

# The Chrome and Blue

## of Alpha Chi Sigma

### The End of an Era

By Patrick Johanns, Alpha Theta 1981, Grand Recorder

**O**n Feb. 28, I leaned back in my chair after signing the final documents that transferred ownership of the James F. Miller National Headquarters Building at 2141 N. Franklin Road to a woman who will run a home healthcare business from the location. It had been the Fraternity's national headquarters for more than 30 years, but it was bigger than our current needs, the neighborhood was declining and costs were increasing.

After suffering two thefts of the building's air conditioners and the county clerk's office billing us for property taxes for the first time, we began assessing the cost of relocating in 2011. The numbers showed that if we could relocate into a smaller property, we could save the Fraternity a few thousand dollars a year.

For about a year, not much happened. Our real estate agent was unable to identify a suitable property in a better neighborhood. Then in August

2013, we found a property that would work. It previously was a dentist's office. It was on the very small end of the size we thought would work,



Last month, the Fraternity sold the former National Office headquarters building, completing the process of moving the staff to a new location.

but it was in a good neighborhood and it would be easy to renovate to give it a modern and efficient layout.

The staff performed heroically sorting, boxing and labeling things for moving to the new office, moving to climate

controlled storage or to be sold. We had to consult with our architect to determine the new layout. Carpet, lights, furniture and wall colors were

The old building took a while to sell, but that all finally came to fruition and we started this month without the burden of an oversized building in need of constant maintenance and security.

The whole process was a reminder to me that change is sometimes tough and the uncertainty can be stressful but focusing on why change is necessary and the desired outcome can bring tremendous improvement. That reminds me that I need to keep up the efforts to improve my diet and overall health.

If you see needs within our Fraternity or a better future if we institute some changes, let me know. Conclave is coming up at the end of July and [if you give me your ideas as soon as possible](#), I can distribute them to the Grand Chapter for discussion and consideration before Conclave.

#### Editor

Patrick J. Johanns, Alpha Theta 1981  
Grand Recorder  
[gr@alphachisigma.org](mailto:gr@alphachisigma.org)

#### Associate Editor

Teresa Clark  
Member Services Manager  
[teresa@alphachisigma.org](mailto:teresa@alphachisigma.org)

#### Alpha Chi Sigma By the Numbers:

More than 67,000 members  
52 collegiate chapters  
3 collegiate colonies  
9 professional chapters  
9 professional groups

Here's the latest news about the 52nd Biennial Conclave.

### Registration

Registration is open! Find the [non-delegate registration form online](#). Delegates will receive registration information after their chapters submit the Notice of Delegate Election Form.

### Supreme Council candidates

One important function of Conclave is electing Grand Chapter officers. The Nominations Committee has submitted a list of Supreme Council nominees. The following Brothers are candidates for the Supreme Council election at Conclave:

#### Grand Master Alchemist

- Mark N. Evaniak, Beta Sigma 1980 (current Grand Professional Alchemist)

#### Grand Professional Alchemist

- Jonathan E. Wenzel, Delta 1996 (current Grand Master of Ceremonies)

