

Fall 2015

Gamma Psi

Table of contents

Editor's Note

1

A Word From
Our Regent

2

Message From The New
GCD

3

Alumni Corner

4

Executive Board

Chidozie Ukpabi
RegentKalu Kalu
Vice RegentMatthew Burnette
Secretary/Treasurer

As we come to the conclusion of another fall semester, the Brothers of Gamma Psi have the opportunity to reflect on a successful and productive semester. For most of the Brothers, the semester proved to be a simple transition, but for the newly initiated Brothers it was an eye opener into the workload of running a successful chapter. Throughout our pledge process we constantly heard it is harder to be a Brother than it is to be a pledge. This has held true as we have encountered many moving components and events that require a great deal of work. It is not simply the workload that makes the transition difficult, but also the high level of expectations. The expectations from alumni to carry on the

legacy and Brothers from across the province and nation that expect us to live up to the Brotherhood, have both played a pivotal role in our transition.

This semester was filled with service learning events, fundraisers, academic achievements, and greater organizational involvement on a regional and national level. Brothers were able to take tools gained from GCC and our Chapter's summer retreat and implement them for a successful semester.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Brothers who played a role in composing this newsletter. Within this issue you will find words from our Regent who captures his tenure as the leader of this Chapter. Our alumni Brothers who each have played a special role in maintaining the success of this

Chapter also share a few words on their involvement and the legacy of Gamma Psi.

I want to thank you all for taking the time to read this edition, and I hope that you enjoy the message that our Brothers have shared with you. As we move into the holiday season remember that we have plenty to be thankful for and this Brotherhood is a prime example. Continue to strive towards new heights.

Fraternally,

Jason "Clay" Gaines.



**Brothers at the 57th Grand
Council Convention**

A Word From Our Regent



Becoming the Regent of the Gamma Psi Chapter of Kappa Psi was one of the biggest personal accomplishments I have

achieved in my life. When I originally decided to pledge Kappa Psi, I never envisioned to be placed in a position to make decisions that could potentially shape the Chapter's future moving forward. I knew that the characteristics that I acquired as both PCP and Pledge Master years prior would help, but there were many challenges accompanied with the position that I had to overcome. The Brothers of Gamma Psi played a large role in ensuring I was able to overcome these challenges, and my love and respect for them provide me with constant motivation to move forward. I appreciated the characteristics the Brothers instilled in me, greatly understanding the importance of accountability. Brother's holding me accountable for my actions, and holding my Brothers instilled in me a sense of responsibility, and I continued to search for ways to be more efficient in order to assist those around me. I realized my passion for wanting to give, and the experiences taught me the importance of having the "servant's mentality. The growth of the Chapter was important yes, but seeing the individual growth of the Brothers whom I personally considered my family, was more gratifying. Ensuring that every collegiate Brother was successful in their own separate endeavors, and developing in a professional manner was probably the greatest of my challenges, but one that I gladly accepted. With new bonds formed with the incoming class of new Brothers, as well as the bonds I had already built with those prior, I was ready to be the leader of this Chapter.

I transitioned into this position in a period in which the Chapter required a lot of change. With the help of my Pledge Brothers for whom I consider

my best friends, the Immediate Past Regent Neal Patel, and previous Regent Dr. Habeeb Asiru-Balogun, we created an agenda that would be utilized to propel the Chapter to new heights. We implemented an "open door policy" of sorts with the new incoming Brothers in order to strengthen the sense of involvement as well as benefit from the different ideas that each unique individual could bring to the table. In this time of change, we were going to need the advisory of Brothers that came before us, and we decided to have a Brother's Retreat in Chattanooga, Tennessee where we have a strong Alumni presence. Many prominent Brothers were in attendance such as Dr. Marvin Smith, Dr. Andrew Crowe, Dr. Andy Asberry, Dr. Seth Hammonds and Dr. Brandon Corpening to name a few. We solidified the agenda into one that was fit to ensure the success of the Chapter.

The Brother's Retreat wasn't the only feat that provided the Brotherhood with morale. This year's GCC instilled a sense of fellowship to the Brotherhood, and rekindled the fire within Brothers that attended the previous GCC. The attendance of Brothers traveling from all over the nation meeting in one place provided us with a great deal of inspiration. Chapters were getting better, and the visual of the passion that other Chapters across the nation showed to us that we couldn't be complaisant, and we were motivated to adapt to the times and once reclaim our glory as a top Chapter.

With this change, we knew that we would need an even greater deal of assistance. We needed someone with great leadership and experience to be in close proximity to the Collegiate Brothers, and provide us with expertise moving forward. We decided to make Dr. Habeeb Asiru Balogun whom personally I consider my mentor, the Co-GCD alongside Dr. Hamrick, the current GCD. Living with him, he has critiqued and challenged me in all of my endeavors, pushing me to do my best in anything I participate in and to never "settle for mediocrity" as he would say. He did the same for all collegiate Brothers, making an impact on all of us in a plethora of ways. We

couldn't be more appreciative of everything we have been able to accomplish with his advice. As GCD, he will play an integral part in the continual growth of the Chapter.

We hit the ground running in the Fall making our presence known through the contributions of Brother's to different organizations on campus. Our goal was to better our image on campus, portraying our professionalism, in order to recruit potentials that were willing to put in the work needed to further the growth of the Chapter. We organized service learning events in collaboration with other organizations on campus, strengthening our presence on campus and putting us in proximity to potentials. We streamlined our Drug Card and Car Wash fundraisers, allowing us to work more efficiently and maximize our profits. We improved our relatively new No Shave November by adding a weekly display promoting different topics focusing Men's Health Awareness. We showed as a Chapter that we worked hard but that we had to capacity to play hard as well through our socials including Welcome to Atlanta, Kappapalooza, and the Halloween Party. Overall the semester was a success, but we vowed to continuously seek improvement.

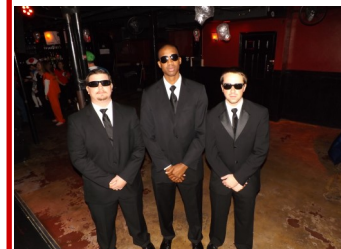
I look forward to facing the challenges that will accompany the Spring Semester. As a Chapter, we will learn from our shortcomings and ensure that we minimize our mistakes moving forward. I am also looking forward to the upcoming Pledge Process, as we have planned to implement changes there as well in order to mold Brothers that will solidify our position in the Fraternity as a top Chapter now and in the future. I have no doubt that we will accomplish our goals, especially with the support of the current Collegiate and Graduate Brothers, for who I now consider my family. Rickety, Rackety, Rye.

Fraternally,

Chidozie "Boost" Ukpabi



Brothers providing information on men's health awareness during No Shave November



Brothers "dressed the part" at this years 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.

Dates to Remember

Annual Ski Trip	Jan 15th – 18th
Atlantic Province Winter Conclave	Jan 22-24th
Rush Party	Jan 27th
Next Brothers Meeting	Feb 1st

Message From The New GCD



The most damaging or perhaps the most dangerous phrase in the language is "we've always done it this way". – M. Hopper

A quote that serves as a rallying cry for change and innovation. My last piece for this newsletter "The Men of '53" bragged on the qualities that have allowed Gamma Psi survive the times. It highlighted my strong belief that our continued relevancy is wholly dependent on our ability to avoid repeating mistakes and redundancy. I remain unmovable on that stand. As a Gamma Psi Brother who has been proud to have served my pledge class as PCP and the Chapter as both pledge master and Regent, it

was very humbling and honoring to be asked to serve as a Grand Council Deputy (GCD). With the same vigor and dedication, I hope to challenge, motivate, and guide every Brother that comes through the Chapter during my time here to look forward and think beyond the way we have always done it.

As the years have gone by and with the ever changing landscape in the profession of pharmacy, the demands on students to invest more in themselves has never been greater. All of this is seen firstly in the requirements for pharmacy school now. First year students have more undergraduate credits than ever before and many have at least a first degree under their belt. There are rumblings in many circles that in a few years all applicants may be required to have a minimum of a first degree to be eligible for pharmacy school. More graduating students are finding it harder to get a job offer before graduation and licensure. Even more graduate students are pursuing further studies with residencies and fellowships to improve their marketability. The bottom-line to all is conform and

adapt to the new standards or be left behind with staggering student loans and a less than enjoyable employment.

Our focus as a Chapter must remain growing and developing our Brothers to out-compete their peers at all challenges. It has certainly not been more important to hold them accountable to our fraternal principles of industry, sobriety, fellowship, and high ideals. The work begins with a strong pledge process that adequately promotes innovation and deep thought and ensures they are well prepared to take on the challenges down the road. The old way of doing things is fast becoming exactly that – the old way. Furthermore, past glories and the *status quo* do not guarantee our future stand as one of the best Chapters in Kappa Psi. There remains no doubt that hard work, diligence, ample planning, and perseverance are a few qualities Gamma Psi must exemplify in order to achieve future success.

Habeeb "Express" Ashiru-Balogun
Grand Council Deputy



**Brothers old and new at the
SNPPh National Convention**



**Brothers participating in the
Red Cross Blood Drive**

Keeping up with Gamma Psi



Dear Brothers,

I pledged back in the Spring of 2009, and when I look back at my time in pharmacy school, I can confidently say that becoming a brother was the best decision I made. It was my brothers who helped me to become a strong leader, and to build the time-management and discipline to be successful. It was the brothers that taught me about life and overcoming difficult challenges. Thus, it was this chapter that gave me the opportunity to build such strong bonds and memories with people that I would have otherwise never talked to.

When you look at each class of brothers, each brother comes from a different ethnic background, and has faced different life adversities. Our pledging process,

takes these individuals, and teaches them to look past the differences in order to work as one. I don't hesitate in saying that our brothers always succeed upon graduation. It is amazing to see what leadership positions collegiate brothers hold on campus every year, and upon graduation the strong impacts they make in our profession.

When I was on campus, it was my pledge brothers that helped me to be successful. We were there by each other's side day in and day out. We relied more heavily on each other than even our organization's boards because we knew each other. We knew how to work as one.

Since graduating, it has been amazing to see how our brothers have continued to stay involved as alumni, not only for our chapter but also for the fraternity. In the past two years alone, two of our alumni Habeeb Ashiru-Balogun and Joseph Walker have gone on to hold the position of Province Satrap. This is

the highest position a brother can hold at the province level.

Alumni involvement is critical to the success of our chapter. As alumni, we have the opportunity to give back to people who we are role models for. We have the opportunity to help those who have learned the same values and principles that we did when we were brothers. Giving back is our duty because a brother gave us the opportunity to join this great chapter. What we have gained personally from being a brother was only possible because a brother before us saw something special in each of us.

In closing, remember that giving back is what makes our fraternity special, and gives our future brothers the feeling of honor like we had when we received our jerseys.

Brother for life,
Sujal "Caesar" Patel



Brothers receiving scholarships at this year's Honor's Luncheon at Mercer University



Brother Kyle Brown nominated SNPhA National Vice President.