

# Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional In Chemistry

Office of the  
Grand Collegiate Alchemist  
GRAND  
COLLEGIATE ALCHEMIST



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## 2014 Annual Report

### Introduction

This report will cover my activities for the 2014 calendar year. There is a lot going on!

I first wanted to say "Thank You!" to the Grand Chapter for electing me to the position of Grand Collegiate Alchemist for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. I will do my best honor this office, our organization, and our Brothers.

### Collegiate Chapters

We are continuing to see quite a lot of activity within the collegiate branch. Alpha Chi Sigma has initiated 68,329 members since its inception in 1902. During 2014, we saw an increase in membership year over year of 3%. 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. I was able to visit Beta Phi Chapter (chapter health check), Gamma Upsilon Chapter (hazing training), Delta Delta Chapter (GMA designee for permission to petition), and Alpha Rho Chapter (assisting the DC) this year. I currently have plans to visit Beta Eta Chapter in February (training).

There are two chapters that I have concerns about remaining active, but both are looking up. They are Gamma Phi and Beta Tau. As mentioned in last year's report, Gamma Phi is experiencing an extreme loss of interest on the campus. This year did not go well for them, as they were placed on probation due to problems with hazing, and their long-time Chapter Advisor stepped down. However, all is not lost. They had a pledge class of six this fall, and new officers taking the reins in 2015. The previous MA is still on campus, and is available to help. With help and guidance from their District Counselor, I hope to see this chapter strengthen over the next year, and I hope that we can work toward removing them from probation at the end of the spring semester.

Beta Tau came up as a concern at Conclave due to dwindling numbers, and no pledges in 2014. However, we have received word that their pledge class has at least 18 members, so I think this chapter may have just had a membership dip, which all chapters go through periodically.

We currently have one collegiate chapter on probation. That chapter is Gamma Phi.

### District Counselors

All of the current District Counselors are working very hard in their districts. We have 17 DCs for the biennium. 10 have previously served, while 7 are "brand new". It is great to see the enthusiasm from all of them. The DC Chair for this biennium is Merryn Cole. She has done an

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exceptional job of not only setting up monthly DC chats, but coordinating communication between the DCs, the National Office, and the GCA. I cannot praise her highly enough, for all of her hard work and dedication.

With so many new DCs, we thought it would be a good idea to set up a mentoring program, so each person had someone they could go to directly with questions. We did not assign Scott Wilson (GLDC) a mentor, as he has held the position before. He is working with Merryyn and myself to get him up to speed with any changes that have occurred since he last served.

The budget lines that I oversee were utilized as follows:

1. Collegiate programs for 2014 was \$704.79. This was for the collegiate brochures (\$404.79) and supporting Alpha Kappa's ChemFest (\$300; made clear that this would be a one-time request).
2. DC total expenses for 2014 was \$13,168.80 (as of December 16<sup>th</sup>) and the budget for the year was \$13,000.
3. Expansion expenses for 2014 was \$15,556.14 and the budget for the year was \$20,000.

Special thanks to Marena Humphress for the budget information!

The DCs were grateful to have the Expansion budget that the Supreme Council provided for them. I am hopeful that we can provide the same type of funding in 2015.

I have encouraged the DCs to travel, and have allowed them to expense their travel not only within their districts, but to one District Conclave and one Installation outside of their districts as well. I am also hopeful that we can continue to allow for this as well. DCs traveling means that they are out there conducting Fraternity business, and furthering our Objects.

## Expansion

The expansion efforts have continued to grow and multiply. We were able to install chapters at Georgia Southern University, Stanford University, and Southeast Missouri State University this year. Beta Mu Colony at Occidental University has submitted their petition for reactivation. Boston University Colony of Mu Chapter has run into some stumbling blocks, but their DC is hopeful they will be ready to petition in the spring, so we may be able to conduct the installation either Fall 2014 or Winter 2015. Additionally, we extended colony status to the groups at Beta Iota Colony of Alpha Omega (University of Florida), University of California-Irvine, University of Tampa, and University of Florida. We are hoping to have these groups asking to petition very soon.

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We are in the process of getting rid of the term “pre-colony” and changing it to “interest group”. I will use the term “interest group” going forward.

For the Interest Groups, it is the opinion of myself and their DC that Albion College be granted colony status. I will ask to vote on this at the Winter 2015 SC meeting. Our other interest groups that we hope to move to colony status at the end of the spring semester include Philadelphia University, Kappa Reactivation at the University of Kansas, and Winthrop University. We have relatively new or brand new interest groups at Oregon State University, Christopher Newport University and Northern Illinois University. We have also received paperwork from Westminster University in Missouri, and are waiting to confirm with Delta Chapter that they will be the parent for them, before we vote. We also have strong interest at the University of Chicago, University of Evansville, Florida A&M University, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, and Shepard University in West Virginia.

We did lose one interest group – Midwestern University. The students at this professional school stated that they did not have the time for Alpha Chi Sigma, with all of the other organizations available on campus. This will be something for us to consider in the future, if we have expansion interest at another professional school.

We also had an inquiry from a community college in Pueblo, CO. We need to discuss how to handle these types of inquiries as well.

Jennifer Schnippert has done an amazing job as Expansion Director. I cannot praise her highly enough. I am hoping to get her help this year.

## **Manuals of Procedure (MOPs)**

The Manuals of Procedure have been reviewed and laid out, and are in final revisions with the GMA. I am going to work very hard with him, to get these finalized and out by February if possible.

I am looking forward to another exciting, productive year!

Yours in the Double Bond,



Helen M. M. Webster, Alpha Rho 1994  
Grand Collegiate Alchemist  
Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity