

Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity

Professional In the Chemical Sciences

Office of the
GRAND COLLEGIATE
ALCHEMIST



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2025 Annual Report Grand Collegiate Alchemist

As I look back at 2025, I realize that I've spent more time than usual on the tasks that tend to go unmentioned. Whether it's been helping chapters learn to handle inter-personal conflicts, guiding them through the process of meeting their schools' ever-changing requirements for student organizations, or helping them navigate the inevitable emergencies that come up without warning, most of the SC's energy ends up being spent invisibly as we try to keep up with the chaos. My hope is for 2026 to bring opportunities to focus more on some of the tasks and projects I hope to accomplish by this summer's biennial conclave.

Expansion

At the request of the chapter, we deactivated the Delta Delta chapter this year, but the faculty there have begun work towards rebuilding from scratch. They are now the "Delta Delta Collegiate Group of Beta Psi at Southeast Missouri State University" and have a class of students ready to start this spring. This was their original parent chapter and I'm excited to see things come back.

Kettering University has a very unique schedule where there are basically two sets of students. When the Delta Mu chapter was established, there was a group in each session, but with some university-based changes, one of the sessions went inactive. Now, they're working on bringing that group back. While it's not a separate chapter, they'll still need support in much the same way as any other expansion effort.

Things didn't pan out for the group at St. Johns University, and efforts there have ended. There was, however, some success at Slippery Rock University in Northwest Pennsylvania. The first class of students has been initiated there (along with a faculty advisor) and the "Collegiate Group of Gamma Upsilon at Slippery Rock University" is now working on a spring class. The "Beta Kappa Collegiate Group of Delta Iota at the University of Delaware" is doing well and continues to initiate new members. Grand Master Alchemist Cole and I are working together to streamline the process for establishing and reactivating chapters, my hope is to have all three groups become chapters or be very close by the end of this year.

Star Chapter Awards & Paperwork Updates

As a result of the work of the committee created at Conclave 2024, the Star Chapter award has been updated for the 2025-26 school year to include a 'Two Star' award in between the One Star and Three Star awards. Chapters were informed about updated requirements and new options for chapters to obtain the recognition. In addition, the visit reports that professional officers complete at chapter visits were updated so that they could provide clearer and more complete feedback to the chapters. This was done alongside an update to the District Counselor Guidebook and Manual of Procedure in hopes to provide better training and guidance for our volunteers – especially when there's turnover in the role

Summer SC/DC Meeting

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This summer, the SC invited the District Counselors to our summer meeting for training. Most of them were able to join us and I think it was a very successful event. We discussed the updates to the Health and Safety Policy and talked about how best to teach the students about it. We also addressed updates to the Star Chapter Awards among other topics to help the DCs serve their chapters. I went over the updated Guidebook and Manual of Procedure and worked with the DCs to help them go into the new school year confident in their ability to meet their chapters' needs.

Personnel Changes

With both the Alpha Epsilon and Delta Delta chapters being deactivated this biennium, the Gateway District was down to only one collegiate and one professional chapter. As a result, the Beta Psi chapter was moved to the North Central District and the St. Louis Professional chapter was moved to the Central district. With that, the Gateway District was eliminated. As chapters grow and change and we consider the availability of our volunteers, we often adjust our districts as we change biennia, but this is the first time in a while that we've made a change in the middle. We thank Brother Natalee von Keyserling for her service to her chapters while she worked as Gateway District Counselor. In addition, we thank Erin Lewis who retired as Central Coast District Counselor this fall after serving for several biennia in that role. This fall, Calvin Bond has taken over the position. He's previously served as both a PR and a DC. He is excited to work with new chapters in a new area and we're happy to have him back on the east coast.

Chapter Improvement Plans and Probations

We've found varied progress this year from our work with chapters on Chapter Improvement Plans (ChIPs). This status started in late 2024 in response to a request from the Grand Chapter that we investigate a more nuanced process for chapters who are in need of additional support. One chapter was able to complete their activities quickly while others aren't quite done yet. As we reflect on how it's worked, I suspect that we'll make some more changes before the next biennium and maybe find something that can be a lasting part of the toolbox for the SC and District Counselors as they seek to help our chapters grow. I want to applaud the chapters going through these processes as they all have put in significant work to improve their chapter and several of them have been able to make great strides in building a strong connection with their district counselor and making important structural improvements to their chapter.

District Conclaves

In 2025, we saw continued progress towards more district conclaves, but we still need to work here. The COVID pandemic interrupted this program, and since resuming, these still haven't found the momentum we lost. They are one of the biggest ways that we see chapters interacting with each other and connecting collegiate members with the broader fraternity beyond their campus. I'd love to find a way to help encourage growth in this area, but so far, everything we've tried has had limited success.

Travel and Visiting Chapters

This year, along with attending the Winter SC meeting at UNLV and the Summer SC/DC meeting in Indianapolis, I've had the opportunity to visit with some chapters this year. I was able to attend

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both initiations at Gamma Beta (here in Tallahassee) and the fall initiation at Beta Iota (at the University of Florida in Gainesville). I also met with Gamma Beta students after the tragic shooting on their campus this spring. I met with the Gamma Upsilon students as they prepared to serve as a parent chapter for our group at Slippery Rock. I invited collegiate members to join me for some listening sessions this fall but didn't get any attendees. I was hoping to hear from the collegiate members about what they'd like to see from the Fraternity, but I'll try something new in the spring. I really want to hear what the students want to see from the organization as a whole.

Goals for Spring 2026

As this summer's biennial conclave rapidly approaches, there are several things I'd like to accomplish during the spring semester. I'd like to meet with as many chapters as possible to understand their needs and ideas for the future of the fraternity. I'd also like to finish with my work on updating the officer training materials and guidance we have available for our collegiate chapters. I also want to invite the chapters directly to attend biennial conclave in hopes of having more collegiates in attendance. I know that many chapters don't know much about what happens at Conclave beyond that they're required to send a delegate. When delegates attend, they make connections with other students around the country and many of them come back to conclave again in the future. My hope is that by helping them better know what to expect, then we can get more of them to come, and chapters will establish new traditions of attending conclave.

In closing, 2025 has been an extremely busy year and there's a lot of work to do this spring as we wrap up the 57th biennium. I want to thank my DCs and their District Committees for their dedication and patience. I am grateful for having the opportunity to serve the Fraternity in this way and I hope to see many of you at Conclave this summer.

Yours in the Double Bond,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Schnippert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Schnippert, *Gamma Beta '03*
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