

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences



2014 - 2016 Biennial Report

Introduction

This report will cover my activities for the 2014 - 2016 Biennium. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve our Brothers and this wonderful organization during this time. I thoroughly enjoyed a second term as GCA. Special thanks to the National Office Staff, the OA, and my colleagues on the SC, as well as to all of our Brothers.

Collegiate Chapters

There has been quite a lot of activity in the collegiate branch during this time. We have initiated 3,072 Brothers this Biennium, for a total of 70,924 since our first Initiation in 1902. I am excited to say that interest in our organization is exploding, as detailed in the "Expansion" section of this report.

We lost one chapter this Biennium, Gamma Phi. They went inactive at their request. We hope to see them again soon. Another chapter, Gamma Omicron, is experiencing problems with low membership. We are looking into this, and hope to make progress on this beginning in the fall. We will also be looking at our Collegiate Group at Oregon State University as well, to see if there is still any activity there. We have no record of any pledges for the past two semesters.

At the beginning of this Biennium, Gamma Phi was on probation due to hazing violations. They successfully completed their terms before they asked to go inactive. Mu chapter was placed on probation due to allegations of hazing. They successfully completed their terms as well. Beta chapter was put on probation due to issues with hazing and pledge training. They have worked very hard to correct the identified problems, and should be coming off probation soon. Lastly, Alpha chapter was placed on probation by their university due to violations of the school's alcohol policy. We have placed them on probation as well, as they violated our RMP. We are currently working with them to correct the issues at hand. They are being very cooperative.

During this biennium, our organization had to deal with cyber bullying, as well as bullying overall. This has been very trying, and we are still working on the best ways to handle these situations. Each one is a little different, but this always comes to mind: love and respect one another. We do not always have to like all of our Brothers, but we do need to be respectful, and to remember that they are people, too. The Risk Management Policy is the bare minimum guideline; federal, state, local and campus laws and policies override it. I am hoping to expand

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on our general guidelines in the Risk Management Policy, to help further clarify some of these grey areas. Additional training was requested by various chapters for things other than our current Alcohol Awareness training. These areas include: sexual harassment/assault, group dynamics (how to deal with power struggles, etc.), and suicide prevention/counseling. We may want to consider how we can point our members in the right direction when facing these tough issues within their chapters. One way is to point them to their campuses resources. However, I have been told by various chapters that their schools do not always offer what they are looking for, and are unsure where else to look.

Another area new to the SC involves Title IX reporting. Our chapters fall under these rules at their institutions. Alpha Chi Sigma will be looking into how we can make our practices better support Title IX.

GMC Kip Nalley made some needed changes to the Ritual, which were communicated to the Chapters via the DCs. These changes seem to have been accepted and implemented correctly.

District Counselors

All of the District Counselors have worked very hard over the course of the Biennium. We have a few that are departing at the end of the Biennium: Katie Riley (ACDC), Merryn Cole (BGDC), Mark Sahara (CCDC), Roxana Farhadi (NWDC), and Melissa Ward (NDC). Additionally, Eilish Mitchell (EMDC), had to step down halfway through the Biennium due to work constraints. Dr. Howard McLean took up the position at that point, and has done very well. We are sad to see them go, and wish them the best. The coming biennium will see some new faces in the DC positions, as well as some potential redistricting. We sincerely appreciate everyone who mentioned that they wanted to be a DC. If you are not selected this time, please do not give up hope – I am insisting that these individuals be added to the DC committees in their areas, so that we can continue to grow and recruit for new leadership. Additionally, the GCA tries to keep a list of these Brothers. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the list.

Our DC Chair this Biennium, Merryn Cole, has truly gone above and beyond in her position. We successfully had a DC chat every month, and we had topics planned out ahead of time. Additionally, she helped me with planning and organization, and provided me with a needed

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sounding board. Even though she is stepping down this Biennium to concentrate on her thesis, I am certain we have not seen the last of her.

The DCs are very interested in leadership training, as well as having yearly reviews done of their performance. I think both of these are a good idea, and will encourage the new SC to look into implementing these ideas.

The DCs created a standardized Pledge Exam that may be used by collegiate groups and colonies, as well as existing chapters. This was sent to the GMC for review.

Oliver's committee has completed its review of the pledge qualifications and reporting. A new form is being designed with the National Office. Some legislation was drafted from it as well.

Expansion

Expansion is still going strong. The DCs began the Biennium by utilizing "swag" (ex. - squeeze beakers) to help their collegiate chapters get the word out at neighboring schools. We also provided funding for transportation, pizza and other items when necessary. This was both for actively pursuing Expansion opportunities, as well as providing support for new Collegiate Groups. Most of our Expansion still seems to be coming from interested individuals finding us.

During this Biennium, we installed Delta Delta (Southeast Missouri State University) and Delta Epsilon (Boston University) Chapters. We also reactivated Beta Mu (Occidental College) and Beta Iota (University of Florida). As of June 2016, we have the following colonies: Albion College, University of California - Irvine, University of Tampa, University of New Orleans, Philadelphia University, Winthrop University, Northern Illinois University, Christopher Newport University, and Kappa Reactivation (University of Kansas). Albion College and University of New Orleans have been given permission to petition. Christopher Newport University and Winthrop have asked what they need to do to ask for permission. University of Tampa, UC-Irvine, and Philadelphia will be asking soon as well.

Our Collegiate Groups are as follows: Westminster College, Oregon State University, Florida A&M University, University of California - Santa Barbara, University of Richmond, and York College of Pennsylvania. We also have a reactivation effort at the University of Kentucky (Alpha Gamma chapter).

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Jennifer Schnippert continues to do an amazing job as Collegiate Expansion Director. I cannot praise her highly enough. I am hoping that she will continue in this position for the next biennium.

Installations

I was able to personally attend the installations at Delta Delta, Delta Epsilon, Beta Mu reactivation, and Beta Iota reactivation. This is one of my favorite things to do as GCA, and I am humbled to be able to participate in these ceremonies.

It has been an honor to serve as the Grand Collegiate Alchemist for the last two Biennia. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Yours in the Double Bond,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen M. M. Webster".

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