

Reminiscences

By J. H. Mathews and Alfred Kundert

The historical box made famous by the curiosity of Pandora certainly contained no more interesting material than the old strong-box containing the documentary records of the early development of Alpha Chi Sigma. Unfortunately for the reader, much of the material is of such a nature that it cannot be spread out upon the pages of this journal. Would that all the members of the fraternity might have the opportunity to see the old box and examine its contents!

In the spring of 1902, several students of the chemistry department of the University of Wisconsin got together and decided that it was for their best interests to found some sort of an organization whose purposes should be to promote good fellowship and scholarship in the department. At the time there happened to be a number of very congenial men studying chemistry, men who had become very well acquainted with each other both in and out of the laboratory. The number of students taking chemistry as a major was much smaller in those days than it is now, and it was much easier for the men to become well acquainted. Numerous sporadic attempts had been made to found and maintain a chemical club, but after about two years of existence the club would die a quiet and apparently unmentioned death. These failures made it evident that the new organization must be something more than a club, else it would follow its predecessors to an untimely end. It was realized that the ends sought could only be attained by limiting the membership and by making the order of a fraternal nature. It is a well-known psychological fact that anything that is difficult to obtain is more desirable than that which is easy to obtain. The more difficult it is to get a thing the more enjoyment we get out of it. The founders, therefore, wisely decided that high standards of scholarship and of personality must be maintained; and each man who went into the movement knew that he, personally, would get out of it just what he put into it, and nothing more. This has been the spirit that has characterized the fraternity as a whole, and to it must be ascribed a large proportion of the success we have attained.

Those who have come into the fraternity in late years can have but little idea of the discouragements which the fates hand out to a newly organized society of this character. Neither can they have much of an idea as to how much hard work is entailed in the early development of such an organization. We were told that such an organization would tend to the formation of cliques and jealousies in the department, that favoritism would be expected from any faculty members who might align themselves with us, that the organization would develop into a social fraternity, and direst calamity of all—that there was no field for such an organization anyway. All these prophecies were made in good faith, and probably contributed their share to our ultimate success; but, fortunately, they did not discourage the founders. It is gratifying that not one of these dire prognostications has come true.

Our fraternity has grown faster than any other professional fraternity ever organized. It would be conventional to say that the founders little dreamed what a brief decade would bring forth. But to be truthful rather than conventional, the growth of this order

has been no surprise to its founders, for the simple reason that each of these nine men had faith in the magnitude of their idea. We well recall our discussions on probable development, and the prediction that ultimately we expected to see some thirty or thirty-five chapters on the roll. We see no reason for filing an amendment to that prediction.

After a number of preliminary meetings, at which the aims and purposes of the future order were formulated and agreed upon, and at which many of the details of organization were worked out, the fraternity was formally launched in December, 1902, with the following membership: R. T. Conger, H. E. Eggers, J. G. Holty, A. E. Kundert, J. H. Mathews, E. G. Mattke, B. E. McCormick, F. J. Petura, and J. C. Silverthorn. No statement was given out to the press until February 10, 1903, when the announcement appeared in the Daily Cardinal...

A New Greek Letter Fraternity

*Alpha Chi Sigma is Organized by Chemical Students
Membership is limited to Those Upperclassmen Whose Major is
in Chemistry. Object is to get Students in This Department More
Acquainted With One Another.*

Alpha Chi Sigma is the name of a new fraternity which has been added to the list of Greek letter organizations at the University. The society has been organized by students of the chemical department. The members have been working quietly since last year and already have a coterie of good men to swell their roll. The membership, though limited to those upper-classmen whose major is in chemistry, extends to all departments of the University and includes technical as well as Hill students. The Cardinal was not able to obtain the names of the charter members for this issue.

The advanced chemical students, with interests naturally allied, are so widely separated among the departmental laboratories that they have long felt the need of a more perfect organization to advance interests common to all. The new society was organized with a view of filling this long felt want. Another of the prime objects is to extend its influence to the commercial life into which the members will soon enter.

