

Interview of Brother Michael A. Nicholas Graduate Councillor

Submitted by Brother David Luckenbill

Q: What was your Undergraduate Chapter, school and graduation year?

A: Omega Phi (La Salle University, 2007)

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Gibsonia, PA

Q: How did that help mold you into the person you have become today?

A: It was a small town a short distance from a big city – it was like being able to live in the country and the city at the same time – definitely helped when going to school in Philadelphia.



Q: What person(s) do you feel motivated and inspired you as a young man?

A: Father James McGovern – a religion and philosophy professor at La Salle who had the most practical and sanguine view of life and how to achieve whatever it is you sought.

Q: What do you do professionally?

A: Attorney

Q: What inspired you to take on that profession?

A: Law touches every other aspect of life. A great attorney is a leader, problem solver, communicator and advocate. I couldn't imagine striving to be anything else. Also, all I know how to do is argue, so the range of professions available to me are somewhat limited.

Q: What traits and skills of your profession translate and are useful as Risk Management Officer (RMO) and Graduate Councillor of Alpha Chi Rho?

A: Attorneys are, by and large, very analytical, using logic to approach problems. I try to use my experience working with Brothers and my experience as an attorney to bridge the gap between the "rules" and the educational opportunities available to Brothers who have temporarily lost sight of the guidelines of professional conduct. As graduate councillor, I try my best to come up with creative (as opposed to reactionary) solutions to the longer term issues facing our Fraternity.

Q: Why did you initially want to join Alpha Chi Rho?

A: It was the fraternity that ran the campus. They had the student government president, the Chair of the Judicial Board and a quarter of the RAs – their events were outstanding and they all were succeeding. Who wouldn't want to join that group?

Q: What motivates you to be a volunteer within the Fraternity and Foundation?

A: My undergraduate experience would not have been the same without AXP. I am motivated by a desire to pay it forward – to give back to the organization that gave me so much.

Q: What expectations do you have of yourself, Council and the Fraternity during your term as RMO and Graduate Councillor?

A: I expect us to always be moving forward. We cannot simply react. We must be proactive. In

pragmatic terms we need to: 1. Codify the disciplinary process (accomplished); 2. Achieve financial stability (in progress); 3. Reconfigure our recruitment practices (in progress); and finally 4) Continuously emulate what it means to be a Brother in Alpha Chi Rho (always in progress).

Q: What are your personal goals and expectations out of being RMO and Graduate Councillor?

A: I expect to participate in streamlining our disciplinary code, of making expectations clear and concise, and assisting Chapters on their way to risk management and financial stability.

Q: Of what importance to you is social interaction between Council members and the Brotherhood?

A: Critical. Essential. Without such interaction, the Council's purpose for existing ceases to exist. We are here to serve the Brotherhood! The day we become unresponsive to our Brothers is the day we have outstayed our welcome as members of Council.

Q: If you could add one trait to all Chapters what would it be and why?

A: I wouldn't add any trait – I think the necessary traits are espoused in our Landmarks. I would have all Chapters constantly and continuously emulating those simple but poignant statements given to us by our Founders. Everything else flows from and follows those leading through the Landmarks.

Please contact me (nicholasm4@gmail.com) any time if you need a resource, voice a complaint, or just to chat – that's why I'm here.

