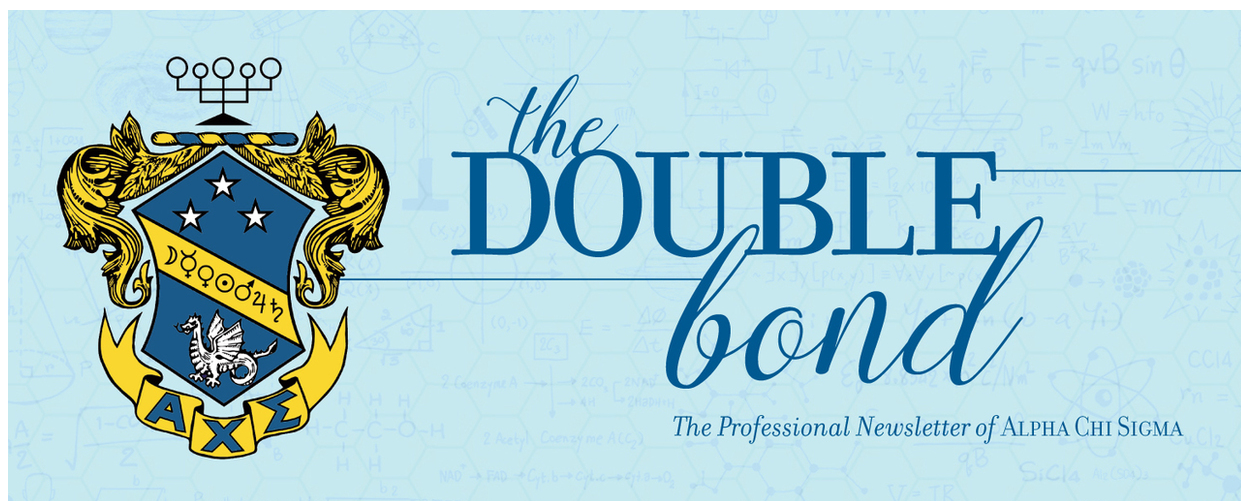




The Double Bond: The Professional Newsletter of Alpha Chi Sigma



A Message from the Grand Professional Alchemist

One of the goals I set for myself as GPA was to meet with each Professional Chapter and Professional Group to brainstorm ways to help strengthen your chapter or group and determine how I, the SC, and the National Office might assist in this effort.

Additionally, I would appreciate input on ideas that the Professional Representatives might provide, that would be of interest to your chapter or group. Please sign up for a time to meet by Registering for an [evening](#) appointment. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours in the Double Bond,
GPA Faith Yarberry
Alpha Sigma, 1992



From the Grand Historian

Fraternal Memories from Mitch Levings, GH

The Collegiate Branch of Alpha Chi Sigma expands in various ways, usually by helping set up an organization at a university and guiding it through the process of growing and petitioning to become a chapter. Sometimes, particularly in the fraternity's earlier days, a new chapter was chartered by absorbing an established local chemistry club. Which is how North Carolina's Chi Eta Mu became Rho Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma. In 1902, while Alpha Chi Sigma was getting started at Wisconsin, at North Carolina a group of chemistry students and professors calling themselves the Journal Club would meet alternately at the homes of Professors Baskerville and Wheeler. After a scientific program, smokes were lighted and golden hours spent in good fellowship. In 1904, Professor Baskerville left the North Carolina, the department moved into new laboratories and as the number of chemistry students increased, the Journal Club became less social, meeting now in the chemistry building and limiting its program to discussion of chemical topics. In 1906, a group of chemistry students, missing the social aspects no longer provided by the Journal Club, agreed to gather once a month for an informal smoker. The meetings of this group, calling itself The Casserole Club, were held in a shack which had some years before housed the dogs used for pathological study by the Medical Department known as "Dr. Dolly's Dog House." When school opened in the autumn of 1908, a small number of students reorganized The Casserole Club as the Order of Khems, drawing up a Constitution, By-Laws, an initiation ritual and adopting insignia. One of the early initiates was future Alpha Chi Sigma GMA Stroud Jordan. In 1909 Jordan was at M.I.T. and made attempts to interest some of the graduate students there in a chapter of the Order of Khems. Merle Randall of Alpha Chi Sigma's Delta chapter was also at M.I.T. at this time, and was trying to stir up interest in establishing a chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma. Neither fraternity got an M.I.T chapter at that time, but the fraternities became aware of each other. Back at North Carolina, the Order of Khems had decided to reorganize as Chi Eta Mu and expand into the southern schools as a national chemical fraternity. The leader of this movement was W. L. Jeffries who had entered North Carolina as a graduate student in 1909. Alpha Chi Sigma was rapidly expanding at several

