



THE

# MASK

FALL 2025

OF KAPPA PSI PHARMACEUTICAL FRATERNITY

**Professional  
Development**  
LEADERS IN PHARMACY



*Chris Miller, Grand Regent*

## Leadership is a mindset and a choice.

Leadership is not a title or position—it’s a mindset and a choice. It is the decision to serve with integrity, to listen with intent, and to act with courage. Every day presents an opportunity to lead—whether by mentoring a younger brother, lending a hand in difficult times, or simply setting an example of consistency and care.

True leadership is quiet but powerful. It is built on accountability, empathy, and the willingness to put the needs of others before our own. The strongest leaders are often those who lead without recognition, whose steady influence shapes chapters, friendships, and futures. Our Fraternity continues to thrive because brothers, generation after generation, choose to lead by example—guided not by ambition, but by purpose.

As we continue to grow as individuals and as an organization, leadership must also include a commitment to professional development—of ourselves and of our chapters. Growth does not happen by chance; it happens through intention. When we seek new knowledge, refine our skills, and embrace opportunities to improve, we strengthen not only our personal journeys but the foundation of our Brotherhood. Chapters that prioritize education, mentorship, and leadership development create environments where brothers are prepared not just for today’s responsibilities, but for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Leadership begins within. It starts with self-reflection, grows through collaboration, and is sustained through a willingness to learn. Each of us holds the potential to strengthen the Brotherhood by bringing our best selves to the table—listening first, acting thoughtfully, and committing to continuous improvement. In doing so, we help ensure our chapters remain vibrant, resilient, and forward-focused.

We also pause to remember two extraordinary brothers whose lives embodied these ideals—Past Grand Regents Norman A. Campbell and Anthony Palmieri III.

Brother Campbell served faithfully for more than 70 years, leading with wisdom, humility, and an unwavering belief in the enduring bonds of Brotherhood. His message to all of us was clear: “Not only is Kappa Psi for Life—make Kappa Psi part of your life.” He lived those words every day, showing that leadership and personal growth are lifelong acts of service.

Brother Palmieri likewise gave selflessly to our Fraternity. As Editor of *THE MASK* and later as Grand Regent, he guided with intellect and grace, reminding us that our influence reaches further than we realize. His reflection still inspires: “You influence others even when you do not expect to.” He demonstrated that developing others—through communication, mentorship, and shared knowledge—is one of the most powerful forms of leadership.

Both devoted their lives to shaping leaders, advancing our mission, and strengthening our Brotherhood. Their impact will continue to echo through the generations of brothers they inspired.

As we reflect on their example, let us renew our own commitment to lead—with kindness, with conviction, and with a vision that extends beyond ourselves. Leadership is not found in moments of comfort but in how we respond when we are needed most. When we commit to serving others and to growing ourselves, we elevate our chapters, strengthen our Brotherhood, and leave Kappa Psi better than we found it.

Fraternally Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Miller".

Chris Miller, PharmD  
Grand Regent, 2024–2026  
Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc.

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|-------------|---------|
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### On the Cover:

Beta Omega Brother AJ Bulsara gained hands-on experience in compounding formulations at Hatch Rx, a privately-owned pharmacy specializing in hormonal and veterinary medicine. He contributed to preparing creams, capsules, and sublinguals while learning about personalized medicine and entrepreneurial pharmacy operations.



Zeta Gamma brothers won several awards, including SEP Chapter of the Year at the fall 2025 assembly in West Palm Beach.

- 4 Johnny Porter Recognized with PFA Top Award/Past Grand Regent** and former Executive Director Johnny Porter is honored with the PFA Career Achievement Award.
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## Leaders in Pharmacy, Excellence in Life



Brothers,

This issue focuses on professional development and continued growth as leaders in pharmacy. Featured throughout are examples of how brothers pursue professional growth—through studying abroad, mentorship, and meaningful impact in their communities. We celebrate the recognition given to Past Grand Regent Porter, recipient of the PFA's Career Achievement Award, and to current APhA Executive Vice President and CEO Dr. Michael D. Hogue, who received Kappa Psi's highest honor, the A. Richard Bliss Jr. Grand Council Citation of Appreciation.

A new feature debuts in this issue that explores different pharmacy practice areas through the experiences of our brothers. This inaugural spotlight highlights the pharmacy industry. The goal of this new feature is to provide a space for brothers to share their professional journeys and introduce readers to career paths they may not have previously considered. Pharmacy today extends far beyond the limited options many of us first learned about, and the profession continues to evolve. Kappa Psi brothers remain at the forefront of driving innovation and shaping the future of pharmacy.

Professional development is not a destination but a lifelong journey. As you explore the stories in this issue, may the achievements of our brothers inspire continued growth, leadership, and service.

Fraternally,

Melissa Buchanan, Interim Editor

# Johnny Porter Honored by the Professional Fraternity Association

**The Professional Fraternity Association (PFA)** selected Past Grand Regent and former Executive Director Johnny Porter as the 2025 recipient of its Career Achievement Award. This prestigious honor recognizes a distinguished member of national or international renown who remains actively engaged in their profession and has demonstrated sustained, exceptional contributions to their fraternity's discipline. The award was presented to Brother Porter in September 2025 at the PFA Annual Convention in Hampton, Virginia.

Brother Porter was initiated into Delta Beta chapter at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma, on August 30, 1971. Since that day, he has dedicated himself to a lifetime of service to Kappa Psi, the profession of pharmacy, and his community. His national leadership began in 1978 with his appointment as Graduate Member-at-Large, followed by election to every major office in the Fraternity: Grand Historian-Ritualist (1985–1987), Grand Counselor (1987–1989), Grand Vice Regent (1989–1991), and Grand Regent (1991–1993). Following his term as Grand Regent, he was appointed Editor of *THE MASK*, serving for 15 years (1994–2009), and from 2008–2022, he served as Executive Director. In these roles, Brother Porter modernized operations, strengthened the Fraternity's financial health, and launched impactful initiatives such as the Leadership Symposium.

Beyond Kappa Psi, Brother Porter's leadership has extended to numerous professional and civic organizations. He served as president and CEO of Turtle Creek Manor, a free mental health and addiction clinic in Dallas, Texas (1997–2002); was twice elected president of the Dallas County Pharmacist Association (1987–1988, 1996–1997); and held leadership positions in both the PFA and Fraternity Communications Association



*Johnny Porter is joined by Grand Regent Chris Miller and Kappa Psi Executive Director Christy Askew at the 2025 PFA Annual Convention.*

(FCA), including PFA President (2004–2005) and FCA President (1999–2000). In 2009, FCA honored him with the Marilyn Simpson Ford Distinguished Service Award, an award to one who has diligently worked to advance the association's vision and purpose. In 2021, he began work on the history of PFA, further contributing to the professional fraternity community.

Throughout his 42-year career as a pharmacist for CVS, Brother Porter served as a preceptor for the University of Texas, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Texas Tech University, and South University. In 2011, he was recognized with CVS's prestigious Paragon Award for outstanding professional achievement in pharmacy. Johnny was honored for being a long-time contributor to his community and for contributing to professional associations on both the local and national levels. He retired

from CVS in 2016, allowing him more time to travel and to pursue his woodworking hobby. Although retired from CVS, Johnny continued to be involved in Kappa Psi and also in the Professional Fraternity Association.

Johnny Porter's success has been strengthened by the steadfast support of his wife, Kathy; his two sons, two stepsons, one stepdaughter; and eight grandchildren. His record of service exemplifies the values of industry, sobriety, fellowship, and high ideals. His leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication have left an enduring mark on the Fraternity, the profession of pharmacy, and the many lives he has touched.

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**Johnny joins three Kappa Psi brothers who were named PFA Career Achievement Award winners:**

2019: Lawrence Brown  
2017: Norman Campbell  
2008: Dewey D. Garner



*Johnny Porter celebrates with longtime friend, Brother Paul Knecht (Gamma Mu, 1971), who nominated him for the award.*



*Johnny's wife, Kathy, supports him at a PFA event in 2007.*

## Brothers by Choice

Brother Paul Knecht shares a few words about the lifelong relationship he forged with Johnny Porter through Kappa Psi. True “Brothers from Another Mother.”

I met Johnny in March 1971 at a Province VII meeting. I was a new initiate of Gamma Mu chapter at (then) Northeast Louisiana University and he was a pledge for Delta Beta chapter at (then) Southwestern Oklahoma State College.

Our paths did not cross consistently after that. We did spend time together during GCC in Philadelphia in 1976, and then we were routinely together for GCCs. In total, we have both attended 24 GCCs, even though we each had a miss of one in that time period.

Johnny had made arrangements through National Car Rental for some free rental cars at GCC in Scottsdale in 1979. On one of the days, Dewey wanted to use one of the cars, so I rented a car from ‘Rent-A-Wreck’ for transportation for the day. I don’t think anyone has laughed as much as we did that day, just bumping around Scottsdale, especially in our Rent-A-Wreck. In 1981, we attended GCC in Detroit and shared a room.

When the decision was made to move The Central Office from Weatherford to Dallas, Ben Welch (GVR at the time), Robert Nunan, and I were there to help Johnny get the office

set up. The setup required a major purging of the materials that were shipped from Weatherford. Shortly thereafter, Johnny asked me to chair the Audit Committee, which I did for approximately 11 years. We usually included the Grand Regent on the audits so they would have a comfort level with the completeness of the review.

