

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in Chemistry

**Office of the
GRAND
COLLEGIATE ALCHEMIST**

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Biennial Report of the Grand Collegiate Alchemist June 30, 2008

This has been an exciting biennium for the Collegiate Branch. We installed four new Chapters this biennium, and we have several opportunities for growth from new Expansion efforts. Sadly, we lost one chapter (Beta Omega) and one Colony (Gamma Mu); however, much of that loss was on paper as there had not been much activity at either location for some time. District/Regional conclaves continue to expand, and the communication with the National Office is being improved through more electronic means with a new software package that is compatible with our membership database. Half of our Chapters earned a One Star or Three Star Chapter Award for 2006-2007. We have identified and organized our Program offering to the Chapters, and have started in our first efforts to expand and refine that portfolio. We also have a better awareness of the demographics of our pledges, which shows that the organization is well positioned for the continued diversification of science into a myriad of majors that contain coursework that meet our membership requirements.

Collegiate Chapters

As with most biennia, there is a mix of good and bad news for the organization. Gamma Rho, Gamma, Sigma, Gamma Tau, and Gamma Upsilon held formal installation ceremonies this biennium. Seeing the creation of this many new Chapters is extremely encouraging, and the magnitude of these installations is a historic event for Alpha Chi Sigma. Although we do not have any colonies on the books at present, we do have several expansion efforts underway, so we can hope that this trend will continue.

Some of the positive feelings from the growth of the organization are offset by the losses of Beta Omega Chapter and Gamma Mu Colony. With the loss of Beta Omega and Gamma Mu, the Four Corners District is left with Beta Tau (University of Arizona) as the one remaining chapter. With these developments, I would recommend that district lines be redrawn such that Arizona falls into the Southwestern District. The remaining states can be added to nearby Districts until a time when we have enough chapters in the Four Corners area to justify recreating a district there again.

Another development that has taken place over the biennium is the loss of houses at two of our Chapters: Zeta and Beta Phi. The loss of a house is a terrible blow to a chapter, and Zeta and Beta Phi have weathered these losses much better than expected. Although efforts are underway by the House Corporations at both Chapters to secure new houses to purchase, I am fearful that this is a trend that we may continue to see for some time. Several of our House Chapters are not well positioned to handle any sort of financial difficulties. With the increased price of real estate over the past decade, it is probable that we will have fewer House Chapters in the years ahead.

District Counselors

We began the biennium with six new District Counselors, and added another partway through the biennium. Several of the new appointees did a wonderful job and were able to help their Chapters through some difficult situations.

Internet chats early in the biennium allowed us to make slight changes to the Star Chapter Award Program. Later chat sessions on other topics were organized by DC Chair Wenzel and myself; however, scheduling conflicts and poor attendance greatly limited the usefulness of those later chat sessions.

As family needs and career demands do indeed take precedence over Fraternal service; five District Counselors have asked to not be reappointed next biennium for a variety of reasons. However, thanks to the

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growing number of active Professional Brothers, especially those involved in District Committees, I do not foresee any issues with filling these vacancies.

Expansion

I am pleased to report that we have multiple expansion efforts progressing at this time. Although expansion opportunities generally materialize and are driven from interested students at Universities, the success of these opportunities are often linked to early interactions between the groups and the Expansion Director. Wiley Hall has performed his duties as Expansion Director superbly, providing the necessary information and support to the students wishing to bring Alpha Chi Sigma to their University.

To date, Beta Sigma Chapter has initiated two pledge classes from the University at Buffalo, Mu Chapter has initiated two pledge classes at the University of Rhode Island, Beta Gamma has initiated one pledge class at Occidental College (Beta Mu), and Beta chi has initiated one pledge class at Longwood University. We also have activity at the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Toledo, and Alcorn State University.

Although none of these efforts has led to a group with official Colony status, I expect that we will see at least one or two of these efforts designated with official Colony status before the end of the year.

Committees

House Chapter Advisory Committee

The House Chapter Advisory Committee has continued its efforts to attempt to improve communication between the House Chapters. I have not seen this much activity on this committee in my memory, and much of that activity is due to the efforts of HCAC Chair Michael Quan. Several discussion topics have been covered over e-mail to the best extent possible with their current participation. The committee would have benefited from greater number of House Chapters taking part in these discussions. As a result of some of these discussions, the HCAC has proposed the creation of a National Housing Corporation, operating as a separate corporation from the Fraternity, and essentially acting as a House Corporation for multiple chapter houses. The SC discussed this proposal at the Summer 2007 meeting, and is awaiting a business plan and other information before taking any action. As the creation of such an entity would be a very large undertaking, we are going to progress slowly, ensuring that proper legal and financial council is engaged as the need arises. Granted, Housing Corporations operate as separate entities from the Fraternity, and the Supreme Council does not have direct authority over their actions. However, as the actions of the House Corporations directly affect the welfare of our members, we wish to be in a position where we can provide proper guidance to our members.