universities while Chi Eta Mu failed to gain a second chapter. At an American Chemical Society in late 1911, J. H. Mathews entered into negotiations with NC Professor Herty and V. A. Coulter for transitioning Chi Eta Mu into an Alpha Chi Sigma chapter. Most of the negotiations revolved around fees and membership status of Chi Eta Mu alumni. On March 25, 1912, terms were finally reached that both parties could accept, and a petition was submitted. Alpha Chi Sigma had already planned to install a chapter at Syracuse, designated Pi Chapter. The Syracuse petition and installation was already processed and planned when the North Carolina negotiations concluded, but the way the schedule worked out, Rho's installation occurred 5 days ahead Pi's, which is how chapter 18 wound up installed before chapter 17. Part of the agreement with Chi Eta Mu was that their alumni members would be grandfathered in as Alpha Chi Sigma alumni (after going through an Alpha Chi Sigma initiation ceremony). This gave us not only GMA Stroud Jordan, but W. L. Jeffries who would serve as Grand Editor of THE HEXAGON and on the Supreme Council as Grand Alumnus.



Professional Brother Spotlight

Dr. Amrie Grammer (AK '79) is a scientist-entrepreneur who has successfully translated her discoveries in genomics, explainable predictive AI and human autoimmune disease into a precision medicine business with practical solutions for patients. This year her company AMPEL BioSolutions launched a blood test to predict flares and abnormal drug targets for Lupus patients that is being highlighted by the [Lupus Foundation of America](#) and business organizations

alike. Following her UTSW Med Ctr '96 PhD and post-doc in Immunology focused on understanding abnormalities in the immune system that lead to immunodeficiencies, autoimmunity or both, Dr. Grammer was recruited to the National Institutes of Health

just as the Human Genome Project was beginning in the 2000s. Amrie's work uniquely synergizing her understanding of Chemistry (UVA BS '89) and Pharmacology (UVA MS '91) with a focus on Lupus was recognized by several NIH awards including the prestigious NIH Director's Award. This work was the intellectual seed from which she chose to found and grow her company in Virginia.

Dr. Grammer's impact on scientific advancement and academic excellence extends far beyond her work at AMPEL. Dr. Grammer's focus on mentorship and career development began in her undergraduate years at the University of Virginia where she was a leader in Chemistry both in the department and through the Alpha Kappa chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma. During her tenure at the NIH, Dr. Grammer was recognized by several organizations for her mentoring work including the NIH National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, American Association of Immunologists, and the University of Virginia where she currently serves on the President's Arts Council and Fralin Art Museum board. In 2009, Dr. Grammer co-founded the Alpha Kappa Alumni-Collegiate Advisory Group that provides professional enrichment opportunities for collegiates at UVA as well as promote collegiate-professional camaraderie. She served as chair and president of the Advisory Group until 2019 and remains a valued advisor as president emeritus. Dr. Grammer's career is highlighted by excellence at every turn, and through her mentoring and outreach, she has molded the next generation of scientists to follow in her footsteps.

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 Eric Puhlmann!

P.R. Eric Puhlmann holds a Master's Degree in Chemistry from the University of Missouri - St. Louis and studied Chemistry / Biochemistry at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) where he was initiated into the Delta Delta chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma in 2017. He currently works at ThermoFisher as an Analytical Biochemist conducting Quality Control (QC) analysis of biologically derived pharmaceuticals. Eric

has about 5 years of experience as an industrial biochemist working at ThermoFisher, DynaLabs LLC, and Avantor (previously VWR). He was elected as a Professional Representative for Alpha Chi Sigma in 2022. As a Professional Representative, he enjoys having career-driven discussions with collegiate members seeking to pursue a role in industry. Eric wants to see Alpha Chi Sigma reach a larger audience, particularly in economically challenged regions. As a Pell Grant recipient, he's seen the impact education can have on raising individuals out of poverty. "Alpha Chi Sigma plays a role in this by fostering an environment where non-traditional students can find a community of like-minded individuals to facilitate success." Outside of his fraternal endeavors, Eric is actively pursuing a career in acting, modeling, voiceover work, and audiobook creation.



Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award (Deadline March 28, 2025)

In July 1913, Alpha Chi Sigma initiated a scholarship recognition program "To emphasize the belief that to encourage scholarship is one way to strive for the advancement of chemistry." The award consists of a \$2,500 prize, a gold scholarship key, and an inscribed certificate. The biography of the recipient also is featured in the awards issue of *The Hexagon*. This award is administered by the Alpha Chi Sigma Educational Foundation.

Eligibility: A nominee for the Alpha Chi Sigma Scholar Award must have been a member of Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity for one year and be enrolled in an institution of higher learning at the time of nomination. Undergraduate nominees must have completed their junior year at the time of nomination. Graduate nominees may be nominated based upon both their undergraduate and graduate records upon the completion of their first year of graduate study. Graduate students also may be nominated, based upon their graduate records alone, after admission to candidacy for the terminal degree in the field of graduate study.

Go to <https://foundation.alphachisigma.org/awards-loans/scholar> for more information.
Applications should be submitted to national@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 national@alphachisigma.org.

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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