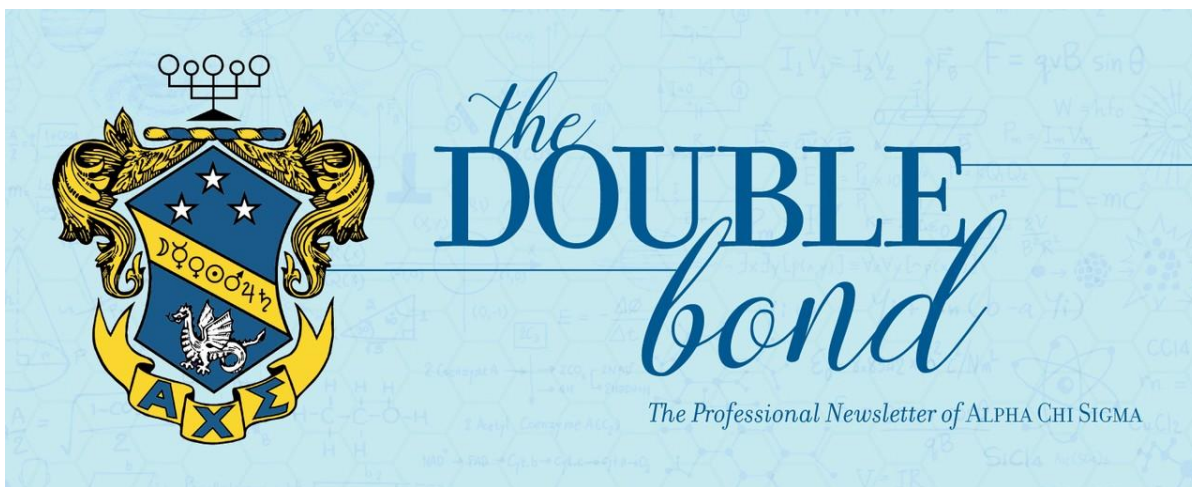




September 2026

Message from the Grand Professional Alchemist

In the next few weeks, we will be kicking off our annual fundraising campaign. Some of you may get something mailed to your home, and others will be receiving email messages. I am strongly encouraging each and every one of you to contribute what you can to our great organization.

Even though we operate on a lean budget, the Fraternity still faces financial struggles. Conclave costs & reimbursements, New Member Assistance Fund dollars, programming, financial support for employees, etc all come out of the Fraternity's operating budget.

Collegiate members currently shoulder 85% of our operating budget. These are individuals that are attending college, likely working part time jobs, and are expecting to earn good grades so that they can obtain well paying jobs upon graduation. Now, I realize that we, as Professional Members, also have commitments and financial burdens, but, we cannot continue to let our collegiate members carry so much of the financial burden.

Keep in mind that your annual donation determines whether you are considered an "active" professional member or an "inactive" professional member. One of the benefits of being an active member is the right to vote in upcoming Professional Representatives elections. To be considered "active", you need to donate \$150 (\$75 for new Professional Members and retirees) in our fundraising cycle (September August).

Yours in the Double Bond,

Faith Yarberry, Grand Professional Alchemist

From the **PROFESSIONAL** *Branch*



Opportunities for Connecting at National Meetings, Regional Meetings, and District Conclaves:

2026 AIChE Annual Meeting

Will you be attending the AIChE Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, November 8th-12th? The contact for this conference is Katherine Ellis. Please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/ZKKSf7xvMM8dHZJp8>. There will be several ways to connect. First, there will be a GroupMe to help everyone stay connected. Second, we have buttons to distribute to aid in recognizing one another. Third, if you are presenting, we would like for you to provide that information so that we can spread the word. Finally, are you interested in a Social Hour? If you join the GroupMe and if enough individuals are interested, we will get something scheduled.

2026 S-STEM Scholars and PI Meeting

Will you be attending the 2026 S-STEM Scholars and PI Meeting in Washington, D.C., October 9th - 11th? The contact for this conference is Faith Yarberry. Please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/MN4n1nrW2S3PftDS8>. There will be several ways to connect. First, there will be a group text to help everyone stay connected. Second, we have buttons to distribute to aid in recognizing one another. Third, if you are presenting, we would like for you to provide that information so that we can spread the word. Finally, are you interested in a Social Hour? If so, it will be from 6:00-9:00 pm on October 10th with Brothers from the Washington Pro Chapter. Additional information about the social will be given through the group text.

