

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

July 1, 2018

Friends,

This makes for my last biennial report as a member of the Supreme Council and this time around let's do something different and start with who we are and who we have to thank. Alpha Chi Sigma is a wonderful organization which in essence exists to forge friendships amongst interested individuals in the applied chemistry professions, advance pure and applied chemistry as a science and as a profession, and to advance pure and applied chemists in the careers. We've been doing this for nearly 116 years by a variety of means that have grown over the course of a century. This biennium, the 54th biennium, has seen its share of growth experiences. Every two years, with the exception of a world war, the fraternity chooses a new Supreme Council to lead the fraternity and to be the caretaker of the fraternity. Given that each Supreme Council is unique and is refreshed at the beginning of the biennium, it is prepared with fresh eyes to tackle new initiatives and problems. This biennium, the fraternity has confronted both, and as an organization, through the hard work of many volunteers, and the current Supreme Council, we have grown to take these challenges and transmute them into opportunities to improve the organization for its long term health. That is what a Supreme Council does, essentially, and I am truly grateful and proud to have served Alpha Chi Sigma as its Grand Master Alchemist, National President and Chief Executive Officer, for the 54th Biennium. Our success of taking challenges and making them into opportunities would not have been possible without the help of many, many brothers, employees, and consultants. A special thank you to Helen Webster, Kip Nalley, and Jason Ellis for their leadership this biennium as council members. Thank you to John Stipp and Ken Busch for coming out of fraternal retirement to serve as Grand Recorder and Assistant Grand Recorder partway through the biennium. Thank you to the Order of Altotus, an advisory board of retired Grand Master Alchemists. This biennium was a particularly engaging biennium for them to provide advice and counsel. A particular thank you to our new office team, Erin Goodwin, Stacy Neil, and our recent hire Joni Back-Bubenzer, for taking up new and exciting jobs with team Alpha Chi Sigma. Finally thank you to all those countless Brothers for your hard work and dedication. I've held an officer position in the fraternity nearly continuously since my initiation in 1996. This biennium, more than any other, has truly reminded me of the value of our brotherhood and has strengthened my faith in it.

Introduction: What does the Supreme Council and GMA do?

Alpha Chi Sigma is an organization that bestows illustrious titles to its officers and that adds to the mystic and allure of the organization. To lift the veil, what we commonly call Alpha Chi Sigma is its nickname in the corporate world. Alpha Chi Sigma is legally a corporation and our corporate name is Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity, Inc. We are incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and subject to its corporate laws, and have been headquartered in Indianapolis for decades. For a variety of reasons, it is advantageous for fraternities to be headquartered in

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

**GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST**



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

Indianapolis. The Supreme Council is Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity's Board of Directors. The Grand Master Alchemist is the President of the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation. The Grand Professional Alchemist, Grand Collegiate Alchemist, and Grand Master of Ceremonies are Vice Presidents of the Corporation and their seniority is determined by when they were elected, or a coin toss in the event that two are elected for the first time at the same conclave. While the GMA, GPA, GCA, and GMC have certain tasks assigned by the constitution and bylaws, that work is only a fraction of their responsibilities, most of the Supreme Council's work is policy work and corporate work for the fraternity that is rarely witnessed by its members. For example, 126 SC Propositions have been passed this biennium on topics ranging from granting charters to setting financial policies. SC Propositions are Resolutions of the Board of Directors, and since Alpha Chi Sigma was founded in 1902, 4,715 propositions have been voted on.

The Board of Directors employs a Secretary-Treasurer and on occasion an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer, or Grand Recorder, is responsible for all the duties specified to that position in the Constitution and Bylaws, duties assigned by the Supreme Council, and the supervision of the staff and operations of the headquarters, the National Office. Presently Alpha Chi Sigma has three employees that are not consultants: a National Office Manager, Member Services Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant.

Now, if Alpha Chi Sigma is a corporation, who are the shareholders and when do they meet? Well, we don't have shares, but we do have corporate voting members. Our corporate voting members are the Grand Chapter, and the Grand Chapter is in continuous session for the purposes of voting, but it meets every other year in person to conduct the business of the corporation and our name for that is Conclave. Each chapter, District Counselor, Professional Member, and Supreme Council member has one corporate vote.

It would take more than this report to describe the business-side of Alpha Chi Sigma in detail, but I hope that this section provided a little bit of an introduction, there will be more presentations at conclave. A take away for the conclave delegates: Conclave is to conduct the business of the Fraternity, part of it is electing a Supreme Council. When a Brother is running for Supreme Council, their hoped for job, whether they know it or not, is much more than just what their title describes, they are taking on a much big role running a business with \$1 million in assets. Get to know the candidates for Supreme Council, how passionate they are for the fraternity, and most importantly how they would best run it as an officer of the Board of Directors. Your vote for Supreme Council is one of the most important decisions made at conclave.

The 54th Biennium

This part of my report summarizes the 2017 GMA annual report and captures what has happened since December 2017. The essential highlights of the 54th Biennium are

- Chartering and Reactivation of 11 Chapters
- Expansion
- National Office Reorganization
- Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Endowment

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the
**GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST**



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

- The Hexagon
- Finances and insurance
- Alpha Chi Sigma's Future

Growth—This biennium has set a 50+ year record for 11 chapter charters issued or reactivated in a biennium. That is 11 additional places where the spirit of Alpha Chi Sigma has taken hold, new friendships will be forged, and memories are created that will last a lifetime. That presents more locations where we have members advancing chemistry as a profession and promoting each other in their ambitions. New or reactivated chapters this biennium with date of charter:

- Delta Zeta, Christopher Newport University, Virginia, 11/8/2016
- Delta Eta, University of New Orleans, Louisiana, 4/21/2017
- Alpha Gamma, University of Kentucky, 4/21/2017
- Delta Theta, Albion College, Michigan, 4/21/2017
- Delta Iota, Jefferson University, Pennsylvania, 4/21/2017
- Delta Kappa, University of Richmond, Virginia, 11/12/2017
- Delta Lambda, University of California, Irvine, 3/20/2018
- Delta Mu, Kettering University, Michigan, 4/10/2018
- Delta Nu, Northern Illinois University, 4/10/2018
- Delta Xi, University of Tampa, 5/15/2018*
- Delta Omicron, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, 5/15/2018*

**to be installed Fall 2018*

In addition, at the conclusion of the biennium, Alpha Chi Sigma has four colonies, two of which may be ready to petition in the first half of the 55th biennium.

Expansion—This aspect of fraternal life presents an opportunity for growth and reinvention. In the first half the biennium, the number of expansion inquiries dropped substantially for a variety of reasons: the link directing inquirers to the expansion directors on the website was broken and months of communication was lost, the changing national attitude towards collegiate fraternal organizations, and the lack of a proactive expansion campaign. In addition at the end of 2017, we had a transition in collegiate expansion and professional expansion directors, Jennifer Schnippert and Keri Federico, due to career changes. Frankly, Alpha Chi Sigma was blessed by the hard work of these brothers and a national environment where Alpha Chi Sigma was receiving a numerous amount of expansion inquiries unsolicited. Starting in 2018, Melissa Ward started as the Collegiate Expansion Director. The expansion directors were tasked with assessing their positions, to be inventive, and to prepare for an active, paid, social media campaign to attract new inquiries.

National Office Reorganization—The reorganization of the national office and the events leading up to it are detailed in the 2017 GR and 2017 GMA annual reports, Supreme Council 2017 reports, and 2018 biennial reports. To summarize, national office operations were confronted with a crisis that brought to light to the Supreme Council, issues with personnel, finances, and business practices. In fall of 2016, both the National Office Manager and the

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

Member Services Coordinator at the time had found new career opportunities that better suited their interests and needs. Unfortunately, appropriate financial controls and hiring practices were not in place or enforced which lead to fraudulent activities by some members of the replacement staff. This lead to the theft of over \$10,000 and legal fees to protect the fraternity and to rectify the issue in excess of \$50,000.

