Stephanie Bates 2024 Professional Representative (PR) Bio and Statement

Bio:

* Bachelor of Science: University of Maryland, Biology, 1996
* Master of Science: Hood College, Environmental Biology, 2016

Initiated at Alpha Rho (University of Maryland) in Apr 1995. At Alpha Rho, I held the offices of Reporter (1995 – 1996) and Historian. In 1998, I helped found Chesapeake Bay Professional Chapter. When that chapter was integrated into Washington, D.C. Professional Chapter, I first took on the role of Vice President / Secretary (2008 – 2014), and then chapter president (2014 – 2015). I have previously served as a Professional Representative (2015 – 2019), where I also served as the PR chair in 2017 and 2018. I have also served as the Atlantic Central District Counselor (2020 – 2022). Attended Conclaves: 2000 - 2024

Work History: AstraZeneca: QC Senior Microbiologist: 2021 – Present; Lonza Walkersville, Inc.: QC Analyst: 2006 – 2021; American Red Cross: 1997 – 2005

Statement:

One of the perennial issues for the professional branch is retaining and recruiting active professional brothers. While we definitely need to retain our already-active professional brothers, in order for the professional branch to grow and remain a vibrant part of the fraternity, we also need to recruit more professional brothers to an active status. One thing that became apparent to me at this year’s Conclave is that too many of our collegiate brothers are not fully informed about the professional branch. And if they are at least aware of the professional branch, they do not know how to become an active professional brother. I think this is where the professional representatives (PRs) can be most effective.

We now have the means to reach out much more easily to our collegiate brothers. From speaking with some of the current PRs at Conclave, I know that they have been working on continuing education for professional brothers as one of their projects. Since the structure is in place, I think this could be updated to include forums that are targeted at graduating seniors and young professional brothers. I could see having two forums a year that are specifically designed as “Welcome to the Professional Branch”. Helping our collegiate brothers learn more about the professional branch will serve two purposes: One, they can see that there is an active professional branch, and two, they can contribute ideas for how to help the professional branch grow and flourish.

In addition to reaching out to the graduating seniors and other young professional brothers, I think we should continue to have some type of “continuing education” for our professional brothers. There have been a lot of changes within the fraternity over the last two biennium, and the continuing education would allow PRs to not only pass on this information, but also hear back from brothers who may not have a voice otherwise. Above all else, I want to see the professional branch continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for considering me as PR.

Yours in the Double Bond,

Stephanie Bates