Our friendship has remained strong through the years, with us supporting each other through personal and work struggles. We have hosted each other in our homes on multiple occasions and our children were usually found together when we were at GCCs. We know that we can count on each other.

We have been fortunate to attend the chartering of multiple new chapters as well as significant anniversaries of existing chapters.

We usually tried to take a trip annually with our other brother, Charles Carden. We made trips to both Norman, OK, and Oxford, MS, to visit with Bob and Charmaine Magarian and Dewey and Barbara Garner, respectively. Both of these brothers, with exemplary service to the Fraternity, are unable to travel frequently. It’s always good to reconnect with



*Johnny and Paul Knecht receive their Golden Mortar Awards at the GCC in Arizona in 2022.*

them and hear their Kappa Psi stories. We will try to continue this as long as we are able. Unfortunately, Charles passed away in 2025. Our wives have become good friends and pal around while we are in meetings at GCC. We’ve joined each other for mini vacations.

Johnny has a fascination with trains and has taken several train trips. In fact, he has one scheduled for later this spring! He also has a love for Route 66. He and I have had conversations about driving it from Chicago all the way to the West Coast.

For us, ‘Kappa Psi for Life’ is not just a slogan, but a lifelong theme. Johnny is truly my “Brother from Another Mother.”

Exploring the diverse paths and practices within the profession of pharmacy.

# PHARMACY Industry

**The practice of pharmacy industry** focuses on the research, development, production, regulation, marketing, and distribution of medications and pharmaceutical products. Pharmacists working in industry typically work for pharmaceutical or biotechnology companies and contribute to bringing new therapies from early discovery through clinical testing and ultimately to patients. Professionals in the pharmacy industry may work in areas such as drug research and development, clinical development, regulatory affairs, medical affairs, pharmacovigilance, or market access and strategy.

For our first pharmacy practice focus, we sought feedback from three students who explore alternate work in industry.



*Adil Hasan presents his final project from his summer internship at Gilead Sciences to his colleagues and the Clinical Operations team.*

## ADIL HASAN

This past summer, Brother Adil Hasan (Zeta Epsilon) interned with Gilead Sciences and gained experience in clinical operations, including a focus on business strategy.

### How I Got the Internship

I didn't land this role overnight; it took persistence. I applied to hundreds of internships and fellowships, often using programs to help me tailor my résumé to each specific role. After more than 15 interviews, I finally secured multiple offers and chose this internship because it aligned with my goals and gave me the best exposure to the pharmaceutical industry. One important stepping stone was the AMCP PharmD Gilead Shadowing Day. While it didn't directly lead to the internship, it gave me strong ties to the company and valuable talking points for interviews. Networking, following up, and building relationships were just as important as the application itself.

### Requirements

The main requirement of this position was being a pharmacy student in good standing with an interest in industry. My technical background in research, medical writing, and regulatory projects helped, but just as important were soft skills like communication, adaptability, and leadership. The ability to explain complex concepts in a way that fits the audience came up often during interviews, and it was clear that this was something the program highly valued.

### What I Learned Beyond the Classroom

The most eye-opening part of the experience was realizing how operations in a pharmaceutical company rely on people across many functions—regulatory, clinical operations, project management, marketing, and more—all working together across the full lifecycle of a drug. What stood out to me most wasn't just learning tools like Veeva and Smartsheets, but practicing scientific exchange: taking complex information and explaining it clearly to colleagues at all levels, from scientists and project managers to executives with no medical background. I also saw how adaptability, collaboration, and communication keep projects on track and aligned with strategy.

### Advice for Future Interns

If you want this type of opportunity, start preparing early since applications can open a year in advance. Networking with fellows and current interns is extremely helpful, but you also need to practice your communication skills. It's not enough to know the science—you have to be able to explain it clearly, adjust it for your audience, and connect it to the bigger picture. Curiosity and flexibility in communication will make you stand out in interviews and in the role itself.

### What You Get Out of It

This internship gave me technical experience, a stronger professional network, and projects I can highlight on my resume. But the most important lesson was learning the value of soft skills and scientific exchange. Knowing how to explain concepts to colleagues across different functions and levels is just as critical as the scientific knowledge itself. The ability to translate science into clear, actionable communication is what truly helps move a drug from development to the patients.



*Gamma Phi Brother Aman Patel shares his fellowship pursuit.*

## AMAN PATEL

Aman Patel (Gamma Phi) is a fourth-year pharmacy student at the University of Georgia. He has completed his MBA, a Certificate in Regulatory Affairs, and he is also a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. He is passionate about pursuing a career in the pharmaceutical industry, with a focus on Medical Affairs and Strategy. He has worked at Kroger Pharmacy for the past five years and currently serves as a Marketing and Data Transcription Intern at InpharmD. Aman has been actively involved in Kappa Psi, serving Gamma Phi chapter as regent and vice regent. He also held the position of Parliamentarian for the Atlantic Province. At UGA, he has been heavily involved with the Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO), serving in multiple leadership roles, including Vice Programming Chair, Director of Programming, Vice President, and Director of Communications.

### Breaking into the Pharmaceutical Industry: A Guide to Fellowship Success

Pursuing a fellowship in the pharmaceutical industry has become an increasingly attractive path for pharmacy students seeking dynamic, non-traditional careers. These 1–2-year, postdoctoral programs, offered by companies like Pfizer, Genentech, and Johnson & Johnson, and often in partnership with academic institutions such as Rutgers and MCPHS, provide immersive training in key functional areas like medical affairs, regulatory affairs, market access, and commercial strategy. With limited positions and high demand, securing a fellowship requires strategic preparation, dedication, and a proactive mindset.

### Start Early and Understand the Landscape

The most competitive candidates begin their preparation by P2 or early P3 year. Familiarize yourself with the various functional areas within the industry and assess which aligns best with your skill set and interests. Do you enjoy communicating scientific content? Consider Medical Affairs or Medical Communications. Are you analytical and research-driven? Health Economics & Outcomes Research (HEOR) may be a great fit. Understand the differences between company-spon-

sored vs. academic partner programs (e.g., Rutgers vs. non-affiliated) and track key timelines—especially the rolling interview process that starts as early as September for many positions.

### Build an Industry-Focused CV and Online Presence

Highlight experiences that mirror the competencies valued in industry: collaboration, leadership, data interpretation, communication, and project management. Roles such as IPhO executive board positions, research assistantships, internships (e.g., Medical Affairs, Regulatory, Marketing), and certifications like an MBA or Lean Six Sigma Green Belt can distinguish you. On LinkedIn, create a professional profile with a strong headline (e.g., “PharmD Candidate|Medical Affairs Enthusiast|Regulatory Affairs Certificate”), post regularly about industry topics, and follow relevant companies and fellowship programs to stay current.

### Network with Purpose and Authenticity

Networking isn’t just about quantity—it’s about meaningful engagement. Attend conferences like IPhO’s Annual Meeting and ASHP Midyear. Ask thoughtful questions during company presentations and follow up with fellows via LinkedIn for informational interviews. When reaching out, personalize your message and explain your interest in their role or company. Be respectful of their time and always express gratitude. Many fellowships are awarded because of a strong impression made through networking, not just an impressive CV.

### Craft a Compelling Personal Story

Interviewers want to know why you’re pursuing industry and how your unique background fits their role. Develop your “elevator pitch”—a concise summary of who you are, what you’ve done, and where you’re headed. Frame your experiences around key competencies: critical thinking, adaptability, communication, and teamwork. Highlight moments where you solved a problem, led a project, or learned from a failure. Authenticity and self-awareness are more impressive than rehearsed buzzwords.

### Master the Interview Process

Fellowship interviews are often multi-step and may include behavioral questions, situational case questions, and team assessments. Practice STAR-format responses and review the company’s pipeline, mission, and values before interviews. Understand current trends in pharma (e.g., digital therapeutics, biosimilars, payer access) and be prepared to speak on them. Leverage your network for mock interviews and feedback. And remember: rejections are not reflections of your worth, but opportunities to recalibrate and grow.

### Conclusion

Pharmaceutical industry fellowships are a gateway to influential careers that bridge clinical knowledge, innovation, and strategic decision-making. Whether your goal is to become a Director of Medical Affairs, a Regulatory Strategist, or a Global Market Access Lead, laying the groundwork early, and with intention, can position you for long-term success. Embrace the journey, seek feedback often, and remember: your path into industry is as unique as your passion for making a difference in patient lives.



While at Bristol Myers Squibb, Peter was part of the Coast 2 Coast 4 Cancer cycling team.

## PETER THAI

Peter Thai (Upsilon) secured a special APPE Block 3 rotation with Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, which capped off five consecutive months immersed in the pharmaceutical industry—following rotations with Procter & Gamble (Regulatory & Microbiology) and Bristol Myers Squibb (Worldwide Medical Hematology). Unlike the previous two, the Lilly rotation was secured through an internal University of Kentucky application, as UK has a longstanding partnership with Eli Lilly to send pharmacy students there annually. Peter applied because of the program’s reputation for providing hands-on, high-impact experience within medical affairs.

### Gathering and Communicating Data

At Lilly, I was embedded within the Cardiometabolic Health Global Medical Affairs team, where pharmacists work alongside physicians, PhDs, and other scientific professionals to translate clinical evidence into real-world solutions. Day to day, I contributed to projects surrounding Mounjaro® (tirzepatide) and a new class of once-weekly basal insulins—developing on-label medical materials that cleared legal review for compliant posting, expanding educational resources for healthcare professionals, and strengthening field-team readiness for future launches. I also advanced digital and omnichannel medical education, transforming complex clinical data into visually engaging content that improved global scientific exchange.

One of the most unique aspects of my experience was working in the Lilly Media Lab, where I helped design professional video and digital content—turning scientific information into powerful stories for providers and patients. My final presentation on once-weekly basal

insulins tied trial findings to HCP concerns and launch-readiness strategy, reinforcing the evolving role of pharmacists as scientific communicators and strategic partners in healthcare innovation.

### Additional Opportunity: Bike to Beat Cancer

Outside of work, I joined the Lilly Cycling Club for the Norton Healthcare “Bike to Beat Cancer” ride—70 miles and \$1,400 raised as part of a \$637,000 total—and attended Lilly Connect, where CEO Dave Ricks and NBA star Tyrese Haliburton shared powerful lessons on leadership and resilience. During my personal time, I also sought out and met Indiana Fever players Caitlin Clark, Kelsey Mitchell, and Sophie Cunningham—taking selfies and getting autographs that made my Indianapolis experience even more memorable.

At the time of this writing, I’m in the middle of industry fellowship application/interview season while balancing my APPE rotations, dual PharmD/MBA curriculum, and training for my second full Ironman triathlon—Ironman Florida—on November 1, 2025. It’s been a full season to say the least, but each of these commitments has shaped me in different and meaningful ways.

**(Editor’s Note:** Brother Thai ended up taking a Post-Doctoral Fellowship with Pfizer, joining the Global Clinical Supply-Clinical Research Pharmacy (GCS-CRP) team through the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Biopharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program.)

### Procter & Gamble (Global Regulatory Strategy)

During my rotation with Procter & Gamble (Global Regulatory Strategy), I served as a Microbial Quality Risk & Regulatory Compliance Extern with the Global Personal Health Care (PHC) R&D team. This was my first true immersion into the regulatory and innovation side of healthcare, where I supported preservative ingredient strategy across PHC products and analyzed global regulations, toxicology data, and consumer trends to help guide product development. One of my proudest contributions was helping propose a Sustainable Preservation Framework and an SOI ingredient tracker to strengthen regulatory readiness, transparency, and sustainability. Seeing my work incorporated into ongoing global initiatives reaffirmed that students can make a real, measurable impact when they take initiative and think strategically.

### Bristol Myers Squibb (Worldwide Medical Hematology Medical Communications)

My second rotation took me to New Jersey, where I joined the Worldwide Medical Hematology Medical Communications team at Bristol Myers Squibb. Over six weeks, I helped develop MSL training materials, supported NCCN guideline submission preparation, and conducted competitive intelligence analyses to inform internal planning. I also had the opportunity to collaborate with scientists and medical strategists in the United Kingdom to discuss trial design, pipeline development, and the positioning of hematology assets—an experience that expanded my perspective on how globally integrated and data-driven medical affairs truly is. I contributed to scientific materials used across medical teams and advisory boards, which helped me see firsthand how pharmacists add value in bridging clinical evidence, communication, and patient-centered strategy.

## Industry APPEs are Worth the Effort

I know industry APPEs are competitive to get into, but through these experiences, I had the chance to meet and connect with students from other universities who were equally intentional about their “why.” That reflection—understanding why you’re pursuing an opportunity rather than applying just for the sake of it—makes these experiences far more meaningful and rewarding. I also recognize I might be an exception to the rule in having lined up three competitive industry experiences back to back as my first three rotations, and I know many students across the nation may not even get one industry APPE experience under their belt. Each of these rotations was six weeks long—a structure unique to the UK’s curriculum—and I’ve come to realize how rare that depth and continuity can be.

I actually sacrificed my vacation block to pursue the third opportunity with Lilly, which means I’ll be completing eight APPE rotations total (most UK students complete seven). My five clinical rotations are lined up back to back through graduation in May. It’s been an intense schedule, but I wouldn’t trade it for the world—each experience has shaped me in ways that continue to build on one another.

I’m also especially thankful to the Kappa Psi Foundation for the financial support provided through the scholarship I received. It was put to truly meaningful use, and I can confidently say it helped lighten the financial burden of pursuing all of these opportunities in person—experiences that have profoundly shaped both my professional path and personal growth.

Ultimately, it’s about being intentional and knowing how to make the most of not only your time, but also the time of the people around you.

## Added Opportunities

I also wanted to share one more highlight from my time at Bristol Myers Squibb—my involvement with the Coast 2 Coast 4 Cancer (C2C4C) cycling team.

When I drove from Kentucky to New Jersey for the rotation, I brought my tri bike with me just to keep up my training. Little did I know that Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) had an entire philanthropic cycling team—one that’s actually quite competitive to join, with even the company’s post-doctoral fellows typically not eligible to participate. I was fortunate to connect with several members of the team, join their weekly training rides, and ultimately complete the Spellbound 100-mile ride alongside colleagues and mentors. The C2C4C leadership team even gifted me an official BMS cycling jersey as a keepsake, which meant a lot to me.

The experience aligned perfectly with my own preparation for the Ironman 70.3 in Louisville, where I’m proud to say I crossed the finish line this past August. What stood out most was how seamlessly BMS integrates wellness, philanthropy, and purpose into its culture. The Coast 2 Coast 4 Cancer initiative is a global effort, with teams across 33 countries—from Spain to Japan—each raising funds and awareness for local cancer foundations. Collectively, these rides contribute millions annually toward advancing cancer research and patient support.

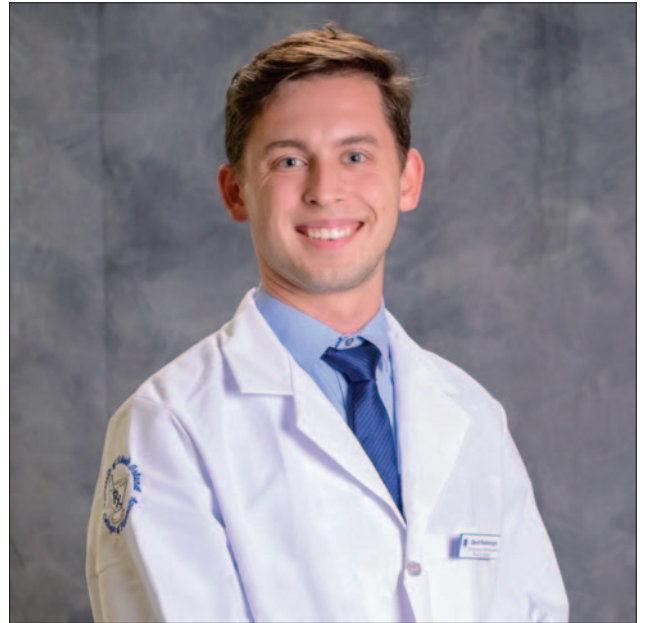
Being able to engage with that mission firsthand reminded me that impact in healthcare extends far beyond the workplace—and that perseverance, teamwork, and compassion transcend both sport and science. It’s an experience I’ll always remember as one of the most meaningful parts of my time at BMS.

## Connect with Peter

If anyone would like to learn more or connect about pursuing industry rotations, I’m always happy to chat on LinkedIn:

[linkedin.com/in/peter-thai-uk](https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-thai-uk)

A recap of Peter’s Procter and Gamble experiences can be found here: <https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-7342887906107080704-wy2u>



## David Fiedorczyk

### Medical Affairs Rotation at Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals

David Fiedorczyk (Beta Epsilon) recently completed a rotation in Medical Affairs with Kiniksa Pharmaceuticals as part of his fourth year in the PharmD/MBA program. He reflects on his experience:

“Throughout this experience, I gained exposure to key functions including field medical, medical information, scientific communications, and patient advocacy. A large part of my role involved preparing and delivering presentations to the medical affairs team, where I shared insights from my work and helped guide group discussions. I also collaborated across departments, contributed to promotional review, and refined medical information resources. In addition, I explored ways to apply technology to improve workflows and team efficiency. These experiences strengthened my ability to communicate complex information clearly, lead meetings with confidence, and think strategically about how medical affairs support both healthcare professionals and patients. This rotation confirmed that medical affairs is where I can best combine my clinical knowledge, communication skills, and strategic thinking, and I am eager to pursue a role in this field after graduation.”

# A Legacy of Leadership Honored in the Nation's Capital

## Dr. Michael D. Hogue Receives Kappa Psi's Highest Distinction, the 2025 A. Richard Bliss Jr. Grand Council Citation of Appreciation.

Beneath the stately architecture and storied halls of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) headquarters in Washington, DC, Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc. conferred its highest honor, the A. Richard Bliss Jr. Grand Council Citation of Appreciation, upon Dr. Michael D. Hogue. It was a setting befitting the moment: the national epicenter of pharmacy leadership, where policy is shaped, advocacy is advanced, and the profession's future is forged.

The presentation was formal yet deeply personal. Grand Historian Saswat Kabisatpathy and Grand Regent Chris Miller had the privilege of presenting the award, joined by members of the APhA staff who see Dr. Hogue's leadership in action every day. There was a palpable sense that this recognition was not simply about accomplishments listed on a curriculum vitae, but about a lifetime of influence—quiet, steady, and transformational.