To correct the issue, the Supreme Council and newly appointed Grand Recorder John Stipp, Assistant Grand Recorder Ken Busch, Assistant Grand Recorder-Emeritus Pat Kemle, in collaboration with new staff recognized an opportunity for growth for the national office and have endeavored to reorganize, improve, and modernize operations to conform to best business practices. A philosophy of the Supreme Council for biennia is the member-volunteers and member-consultants of the fraternity should work within their area of fraternal expertise which is focused on the membership, and leave other matters to licensed experts. This usually results in smoother operations, reduces risk and uncertainty to the corporation, and easier transitions since we are working with vendors. This may result in cost savings as well. For example, bookkeeping and accounting is no longer handled in-house, but contracted with a licensed firm, mAccounting, which provides appropriate and modern financial controls that are needed by the fraternity at a cost that is less than the fraternity employing its own bookkeeper. IT is now handled by ByteCafe, which is licensed and specializes in the IT needs of small business, leading to better IT support and infrastructure. Email and office productivity is being transitioned to G-suite for non-profits, by Google. This service is free of charge to the fraternity. As the staff has gained more knowledge and confidence in our existing practices, they are finding areas for improvement and streamlining which is being implemented where needed. This is a work in progress and an opportunity for growth that has been realized by resolving the issues leading to the crisis. Expect operations to continue to evolve next biennium as the office staff, GR, and AGR work on improving procedures that affect how efficiently the national office operates.

Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar—Based on the feedback from many brothers and the financial advice the Supreme Council had at the time, the Supreme Council and the Alpha Chi Sigma Educational Foundation decided to improve and expand the Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar program. The Supreme Council decided to endow the Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar and over the remaining four years the endowment will be fully funded by the fraternity. This has enabled the Scholar Award to be increased to \$2,500 from \$1,000 with the opportunity for runner-up awards. Not only is the increased award amount an exciting opportunity for the scholar recipients, but the endowment will allow the award to be given in perpetuity and be adjusted for inflation.

Hexagon—During the summer of 2017, it was decided by the Grand Editor, Grand Recorder, and Supreme Council to make the Hexagon available to all members in an electronic format. In addition, it was decided that paper copies of the Hexagon would only be made available to active professional and collegiate members and to discontinue the practice of sending the Hexagon out to the entire membership once a year. Members will also be provided the option to opt-out of a paper copy. The paper copy will be reduced to a maximum of 16 pages with enhanced content available online. Not only will this make the Hexagon available to a wider audience in an archival format many Brothers consume as media, this resulted in \$13,400 in savings to the fraternity.

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

Finances and Insurance—Grand Reporter John Stipp's report provides an extensive review of Alpha Chi Sigma's finances. Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity, Inc., is a private 501c3 non-profit corporation. As a non-profit corporation, Alpha Chi Sigma does not operate to produce a profit to return to its shareholders. However, like all non-profits, to survive, Alpha Chi Sigma must have a positive cash-flow, which means that its income must exceed its expenses over the long-term. Failure to do so in the long-term, for any non-profit, whether a church, university, or charity, will result in that business failing and closing. Alpha Chi Sigma, historically operates at a profit in odd numbered years and at a loss in even numbered years. Why? Conclave is in even numbered years and while the fraternity collects fees for conclave, Alpha Chi Sigma pays for room, board, travel, and subsidizes collegiate registration fees. This is a substantial cost, but it is something that the Supreme Council has consistently authorized to the best extent fraternity finances allow. However, given the legal and financial climate in the United States, the cost to have conclave has gone up considerably. As a consequence, fees have gone up and subsidies to all non-delegates have either been eliminated or reduced. Keep in mind, a majority of Alpha Chi Sigma's income comes from pledge and lifetime membership fees, a much smaller fraction from professional donations. Given that Alpha Chi Sigma is a non-profit, members can write-off their donations on their taxes, though the number who can do so will go down due to recent tax reform.

Alpha Chi Sigma, when it operates at a loss must draw upon funds in its checking account or its investment accounts. While it may be appropriate to draw a fraction of the income generated from the investment accounts to supplement the fraternity's budget, a non-profit is considered to be under stress if it has to draw on the entirety of its investment income or worse yet, the principal of its investment accounts. Following Grand Recorder John Stipp's appointment, our accounting and financial reports for a couple years previous were reviewed and revised which resulted in corrections on income/loss figures for the fraternity's operations. As discussed in GR Stipp's biennial report, Alpha Chi Sigma has operated at a loss on the non-conclave years for 2015 and 2017, when we should have operated at a profit to place funds aside for conclave years. It can also be seen with the corrected numbers given to the Supreme Council and in the GR report that some non-conclave years not enough revenue is coming in to cover for shortfalls when bienniums are evaluated as a whole. 2015 and 2017 may be exceptions, 2015 the fraternity paid for a website redesign which is done about every decade, and 2017 there were legal issues surrounding the national office. However, even when these are dismissed as outliers, something needs to change.