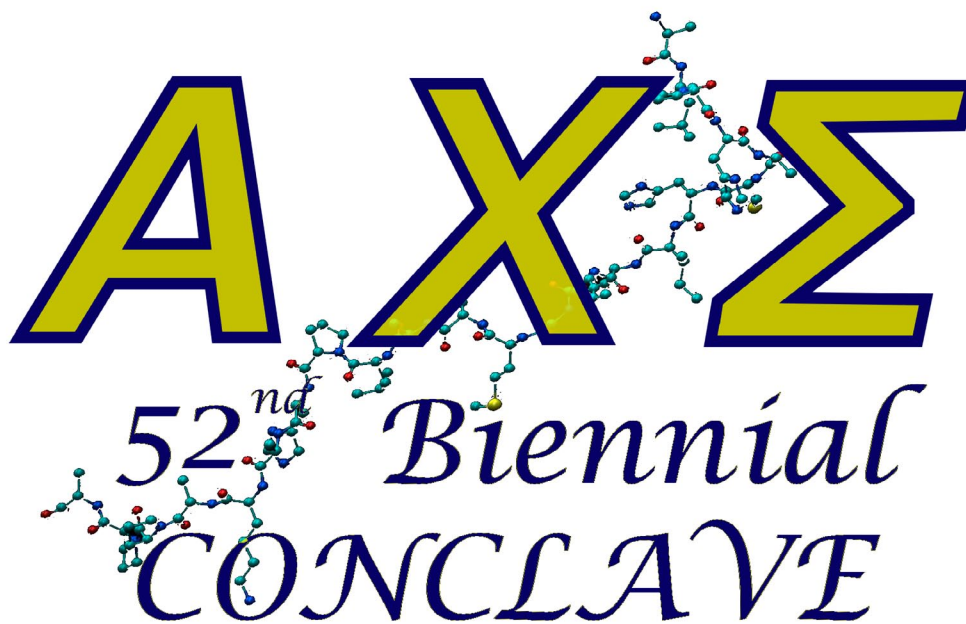
#### Grand Collegiate Alchemist

- Helen M.M. Webster, Alpha Rho 1994 (current Grand Collegiate Alchemist)

#### Grand Master of Ceremonies

- Calvin A. Bond, Alpha Rho 1986 (current Northwestern District Counselor)
- Kip A. Nalley, Alpha Sigma 1990 (current president of Washington, D.C. Professional Chapter)

[A biography and statement for each candidate are available online](#) and will appear in the April issue of *The Chrome and Blue*.



Hosted By AK . Charlottesville, VA . July 27th - August 1st

### Supreme Council nomination procedure

In addition to receiving nominations from the Nominations Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws allow for Grand Chapter members to nominate candidates prior to Conclave. Here is the process we will follow for nominations prior to Conclave:

1. The Nominator and Secunder will notify the Grand Recorder in writing of their nomination of a Supreme Council candidate.
2. Within three days of receipt of a nomination and seconding, the Grand Recorder will determine if the nominee is an active professional member and will contact the nominee to determine if he or she accepts the nomination.
3. Nominees whose nominations are received and accepted before Conclave will be invited to submit their vita and statement of views to be posted on the website and available to members of the Grand Chapter at Conclave.

4. Nominations from the Grand Chapter received and accepted before March 30 will be invited to submit their vita and statement of views to be included in the April issue of *The Chrome and Blue*, which also will include the nominees from the Nominations Committee.

Nominations also will be accepted from the floor at Conclave.

### Delegate elections

An official Call to Conclave and a Notice of Delegate Election Form has been sent to all collegiate chapters, professional chapters and colonies. The Delegate Election Form is due to the National Office by April 14.

### Legislation

Conclave sessions run more smoothly and accomplish more if there is legislation in the hopper before Conclave starts. This gives delegates time to research the issues and seek input from their Brothers.

If you intend to make a resolution or amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws, contact [Grand Recorder Patrick Johanns](#) by April 24.

### Important deadlines

- April 14 – Notice of Conclave Delegate Election Form due to the [National Office](#).
- April 24 – Legislation due to the Grand Recorder.
- May 1 – District counselor recommendations due to the Grand Collegiate Alchemist.
- May 16 – Conclave registration fees increase.
- June 12 – Deadline to register for Conclave.
- June 12 – Flight itineraries due to the National Office.
- June 13 – Conclave registration fees increase.
- June 15 – Star Chapter items due to the National Office.

### More information

Find the latest news and information in the [Conclave section](#) of the national website.

# Seeking dedicated professional Brothers to serve the fraternity



Are you interested in being a district counselor?

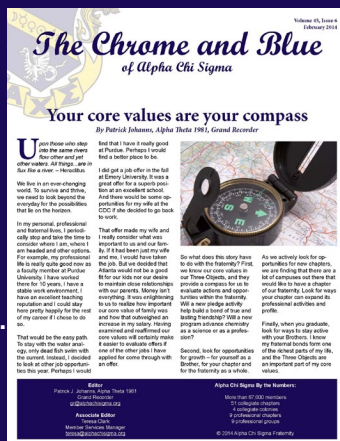
The fraternity has enjoyed so much expansion throughout the country recently that we need to create more districts. This means we may have some openings for district counselors.

If you're interested in becoming a district counselor, contact [Grand Collegiate Alchemist Helen Webster](#) or [Grand Master Alchemist Randy Weinstein](#).

