

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the
GRAND MASTER
OF CEREMONIES



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2023 Annual Report

This calendar year has been a very busy one for me, fraternally, personally, and professionally. I've made a change in my field as – after 17 years of teaching at the high school level – I had an opportunity to move to a new setting and so far, I've greatly enjoyed my new position as an Assistant Professor at Tallahassee Community College. My oldest child graduated from high school and enrolled at Florida State University where she plans to rush the Gamma Beta chapter this spring. The Grand Master of Ceremonies has a lot of small pieces to keep track of, but this year there were also several major projects that I addressed. Some of the minor items include updating the Wyvern Pin program to eliminate a requirement that all outreach events be done in a specific period and working with the Scholar Committee to ensure that they had great candidates to choose from for this year's award.

We started this year with the installation of the Delta Sigma chapter at High Point University. Previously scheduled for Fall 2022, the path of Hurricane Ian brought enough winds and rain to the High Point area that the university cancelled all events for the weekend. This shift in date allowed for a few more attendees. The chapter gave the gathered brothers a tour of their building and the High Point Campus on Saturday morning, January 28, then an installation banquet was held that evening at the school's Webb Conference Center. Prior to the ceremony, the brothers shared dinner from Chipotle. Not only did we install the new chapter, but GV Kip Nalley finally received his ring and was officially sworn into the Order of Altotus. That event had been one of the many parts of the 2022 Biennial Conclave that had been unable to occur due to peoples' illnesses with COVID-19.

After consultation with the Ritual Committee and the rest of the Supreme Council, the Grand Health and Safety Officer and I sent out several important ritual updates in March 2022. These changes were made to address changing hazing regulations around the country while maintaining the spirit, message, and effect of our sacred rituals. All changes were made to protect the health and safety of our newest members while ensuring our chapters stayed within the guidelines of their college or university. In addition, this summer at the SC meeting, we concluded that the virtual form of the ritual had served its purpose and should no longer be used by chapters to initiate its members. It will be kept on file should we need it again in the future, but that will only occur upon the direction of the SC.

Over the summer, I made minor updates to the Sourcebook and worked with PR Lib Morgan to update the Fraternity Canon. We have found that the Canon – a document provided by the National Office to guide our pledge education process – has been greatly underutilized by chapters. Many chapters have relied on a curriculum that has been passed from one year to the next and have struggled to have the appropriate focus when preparing their pledges for membership. Our hope is that these updates will help create members with a stronger foundational knowledge of the Fraternity and stronger ties to their brothers both on-campus and around the nation.

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One of the responsibilities of the GMC is to maintain the Fraternity's copyright and trademarks. The main task to that end is reviewing applications from chapters for items that they've wanted to sell or distribute. My predecessors warned me that this would provide a lot of temptation to buy these items myself, but thankfully I only made one purchase this year. I streamlined the process somewhat – which helps chapters with a faster turnaround and keeping an organized record of what chapters made which items.

In November, I visited the Gamma Upsilon chapter at Duquesne University as they prepared for the model initiation at our upcoming biennial conclave. I was impressed at the effort they put in and their preparation for their ceremonies. I was happy to give them a great deal of advice on how to improve their performance of the ritual. Unfortunately, the change in conclave venue means that I won't be seeing their progress in person, but it's always a privilege to be able to help a chapter make their initiation even better.

This spring, I will be working with more chapters on their initiation ceremonies as well as preparations for when we come together again this summer in Champaign-Urbana for the 57th Biennial Conclave at the University of Illinois.

Yours in the Double Bond,

Matt Schnippert