



Fall 2018

# Gamma Psi

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The fall semester is a time of transition, particularly for the newly initiated Brothers of Gamma Psi

as they adjust to their fraternal responsibilities. The experience and wisdom of the older Brothers proved invaluable to my pledge class as we strove to meet and exceed the expectations placed upon us. Our focus shifted from pledging to strengthening the bonds of brotherhood that serve as the foundation of our Chapter. These bonds formed in our professional pursuits enable us to effectively run our Chapter while acting as benefactors of our campus, community, and province.

Our summer began with a trip to Auburn University for Gulf Coast's Provincial Summer Assembly, which served as a wonderful

introduction of Kappa Psi's national presence for my pledge class. This was followed by the Atlantic Provincial Summer Assembly in Chapel Hill, NC and our Chapter's summer retreat where we set our projections for the year. These meetings were pivotal for our development as Brothers, as we acquainted ourselves with inter-chapter relations by engaging in fellowship with each other and our alumni Brothers.

Utilizing knowledge gleaned from the summer assemblies and plans made during retreat, the Brothers of Gamma Psi successfully hosted various fundraising, philanthropic, and social events throughout the semester. Despite the loss of our drug card fundraiser, innovations from our fundraising committee fulfilled our Chapter's financial needs. The service committee prepared numerous events, even establishing a relationship with nearby Henderson Middle School. Through their efforts, our Chapter

engaged the different health disciplines at Mercer's Atlanta campus during our fall blood drive which enabled us to exceed the donation goal set by the American Red Cross. Furthermore, events organized by our social committee strengthened our relationships on campus and those with nearby chapters.

We have had a productive semester of fellowship and growth, and I would like to thank all collegiate and alumni Brothers for their dedication towards the Chapter and our brotherhood. This is the newest chapter in the legacy of Gamma Psi, and may we continue to keep it strong through this upcoming semester.

Fraternally,

Stephen, "AMA" Djanor

## Executive Board

Gil Arquisola  
**Regent**

Alex Kilgore  
**Vice Regent**

Andrew Blake  
**Secretary**

Marlon Paul  
**Treasurer**



## A Secretary's Story



When the Regent asked me to write an article about my

experiences in our Fraternity over the last two years, I decided to start at the beginning. When I first walked on Mercer's campus in the spring of 2016, I observed Gamma Psi and immediately knew that I would do whatever it took to become part of that. I wanted to belong to that family, to sharpen my leadership skills, and perhaps provide some wisdom to this group of young men. I can say with certainty that it is one of the best decisions I've made in life. I've assisted my Brothers in executing successful fundraisers, creating new philanthropic events, exceeding blood drive goals, and forging new Brothers from pledges. I have been blessed to participate in four Atlantic Province Assemblies, one Grand Council Convention, and serve on our executive board for two consecutive terms.

All of the above are unique opportunities, and I am thankful for the faith placed in me to serve the Chapter in these capacities thus far. I have immensely enjoyed the opportunities to "DO WORK" alongside a group of men who

have become my closest friends.

But for a Gamma Psi Brother, service is not unique. Look at the trophy case in Duvall: "#1 Collegiate Chapter" six times in a decade is a milestone, lending credibility to the Mercer program and, more importantly, the potential for our Brothers to excel in this profession. We reap the benefits now, but today's successes are laid upon foundations built by men who served this Chapter with a fire and passion; Grad Brothers who stay involved and shape us into excellence. These successes are maintained by putting in the work, striving to be 1% better than the day before, and most importantly, doing this not for accolades but the betterment of our family.

There will always be setbacks: as a personal example, a long weekend at a professional conference meant I failed an exam, but my Brothers reached out and offered to study with me. But there are also moments to rally the troops: when a massive concrete culvert needed to be broken down and hauled off, Brothers are there to get dirty and take care of business. I swell with pride to see Brothers William, Jonathan, and Preston serve our Province on the executive board. I can't describe the feeling of looking around the room at the Annual Honors Luncheon or the biweekly COS Presidents' meeting and seeing so

many of us holding leadership roles and being associated with success. We acquire internships, we are appointed to national positions, we obtain residencies, we "DO WORK."