Alpha Chi Sigma has not raised lifetime membership fees, a source of a majority of the revenue to the fraternity, for a decade. How was the fraternity on sounder financial footing in 2009-2014 without raising fees? The answer is the fraternity was growing fast enough the increase in initiations covered for the increase in operation costs and a decrease in professional donations. Furthermore during the time period inflation was low and jobs were hard to find, resulting in the cost of services remaining relatively stable. In hindsight, it would have been prudent to have modest increases in lifetime membership fees over the past few biennia. Now, the cost of doing business is going up, inflation is increasing, donations are stagnant, and the fraternity is confronted with an issue involving insurance.

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

As GR Stipp discusses in his report, Alpha Chi Sigma's insurance is up for renewal in January 2019. Due to the changes in the national legal climate towards social fraternities, professional fraternities such as Alpha Chi Sigma are now being affected in the insurance market as well. Alpha Chi Sigma's insurance premium has been low, and we have had a recent claim. Alpha Chi Sigma's insurance carrier that covers the collegiate chapters has informed me that they will no longer do so after January 2019. An uninsured incident at one collegiate chapter could bring down the entire fraternity financially. This is bad; Alpha Chi Sigma cannot operate in the long term without general liability insurance and if we don't carry general liability insurance, we risk losing Directors and Officers Insurance. This is also bad; most professionals will not volunteer if they are not insured against an accident. A personal life example would be asking someone to drive a friend's uninsured car. Alpha Chi Sigma's insurance situation is compounded by the fact that some of our chapters are house chapters, which our agent has informed GR Stipp and myself, means that no insurance company in the United States will likely insure Alpha Chi Sigma. This leaves the fraternity seeking coverage from a more expensive insurer, Lloyd's of London, if they will even insure Alpha Chi Sigma with its house chapters. Alpha Chi Sigma's insurance premium will go up by an undetermined amount, but it will likely go from our current premium of \$4,165/year to \$50,000 to \$100,000/year. In addition, Alpha Chi Sigma's deductible will likely increase to between \$50,000 to \$100,000, and in three years the fraternity must encumber, or set aside, in a special account, \$150,000 to \$300,000, spread over a three year period, which cannot be spent except to cover a deductible for a claim. Establishing such an account is a prerequisite to obtain coverage.

What is going to happen? Alpha Chi Sigma is an inexpensive fraternity to join in part because we have held our fees flat. In addition Alpha Chi Sigma, unlike other professional and social fraternities, does not collect a risk management assessment to pay for insurance or deductible. Alpha Chi Sigma is on the cusp. We are in a relatively healthy place financially right now, between investments, checking, and the headquarters. We have over \$1 million in assets with a booming stock market generating great returns on investment. However, the market will drop, inflation is rising, and initiation numbers are weakening. The problem also is that fees have not been raised with inflation, or to reflect a change in the insurance and legal climate. The worst thing to do now is for the Grand Chapter to do nothing. How Alpha Chi Sigma is structured as a business is that only the Grand Chapter can raise and create fees on individual members, Bylaw VII.B.1, Bylaw VII.B.2.a. Being locked in on one rate for two years can be painful. Only the Grand Chapter can set the pledge and lifetime membership fee, Constitution Article II.B.1.e. The fraternity only collects money from college students for general operations at pledging and initiation. The only time we evaluate fees is at conclave. Alpha Chi Sigma is a lean organization, there is not much left that can be trimmed from the budget. If fees are not raised, the fraternity will be financially stressed starting in 2019 when the insurance premium comes due, and we will run out of unencumbered money in less than 5 years.