Will you be attending a professional meeting not previously listed? If so, contact the GPA@alphachisigma.org and let's set up a program similar to that above for your professional meeting.



Online Social Hour

The sixth Online Professional Group meeting (Social Hour) is scheduled for September 16, 2026, at 7:00 Central Time. You can register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dcRnslg1QlubKimLBllbEw>. We will be playing cards and socializing. I hope to see you there.



Walter Stuntz Ritchie

There's a masonic tradition known as "going through the chairs". To go through the chairs, a mason would start by holding the office of Junior Warden and progress, in order,

through the other offices before becoming the lodge's Worshipful Master. Many Alpha Chi Sigma Brothers hold to the belief that the fraternity has a similar custom of its leaders spending a biennium in each of the Vice President offices before becoming GMA. While it's true that many of the OA have followed such a path it's far more common that GMAs are elected with multiple terms in one office and may not have held all the Vice President offices before becoming GMA. The only consistent feature is that every GMA since Frank Petura was elected the first GMA in 1904, is that every subsequent GMA has served at least one biennium on the Supreme Council before being elected GMA. The longest serving elected member of the Supreme Council was Walter S. Ritchie who was elected GMC five times and GCA twice before being elected GMA for the 1940 -42 Biennium. Granted, John R. Kuebler served as Grand Recorder for 34 years, but GR is an appointed position where Walter Ritchie was elected to 26 years of service. In addition to his Supreme Council service, in 1934, the fraternity's first Grand Historian, Harry Curtis resigned the post after 12 years. Ritchie took on the Historian duties during his fourth term as GMC and continued as the Grand Historian for 24 years. Ritchie is best known within the fraternity as the officer responsible for developing the first pledge manual.

In addition to his dedication to Alpha Chi Sigma, Ritchie was well known outside the fraternity. Despite having a daughter and no son, he was highly active with the Boy Scouts earning the highly prestigious Silver Beaver Award. He was an active Rotarian and involved with many civic, church and charitable activities. Academically, he got his bachelors degree at Ohio State, where he was initiated by Lambda chapter in 1914. He then moved to the University of Missouri where he obtained his masters and PhD while being active with Delta Chapter. After graduation, he stayed on as a faculty member. While at Missouri, his research led to advances in agricultural chemistry and animal nutrition. Typical of his many publications were, "Nutritional requirements of rabbits and guinea pigs".

These works place him squarely within the early scientific movement to quantify the chemical composition of meat, understand nutrient storage, and establish dietary standards for both livestock and laboratory animals. His research contributed to the foundational knowledge used in modern animal science, feed formulation, and meat-quality evaluation. He went on to join the Department of Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Walter Stuntz Ritchie was unquestionably one of the Founders and Builders of Alpha Chi Sigma.



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National Chemistry Week 2026 and ACS Outreach

The theme for National Chemistry Week 2026 is “Chemistry Under Construction.” If you are a member of the American Chemical Society, you can access a digital copy of “Celebrating Chemistry” which is a magazine written for 4th - 6th graders by going to <https://www.acs.org/education/celebrating-chemistry-editions.html>. In Celebrating Chemistry you will find hands-on activities that can be performed during outreach events such as “Magic Foam Building,” “Using Candy to Learn about Material Fractures,” and “Metal Makeover: A Patina Adventure.” In addition to “Celebrating Chemistry,” which can be purchased for distribution, there are also additional free educational resources that include lesson plans and labs for all age levels.

National Chemistry Week is just one of the resources found at <https://www.acs.org/education/outreach.html>. Other resources include an Outreach Training Program that can result in a certificate upon completion and Hands-On Activities that have been designed for a variety of settings from hands-on activities to stage presentations. Check out the resources and if you have questions or need any assistance, please reach out to GPA@alphachisigma.org.

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 the National Office](#). We would love for Professional Groups and Chapters to let us know when you are meeting so that we can help you advertise.



From The Editor

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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