In This Issue...The Newly Elected Grand Officers!

- Grand President Amy Valdez (Beta Iota)
- Grand Past-President Brandon Sucher (Beta Rho)
- Grand Vice-President for Collegiate Affairs Lexie Turner (Alpha Iota)
- Grand Vice-President for Alumni Affairs Traci Thompson (Lambda)
- Grand Vice-President for Communications Ryan Costantino (Eta)
- Grand Vice-President for Student Affairs John Mondin (Epsilon)

Amy is a native of Southern Oregon, growing up in a coastal town near the Oregon/California border. She got her first taste of pharmacy working in a small independent in her hometown and realized that pharmacy was the career path for her. She accepted early admission to Oregon State University and pledged Phi Delta Chi Beta Iota Chapter in the fall of 1995 as a pre-pharmacy student. Amy was initiated in January 1996 and that fall was accepted into the professional pharmacy program.

During her collegiate years, Amy served as Beta Iota WMA, WVC, and WCC. She attended her first Regional Meeting in Denver in 1996 and her first Grand Council in Fort Lauderdale in 1997. These experiences bonded her forever with Phi Delta Chi and her Brothers. Amy has continued to attend Chapter, regional, and national meetings as an active Alumnus Brother. She previously served the fraternity as Western Regional Director for Alumni Affairs from 2005-2009 and Grand Vice President for Collegiate Affairs from 2009-2011 before being elected to her current position as Grand President at the 68th Grand Council in Buffalo, N.Y. Amy was elected to Grand President at the 69th Grand Council in Omaha, NE.

After graduation in 1999, she began working as a Staff Pharmacist, and later Pharmacy Manager, for Safeway Inc., a large grocery chain. Amy is currently working as Division Patient Care Services Manager for Safeway based in Portland, OR. She oversees all patient care activities at 104 pharmacies in Oregon and Washington, including an extensive immunization program, MTM, biometric screenings, travel health services, drug administration of specialty products, and most recently diabetes education and adherence. In addition, she also manages the intern program and coordinates experiential sites for her division. She is a preceptor for Oregon State University and Pacific University and enjoys teaching and mentoring pharmacy students. In her free time, she likes to read, go wine tasting, travel, and spend time with her son Aidan.
Brandon graduated from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) in 2001 and subsequently completed a Primary Care Specialty Residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2002.

As their WCC, he was fortunate to join the 14 founding Brothers of Beta Rho. Brandon’s positive experiences as a collegiate Brother instilled an unwavering commitment to Phi Delta Chi, ultimately inspiring him to give back by contributing in a number of leadership roles (Grand President, Grand Vice President for Collegiate Affairs, Southcentral Regional Correspondent, and facilitator at Regional Conferences, Grand Councils, and Leader-Development Seminars). He enjoyed continued involvement as one of the founding Chapter Advisors for Gamma Rho at Regis University.

The pioneer spirit instilled in him through his experiences as a student in the second graduating class of TTUHSC culminated into a passion that led him to join teams of faculty at two new schools of pharmacy. Prior to joining the faculty of Regis University in 2009, Brandon made his debut as a pharmacy educator with PBA in 2002 and earned the rank of Associate Professor in 2007. His passion for teaching and leader-development, coupled with guidance from mentors, led him to develop and teach an elective course titled Applied Leadership in Pharmacy Practice at both schools of pharmacy. Additionally, Brandon practiced as a Primary Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the West Palm Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center (WPB VAMC). His duties included therapeutic management of patients with hypertension, dyslipidemia, and diabetes and precepting Ambulatory Care and Advanced Ambulatory Care APPEs. He also developed and served as the primary preceptor for an Academia elective rotation for pharmacy practice residents at the WPB VAMC. At Regis University, he teaches clinical sciences within the Integrated Pharmacotherapy and Integrated Pharmacy Laboratory courses in a highly collaborative teaching environment using Team-Based Learning™ as the principal pedagogy.

His honors and recognition include Phi Lambda Sigma, honorary membership in Rho Chi, PBA Preceptor of Distinction in 2007 and 2008, TTUHSC School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012, and Regis University Teacher of the Year in 2013.

Brandon is grateful to Phi Delta Chi, as his experiences as a student and alumnus have significantly influenced his formation as an educator, clinician, and leader.
Lexie was raised in a small town in Northern Nevada. After finishing high school, she pursued an undergraduate degree in education at Gainesville State College in Gainesville, Georgia. She starting working at a local pharmacy when she quickly realized pharmacy was her new passion. Lexie then transferred to the University of Georgia to take on the rigors of pharmacy school. She quickly excelled extracurricularly as she was invited to sit on the Dean’s Student Advisory Council and to be a member of Phi Lambda Sigma as a young leader in pharmacy. She also shined academically receiving numerous scholarships and awards at her graduation in 2008 receiving her Doctorate.

Lexie has practiced at both a large community chain pharmacy and health-system pharmacies. Her current position is at Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Florida. Lexie is currently working towards obtaining board certification in pharmacotherapy and is actively involved on a state level with FPA and FSHP. Lexie’s greatest accomplishments thus far, she feels, are having the opportunity to precept students and residents and being recognized and selected as a Women in Pharmacy Founder from the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation in 2012 through the nomination and gracious donation of two Brothers in Phi Delta Chi. Her name is displayed amongst well renowned female pioneers of the profession in a newly dedicated board room at APhA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Lexie was initiated into the Alpha Iota Chapter of Phi Delta Chi in 2004 at the University of Georgia. She developed a strong passion for PDC as she immediately began pouring her heart and soul into the Fraternity. She was named Alpha Iota Pledge of the Year in 2004 and the 2005 & 2006 Alpha Iota Brother of the Year. On the Chapter level, she has held the offices of Worthy Master at Arms and Worthy Chief Counselor. In 2007 Lexie was elected Southeastern Regional Correspondent and in 2009 she was appointed by the Executive Council as the Eastern Regional Director of Collegiate Affairs. She was reappointed as Northeastern Regional Director of Collegiate Affairs in 2010 following the restructuring of the regions. Lexie was elected Grand Vice President of Collegiate Affairs by the 68th Grand Council and looks forward to continuing her service to Phi Delta Chi as she was elected to another term in office.