The A. Richard Bliss Jr. Grand Council Citation of Appreciation stands as the pinnacle of recognition within Kappa Psi. Named for a devoted steward of our Fraternity's history, the award honors individuals whose impact on the profession or the Brotherhood rises to the extraordinary. Dr. Hogue, initiated into Gamma Zeta chapter at Samford University in 1992, has lived that standard in every chapter of his career.

A native of southern Illinois, Dr. Hogue's story begins humbly—in community pharmacy, serving patients face-to-face, learning firsthand the power of access, trust, and clinical expertise. From there, he pursued both his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees, later completing a post-doctoral executive residency in association management in Washington, DC. That early exposure to organized pharmacy planted seeds that would grow into a career dedicated



*Grand Regent Chris Miller presents the A. Richard Bliss Jr. Grand Council Citation of Appreciation to Brother Michael D. Hogue at the American Pharmacists Association headquarters in Washington, D.C.*

not just to practice, but to policy, advocacy, and national leadership.

Over more than 25 years, Dr. Hogue has worn many hats: independent pharmacy owner, ambulatory care clinician, professor, department chair, interim dean, and ultimately dean of the School of Pharmacy at Loma Linda University. In academia, he became known not only for operational excellence but also for vision. He championed interprofes-

sional education before it was commonplace, built clinical partnerships that strengthened collaboration between pharmacists and physicians, and mentored generations of students who now serve across the country. His influence extends far beyond the classroom—through lectures, publications, and national presentations that have shaped pharmacy practice both domestically and abroad.

Yet perhaps no contribution has had more enduring impact than his role in advancing pharmacist-delivered immunizations. Long before it became standard practice, Dr. Hogue was helping lay the groundwork for pharmacists to serve as accessible immunizers. His leadership in developing and expanding pharmacy-based immunization training programs helped secure authority across all 50 states, permanently redefining the pharmacist's role in public health. When the COVID-19 pandemic tested our healthcare system, that groundwork proved invaluable. Pharmacists stood ready, not by chance, but because leaders like Dr. Hogue had prepared the profession for that moment. His service as liaison to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ensured that the

### Past Recipients of the A. Richard Bliss Jr. Grand Council Citation of Appreciation

|      |                    |      |                      |      |                      |
|------|--------------------|------|----------------------|------|----------------------|
| 2025 | Michael Hogue      | 2014 | William H. Riffée    | 2003 | Richard Penna        |
| 2024 | David Allen        | 2013 | William Fitzpatrick  | 2002 | Salvatore Giorgianni |
| 2023 | Paul Larrat        | 2012 | Anthony Palmieri III | 2001 | Norman Campbell      |
| 2022 | Johnny Porter      | 2011 | Robert Magarian      | 2000 | Varro Tyler, Jr.     |
| 2021 | Brian Reisetter    | 2010 | Eugene White         | 1999 | Lucinda Maine        |
| 2020 | Toyin Tofade       | 2009 | Dewey Garner         | 1998 | Kenneth Barker       |
| 2019 | Joseph DiPiro      | 2008 | J. Lyle Bootman      | 1997 | Maurice Bectel       |
| 2018 | John Grossomanides | 2007 | Bruce Canaday        | 1996 | Joseph Oddis         |
| 2017 | Robert Crisafi     | 2006 | Ronald Jordan        | 1995 | Lawrence Weaver      |
| 2016 | Kenneth B. Roberts | 2005 | John Murphy          | 1994 | James Doluisio       |
| 2015 | Lawrence Brown     | 2004 | Lisa Tonrey          | 1993 | Herbert Carlin       |



*ABOVE: Grand Regent Chris Miller, Grand Historian Saswat Kabisatpathy and Michael D. Hogue gather on the APhA headquarters roof, overlooking the National Mall.*

pharmacist’s perspective had a seat at the national policy table during one of the most critical periods in modern healthcare.

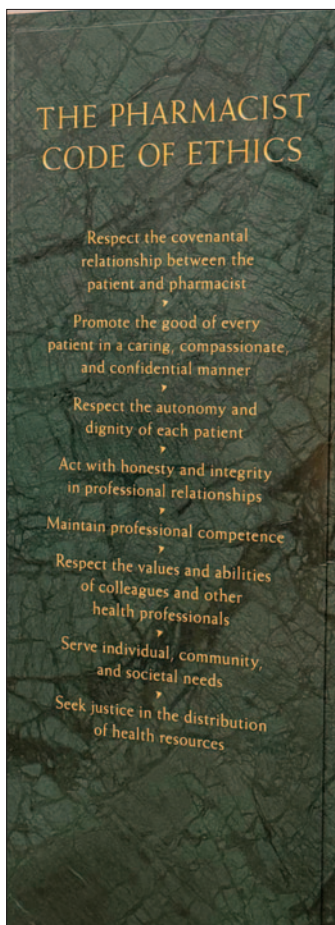
Today, as Executive Vice President and CEO of APhA, Dr. Hogue leads the nation’s largest association representing pharmacists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmaceutical scientists. In that role, he navigates complex policy landscapes, advocates for provider recognition, champions improved workplace conditions, and calls the profession toward unity and purpose. His leadership style is steady and relational, principled without being performative, strategic without losing sight of the human dimension of our work.

Following the award presentation, Dr. Hogue graciously offered a brief glimpse inside APhA headquarters, sharing stories of milestones achieved and challenges yet ahead. It was a reminder that leadership is not about titles on a door, but about stewardship of a mission. For those present, it felt like standing at the intersection of history and future, where one brother’s journey reflected the broader trajectory of our profession.

In honoring Dr. Michael D. Hogue, Kappa Psi celebrated more than a distinguished résumé. We celebrated a legacy. A career marked by Industry in pursuit of excellence, Fellowship in building relationships, Sobriety in judgment, and High Ideals in service to patients and colleagues alike.

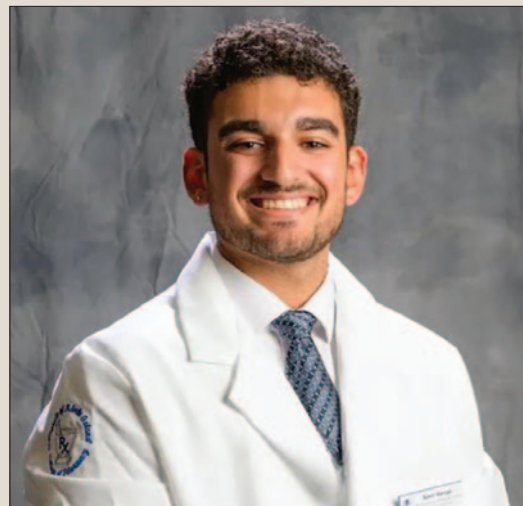
In the nation’s capital, in the halls where pharmacy’s voice is amplified, the Brotherhood recognized one of its own, not only for what he has accomplished, but for the enduring example he sets for generations to come.

—Chris Miller, Grand Regent



*The American Pharmacists Association headquarters is the epicenter of pharmacy leadership.*

## APhA Internship



### Sami Gangji

#### Carl F. Emswiler Summer Intern at the American Pharmacists Association

Sami Gangji (Beta Epsilon), a third-year PharmD student at the University of Rhode Island, was selected as the only pharmacy student nationally for the prestigious Carl F. Emswiler Summer Internship in Association Management with the APhA in 2025.

During this 10-week internship in Washington, DC, Sami immersed himself in the operations of the nation’s largest pharmacy professional organization. He played a pivotal role in organizing and leading the Student Leadership Institute, where student representatives from across the country engaged in leadership workshops and advocacy training. Additionally, Sami collaborated with various APhA departments, including public relations, scientific affairs, and student affairs, contributing to projects that aimed to advance pharmacy practice and patient care.

A highlight of Sami’s experience was participating in advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, gaining firsthand insight into the legislative process and the role of professional organizations in shaping healthcare policy. This opportunity not only enhanced his leadership and communication skills but also deepened his commitment to public health and policy advocacy.

Sami’s dedication to the profession and his proactive approach to leadership exemplify the values of the Carl F. Emswiler Internship. His experience underscores the importance of student involvement in professional organizations and the impact of such engagements on personal and professional growth.

# International

## Kimberly Kinget (Psi) - Thailand

During January 2025, I had the distinct honor and privilege of spending a month at Mahasarakham University (MSU) College of Pharmacy in Northeastern Thailand, accompanied by three of my classmates. This enriching experience offered me invaluable insights into Thai healthcare practices and culture. As a third-year pharmacy student, I enthusiastically applied for the international pharmacy rotations at the first opportunity, confident that my Thai heritage would provide me with significant advantages in understanding and learning from my home country's healthcare system. When I discovered that I had been selected for the Thailand rotation, I was ecstatic. Growing up in America as a 100% Thai person has given me a unique and sometimes challenging perspective on life. This opportunity allowed me to reconnect with my roots and gain a deeper understanding of my cultural heritage.

On the first day of rotation, we began by learning about Thailand's universal healthcare system, known as "universal coverage" (UC), which offers free healthcare to all Thai citizens. Additionally, we explored the other healthcare systems like the "social security scheme" (SSS) and the "civil servant medical benefit scheme" (CSMBS), both of which provide enhanced coverage to employees. Our understanding of the healthcare landscape was further enriched by learning about the various tiers of healthcare services available, from primary care hospitals to tertiary care facilities. We also dove into the significant role that herbal medicine plays in Thai culture, noting its prevalence in pharmacies and its potential for drug interactions.



