

Matt Schnippert, Gamma Beta, 2003

Personal Information & Involvement

b. Jacksonville, FL 8/15/82. m. Jen Schnippert, Gamma Beta, 2003. BS (Chemistry) Florida State University 2003, MEd (Secondary Education) University of North Florida 2006, MS (Analytical Chemistry) Florida State University, 2011. High School Chemistry Teacher, 2004-08, 2011-23. Chemistry Associate Professor, Tallahassee State College, 2021-Present. Advanced Placement Reader, 2019-Present; International Baccalaureate Examiner, 2011-Present.

Initiated Gamma Beta, 2003. Alumni Secretary 2008-11. Southeastern District Committee, 2008-12. Member, Leadership Development Committee, 2008-10. Chair, Leadership Development Committee, 2010-12. Southeastern District Counselor, 2012-22. District Counselor Chair, 2018-20. Grand Master of Ceremonies, 2022-2024, Grand Collegiate Alchemist, 2024-Present. Attended 49th – 57th Biennial Conclaves, 2008-2024.

Statement and Goals

When I speak to chapters about their recruitment of new members, I like to point out that the first time I attended rush events at Florida State, I was not extended an invitation to membership. I was in my last year of undergraduate study so I'm sure they figured I wasn't going to be around for more than a semester as a brother. With only so many resources, I guess they decided that there were better uses of their time and energy. It turns out, I stayed to start grad school, so when the next fall came around, Jen and I rushed, received invitations, pledged, and were initiated. And then we moved away the next summer so I could take a teaching job elsewhere. They'd been partially right - we were only on campus for one semester as pledges and one semester as collegiate brothers. But the connections we made in that short time were enough that Alpha Chi Sigma has been the most constant part of our lives ever since. We've been part of brothers' weddings and celebrated the births of their children, sat with them after deaths and break-ups, spent late nights on phone calls working through problems for classes or work, and checked in with each other after hurricane evacuations and school shootings.

While we are all tied together by our initiation and by our devotion to the Three Objects, each of our chapters has its own identity and makes its own contribution to our brotherhood. This can be seen by watching our chapters' social media at the beginning of each new semester. For several weeks, twice a year, their recruitment campaigns are a welcome reminder of our brotherhood and its impact on our members. Some chapters post pictures and videos of past events to show what they contribute to their campus communities. Others have officers spend a day posting about their daily life and the role that their brothers and the fraternity play in it. I've seen alumni sharing how their experiences as a collegiate have played a vital role in their career

path. I've even seen chapters post stories of the partnerships - romantic and professional - that have been started by brothers who first met at a fraternity event.

Last year, we updated not only our member database, but our website that had been tied into it. It was a huge undertaking for our National Office staff, but they not only found ways to make their workflow more efficient, but the new website is far better than what we'd had and gives visitors a much better view of who we are as an organization. In addition, these updates will save us a great deal of money and have made it easier for us to communicate with our members. In the next biennium, I hope to see us learn from our collegiate chapters' skills with social media. Something that my mind always comes back to are the people who say they were in Alpha Chi Sigma. Since brotherhood is for life, everyone - regardless of their donation history or activity within the fraternity - can properly say that they are in Alpha Chi Sigma. It's definitely pedantic, but it's a perspective we can learn from. To remind our brothers that the fraternity is still doing great things and is still a place where they belong, we need to expand our social media presence to showcase not only our current activities, but our historical contributions as well. Through this, my hope is that we can remind people of the role they played in building the legacy that current chapters continue to build upon. If we can instill a sense of pride in their connection to current accomplishments, we can change their view from "I enjoyed doing that in college" to "I'm proud to say that I'm a part of that."

A key part of helping to keep more of our members involved after graduation happens before they graduate. We can do that by helping them to build a view of the fraternity that is wider than their own campus. I've seen many of the members who have attended biennial conclave maintain the connections they've made to brothers at other schools. District conclaves have historically played a big role in building these connections, so supporting those is very important to me. It was a district conclave that really got me hooked on the organization and I hope that it can do that for others as well.

Overall, our collegiate chapters are thriving and we're seeing solid initiation numbers across the country. Recent attempts to streamline the expansion process have led to quick starts and several collegiate groups have momentum we hope will continue into the next biennium. As we see more collegiate members and new/reactivated chapters, we hope this also brings more opportunities for individuals to connect to the professional branch and new geographic concentrations of our graduates.

Ultimately, my vision for Alpha Chi Sigma is rooted in what the fraternity has already shown itself to be at its best: a lifelong brotherhood that adapts, connects, and endures. I believe our strength lies not only in growing our collegiate chapters, but in deepening the sense of belonging that carries our members forward long after graduation. By supporting our chapters, strengthening our communications, investing in connection across campuses and generations, and honoring both our history and our future, we can ensure that every brother—past, present, and future—feels proud to say they are part of Alpha Chi Sigma. I thank you for the four years I've had the privilege of serving on the Supreme Council so far, and it would be an honor to continue this work as Grand Master Alchemist.