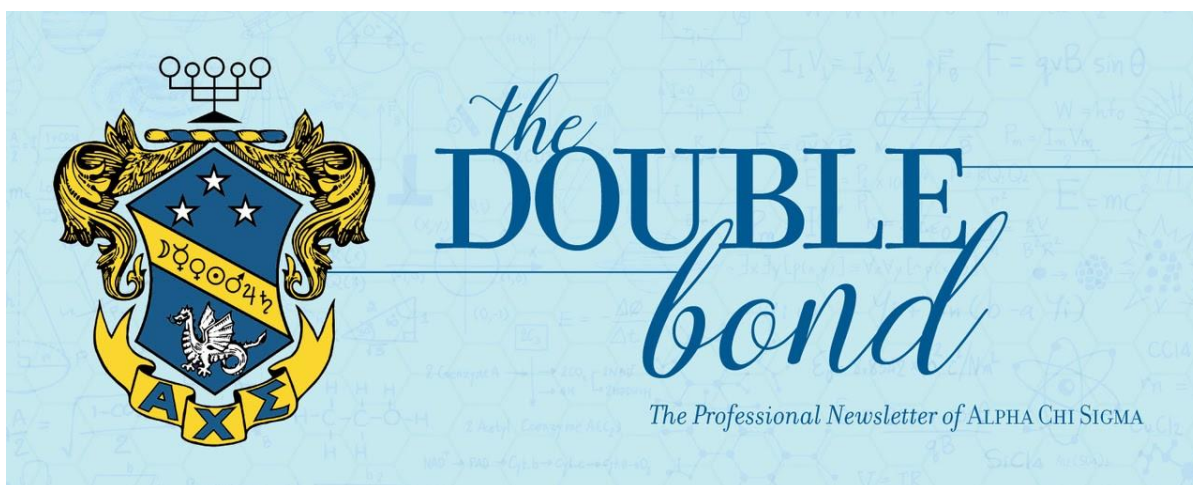




October 2025

From the Grand Professional Alchemist

If you have not visited AlphaChiSigma.org in a while, check us out. The website has been redesigned and it looks fabulous. There is a lot of information for Professional Members on the [Professional Members page](#) and the [Resources and Outreach page](#). Half-way through the Resources and Outreach page, don't forget to stop and complete the Wyvern Pin recognition form(s) for all activities you do that promote the 2nd Object. This includes, but is not limited to, chemical demonstrations in schools, participation in National Chemistry Week activities, participation in merit badge programs, and providing assistance to science fair participants.

Yours in the Double Bond,

GPA Faith Yarberry, Alpha Sigma, 1992



National Chemistry Week

National Chemistry Week, October 19th - 25th

The theme for this year's National Chemistry Week is "The Hidden Life of Spices." You can access various education resources including the NCW 2026 "Celebrating Chemistry" by going to <https://www.acs.org/education/national-chemistry-week/educational-resources.html>.

Are you planning an outreach event? Consider using spices as an indicator with the nice activity involving turmeric, baking soda, and rubbing alcohol found at <https://playofthewild.com/2020/05/10/turmeric-ph-indicator-experiment-for-acidsbases/>.

Would you like to paint with spices. A great activity can be found at <https://www.treehugger.com/diy-spice-painting-5086176>.

Or maybe you would like to develop a matching game that shows what chemical compound is in a spice. The information you need can be found at <https://www.compoundchem.com/2014/03/13/chemical-compounds-in-herbs-spices/>. I

f you do perform outreach for NCW 2025, please share photos and a short explanation by sending information to GPA@alphachisigma.org.

Whatever you do, just remember to make it fun and that Chemistry is CHEM IS TRY.

From the **PROFESSIONAL** *Branch*



Inquiry by the Professional Representatives and GPA:

The Professional Representatives will be building the Professional Development Opportunities they offer in the Spring of 2026 soon. What topics would you like us to provide? Email GPA@alphachisigma.org with your ideas.



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 Spencer Norman!

I am Spencer Norman, a Professional Representative currently serving in the United States Navy while stationed at Sandia National Laboratory. I was initiated at Beta Delta (MS&T) in 2011, where I served as alumni secretary. I graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry. I earned an MS in Explosives Engineering in 2016. My desire to help other Brothers led me to commission in the Navy in 2016.

Following the Conclave last summer, I was appointed to this PR term, following the elevation of the previous PRs to new national positions. I've enjoyed engaging with the collegiates about the professional branch and future opportunities in the fraternity.

My professional work has shifted from operations planning to supporting the nuclear deterrence mission as a civilian. Otherwise, I like working out, marksmanship, reading, and cooking.



Fraternal Memories from GH Mitch Levings:

The fraternity's only Fall Conclave began on Friday October 4, 1974 and concluded on Monday October 7. The 1974 Conclave was something of an experiment. Up to this point all Conclaves had been held in mid-to-late June. (Two exceptions were the 1918 Conclave that had to be delayed until December 1919 because of World War 1 and the 1970 Conclave that was pushed from June to August because of schedule conflicts at the University of Texas). Conclaves started out as three day events, typically running Thursday – Friday – Saturday. Gradually the length of Conclave expanded by moving the

starting day to Wednesday then Tuesday but leaving the ending day on Saturday. After the 1972 Conclave, the Supreme Council had become concerned that there were so many activities being packed into a Conclave that there wasn't time to accomplish all the items on the schedule and they feared attendance would drop if Conclave were to run more than five days. To address those concerns, the Council proposed a Conclave that would be split into two separate events, both short enough in duration they could be held over a weekend, and each dedicated to a single purpose. One Conclave was to deal with fraternity business and legislation, leaving Conclave Part II to hold the educational and informational components of Conclave. Conclaves spanning a weekend had been successfully executed in 1928, 1940 and 1942, so with that history in mind for 1974, plans were made for a weekend Conclave during the academic year instead of summer. The timing did seem to encourage more participation from Professional Chapters and enable more collegiate members to attend. With all 34 collegiate present and 8 of 9 Professional chapters represented (San Francisco was unable to send a delegate), newly elected GMA Ed Minnerly observed the new schedule was a great success and that in all probability future conclaves would follow the same format. The October Conclave was for the business end of Conclave. In addition to the usual legislative sessions, Model Initiation and Kuebler Award Banquet, the Conclave did hold one two-track workshop. Collegiate Chapters met in one room and Professional Chapters met in another. In the post event analysis the Conclave generally got good reviews and everyone was satisfied that Conclave Part I had achieved its purpose. However, Conclave Part II was never scheduled and it became apparent that splitting Conclave into two events wasn't a very effective use of time or fraternity funds so Conclaves returned to Summer, except that instead of scheduling Conclave at the beginning of summer break, Conclaves after 1974 were held near the end of the summer vacation, for six days, usually Tuesday through Sunday (In the 80s and 90s, airlines offered discount flights for travel on Sunday) in either August or July. Most recently, Conclave planning has had to become more flexible and somewhat creative as Covid 19 forced the entire 2020 Conclave to a virtual event and an outbreak of Covid 19 cut short the 2022 Conclave. The 2024 Conclave did run its full schedule, however a policy shift at the university winning the Conclave forced a venue change to an alternate university. Conclave – always a memorable event.



Professional Brother Spotlight

On October 23 (Mole Day) at 6pm, Keith Schuette (Beta Delta '74) will be giving a presentation entitled "Alchemy the Road to Modern Chemistry" at Missouri University of Science and Technology, hosted by Beta Delta. The presentation will be followed by a book signing for his book *Alchemical Matters*.

Do you have something exciting happening? Would you like to be recognized in our Member Spotlight? If so [complete this form](#).

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.



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