

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional In Chemistry

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER OF CEREMONIES



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2014 Grand Master of Ceremonies Biennial Report

Overview

The 52nd biennium has truly been a remarkable biennium for Alpha Chi Sigma and am I truly humbled and grateful to have been a part of it as Grand Master of Ceremonies. From the perspective of the office of Grand Master of Ceremonies, this biennium Alpha Chi Sigma is in exceptional health with the installation of four chapters and the reactivation of one chapter. Additional highlights of this biennium are a major revision and reformatting of the Sourcebook, including an electronic color edition that members can read on their tablets, renewal of Alpha Chi Sigma's registered trademarks, more durable membership cards and certificates, revision to the Wyvern Pin program, and a photographic record of chapter charters. Regrettably this biennium has also seen an increase of reported instances of irregularities in pledging and initiation that are considered hazing, which resulted in the probation of one chapter. However, as problems have been identified, our members have risen to the occasion with the best interests of Alpha Chi Sigma at heart and have been proactive in identifying the issues at hand and improving chapter culture to avoid such circumstances in the future. This biennium would not have been as successful without the hard work and dedication of our national office staff: Marena Humphress, Teresa Clark, Erin Goodwin, and Donna Sheline, as well as the efforts put forth by our ritual committee.

Installations and Reactivation Ceremonies

Installations and reactivation ceremonies for collegiate chapters are extraordinary meetings of the Grand Chapter hosted by the chapter to be installed and arranged by the Grand Master of Ceremonies. Alpha Chi Sigma hasn't witnessed this many installations in a biennium in over fifty years! These events take about three months to plan and arrange, starting with the names on the charter and concluding with the last SC member boarding a departing flight for home. Since there have been many, I've prepared a manual of procedure for my successor and the office staff. I am extremely grateful for each of our collegiate chapters for taking the initiative to put together the installation venues, arrange for the dinners or lunch, thoughtfully providing the names for those to be recognized by the Supreme Council, and providing exceptional opportunities to network, socialize and promote the first object of the fraternity. Without the hard work of many at our new chapters, as well as Marena Humphress at the National Office, we would not have had such memorable events. Thank you!

Delta Alpha Installation. The installation of the Delta Alpha Chapter at the University of Rhode Island was on September 29, 2012. The Delta Alpha Brothers did an exemplary job putting together a wonderful weekend of events with the culmination being the installation ceremony overlooking the Atlantic Ocean at The Atlantic Beach Club at Middletown, Rhode Island. Numerous collegiate and professional Brothers were in attendance with collegiate Brothers travelling as far as Gamma Iota Chapter to witness and celebrate a recent addition to our Order. Gary Anderson and Sherrie Settle represented the Order of Altotus. GPA Mark Evaniak presided, with GCA Helen Webster participating, and GMC Jonathan Wenzel emceed in the ceremony. Thank you and welcome Delta Alpha!

Gamma Omega Installation. The installation of the Gamma Omega Chapter at Widener University was on October 27, 2012. The Gamma Omega Installation was held following the Atlantic Central District Conclave. The Gamma Omega Brothers did a fantastic job of organizing the both conclave and installation. The installation ceremony was held at the Wyndham Garden Philadelphia Airport Hotel with numerous collegiate and professional Brothers in attendance to celebrate and witness the installation of a new chapter to our Fraternity. Gary Anderson represented the Order of Altotus. GMA Randy Weinstein presided over the ceremony, with GPA Mark Evaniak and GCA Helen Webster participating, and GMC Jonathan Wenzel emceeding. Thank you and welcome Gamma Omega!

Delta Beta Installation. The installation of the Delta Beta Chapter at Alcorn University was on October 19, 2013. Delta Beta is Alpha Chi Sigma's first chapter in Mississippi and first chapter at a historically black college. The Delta Beta pre-installation dinner was a southern family-style meal followed by dancing held at the Walnut Hills Restaurant in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Preceding installation was chemistry outreach events. The installation was held at The Gold Room of the Clinton Bristow, Jr. Dining Hall. The remembrances, a memorial, and stories were tastefully and warmly put together by the Delta Beta Brothers. The event was punctuated by the Delta Beta's enthusiasm for becoming a chapter and being part of Alpha Chi Sigma. Given the remote location of Alcorn University, it was remarkable the number of professional brothers in attendance. Gary Anderson represented the Order of Altotus. GPA Mark Evaniak presided over the ceremony, with GCA Helen Webster participating in the installation, and GMC Jonathan Wenzel performing as master of ceremonies. Thank you and welcome Delta Beta!

