

Fall 2014

Gamma Psi

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Neal Patel
Regent

Kyle Brown
Vice Regent

Alastair Hay
Secretary

Jeremiah Detchemendy
Treasurer



Fall semester has started off and we have a new group of freshly initiated Brothers to work with in hopes to have a successful and productive year. The transition from being a pledge to a Brother was shocking to say the least. Why do I say that you ask? As a pledge, I had fully believed that would be the most challenging process associated with the chapter. I could not have been more wrong. Now reflecting on a statement that Amir Khan made when I was a pledge, "Being a Brother is much tougher than being a pledge". I can confirm that these words could not be truer. The expectations and standards set by the Brothers before you remain non-negotiable. However, I know with the help of my pledge brothers and the guidance from alumni, there is no mountain too high that we cannot overcome.

Being part of a brotherhood that is so strongly committed to the success of one another is near impossible to find. When you find some-

thing so valuable, you never want to let go. That is one of the key reasons that we have alumni brothers continue to come back in bunches. It has molded them into the husbands, fathers, and successful pharmacist that they are today.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Brothers who played part in putting together this newsletter. Within this issue you will find words from Regent Neal Patel as he shares with you the various conclaves, events, and socials we participated in. He also shares with you all how the Chapter molded helped him become a better leader and the challenges and struggles he overcame. On page three, Dr. Jonathan Hamrick speaks about the transition from being an alumni brother to now a faculty member at our school. He shares how importance of serving as a mentor and advisor to the young Brothers on campus. Lastly, on page 4 Brother Habeeb Asiru-Balogun shares some words on the impact the fraternity has had on his life and the importance of staying in-

involved as an Alumni Brother.

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

Fraternally,

Rasheed "Bob" Anifowoshe



Brothers at Road Side
Cleanup

A Word From Our Regent



The fall semester has come to an end and we as a chapter are continually pushing to better ourselves and prepare for a productive spring semester. During the summer, we held our Brother's retreat on Lake Oconee to construct a game plan for the academic school year. It was a great opportunity for our newly initiated Brothers to spend time with the collegiate and building everlasting memories. It was an exciting time for them as they got to experience their first time being on the other side of the show. All of our Collegiate Brothers hit the road in order to the Atlantic Province assembly in Columbia, South Carolina. Our Chapter raised over \$400 to support the Province's "Locks for Love" philanthropy! It was a great opportunity for Brothers to explore the town of Columbia and see what all it had to offer. We also attended South East Province's Summer Conclave in Bradenton, Florida. The host chapter, Epsilon Eta did a fantastic job planning a memorable weekend. For the remainder of the semester, our Chapter held roadside cleanups, carwashes, a number of socials all of which strengthened the brotherhood. During the month of October, we held our Annual Halloween Social along with a contest for the best dressed costume. As an all-male chapter, we also implemented a new contest in order to raise male health awareness. During the month of November, our chapter held a No-Shave-November contest on campus. It built for comradery amongst the males on campus and made for a month filled with hilar-

ity. The various events that we as a Chapter hosted ultimately strengthened our brotherhood and we hope to build even more ties with the incoming pledge class.

The skills that come with serving as the Regent of our beloved fraternity has accumulated over the years, but it all started at the core of being a pledge. I remember the days as a pledge when I initially adopted a servant's mentality and it has stuck with me ever since. I have incorporated this into my leadership during my time as Regent, which has had a profound impact on the amount of respect that I have gained. In order to gain the respect of my Brothers, I strongly felt that I must always lead by example. You must be an individual who is willing to roll up your sleeves and "DO WORK!" for Brothers to ultimately buy into your vision and plans for the Chapter. I also learned what it means to be able to rely on other individuals in order to get the work done. Our pledge process is built in such a manner that it is absolutely impossible to complete it alone. You must be able to trust one another as Brothers in order ensure that you are ultimately successful in meeting your goals. The trust that I built amongst my Brothers as pledge has been something that has stuck with me even as a Regent. Without each of you, none of this would be possible.

The position as Regent comes with a host of trials and tribulations that provide a challenging, yet rewarding experience. I've quickly learned the importance of communicating effectively in order to insure that we are all on the same page and moving in a forward direction. I also cannot say express how rewarding it has been to witness the personal and professional growth that each of my Brothers

have attained. I am looking forward to a successful and productive year with these Brothers who inspire me to reach new heights.

Fraternally,

Neal Patel

Gamma Psi Regent



Brother Jeremiah Detchemendy at our patient caring event



Newly initiated Brothers at COS Picnic

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: mercergammapsi@gmail.com. Your information will be used to ensure that you are always updated with Chapter news.

Dates to Remember

Atlantic Province Conclave	JAN 23-25
Ski Trip	JAN 14-25
Rush Party	FEB 3rd
Bid Night	FEB 5th
Founder's Weekend	MAR 13-15

Grand Council Deputy's Corner



Greetings Brothers,

This is my first official correspondence to the brotherhood as GCD in my new role

as a Faculty Brother. Joining the faculty at Mercer has proven to be challenging yet very rewarding. Having the opportunity to interact with the collegiate brothers on a daily basis has been quite enjoyable and has made the transition worthwhile.