Kimberly (center) learns about Thai healthcare with classmates.

Our rotations at MSU allowed us to work on real patient cases at a hospital, where we compared Thai medical guidelines with those from the US and UK. This hands-on experience highlighted differences in Thai vs US healthcare, such as the common use of aminoglycosides or carbapenems over vancomycin due to the prevalence of gram-negative infections in Thailand. We also learned about country-specific practices like capping atorvastatin use at 40 mg due to genetic differences affecting drug metabolism.

Beyond our professional development, we were deeply immersed in Thai culture through various activities organized by the staff and faculty at MSU. We made herbal massage compresses, received therapeutic Thai massages, toured the Silk Center of Excellence, and visited PharmCare Pharmaceutical company, which produces a range of herbal and natural products. Additionally, we participated in a Thai cooking class where we learned to make traditional dishes like Pad Thai and Massaman curry. The Isan region, where MSU is located, offered a unique cultural experience distinct from other parts of Thailand, with its own dialect and traditions.

The friendships I have formed and the experiences I have shared with the people here are truly invaluable. The warmth and hospitality of the students, professors, and locals made this journey unforgettable. I have developed a strong connection to this part of Thailand, and it has inspired a desire within me to return and continue exploring my roots. This experience has not only enhanced my professional growth but also fostered personal development, leaving a significant mark on my life.



Kimberly takes time to enjoy the culture of Thailand.

# Rotations

## **Brenden Plutnicki** (Delta Epsilon) - Roatán

During my time in pharmacy school at Duquesne University, I had the privilege to volunteer at a non-profit clinic in Roatán, Honduras, during my spring breaks. At Duquesne University, the School of Pharmacy partners with the School of Nursing to take a week-long trip to Roatán, Honduras, during spring break to volunteer at Clínica Esperanza. In Roatán, we stay with a host family that is associated with Clínica Esperanza where they provide amazing home-cooked meals, activities, and transportation to and from the clinic every day. Throughout the week, I was able to volunteer in the pharmacy and work with the clinic's one pharmacist. I filled medications for patients, counseled patients on medications, and helped with pharmacy inventory tasks. When I was not in the pharmacy, I went to different communities on the island where I performed child wellness visits, where we weighed and measured children, performed blood glucose screenings, performed blood pressure screenings, and provided education to the community about healthy eating and medication safety. I was able to use the knowledge that I learned in school to guide different counseling sessions, make recommendations, and question the pharmacist and providers in the clinic.

Given that Clínica Esperanza is a non-profit clinic, they rely heavily on donations from organizations and people who visit the island. I was able to partner with MEP at the fall assembly in 2024 and later partner with Duquesne pharmacy organizations, including Delta Epsilon, and our administration to collect money and items to donate to the clinic.

Overall, I was able to collect more than 180 items, ranging from over-the-counter medications like antacids to feminine products, to donate to the clinic. The clinic uses these donations to provide essential care to patients for a low cost or for free if the patient cannot pay for the donation.

The pharmacist's role in Honduras is similar to that of a community pharmacist in the United States. They verified orders, filled medications, managed the inventory, and contacted providers to provide recommendations for doses or medications. The pharmacist is essential to the clinic because many providers and nurses rely on their knowledge and recommendations to provide appropriate care to the people there.

Overall, I highly encourage everyone to take the opportunity to go to a different country and volunteer, even if it is not related to the healthcare system. These experiences that I had in Honduras were life-changing! I learned so much about the culture, language, and the healthcare system in Honduras, but I also learned a lot about myself too. My biggest advice to anyone wanting to travel to volunteer is to be willing to learn, have an open mind, and enjoy your time abroad.

*Duquesne pharmacy students with Dr. Jordan Covvey (second from left).*



*Duquesne pharmacy students (Brenden on left) with Dr. Maryori Nuñez*



# SLI

## APhA-ASP

# Summer Leadership Institute

The APhA-ASP (American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists) Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is designed to prepare APhA-ASP chapter officers for their leadership roles, enhance their skills, and empower them to guide their APhA-ASP chapter to continued success. During a series of interactive and educational sessions, attendees are challenged to identify their leadership style, discuss team-building strategies, develop communication skills, and receive updates on APhA-ASP activities. Student pharmacists from across the nation connect and share ideas for improving the student member experience and how to better serve their communities. SLI 2025 was held July 18–20 at the APhA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

*THE MASK* interviewed four brothers who attended and here's what they had to say:

### **Audrey Worrell**

*Campbell University, Atlantic Province*

Audrey is the APhA 2025–2026 chapter president and the regent of Delta Lambda chapter.

### **Ethan Chhan**

*Western U. of Health Sciences, Pacific West Province*

Ethan is the Region 8 Midyear Regional Meeting Coordinator (MRMC) at APhA-ASP, and historian for Epsilon Gamma chapter.

### **Taylor Dabney**

*South College School of Pharmacy, Atlantic Province*

Taylor is on the National Communications Standing Committee for APhA-ASP. She is currently the Pledge Planning Development Committee Chair for the Atlantic Province.

### **Hillary Jacobs**

*Campbell University, Atlantic Province*

Hillary is APhA-ASP chapter president-elect and serves on Delta Lambda chapter's Rush Committee.



*Taylor Dabney, National Communications Standing Committee, APhA-ASP, Pledge Planning Development Committee Chair, Kappa Psi, Atlantic Province.*

### **What initially motivated you to attend the Student Leadership Institute?**

As president-elect, I just learned that attending was a tradition, and that I was expected to go to SLI, so I marked my calendar! I attended my first SLI last year with the

past APhA president, brother, and my Big, Brittany Caskey. —Audrey Worrell

This has been my third year in a row attending SLI! What had initially drawn me into attending the conference was the opportunity to meet and network with so many other student pharmacists. Once I saw so many KΨ pins on those white coats, I knew I had made the right choice in attending SLI.

—Ethan Chhan

I was my chapter's president last year and was unable to attend SLI due to prior speaking engagements. I received the opportunity to go this year as a national member and had the most wonderful experience. I wish I could have gone the past three years!

—Taylor Dabney

My chapter president encouraged me to attend SLI, and I was excited to attend because I am interested in learning different



Midyear Regional Meeting Coordinators (L-R): APhA Region 5, McKenna Parker (Delta Zeta); Region 5, Paige Holopirek (Rho); Region 7, Brittney Patton (not Kappa Psi); Region 2, Loujain Alsamara (Theta); Region 8, Ethan Chhan (Epsilon Gamma).

leadership strategies to bring back to our chapter. I was excited to meet students from programs and also to hear from current pharmacists about how their involvement in APhA-ASP shaped their current pharmacy practice. —Hillary Jacobs

### What were you hoping to learn or gain going into SLI?

Going into SLI, I was excited to learn more about utilizing my leadership style to grow as a chapter president and future pharmacy professional. Prior to SLI, we all take a Clifton Strengths assessment to find out our leadership styles and learn about how to utilize our existing skills to be the best leaders we can be, for our chapter and ourselves.

—Audrey Worrell

This year, my focus was on gaining confidence to present the benefits of the various legislative pieces to those who hold influence on the leaders of Congress. In years past, APhA would send groups of students to one office of their state senators and call it a day after exchanging a few pleasantries. This year, I had the opportunity to speak with my own district's representative and highlight the key aspects of the bill we were backing. While a bit nerve-racking, I used my experience and passion to convey a forward-thinking future for the field of healthcare and our role as a provider in the community.

—Ethan Chhan

### What sessions, speakers, or activities stood out to you the most during SLI?

Looking back on SLI, the session that stood out the most to me was the 'Playing to Your Strengths' session. In this session, we got to take a Clifton Strengths assessment in advance and learn what leadership qualities we have. I believe that this experience was beneficial for me in understanding that other members of our APhA leadership team possess different strengths, such as influencing, executing, strategic thinking, and relationship building, and that each of these strengths is valuable to our overall goal. We discussed with other pharmacy students how we can utilize a team member's relationship-building skills, for example, to increase chapter membership. —Hillary Jacobs

### What was the highlight of your SLI experience?

The highlight of both of my SLI experiences has been the cookout at APhA headquarters in the heart of DC. I love to chat with student pharmacists from all over the country about their pharmacy school experiences. Headquarters is also so beautiful! I love looking at the pictures and history of pharmacy and APhA. —Audrey Worrell

The highlight of my SLI experience was getting to lead and meet tons of other student pharmacists just as passionate about leadership and the advancement of our profession. I was also able to catch up with student pharmacists from around the country, with whom I have previously formed relationships throughout my time in pharmacy school.

—Taylor Dabney



Audrey's favorite painting at HQ, "Pharmacy Today and Tomorrow," by Robert A. Thom "Pharmacy has come through many revolutions, developed new techniques, and discarded older ways. Its professional stature will continue to grow as its tradition of service is passed on from preceptor to apprentice, teacher to student, father to son."



APhA-ASP Region 3 representatives meet with the office of North Carolina representative Addison McDowell to advocate for the "Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act" or "ECAPS" (H.R. 1770, S. 2477) and PBM reform.

