



Fall 2013

Gamma Psi

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DO WORK!!!

These are the words that the brothers of Gamma Psi live by. Each year, the brothers continue to work hard through leadership and service to the community. This year is no exception. I am personally proud to be a part of a brotherhood that has existed for decades and will continue to grow in the years to come. Any Gamma Psi brother, whether collegiate or graduate, would agree that the bonds built in this chapter are strong and last beyond pharmacy school. The Chapter pushes you to be your very best not only as a student, but ultimately, as a pharmacist. As a brother, you develop leadership skills and confidence that will prepare you for the real world.

Not too long ago, I was a pledge. The pledge process not only made me a better student but helped develop strong bonds with

five other gentlemen whom I am blessed to call my "pledge brothers." Dealing with life's issues, it's a godsend to have people you can trust and count on in any situation. Our collegiate brothers serve as critical resources to guide each of us academically and are always available to offer help and advice. Even far away from home and scattered across the country, our alumni brothers continue to give back to the Chapter and assist us to the best of their ability.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the collegiate, alumni, and faculty brothers who took time out of their schedules to contribute to this edition. Your input is truly appreciated. The fall edition kicks off with some words from our new Regent, Blake Meeks. He discusses activities performed during the year and shares lessons learned as a new Regent. On page 3, faculty brother Dr. Ashish Advani, shares some words of wisdom that should

strike home with all of us. Finally, our alumni brother, Dr. Juan Lopez touches on the influence the Chapter has had in his life and reminds us of the many resources our brotherhood provides.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition, I hope that you enjoy the message our brothers have to share with you. As we move into the holiday season, I wish you all a happy, safe and memorable season with your family and loved ones.

Fraternally,

Obinna "Sully" Ojiaku



**Brothers at the Annual
Honors Luncheon**

A Word From Our Regent



The fall semester is rapidly coming to a close, but our work as a Chapter is just beginning. The last five months has been filled with trips and events. In July, all the collegiate Brothers and many Alumni attended the 56th biannual Grand Council Convention (GCC) in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Gamma Psi once again finished in the top three chapters internationally. Our track record over the last five years is something to be truly proud of. We took time to celebrate while at GCC, but collectively began discussing areas where improvement was necessary.

With GCC still fresh in our minds, fourteen brothers hit the road for a twelve-hundred mile round trip journey to Richmond, Virginia for the Atlantic Province Fall Conclave. For the second straight conclave Gamma Psi won the Man-Mile Award for having the most brothers travel the furthest distance to the conclave.

With the onset of the fall semester came the workload and stress that only a Gamma Psi brother can truly appreciate. We immediately began our pledge prospecting with the Welcome to Atlanta social. This event afforded incoming classmen the opportunity to

minge with upper classmen. A solid P1 turnout provided us with the opportunity to begin placing faces with our names list. The social events continued throughout the semester with Kappalooza, our annual Halloween Party, and a pool tournament all of which were very successful. Our service events consisted of roadside cleanups, blood pressure screenings, and a blood drive with the American Red Cross. I was particularly proud of our blood drive because we collected a record thirty pints of blood and had the opportunity to meet a blood transfusion survivor who expressed her deepest gratitude to us for hosting the event. Additionally, we had a successful semester of fundraising with our drug card sale,

car wash, and ski trip. A particularly exciting fact is that we have forty-three people attending ski trip from Mercer. This will be an exceptional opportunity to get to know the P1 students personally.

As Regent, it is my responsibility to ensure that my Brothers on campus are accomplishing their fraternal, academic, and personal goals. In the process of trying to help my fellow Brothers develop, I have seen a change in myself. Some mistakes have been made but I have humbly learned to grow from them so as to more effectively lead my brothers. Learning to communicate effectively with such diverse personalities has truly helped me grow as a Brother

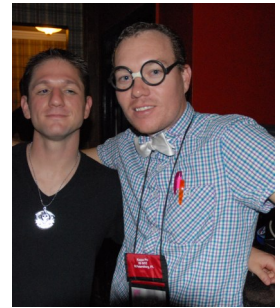
and a leader. It is truly an honor to lead my brothers on a daily basis and I will continue to do my best to strengthen our brotherhood.

Brothers, we have laid the groundwork for a fantastic spring. The time to "Do Work" is a never ending cycle and I expect every Brother in this Chapter to put forth their maximum effort moving forward into a new Semester. With the continued support of our fantastic Alumni and Faculty Brothers, failure is not an option. Let us continue to grow the Gamma Psi legacy, so that our Chapter's name remains synonymous with greatness.

Fraternally,

Blake Meeks

Regent 2013-2014



Brothers Franchio and Blake at the Kappa Psi Halloween Party



Brothers Habeeb And Seth at GCC

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.

Dates to Remember

Gulf Coast Province Conclave	JAN 3-5
Rush Sign Up	JAN 14-25
Ski Trip	JAN 17-20
Atlantic Province Conclave	JAN 24-26
Kappa Psi Rush Party	JAN 30

It's not about you

"To render such other services to its members and to its profession as many seem feasible..."

I have conducted a lot of admissions interviews over the last five years and there is one thing 99% of prospective students say. (By the way, think about how hard it is to get 99% of people to agree on anything. For some context, I saw recently that 80% of dentists would recommend sugar-free gum. Only 80%!) When asked "Why do you want to attend pharmacy school?" we all said something to the degree of: "I've always enjoyed helping people. Helping others makes me happy." At some points along the way we

may forget this, and this, I believe, often leads to unhappiness. It is very easy to get caught up in our own lives and begin to chase straw men. I heard a part of a graduation speech recently that illustrates this point well: *We all want to graduate so we can get a job, so we can get a car and a house, so we can get a wife. But, then what? A bigger car? A bigger house? A bigger wife???* It may be funny, but it's still a legitimate question.

The *Purpose Driven Life* is a devotional book that has been on the *New York Times* Best Seller list for one of the longest periods in history. The *first sentence* of the book reads, "It's not about you," and the remainder goes on to explain how the quest for personal fulfillment can only be found in understanding and doing what God placed you on Earth to do. We all understood this well at one point, and it is important that we remember this always; when a patient comes in at

4:59 pm with a new prescription, or when a brother falls and needs a hand, we must remember to say to ourselves, "It's not about me."

Reportedly, when former President Ronald Reagan was told he had Alzheimer's Disease and could not do the activities he loved any longer, he was not immediately consumed with himself but instead looked at the messenger and said, "I'm really sorry. It must have been incredibly difficult for you to have to tell me this news." It is this selfless spirit- "To render such other services to its members and to its profession as many seem feasible..."- that we should never forget to strive towards.

I hope you all are doing well and I wish you all a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

Ashish Advani, Pharm.D
Clinical Assistant Professor



Gamma Psi Brothers at Red Cross Blood Drive



Brothers Chris and Trey at the Annual Kappalooza

The Benefits of the Brotherhood



Brothers,

Greetings from the beautiful beaches of Florida! I am glad I have this opportunity to share a few thoughts about what this Brotherhood has meant to me, the impact it has on my life and to offer some words of advice for the collegiate Brothers.

I am forever grateful that I had the opportunity to become a Brother in Kappa Psi. I can say without a doubt, that because of the Brothers in Kappa Psi that invested time in me as a pledge and collegiate brother, I was able to accomplish many goals and experience quite a few things that I would have never thought possible. My time at Mercer helped me develop skills that I constantly use in my daily duties as an independent compounding pharmacist.

Leadership, confidence, overcoming challenges, time management, and creativity are all things that every Brother must learn to master. But the one greatest thing that I am proud to have learned from my chapter, either directly or indirectly through observation, was how we all can invest time and effort into one another to help build the bonds of Brotherhood, to inspire Brothers to become their

best, and while doing so, improve ourselves individually.

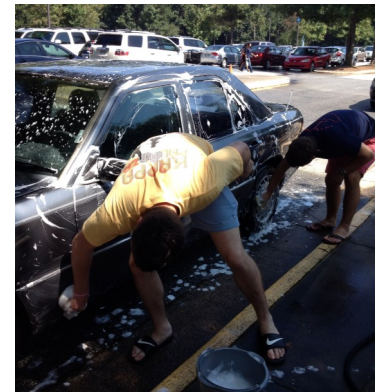
I have the unique privilege of being a compounding pharmacist in a strong independent pharmacy where daily challenges range from developing new formulas and collaborating with prescribers to cleaning the outdoor signage and changing light bulbs. I am blessed to have two other Gamma Psi Brothers, Dr. Kevin Long and Dr. Bob Harshbarger, going through the same specialization that I find myself working towards. This circumstance allows me to confide in these Brothers my goals and frustrations, ask questions, and discuss new ideas without the fear of being taken advantage of by "the competition". I know that if I have a problem I can be at ease that their response will be straightforward and the truth. While we grow in this specialty arena of pharmacy, we continue to invest our efforts in each other, building upon the foundation of our Brotherhood to develop new skills and gain wisdom.

If I could offer some advice it would be this, enjoy investing time in each other and aspire to become better men. You will notice that the more you help to build your fellow Brother the more rewards you will see. As an Alumni Brother I would encourage all of you to find another Brother that is working in a field that interests you. Of course, if you are looking at

independent pharmacy, especially compounding, give me a call. If you find yourself in the Daytona Beach area, let me know!

With Fraternal Regards,

Dr. Juan "Castro" Lopez



Brothers washing cars during the Kappa Psi Car Wash



Brothers get together Family Dinner at GCC



Brothers Dr. Crowe and Dr. Smith at the Grand Council Convention.