We had a happy solution of the difficulty always arising when a new organization is named. Our Greek scholar was Eggers, and by common consent the conjuring up of a title was delegated to him. How appropriately it was fashioned is evident from the fact that so far as we are aware there has arisen no sentiment favoring a change of this original title.

Although the name of the organization had been agreed upon and a tentative constitution drawn up, the question of a suitable design for our pin was still unsettled. Quite naturally there were about nine ideas as to the proper design of a pin. This momentous question was the order of business for a number of subsequent meetings, but eventually, with the assistance of the Bunde

and Upmeyer engravers, we succeeded in getting a design which suited the fancy of all, and which has subsequently been a source of much gratification because of its harmony of design and its symbolism.

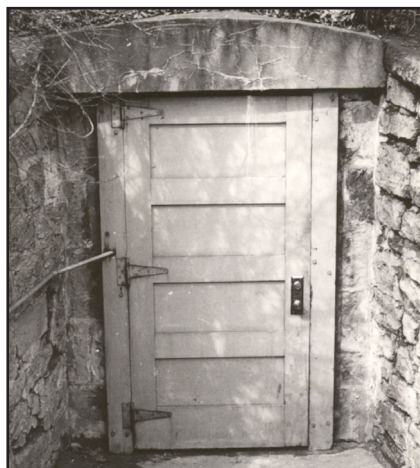
The original constitution, fortunately preserved intact in the strong-box, is a very different document from the one which has subsequently been developed; yet such changes as have been made are amplifications of the original idea. The first constitution naturally did not provide for the existence of other chapters. We were organized as a purely local society, although we expected to outgrow our clothes eventually. In the old days our officers were quite content to be called by such plebeian titles as "president," "vice-president," "secretary," etc., but in the reorganization of 1904, when the constitution was first revised and we were incorporated as a national chemical fraternity, such evidences of vulgarity were done away with, and our officers emerged with their present impressive titles. No doubt the new titles serve to inspire the officers-elect with the dignity of their positions and engender a sense of responsibility which would be impossible under the old regime! How much more imposing to be called a "grand master something-or-other" than to be a mere ordinary President!

Among many other interesting provisions in the old constitution we come across the following: "Robert's Rules of Order shall stand as the parliamentary guide for the fraternity in all cases where it does not conflict with this Constitution or By-Laws." In the subsequent reorganization and the numerous revisions our constitution has undergone this time and trouble saving provision disappeared. Have we yet reached a stage of perfection where its inclusion would not be of advantage?

Upon the adoption of a constitution, and after settling the weighty matter of the design of the pin, we were plunged into the throes of ritual making. Brothers Allan Lee and O.W. Wheelwright were elected to membership and it was therefore incumbent upon us to provide a suitable reception. That we succeeded neither of the brothers in question will deny. While we make no claims as to the polish of the ceremony we do claim much for its effectiveness!

Many years before our debut, the university had for some time maintained an underground meteorological station on the south slope of University Hill. At the time of our initiation this old cave, consisting of two unlighted, rough walled rooms, had long been abandoned and had acquired a high degree of spookishness. The rooms were damp, cold, and cobwebby, and the low ceilings and musty air added to the sense of depression one could not help but feel. What was more natural than that we should decide to use this providentially provided cavern for our first initiation!

We were further favored by the circumstances that comparatively few of the students knew of the existence of such



Old Meterological Lab Door

a place. In fact, none of us had ever explored the place before, and we knew that the candidates were ignorant of its existence.

That first initiation was one never to be forgotten! Probably no fraternity event of later years stands out so clearly in memory as the events of that evening. The candidates, after blindfolding themselves, were allowed to wait in the shadow of the chemistry building until they had about concluded that we had forgotten them; then their escorts appeared and silently commenced the long and devious way (about forty rods) to the scene of action. Like the famous general with his army, we "marched them up the hill and marched them down again," being frequently

accosted by one of the brothers who possessed a megaphone and about seventeen different speaking voices manufactured for the occasion. After satisfying this very particular person as to our identity, we were allowed to proceed over a few more declivities, whereupon we did it all over again.

