominees.



Special Safety Rules for Supervisors

Source: Advanced Chemical Safety

- Label all containers, pipes, reactors, and vessels
- Maintain a current, accurate chemical inventory by identity, location, and quantity
- Obtain, use, and make available a material safety data sheet for every chemical
- Train employees to recognize, control, and avoid chemical hazards
- Develop an attitude of safety awareness
- Every work area should have a person responsible for safety
- Dispose of chemical wastes according to accepted state and federal regulations
- Post warning signs for unusual hazards
- Develop and implement a preventative maintenance program for all chemical operations

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 24 Initiation at Beta Mu Chapter.
- 25 Initiation at Mu, Beta Rho, Boston U of Mu, and U of Tampa at Gamma Delta Chapters, Beta Mu Reactivation Banquet.
- 26 Grand Professional Alchemist Jonathan E. Wenzel to speak at the Annual Krug Lecture - hosted by Zeta Chapter.
- 26 Initiations at Alpha Epsilon, and Gamma Omega.
- 30 Deadline to submit your chapter's bid to host the 53rd Biennial Conclave.

MAY

- 2 Initiations at Beta, Tau, Alpha Theta, and Beta Delta.
- 15 Deadline to submit your chapter's 990-N e-postcard to the IRS.
- 16 Initiation at Iota.
- 29-31 Professional Fraternity Association's Leadership Academy.

JUNE

- 15 Collegiate chapters' Audit, Member Register, Star Chapter Report, CRR1 and Alcohol Awareness Training sign-in sheet due to the National Office.
- 27 Bluegrass District Distiller/Brewery Tour in Kentucky.

JULY

- 15 Deadline to submit items for the fall issue of The HEXAGON.

ALPHA CHI SIGMA FRATERNITY
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The Chrome and Blue is a newsletter published monthly during the academic year primarily for collegiate chapter officers and District Counselors. It also provides information useful to the rest of the Grand Chapter and to any interested Brothers.
It serves to communicate news, reminders and updates in a timely manner.

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