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Pi Sigma Alpha
The National Political Science Honor Society

N E W S L E T T E R

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Pi Sigma Alpha Awards for 2002

One of the most exciting things about Spring semester across the country for Pi Sigma Alpha chapters is that it once again becomes time to think about the Society's awards programs— in which student members, faculty advisors and even the chapters themselves may be recognized and rewarded for outstanding performance or promise within the Pi Sigma Alpha family! Toward the end of Fall 2001 semester, chapter advisors were sent a mailout from the National Office in which program announcements and scholarship competitions for the current academic year were provided. The Newsletter is reprinting that information here so that advisors may refresh their memories of the available programs and their requirements. Additionally, chapter members may wish to avail themselves of this information and consider submitting materials for one or more of the award programs. All such submissions should go through the chapter faculty advisor; he or she will have the relevant information that members need in order to produce an acceptable application, and all of the awards programs require formal submission from or certification by the advisor on behalf of the chapter.

These programs collectively represent one of the cornerstones of Pi Sigma Alpha's commitment to providing member services and benefits, as well as to assisting promising young scholars in the study of Political Science and Government. If you are interested in any of them, get involved and start the application process today!!

The Pi Sigma Alpha / Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarships

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is pleased to offer five scholarships in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2000) each to Society members entering M.A. or Ph.D. programs in Political Science in 2002, and two additional scholarships of two thousand dollars each to members entering their second year of study toward the Ph.D. degree. The scholarships will be awarded by a national selection committee solely on the basis of academic merit and service to Pi Sigma Alpha, the university/college and the community. Pi Sigma Alpha welcomes applications from any member without regard to race, gender or ethnicity. Each chapter is invited to nominate one candidate for each of the two award categories (first-year awards and second-year awards). A completed application package should be submitted to the National Office by the candidate's chapter advisor, and must include three (3) copies each of the following materials (one original and two photocopies are acceptable):

- a completed individual application form for the specific scholarship program (first-year or secondyear)
- a statement by the candidate describing how graduate study in Political Science relates to his or her career goals
- a letter of nomination from the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter advisor
- letters of recommendation from two (2) other faculty members
- an official school transcript
- a passport-style black-and-white photograph of the applicant, not larger than 2" x 3", suitable for publication in the Newsletter.

Applications must be received by April 15, 2002. The recipients of the Penniman Graduate Scholarships will be announced by June 1, 2002. Scholarship funds will be transferred with proof of enrollment in graduate political science programs in 2002.

Student Paper Awards

Chapter advisors are invited to nominate one outstanding student paper for each of these awards. Three copies of each nominated paper, along with a letter of nomination from the advisor on departmental letterhead, must be received by the national office by June 15, 2002. Chapter advisors should be sure to include the author's home address and telephone number. In addition to receiving the cash prize noted below,

the winners will also have their names announced in the Fall issue of the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter, in the APSA's quarterly publication PS, and at the 2002 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Student Paper Awards

Graduate Student Paper Award (\$250): The author must be a graduate student in political science, and the paper must have been presented at a state, regional or national political science association meeting during the current academic year.

Undergraduate Class Paper Award (\$250 to winner; two (2) runners-up at \$100 each): The author must be an undergraduate and a member of Pi Sigma Alpha. The paper must be an existing paper written for a political science class, and not solely for this competition. *Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award* (\$250 to winner; two (2) runners up at \$100 each): The author must be an undergraduate and a member of Pi Sigma Alpha. The paper must be written as an honors thesis for an undergraduate Honors program.

Best Chapter Awards

Six chapters will be chosen for Best Chapter Awards based upon the information they provide to the National Office in their Annual Reports. Two awards of \$250 each are made to chapters in three categories of institutional enrollment: (A) under 6000 total students, (B) between 6000-15,000 total students and (C) over 15,000 total students. The Best Chapter selection committee will review all annual reports received by June 1, 2002 and the awards will be announced in late August. The annual reporting requirements for chapters are listed in the Newsletter as well as perpetually on the Pi Sigma Alpha website at www.pisigmaalpha.org.

Best Chapter Advisor Awards

To honor the best among the many dedicated faculty members who take on the role of chapter advisor, the National Office gives as many as three (3) Best Chapter Advisor awards each year. Each award includes a cash prize of \$1000, recognition in the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter and APSA's PS: Political Science and Politics, an award certificate and a letter of commendation which is sent to the president of the winner's college or university.