Collegiate Activities Committee

The Collegiate Activities Committee has had a slow biennium with very few requests from Chapters for funding. This is not unusual, as I would guess that many, if not most of our Chapters are not aware of this committee and their function.

Emerald Tablet Wiki ad hoc Advisory Committee

An ad hoc advisory committee for the Emerald Tablet Wiki was recruited in late May 2007. Brothers Chuck Carroll, Laura Congiardo, George Huttick, Tim Deschaines, and Merryn (Janzen) Cole volunteered for the committee. The committee was charged with the following duties:

- 1) To determine what the most logical organization would be for the current and future ET materials.
- 2) To determine how much "seed material" needs to be put onto the site before opening it up to the public.

Both of these tasks were completed, the "seed material" was posted on the site, and the ET Wiki is up and functioning on the web site. I am not aware as to what extent it is being utilized as a resource by the Collegiate Chapters. I can tell that there have not been any topics added, and although I have not recently looked over every single page in detail, I believe that there has been little contributed except for the material initially posted by the ET Wiki ad hoc Committee.

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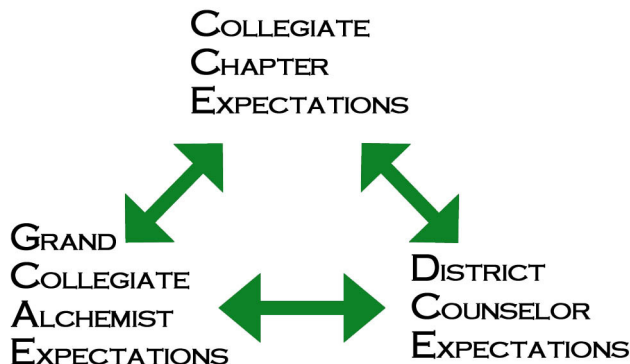
Star Chapter Award Modifications

At the beginning of the biennium, the District Counselors and I modified the criteria for the Three Star Award. Additional emphasis was placed on maintaining a current Chapter Web Page. Additionally, the old requirements dealing with the Chapter Plan and the Chapter Bylaws were rolled into the “accomplish Four of the following” criteria. Specifically, the new Three Star Chapter Award criteria are:

1. Satisfy ALL the requirements for the One-Star Chapter Award.
2. Maintain an Internet Web Page. This must include:
 - Information on pledging / membership
 - Current calendar of events
 - Current chapter and officer contact data
 - Professional / service activities
 - Link to the National Home Page
3. PLUS accomplish any FOUR of the following:
 - Increase active collegiate member by 5% (active collegiate members reported in the preceding year's Active Collegiate Member Register is the basis.)
 - Conduct two additional MAJOR service or professional activities.
 - Conduct two Alumni related activities.
 - Conduct one additional MAJOR service or professional activity AND one Alumni related activity.
 - Submit the Professional Branch Induction Report 2 weeks prior to conducting either the Professional Recognition Ceremony (PRC) or the Professional Induction Ceremony (PIC). Include program and alumni speaker information.
 - Submit one or more nominations for National Fraternity Recognition Award (e.g. Scholar, Advisor, Kuebler).
 - Complete and submit a Chapter Plan for the year.
 - Maintain and submit a current copy of the Chapter's Bylaws to the National Office.

Collegiate Chapter Initiative

In October 2006, I presented the Collegiate Branch Initiative (also known as the CDE Program) to the Collegiate Chapters. The goals of this primarily deal with Communication, Diversity, and Expectations. In this initiative, I have attempted to create interrelated goals for each part of the Collegiate Branch; the Collegiate Chapters, the District Counselors, and myself. It is hoped that as we work toward the goals that we will strengthen the Fraternity for years to come.



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The specific expectations that were set for each of our three groups were as follows:

Expectations for the Collegiate Chapters:

- Achieve at Least a One Star Chapter Status
- Participate in a District/Regional Conclave (if Applicable)
- Diversify Rush Activities – Recruit Faculty/Graduate/Undergraduate
- Diversify Rush Activities – Recruit from Related Majors
- Submit Timely Reports

Expectations for the District Counselors

- Visit Chapters at Least Once Per Year
- Build an Effective District Committee
- Help Chapters Achieve at Least a One Star Chapter Status
- Hold a District Committee Meeting
- Set up a District / Regional Conclave
- Submit Timely Reports

