



Fall 2011

Gamma Psi

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Executive Board

Philip Mensah
Regent

Alan Tucker
Vice Regent

Dennis Cai
Secretary

Austin Tull
Treasurer

A lot has transpired since the last newsletter: a new executive board, GCC in San Francisco, drug card sales, Kappapalooza, and so much more. We have a great issue for you: Philip Mensah gives his "State of the Chapter" on page 3, Brandon Corpening drops a few pearls on page 2, and Chris Shumans shares his witty perspective as a new Brother. So read on, enjoy, and stay in touch with the Chapter.

During pledging, I posed a certain question to Brothers: "What did you think of pledging?" I always received the same answer—pledging was easy! At the time I thought they were being sarcastic or perhaps trying to motivate me to push through. But then I started my first semester as a Brother...

This year, we have nine Brothers on campus, and we are expected to produce the same quality work as those before us. I hold multiple positions, as do each of my pledge Brothers. Needless to say, there is not a day that goes by where I do not have to think about the work I owe the Chapter.

But it is because of this that I have experienced the great Brotherhood

of this Chapter. If I ever need help (which is frequently factual) I always have a senior Brother to call on. Whether I'm calling Brandon Corpening for information about the Chapter, Juan Lopez about applying for PLS, or even just calling Amir Khan to talk about life and classes—I know there is always someone ready to help.

I guess what I'm saying is that even though there are nine of us on campus, there are still dozens of us putting in work for the Chapter. Fourth year Brother Brian Franchio has not only been to every service and social event, but he even helped us organize the Braves game.

And while these Brothers do good work and perhaps feel obligated to do more than required, secretly, I think it is because they cherish the Brotherhood that they go above and beyond. It is hard to even consider Brothers like Amir Khan, Kevin Long, and Johnathan Hamrick alumni because their presence is so prevalent at every Chapter event.

And it is not only the social events: Johnathan Hamrick and Jeremy Hannah help us with setting up

service learning events whenever we need them.

Reading each Brother's article stirs up a lot of emotion: I almost can not believe how deep the Brotherhood lies. When I see Brandon Corpening, I can not help but to hug him. When the fourth year Brothers do their rotation on campus, I always feel a sense of comfort having them so close to home. If I go more than twelve hours without talking to my pledge Brothers, I start to—well I don't know what I'd start to do because I never go that long without talking to them!

We are fortunate to be a small bunch, because we have the same amount of Brotherhood divided amongst less people. Having four members of my pledge class, it is inevitable that us four will be on the executive board next year. But we are not afraid because we have seen the proof that we will not be alone. So from here we set out to DO WORK, but like the Brothers before me have said—it's hard to call it work, when it's this much fun.

Joe "Mach 3" Walker



Getting Our Hands Dirty at the Road Side Clean Up

Dates to Remember

Winter Conclave	Jan 6th - 8th
Ski Trip	Jan 12th - 16th
Rush Party	Jan 27th
Founder's Day	Mar 16th

A Transition



As my time as a collegiate continues to shrink, I think back to my years on campus. The last three years have taught me life lessons that I will be able to use long after I walk across that stage in May. I've been able to network with hundreds of Brothers across the Fraternity, and for this I will always be indebted to Kappa Psi.

Yet, as I let my mind wander back to those times when work and school went hand in hand, it's not the work that comes to mind. I think of the random challenges laid out by other Brothers, such as "No Shave November," or any assortment of the challenges so adamantly barked out during college football season. It's Brothers

like Doug Wylie and his love of overalls, Sujal Patel with his pickup lines, Nick Blackwell admiring his Flair-like physique, or Jeremy Hannah and his unique ability to garner attention from any lady. The thought has drifted into my mind that in just a few more months this life that I have become so accustomed to will change forever. Brothers will move around the country and we will never have this again.

So to the collegiates I say, enjoy your time, and spend it wisely. I hope that every event brings as much joy and togetherness as they brought me. To the graduates, I ask, can you remember this feeling? Can you remember those older Brothers on campus helping you, giving you pointers on classes, taking you out on a random Wednesday? I hope you can and I hope it

brings you the smile it brings me.

I say that, to say this...COME BACK!!! Whether it's once a year or every month, graduate Brothers bring a wealth of knowledge to this Fraternity. I challenge every grad Brother to try and get your pledge class back even if it's just for one night a year (Founder's Day... cough, cough).

As I get off my soap box, I want to thank all of the Brothers who have helped me over the past three years and remind the collegiates to have fun and *do work* because your time on campus is short.

Fraternally,

Brandon "Hoover" Corpening



P2s Manning the Blood Drive



The Gamma Psi Boys at the GCC Baseball Game

A Word From Our Regent



This year presents a number of unique challenges for the chapter.

With a good percentage of Brothers

now on Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, the need to maximize our on-campus resources is greater now more than ever. With that being said, the Brothers have really stepped up and worked hard to make this semester a success.

The service events this fall have included blood pressure screenings, a roadside cleanup, a health fair and a blood drive. Some highlights of these events have included our participation in a health fair at Taste of Tucker, an event sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Tucker. At this event, Brothers conducted blood pressure and blood glucose testing as well as provided information on blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol. This was a wonderful event supervised by faculty Brother Dr. Michael Jann and Dr. Leah Shumans, wife of second year Brother Chris Shumans. In addition to the health fair, service chair Appiah Kissi organized a successful blood drive with the American Red Cross. At this event we were able to register over thirty people with

the Red Cross and collect a significant number of donations.

In addition to the service events, social chair Joe Walker has organized a number of successful social events for the Brothers and the university alike. In August, we organized the annual Welcome to Atlanta event in Buckhead. This was a great opportunity for the incoming pharmacy students to meet upperclassmen and discuss some of the tools necessary to be a successful pharmacy student. Some other social events thus far have included the annual Kappa-palooza event organized with Kappa Epsilon, an Atlanta Braves game which had over fifty people in attendance and our annual Halloween party.

Finally, the fall has been a great opportunity for a number of Brotherhood events. Some of the events have included a comedy show at the Vortex in downtown Atlanta, Poker nights organized by fourth year Brothers, and various sporting events coordinated by collegiate Brothers as well as alumni.

The highlight of these events came at the beginning of the semester with our annual Brother's retreat in Hilton Head, South Carolina. On this weekend trip, the Brothers were able to fellowship and relax before the start of another busy semester.

These events have not only strengthened the Brotherhood but have also provided solid evidence as to the work that the Brothers are doing on campus and in the community. I believe that this is a tremendous advantage for us as we progress through the fall semester and begin pledging in the spring.

As Regent, it is my responsibility to ensure that the Brothers on campus are accomplishing the goals that they have set for themselves. This not only includes fraternal and personal responsibilities but most importantly academic responsibilities. As I've transitioned from my role as Brother to Regent, I've learned that it is important to effectively communicate my vision for the Fraternity and facilitate an environment for the Brothers to make this vision into reality. We have great Brothers on campus, strong alumni support, and hardworking leadership guiding this great Fraternity. With these tools in place we should continue to have a successful fall semester and a tremendous year. I look forward to the many great things that we have to come as we continue to grow this Brotherhood.

Faternally,

Philip S. Mensah



Brian Franchio and Kevin Long as the 1% and 99% at the Halloween Party



Stay Connected!

We are constantly updating Gamma Psi Alumni mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If you have moved since graduation or changed your email addresses, or know a Brother who may not be in our system, please send updated information to: mercergammapi@gmail.com. Your information will be used to ensure that you are always updated with Chapter news.

"It takes two men to make one brother" - Israel Zangwill

Got Brotherhood?

When I was initially contacted to write a column for the newsletter, I was asked to address the topics of my experiences as a new Kappa Psi Brother. Specifically, I was asked to share my experiences at the Grand Council Convention in San Francisco, our service and social events, and some of our recent fundraising events. I have enjoyed these Chapter functions as have the generations of Brothers before me, but as an alumnus, do you really find it interesting to know that we have performed roadside clean-up and blood pressure screenings? Or that we have a new t-shirt fundraiser and revenue-generating car wash planned?

While mildly interesting and informative, this information would generate an article that could essentially write itself from past newsletter and MASK articles- the only differences being the dates. Instead, I'd like to address the main thing that makes us Gamma Psi: **Brotherhood**. As a Graduate Brother, I imagine you wonder if the current collegiate Brothers share the bonds of Brotherhood that you experienced when you were on campus. Is the "health" of the Chapter's Brotherhood where it needs to be? Do the new Brothers "get it"?

Brothers should be like fingers and toes: always around, and easy to count on. My Kappa Psi Brothers are just that. Though married, I live part-time near campus with my Pledge Brothers Joe Walker and Habeeb Asiru-Balogun. Unlike many students whose roommate interactions rarely extend past shared space,

we live as a family. We eat our meals family style, ride to class together, and take our elective class periods together. We embody the servant's attitude: we look after each other's needs whether it is housework, laundry, shopping, or schoolwork. On the night before a test, our fourth pledge Brother, Appiah Kissi, often spends the night with us. The four of us review the test material together and roll out to class in the morning as one.

Fourth year Brother, Jordan Khail, put it quite succinctly

have the pleasure of seeing in class. With good Brothers like Philip Mensah, Dennis Cai, and Brian Franchio (who was at his 2nd service event of the day!) in attendance, it was guaranteed to be a good time. We joked, laughed, and being football season, insulted each other's undergrad teams. We had such a good time it is hard to consider it work.

Which brings me to the next topic: DO WORK!

While we did not invent the concept or the phrase "do work", we have adopted it as our unofficial motto. We happily cry "DO WORK" when we undertake almost all of our endeavors. Habeeb going to the rescue of Appiah after he was stranded with a flat tire- "DO WORK!" Joe setting up our

social events or putting up new garage door openers- "DO WORK!" Alan email-

ing us pointers and tips for upcoming tests- "DO WORK!" Franchio being at everything- "DO WORK!" Mukund, Habeeb, and Joe helping me paint the house- "DO WORK!"

I can count on these guys, and them on me, not because we are in Kappa Psi together but because we are **Brothers**. As new Brothers, we have a lot to learn about the organization and running of the Chapter. Rest assured, we have a handle on Brotherhood. The rest will come.

Chris "JPK" Shumans



Brothers at the Tucker Health Fair with Dr. Jann

when he made the statement "If you do not have fun when you get together to do service events or Kappa Psi business, Brotherhood will suffer." For us new Brothers, service events have gone from required elements of the pharmacy curriculum to an opportunity to hang out with Brothers and alumni. Recently, the Brothers of Gamma Psi attended a health screening at the Taste of Tucker Festival. Faculty Brother, Dr. Jann, organized this event, and although our blood pressure and glucose monitoring skills were enhanced by the experience, what made this event special was the opportunity to work side by side with our Brothers that we do not



Alumni and Collegiates Watching the Braves



Kappapalooza's Mathletes Vs. Athletes



The Second Year Pledge Class at Their First GCC