Nominations for Best Chapter Advisor awards must come from the advisor's department chair or dean, and the deadline for submissions is June 1, 2002. Advisors have been provided with a letter of explanation about the nominating process which they were asked by the Society to leave with the relevant official. The letter of nomination must come from the department chair or dean, and should certify that the advisor has served in that capacity for at least three years. The letter should also provide a detailed description of the advisor's contributions to Pi Sigma Alpha during that time. A selection committee will meet during June, and the recipients of this award will be announced by July 15, 2002.

APSA Student Memberships

One of the best and potentially most practical of the awards programs Pi Sigma Alpha sponsors is actually provided to every chapter... every year! Chapter advisors and student officers are reminded that they are allowed to select one outstanding student member of their chapter annually to receive a one-year student membership in the American Political Science Association. Chapter advisors should send the name and home address of the chosen student to the National Office in a signed letter on official school letterhead. The National Office will process the application and pay the membership dues directly to APSA.

Make Your Induction Ceremony Special

Spring is an exciting time for Pi Sigma Alpha members and members-to-be. Many chapters hold their induction ceremonies at the end of the academic year. Why not make this year's ceremony more exciting and different than usual? Ten Ways to Spice Up Your Ceremony

1. Try using Pi Sigma Alpha's formal induction ceremony; it is new and is available on the web site: www.pisigmaalpha.org.
2. Give medallions to the graduating seniors and/or chapter officers as a parting honor; the Pi Sigma Alpha medallions are beautiful and look great when worn with graduation regalia.
3. Induct two honorary members; each chapter is entitled to select two honorary members per year. These can be university administrators, faculty, elected officials, local administrators, supervisors of elections, or anyone who has made an important contribution to your chapter. Ask them to make brief remarks. Invite a reporter and photographer from your campus or local newspaper.
4. Display your chapter's photographs, scrapbooks, etc.; putting a display together makes it much less stressful to complete your chapter report to the national office by June 1!
5. Have inductees personally invite their favorite faculty members; if you have a dinner, set up seating to mix faculty, students, parents, and other guests.
6. Consider having a brunch; you may be able to have the ceremony at a nicer place-and cheaper-if it's not an evening event; Daytime induction ceremonies may also be better attended on campuses with lots of commuter students.
7. Remind inductees that they are lifetime members of Pi Sigma Alpha; Membership in an honor society is an impressive credential to list on resumes or job applications.
8. Announce plans for exciting Fall activities; Election 2002 should offer lots of opportunities for your Chapter, whether it's holding candidate forums, conducting straw polls on campus, registering voters, or attending state and local party activities.
9. Recruit officers for the following year; tap the enthusiasm of new inductees who are not graduating.
10. Finally, don't forget to order a Pi Sigma Alpha chapter banner if you don't have one. These are very popular and can be used for a variety of functions and events. But most of all, have fun and congratulate the inductees for a job well done!

Chapter News

The **Epsilon Chi** chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Providence College (RI) is currently planning a student paper contest, as well as an end-of-the-year banquet to welcome new members and congratulate those members who will be graduating. Over the past semester, Epsilon Chi chapter has hosted an internship panel, a guest speaker on "The Internet and Democracy," and a panel geared toward undeclared students on the marvels of a political science degree.

Epsilon Mu chapter at The University of Montana- Missoula reports that it has two exciting events coming up in the Spring 2002 semester. The first is a National Issues Forum with the Kettering Foundation in March. In May, for the second one, the chapter will have its annual Spring Banquet with former U.S. Senator George McGovern as a guest speaker. In Fall, 2001, according to chapter officers who submitted this report, "we helped register voters, planned a picnic for the Political Science Department, had a Career Day with prominent speakers such as mayor Mike Kadas of Missoula, U.S. District Court Judge Don Molloy, former Montana Senator Mike Halligan, and World Affairs Council Executive Director Mark Johnson of the Mansfield Center."

On February 12, 2002 the **Rho Gamma** chapter at Cleveland State University (OH) held its annual induction luncheon. Eleven new members were inducted and were honored by members of the Department of Political Science. At the luncheon, a new set of officers were elected and plans were made to increase the activity level of the chapter by associating it with the Political Science Student Association for joint events. The luncheon was attended by 30 people, including members inducted in the previous year who are still on

campus. Dr Mark Rosentraub, Dean of the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, was the invited speaker. His address to the chapter was entitled "The Politics of Cities and Sports: Revenue Sharing, New Stadia, and the Future of Cleveland's Teams."

Chi Psi Chapter at Nicholls State University (LA), according to advisor Henry Sirgo, is busy planning the particulars of its upcoming event funded by the Pi Sigma Alpha National Activity Grant program; Sirgo reports, "we have received a grant which we will use to fund an induction banquet featuring Dr. Micheal Tarver, Associate Professor of History, who will speak on conducting research using materials in U.S. Government archives."

Activity Grants: A Chapter's Best Friend!

Report from XI Chi Chapter

On Thursday, February 14, 2002, the Department of Political Science and the Xi Chi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Boise State University sponsored an awards breakfast for political science students and inductees into the Boise State chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. This event was sponsored using a grant from the national office of Pi Sigma Alpha. The Xi Chi chapter inducted nine new members into its growing organization. The breakfast was very successful. The chapter invited a guest speaker, Ms. Maggie Mahoney, a recent president of Xi Chi. Ms. Mahoney is currently employed as a policy analyst with the Idaho Association of Counties and was one of the lead lobbyists for local governments in their attempt to overturn term limits in Idaho. She spoke of her experiences as a college student and the benefits of belonging to student organizations like the Xi Chi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Her talk was very well received by the audience, which included various university and community leaders.

The event also provided the opportunity for the Department of Political Science to recognize the diligent efforts of some of its most outstanding students, many of whom are members of Xi Chi. The department recognized students who actively participate in the Boise State University Political Science Association and students who had completed an internship. The Xi Chi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and the Boise State University Department of Political Science would like to extend their appreciation to the national office of Pi Sigma Alpha for the generous grant that allowed this event to occur successfully.

Recalling Presidential Election 2000 in Florida

On November 14, 2001, Zeta Pi chapter at the University of South Florida sponsored two very successful events— a luncheon and an expert panel in Professor MacManus's Introduction to State and Local Government class— both featuring presidential scholar and Professor George C. Edwards, III, from Texas A & M University.

"Talk With the Experts" Luncheon: Pi Sigma Alpha & honors students, faculty

Professor Edwards and Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Pam Iorio (both Pi Sigma Alpha members) had lunch with Zeta Pi chapter members, students from the Political Science Honors class and political science faculty. Professor Edwards discussed how he became interested in presidential research as a young college student in Florida. He also shared insights into getting published and brought his widely-cited book, *At the Margins*, along with several of his articles that appeared in the *American Political Science Review* and the *American Journal of Political Science* for students to examine. Students and faculty alike were interested in Professor Edwards' and Supervisor Iorio's perspectives regarding Presidential Election 2000.

Panel of Experts: Presidential Election 2000: A Re-Examination

On November 12 a national media consortium, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, St. Petersburg Times and Orlando Sentinel, released the results of its recounting of Florida's spoiled ballots (the under- and over-votes). Two days later, with the recount and election still on Floridians' minds, students in an Introduction to State and Local Politics class at USF heard three experts assess Presidential Election 2000 and its impact on Florida and national politics. The panelists were Edwards, Iorio and Debora Halpern, former assistant news director of WFLA-TV (NBC) in charge of election coverage, now a USF mass communication professor. The panel was moderated by Professor Susan A. MacManus, Zeta Pi chapter advisor.

Questions posed to the panel included the following, among others:

- Why was Florida so important in presidential election 2000?
- Why did both presidential candidates spend so much time campaigning along the I-4 (Interstate 4) corridor?
- What did Al Gore do best...and worst?
- What did George Bush do best...and worst?
- What impact did the presidential debates have on the campaign?
- What was your election day, night, and following day like?

The experts were also shown, then asked to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of six TV campaign ads (three for each candidate). The 2-hour session ended with student questions on virtually every aspect of the Election 2000 campaign and recount. The reaction of the students, most of whom were mass communication or political science majors, was incredibly positive.

In summary, it was a wonderfully rewarding day for our chapter leaders and members. We highly recommend that other chapters put together such in-class programs featuring a combination of scholars, elected officials, and local media experts.

Recalling Presidential Election 2000 in Florida

As chapter advisors are doubt less well aware by now, the reason the Pi Sigma Alpha network of chapters and National Office seems to operate so effortlessly on a day-to-day basis is due in no small part to the excellent leadership the Society has enjoyed for many years. One of the linchpins in that leadership is Nancy McManus, who has served as Administrator of the National Office for over a decade now! September 2001 marked Mrs. McManus' 10th year with Pi Sigma Alpha, and there have been some remarkable changes and levels of growth in the Society since that time. For this issue, the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter thought it appropriate to present this special edition of PSAProfiles— in tribute to Nancy McManus and all she does for our organization. Nancy— on behalf of chapter advisors across the country, this is our way of recognizing and thanking you for your outstanding dedication! We are truly fortunate to have you as a resource... and here's to many more years of it.

PSAProfiles: When and how did you come to Pi Sigma Alpha?

McManus: I came to Pi Sigma Alpha in September of 1991. I had just put one toe back into the world of work after staying home with little kids for a few years and was working just a few hours per week at APSA. Pi Sigma Alpha was undergoing a sort of organizational revolution at the time.

Its office was being moved into the APSA building, and the Executive Council had decided to revamp the staffing arrangements. They were looking for someone to take over the day-to-day administration of the honor society and my friends at APSA suggested that they interview me. At first I wasn't too keen on the prospect of a full, half-time commitment, but I agreed to the interview. I laugh now at the memory of those eight men — well, Naomi Lynn did eventually join the group! — sitting around the APSA conference table just to interview me!

I later learned that the "heavy artillery" was an indication of then- President Bob Huckshorn's determination to transform Pi Sigma Alpha into a much more vital organization than it had ever been before, and his conviction that hiring the right kind of staff was important to that plan. A year and a half later the Council, with the same care, wisely appointed Jim Lengle as Executive Director. The bottom line is that they asked me and I accepted, with the understanding that as long as my children were small, my day job would be my "second job" and that my office hours had to be flexible enough to accommodate my parental responsibilities. I think the arrangement has worked very well for me and for Pi Sigma Alpha. I wish more organizations would recognize how much they have to gain by hiring part-time professional staff and respecting whatever flexibility they need to be good and active parents. Employers will usually get back at least as much as they give in these circumstances.

PSAProfile: As Administrator of the National Office, what comprises an "average day?" What do you do?

McManus: Well, I spend the first hour or so answering and sending emails. Like almost everyone else I used to spend much more time answering — or trying to answer — phone messages. Then there's the regular mail: membership requests, orders for medallions and other merchandise, proposals, applications for new chapters, scholarship applications, best paper submissions, bills, chapter reports, special cases. I deal with that mail as required, pay the bills, and enter all incoming checks in our data base. Nowadays an intern is usually responsible for printing and mailing PSA membership certificates, so I supervise the intern. At least once a week I meet with Executive Director Jim Lengle; we coordinate our tasks and I give him whatever support he needs for his executive duties. Beyond that there are few 'average' days. The PSA President, the Executive Council, the Executive Committee, the Chapter Activity Grants Committee, the various award committees of the Council [and in even-numbered years] the Nominations Committee— all require staff work, especially just before and after meetings. The regional and state political science associations have Pi Sigma Alpha speakers and best paper awards, and I handle those requests. The Association of College Honor Societies requires some work, which will increase now since I've just been elected to the Board of Directors and will continue as chair of one committee and a member of another. If you think of the national office's three functions of "communicating, coordinating, and archiving," you can imagine the range of tasks that need to be done here! Summer tasks focus on the annual financial audit, the various PSA award competitions, trying to reactivate inactive chapters, and preparing for the annual meeting of the Council.

PSAProfile: What do chapters need to know to make the work more efficient?

McManus: The work flow is pretty well under control. What throws it off are special requests, especially during the Spring— March through May, really, when the floodgates open and nearly all the chapters are ordering membership certificates. We have 569 chapters now! Chapter Advisors are generally wonderful about respecting the two-week turnaround time for certificates, but occasionally one does ask for special consideration. In most cases, fairness and sanity require that the needs of all the chapters that did get their requests in on time have to override the few that didn't, no matter whose fault it was. During that peak time we — the intern and I — also

can't deal with illegible names, forms with no initiation dates, or checks mailed separately from the forms. We generally have to put these non-standard requests at the end of the queue again and again until there's no more queue.

PSAProfile: What's your educational and professional background?

McManus: I have a B.A. in French Literature and an M.S. in Library Science. After graduate school, I worked as the librarian for the Social Science Research Council's Washington Center for Social Indicators for 8 years. After that I came to APSA as a consultant, organizing two two-week seminars on American government for students from l'Ecole nationale d'administration. That's the French post-graduate training academy for public servants, and the students who came here for the seminars were destined for fairly high-level government administrative posts. After that I worked for APSA on some other special projects, and as assistant director of their Congressional Fellowship Program. Then came the child-rearing hiatus and Pi Sigma Alpha... see answer #1 above!

PSAProfile: How has Pi Sigma Alpha changed since you've been here?

McManus: When I came here, the biggest problem with PSA was a general lack of forward motion which President Bob Huckshorn and the Council were determined to change. Pi Sigma Alpha has grown in every way in the last 10 years. There are about 30% more chapters, largely as a result of a small-school recruitment effort by President Bill Keefe. Look at all the new awards programs — scholarships, best chapter and best advisor awards, best papers — all initiated by Jim Lenge and authorized by a forward-looking Executive Council. The Chapter Activity Grants budget has tripled, and the proposals for those grants continue to outstrip the budget every single year. Our program-to-administration budget ratio is among the highest of all the ACHS member societies, which is something to be proud of.

As far as the administrative functions of the national office are concerned, we put out more— and, I think, better— information for chapters than in the old days. The Chapter Advisor e-mail Network has been up for a couple of years now and it's a great communication tool. The graduation medallions, instituted under the presidency of Naomi Lynn, are hugely popular with our members, and chapters should look for even more recognition merchandise to be available in the future. The PSAData data base system, created for us two years ago, makes both membership and financial record keeping much easier. The Newsletter has gotten better and better, especially since John Kuzenski took over as editor. The website www.pisigmaalpha.org presents an attractive and information-packed gateway between the honor society and the world. We've come a long way from the days— and I'm talking about 1991— when every gold PSA seal for every membership certificate had to be individually hand-embossed with a big old iron press! This office may be busier than ever, but at least the work no longer results in blisters on the hands and painful elbows.

Pi Sigma Alpha, as good as it has become and with all its potential for even greater service to its members, will be facing some challenges in the near future. Jim Lenge has been a great financial manager and has shepherded PSA's resources to very green pastures. This past year, however, our endowment was not immune to the failing stock market and so we'll have to go through a period of rebuilding. We're faced with plenty of really good program ideas but a temporary tightness of funds to carry them out. The challenge is to identify which ones truly fit the idea and mission of our honor society, which ones will bring the most benefit to the largest number of students, and which ones Pi Sigma Alpha — and not some other organization — is best suited to carry out, and then to launch them in the most cost-effective way we can. I think it's going to be a very exciting time, and I look forward to working with Jim, President Susan MacManus, President-

Elect David Canon [who assumes the presidency this August] and the Council to meet the challenge. During the past 10 years I've been impressed and inspired by the dedication of so many of PSA's chapter advisors. It's bad enough that undergraduate teaching doesn't get the respect it deserves in many of our big research universities, but even the faculty members who take on the responsibility of advising honor society chapters rarely reap any professional credit for that work. We talk all the time about how critical good advisors are to the value students see in even joining Pi Sigma Alpha, and to the success of the programs the national office makes available. I feel strongly that a major part of my job is to support and serve the chapter advisors in what they are trying to do for their students.

PSA Profile: What about some personal information? Who is Nancy McManus apart from Pi Sigma Alpha?!

McManus: My two daughters are now a college freshman and a high school junior. My husband is a lawyer. My dog is a 9-year-old miniature Schnauzer. Hobbies? Tennis, cooking, nurturing a longtime crush on India via reading literature written in English by Indian authors, SCUBA diving vacations, still volunteering when I can for my remaining at-home child's school activities.

Editor's Note — What's with the Newsletter Issue Number? Fall 2001

As a semiannual publication, you might be confused at why this particular issue has been numbered as issue three of volume 10. The reason involved a small discrepancy which has been the subject of some confusion over the past few years; my predecessor, John Tierney, faced it and now it has come to my attention as well. Pi Sigma Alpha is, of course, an academic organization which is comprised of chapters at academic institutions across the country. As such, with respect to numbering the Newsletter volumes and issues, the question has been this — should we number it based on the standard calendar year or on the basis of the standard academic year?

While the former system allowed for continuity over the course of the calendar year, it is nevertheless true that a number of readers found it peculiar to return from summer break all refreshed, ready for another year of school and chapter activities, only to receive . . . issue 2? . . . in the mail. As such, I have made a decision of editorial discretion that is by no means earthshattering but which nevertheless begs an explanation — beginning with volume 11 in Fall, 2002, the Newsletter will begin tracking its volume and issue numbers on the basis of the academic year. Issue 1 of future volumes will be the Fall semester issue, while issue 2 will be the Spring semester issue.

It is my hope that the new system will provide a more logical means of tracking issues of the Newsletter in future years, as its consumers are all basically geared to thinking in terms of "the academic year" as their chronological frame of reference. Additionally, this may make expansion of the publication schedule easier if and when we decide that such a move is warranted. In the meantime, enjoy volume 10, issue three of your Newsletter . . . and hold on to it, as well. In addition to some useful information about the goings-on in Pi Sigma Alpha, you never know about its "collector's potential!"