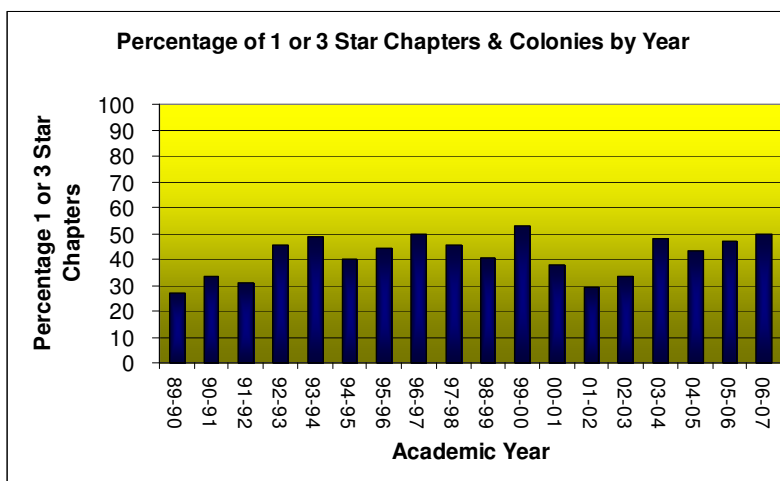
Expectations for the Grand Collegiate Alchemist

- Create Expectations for Collegiate Chapters, District Counselors, and GCA
- Complete 2006-2007 Program Guide
- Add Materials to the DC Toolkit
- Create Additional Support Materials (Targeted Rush Brochures, Emerald Tablet, etc.)
- Communicate Progress and Relation to the Larger Picture
- Remove Obstacles for the Collegiate Chapters and District Counselors

This Initiative has been publicized at multiple District/Regional Conclaves, and in other media including the *Chrome and Blue* and in e-mails to some of the Collegiate Chapter Officers. With all of that, I still can not say that there is much awareness of this at the Chapter level; however, whether by awareness or by sheer luck, by looking at the metrics, I believe that we have made progress towards some of the above goals. I will highlight some of those here:

Star Chapter Metrics

Since the establishment of the Star Chapter Award Program in 1989, the number of Chapters that achieve One or Three star Chapter Status has only been at or above 50% for three academic years since program inception. (I have grouped the One Star and Three Star Chapters into one group for this report) One of those three years was the 2006-2007 academic year.



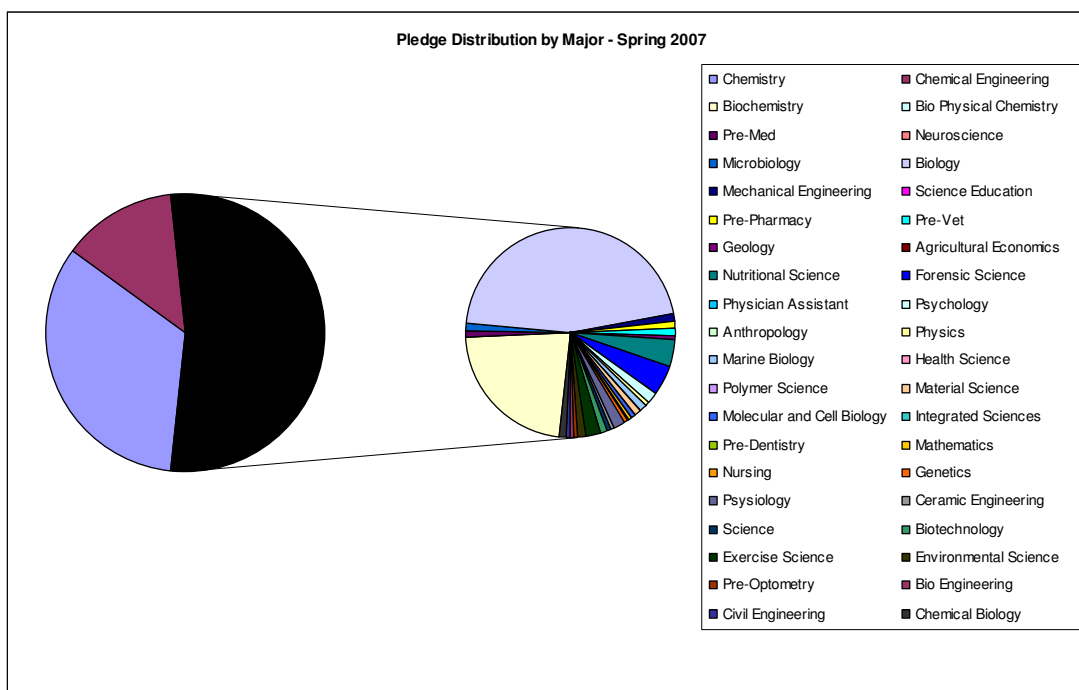
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Diversity Metrics

We are doing rather well in our diversity by majors. Although the number of pledges that are not Chemistry or Chemical Engineering majors is dominated by Biochemistry and Biology majors, there are a substantial number of related majors that our Chapters are pledging that meet our membership requirements. As we move forward with these additional majors at Universities, the role of the Chapter Advisor is critical in determining what majors meet the membership requirements for joining Alpha Chi Sigma.

