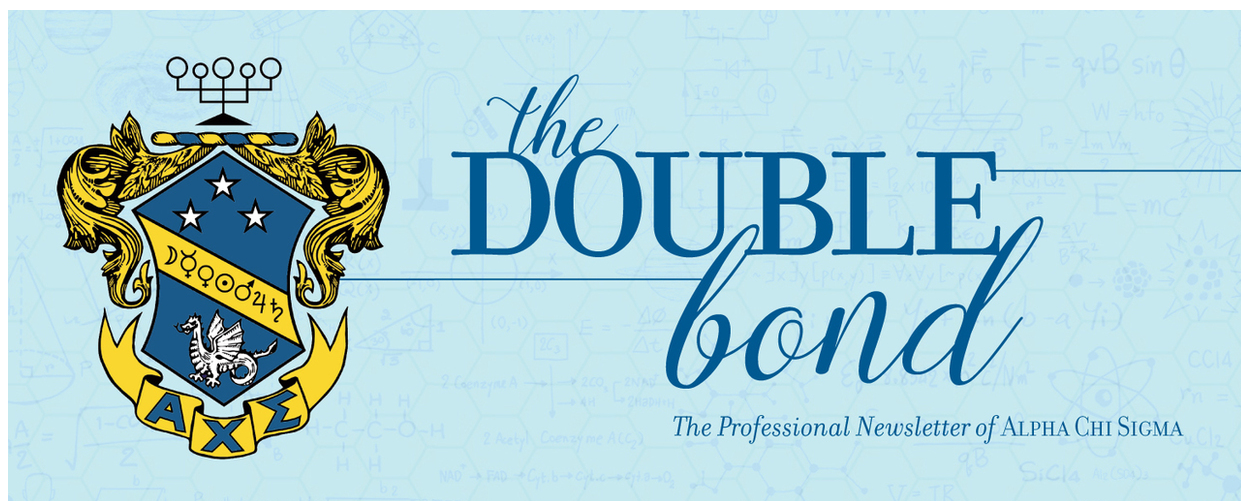




The Double Bond: The Professional Newsletter of Alpha Chi Sigma



A Message from the Grand Professional Alchemist

Are you a Professional Brother that does not live close to a Professional Group or Chapter? Would you like to get involved with a group of members? If so, join me for social time (following our Health and Safety Policy) on May 14th from 7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom. To register, go to <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dcRnslg1QlubKimLBllbEw>.

Let's turn this into a regular event.

Yours in the Double Bond,

GPA Faith Yarberry
Alpha Sigma, 1992



From the Grand Historian

Fraternal Memories from Mitch Levings, GH

It was a windy overcast night in April 1903 when Alpha Chi Sigma conducted its first initiation. Orville Wheelwright was selected to be the first person to go through the ceremony to become a Brother. The location selected for this event was the abandoned underground meteorological station on the south slope of University Hill. Wheelwright and later that same evening, Alan Lee, were blindfolded and escorted from the Chemistry Building to the Old Met Lab. While abandoned at the time of the first initiation, the underground lab would be repurposed again and again by the University. Constructed in 1877, as a magnetic observatory, it was the first building constructed on the Wisconsin-Madison campus for an international science project. The stated scientific purpose of the observatory (and others like it in Greenwich, Paris, and Toronto) was to provide “A continuous and reliable record of the variations in the direction and intensity of the earth’s magnetic force, by means of photographic self registration.” It was constructed with masonry and hydraulic cement to make it waterproof. No iron, which might affect magnetic equipment, was used in the construction, and a 3-foot dead air space with an outer wall was created to maintain a constant temperature. The magnetic experiments ended in 1888, and the space was used for weather observations. Other uses of the lab have been testing methods of curing cheeses, a storage shed for oils, and a potato cellar. In 1950 the Department of Zoology laid claim to the space where they maintain a colony of dermestid beetles used to clean animal skeletons for study. The Old Met Lab is something of a cultural landmark for the fraternity with a photo of the entrance appearing in pledge manuals dating from the 1940s to the current Source Book. At the conclusion of the Centennial Celebration in 2022 (and after an extended celebration at State Street Brats), an ad hoc midnight pilgrimage by GMA John Adams; GR Paul Jones; GH Mitch Levings; GCA Gary Anderson; GPA Pete Yochim; GMC Sherrie Settle; AGR

John Becker; PRs Chuck Carroll, John Terschak and Jen Fairgrieve with her escort Mike Showerman; NEDC Kiristen King; Expansion co-chair Joanna Ossinger; Indianapolis Professional President Christy Gesell; Brothers Michael Clager and Scott Wilson hiked to The Old Met Lab. While entry wasn't possible Brothers Adams, Jones and Levings stood by the entrance and delivered brief remarks honoring the Founders and the Fraternity. That night in April 1903 was the first and only time The Old Met Lab was used for an Alpha Chi Sigma initiation, but it was an important one



PROFESSIONAL BROTHER SPOTLIGHT



Professional Brother Spotlight

Russ Martin did not initially intend to go into Chemical Engineering in college. As a student at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), he was initially interested in physics but soon realized that Chemical Engineering would allow him to combine two things he liked: chemistry and tinkering with mechanical things.