It pleases me to see from the eyes of a faculty member, that the collegiate brothers are very active on campus and are well-respected by their classmates, faculty, and the administration. Traditions such as the Welcome to Atlanta Social, Kappapalooza, Red Cross Blood Drives and car washes are still staples of the brotherhood and are still being promoted and executed with the same vigilance as they were in the past.

In addition to being involved in both Kappa Psi and other organizations, the collegiate brothers are kept very busy with their coursework. It has been very eye-opening to see all of the new activities that are now a part of the PharmD coursework that were not there when I was a student. First and second year students now spend approximately four hours of their week in simulation lab where they simulate both community and hospital pharmacy settings. Third year students now obtain MTM certification and conduct MTM at senior communities during the fall semester. Students are required to obtain twenty hours of healthcare-related service learning. All of these activities serve as a means to prepare the students for both rotations and life as a pharmacist.

While being involved on campus and completing necessary coursework, the collegiate brothers still find time for the Kappa Psi Ideal of Fellowship. It is rare that you see a brother on-campus alone. The comradery of the brotherhood is alive and kicking and that is very pleasing to the soul.

Vice Regent Kyle Brown and myself are in the beginning stages of planning our next Founder's Day Celebration. It is our goal for this event to be an event not only for brothers but also for families. Gamma Psi is a family and it is important to the Chapter that spouses and children feel welcomed as well. Be on the lookout for more correspondence regarding this event and I look forward to seeing each of you there.

As always, I am very proud to call each of you brother and look forward to seeing you very soon.

Sincerely,

Johnathan "E. Honda" Hamrick,
PharmD

Grand Council Deputy



Gamma Psi Brothers at Atlantic Province's Summer Conclave



Gamma Psi Brothers at our Annual Halloween Social

The Men Of '53



Proud.
Dedicated.
Leaders.
Brothers.

Our successes as a Chapter is a result of the strong commitment and dedication that we continue to put in each other and in Gamma Psi. When I first walked on campus, the most glaring evidence of the Brotherhood was the togetherness exhibited by the Brothers. The familiarity amongst them was all around and evident for all to see. Their silly jokes and teasing were all a part of the bond they shared. There was genuine care for one another. That, I believe, is what Gamma Psi was founded on in 1953.

My time as a Collegiate Brother was brief but the lessons learned will endure. As such, I have made a commitment to ensure that I share them with every new class. Each year, young men come to Mercer from different backgrounds and different experiences and each year we pick from these men the next Brothers to carry our Chapter forward. The gravity of this task cannot be belittled. These young men are eager to learn from us and hear our stories. They need molding and guidance and who better to do it than those who have been through similar journeys. As a pledge, nothing inspired me more than seeing Graduate Brothers as pharmacists excelling in their profession and hearing the stories of how they each went through the same process I was going through. We cannot underestimate the impact of being there for Collegiate Brothers.

My rewards in Kappa Psi has been in my association with each of you. You have each shared your stories, joys, pains,

and family with me and I am all the better for it. I never ask, "What has Kappa Psi done for me?" What Kappa Psi has done for me is in me and all around me. You have helped me grow and think beyond the selfishness of oneness and embrace the servant's attitude. "What is the servant's attitude?" asked Brother Chris Kantenga when I was a pledge. My answer was something embarrassing I dare not repeat. I had to ask several Brothers including Brother Marvin Smith that question and I have since been asked that same question by many pledges. The servant's attitude is willful selflessness forged with humility and unyielding commitment all aimed at furthering a good cause or improving the wellness of others without thought of one's own gains. It cannot be taught. It is an inherent trait as is the drive or urge to be better at anything you do. Like every great trait in us, it requires cultivating analogous to a gold mine which requires digging.

As a Chapter we cannot afford to make the same mistakes every year. That redundancy will only lead to irrelevancy. Imagine a world of Kappa Psi without Gamma Psi. Six decades down the drain with only memories of a few men to share. I shudder at the thought of it. We each have a part to play in Gamma Psi's continued existence. Each year, our pledges are required to learn our ways and learn about the Brothers. We challenge them to invest in each other and in us because that is what Brothers do. How do we convince them that brotherhood is strong and if they commit strongly to it that it will serve them well? How do we convince them that the brotherhood transcends beyond their time on campus if after graduation we do not show up? I will tell you how. We should prac-

tice what we preach. The longevity of Gamma Psi is dependent on your continued involvement. I strongly encourage it.

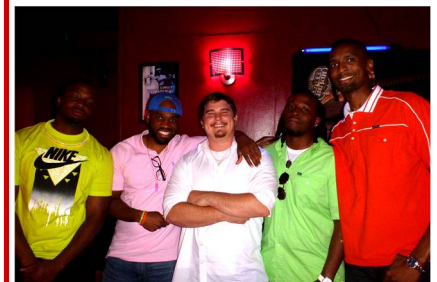
"The effects of whatever we do – insignificant as it may seem – spread out beyond us. We may never know what far-reaching impact even the simplest action might have on our fellow mortals" – M. Weis

Habeeb "Express" Ashiru-Balogun

Past Regent
Spring 2011



Teaming up with Red Cross for a successful blood drive



Brothers at our Annual Kappapalooza



Locks of Love Philanthropy at Atlantic Province's Summer Conclave