The highlight of my SLI experience was getting to speak with legislators during the Congressional office visits. Previously, I participated in the NCAP Pharmacy Legislative Day, and this allowed me to strengthen my skills in effectively advocating for pharmacists to policymakers. I appreciated advocating with students from other schools because I heard new ways to advocate for the ECAPS Act and PBM Reform. —Hillary Jacobs

I would say the highlight of SLI was meeting and catching up with my fellow student pharmacists post meeting with our representatives and senators. It was a good feeling walking back with my peers and reconvening at the Capitol to debrief on what each of us experienced. In a sea of white coats, you could see the individual faces of determination, grit, and progressive thinking let out a sigh of relief that they were able to change the minds of those who thought they knew what pharmacy was. —Ethan Chhan

### What advice would you give to someone considering attending SLI in the future?

Don't think, just go! SLI is such a positive and impacting experience to not only grow as a leader, but to help expand your network and to prepare yourself and your APhA-ASP chapter for the upcoming year. —Taylor Dabney

You will never know how far you can go, unless you try. All it takes is one experience to make your pharmacy career change for the better. Fortunately, SLI provides an endless stream of opportunities for you to develop yourself as a growing healthcare provider. Become the best version of yourself by going to SLI! —Ethan Chhan

# 99 Hands/ Brothers for Life!



**Delta Lambda** Brothers Gavin Garcia and Ethan Davis serve as mentors at the Ransdell Family Health Professions Readiness & Enrichment Program at Campbell University, sharing their experiences with prospective pharmacy and health science students.



**St. Louis Graduate** Brothers Steve Platou and Steve Wagner meet up with Kansas City Graduate Brother Sara Noble at the fall Mid-America Province assembly. Province assemblies and GCC give brothers the opportunity to catch up both personally and professionally!



**Beta Xi and North Carolina Graduate** brothers at the Atlantic Province summer assembly hosted by Gamma Xi.



**Illinois Graduate** Brother Becca Mousseau receives a 20 Assembly Pin at the fall MAP assembly, marking her 20th assembly attended!



**Gamma Psi** brothers gather at the Southeast Province assembly. Back (L-R): Logan Anderson, LeeKasey Djedje, Paul Kellman, Omar Sheikh, Kasmir Conway, Joshua Nooks, Marvin Smith, and Phu Nguyen.



Brothers from around the country gather at Purdue University for the **Mid-America Province** fall assembly's Friday game night social, where \$300 was raised for Food Finders in Lafayette, Indiana!

## Nevada Graduate's Successful Mentorship Program



Isabel Ibañez, Christian Sy, Saif Mohamed

**Nevada Graduate** chapter is proud to share with our readers details of their Mentorship Program, now in its sixth year of partnership with Delta Tau chapter. Since its inception in 2019, this initiative has steadily expanded in scope and continues to serve as a cornerstone of professional development for brothers.

### Growth and Structure

What began with 8 pairings has evolved into a dynamic system that supports 26 mentor-mentee pairings, with 20 graduate brothers volunteering to serve as mentors. In a new expansion, the program was opened to newly initiated P1 brothers, increasing total mentees to 18. To further enhance professional growth, each mentee was paired with two mentors—one of whom is local—to foster consistent engagement and more opportunities for in-person guidance.

### Professional Development Focus

At the start of the academic year, graduate brothers are introduced through a formal presentation highlighting their career paths, interests, and personal insights. Collegiate brothers then submit applications describing their goals and areas of interest within pharmacy, ensuring strategic alignment of mentorship. Monthly meetings are encouraged, guided by curated prompts that tie directly to the Fraternity's values of Industry and High Ideals. The professional development outcomes are diverse and tailored. Examples include:

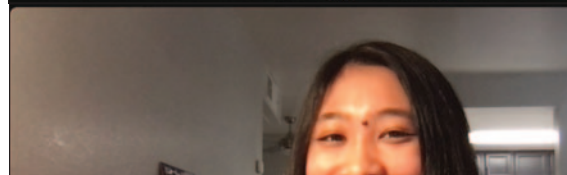
- CV and Resume Workshops—Mentors review and provide constructive feedback.
- Residency Application Preparation—including guidance on timelines and strategy.
- Interview Skills—Mock interviews with live feedback.
- Academic Growth—Journal club coaching and presentation skills.
- Career Exploration—Direct mentorship in various pharmacy practice settings.

### Impact and Value

For graduate brothers, the program offers a meaningful way to remain engaged with the Fraternity while giving back to the profession. For collegiate brothers, it provides a direct line to practical resources, professional insights, and encouragement at pivotal stages of their pharmacy education. The structured yet flexible format allows for both personal and professional growth, cultivating leadership and confidence in the next generation of pharmacists.



Tim Cho and Corey Colombino



ABOVE: Sonia Phan and Angie Garces



LEFT: Tim Cho and Man Ha (on screen)



**Beta Omicron** GCD Stanley Tan (center) presents a lecture on pharmacy operations. Beta Omicron chapter strives to facilitate interactions with graduate brothers through opportunities such as their Grad Panel Q&A and CV workshop.

**RIGHT: Delta Mu** brothers prepared a mock written exam to help first-year students get ready for their ICE exam in November. Their team developed realistic cases that mirror the format and complexity of the actual exam, and created a detailed answer key with explanations so students could understand both the correct answers and the reasoning behind them. Brothers review past student feedback to refine the difficulty and structure of the exam, ensuring it feels as close to the real experience as possible. Many students have shared that the mock exams boost their confidence and highlight areas where they need to focus their studying.



**Zeta Eta** chapter organized a professional headshot event so brothers and fellow students could receive high-quality photos to use for résumés, LinkedIn profiles, and other professional opportunities. Pictured front is Folami Karimah Williams (second vice regent) and back is pledgemaster Jacob Feldker.



**LEFT: Every fall, Delta Phi** throws their traditional Professional Night! That night, brothers welcome rushees, showcase Kappa Psi, and reconnect with brothers. The chapter uses a conversational roundtable format where rushees and brothers

rotate through tables, asking questions and trading stories with pharmacists, matched according to their career interests. Alumni share how Kappa Psi opened doors, created mentors, and built a network that leads to real opportunities for our brothers. The graduate brothers include pharmacists from all corners of the field, such as regulatory affairs, informatics, infectious disease, ambulatory care, outpatient, hospital, industry (and more).



## Upsilon Brother Emma Johnson interns with Johns Hopkins

**Upsilon** chapter regent Emma Johnson spent the summer of 2025 participating in the prestigious Johns Hopkins University Summer Internship Program in Baltimore, Maryland. This highly competitive internship provides students with hands-on experience in cutting-edge research and public health initiatives at one of the world's leading academic institutions. Emma's acceptance and success in this program is a remarkable achievement that reflects her dedication, leadership, and educational excellence.

"I first learned about the Johns Hopkins Summer Pharmacist Internship during my first year of pharmacy school from a Kappa Psi brother who had completed the program. From that moment, I made it my goal to be part of it. I applied in November of my PY2 year, interviewed in January, and learned a few weeks later that I had been accepted. The entire experience—moving to Baltimore for the summer, being paired with a preceptor in my area of interest, connecting with fellow pharmacy students, and participating in weekly topic discussions with the program directors—was truly the best experience I could have asked for." —Emma Johnson



**Epsilon Epsilon** Brother Mykel Colbert (center) earned first place in the patient counseling competition at the Texas Pharmacy Association annual conference and expo in Austin.



**Beta Chi** brothers attend IPA Day on the Hill. Brothers have also completed QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training and have volunteered their time at university and community flu clinics, expanding their skills in patient counseling and vaccine administration.



**Gamma Upsilon** chapter has become a hub for student leaders at the University of Arizona, and brothers currently make up 50% of presidents of the student organizations on campus. ABOVE: In March 2025, Brothers (L-R) Lakin Gardner, Jerred-Afol Azares, Hayden Mitteer, and Lauren Conway attend the APhA Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.



**Gamma Upsilon's** Lakin Gardner, as the Vice President of Patient Care for APhA-ASP, accepted the Student Leadership Award for significantly expanding health fairs to better serve rural and underserved communities.



**Beta Kappa** brother's trip to Washington DC was marked with fellowship and inspiration. Brothers were joined by Brother Melissa Somma McGivney, Pitt faculty member and APhA Board of Trustees member, as well as APhA CEO Brother Michael Hogue (back right) on the rooftop of the APhA headquarters for a photo overlooking our nation's capital. It was a powerful symbol of the influence pharmacists can have when we stand together in fellowship!

## Ready. Set. **ADVOCATE!**

*Written by: Kayleigh Moyer and Evan Walker*

This past August, eleven collegiate and three graduate brothers of Beta Kappa chapter had the privilege of traveling to Washington, DC to advocate on behalf of the pharmacy profession. As part of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's APhA-ASP Advocacy Trip, our brothers visited the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) headquarters and then made their way to Capitol Hill to meet with legislators.

Throughout the day, we voiced our support for critical initiatives such as the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services (ECAPS) Act and the urgent need for Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform. Each brother shared stories that highlighted the impact student pharmacists make every day and how these policies directly affect the patients we serve. The passion and sincerity with which our brothers spoke resonated with the senators, representatives, and staffers we met, reminding us all of the power that comes from uniting our voices for change.