The Plan: The Supreme Council makes recommendations to the Grand Chapter to set and fix the pledge and lifetime membership fee at conclave. GR Stipp is asking the Supreme Council to increase the fees to cover the increased cost of doing business. I am asking that the increase not include the cost of insurance in the fees, but to change how we assess and collect fees. Alpha Chi Sigma needs to be a more nimble organization to react to business changes

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

such as the insurance marketplace. We cannot get a firm quote for insurance until after conclave and close to a policy's renewal, neither the carrier nor the Supreme Council will know if there are any lurking liabilities or claims. Additionally, like many budgetary matters, insurance policy renewal does not follow a biennial calendar. Therefore, the Supreme Council and Grand Chapter cannot have firm insurance numbers to deliberate and make the right decision for lifetime membership and pledge fees at conclave. The fraternity, to be a financially stable business must give its Board of Directors the ability to respond to changing financial aspects of the business, such as the current insurance market, and to take the guesswork out of setting a fee at conclave. GPA Helen Webster and I are proposing a bylaw amendment to the Grand Chapter to create a Special Assessment Fee that is set by the Supreme Council. As a risk management assessment, part of this assessment could be collected at the same time as the pledge fee and part of this at the same time as the lifetime membership fee. In regards to a risk management assessment, insurance premiums are based on active members, there are fewer active professionals than collegiates, and I believe that professionals should be encouraged to contribute to help out. Consequentially, I will ask the Supreme Council to raise the minimum professional donation from \$25 to \$50 for young professionals and \$50 to \$100 for established professionals. Minimum donations have not been raised in almost 20 years. I will furthermore ask for the Grand Chapter to support this with a resolution so that any delegate may address this recommendation.

Sometimes life presents us with an opportunity to grow, sometimes life gives us little other option than to do so. Alpha Chi Sigma's financial bylaws are not too different from when I was initiated in 1996 and then the fraternity handled most business by paper check. Then, the financial world had a slower pace, since that time e-commerce has matured, Alpha Chi Sigma collects money by credit, debit, and check, and pays its bills electronically. Most fraternities have revised their bylaws to allow the board of directors to set all fees so that the organization can be financially flexible to react to changing circumstances, Alpha Chi Sigma needs to move in that direction as well. I am not asking from the Grand Chapter out of desire, but out of necessity for the health and future of Alpha Chi Sigma.

Alpha Chi Sigma's Future—The real risk of trying to predict a future is invariably that prediction of the future will be wrong, but I want to close this biennium with some parting personal thoughts. GMA's have to rise to the needs of the biennium and sometimes do not have the chance to implement much of what they have in mind in terms of strategy for the future. Mine was spent caring for our needs, and in seeing through our needs, I see there are opportunities to build strengths. Alpha Chi Sigma has seen phenomenal growth in terms of chapters and members, and now we need to focus on growing the whole fraternity, both as a brotherhood and as an organization. Some of what I am about to mention the Supreme Council is currently working on and surely the next Supreme Council may take up. Alpha Chi Sigma is a wonderful, fantastic, and energetic organization and my heart swells each time I get to visit with our collegiate members at installations. There is so much vitality there, likewise with our active professionals. However, as an organization we can do more. One of my first conclave presentations was as a district counsellor, I believe in 2004, on the transition from the collegiate to the professional branch. We are great at initiating and retaining active collegiate members, we have not found out the secret for success to retaining most of our alumni members as active members. It wouldn't take much

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

to move the needle, less than 2% of professionals are active. We need to grow the professional branch, to do that we need to reinvent how our soon-to-be graduates view, and are engaged by, the professional branch. Historically, most movements for positive change in the United States start with our young adults. As a fraternity, I feel we must start with Alpha Chi Sigma's collegiate members to create a vibrant professional branch. To engage our current professionals we need to invest in the media and communications that they read. We've started that with changing the media of the Hexagon and we can do more. We need to take advantage of all the resources we have available and bring in more communications and activity resources as needed, if the budget permits. An engaged professional branch will contribute to the fraternity professionally, socially, and financially.

Alpha Chi Sigma needs to not retreat, and continue its reorganization of how we operate our districts. I believe the current model of district organization is from before World War 2. The Supreme Council this biennium has attempted to move the District Counsellors to be more managerial, to create committees, and to delegate work to those committees. This is progressive, it is meant to engage more professional members by creating more volunteer positions. More engaged professionals will engage even more professionals. It is also progressive in that it is meant to encourage more professional interaction with our collegiate members. This is the spark that starts the fire. Any change in management is difficult, we have grown in number of chapters, and we need to grow further as to how we run the fraternity. Bylaw VI provides for regional leadership conferences. I don't recall one being held since I was initiated. We should start having annual regional leadership conferences to fraternally and professionally train our district counselors, committee members, chapter advisors, and interested members. These conferences shouldn't be restrictive in agenda, but over time be allowed to grow organically. Eventually we will need to create a regional structure. More activity means more engagement, and more engagement means growth of both branches of the Alpha Chi Sigma organization.