## In the last issue

Check out the [February issue](#) to read about:

- Your core values are your compass
- Are we treating our pledges as equals?
- Apply for a Mathews loan. The rate listed in this issue was incorrect. The correct rate is 3.86%.



Knock, knock.  
Who's there?  
Woo.  
Woo who?

That's the sound of Alpha Chi Sigma members saving even more money with their special discount from GEICO.

Tell us you're a member.  
**GEICO**

[geico.com/greek/alphachisigma](http://geico.com/greek/alphachisigma)  
1-800-368-2734 | Local Office



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. See [geico.com](http://geico.com) for more details. GEICO and Affiliates. Washington DC 20076. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2014. © 2014 GEICO.

# Don't lose your tax-exempt status



College and professional chapters whose gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less are required to file annually an electronic Form 990-N with the IRS.

The form is easy to complete. All you need is the following information about your organization:

- Employer identification number (EIN)
- Tax year
- Legal name and mailing address

- Any other names the organization uses
- Name and address of a principal officer (chapter advisor)
- Website address, if the organization has one
- Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less
- If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business)

[Get more information from the IRS.](#)

The National Office e-mailed instructions to chapter treasurers on March 13. If you have any questions, contact the [National Office](#).

The e-postcard is due each year by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your tax year. For Alpha Chi Sigma, our tax year ends on Dec. 31, so your e-postcard is due by May 15 each year.

Don't put Alpha Chi Sigma's or your chapter's tax-exempt status in jeopardy!

# Collegiate chapter reminders

## Member registers

The National Office will e-mail the collegiate chapter member registers the week of March 31.

The registers will be e-mailed to reporters and master alchemists. Please review your chapter's register carefully and send any additions or corrections to the [National Office](#) by June 15.

## Professional Branch Induction

Professional Branch Induction (PBI) transfers a member from the collegiate branch to the professional branch.

Collegiate chapters should send their [PBI forms](#) to the [National Office](#), even if you don't have a Professional Induction Ceremony.

## Annual reports

Do not wait until May or June to submit your chapter reports. The [officer list](#), [CRR I form](#), [chapter plan and audit](#) can be submitted when completed.

## Take note – All reports due June 15!

Due to Conclave, Grand Master Alchemist Randy Weinstein has changed the due date for all collegiate reports to June 15. If you have any questions, contact the [National Office](#).



# Alcohol awareness training: Learning from other chapters' experiences

Are your chapter's members getting all they can out of your alcohol awareness training? This annual training is one way to help your chapter members have a safe school year. And it can be a fun bonding experience for your members and pledges.

If your chapter is struggling with your annual training, you're not alone. But there are several chapters that have had successful training programs. We recently asked master alchemists from these chapters to tell about their experiences and provide some suggestions for other chapters. Here is what some of them said:

## How easy or difficult was it to plan the training for your chapter?

It was easy to plan. A university office does presentations for Greek organizations, so we just had to find a date when everyone was available.  
*Srijay Rajan, Beta*

## How did your chapter encourage members and pledges to attend?

Attending the alcohol awareness training every year is one of our requirements to be an active member.  
*Tim Menich, Zeta*

I bought a pinata and filled it full of candy and brought tacos. Having the promise of food and a fiesta made people happier to attend.

*Katie Gentry, Beta Rho*

We make our training mandatory for all Brothers. The training is optional for pledges.  
*Brian Cifrodello-Sheridan, Beta Sigma*

I scheduled the training during a regular meeting so I know everyone is available and able to make it.

*Kristen Shafer, Gamma Tau*

## How involved were your chapter officers in planning the training? Or did the instructor take the lead?

The instructors know what is relevant to our training requirements from experience with other groups, so we only need to provide them with a general headcount, their target audience and an agreed upon date.

*Brian Cifrodello-Sheridan, Beta Sigma*

## How did your chapter's members and pledges respond to the training?

Most of our Brothers are responsible with alcohol use as it is, so the training is more of a reaffirmation than a learning experience.

*Brian Cifrodello-Sheridan, Beta Sigma*

The Brothers and pledges were very good about attend-

ing. They understand why we do it, and we very infrequently have a problem with attendance.

*Kristen Shafer, Gamma Tau*

## What advice do you have for other chapters as they plan their annual training?

Contact the group they plan

to ask your advisor(s) for help.  
*Brian Cifrodello-Sheridan, Beta Sigma*

If you can find an instructor that will make it more interactive, the Brothers will be more engaged. Having everything set and ready to go when you are picking dates for



to have lead the workshop as early as possible. Our counseling center provides these trainings for almost all of the organizations on campus, so they get booked quickly.