Like a lot of us, Russ found college life at IIT tougher than expected. In his sophomore year, however, things changed when he found the Alpha Psi chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma. With the Alpha Psi chapter, he found a place where he could relax, play pool, and make friends that

made IIT a little less tough. He also served as chapter treasurer. While IIT was tough, he also learned the principles he successfully used at the EPA, as well as a never-give-up work ethic.

Russ graduated from IIT with his degree in Chemical Engineering in 1971. He started working for the EPA and worked for the EPA for a little over 40 years. He started out learning how wastewater treatment plants worked and then moved to the Region 5 Office (covering Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and 37 tribes) and the Construction Grants Office. The Construction Grants Office provides money to wastewater plants.

From the Construction Grants Office, Russ moved on to working in wastewater treatment compliance assistance directly. He was able to work with more than 50 plants to improve their performance. Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) that Russ worked with won National and/or Regional EPA operation and maintenance excellence awards in all six of the states covered by Region 5. Russ also led State Assistance efforts that helped more than 1000 wastewater treatment plants in Region 5.

Russ also had other opportunities, such as helping the Russians perform compliance assistance in Russia; implementing sustainable water infrastructure; wastewater security; combine sewer outflows; and NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permits as an occasional manager.

In all total, Russ was a Registered Professional Engineer with the State of Illinois for over 40 years. In addition to his work with the EPA, he was also a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), including participation in the plant operations maintenance committee. He was previously the Chair of the Professional Development Committee, and, for 15 years, helped plant operators resolve challenging design questions.

Following his retirement in 2011, Russ designed 10 web-based training courses for CEU Plan, which is a worldwide web-based training organization for plant operators. The goal of the training courses was to help the operators find better ways to run their plants.

Russ now lives in Worth, IL with his wife, 2 rescue dogs, 4 zebra finches, fish, and 5,000 dandelions. They also have two sons. He is grateful that the Alpha Psi chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma was there to provide some humanity and a place for him to relax and be with friends.

If you would like to be recognized in our Member Spotlight, [complete this form](#).

From the **PROFESSIONAL** *Branch*



Introducing your Professional Representatives

This year, each issue of the Double Bond will feature a PR who is working to make our fraternity better and promote the 3 objects in the professional branch. This month, we highlight brother David Harrington!

P.R. David Harrington pledged Alpha Chi Sigma in his second year at the University of Virginia (Alpha Kappa chapter) where he majored in Chemistry. After working two years in Princeton, New Jersey, at a startup biotech firm doing chemical syntheses for development of monoclonal antibody-based cancer imaging and treatment, he decided to chart a different path and returned to the University of Virginia School of Law. Since 2002, David has worked as a trial attorney, senior trial counsel, and assistant chief at the U.S. Department of Justice. He currently supervises a team of 12 trial attorneys engaged in high-stakes complex litigation, which has over the past two years saved the government over \$4 billion.

Throughout his career, David has remained involved with the Fraternity. For over 20 years, he has served as President of the housing corporation for the Alpha Kappa chapter. He has been an active part of the Alpha Kappa Alumni Foundation (AKAF) – a charitable organization focused on aiding collegiate brothers in the Alpha Kappa chapter. As of this year, David has taken on a new role as a Professional Representative in the National Fraternity.

David's current work with the fraternity is multifaceted. He served as part of the Health and Safety Review Committee, which made suggestions to the Supreme Council regarding the Health and Safety Policy. Additionally, he has provided guidance to Collegiate Chapters and collaborated with professional brothers to form a new Central Virginia Professional Group. He is still active with the AKAF which, along with the Central Virginia Professional Group, sponsored a multi-chapter campout in April and organized a Professional Induction Ceremony for brothers entering the Professional Branch. In the future, David hopes to offer multi-chapter Professional Induction Ceremonies and to continue efforts to engage professional members in the mid-Atlantic states.

Dates & Events



Important Dates

The National Website now has an embedded Google Calendar! You can see when chapters are having initiation, when the Supreme Council is meeting, and more! See the [calendar here](#), and to add items to the calendar, email national@alphachisigma.org.



March Double Bond Correction

The previous edition of the Double Bond highlighted Dr. Amrie Grammer who initiated at Alpha Kappa in 1986 (*not* 1979) and founded the Alpha Kappa - Alpha Chi Sigma Advisory Group, later renamed to the Alpha Kappa Alumni Foundation, in 2014 (*not* 2009).

We Want to Hear from You!

What information would you like to see made available in the Double Bond. Let the GPA know at gpa@alphachisigma.org.



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