Lee speaks in his narrative of a delayed advance to the scene of action. This was due more to a hitch in the initiation of Wheelwright than to a desire to befit his remembrance of the path. Silverthorn had departed long before to prepare the Chamber of Horrors, but word came back by scouts that a loving couple had camped upon the very threshold to our cavern and that they evidenced no disposition to surrender their secluded retreat. To tell the truth we never did know just how they were induced to leave, but knowing the persuasiveness of Silverthorn's rich vocabulary, we always had our suspicions.

Besides furnishing the candidates much food for thought this perilous and tedious trip enabled the four remaining brothers to equip the cave with our paraphernalia and arrange a suitable welcome. Upon arriving at our destination one candidate was put in the outer room while the other went through the mysterious rites provided for the occasion.

Each man in charge of a point had worked up the material for that point, and as no dress rehearsals had been held the initiation was quite as interesting, and probably far more entertaining, for the brothers assembled than for the candidates. Never can we forget the impression made by Brother Silverthorn as he delivered his unexpurgated contribution to the ceremony. True it is that he was somewhat handicapped by his inability to read his own writing, especially by flickering candlelight, but his extemporaneous interpolations fully made up for what we missed of the original. As Brother Lee is in an excellent position to testify as to the effect produced by this first of Alpha Chi Sigma initiations, we will let him tell the story.

The following account was kindly furnished by Brother Lee: "The first initiation was anticipated as an important event for the society and its proper consummation was looked forward to with great interest. A ritual must be prepared for the ordeal the new candidates

were about to undergo, and the drafting of this fell largely to Silverthorn; how well he exercised his ingenuity and imagination will be well remembered by many of the early members whose entrance into the fraternity was achieved only by running the gauntlet of its questions. But it is unnecessary to recall further the nature of this memorable document, whose features were such as to be rather thought than written, and though it served at several subsequent initiations, its character was eventually found to be incompatible with the increasing dignity of our order, and it was replaced by our present form. But to continue with the initiation. On a windy and threatening April night, when one might well expect to be left staked out to some gravestone, I was given a rendezvous near the chemistry laboratory and told to blindfold myself. I had not long to wait before I was located by whistles and two of the fellows came up to me. By pulling a knitted cap down to my nose, they made certain that I could not see, and then with an arm under each of mine, led me off over the hill. The walk was conducted in absolute silence on their part. Mattke I soon recognized by his height and I believe it was McCormick who had my other arm, but to my remarks about the various declivities and ascents encountered en route were returned invariable orders of silence and I soon took the hint. After an interminable promenade of all kinds of twists and turns, corkscrews, figure eights, and various and sudden changes of elevation, I was at length brought to a sort of cave, the objective point of our excursion. We must have consumed at least three quarters of an hour for a distance of considerably less than half a mile. Wheelwright had arrived by a similar process and was put through first, and during this interim I was consigned to a kind of closet with a not too certain floor. Here I began to be really apprehensive for the first time, feeling that perhaps the fellows' pranks might take the form of leaving me there indefinitely. From my post however, I could hear voices, whisperings, movings about, and suppressed giggles, intermingled with the droning of Silverthorn's voice reading his ritual. That this did not proceed perfectly smoothly was only too evident from the numerous and forcible comments with which his interruptions were generously punctuated. At length my turn came and I was held before the assembled members to hear how insignificant I was, how presumptuous to aspire to actual membership with such an august body, and how indulgent they were even to stoop to consider so infinitesimal a mortal as I, whose ignorance was grosser than that of the veriest worms. The questions next to be answered were certainly startling and added considerably to the merriment among the members. But I took all in good part, pleased to be the principal actor in the scene in my turn, not wishing to miss a sensation of the occasion, and happy to be included by my pals whom I was also soon to call brothers. Following the cross-examination came the stunts, but of these, unfortunately, my recollection is not so clear. One was to pick up something from a pan of water heavily charged with electricity, and in another I was made to bury my hands in putrid flesh (a piece of raw liver), while the rest of the fellows held vials of disgusting odors to my nose and made cavernous noises calculated to add to my feeling of nausea. This was supposed to represent the decomposing remains of a mythological brother alchemist who had been blown to atoms in the process of his alchemical researches."

