**Personal Information and Involvement:** b. Harrisonburg, VA 1999. B.S. Biochemistry w/ ACS certification, University of Virginia – Charlottesville, 2023. B.A., Biology, University of Virginia – Charlottesville, 2023. Plant Hydroponics Researcher, Bloomaker, 2017-2018. Industrial Manufacturing Intern, Summers 2019 & 2020. Organic Chemistry Lab Teaching Assistant 2021-2023. Plant Biological Researcher, 2021-2023. Assistant Director for Next Generation Philanthropy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, January 2024-present.

**Member:** 4-H All Stars, 2017-present; National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS), 2019-present; Phi Eta Sigma (Academic Honor Society) 2020-present; Virginia Organizing Jan. 2024-present; American Chemical Society (ACS) Feb. 2024-present.

**Awards:** ACS Award for Chemical Ethics and Safety, 2023, UVA Chemistry Dept. Service and Community Award, 2023.

**Projects:** Emergency Lab Pants 2021-present; STEM Plants, 2021-present, Chemistry Department Art Contest, Apr. 2022-Dec. 2022.

**Hobbies:** Gardening, painting, embroidery, reading, writing, baking.

**Bio:**

Initiated April 2020 Alpha Kappa chapter; Historian, Alpha Kappa chapter, 2020-2021; Alumni Secretary, Alpha Kappa chapter, 2022-2023; attendee of the 2022 Biennial Conclave; Alpha Kappa Alumni Foundation Treasurer, 2023-present.

**Goals:**

1. Increase the funding available to the national fraternity using the knowledge I’ve obtained in my role as Assistant Director for Next Generation Philanthropy at UVA.
2. Provide increased guidance to collegiate chapters on the resources and procedures of the fraternity and foster a culture where we seek to guide before we seek to punish.
3. Maximize efficiency in all possible areas so that the fraternity can be as active as possible with the smallest possible burden of organization and planning on its members.

**Statement:**

I rushed the Alpha Kappa chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma in 2020 during the height of the pandemic. As such my rush and initiation process was almost totally on Zoom. I actually didn’t remember that I had expressed interest in rushing AXΣ even when our VMA emailed me to ask if I wanted to be on the list for communications. I said “sure,” and that was one of the best decisions of my collegiate life. AXΣ was the solution to the loneliness and isolation that I felt in UVA’s Chemistry Department long before the pandemic started; one of the greatest ironies of my college career was that I had more social interaction through online rush than I had the entire year preceding the pandemic. Once we got back to business as usual with in-person learning and events, I dove fast and deep into involvement with the chapter.

I was elected Historian immediately after rush, taking photos at events and creating our composite from scratch due to covid creating a rift in the passage of knowledge and resources between past and present officers. The next year I was elected our Alumni Secretary and put in charge of planning the majority of our chapter’s Centennial celebration with speakers, catering, cake, and activities for 60+ guests. Additionally, ours is one of the few chapters with a house, and from the moment I set foot in our yard for the first time, I took responsibility for improving and maintaining it. An entire childhood of renovating and landscaping a house with my parents led to me getting permission from our VMA to remove trash from our yard and plant some flowers, which then escalated to me totally re-landscaping the yard, repainting the walls, repairing several retaining walls, staining our upper and lower decks AXΣ blue, and painting a wyvern on our wall. In my final year of college, I stepped down from official office to make preserving, maintaining, and improving our chapter my sole focus.

After two years of observing how the fraternity was run, I wanted to do some work to streamline our operations and preserve old resources. I created a board with the hierarchy and contact information of our officers that sits right next to our door and can be changed out with each new election cycle. This sped up election night, provided a contact reference chart for all the officers in the fraternity, and made our executive board’s contact info available to anyone visiting the house who may be interested in rushing. I also created experiment baskets for our semesterly children’s outreach workshop. Each basket contained a sheet on the science background of the experiment and all the ingredients needed to carry it out. Cards on the front of each gave the experiment’s name and flipping it over gave the supply list so that instead of scrambling to make a shopping list each semester, we could just choose baskets and check that all the ingredients were present. I cleaned out all of our closets and cabinets and made an inventory list for the house so that we would no longer over-buy supplies we already had but couldn’t find. Finally, I dug through tubs of old print-outs of experiments (some typewritten and water-damaged), retyped all of them (including recreating all the old graphics), and compiled them into a binder so that we had a resource to pull different outreach experiments from. While I definitely derive satisfaction from efficiency alone, nothing compared to the joy I got out of watching my brothers be less stressed during the planning of our regular activities while being able to deliver better quality events/presentations.

During all this, I was also heavily involved in building community in UVA’s Chemistry Department both on my own and with the help of my brothers. These efforts included establishing a box of “Emergency Lab Pants” for students who forget to wear long pants to lab, adding houseplants to the department to boost morale, writing educational material for professors on how to deal with anxious students, planning and directing the first Chemistry Department Art Contest (which will now continue biennially), and hosting Chemistry Department game night. For these projects, I received the department’s Service and Community award and the ACS Award for Chemical Ethics and Safety.

In short, my time in the collegiate fraternity and the chemical sciences has been marked by a dedication to increasing efficiency, compassion for others, and responsible stewardship of all available resources.

Upon my graduation, I was elected Treasurer of the Alpha Kappa Alumni Foundation, and after about six months in that role, I had originally been considering a run for District Counselor this year. I have decided to make the leap to a run for GCA because I believe my recent connection to the collegiate fraternity and employment by a university is an asset with regard to understanding the current climate of fraternities and universities, I disagree with some actions that I have seen taken towards the collegiate branches by the Supreme Council this year, and above all else, I am deeply passionate about AXΣ. My previous experience working on projects with the brotherhood and my extensive involvement in my university’s Chemistry Department has made me confident that I can collaborate with people from every background and perspective, even at the level of the Supreme Council, to help AXΣ reach its full professional, social, and fraternal potential - what I call keeping AXΣ “fair, fun, and funded.” I’m a person who can get as much joy from a party as I can from increasing the efficiency of an administrative task, and I think that combined with my passion and vision for AXΣ make me an excellent candidate for the position of GCA. I would love the opportunity to leverage my recent experience with fraternal life, my background in fundraising, my drive for efficiency, and my enthusiasm for the brotherhood to ensure AXΣ has the funding and atmosphere to grow and flourish. If you see me around Conclave, feel free to ask me more about my reasons for running and vision for AXΣ’s future, and please share yours with me as well! I’ll be taking notes throughout the week, and I look forward to hearing what you love and want for our fraternity.

C=C,

Olivia Hathaway