

# Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional In Chemistry

Office of the  
GRAND  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel  
3412 Foley Glen Dr.  
Fenton, MI 48430  
gmc@alphachisigma.org  
(573) 999-1753

## 2013 Grand Master of Ceremonies Annual Report

December 31, 2013

This has been a very exciting year for the fraternity and I am honored to have the opportunity to be part of some of the wonderful efforts we presently have going on in Alpha Chi Sigma. It was particularly exciting to install the Delta Beta Chapter, which is Alpha Chi Sigma's 98<sup>th</sup> Chapter, first chapter in Mississippi, and first chapter at a Nationally Historic Black College. Through the hard work by the Delta Beta Brothers, the installation ceremony was particularly remarkable and memorable.

There were several major projects, events, and issues in 2013:

**Delta Beta Installation.** The installation of the Delta Beta Chapter at Alcorn University was on October 19, 2013. 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, 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 quite 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 Delta Beta for a wonderful weekend!

**Sourcebook.** The sourcebook underwent a major revision and format change in 2013. The key objectives of the revision was 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 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.

**Member Cards and Certificates.** A continuing theme of 2013 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 will 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 will be presented to new members. In addition the member certificates will be produced on a superior form

of certificate stock with a lifetime similar to that of the charters. Both will 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.** Since our supply is nearly depleted, discussions are underway to identify a vendor for manufacturing the plaques that are used in initiation. There have been several variations of the plaques issued to chapters over the past century. The primary difficulty with the present incarnation lies in producing brass castings of sufficient detail in a reasonable amount of time. Alternatives are being considered which include etchings in wood as well as watercolor prints.

**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*. Prior to July 8, 2014, Alpha Chi Sigma will need to file 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 will be working with SHB on renewing the trademarks in early 2014.

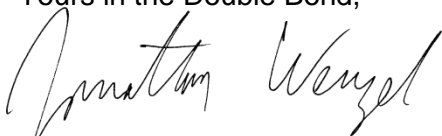
**Ritual Committee.** The ritual committee met by conference call to discuss several items of interest and provide advice. In 2013 no changes in regalia or ritual were made; however, if chapters need advice on appropriate designs of hoodwinks they are encouraged to contact me. For further information, see the ritual committee's annual report.

**Initiation and Pledging.** I am disappointed to report that 2013 has not been without incident in regards to events regarding pledging and initiation. Specifically 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 preceding, during, or following the performance of ceremonies or any activity that can bring distress to potential members. This includes oral pledge exams or events that have been called tribunals, inquisitions, or review boards. In addition this includes restrictions involving use of computers, watches, and clocks by pledges prior to the ceremony. Such activities have regrettably resulted in the probation of a chapter. District Counselors, Master Alchemists, Master of Ceremonies, and Chapter Advisors have been advised to be proactive in ensuring that such events do not occur.

**Initiation Advice.** 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. A letter was also issued regarding hazing and prohibition of additional stations on March 1, 2013.

Outside of a few incidences, it has been a productive biennium so far and I have high expectations for the remaining six months. It has been phenomenal working with our Brothers, the members of the ritual committee, the other members of the Supreme Council, and especially the National Office Staff. The remainder of the biennium will focus on the installation of possibly two chapters, a continued evaluation of our web resources, assisting our chapters when called upon, tasks and legislative items involved the Supreme Council, and preparing for conclave.

Yours in the Double Bond,



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