This experience reinforced that the role of a brother extends beyond the walls of our chapter house or campus. Advocacy is a lifelong responsibility, and this trip reminded us that Kappa Psi brothers are not only united in fellowship but also in service to our patients and the profession. As we left Washington, DC, we carried with us the enduring truth: just as we are brothers for life, we are also advocates for life.



**Beta Omega's** Joe Cassidy (center) completed a summer internship with U.S. Marketing – Hematology & Rare Disease. He supported the oncology and rare disease brands Vanflyta, Turalio, and Injectafer by collaborating with agencies to create HCP promotional materials and field training resources. His work emphasized the importance of cross-functional teamwork in delivering impactful strategies for patients.  
<https://www.instagram.com/reels/DP9J1iniBxU/>



Delta Lambda brothers help sort the supplies collected during their school supply drive for the Harnett County Middle School.



Beta Nu brothers and student interns Jessica Heir (left) and Kaylee Kessler pose in front of the Creighton University Campus Pharmacy. Many Beta Nu brothers serve as officers and volunteers at Magis Clinic, Creighton's student-run clinic that serves the underserved populations in Omaha. Brothers are able to gain hands-on clinical experience while serving the surrounding community.



Delta Omicron brothers take blood pressure screenings at Harold's Pharmacy and educate patients on ways to maintain a healthy heart.



In September 2025, **Delta Lambda** intramural chairs, Brittany Acosta and Jake Perez, organized the chapter's annual Serving to Serve Volleyball Tournament. Thanks to the support from the Campbell Pharmacy and Health Sciences community, brothers raised \$216 for Reach Out and Read. The tournament not only supports a great cause but also brings together students and builds community.



**Delta Tau** chapter collaborates with the university's Student Alliance and Drug Awareness Advocacy Team to host a Narcan at Night event. At this event, students distributed free overdose prevention and response kits to people around the Las Vegas Strip, downtown, and surrounding areas. In order to participate, students were required to attend Harm Reduction Training.



**Epsilon** brothers participate in their signature philanthropic event, Light The Night, raising awareness and funds in support of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



**Delta Zeta's** Alexa Ferrel, Brianna Busch, Avril Sinning, and Abby Goetsch volunteer at the Iowa Mission of Mercy's two-day free dental clinic, helping to provide services to individuals who face barriers to receiving oral health care.



**Beta Omega** brothers partner with Olde Philly Pharmacy to conduct free blood pressure screenings and provide patient education on hypertension management. This event not only offered valuable preventive care for community members but also reinforced Kappa Psi's commitment to public health outreach.

## Iowa Graduate Supports Collegiate Chapters

**Iowa Graduate** brothers have focused on efforts to support professional development and strengthen their connection with Beta Chi and Delta Zeta chapters in Iowa.

In August, they held their summer meeting in Iowa City, welcoming brothers from both chapters—Beta Chi joined virtually, while Delta Zeta attended in person. The event was a wonderful blend of business, service, and fellowship. Students contributed to their philanthropy project by preparing a delicious dinner for families at the Ronald McDonald House.

A key focus of the business meeting was exploring ways to provide financial support to their collegiate chapters, especially to encourage attendance at professional events like the Northern Plains Province assemblies and Grand Council Conventions.

Many students shared that financial constraints often prevent them from participating in these valuable experiences.

To help address this, Iowa Graduate chapter voted to fund registration costs for eight students—four from each collegiate chapter—to attend the upcoming Northern Plains Province meeting. This \$640 investment was made possible entirely through generous donations from the graduate brothers.

The Iowa Graduate chapter also continued their tradition of fundraising for the 13th Biennial Grand Council Convention Essay Contest. This scholarship program awards more than \$1,000 to brothers from Beta Chi and Delta Zeta to help offset the cost of attending GCC. And as always, the chapter gifts the first year of Iowa Graduate dues to all graduating brothers from both collegiate chapters, encouraging them to stay engaged and active as graduate members of Kappa Psi.



**Seattle Graduate** chapter is dedicated to supporting the professional development of brothers at both the graduate and collegiate levels. Each spring, the Seattle Graduate and Beta Omicron chapters come together to co-host a Clinical Skills Competition. This event is an opportunity to foster both professional skills and pharmacy knowledge.

Graduate brothers develop a set of carefully crafted clinical scenarios that span a wide range of therapeutic areas. These scenarios may range from simple over-the-counter recommendations for a cough, to more complex cases requiring management of a patient with multiple comorbidities and antibiotic recommendation. These cases are then presented to the collegiate brothers who collaborate in groups and tackle the hardest of questions we have to offer. The clinical skills and knowledge needed to manage patients help the collegiates learn while also giving our graduate brothers an opportunity to mentor and teach. This event has been going on for years between the Seattle Graduate and Beta Omicron chapters and overall has been an amazing event that receives positive feedback.



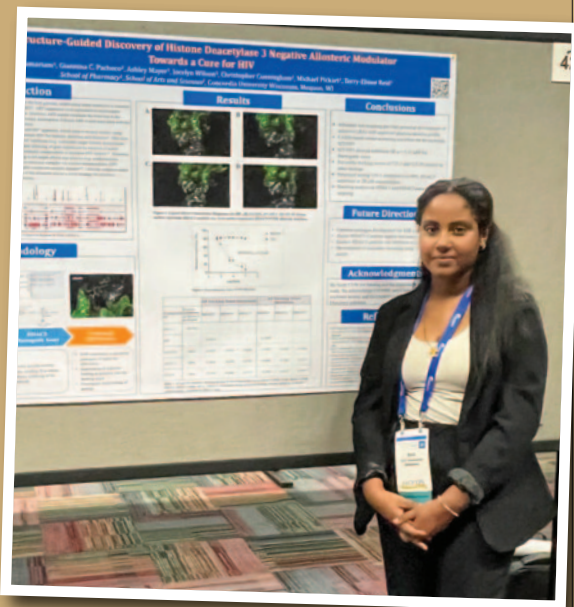
**Beta Omicron** brothers participate in a clinical skills competition written by GCD Dr. Blaze Paracuelles. A panel of judges including Dr. Blaze Paracuelles, Dr. Kevin Lin, Dr. Brilliana Hou, and Dr. Sharon Wu from Seattle Graduate evaluated each presentation. Congratulations to the winning team: Brothers Christian Cortez, Brian Nguyen, and Linda Vu.



In 2025, **Beta Sigma** celebrated members' high academic achievement at the NDSU Pharmacy Scholarship Ceremony. A great majority of their members received a scholarship that day, and five Kappa Psi scholarships were given out on behalf of our graduate chapter.



**Delta Psi** brothers attend the MSHP residency showcase conference in Brooklyn Center, MN.



**Zeta Theta** Brother Sinit Tesfamariam presents a research poster at the AACP Annual Meeting in Chicago, titled 'Structure-Guided Discovery of Histone Deacetylase 3 Negative Allosteric Modulator Toward a Cure for HIV.'

## APPE Updates

Beta Psi's regent Lauren Koch developed a new initiative to involve fourth-year brothers called APPE Updates! APPE Updates is a survey that documents the brothers' fourth-year experiences. It covers what sites they are placed at, projects they participate in, and highlights the preceptors they worked with as well. The Updates are for the fourth-year brothers to share their experiences with the chapter and develop an easy resource for brothers to use when considering future APPE sites.

# 99 Hands/ Industry, Sobriety, Fellowship, High Ideals



Brother and Purdue Professor Dr. Dan Degnan presents a CE at the MAP assembly weekend titled “Becoming a Pharmacy Supercommunicator: Enhancing your Practice.”

Another highlight of the MAP assembly included a Career Roundtables breakout session. In this session, graduates from multiple walks of pharmacy sat at tables while collegiate students rotated around the room to talk to graduates about ambulatory care, community pharmacy, residency, academia and more. Students were able to network and receive helpful feedback about their pharmacy career interests.



Delta Omega was recognized with the Sobriety Award at this year’s Southeast Province fall assembly. Receiving this award highlights the hard work and commitment of the brothers of Delta Omega.



Several Epsilon Beta brothers were chosen for the H-E-B P1 Summer Internship. Top left to bottom right: Austin Trainer, Faith Davenport, Sophie Valdez, Joel Nerios, Elyssa Nunez, Chloe Marcucci, and Jennifer Rangel. This internship is an 8-week full-time summer internship that students had to apply for. The internship led to continued employment with H-E-B at the conclusion of the internship! (H-E-B is a prominent, privately held supermarket chain based in San Antonio, Texas, with over 435 stores across Texas and Mexico.)