"But suddenly my bandage was whipped off and I found myself sure enough in a dimly lighted cave and the fellows, made phosphorescent for the occasion, all standing around. After many congratulations from the crowd, hand-clasps all round, and much patting on the back, we repaired to the room of one of the fellows where we were told the secrets, and the initiation was over. Wheelwright and I stood pledgins no longer, but full-fledged Alpha Chi Sigmas, having undergone that ordeal which tradition has ordained shall be the price of entrance into the mysteries

of a secret society."

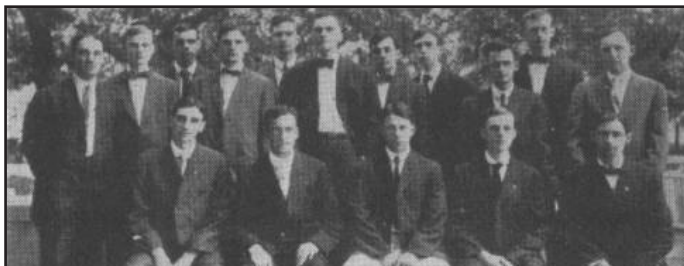
For a considerable time no attempt was made to extend our order to other institutions, as it was felt that we had not yet perfected our organization sufficiently. But in March, 1904, we received a petition from nine students of chemistry at the University of Minnesota. The charter was granted, and the chapter installed by Brother Kundert as master of ceremonies. At this time our constitution had been revised and we had been duly incorporated as a national organization, but our ritual was still comparatively crude, though it contained the central idea embodied in our present ritual. Because of this weakness, more than anything else, the new chapter was not sufficiently inspired with the spirit of Alpha Chi Sigma, and at the end of the year it became inactive. This reverse in our fortunes was probably favorable, for it demonstrated the necessity of a more perfect organization, and probably prevented us from making the blunder of trying to extend our order in its existing state of imperfect development. These "growing pains" were good for us. Then followed a pause of two years in which no attempt was made to gain other chapters; two years full of hard work on the part of those trying to perfect the organization.

At a recent honorary initiation at Alpha, one of the initiates expressed an appreciation of the large amount of historical lore embodied in our ritual. During the reorganization one of us, having access to a library rich in alchemical history, ferreted out a mass of material which formed the nucleus for a ritual such as few organizations can possess. It is stranger than fiction, for it is founded on fact. Woven through it are the beliefs and sayings of men who have set their imprint on history; they clothed, to be sure, their truths in cloaks of mystery and chicanery, but this was done as much for safety as to perplex, for civilized Europe at this period was actively resentful of things she could not comprehend. Embodied in the ritual are the hopes and aims of a pseudo scientific period, when alchemy as inherited from the Egyptians was undergoing a transmutation... It is a romance whose sequel is Radium (?).

On October 31, 1906, a petition was sent in from the Case School of Applied Science. As this petition was strongly recommended by one of the founders who was then teaching at Case, and who was chiefly responsible for the movement to petition for a chapter, the council (hastily reorganized for the purpose) saw fit to grant the charter, and the chapter was installed. Brother North went down to install the chapter, and the installation was an impressive one. The ritual went off without a hitch and the boys, some of whom aided in the initiation, appreciated our ritualism thoroughly. At the banquet following the initiation, Brothers North and Mathews talked of our organization and work at greater length, and the spirit of Alpha Chi Sigma took deep root at Case. The real development of the fraternity, as a national organization, began with the installation of this chapter, and too much credit cannot be given to Brothers Hunt, Brewster, Goldberger, Katzenstein, Kessler, Ketterer, Kopfstein, and Ziegler for their hard work in firmly establishing the Gamma Chapter...

Following the re-organization of 1904, the following Grand Officers were elected in June: H. P. Holman, Alpha, G.M.A.; E. McM. Pennock, Beta, V.G.M.A.; H. B. North, Alpha, G. T.; A. E. Kundert, Alpha, G.M.C.;

A.V. Dahlberg, Beta, G.R. These officers were elected for a term of two years, as is our present custom. As the newly organized Beta Chapter became defunct, and as no new petitions came in during this two year term, the duties of these Grand Officers were not very arduous.



