

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional In Chemistry

Office of the
Grand Collegiate Alchemist
GRAND
COLLEGIATE ALCHEMIST



Helen M. Webster
19948 Lake Park Dr.
Germantown, MD 20874
gca@alphachisigma.org
(301) 467-7882

2012 – 2014 Biennial Report

Introduction

This report will cover my activities for the 2012 – 2014 Biennium. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve our Brothers and this wonderful organization during this time.

Collegiate Chapters

There has been quite a lot of activity in collegiate during this time. Membership numbers are up 4% year over year, and they will only continue to increase. To date, we have not lost any chapters. I am excited to say that interest in our organization is exploding, as detailed in the “Expansion” section of this report.

There is one chapter that I have concerns about remaining active. That is Gamma Phi. Gamma Phi is experiencing an extreme loss of interest on the campus, but I do not believe that all hope is lost. The Spring 2014 semester was very successful for them. I am currently working with the District Counselor on the concerns here, and hope to visit the chapter in the fall.

In my 2012 and 2013 reports, I mentioned concern around what was going on at Beta Phi, as they were severely delinquent on paperwork, and very hard to get a hold of. I was able to visit Beta Phi in February. To my excitement, I found this chapter in great working order; just a little confused on how paperwork was to be handled and submitted to the National Office. They have an excellent Chapter Advisor in place, and their energy is infectious. I am expecting no further issues with this chapter.

When I began my tenure as GCA, Beta was on probation, and I had to put Gamma Eta on probation. I am happy to report that both of these chapters have successfully returned to full active status. Congratulations! We currently have two other chapters on probation, Gamma Beta and Gamma Upsilon. Both are being monitored closely. I visited Gamma Upsilon in May 2013, and am very happy with their progress. They are both currently meeting the terms of their respective probations, and I am hopeful that we will be able to return them to full active status soon.

During this biennium, I handled quite a few questions regarding hazing (what it means, how it is to be handled, etc.), and the inquiries continue to rise. GMC Jon Wenzel and I have spoken at length on this topic numerous times. As the laws vary from state to state, it is always good to ask questions. The Risk Management Policy is the bare minimum guideline; federal, state, local and campus laws and policies override it. I am hoping to expand on our general guidelines in the Risk Management Policy, to help further clarify some of these grey areas. Additional training was requested by various chapters for things other than our current Alcohol Awareness training. These areas include: sexual harassment/assault, group dynamics (how to deal with

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power struggles, etc.), and suicide prevention/counseling. We may want to consider how we can point our members in the right direction when facing these tough issues within their chapters. One way is to point them to their campuses resources. However, I have been told by various chapters that their schools do not always offer what they are looking for, and are unsure where else to look.

District Counselors

All of the District Counselors have worked very hard over the course of the Biennium. We have a few that are departing at the end of the Biennium: Calvin Bond (NWDC), Nick Garcia (CCDC), Kerri Federico (NEDC), and Christy Gessell (NCDC). We are sad to see them go, and wish them the best. The coming biennium will see an increase in the number of Districts (17!), so we will have some new faces added to the team. These individuals have been contacted and are excited to be stepping into these roles. We sincerely appreciate everyone who mentioned that they wanted to be a DC. If you were not selected this time, please do not give up hope – I am insisting that these individuals be added to the DC committees in their areas, so that we can continue to grow and recruit for new leadership.

I was able to organize a few DC Chats, but not nearly as many as I had hoped. I will make sure that the new DC Chair makes this a priority, as I do believe there is great benefit to getting together and discussing ideas and issues.

Expansion

The expansion efforts have been growing like wildfire! When I started my tenure, we had two colonies who had petitioned for chapter status, one other colony, and a number of pre-colonies. Throughout the Biennium, we have seen huge growth on all sides. Gamma Omega (Widener University) and Delta Alpha (University of Rhode Island) were installed as chapters Fall 2012. Alcorn University was installed as Delta Beta chapter in October 2013. Alpha Alpha (Stanford University) was reactivated in March 2013, and Delta Gamma (Georgia Southern University) was installed in March 2013 as well. Southeast Missouri State (SEMO) colony has submitted their petition, which will be presented to the Grand Chapter for voting at the start of the 2014/2015 school year). I am hoping that Boston University Colony will be ready to petition soon as well. I am also optimistic that Beta Mu reactivation will be completed by the end of this calendar year, with a reactivation ceremony Spring 2015.

As of June 2014, we have moved the following pre-colonies to colony status: University of Tampa, University of New Orleans and University of California – Irvine. I am hopeful that we can make Philadelphia University a colony at the Winter 2015 SC meeting. There is a possibility that the Beta Omicron (University of Florida) reactivation will move to colony status at

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the end of this summer (it depends on if they have a summer pledge class). The only pre-colony I am concerned about is Midwestern University, as we have not heard much from them this year. I plan on making this a project for the new District Counselor in this region. The other pre-colonies (Winthrop University, Albion University, and Kappa (University of Kansas))

Reactivations are all in the beginning stages, but I am hopeful that they will become chapters in the future.

Jennifer Schnippert has done an amazing job as Expansion Director. I cannot praise her highly enough. I am hoping that she will continue in this position for the next biennium.

Installations

I was able to personally attend the installations at Gamma Omega, Delta Alpha, Delta Beta and Delta Gamma. This is one of my favorite things to do as GCA, and I am humbled to be able to participate in these ceremonies.

Manuals of Procedure (MOPs)

The Manuals of Procedure have been reviewed and laid out. To date, we are waiting on GPA Mark Evaniak to review them. I am planning on reviving this project at the end of Conclave, so that we have them ready to go for the Fall 2014 semester. Special thanks to PR Michael Clager, for his hard work on this project.

It has been an honor to serve as the Grand Collegiate Alchemist for this biennium. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Yours in the Double Bond,

Helen M. M. Webster, Alpha Rho 1994
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