



*Twenty-Five Years at Gamma Iota*

# AXΣ-cess

THE OFFICIAL FRATERNITY  
NEWSLETTER



Gamma Iota Chapter

Blacksburg, Virginia

Spring 2012

## Message from the Master Alchemist

Brothers,

This year has been a year of change. We have had to say goodbye to Davidson Hall this year as it is being demolished. With the Chemistry Department being moved to various buildings and pseudo-offices, we have changed many of the pledge events, most notably Initiation. Last semester, we held Initiation at a secluded campground. Each station was held in individual cabins and the final station was held within a hexagon fire pit on the grounds. Another area of change this year is the Bylaws. At the end of last Spring, the Chapter voted on and passed a section of Bylaws that created a concrete set of requirements needed to be met by pledges before they may be initiated and a section focused on active membership. The pledge system is a point system based on attendance to pledge meetings, events, and scores on quizzes and tests. This has removed the bias and subjectivity from determining whether or not a pledge was allowed to be initiated. The new requirements have also reduced the sizes of the pledge class. In recent years, there had been an increasing problem with Brothers paying dues and not being active and with new Brothers never coming back after being initiated. The new section defines the requirements for active membership. If the requirements are not met, the Brother will be put onto a probation semester where they must meet the membership requirements, otherwise the executive committee may report him/her as a professional Brother. Brothers on probation or reported as professional by executive decision are unable to get little Brothers and receive graduation medals without payment. Our free tutoring has been running steady and our private tutoring has increased in demand. We are continuing

to help in Friday Night Friends, a monthly night to allow parents of special needs children a night off. We will be creating teams for both the Big Event and Relay for Life.

Our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Alumni Dinner will be in April and we are making it special. It will be a great formal and would love for all to come. We would love to hear how our Brothers are doing outside of their Alma Mater. If you have any question about the Chapter and the Brotherhood, please feel free to send me an e-mail at [mike0618@alphachisigma.com](mailto:mike0618@alphachisigma.com).

Yours in the Double Bond,  
Mic Le



## Message from the Vice Master Alchemist

This fall, we initiated the AΩ pledge class and welcomed 18 new members into the Brotherhood! Join us in congratulating our newest Brothers:

David Abraham  
Casey Barba  
Edward Crook  
Helene Daskowitz  
Andrea Denny  
Brett Eikenberg  
Kevin Hannon  
Kim Hayashi  
Richard Kossler  
Allison Miller  
Rebecca Price  
Mark Rohlfling  
Ingrid Rowland  
Eric Schweiger

Eda Turgut  
Renee VonGuggenberg  
Aileen Weldon  
Amy Weldon



## Latest Financial News

We have a number of T-shirts and glassware to sell from previous fundraisers. If anyone would like more information about these items, please contact Mo Quadri (mrq@vt.edu).

We would be most appreciative of any and all donations from our alumni to continue funding pledging and outreach events. Remember that AXΣ is a 501(c)3 organization, so your contribution is tax-deductible. We will ensure that you receive a signed letter from our MA on Fraternity letterhead to serve as receipt of your gift. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



## District News

Our very own Claudia Brodtkin (AZ '02) continues to serve as East Central District Counselor. Claudia has been very busy traveling and serving the entire District. We are thrilled for her, and we are sure many of you will be too, knowing that Claudia has been an absolute asset to our Chapter over the years.



## Upcoming Events

We always welcome our alumni to participate in any of our events, if your schedule permits!

### Spring 2012

#### Alumni Dinner

Please join us for a very special Alumni Dinner event to commemorate our Chapter's Silver Anniversary! The details:

**Where:** The Inn at Virginia Tech  
901 Prices Fork Rd.  
Blacksburg, VA  
**When:** Saturday, April 21, 2010  
**Theme:** The Silver Anniversary

As in years past, alumni are free but guests will be asked to pay \$45. If you would like to make a voluntary donation towards the dinner, \$30 a plate is suggested. We will be sending out invitations this year so check your mailboxes for those in the next couple weeks! We will have a plated dinner and an open bar. It should be a lot of fun and we hope to see you all there! Please RSVP to [candicew@vt.edu](mailto:candicew@vt.edu) by March 24th.

### Chapter Calendar for Spring 2012

PT1	February 18 <sup>th</sup>
PT2	March 24 <sup>th</sup>
Highway Cleanup	March 25 <sup>th</sup>
Big Event	March 31 <sup>st</sup>
Plaque Night	April 19 <sup>th</sup>
Initiation	April 28 <sup>th</sup>
PIC/PRC	TBD



## Chapter Website and Alumni Listserv

Keep current with Chapter news at our website, <http://www.axe.org.vt.edu>. The site is under continual development (hopefully improvement), so please check it out! If you have information posted that you would like modified or removed, contact Justin Lemkul ([jalemkul@vt.edu](mailto:jalemkul@vt.edu)).

