

# *Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity*

Professional in Chemistry

Office of the  
GRAND MASTER ALCHEMIST



Randy Weinstein  
800 Lancaster Ave.  
Villanova, PA 19085  
gma@alphachisigma.org

## **Biennial Report of the Grand Master Alchemist June 15, 2014**

### **Overview**

It has been a pleasure serving the Grand Chapter and the Fraternity as a whole. We have made some amazing progress in the past biennium, and I am proud that the organization has established a path forward that will ensure we last as long as the stars.

### **Expansion**

This has been my number one priority. We need to grow the number of collegiate chapters, and it is the perfect time to do so. We have not had this much expansion in more than 50 years. As policies and cultures change on campuses, Alpha Chi Sigma is finding itself to be a sought-after organization with a true balance between professional and social activities.

This past biennium, there has been a large amount of initial interest. These inquiries were met by our expansion director, who – along with collegiate chapters, district counselors, the National Office and professional brothers – was able to convert many inquiries to pre-colonies, colonies and eventually chapters. During this biennium, we added five new collegiate chapters, have six strong colonies and six pre-colonies. This is impressive.

### **Chapters**

- Gamma Omega
- Delta Alpha
- Delta Beta
- Delta Gamma
- Alpha Alpha reactivation

### **Colonies**

- Boston University Colony of Mu
- Occidental College Colony of Beta Gamma (Beta Mu reactivation)
- University of California-Irvine Colony of Beta Gamma
- Southeast Missouri State University Colony of Beta Psi
- University of Tampa Colony of Gamma Delta
- University of New Orleans Colony of Delta Beta

### **Pre-Colonies**

- Midwestern University Pre-Colony of Zeta
- Winthrop University Pre-Colony of Rho
- Albion College Pre-Colony of Alpha Beta
- University of Florida Pre-Colony of Alpha Omega (Beta Iota reactivation)
- University of Kansas Pre-Colony of Beta Rho (Kappa reactivation)
- Philadelphia University Pre-Colony of Gamma Omega

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At the 52nd Biennial Conclave, we will work hard to improve our already strong expansion process. We will work in districts to identify opportunities, to improve outreach and training using best practices and to help to shorten the chartering process. We have allocated \$20,000 to be distributed to collegiate chapters to help them achieve successful expansion this year.

### ***The HEXAGON***

*The HEXAGON* is one of our strongest tools for reaching professional members. Over time, we have drifted away from content that supports our core mission, our Three Objects. During this biennium, each Supreme Council member became a consultant for one of the four annual issues, helping to drive the issue's content. This year, the GMA took on the theme of leadership and received input from a large number of Brothers. The GCA worked on relationships and the Fraternity. The GMC covered outreach and initiations. And the GPA developed content on the importance of the organization, why people give back and chapter histories. We have gotten many positive comments and feedback about the new content, and the Grand Editor has done a great job adjusting how content in *The HEXAGON* is obtained and worked into a theme. We plan to keep these themes and processes for *The HEXAGON* in the near future.

### **National Office**

The James F. Miller National Office building has outlived its usefulness. The building infrastructure was deteriorating, and the neighborhood was becoming challenging. The Supreme Council decided to look for an alternative and explored renting, sharing space with other organizations, buying, building and every combination you can think of. After careful consideration, a new location was found, purchased and remodeled. The old National Office building was sold. All office content was reviewed and moved, with our important historical documents placed in a climate-controlled facility. Our new space is smaller but more efficient, and it is expected that significant savings will occur over time. In fact, with the selling of the old office, we are already in the black with the office move.

### **Training**

As we grow, we need more leaders and volunteers to keep the organization going. We have established a great training program for our organization. The office staff is provided professional development opportunities each year. Members of the Supreme Council rotate attending the Professional Fraternity Association's annual meetings. New manuals of procedures were developed for each collegiate chapter office, including the chapter advisor. The district counselors, expansion director and chair of the professional representatives attend a two-day training every other year with the Supreme Council. Collegiate chapters go through alcohol awareness training each year as part of the Star Chapter Award process. We currently are in the process of evaluating the need for hazing training annually at chapters. We will use significant time at Conclave to provide some hazing training. This may be the final outcome, or we may decide in the future to do something more, depending on the Conclave training's effectiveness.

### **Outreach**

There were two motions at the 51st Biennial Conclave that focused on outreach and professional activities. Our wyvern pin program was deemed to be the appropriate outreach program and was altered to remove age restricting as well as the scouting requirement, since the Boy Scouts discriminate. A national science outreach program was not established because there already is a significant number of programs available online, and the tie dye program is available through the Supreme Council.

The Second Object activity is reported annually on all collegiate chapters' annual reports. This information is used to keep our tax exempt status, and we always are impressed with the number of activities our members participate in each year.

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### **Conclave**

When I attended my first Conclave, I had a lot of fun. But I also felt like an outsider and saw many inefficiencies. I saw great potential but also a trapping in the past. This upcoming Conclave will be different. It will be better. It will not be perfect – it will need to be improved. I plan to establish a process for making Conclaves more inviting and effective for all while leaving room for changes and improvements in the future. We will continuously evaluate what we do, how we do it and its outcome. When weaknesses are found, we will make changes and improvements. So be prepared and be excited as this Conclave will be different. It will be exciting and more productive.

### **Professional Branch**

While we need to continue the collegiate branch expansion, we also need to figure out how to successfully expand the professional branch. I would like to see a formalized process for becoming a professional chapter. We also still need to find an effective use for the professional representatives, or we need to eliminate them. I expect significant dialog about these topics at Conclave this year.

Yours in the Double Bond,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Weinstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Weinstein, Alpha Kappa 1990  
Grand Master Alchemist