Alpha Alpha Reactivation. The reactivation ceremony of the Alpha Alpha Chapter at Stanford University was on March 8, 2014. The pre-installation dinner was at Buca di Beppo in Palo Alto attended by several energetic and excited Alpha Alpha members. The installation dinner was at The Oak Room, Tresidder Memorial Union at Stanford University. The colonizing stories from both Sigma Chapter and Alpha Alpha chapter were heartfelt and entertaining. GMA Randy Weinstein presided over the ceremony with GMC Jonathan Wenzel emceeding. Thank you and welcome back Alpha Alpha!

Delta Gamma Installation. The installation of the Delta Gamma Chapter at Georgia Southern University, Alpha Chi Sigma's 99th chapter was on March 29, 2014. The pre-installation dinner was at Applebee's in Statesboro, Georgia. The installation was a luncheon at the Beaver House Restaurant on a bright, sunny Georgia afternoon which mirrored the warmth of the Delta Gamma Brothers. Numerous professional Brothers attended, driving as far as Virginia. Gary Anderson represented the Order of Altotus. GPA Mark Evaniak presided over the ceremony with GCA Helen Webster participating and GMC Jonathan Wenzel emceeding. Thank you and welcome Delta Gamma!

I also would like to recognize Gary Anderson for serving as the photographer for the installation ceremonies this biennium.

Sourcebook

The sourcebook underwent a major revision and format change in 2013. The key objectives of the revision were to create a full color electronic copy to be placed on the national website for members and pledges to download onto tablets and PC, give the sourcebook a more modern and professional appearance, make the print version of the sourcebook more of a durable personal keepsake of pledging, and update the alchemy section. The formatting changes include changes from single column to double column justified text, a color cover, color photographs and features, and a page for chapter officers and pledges to sign. In terms of revision, some of the sections were re-arranged to facilitate pledge education, mistakes and omissions corrected, and an additional alchemy article was added. I would like to extend a very special thanks to Teresa Clark of the National Office staff who provided countless hours of her journalism expertise to reformat the sourcebook, Brother Tim

Deschaines for contribution of an alchemy article, and Brother Pete Yochim for his suggestions and corrections.

Charter, Ritual, and Regalia

Member Cards and Certificates. A continuing theme of the biennium was to make resources provided by the National Office to members as part of pledging and membership more durable and keepsake in quality. Starting in 2014, member cards are no longer be made in-house and on paper, instead a rugged plastic laminate membership card comparable in quality to that of student ID cards with a lifetime warranty are presented to new members. In addition the member certificates are now produced on a superior form of certificate stock with a lifetime similar to that of the chapter charters. Both are be produced by Goosecreek Publishing, which also performs the calligraphy work on the fraternity's charters.

Order of Altotus Ring. After discussions with several recent members of the Order of Altotus and Herf Jones, the jeweler that makes the ring, it was found that the shank on the ring has been inappropriately sized which can cause discomfort. The shank will be adjusted in future rings without changing the visual appearance.

Coat of Arms and Badge Plaques. Our supply of wooden plaques with a brass casting has been depleted with the installation and reactivation of five chapters. There have been several variations of the plaques issued to chapters over the past century. The primary difficulties with the last incarnation were in producing brass castings of sufficient detail to show the heraldic hashings of the coat of arms in a reasonable amount of time and expense. Since another vendor could not be identified, the Supreme Council had consented to have an alternate to the traditional plaque that will be issued in the future. This alternative is framed high-quality and highly detailed water colors of the coat of arms and the fraternity badge.

Duplicate Charters. Following the loss of the Gamma Iota Chapter Charter, the Supreme Council approved a standard template for duplicate charters, Supreme Council Proposition 4411. The template is based on the duplicate charter issued to the Beta Delta Chapter on June 25, 1975.

Charter Preservation Project. The Charter Preservation Project is meant to develop an image library and historical archive of all the charters issued by Alpha Chi Sigma. At the beginning of the biennium, there was no formal record that lists the names and signatures on the charters issued by the Fraternity. In the event of the loss of a charter, this information could be permanently lost.

Token Casting Procedures. During several visits by email and at the North Central District and Southeastern District Conclaves, Gary Anderson and I have been documented how he prepared the standardized silver and lead tokens presently used by the chapters. We prepared a manual of procedure for use by future designees of the Grand Master of Ceremonies to replenish supplies as needed. In addition the masters, several molds, lead shot, and raw materials were delivered to the National Office for safe keeping.

Ritual. The official revision for an alternative green chemistry for part six was distributed in early 2013.

PIC Token. Tokens are available for use in the PIC. These are available from the national office.

Staging instructions were issued to the chapters by letter on September 17, 2013 to the Masters of Ceremony in regards to Parts 4 and 5.