To our Grads, I ask you to please continue returning for our retreats, meetings, and Founder's Day events. Lend your voice to our committees. Your presence and advice not only helps us run this Chapter efficiently and avoid making the same mistakes you've seen in years past but lends to the promise we all learned at initiation: Gamma Psi is for life! To our Collegiates, I ask you to enjoy the moments we have together because they are fleeting. Acts of service are more enjoyable when they are balanced with opportunities for fellowship. Continue putting in maximal effort while seeking advice and relationship with Grad Brothers. If we maintain this standard, I see no reason why we won't remain #1 Chapter for another decade. Although my time serving on the executive board is dwindling, the lessons learned and experiences had will stay with me for a lifetime. As long as we practice the principles of "UNTY," there is nothing that we cannot accomplish.

Fraternally,

Andrew "X-Finity" Blake



**Brothers Retreat 2018**



**KappaCarnival 2018**



**Friendsgiving 2018**

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

## A Word From Our Regent



I am honored and humbled to have been placed in the position of Regent.

The personal growth that my position has provided me has been immeasurable as I have had to learn how to balance my school and life responsibilities, in addition to managing the day to day activities of our prestigious Chapter. The impact that Gamma Psi has on the College of Pharmacy is immense and has been recognized by our peers and professors alike. While I feel that the Chapter has accomplished much this past semester, there is always room for improvement as we continue to build upon the efforts of our Alumni Brothers to maintain the high expectations and prestige that being a Brother of Gamma Psi entails.

Summer Assembly in Chapel Hill, NC provided bonding opportunities for Collegiate and Alumni Brothers. We enjoyed the weekend being able to explore an area that most Collegiate Brothers have never been and interacted with Brothers from other Chapters that we hadn't seen in a while. Our Brothers' Retreat provided the Brotherhood a time to work together as we began to map out our goals and objectives for the upcoming year. With the help and guidance of our Alumni Brothers, we discussed the importance of being active and visible on-campus from Day 1 in order to establish our presence as Gamma

Psi. We made it a goal to accomplish more service learning to not only give back to the community and provide education regarding better health practices, but also to open opportunities to interact and meet potential recruitment prospects for the Spring. With the removal of the Drug Card Fundraiser, we were forced to investigate other options to help offset costs with future Province Assemblies and the upcoming 59<sup>th</sup> Grand Council Convention, which will be in Washington D.C. We concluded our summer upon learning that Gamma Psi had received recognition for #1 Collegiate Chapter of the Year, making it our third #1 placement in the last three years.

Fall semester started off with P1 orientation and provided an opportunity for Brothers of Gamma Psi to meet the P1 class and display our leadership on campus with several Brothers holding positions as organization Presidents and members of organizational E-Boards. Incorporated into each P1 orientation packet this year was a Welcome to Atlanta brochure that was designed by the Brothers of Gamma Psi, which provided information on what Atlanta has to offer in terms of entertainment, dining, and sightseeing. The Welcome to Atlanta social was a hit as the Collegiates began to establish relations with the P1 class. These bonds continued to develop with the addition of service learning opportunities provided by Gamma Psi, our KappaCarnival social with Kappa Epsilon, and our Halloween Social. Our relations with Kappa Epsilon also grew stronger with a fantastic Friendsgiving

event. No Shave November provided the Collegiate Brothers opportunities to educate the College of Pharmacy regarding disease states such as Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy, Klinefelter Syndrome, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer.

My biggest challenge this semester has been maintaining my grades while balancing my responsibilities in not only Kappa Psi, but in other student organizations. I am grateful to my pledge brothers and for the lessons that older Brothers provided for my class while we were pledging. I feel that without the bonds that I made within the Brotherhood, I would not be able to make it as far as I have in school. This semester really gives me a lot more appreciation for those who have not only been in this position, but to the Brothers who have taken time out of their busy schedules to check on the Chapter and my well-being. I am grateful to my E-Board and GCDs for all the work that they've done this semester in helping to keep me accountable and to help keep the gears in the machine of Gamma Psi turning. I know that next semester will provide even more challenges with pledging and I hope to take the lessons that I've learned and pass them down to our next pledge class. I look forward to next semester with you all and towards the journey ahead as we continue to build upon the legacy of Gamma Psi.