Attendees at the First Biennial Conclave in June 1908

As no petitions had been received by June 1906, the time when a regular election of Grand Officers should take place, and as there was but one chapter active, no election was held. Upon receipt of the petition from Gamma it became necessary to hold an election before any business could be legally transacted. At this election the following officers were elected: H. B. North, G.M.A.; Frank J. Eaton, V.G.M.A.; A. L. Leasman, G.R.; A. F. Sievers, G.T.; J. Howard Mathews, G.M.C.; and Robert F. Koenig, Supvr.

Although Grand Officers had been elected in 1904 and 1906, the first real Convocation was held at Madison in June, 1908. At the meetings previous to this date delegates from the other chapters had not assembled, for very evident reasons. At the First Biennial Convocation of Alpha Chi Sigma the following chapters were represented: Alpha (F. P. Downing, Delegate), Beta (R. S. McBride, Delegate), Gamma (K. W. Ketterer, Delegate), Delta, (L. S. Palmer, Delegate), Epsilon (W. B. Jadden, Delegate), Zeta (E. J. Bartelles, Delegate), Eta, (represented by F. J. Petura of Alpha), and W.A. Richards (Alpha), Delegate at large for the alumni.

At this Convocation there was considerable discussion of the Ritual, but no actual revision was accomplished. The matter of revision was left to the Supreme Council, which body met the following summer and threshed the matter out thoroughly. The coat-of-arms was also evolved at this Council meeting.

The election of 1908 resulted as follows: J. Howard Mathews, Alpha, G.M.A.; R. S. McBride, Beta, V.G.M.A.; E. L. Leasman, Alpha, G.R.; E. L. Bartells, Zeta, G.T.; W. B. Jadden, Epsilon, G.M.C.; and O. C. Stanger, Zeta, Supvr. In January 1909, W. B. Jadden resigned as G.M.C. and L. S. Palmer, Delta was appointed to the office of G.M.C. for the rest of the term of office.

This brief account must not be closed without some comment upon the versatility of the founders of Alpha Chi Sigma. The present occupations of these nine men doubtless teach us that an Alpha Chi Sigma is qualified to tackle any proposition going. One is taking care of the books and money for a large engineering and contracting company (Conger); one looking after the health and medical training of the Chinese (Eggers); one instilling the fundamentals of chemistry into the heads of high school students (Holty); one dispensing pills, drugs, and elixirs of life from his drug store (Kundert); one attempting to lead the student along the devious paths of physical chemistry (Mathews); one selling lumber (Mattke); one holding the principalship of a large high school (McCormick); one helping to run Wall Street (Petura); and one superintending a gas plant (Silverthorn). At least one man out of the nine (the last) frankly states his profession!

By the National Convention of 1908, chapters had been established at seven collegiate campuses. During that Convention, President H. B. North suggested that the fraternity look into establishing a newspaper or magazine. A motion passed authorizing the Board of Directors to investigate the publication of a journal. O.

C. Stanger, from Illinois, was appointed to head the investigation. At the next National Convention, in 1910, Mr. Stanger gave a favorable report, resulting in unanimous approval for a quarterly publication, with one issue devoted to being a National Directory. The first editorial board was created with the fraternity's vice president assigned the duties of Editor-in-Chief, with one collegiate and one alumni appointment rounding out the triumvirate. Today's *HEXAGON* is assembled by a paid editor, appointed by the Supreme Council and given a fixed budget.

The motion approving creation of *The HEXAGON* passed on June 24, 1910. The first issue appeared in October of that same year. Thirty-eight pages long, with an annual subscription price of one dollar, the issue consisted of a report of the 1910 Conclave, a few editorials, and reports from each collegiate and alumni chapter of the fraternity. A second issue, containing a listing of every member in the fraternity, followed in January and it has been published regularly ever since.