*Tim Menich, Zeta*

Stress the importance of alcohol awareness training. Even if some people don't drink or have sat through many discussions on the matter at hand, it is still important and necessary.

*Katie Gentry, Beta Rho*

Try to find multiple sources for the training and don't be afraid

other AXS events also helps, because it will go right on their calendars.

*Kristen Shafer, Gamma Tau*

[Find contact information for programs and services in your area.](#) If you have problems finding a program or if you need help, contact the [National Office](#).

If you have any questions about the alcohol awareness training policy, contact your District Counselor, [Grand Collegiate Alchemist Helen Webster](#).

# What you need to know about Star Chapter Award criteria

To qualify for the One-Star Chapter Award, a chapter each academic year beginning July 1 and ending June 15 must:

- Return all pledge and initiation reports and fees to the National Office on time.
- Initiate a minimum of eight or 1/3 of the number of current active collegiate members (reported in the preceding year's Active Collegiate Member Register).
- Conduct two major service or professional activities. The report submitted to the National Office must include a description of the activity, the date, the number of Brothers involved and the estimated total number of people involved.
- Submit an officer list within two weeks of each election.
- Complete alcohol awareness training and return the sign-in sheet to the National Office by June 15. At least 10

Brothers or pledges must attend the training, including the chapter's Master Alchemist, Vice Master Alchemist, Master of Ceremonies, Treasurer and any social chairs.

- Submit the following reports by June 15 each year:
  - Star Chapter Annual Report of Chapter Activities
  - Audit/Financial Statement
  - Charter, Ritual and Regalia Inspection (CRR) Report
  - Active Collegiate Member Register

- A current calendar of events
- The current chapter and officer contact information
- Professional and service activities
- An active link to the National Web site

- Plus accomplish any four of the following:
  - Increase active collegiate members by 5 percent (based on the preceding year's Active Collegiate Member Register).
  - Conduct two additional major professional or service activities.
  - Conduct two alumni-related activities.
  - Conduct one additional major professional or service activity and one alumni-related activity.
  - Submit a Professional Branch Induction Report.
  - Submit one or more nominations for a National fraternity recognition award (such as the Scholar Award, the Ronald T. Pflaum Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award and the John R. Kuebler Award).
  - Submit a Chapter Plan for the year.
  - Maintain and submit a current copy of the chapter's bylaws to the National Office.



To qualify for the Three-Star Chapter Award, a chapter each academic year beginning July 1 and ending June 15 must:

- Satisfy all of the requirements for the One-Star Chapter Award.
- Complete alcohol awareness training and return the sign-in sheet to the National Office by June 15. At least 75 percent of your chapter's members (including pledges) must attend the training, including the chapter's Master Alchemist, Vice Master Alchemist, Master of Ceremonies, Treasurer and any social chairs.
- Maintain a chapter Web page, which must include:
  - Information about pledging and membership

[See the history of the Star Chapter Awards.](#)

# Delta Gamma Chapter installation at Georgia Southern University

All Brothers are invited to attend the Delta Gamma Chapter installation at Georgia Southern University on March 29.

The festivities will take place at [Beaver House Restaurant](#) in Statesboro, Ga. The cost is \$15 per person. To reserve your spot, contact [April Berlyoung](#) at (404) 431-3015 or [Emily Woodward](#) at (706) 945-5130.



*Read the*  
*March issue of*  
*Fraternal Law*

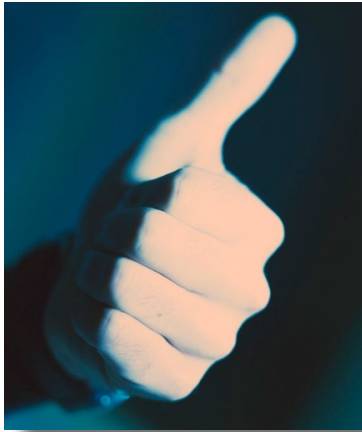


## JOIN THE ALCHEMICAL MADNESS

The Alchemical Madness Pick'em Tournament is entering its eighth year of pitting Brother against Brother in a good natured rivalry. Register today, and you too will have an opportunity to taunt the Grand Recorder and the Grand Historian as they come close but never quite win. Of course, the skills of some of the DCs and PRs provide entertainment value also. You can enter two brackets – one for the team you want to win and one to try to win. Be sure to post a message telling us who you are (and why you are a better picker than the Grand Historian).