Science Outreach (Wyvern Pin) Program

A detailed review of possible changes to the Science Outreach Program, or Wyvern Pin Program, was conducted as part of implementing Grand Chapter Motion 23 and Motion 24 of the 51st Biennial Conclave. The audience age restrictions and scouting requirements were removed from the program at the direction of the Grand Chapter. In addition, to encourage additional participation in the program, I have allowed outreach activities performed during pledging to count towards the first Wyvern Pin.

Trademarks

In July 2013, I was contacted by Shook, Hardy, and Bacon (SHB), LLC, the law firm that handles Alpha Chi Sigma's trademark registrations *pro bono* to renew Alpha Chi Sigma's registered trademarks. Prior to July 8, 2014, Alpha Chi Sigma filed declarations of continued use to maintain its registered trademarks for the coat of arms, badge, and stylized letters. The fraternity has gathered examples of continued use in 2013 and worked with SHB on renewing the trademarks in early 2014.

Initiation and Pledging Issues

I am disappointed to report that this biennium had incidents regarding pledging and initiation, in particular some chapters adding stations outside of those prescribed in the official ritual. These stations have appeared prior, during, or following the performance of ceremonies. These include oral pledge exams causing mental discomfort, or events that have been called tribunals, inquisitions, or review boards. In addition, the norm has changed in many states and universities: chapters cannot restrict a pledge's use of computers, watches, and clocks prior to initiation as a matter of many universities policies. District Counselors, Master Alchemists, Master of Ceremonies, and Chapter Advisors have been advised to be proactive in ensuring that such events and incidence do not occur. A letter was also issued regarding hazing and the prohibition of additional stations on March 1, 2013. District Counselors were provided additional training at the Sumer 2013 Supreme Council meeting. Articles have been printed in the Chrome and Blue advising chapters. I've had several conference calls and in-person meetings with chapters related to these issues over the biennium. This effort is meant to protect Alpha Chi Sigma for legal liability, bring our chapters in compliance with university polices, and to enhance and improve the pledging and initiation experience thereby making stronger chapters. In most instances when an issue comes to light, the chapters involved have been proactive in improving their practices. However activities, such as review boards, had regrettably resulted in the probation of a chapter in Winter of 2014 following an incident culminating in a university vice president halting an initiation. The chapter and that particular university's office of Greek Life were extremely cooperative and helpful and the chapter has since been returned to good standing. This time we were lucky, however, next time the fraternity may not be. I am compelled to re-emphasize that Alpha Chi Sigma does not tolerate nor condone the addition of stations outside of those in the official ritual. I am extremely grateful and appreciative with how our members have thoughtfully considered how their chapters approach pledging and initiation. I have been generally quite pleased with the positive creativity and drive that our members and chapters have shown. This issue is one that illustrates that most of our members have Alpha Chi Sigma's best interests at heart.

Ritual Committee

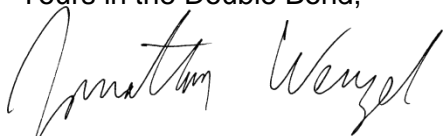
The ritual committee for this biennium consisted of Stephanie Bates, AP, Chair; Mitch Levings, BΔ; Dewayne Gerber, BΔ; Derek Marin, AZ; Calvin Bond, AP; Jessica Fraser, ΓO; Mike Raffay, I; Geoff Giarmo, AB; Daniel Znidersic, AE; Chuck Carroll, Z; Sandra Lukaszewski-Rose, AΘ; Jason Ellis, Δ; Oliver Penrose, ΓΘ; Tim Deschaines, M; and Gary Anderson, AH. The ritual committee considered

several topics including sourcebook revisions, green chemistry, a resource book of good practices for setting up stations, safety checklists, and theatrical suggestions. Thank you for your service.

Concluding Remarks

Outside of a few incidences, it has been a very productive biennium. It has been phenomenal working with our Brothers, the members of the ritual committee, the other members of the Supreme Council, and the National Office Staff. Without a dedicated and highly motivated office staff, Alpha Chi Sigma would not function as well as it does. It has been an especially wonderful experience working with our Brothers at the Gamma Omega, Delta Alpha, Delta Beta, and Delta Gamma Chapters in organizing their installations, as well as Alpha Alpha's reactivation ceremony. Through the hard work of several collegiate Brothers, these were very exciting and memorable occasions. Thank you to the Grand Chapter for providing me the opportunity to serve as Grand Master of Ceremonies. This experience has been very touching and rewarding. My one regret is that this biennium has come to an end. I hope to be able to continue to dutifully and energetically serve our fraternity in the next biennium.

Yours in the Double Bond,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jonathan Wenzel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel, Delta 1996
Grand Master of Ceremonies
Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity