



Spring 2012

Gamma Psi

Table of contents

Editor's Note	1
The Virtues of Brotherhood	2
A Word From Our Regent	3
Reflections From a Pledge	4

Executive Board

Philip Mensah
Regent

Alan Tucker
Vice Regent

Dennis Cai
Secretary

Austin Tull
Treasurer



Spring has long been a synonym for new life and rebirth – and its arrival is befitting for this newsletter. After

a long and arduous path, our six new pledges have finally ascended into brotherhood. It is a wonderful feeling to see the hard work of pledge and brother alike culminate with the induction of a group of fresh, energetic new brothers. All semester they have continuously proved themselves worthy of wearing our beloved letters.

Throughout the newsletter you will see several pictures of the pledges helping out at our events. They have helped us pick up trash during the cleanup, scrubbed vehicles at the carwash, and even gave blood while manning the blood drive! Take a gander at Blake's article on page four, as he recounts his experience as a pledge and

details the newly formed bonds between him and his pledge brothers.

Just as we have new brothers entering the chapter, we are proud to see our fourth year brothers' graduate and become alumni. With this new addition of alumni, we can be confident that our chapter and fraternity are growing. Brother Amir gives a brief description on page two about his first year as a graduate brother, as well as his advice for staying involved as an alumnus.

On page three Regent Philip Mensah gives his final address and reflects on his year at the helm. Phil has done an excellent job as Regent, continuing the tradition of excellence established by the Regents before him. We all would like to thank him and the executive board members for all of their hard work all year. We wish these broth-

ers luck on rotations, and we hope to see them as often as possible.

Finally that leaves my pledge class, the rising P3s. We have learned a lot about this chapter, province, and fraternity over the past year. It was not easy being a class of five and still having to manage all of the work, but I would be lying if I said we didn't have fun. As we transition to our new roles on the executive board, we can only hope that we live up to the standards set by the brothers before us. We will do our best to serve the chapter for the next year.

Fraternally,

Joe Walker



The Pledges at Their First Roadside Clean Up

Dates to Remember

Pinning Ceremony **May 7th**

Graduation **May 12th**

Final PIV Conclave **June 1st**

Atlantic Province Conclave **Aug 10th**

The Virtues of Brotherhood



Brotherhood is an ideal that is promoted and held in the highest esteem for members of a fraternal or-

ganization. It is defined as the relationship between brothers. Yet, if a person were to ask us what the meaning of brotherhood was, each brother's response would lead to a different denotation.

With all the various answers it would make a person believe that brotherhood is a falsehood. But I say that all those answers would be correct in defining brotherhood. Each brother takes something different from the relationships and it is an abstract concept that cannot be simply defined in one sentence. Brotherhood must be experienced to gain a deeper understanding

than words could ever produce.

It is a long held notion that once you cross the arduous task known as pledging that those fraternal ties are for life. However, I disagree with this and believe that those fraternal relationships are constantly changing and evolving as we as individuals mature through life. It is no longer acceptable for a brother to become complacent and believe that brotherhood will be with him in his 4th year of pharmacy school and beyond. Pledging introduces us to brotherhood but it does not keep those bonds eternal. Effort is needed in keeping those bonds unyielding. I ask every brother to not only challenge themselves but to challenge their fellow brothers in this endeavor.

So then how can we challenge each other to become better brothers if we cannot come to a consensus of

what brotherhood should be? I ask brothers to focus on the common themes that lead us to pledge Gamma Psi. The diversity of opinions between the brothers is astounding. It is this diversity of thought that leads to the different definitions of what brotherhood can be. Some say this is to the detriment to the chapter but I dare say it provides a wealth of ideas and practices that can only improve the bonds that we all share.

Respectfully submitted,

Amir Khan



Pledges and Brothers at the Spring Blood Drive



Packing Presents for Operation Christmas

A Word From Our Regent



It's hard to believe that in a short period of time my role as Regent will come to a conclusion. Even harder

to imagine is that in just a few weeks my time on campus will be complete. Coming into this academic year, I anticipated a number of unique challenges for the Brothers on campus. My ultimate goal as regent was simple, to move this chapter forward. In accomplishing this goal I made it my personal responsibility to ensure that the brothers accomplished the goals that they set forth for themselves. These responsibilities included fraternal, personal, and most importantly academic responsibilities. As my time as the Regent of Gamma Psi concludes, I'm confident that we (as a chapter) have accomplished this overall goal and lived up to our responsibilities.

The transition from first year pharmacy student, to pledge, to service chair, to Regent has not been the easiest of transitions. As a first year pharmacy student I looked forward to simply matriculating through the curriculum and not assuming a leadership role. This was the plan that I had set out for myself. Fortunately, the Brothers saw something in me that I didn't want to see in myself. When Brandon Corpening and Christopher Kantenga approached me about Kappa Psi

my first year, I truly had no intention of becoming involved on campus. That day as I was studying for a drug quiz, I remember sitting in the Swilley library and thinking if pledging Kappa Psi was truly what I wanted to do. After quite a bit soul searching I decided to accept the challenge and pledge. Two years later, I'm standing in front of a group of men as the Regent of our chapter. This was a truly humbling experience.

Looking back on this year I know that the lessons we learned years ago as pledges played an intricate role in our success as a chapter. The most important quality that I learned as a pledge, and later as regent, is the importance of time management. I believe this chapter is unlike any other in the country in that we are not only expected to do great work but we are expected to be the best! In order to be the best every facet of the organization has to operate at maximum efficiency. This is where the qualities that we learned as pledges, particularly that of time management, is most important. I'm grateful to those Brothers who helped me transition from an average first year student to the leader that I'm working to become today.

The success of the brotherhood this year can be directly attributed to the Brothers and their hard work. My leadership as Regent has only played a partial role in the success of this

year. Fourth year Brothers such as Sujal Patel, Juan Lopez, Brandon Corpening and others have taken the time out of their busy schedule to always be available for the chapter. Second year Brother Habeeb Asiru-Balogun has shined in his role as pledgemaster and has done stellar work throughout the year. The efforts of these Brothers as well as many others have been key in making this year another tremendous year for our chapter.

Lastly, I'm proud to say that beyond the service events, fundraisers, and social events the brothers have truly come learn the meaning of brotherhood. As I've always stated, it is not enough to simply have a vision. Without proper communication and effective leadership no vision will become reality. As I transition to my new role as a fourth year brother, I'm proud to say that my vision of a stronger brotherhood has been fulfilled. I would like to thank all the brothers including faculty and alumni for giving me the opportunity to serve this chapter and grow as a leader. This has been a tremendous experience and I look forward to continuing to serve the Brotherhood for a long time to come.

Fraternally,
Philip S. Mensah
Gamma Psi Regent

Dr. Andrew Crowe and Dr. Chad VanDenBerg at Founders Day



Brothers Enjoying Good Food at the KE Ice Cream Social



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.

Reflections From a Pledge

It seems like just yesterday that my pledge brothers and I stood in a dark basement trying to memorize the most simplistic of details about each other. That foreboding feeling that we all experienced while in the clutches of darkness was just a small taste of what was to come in the next several months.

There was no way six oblivious pledges could have known that the sense of dread and loneliness we experienced that night would soon be replaced by a dependency and deep dedication for one another.

Though we began as six individuals, a radical transformation has gradually taken place over the course of these four months and we have meshed into one. It has been a rewarding experience to see my pledge brothers open up and embrace each other just like a family. And like a family, we have had our fair share of frustrations and disagreements while trying to fully understand the tasks demanded of each of us.

It was during these times of strife that our bond was

forged. We have learned to lean on each other in times of tribulation and celebrate in each other's successes. The growth and development I have witnessed in my pledge brothers not only astonishes me, but makes me proud of each of them.

Without a doubt the strength of the friendships developed between us will be

have spent countless hours instilling us with the knowledge of what we can do to become better men and great brothers. It is each brother's dedication to this fraternity that has been an inspiration to all of us pledges and helped push us through even the most challenging of times.

The pledge class of 2012

wants to thank each and every one of the brothers, faculty and alumni who have given us the opportunity to better ourselves and reach heights we never

thought possible. We all hope to have the honor to call each of you our brothers.

Humbly Submitted,

Blake Meeks

PCP 2012

VIP Day Down at the Capitol

extremely beneficial to the Fraternity.

Our success as a pledge class is a direct reflection of our pledgemaster, Habeeb Asiru-Balogun. His invaluable advice and guidance has helped to elevate our abilities as leaders and as men. His leadership has demonstrated a standard that we strive for and hope to achieve.

The brothers of Kappa Psi



Pledges in Paradise



Pledges Eating with Jim Dorsey at Founders Day



Alumni Brothers at the Rush Event