The HEXAGON remained a quarterly publication until 1920, when Grand Editor, Paul Manning took it to a monthly publication. Twenty-four monthly issues were published under Manning. In 1922 J. R. Kuebler became Grand Editor, and the yearly number of issues became... well, flexible. During the next twenty-odd years, *The HEXAGON* appeared anywhere from nine to five times per year, depending on available news and available budget. In 1944, a fixed publication schedule was set and *The HEXAGON* went to a year-round, bimonthly schedule. By 1947, the July issue was dropped and the official publication schedule became 2 Fall issues and 3 Spring issues. In 1955, *The HEXAGON* dropped back to 4 issues per year, with publication schedules sometime calling for 2 Fall issues/2 Spring issues and sometime calling for quarterly distribution, sometimes designated by month, sometimes by season. *The HEXAGON* is currently on a Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer schedule, and is sent at least once a year to all members of known address.

In as much as Alpha Chi Sigma is a Professional Chemistry Fraternity it should come as no surprise that *The HEXAGON* would publish articles that focus on the chemical industry and chemical research. In addition to contemporary chemistry, *The HEXAGON* has dealt extensively with the subject of alchemy, the pre-history of modern chemistry. *The HEXAGON* also strives to provide general interest articles, such as job hunting guidelines and international travel hints. Among the regular features are editorials from National Officers, personal news clips from members, obituaries, and news from the collegiate chapters. The first humor page, featuring jokes with a chemical or technical

twist, appeared in 1917. That page is now called "Hot Retorts" and continues to be one of the magazine's most popular columns. The growth of Alpha Chi Sigma has been a function of the times, and has extended to all parts of the country. The first West Coast chapter was Sigma, University of California at Berkeley (1913); Southern chapters were established at the University of North Carolina (Rho, 1912) and Louisiana State University (Psi, 1914). The East Coast gained representation in 1911, with the establishment of Mu (University of New Hampshire), Nu (Pennsylvania State University), and Xi (University of Maine).

As its collegiate members graduated and moved into industry or academia, alumni came together and formed chapters of their own. The Chicago Alumni Chapter was the first such chapter, being formed in 1910. Washington, D.C. followed in 1911 and St. Louis in 1913. The alumni chapters caught the attention of the Supreme Council which tried to work out a way to make them a part of the fraternity. At the 1916 Conclave, legislation was passed authorizing the Supreme Council to create Active Alumni Chapters with all the privileges of collegiate chapters, except for the initiation of new members. After the end of World War I the question of Alpha Chi Sigma after graduation continued to be an issue for the Sixth Biennial Conclave, held on December 29, 30, and 31, 1919. Alumni chapters were having a great deal of difficulty and lacked direction. Alumni Chapters were considered a drag on the Grand Treasury and were not serving much of a purpose. A number of Alumni, who had formed friendships during the war, wanted a different sort of organization than what was created in 1916. The Alumni Chapter of New York proposed a separate sub-group of the fraternity. They called this sub-group the "Order of the Khems" and it was based on a concept originated by Stroud Jordan in 1917. The proposal became a deeply passionate issue with very little middle ground as nearly everyone took one side or the other. Raised voices and GMA Curtis' gavel pounding punctuated the debates. Some of the opposition to New York's proposal was that it was solely New York's idea. The Order of Khems was presented as an unalterable entity and the New Yorkers were not interested in compromise. Membership in the Order of Khems was limited to Alpha Chi Sigma members, but not guaranteed to all Alumni. The New York group also proposed to divide Alpha Chi Sigma into two separate orders. The Order of Alchemists for collegiate chapters and The Order of Khems for alumni. Each Division would have their own set of National Officers. The two divisions with a common board of directors would comprise Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity. When the Conclave was over, Alumni Chapters had been abolished and Active-alumni membership (instituted by action of the previous Conclave) was abolished. Finally, the fraternity would not discourage expansion of the Order of Khems nor prohibit members from joining the Order, but it was not officially recognized as a part of the fraternity either.