Fraternally,  
Gil "Trane" Arquisola



**Gamma Psi Brothers  
recognized at the Mercer  
2018 Honor's Luncheon**



**Gamma Psi Brothers  
gathered at our Time  
Management Seminar**



**Gamma Psi Brothers at  
ASHP Midyear**



## Dates to Remember

Ski Trip	January 19h – 21st
Atlantic Province Winter Assembly	January 25th – 27th
Rush Social	January 22th
Bid Day	February 1st
Moral Boards	February 2nd
Founder's Day Weekend	March 8th – 10th
IFC Formal	April 26th
Pinning Ceremony	May 6th
Hooding Ceremony	May 10th
Commencement Ceremony	May 11th

## Don't Forget The Why



Do you remember when you first decided you wanted to be a pharmacist? I certainly do. I was in middle

school. I approached our neighborhood pharmacist at our local drug store and innocently asked "so what do you do?" His reply would guide the rest of my educational and career paths. He simply stated ... "I save lives everyday by helping people with their medications." Imagine my intrigue as a 12 year-old after hearing an answer like that. So, I followed up... "What made you want to help people?" He simply replied that he always wanted to give back to his community and that this career allowed him to do that. I was hooked. From that day I wanted to do exactly what he did. I went home and told my parents that I wanted to be a "pharmist." Yes, I said "pharmist" not pharmacist. My parents both looked at me with a confused but proud look. The rest is history.

After middle and high school, I still managed to keep in touch with our neighborhood pharmacist who at this point had become a mentor to me. When I started undergrad, I made it point to do whatever I could to simply be of help to others. If someone needed tutoring, I tutored them. If someone needed a friend to talk to, I was that friend. Honestly, at that point I had no idea the impact I would have on those around me. I just wanted to

help people.

Finally, the day came when I was to interview for pharmacy school. One of the many questions I was asked was of course why I wanted to be a pharmacist. I'm sure at this point you can guess my answer... "Because I want to help save lives by helping people with their medications." The interviewer paused for a second then smiled and nodded his head. A few weeks later I received a call that I had been accepted into pharmacy school. The rest again... is history.

The aforementioned story highlights the importance of mentorship. I believe that we, as Brothers in this great fraternity, have an obligation to mentor student pharmacists as they begin their journey. I've held this belief since the day I stepped foot on the Mercer University campus. On that day, it was a Kappa Psi Brother who gave me a tour of the campus and answered all of my questions. One main question I asked him was why he wanted to be a pharmacist. His answer was almost word for word what my now mentor had said to me years earlier when I was a child. I knew then that I was at the right place. I made myself a promise that if I were to be accepted into pharmacy school, I would do everything in my power to continue to mentor other students. Upon graduation, I felt my charge was to continue this act of mentorship by serving as a preceptor for the Mercer University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS).

Last year I was honored to be awarded the 2018 Mercer University COPHS Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experi-

ence preceptor of the year. It was a truly humbling experience. This award was the culmination of years of hard work with both my students and pharmacy team members. I have been a preceptor for 5 years. Many of my students have gone on to obtain various positions in the clinical setting, as well as in managed care and industry. I could not be more proud of each and every one of them. My challenge to each student is always the same... *don't forget the "why."* The reason most of us decided to embark on this pharmacy journey was to help people. That is and will always be the most important aspect of our career. That is the "why", regardless of title or compensation, we must never forget this. We must remember that we've been blessed with a great opportunity. The opportunity to serve our communities in one of the most trusted professions. We must hold this responsibility dear.

I ask of our Brothers reading this to ask ourselves if we remember the "why." I believe that we do. I see it in the willingness of young Brothers to volunteer for roadside cleanups and blood drives. I see it in older Brothers willing to donate their time and supervise service learning events and health screenings. I encourage each and every Brother to continue to give back. You never know who you may influence to pursue a career in this great field of pharmacy. Remember Brothers, 99 Hands!

Faternally,

Philip S. Mensah, B.S., Pharm. D., RPh

### Gamma Psi at the 2018 Atlantic Province Summer Assembly