Lexie has attended numerous Phi Delta Chi events throughout the country including: five Grand Councils, five Regional Conferences, a Leader Development Seminar, and numerous Founder’s Day celebrations. She has also had the privilege to be at seven collegiate chapter activations. Lexie’s most favorite trips have been those to chapters through the Chapter Excellence and Quality (ChEQ) Program, as seeing chapters improve and excel is a very rewarding experience. Through the ChEQ Program, local, regional, & national events, and road trips, Lexie has spent time visiting over 30 collegiate chapters.

Personally, Lexie enjoys spending time outside, especially at the beach with her pup Winston, exploring new music, and wine tasting. She also loves to spend time with her brother Clinton and visit Nevada where her parents still live.
Traci is a born and raised Texan. She grew up in the South Plains area of Texas surrounded by cotton fields. She had no idea what she wanted to be when she grew up, and when filling out her application for college had to select a profession of interest. Her dad said “Why not pharmacy?” and so the box was checked and the rest is history. Traci went across the state to Texas A&M University to get her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Science and graduated in 2001. She worked at the TAMU Veterinary School Large Animal Hospital Pharmacy during undergrad and after being accepted into The University of Texas College of Pharmacy she decided she needed to learn about human drugs and began working at Walgreens. She pledged Phi Delta Chi at Lambda Chapter in 2001 and was initiated that fall.

Traci served Lambda as WKRS and WCC. She attended her first Regional Meeting in Amarillo in 2002 and her first Grand Council in Minnesota in 2003. Traci attended her first Southcentral Regional Founder’s Day in Texas in 2002 and has currently attended for the past 11 years. She was WCC when Lambda hosted SC Regional Conference in 2004, and continued to find ways to attend LDS, and GC post-graduation. Traci served as Texas Alumni Chapter President from 2009-2011. She previously served the fraternity as Southcentral Regional Director for Alumni Affairs from 2011-2013 before being elected to her current position at the 69th Grand Council in Omaha, NE.

Professionally, Traci completed a PGY1 General Practice Residency at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas (PHD) with Texas Tech University Health Science Center in 2006. She remained on at PHD for almost a year before starting at a small community hospital where she helped to establish clinical services over her 4 years there. She currently works for Methodist Dallas Medical Center (MDMC) as a Clinical Pharmacist. She works primarily on a medicine/telemetry floor focusing on CHF and post-cardiac intervention patients. She is a preceptor for several schools in Texas and for the MDMC PGY1 residency program. Personally, Traci has been married for 11 years and has two daughters, Audrey 8, and Olivia 7. In her spare time as a soccer mom, she is realizing she has no spare time, but she likes to read, share a glass of wine with friends, sew, travel, and relax.

Ryan was born in Winooski, VT and grew up in Troy, a small town in New York that was the home town of Uncle Sam. He became interested in pharmacy after his mother encouraged him to pursue a medical science. Ryan received a Pharm.D. from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 2012 and served a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, MD which he completed in 2013.

Ryan then began a career in the U.S. Army and was commissioned as a Captain. He is currently attending the Army’s Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX and will eventually be stationed at Ft. Stewart outside of Savannah, GA.

As a pharmacy student, Ryan became a Brother of Phi Delta Chi at Eta Chapter (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy). He served as Worthy Correspondent until he was elected Northeast Regional Correspondent (NERC). After serving a term as NERC, he was elected the 13th Grand Vice President of Student Affairs (GVPSA) at the 68th Grand Council in Buffalo, NY. As GVPSA, Ryan oversaw the Achievement Award Program as well as the Thurston Program. One of his main achievements was leading the effort to review and revise the Thurston Program to ensure its quality and efficiency. Most recently, Ryan was elected Grand Vice President of Communications (GVPC) at the 69th Grand Council in Omaha, NE.

In addition to all things Phi Delta Chi, Ryan enjoys aviation, running, and military studies. His career interests include evidence-based medicine and pain management, and research in drug metabolism and interactions.
John grew up in a small town in the rolling hills outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was accepted into the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia upon graduating high school. After volunteering at a small independent in his hometown, his passion for pharmacy was validated and he fell in love with the profession. He pledged Phi Delta Chi Epsilon Chapter in the Fall of 2009 as a pre-pharmacy student. John was initiated in November 2009 and was accepted into the professional pharmacy program at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy of University of the Sciences in Philadelphia the following summer.

As a collegiate, John has served as Epsilon WKRS and WC. John is one of the 22 refounding Brothers of the Epsilon Chapter, serving as WKRS during the refounding process. He attended his first Grand Council in 2011 in Buffalo, NY and first regional meeting in 2012 at Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences in Albany, NY – home of Alpha Theta Chapter and their infamous “Wing Ding.” He previously served the Fraternity as the Northeast Regional Correspondent from 2012-2013 before being elected to his current position at the 69th Grand Council in Omaha, NE.

John is currently in his last year at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and is on rotations in the Philadelphia area. He plans to complete a PGY-1 residency after graduation and then a PGY-2 residency in cardiology pharmacy. He’s an avid football and college basketball fan. In his free time John likes to bowl, golf, go to the beach, and go on road trips to visit other chapters.