



Spring 2015

Gamma Psi

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Neal Patel
Regent

Kyle Brown
Vice Regent

Alastair Hay
Secretary

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Treasurer



Spring is upon us which represents new beginnings, blossoming of flowers, and last but not least a new group of pledges. The chapter has selected nine new pledges who are diligently working through process in hopes to call themselves a Brother of Gamma Psi. I remember the days of being a pledge and being uncertain of what was to come for me. However, somewhere along the process I formed a band of Brothers which gave me the strength and courage to take on any curve ball that life throws at me. It is my hopes that these pledges receive the same experience my pledge brothers and I had during our process.

The Brothers had a busy spring semester starting it off with making a trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to host our annual Ski Trip. Ski trip always serves as a reunion between the Brothers of Gamma

Psi and other Chapters from all over the southeast. Next we head to the Athens, Georgia for the Winter Atlantic Conclave hosted by the Brother of Gamma Phi. It was a pivotal moment seeing Brothers Alastair Hay and Kyle Brown were installed as Parliamentarian and GCC Alternate Delegate respectively. It was also a proud moment being able to witness Alumni Brother Joseph Walker be elected as Satrap for the Atlantic Province. Moments such as these only further solidify the high expectations that we as Brothers have for one another.

Later in the semester we held Founder's Day Weekend to celebrate the birth of our beloved Chapter. Gamma Psi Brothers from all over the country were in attendance which confirms what we have is incredibly special. We presented the honorary paddle to Brother Purvish Patel for all his hard work and dedication he has put into the Chapter. Thanks to Brother Purvish, generations of

Gamma Psi Brothers will forever chant the words "DO WORK!" Thank you for all of your contributions for our Chapter!

In this newsletter you will start with a reflection from Brother Regent as he provides you with a memoir on his time from his time as a pledge to now Regent of our Chapter. One page three you will find Jason Gaines' journey as a pledge and trials and tribulations his pledge class faced as they worked towards discovering the meaning of brotherhood. Last but not least on page four, Brother Joseph Walker discusses the transitions of being a Collegiate Brother to an alumnus. He also provides some valuable advice to all brothers on the betterment of brotherhood and strengthening of our chapter.

I hope you all enjoy this newsletter and I would like to thank all of the Collegiate, Alumni, and Faculty Brothers for making this year a successful one for Gamma Psi.

Rasheed "B.O.B." Anifowoshe



Brothers at the Atlantic
Province Winter Conclave

A Word From Our Regent



As we are quickly finishing off another spring semester, my time served as Regent has come to an end. Shortly thereafter my time on

campus will also be complete and I will be moving onto the next chapter of my life. However I must say it will be tough closing this part of my life. Coming into this year, I knew the road ahead of me would not be an easy one, but I had one thing helped ease my anxiety. I had a group of Collegiate Brothers and Alumni that were ready to push this Chapter forward and reach new heights of success. They believed in my vision and that alone empowered me to work harder everyday.

My journey from being a first year pharmacy student to Regent was most certainly the path less traveled. Starting out as first year pharmacy student, I had no plans for being involved in anything aside from schoolwork. I didn't associate myself with any of my peers and kept to myself. My plan at the time was to simply matriculate through the curriculum and go onto become a pharmacist in a community setting. Spring semester rolled around and I still had no contact with any of the Brothers of Kappa Psi. I chose to sign up for rush to get the experience of Greek life, but little did I know that it would change the path of my life forever. I vividly remember Joe Walker and Habeeb Asiru-Balogun talking to me at the rush party about Kappa Psi. Truth be told, I was not very interested until they told me this. "This process is not easy and it will

challenge you to bring out the best in you" My ears perked up when I heard this and I instantly wanted to be a part of this process.

Initially as a pledge, I didn't know what to expect or gain from the process. I knew it would be difficult, but I never expected to find the support and family I had always yearned for. What I got was a group of men who were ready to guide you and support you to reach the very best of your abilities. What we have here at Gamma Psi is special. We challenge each other everyday to do better and expect nothing less of that. Each of you bring something every unique to the table and I would not trade it for the world.

Serving as Regent for our beloved fraternity has been one of the most challenging, yet rewarding experiences of my life. The skills and experiences that I have acquired over the course of my time as a Gamma Psi Brother are invaluable and will certainly remain with me as I progress through life. I have learned what it takes to be a leader, making critical decisions, serving as a mentor, and dealing with high-pressure circumstances. Most importantly seeing my pledge brothers and the younger brothers growth and success has been the most rewarding experience. Being able to stand next to these high caliber men and call them my Brother means the world to me. Though it has proved to be a challenge, it will be tough waking up every morning and not having Chapter work that needs to be attended to. This Chapter has been the better part of the past 2 years of my life and I am forever in debt to you all.

I would like to take a moment to thank each of you for all that you have done and continue to do for our Chapter. Our current second year brothers are developing and growing and have proved that they have what it takes to be the next set of leaders for our fraternity. I have no doubt that the future Gamma Psi will be in great hands and continue reaching new heights of excellence for years to come. Thank you to the hard working alumni that have continually challenged me and turned me into the man that I am today. It has been a true honor to serve as your Regent and I look forward to what the future holds for Gamma Psi.

Fraternally,

Neal Patel

Gamma Psi Regent



Brother Dozie Ukpabi
at the Red Cross
Blood Drive



Brother Andrew
Crowe showing off
his cooking skills

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

*Formal Initiation
and New Officers*

**APRIL
18**

IFC Formal

**APRIL
24**

*Atlantic Province
Conclave Johnson
City, Tennessee*

**JUNE
12-14**

*Grand Council
Convention*

**AUG
4-9**

Denver, Colorado

A Pledge's Journey



It all began on a brisk February evening. Eleven men patiently awaited their fate after accepting a bid to join the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Incorporated. From the first encounter it was obvious that this would be a challenging experience. From our tacky attire to our varying personalities we all wondered what we were getting ourselves into. I knew most of the guys, but not on a very personal level. Little did I know that I was surrounded by individuals that would change my life for the better.

It was evident from the beginning that our biggest challenge would be time. Not just in regards to balancing our academic course load with intern hours and Kappa Psi, but syncing our own individual schedules. Between Derek disappearing for work every other day and the many tasks we were expected to complete, it was difficult managing our time. As a whole, we agreed that the best way to manage our situation would be to meet often in person. We started off well, but as nights got longer and mornings got earlier, we slacked off. Then, there were nine. In a span of a few weeks we had lost two Pledge Brothers. Many would see this as a failure, but maybe it was a miracle in dis-

guise. This process is intended for guys who strongly want it. No one can force you to have passion, drive, and motivation for something that you want.

As the group got smaller tasks became slightly easier, but the morale took a hit. Seeing guys depart led to the question, why? Why am I doing this? If they quit, why shouldn't I? Is anyone else going to quit? Luckily, this did not last for long because a breath of fresh air was lifted amongst the group. Inspirational messages were exchanged and personal conversations took place. By this time we were beginning to mesh as a unit. We had implemented a buddy system, not just for tasks, but school related items as well. It was a great system of checks and balances and accountability. Google docs were being utilized on a daily basis. Text messages were being sent, and most importantly we began to understand the purpose behind most things we were doing. After about a month I could finally see us begin to connect and strategize as a unit. One brother's strengths compensated for another's weaknesses. When one Pledge Brother struggled in an academic area another brother would assist him. When one Pledge Brother lacked motivation another was there to uplift his spirits. When one Brother fell then we all fell and picked each other back up.

In hindsight, the Brothers of Gamma Psi were providing us with the necessary tools to grow and shape us into the men that they knew we could become. We were provided difficult tasks that challenged our time management skills, communication skills, and most importantly our ability to persevere when all odds were against us. Balance is key, but so is a pragmatic attitude.

Nearing the completion of this process, it is a humbling experience to look back and to see how far we have come as a group. While we are not perfect and still have areas that we can improve upon, we still have grown tremendously. Our future is bright, and I look forward to enduring it with these gentlemen. We will always continue to DO WORK!



Gamma Psi Brothers at Roadside Cleaup



Founder's Day at Maggiano's in Buckhead

Keeping up with Gamma Psi



Spring: a time of new life, growth, and change. As the changing

season rushes towards us it is exciting to witness the rejuvenation of the fraternal circle of life. Our fourth year Brothers are winding down their rotations and getting ready to come back to Atlanta for capstone and graduation. Soon after they will be getting jobs and officially joining the profession! On behalf of the Grads, congratulations and we commend your perseverance. We are excited to hear about Nick Barker earning a residency position at Grady here in Atlanta. We are glad to keep you close to home and look forward to the impact you will make. We miss Trent right now, but I am sure he is making the most out of his rotation in Fiji!

Third year Brothers, you are almost done leading this Chapter! As exciting as it may sound to pass on the reigns, just remember that as P4s, it will be your responsibility to be the "big brothers" of the Chapter. Be sure to stay in touch and share all of the knowledge and experience you have gained. Think back to all of the times you were clueless and reached out to an Alumnus to help give you direction. Now it is your turn to respond to those late night

phone calls and text messages! As you near the end of the semester, knowing that the hardest part is behind you, prepare to use everything you have gained from being a Brother on your year of rotations. Be humble, learn what you are asked, be on time, and for Pete's sake make sure your tie is knotted properly and your gig line is straight!

Second year Brothers, steel yourselves for the hurricane that is about to be upon you. Not only is third year the most grueling academically, but leading the Chapter will take constant dedication. You will receive many criticisms and little thanks, but know that all of your senior Brothers are here to help. Please be sure to listen to the older Brothers (especially the P4s) and do not take anything personally. Remember, it is not the Exec Board that makes our Chapter great, but instead the older Brothers who are willing to serve as advisors to the Exec. Be sure to represent us well on campus and to set the example for the Brothers below you. Those who follow in your footsteps will imitate what you have done as a leader, so be forewarned and remember these wise words from Albert Einstein, "Setting a good example is not the main mean of positively influencing another individual, it is the only means."

And lastly we have the pledges, the soon to be newest members

of our family. You have to love the paradoxical nature of the pledges, as they are the lowest ranking in our hierarchy yet also the most important. These nine guys are our future, and we have to remember that pledging doesn't stop once they cross. We have to continue to instill our values into them, watch and guide them, and be sure to never abandon them. They may be the new grandkids in our family, but soon one of them will be sitting as an Alumnus writing this article.

It has been a great year of growth, for both the Chapter and me personally. It is not easy to transition into a full time job and the Alumnus role, and at many times I have found myself unsure of where I fit in. Thank you to all of the older Grads who are there to help with the transition, and thank you to all of the Collegiates who make the Chapter still feel like home. Let us all keep the cycle going and if you ever find yourself lost or in despair, just remember the words of Big Daddy Crowe, "LOVE YOUR BROTHER!"



Regent Neal Patel and Vice Regent Kyle Brown honor Alumni Brother Purvish Patel during Founder's Day



Brothers Justin and Francois with Alumni Brother Brandon at Winter Conclave



Alumni Brothers gathered at Maggiano's for Founder's Day