For the Spring 2007 semester over 50% of our initiates were not straight chemistry or chemical engineering majors. I believe that this signifies that Alpha Chi Sigma is well positioned and is adapting to the trends that the sciences are experiencing. This bodes well for our health in the years ahead.



District/Regional Conclave Metrics

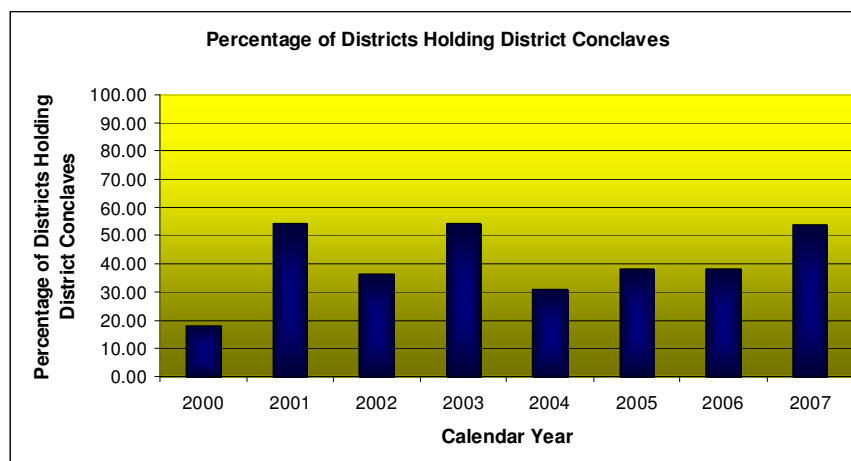
District and Regional Conclaves continue to be one of the best methods we have to promote the exchange of ideas between Chapters. Increasing the number of Districts holding such events was one of the goals of the Collegiate Branch Initiative. Looking at the historical data, we have never been much above half of the Districts hosting District/Regional Conclaves.

It should be noted that from 2000 to 2004 we had eleven districts, and for 2004 and beyond, we had thirteen. So, even though the percentage of districts having these events has not gone up significantly, the actual number of Districts hosting them has.

Obviously, multichapter events such as District/Regional Conclaves are dependent on geography. In some areas, many Chapters are within easy travelling distance of each other, while others are not. Although I would like to see all of our Chapters to have the ability to participate in events with other Chapters, the reality is that it would be difficult to achieve in some places.

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Collegiate Chapter Programs

The 2007-2008 Collegiate Chapter Program Guide was completed and distributed near the beginning of the Fall semester. This is the second academic year for this catalog, and represents the Professional and Service activities that we offer at a National level to our Collegiate Chapters. Now that we have an idea of what we are offering, we can begin the task of removing any programs that are unappealing to the collegiates and adding new programs that will hopefully be better utilized.

In October 2007, we announced the creation of the National Chemistry Week Participation Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage our chapters to participate in the American Chemical Society's National Chemistry Week. The Chapters were asked to describe their NCW activities in a PowerPoint presentation, which would then be judged by the Professional Representatives. The winning Chapter would win \$500 of materials that can be used in activities that promote the second object of the Fraternity. Four entries were received this year, and Gamma Rho was selected as the winner. Although this was a relatively small number of entries, the fact that this program was just started this year is probably a large factor in this. I expect to have more entries in the year ahead.

With the addition of the National Chemistry Week Participation Program, we currently are promoting nine programs that directly benefit the Collegiate Chapters or members from the National Fraternity:

- Science Outreach Program (Wyvern Pin)
- Alchemy Lecture Series
- Alpha Chi Sigma Speakers List
- Scout Merit Badge Program
- National Chemistry Week Participation Program
- Professional Recognition Ceremonies / Professional Induction Ceremonies
- Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award
- Star Chapter Award
- Collegiate Activities Committee

Much of the success of our program offering is going to depend on input from the Collegiate members. Without their input, we may be creating programs that are not appealing to the Collegiates, and thus, of little use to them. Additionally, we should begin searching for successful local programs to offer at the National level. By drawing on the talents and resources of members throughout the country, we should be able to offer and enhance many worthwhile professional and service activities that our Collegiate Chapters can take advantage of.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your efforts and support to date. This has been an exciting biennium for the Fraternity, and much of it is because of the efforts of many dedicated Brothers. This organization

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is successful due to the efforts of many Brothers contributing their talents and abilities for the common purpose of promoting our three objects. Thank you all for your efforts.

Yours in the Double Bond,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Stipp', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Stipp, *Epsilon 1989*
Grand Collegiate Alchemist