

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional in the Chemical Sciences

Office of the
GRAND MASTER ALCHEMIST



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January 16, 2025

It has been an honor to work with this biennium's Supreme Council and Grand Chapter officers. I encourage you to read their reports, as they contain a lot of good information.

Activities

Several new committees were created through legislation at Conclave. Therefore, one of my first tasks as Grand Master Alchemist was to appoint brothers to these new committees. To assist me, and future GMAs with the task of making committee appointments, I created a new position: the Volunteer Coordinator. Oliver Penrose has stepped into and developed this role. Without his help, it would have been impossible to fill so many committees so quickly so that they could start working on their tasks.

By the way, we are always looking for more volunteers for committees and other positions within the fraternity. Any interested brother can reach out to volunteers@alphachisigma.org to volunteer. We have openings for both collegiate and professional brothers, and we would love to increase the number of brothers who are working with the fraternity at the national level.

Other activities relate to a promise I made at Conclave: to visit (or at least attempt to visit) all of the chapters during my biennium as Grand Master Alchemist. Thus far, I have visited with four chapters (two virtually, two in person) and have made plans for more in the spring. It has been wonderful to interact with and hear from many brothers, collegiate and professional, and I look forward to interacting with additional chapters in the near future.

Finances

In general, the Fraternity is financially fairly steady, though we could offer additional services with additional funds – this is likely the wish of all organizations. Our solicitation this year brought in an average amount, declining a bit from the recent higher pandemic-era donations. Our pledge and initiate numbers have increased compared to our pandemic lows, but have leveled off a bit. As these are the two major sources of income for our Fraternity, finding ways to increase both of these would be ideal.

This year will be bit more expensive than a typical non-Conclave year, as we are planning to update and replace our current database and website. Additional details can be found in the GR report, so they will not be included here. This is an improvement for our Fraternity, and should improve how we do things, while costing the same or less than our current website and database.

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Conclave

Conclave is one of the most significant opportunities for us to build brother-to-brother networks and to carry out important tasks to keep the Fraternity moving forward. What we have done in the past was good, but our Fraternity and our Brothers change with time, and Conclave should, too. We are actively discussing what Conclave should look like and how much it costs. Hopefully, through some innovative ideas of our brothers, we can have a new model that works better for us. Most importantly, we would like to be able to make Conclave more accessible so that all brothers who wish to attend are able to participate.

Conclusion

It has been a delight to serve the Fraternity as the Grand Master Alchemist for these past several months, and I look forward to the rest of the biennium. I especially look forward to interacting with more Brothers as I continue in this role. If any of you have recommendations about how the Fraternity can serve you better in the future, please let me know! Email me at gma@alphachisigma.org or contact another member of the Supreme Council. If your chapter has a special event or a particular date on which they would like me to visit (usually via Zoom), I would like to know that, as well. Finally, once again, I invite any Brothers interested in serving on a committee or volunteering in any capacity to contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alphachisigma.org. We can work together to improve the future for the Fraternity and our Brothers.

Yours in the Double Bond,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merryn Cole".

Dr. Merryn Cole, Alpha Theta 2003
Grand Master Alchemist
Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity