

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the

GRAND
MASTER OF CEREMONIES



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GMC biennial report

Communication:

Since I ran for election to the position of GMC on the platform of communication I am going to start with the advances we have made during the biennium to increase communication and visibility of the fraternity. Each of the Supreme Council has their own Facebook page in addition to the Alpha Chi Sigma Facebook page. In addition, the fraternity increased its presence on Twitter and LinkedIn. Hopefully, continued efforts to get our message out through these channels will continue to engage and inform the membership. We are always looking for feedback on the ways we communicate with all members - collegiate officers and members, chapter advisors, grand chapter members, and professional members each have different needs for communication and different preferences. If there is information you wish to have and a preferred way to receive it, let us know.

The main communication accomplishment in the biennium was the complete update of the AlphaChiSigma.org website. A large scale project was necessary to completely redo the site from selection of the vendor to working with the vendor, volunteers, and staff to execute the work plan. While I was involved in these activities, the majority of the credit has to go to the National Office Staff - Marena, Allison, Kirsten, and Erin - as well as the Grand Recorder, whose office was ultimately responsible for the process.

Chapter Installations:

Over the course of the biennium I worked with two chapters to help coordinate installation ceremonies. The GMC is responsible for travel arrangements for the Supreme council as well as working with the chapter to design a program for the event.

Delta Delta - On October 25, 2014 the Delta Delta chapter installation ceremony was held at the University Center on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University. Many Delta Delta members and alumni and the chapter advisor were present to celebrate the arrival of the charter and the Beta Psi Chapter was well represented to celebrate the results of their hard work as the colonizing chapter. The Gateway District Counselor, Rachel Palasky, who oversees the Delta Delta Chapter, and the District Counselors from the Central, Great Plains, and North Central districts were in attendance along with PR John Becker. Brothers from around the country were treated to a great meal and reflections by some of the founding members of the chapter, the Delta Delta Master Alchemist, and the Supreme Council.

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Delta Epsilon - On February 6, 2016 the Delta Epsilon installation ceremony was held at the Photonics colloquium room at Boston University. Members of the new Delta Epsilon Chapter were present as well as members from Delta Alpha, Mu, and Beta Chapters.

The Northeast District Counselor, Taylor Perkins was in attendance as well as the ECDC, SEDC, PR Stephanie Bates, and Collegiate Expansion Committee Chair Jen Schnippert. GMA Evaniak presided over the event and GPA Wenzel, GCA Webster and GMC Nalley spoke at the event. Several current members and recently graduated members of the Delta Epsilon delivered reminiscences about the founding of the chapter and the meaning of brotherhood.

In addition, two chapter reactivation ceremonies were held.

Beta Mu - On April 25, 2015 a reactivation ceremony was held on the campus of Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA. Many members of the Beta Mu Chapter were present as well as members from the colonizing Beta Gamma Chapter. Grand Master Alchemist Mark Evaniak presided over the extraordinary session where awards were handed out and the charter was presented back to the chapter. Grand Collegiate Alchemist Helen Webster, Grand Master of Ceremonies Kip Nalley, and District Counselor Derek Marin spoke to the chapter. Also presenting were Beta Mu members past and present and the Beta Mu Chapter Adviser, Derek Ross. The installation was a success thanks to the work of the Beta Mu Chapter and all of the presenters.

Beta Iota - On October 17, 2015 a reactivation ceremony was held at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Gainesville, FL. The newly reactivated Beta Iota Chapter welcomed the Supreme Council as well as District Counselor Matt Schnippert, Professional Representative Tim Deschaines, and Collegiate Expansion Committee Chair Jen Schnippert. Members from nearby chapters also made the trip including a contingent from the colonizing chapter and conclave host chapter, Alpha Omega. The event included presentations by the members of the Supreme Council as well as some remarks by current and past members of the chapter. The event culminated with GMA Evaniak presenting the original Beta Iota charter back to the chapter. Another successful event thanks to the hard work of the Beta Iota Chapter.

Fraternal Trademark Monitoring and Enforcement:

Over the course of the biennium I instituted some procedural changes. The first change was to oversee the increase in items with fraternity trademarks showing up in social media and other information streams. In order to make sure items are appropriate and use the proper imagery the chapters are asked to submit any items that may be sold outside of the local chapter to the GMC for approval. Once the GMC approves the items

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the chapter may sell the items. The GMC may request any non-approved items be removed from social media or other channels.

In addition to chapter items, several new items were added to the items sold through the national office. The items include redesigned Alpha Chi Sigma ties, now 100% silk with the coat of arms pattern. Also available is the Alpha Chi Sigma infinity scarf, a fashionable scarf with the letters AXΣ in a pattern. The last item is an Alpha Chi Sigma license plate frame with the words Alpha Chi Sigma on the top and the new tagline “professional in the chemical sciences” on the bottom.

Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar award changes:

One of the tasks assigned to the GMC is oversight of the Alpha Chi Sigma scholar committee. One of the issues we have been facing is the small number of nominees for the Alpha Chi Sigma scholar award. GLDC Scott Wilson and OA Sherrie Settle came to me with some ideas of ways to increase the numbers of nominees. I assembled a committee and also asked the DCs for suggestions of ways to modify the process to make it easier for the chapters as well as the nominees. Also, we looked at ways to increase the value of the award to make the time spent assembling the nomination materials seem more worthwhile. The results of the committee’s recommendations should be ready by Conclave in order to publicize the changes to the assembled Brothers.

Risk Management During Initiation and Pledge Process:

One of the main focuses this biennium was to attempt to identify places where current practices may be putting the fraternity at risk. During the biennium I fielded calls from a couple of university administrators about our initiation ritual where we discussed potential risk management issues. After those discussions I looked into our ritual and identified a potential area of risk. I issued a GMC interpretation of the ritual that altered a set of staging directions. The changes were communicated to the chapters as well as the District Counselors. It appears the changes were adapted quickly and the chapters were receptive to the changes. The changes should be monitored throughout the next biennium until the ritual revision process is complete.

It also came to my attention that some chapter exams given during the pledging process were potentially in violation of the fraternity’s risk management policy. A risk management policy clarification statement that outlined both the reasons why the exams may have been violations of the policy as well as solutions to bring chapter processes in line with the risk management policy was created. As before the information was distributed to the chapters as well as the DCs to implement and monitor

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the changes. After the document was distributed I fielded several questions from chapters about how they could be compliant with the Risk Management Policy. I give great credit to the chapters, the chapter advisors, and the DCs for the speed with which these changes were made.

Ritual tokens and regalia:

During the biennium, stocks of ritual tokens were depleted and a new source for the tokens was needed. Thanks to a suggestion from GPDC Penrose, contact was made with the Beta Phi Chapter Advisor who connected us with the metallurgy club at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. The club is currently producing the new tokens after assessing the properties of the old tokens, determining the best casting procedure, and determining the materials needed to do the casting. Many thanks to CA Margaret Smallbrock for all of her help.

Other ritual items also require a new source and initial contacts have been made to procure the items in the next biennium. This information will be passed on to the next GMC for follow-up. Other regalia items are being ordered as needed.

Yours in the Double Bond,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kip A. Nalley".

Dr. Kip A. Nalley, Alpha Sigma 1990
Grand Master of Ceremonies
Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity