

Spring 2018

Gamma Psi

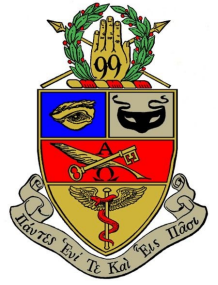


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Executive Board

Saumil Patel
RegentMax Son
Vice RegentAndrew Blake
Secretary/Treasurer

As another year comes to an end, it's the time of year when the Brothers of Gamma Psi begin to reflect on what is

most important. Pledging is winding down and we are focusing on developing the 8 potential new Brothers and helping them find their place and role within the chapter. With graduation around the corner, our fourth year Brothers are figuring out their plans for the next year, whether that be with a residency or with a full time job. Third year students are beginning to prepare for their clinical rotations, while the second years are gearing themselves to take larger leadership roles.

Change is always happening, and change is important. As you will read in this issue of the Gamma Psi Newsletter, everyone experiences change,

but it is how we adapt to the change that defines our success as a chapter. We hear stories of Brotherhood where Brothers rely on each other for confidence, support, and for accountability. As the chapter progresses forward each year, it is a priority that we continue to instill that value within our Brotherhood because without each other, Brotherhood has nothing and means nothing.

In this issue, we have words from our Regent, Brother Saumil Patel, the Pledge Class President of the Spring '18 Pledge Class Mr. Preston Skersick, and from the two alumni who were honored at our most recent Founders Day banquet as Alumni Brothers of the year, Dr. Kevin Long and Dr. Amir Khan. All of these men depict a different approach on how being adaptable and keeping priorities make or break the success of the chapter as a whole. These are words of wisdom they hoped to pass down to the next generation of leadership of the chapter for

the betterment of the Brotherhood.

In closing, our Brotherhood has overcome many obstacles over the last year, but have continued to do work where work is needed. We have put our hearts into our projects and have pursued them with gusto. This is the attitude that we believe it takes to be a Brother of Gamma Psi. With this year closing and a new year beginning, we are excited to see all of the new changes that will come with new Brothers, new leadership, and new challenges as the chapter moves on to new successes.

Fraternally,

Connor "Beethoven" Walsh



Gamma Psi
Annual Ski Trip

A Word From Our Regent



"Brotherhood" holds a very special place in the hearts of all Gamma Psi Brothers. It is what connects all the Brothers who pledged several years apart from each other, some never having met, but they still feel connected with one another. It is what sets us apart on campus compared to all other organizations. It is what we unintentionally end up using to gain interest from potential students.

"Brotherhood" refers to a way of life which Gamma Psi Brothers adopt and attempt to take to elevate to greater heights. It is represented by Brothers being connected to one another. The process of exposing individuals to and ensuring that they embrace the way of life that is the Brotherhood starts with the first day of pledging. The pledge process in and of itself is geared with the end goal of the pledges being incorporated in our brotherhood. The pledges move a step closer towards this end goal through the time they spend together and projects such as a fundraiser and a philanthropy event to name a few.

The pledges are indirectly

exposed to the idea of Brotherhood during the pledge process. The real journey to being incorporated in the Brotherhood along with all Gamma Psi Brothers and not just their pledge class begins the moment they are initiated in our great Fraternity. This is when they are truly able to connect with the Brothers as Brothers themselves without the invisible line differentiating the pledges from Brothers.

Being connected with one another is an attribute which should be capitalized on to its maximum potential if we are to strengthen our brotherhood. As humans, aside from our opposable thumbs, what sets us apart from other species is our mental capability to adapt and stay connected with each other. Therefore, if our vision is to strive for excellence and be the ideal representation of brotherhood, our mission has to be to maximize connections with the brothers.

Simply by having excellent brotherhood, one can automatically start excelling in the four pillars of our Fraternity. Brotherhood promotes Fellowship amongst Brothers regardless of when they pledged or their background. It is because of brotherhood that Brothers work tirelessly and become more industrious than they have ever been by going beyond their normal

capabilities whenever another Brother is in need. For example, when Brothers Connor Walsh and Jason Cuaresma underwent their appendectomy surgeries this academic year, many Brothers stepped up to provide aid in any way possible whether it was monetary or picking up the projects that the Brother was working on at the time. These are just two of the many examples in which Brothers have pushed themselves beyond their limits for a fellow Brother with whom they are connected. It is due to the support provided by the Brotherhood that we foster High Ideals. It is also due to our brotherhood that whenever a Brother seems to not be thinking clearly, rest of the Brothers help provide some clarity and help the Brother embody Sobriety in its finest forms.

Everything that Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. and the Gamma Psi Chapter of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. hold as having value and importance can be achieved through embodying and forever strengthening the way of life that is known as "Brotherhood".

Fraternally,

Saumil "Catfish" Patel
Spring '16



**Gamma Psi Annual
Ski Trip**



**Gamma Psi Roadside
Clean-up**

Stay Connected!

We are constantly updating Gamma Psi Alumni mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If you have moved since graduation, changed your email address, 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 and updates.

A Word From The PCP



Pledge Class President (PCP) is a position that can prove to be tremendously beneficial, if approached correctly. While the word "President" is in the title, the workload and responsibilities far exceed any initial thoughts one may have. Brothers of the Fraternity have very high expectations and standards that need to be met in every challenge. As PCP, I have had to work to ensure that my pledge class and I have been staying on top of our work. We have grown closer and we will continue to proceed through this journey.

Throughout my journey as PCP, I have learned quite a few things and attained qualities I will be able to utilize in the future. A portion of these qualities and characteristics I incorporated into my daily life prior to pledging; however, this process has allowed me to build upon and refine those qualities. Behaving in a respectful manner, working cohesively as a team, and developing a professional persona have been just a few of the trends I have noticed throughout the process. I have also seen growth within

my pledge brothers, which I have truly enjoyed. If we are able to cross, I hope to see further growth and development within my pledge brothers as well as myself.

Although I have found the process very beneficial, I have dealt with quite a few challenges. Two of our biggest obstacles were communication and getting together. Communication was a detrimental issue that we faced very early on. We have utilized various platforms and other means of communication to ensure we are remaining in contact with one another. We have also been meeting more. In turn, this has helped our communication skills as well. I believe that we have come a long way and gained a lot of insight and knowledge.

Although we have grown significantly throughout the process, we still have a lot to learn and improve upon. A few areas of improvement include accountability, formality, and timeliness. We have struggled vastly in these areas. As the process has progressed, we have pointed

out these deficiencies and have worked to enhance them accordingly. I hope I can continue to help my pledge brothers grow as individuals as well as a whole.

The process has been very challenging and demanding at times. I have found myself having to sacrifice various hobbies that I enjoyed doing, to ensure that we are finishing our work. Although I miss the things I enjoyed doing in my free-time, I have been able to get to know some amazing people and help them in their times of need. When I begin to miss the things I enjoyed doing, I remind myself of the end result of pledgship. I look forward to the day that I am able to enjoy my free-time again.

On multiple occasions, I have felt as if I have failed at my position as PCP. My pledge brothers have struggled at times during this process. When I see them continuing to struggle, I question myself as a leader. I have found that I need to approach issues in a variety of ways to evaluate which method is most effective. I have learned that I need to help others in different ways to find the most productive style. By incorporating this mindset, I have felt as if I have been able to better help my pledge brothers. I must continue to work hard, so that I do not fail them. By utilizing my leadership skills more effectively, I believe that I will be able to help my pledge brothers grow and develop in many ways.

Preston Skersick



Brothers gathered during the American Red Cross Blood Drive



Poison Prevention Week with the Spring '18 Pledge Class



Brothers presenting about the importance of donating blood

A Word From Our Alumni



"Will you stay involved after you graduate?" It is a question collegiate brothers are often asked and met with a resounding "yes." However, based on reality, the sea of affirmations is illusory with alumni retention improving, but still underwhelming. There are numerous

reasons to be listed as to why a chapter could benefit from a high retention rate. It provides continuity and experience for the chapter to evolve while also holding true to tradition and direction. There is the collective experience and confidence which can aid collegiate members during a difficult decision making process. We can donate our time, money and/or energies to improve the chapter. Greater alumni presence and participation would be beneficial for the chapter and the individual collegiate members as emerging pharmacists and professionals.

Lack of time is the overwhelming reason why alumni say they cannot give back

meaningfully. It's often lost that we use the phrase "spend time" purposefully to illustrate that time is a limited commodity. It is easier to give back when you are in close proximity to the chapter. It takes less effort or time. When you have no other responsibilities and are always on campus for classes it can seem inconceivable that you would miss a single event as a graduate brother. Then you graduate and your time evaporates. You no longer have a reason to be on campus, or otherwise in Atlanta, and find that you can't make it to a single event. It is no longer easy just to ride the coattails of others and expect to make it to events. Poor or no planning leads to complacency and just 1 year later we find ourselves out of the fold.

The old adage "you reap what you sow," proves itself repeatedly. A graduate who has spent very little effort or time sowing as a collegiate will not bother wasting time to reap as alumni. As an individual you have to look within yourself and ask if you're willing to give that commitment. We are all able to contribute in our own ways and there isn't one right way. We are not advocating for us to all show up at every event or to even donate monetarily every year. Your contributions may not be formally recognized immediately but you can rest assured they will be noticed.

"How can I contribute?" It is not some rhetorical phrase you need to bluster

about to impress others or to evade chastisement from them. You have to look inward and use the desire for involvement and brotherhood as motivation to start planning. We all make plans for other areas in our life, such as investing or buying a home. We can make plans to guide our involvement in the chapter. Starting as fourth year brothers, we should write our goals down annually for our involvement within the chapter for upcoming year. Writing it down brings clarity toward specific goals and creates a record for you to be accountable to yourself. The only brothers to benefit from this exercise are the ones that will actually do it. It all comes down to commitment and willingness to spend 30 minutes of your time now to plan for the whole year.

Almost exactly ten years ago, a very wise brother told us to bottle up some of the passion and determination that drove us to become a part of this brotherhood. He said to remember that time and hold on to it, as one day we would need it. Another wise brother told us to stick to the plan.

Fraternally,

Amir "CCW" Khan, Spring '08

Kevin "Genghis" Long, Spring '08



**Founder's Day Dinner
2018**