# Thumbs up!



As of March 14, all chapters have done a great job submitting initiation paperwork and/or payments on time for spring 2014. Thank you and keep up the good work!

# Thumbs down!



As of March 14, no chapters have initiation paperwork and/or payments pending from previous semesters!

Each Thursday afternoon, the current versions of the active logs and delinquency list are posted on the national website. Be sure to [check the website](#) each week and let us know if our records are not up to date.





# Meet the South Central District

By Daniel Zindersic, South Central District Counselor

**Alpha Sigma Chapter** at the University of Arkansas was founded in 1928. This chapter has strong outreach with its regularly scheduled Science Club at the local elementary school. Alpha Sigma also raises money for the Cure-Search 5K Run.

The chapter has scheduled salsa dancing and ice skating events. With the Ozarks in the chapter's backyard, there are plans for camping before the end-of-year cookout.

The chapter's master alchemist is [Chris Sonntag](#).

**Beta Eta Chapter** at the University of North Texas was founded in 1952. This chapter has held demonstration workshops for National Chemistry Week and has offered members STEM mentoring volunteer opportunities.

Social events at this chapter have included pool parties, holiday parties and an end-of-year banquet.

From shirt making to axe making to candlelighting events and more, Beta Eta strives for new pledges to form a (double) bond with the chapter before they ever initiate.

The chapter's master alchemist is [Clifford Morrison](#).

Contact [SCDC Daniel Zindersic](#).



Axe making at Beta Eta.



Halloween party at Alpha Sigma.

# Calendar

## March

- 22 Initiations at Beta Eta and Beta Pi Chapters.
- 28 Initiation at Beta Phi Chapter.
- 29 Initiations at Pi, Alpha Kappa and Gamma Upsilon Chapters.
- 29 Delta Gamma installation at Georgia Southern University.
- 31 Professional chapter reports due to National Office.

## April

- 1 Deadline to submit items for the summer issue of *The HEXAGON*.
- 4 Initiations at Alpha Beta, Gamma Delta and Delta Gamma Chapters.
- 5 Initiations at Gamma, Alpha Pi, Alpha Upsilon and Beta Chi Chapters, SEMO Colony and UC-Irvine Pre-Colony.
- 11 Initiation at U of Florida Pre-Colony.
- 12 Initiations at Alpha, Delta, Zeta, Rho, Alpha Omega, Beta Nu, Beta Sigma, Beta Psi, Gamma Theta, Gamma Xi, Gamma Phi and Delta Beta Chapters, Beta Mu Colony, U of New Orleans Pre-Colony and U of Tampa Pre-Colony.
- 12 Mu Chapter's Spring Banquet. Contact [Jake Winslow](#).
- 14 Deadline to submit Notice of Conclave Delegate Election Form to the [National Office](#).
- 18 Initiations at Epsilon and Gamma Beta Chapters.

- 19 Initiations at Sigma and Gamma Zeta Chapters and Boston U Colony.
- 24 Deadline to submit Conclave legislation to the [Grand Recorder](#).
- 26 Initiation at Alpha Epsilon Chapter.
- 27 Initiation at Philadelphia U Pre-Colony.

## May

- 1 Deadline to submit district counselor recommendations to the [Grand Collegiate Alchemist](#).
- 3 Initiations at Beta, Mu, Tau, Beta Rho and Gamma Tau Chapters and U of Kansas Pre-Colony.
- 15 Deadline to submit your chapter's 990-N e-postcard to the IRS.
- 16 Conclave registration fees increase.



**Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity**  
 6296 Rucker Road, Suite B  
 Indianapolis, IN 46220  
 (800) ALCHEMY  
[national@alphachisigma.org](mailto:national@alphachisigma.org)

The Chrome and Blue is a newsletter published monthly during the academic year primarily for collegiate chapter officers and district counselors. It also provides information useful to the rest of the Grand Chapter and to any interested brothers. It serves to communicate news, reminders and updates in a timely manner.