## Professional Development

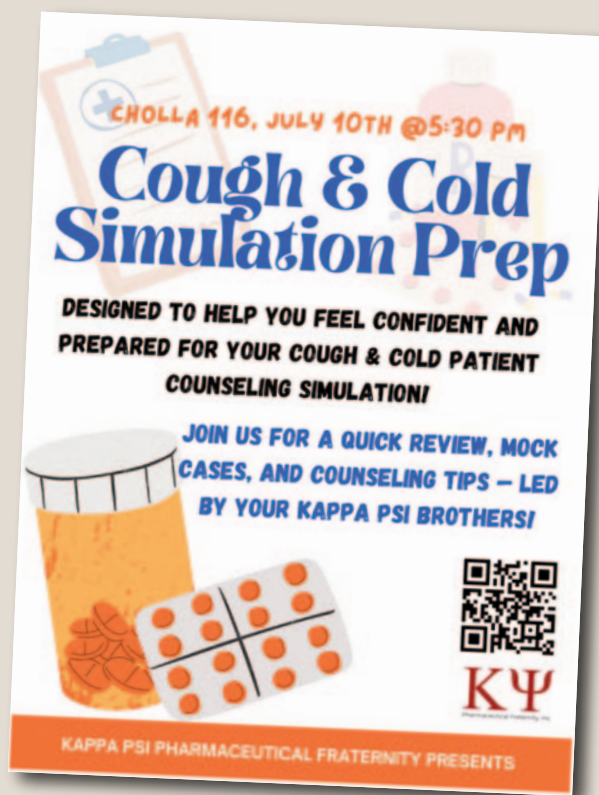
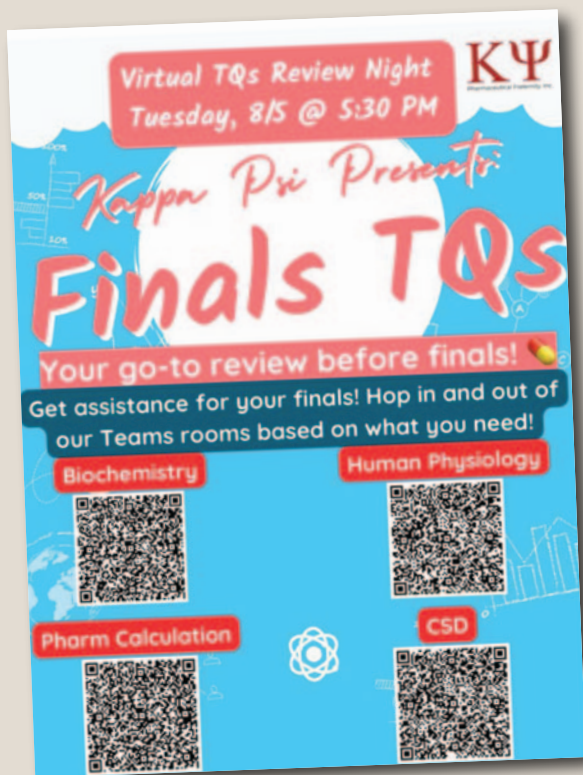
This past term, **Delta Sigma** chapter focused on helping brothers feel more confident and prepared in both academics and patient counseling. The chapter hosted several events that gave brothers the chance to practice important pharmacy skills and support each other as students.

On August 5, the chapter held a virtual Finals Test Questions Review Night through Microsoft Teams. They set up separate breakout rooms for Biochemistry, Human Physiology, Pharm Calculations, and Clinical Skills Development so people could hop in and out depending on what they needed help with. Brothers worked together to explain concepts, go over tricky practice questions, and share study tips. This event was really helpful not just for studying, but also for learning how to explain material clearly to others, which is a valuable skill for a pharmacist.

On July 10, the chapter held a Cough & Cold Simulation Prep in person. It gave brothers the chance to run through mock cases and practice patient counseling in front of each other. Getting that immediate feedback from brothers made it easier for participants to figure out what they needed to work on. It was good to see that professional growth doesn't always have to be formal—sometimes it's just about practicing with your peers and building each other up.

On July 24, brothers hosted a Pain & Fever Simulation Prep event online. The goal was to help brothers feel ready for their counseling simulations. Brothers went over key counseling points, common mistakes to avoid, and general tips for how to be confident when talking to a patient. It was a relaxed setting where brothers could ask questions and practice with each other.

Overall, these events really supported Delta Sigma's professional development. They helped brothers prepare for exams and simulations, but more importantly, they gave them the opportunity to practice teamwork, communication, and leadership.



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Delta Tau brothers showcase the Kappa Psi Brotherhood as they welcome new students.



Rho chapter new membership chairs coordinated a School of Pharmacy study night, during which snacks were provided and members supported one another through a demanding exam week. The event offered a meaningful way to ease the challenges of pharmacy school while fostering connections between active brothers and prospective new members.



Illinois Graduate Brothers (L-R): Alex Maciejewski, Kelsey Johnson, Mark Pulver, Becca Mousseau, Matt Holderly, Lauren Dellaquila, Gabriella Schmit, and Elaine Moy. Illinois Graduate chapter has started professional development roundtables for their collegiate brothers by reviewing their CVs and giving them pointers on how to make them stand out.



**Delta Upsilon** Brother Nicholas Menolascina leads the Audit Committee Report at the Southeast Province assembly.

The Southeast Province's hallmark summer event is the Annual SEP Leadership Retreat. This year, it was held June 7–9 in Savannah, Georgia, under the inspiring theme: "Trainee to Trailblazer: Harnessing the Power of Leadership." The retreat featured a powerful keynote address by Brother Jonathan Hamrick, titled "Creating and Maintaining Greatness in Your Chapters." We extend our sincere gratitude to the Leadership Development Committee for organizing an impactful experience and to our exceptional Kappa Psi brothers who were presenters:

- Dr. Amanda Winslow
- Dr. Chris Winslow
- Dr. Marvin Smith
- Dr. Jeana Kett
- Dr. Nikki Chilson
- Dr. Sabrina Desmond
- Dr. Patrick Berry
- Collegiate Development Committee

The retreat also included a philanthropy initiative supporting People Helping People, a local Savannah-based organization. Through our "Clean Out Your Closet" Donation Drive, brothers donated clothing to help the city's homeless and underserved communities. As we continue to embrace change and growth, the SEP remains committed to excellence, leadership, service, and the enduring brotherhood that defines Kappa Psi.

## Catching up With Our Graduate Brothers

Because our Brotherhood spans the world, and as graduate brothers, we oftentimes only see each other briefly at regional and national conferences and events, *THE MASK* has started a graduate brother news section. If you have been recognized for outstanding achievements, promoted, engaged, married, reconnected with brothers or any other displays of “Leaders in Pharmacy, Excellence in Life,” please share with us! News and photos can be emailed to: [mask@kappapsi.org](mailto:mask@kappapsi.org).



Photo credit: Jenny Fontaine/UIC

### Five for the Future

**Taylor Watterson** (Beta Kappa) was recognized by the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy with the 2025 Five for the Future award. The award showcases five alumni who are making an impact early in their careers (each representing one of the School of Pharmacy’s major degree programs). She represents the PhD in Health Services Research in Pharmacy program and is currently an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes, and Policy at the University of Illinois Chicago’s Retzky College of Pharmacy.

Taylor worked at Rite Aid while earning her PharmD at the University of Pittsburgh. She enjoyed working directly with the community and thought she would stay as a community pharmacist. But, a professor noticed her aptitude for research and helped her connect with the people who could guide her toward a career in health systems research.

Taylor got her PhD in 2022 and became a tenure-track professor at the University of Chicago by 2023. There, she is making an impact through teaching, mentoring, and research.

Taylor received a Bucky’s Graduate Peer Mentor Award from the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy in 2021. In 2024, the Association for Women in Science honored her mentorship with its Motivator Award. Taylor also lends her time to Chicago Scholars, which helps first-generation college students find success, and she sits on several committees of the American Pharmacists Association.



Beta Psi GCD **Justin Graff** (shown with family) is a Clinical Pharmacist-Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at American Family Children’s Hospital. Beta Psi brothers credit him as being pivotal in helping develop the culture of their chapter. Justin brings enthusiasm to events, and they are grateful to have his leadership.



Congratulations to Brother **Shelby Whitman** (Delta Lambda/Buies Creek Graduate) and her husband, Ricky, as they welcome daughter Chandler Grace Whitman, born June 2025.



Delta Lambda Brothers **Shelby and Tyler Cahoon**, along with, big brother August, and big sister Clementine, welcome twins Killian (left) and Lachlan on October 9, 2025. Photo by Jessica Lysse Photography.

## Brother Carl Jakopec recipient of the Weaver Medal of Honor

Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences awarded its highest honor, the Lawrence C. and Delores M. Weaver Medal of Honor, to Beta Chi Brother **Carl Jakopec**. The award recognizes an individual's dedication to making a substantial impact on the profession of pharmacy and the advancement of human health. He was the Director of Government Affairs and Sales, working with federal entities involved in federal health care, including the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, the United States Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, and Federal Bureau of Prisons. He was active with the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States and their Sustaining Members, serving a term as President of the Sustaining Members.

Carl served as regent of Beta Chi chapter and remains active with the Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, serving as CPHS National Advisory Council Emeritus.

*Past Grand Regent and 2024 Recipient of the Weaver Medal Brian Reisetter (left) joins Beta Chi Brother Carl Jakopec (center) at the 2025 Weaver Medal of Honor Ceremony. Pictured right is Beta Chi regent, Jackie Fernandez.*



**Lauren Verner** (Beta Upsilon) and **Brian Seyforth** were married on October 11, 2025, in Frankfort, IL.

## Cameron Remembered

Gamma Delta brothers had a strong end to the summer with the Radar Celebration of Life event that was held from August 8–10. The celebration was hosted at Ohio Northern University to honor Brother **Cameron "Radar" Van Dyke** who passed away a little under a year ago. Gamma Delta brothers purchased a paver in honor of Cameron to be placed on the pharmacy patio. The paver will serve as a reminder of his dedication to Kappa Psi and emphasize the fact that we are indeed proud to be his brothers.





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