Over the next 36 months, the harder the Supreme Council and New York Alumni tried to push the Order of Khems, the harder other Alumni resisted it. In 1922, the matter came to a head in St. Louis at the 7th Biennial Conclave. Representatives from the abolished Alumni Chapters met the day before the Conclave and hammered out an agreement that radically altered the Fraternity. The Office of Vice Grand Master Alchemist was gone as was the Office of Grand Alumnus. What emerged was the two branch system we have today with a vice president over the collegiate

branch and a vice president over the professional branch. Over the years, the professional branch has grown and declined. At one time there were more than 30 active professional chapters, now there are only a few active professional chapters, yet the majority of the Fraternity's operating budget comes from the voluntary contributions of the professional branch.

In 1970, the fraternity was radically altered again with Conclave motion 15, by NEDC Robert E. Schaffrath, Pi 1945, seconded by Raymond Cousins, Beta Rho 1970, delegate from Beta Rho: "Amend Bylaws Article I, Section I, Part I, Paragraph (a), to read, 'Any chemist or any student of chemistry' and to bring any other Article in the Bylaws into conformity with this amendment." That wording would remove being male as a requirement for membership. The idea of women in the fraternity had actually been around for some time. In a 1946 Hexagon editorial, Louis Monson, Alpha Epsilon 1922, suggested in that the fraternity should regard women as prospective Alpha Chi Sigmas. Tau Beta Pi awarded its first "Women's Badge" in 1923. By 1945, thirty-five other women engineers had earned special recognition, prompting Tau Beta Pi to consider electing women to full membership.

As more women enrolled in chemistry-related majors, the debates would surface on their potential value as members of Alpha Chi Sigma. Arguments of morality, tradition and concerns that women "just wouldn't fit in" always prevailed and the status quo was maintained. Driven by the economics of falling membership, the controversy stirred anew during the late sixties. Ed Schneider, Beta Delta 1942, GCA from 1966 through 1968, recalls the difficulties of the times, "I had a fair amount of correspondence with a number of colleges. I don't want to oversimplify it, but it was their feeling that the college could provide all the social needs of the student and that fraternities were neither needed or wanted. My answer to this was that we weren't merely a Social Fraternity but were a Professional Fraternity and were interested in advancing chemistry both as a science and a profession. Their answer was, 'If this was true, why didn't we allow women students to join?' To this I had no answer."

The late sixties also ushered in an anti-establishment attitude among students. Fraternities, with their secret rituals and forced discipline were branded bourgeoisie and were generally shunned. Membership in all Greek letter societies, including Alpha Chi Sigma, was dropping and chapters were closing all over the country. The fraternity was facing a membership crisis and increasing the potential membership base by bringing in women seemed the obvious way to combat the decline. It became a frequent topic of Supreme Council discussions. There were mixed feelings on the subject, but the Council became convinced it was the right course to take. When motion 15 came to the floor heated debate took up most of the morning sessions. Predictions of the fraternity's demise if women were allowed in were made by some, while projections a similar fate if women were kept out were made by others. House chapters feared they would have to close their doors. Amendments and counter proposals were made and rejected. A proposal to create an official Little Sisters Program with the same membership qualifications as Alpha Chi Sigma nearly won approval, but fell

short in the end. The session ended with a failing vote that apparently put the issue to rest again. GMA Schneider was not going to give up that easily. A desperate lunchtime negotiation by the GMA, brought an agreement that if the motion was amended to not take effect immediately, it would pass. When the afternoon session was called to order, the Beta Delta Delegate moved to reconsider motion 15. After a little more debate, the amended motion passed by a vote of 65 to 3 (one abstention). On September 1, 1971, nineteen women were recorded as full members of Alpha Chi Sigma. Although a matter of some

controversy, the women of Alpha Chi Sigma are referred to as "Brother." From 1971 until 1979, women were called both "Sister" and "Brother" with no consistency causing some women to take offense with one reference, some with the other. In 1978, the Ritual Committee did extensive linguistic research and discovered that within the context of a fraternal organization, "Brother" is the correct term to reflect the equality of all members, regardless of gender. "Sister" on the other hand is used to denote a secondary class of membership.