Alpha Chi Sigma has potential, needs to unlock itself, and shouldn't be afraid of failure. Every institution that is 100 years old has a certain inertia and carries a certain baggage of the past. Towards the end of my term as GMA, I asked GR Stipp and AGR Busch to review all of the Grand Chapter Resolutions and Supreme Council propositions to start culling the weeds. These are wonderful archives of what we were, and show trajectory of one point in the past to another, such as when the SC would cast votes by mail and approve purchasing typewriters. We are creative, energetic, but at times inflexible. Being inflexible is harder than asking to be flexible and requires work. Ultimately what matters, what it means to survive as we evolve, is to never lose sight of the 3 objects. If it doesn't fit with the objects, doesn't fit with society or the law, which is the core of our business, it doesn't belong. Alpha Chi Sigma needs to continue being creative and flexible. We are looking past our current paradigm of public engagement and brotherly engagement. I think we are also due for a seismic shift. What would we do for community engagement if we cannot do chemistry demonstrations for insurance purposes? Pure and applied chemists are bright people, we are inventive. I challenge you, we were the chemical safety propaganda people that it took an act of Congress creating OSHA to make obsolete. Let's come up with something that the American Chemical Society copies from us instead of the other way around! We are capable of it; it is in our DNA. Think of how much fun we will have in the process!

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the
**GRAND
MASTER ALCHEMIST**



Dr. Jonathan E. Wenzel
1700 University Ave.
Flint, MI 48504
gma@alphachisigma.org
(573) 999-1753

We must focus on each other as well. The really neat thing about this organization, is our spirit. We selflessly watch out for each other's wellbeing. We must always be truthful and act selflessly. One of the most touching and horrifying stories of the biennium was when one of our Brothers was walking to class and hit by a car. Injured, with family a 6 hour drive away, it was her Alpha Chi Sigma Brothers that sat with her in the hospital until her mother arrived. It was her Alpha Chi Sigma Brothers and family that helped her in the weeks of recovery that followed. This organization is replete with these types of stories of kindness and generosity to people. We must never forget that our pursuit is to become a refinement of who we once were when took our oath of membership, and that brotherly perfection is not something that stops at the conclusion of initiation, but is a pursuit of refinement that lasts a lifetime.

Conclusion

This is a wonderful fraternity and my membership is something that I will forever cherish. I hold in my heart that there is one rank in Alpha Chi Sigma, which is Brother. Being on the Supreme Council is not a rank, it is a matter of high service to advance and protect the three objects, and to safeguard the fraternity so that future generations may enjoy its ideals. I am truly grateful for the faith that my Brothers have placed in me to lead Alpha Chi Sigma and I have done so to the best of the capabilities that God has given me. In the dwindling days of the biennium, I know that I have worked tirelessly these past two years, sacrificed much, and felt it rewarding and worthwhile. I will serve in whatever way when called upon again. I have faith in the future success of Alpha Chi Sigma and can sleep well passing the mantle of leadership on to the next biennium.

To my friends from Delta Chapter that decided to vote to extend an invitation to membership in 1996 to "that tall skinny guy, you know, what's his name," Chapter Advisor John Adams, and the University of Missouri community, I hope that I have done you honor being Delta Chapter's first Grand Master Alchemist. I will always fondly cherish my collegiate memories, for Alpha Chi Sigma made them a treasure, thank you for accepting me. To my doctoral advisor, Dr. Sunggyu Lee, thank you for seeing the value of Alpha Chi Sigma fraternal leadership and service while in graduate school and postdoctoral studies. To my current employer, Kettering University, and my department chair, Dr. Stacy Seeley, to seeing the value of service to Alpha Chi Sigma while I was going through the tenure process. To my family and my church, for their love, support, prayers, and understanding during my Grand Master Alchemist biennium. Lastly, and most importantly, to my loving wife, Jenn.

Thank you for my membership in Alpha Chi Sigma. Thank you for the 54th Biennium.

Yours in the Double Bond,



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