*“To aid its members by every honorable means in the attainment of their ambitions as chemists throughout their mortal lives”*

To act upon the Third Object of our Fraternity, we have set up a “Job Postings” page on the website (under “Brothers Only”). If your company, school, governmental office, lab, etc. has an opening for which one of your Brothers might be suited, please let us know! The job description will be posted, along with your contact information, if you choose. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

We have tried to keep current with information posted on the Alumni page. If Brothers have questions about what you are currently doing, they may contact you. If you would like to opt out of this program, contact Justin to have this information removed.

The alumni listserv has recently been expanded. If you are in contact with any other alumni who are not currently receiving email across the alumni listserv, please share this newsletter with them and have them contact Justin if they would like to be added to the listserv.

The newest addition to our alumni outreach is a Facebook group. If you are not a member, please contact Justin or any other existing member of the group to get added. The page is called “Alumni of the Gamma Iota Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma.”

## Committee News

### Tutoring

*Committee Chair: Daniel Silas AΨ '11*

AXΣ tutoring meets every Monday and Tuesday from 6-8 PM in the Chemistry Learning Center for free group tutoring and now offers private tutoring by referral. Students can e-mail us at [AXEtutoring@yahoo.com](mailto:AXEtutoring@yahoo.com) for more information or for a referral to a private tutor. There are generally 3-10 students interested in aid with 3-4 tutors available to help them.

### Philanthropy

*Committee Chair: David Vennard AΨ '11*

We hold a program called Friday Night Friends once a month that provides respite care for special needs kids so that their parents can have a night off to themselves. It's held usually on the third Friday of every month and has been a great success this past semester and will continue throughout the spring.

We have been active in organizing and participating in a number of blood drives throughout the area. We have been actively advertising for these events using traditional flyers and Facebook. The next blood drive is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

During the remainder of the spring, we will be participating in the Big Event (March 31<sup>st</sup>), Kid Tech (March 12<sup>th</sup>), and Relay for Life (April 20<sup>th</sup>).

### Social

*Committee Chair: Candice Wachtel AX '10*

We are hard at work planning this year's Alumni Dinner event. We hope to see you there!

### Professional Activities

*Committee Chair: Ben Shyroch AX '10*

The Professional committee has continued in the usual preparation in forms of beverages and snacks for the Chemistry Departments Friday Highlands

Seminar Series. On February 11, several Brothers and members of the Chemistry Club volunteered to assist with the Boy Scout Chemistry Merit Badge. We hope to continue planning and to keep you all posted with more activities soon.



## Jody Goad Memorial Scholarship

Several years ago, the Chapter began raising money in memory of our late Brother, Jody Goad. Tony Gaglione (ΑΓ '01) placed the money in an account with the Alpha Chi Sigma Educational Foundation, an interest-bearing account from which future awards will be given out. We are actively raising funds for the scholarship and are preparing to award it for the first time next year!

If you would like to make a contribution to this scholarship fund in Jody's memory, please send it to the following address:

Alpha Chi Sigma Educational Foundation  
2141 N. Franklin Rd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Please make checks payable to the Alpha Chi Sigma Educational Foundation. You may include a note or letter stating that the donation should be directed to the Jody Aaron Goad Memorial Scholarship.



## Current Officers

Master Alchemist  
Michael Le  
[mike0618@vt.edu](mailto:mike0618@vt.edu)  
Vice Master Alchemist  
Julia Collett  
[collettj@vt.edu](mailto:collettj@vt.edu)  
Master of Ceremonies  
Caitlin Wheatley  
[caitlinw@vt.edu](mailto:caitlinw@vt.edu)

Treasurer  
Mo Quadri  
[mrq@vt.edu](mailto:mrq@vt.edu)  
Reporter  
Erin Fagan  
[fagane@vt.edu](mailto:fagane@vt.edu)  
Recorder  
Amy Sanford  
[asanford@vt.edu](mailto:asanford@vt.edu)  
Historian  
Maria Venezia  
[mvenezie@vt.edu](mailto:mvenezie@vt.edu)  
Alumni Secretary/Webmaster  
Justin Lemkul  
[jalemkul@vt.edu](mailto:jalemkul@vt.edu)



## Other News

We will be holding PIC and PRC for graduating Brothers later this semester on a Saturday (date TBD). If you have dates you are available to participate, please contact me as soon as possible! We need only a few people to run the ceremony, but extra hands are always appreciated. If you did not participate in PIC when you graduated, you are welcome to participate. Please let me know if this is the case and we will make the necessary arrangements.

If you have news or announcements (job promotions, engagements, weddings, births, or anything else of interest), please contact me, and your announcement will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

We hope you can join us for events in the spring. Keep in touch and let us know how you are doing!

Yours in the Double Bond,

Justin Lemkul, AI '04  
Alumni Secretary