

# Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional In Chemistry

Office of the  
GRAND COLLEGIATE ALCHEMIST



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## Biennial Report of the Grand Collegiate Alchemist June 8, 2012

There has been a lot of success in the Collegiate Branch of the fraternity over the past biennium. In summary, pledge and initiation numbers remain at their highest levels in recent history, the number of reported incidents at collegiate chapters remain at their lowest levels in recent history, the District Counselors and their committee members have made a large number of visits to chapters, we have successfully implemented training in a variety of avenues, and growth of the Collegiate Chapter continues. This past biennium there were two major goals: (1) establish alcohol awareness training and (2) increase expansion efforts to lead towards more collegiate chapters.

### Collegiate Chapters

We continue to see the large number of pledges and initiates from our collegiate chapters. At the time of the writing of this report we have had 1,245 pledges reported in the 2010-2011 academic year resulting in 1,081 new initiates into the fraternity. In the 2011-2012 academic year we had 1,251 reported pledges resulting in 1,014 new brothers. There are still several outstanding reports due from chapters so these numbers could rise for the current year. The continuation of optimizing the paying of pledge and life time membership fees by the national office has resulted in making the default rate on life time membership fees drop to almost zero, and there are only a handful of brothers who do not meet their financial obligations to the fraternity. It is interesting that in recent history the Collegiate Branch is providing more financial support to the fraternity than the Professional Branch. This past biennium one chapter was placed on probation for violations of the risk management policy related to hazing.

### Expansion

Expansion is booming for the fraternity. We have added Gamma Chi (Longwood University), Gamma Psi (University of Toledo), Gamma Omega (Widener University) and Delta Alpha (University of Rhode Island) in the past biennium. We are in the Deltas! We currently have one colony, Alcorn State University of Gamma Beta. I hope they will be petitioning to becoming a chapter in the next year as they have caught up on their required paperwork and payments. The exciting news is we have four precolonies which have already had members initiated at and in the next year they should all become colonies. We have Boston University of Mu, Stanford University (reactivation of Alpha Alpha) of Sigma, Georgia Southern University of Alpha Omega, and Southeastern Missouri State University of Beta Psi. We also have one great prospective which should be gaining permission to initiate over the summer, they will become University of California at Irvine of Beta Gamma and they have a large numbers of interested students and a prospective chapter advisor. Unfortunately Gamma Sigma at Kent State University went inactive this year.

I am happy to report we have had inquires about expansion from over 30 schools and are following up with all of them. Some of these turned into precolonies as shown above. This is a record number of inquires in recent years. For the next biennium I expect expansion of the collegiate branch to continue to be a top priority.

At its Summer 2011 meeting, the Supreme Council determined that the required culture change was not occurring at Penn State and that the Collegiate and alumni Brothers were not following the direction set by the Supreme Council for reactivation. At that time we determined that the matter was concluded and agreed not to consider an active collegiate presence at Penn State again for a minimum of 4 years from the revocation of Nu Chapter's charter.

### District Counselors and Training

Again we have had no vacancies in our DC positions for this year, with only one replacement occurring do to a move out of the district. The DCs have focused their time on their local chapters, helping them plan events, trouble shoot potential issues, run district conclaves, and provide support when needed. We have not taken on any national projects for our DCs at this time to allow their time and energy to be spent on their local chapters. Maintaining

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effective communications between Collegiate chapters and the DCs and Chapter Advisors remains a high priority and sometimes a challenge.

In June, 2011 a two day training for the DCs was held at the national office. One of the main purposes of this event was to introduce and discuss our new alcohol awareness training plans and to help continue the development of our DCs, their DC Committees, and their Chapters. We also had many open and frank discussions about expansion, ritual and its need for secrecy, officer transitions and training, professional chapters, talking to chapters about risk management, coordinating and utilizing chapter advisors, and the challenges and pitfalls of being a new district counselor. This biennial event should continue as it was deemed very valuable by all who participated.

### **New Alcohol Awareness Training for Collegiate Chapters and Colonies**

SC Proposition # 4432, adopted January 12, 2011 states that "it is desired to have every collegiate member go through an Alcohol Awareness training each academic year starting in Fall 2011. The DCs were tasked with helping the chapter determine a plan for meeting this obligation. At every university where a chapter exists there are free alcohol education programs so this obligation is not considered onerous." The GMA office, national office staff, and DCs were instrumental in developing our beta year of running this training program. While we could have offered a national program, it was determined that utilizing local resources would be more effective. Those resources are more familiar with local laws and university policies. They also have years of experience with administering their alcohol education/awareness programs. To help our brothers with this training, a local free resource was identified at each school and information provided to the chapter/colony. Official sign in sheets were provided and as an extra incentive for those early adopters, a prize was given to each collegiate member undergoing the training before December 1, 2011.

As of the writing of this report, 34 of our 50 chapters reported going through the training. A few others probably have not turned in their paperwork yet. At conclave we plan to analyze the data, solicit feedback from our collegiate brothers and DCs, and discuss the training with hopes of making it a permanent part of our annual requirements for star chapter status.

Yours in the Double Bond,

Randy Weinstein, *Alpha Kappa 1990*  
Grand Collegiate Alchemist