— John C. Kuzenski, Editor

RANDOM NOTES

Advisors and Members: make sure your chapter's mailing address and membership information is up-to-date! If it's not and the National Office needs to be contacted with the new information, email pisigmaa@erols.com today! Also please remember that April is a very busy month for the processing of membership certificates — so the sooner you get your new member information in to the National Office, the more certain you can be you'll get them back on time.

STILL WANTED: information and story ideas for the Newsletter!!! If your chapter has done something about which you'd like the rest of Pi Sigma Alpha to know, if you have an idea for a Pi Sigma Alpha member for a future PSAProfiles, or even if you just have an idea about something you'd like to see (or not see) in future issues — please email Editor John Kuzenski at psanews@citadel.edu today!

PSA Newsletter: Publication Information and Instructions to Contributors

PSA Newsletter is the regular serial publication of the honor society, and is its chief vehicle for communicating important information. It is published twice per year, with one issue produced in the Fall academic semester and one produced in the Spring semester. Effective with the publication of Volume 11 in Academic Year 2002-03, the issue numbering will be standardized with the academic year so that Issue 1 will be the Fall publication and Issue 2 will be the Spring one (see Editor's Note, this issue, for more information). Both the appearance and the content of the Newsletter were revamped in 1991, and an editor was appointed from outside the National Office staff. The Society's constitution was later amended to make the Newsletter Editor an ex officio member of the Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Council and its Executive Committee, thus giving the editor a role in the governance of the organization and first-hand access to news and information to be communicated to the chapters.

Content

The Newsletter typically includes any or all of the following kinds of information:

- essays by the President, Executive Director, or other officers on the status and direction of the honor society;
- reports on noteworthy chapter events;
- chapter advisor profiles;
- profiles of PSA officers;
- "Notes from the National Office," which replaces the old spring and fall "Information Letters" and includes any new administrative information of importance to chapters;
- announcements of programs such as the Chapter Activity Grants competition, annual scholarship competition, etc.;
- examples of good proposals, grant reports, etc.;
- lists of grant and award winners;
- news of national programs such as PSA speakers at APSA and regional political science association meetings;
- the names of new chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha;
- the Annual Report form for chapters.

The Editor welcomes contributions from chapters, especially reports on their interesting activities, photos of special events and people, advisor biographies, and essays on chapter experiences that would be helpful to other chapters. Any material for the Newsletter should be sent in care of the National Office.

Distribution

Multiple copies of each issue are mailed to the chapter advisors of departments having PSA chapters and are

distributed from there to the chapter advisor and student officers. Chapters may get extra copies of any issue after it is published by sending a self-addressed mailing label to the National Office along with their request. The National Office does not maintain a list of student members with individual addresses, and it is not possible to customize the number of copies sent to each chapter. Chapters wishing to distribute copies to their members must do so on their own.

Notes from the National Office, April 2002 Fall 2001

We're very happy to welcome the following new chapters to Pi Sigma Alpha:

Omega Upsilon, Texas A&M International University, Laredo
Omega Phi, Emory and Henry College, Emory, VA
Omega Chi, Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC
Omega Psi, Hendrix College, Conway, AR
Omega Omega, Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL

Coming in April of this year, our 570th chapter and the first with a three-letter chapter name:

Alpha Alpha Alpha, at Marymount Manhattan College!

The Association of College Honor Societies annual meeting in Baton Rouge in February included a session on intellectual property law which laid out the legal issues related to registering an honor society's name and logo as trademarks. As a result of that session we'll be registering the name "Pi Sigma Alpha" and the Greek letters " ΠΣΑ" as trademarks of the national political science honor society. This is not likely to have much impact on the way chapters conduct their business.

A panel session on honor society operations included presentations on building an on-line membership directory (not relevant to Pi Sigma Alpha, since we don't maintain a mailing list of individual members); long-range and strategic planning; locating and keeping advisors; and campus chapter effectiveness. For this last topic the audience was asked to consider the following questions:

1. What does "effectiveness" mean and how do you gauge the effectiveness of an individual honor society chapter?
2. What is the scope within which a chapter can have an effect, and what range of activity is most important?: Within the chapter, for individual students; Within the chapter and for the chapter as an organization; Within the campus community; Within the larger community.
3. What kind of honor society is most likely to be effective on campus? A general academic society? A general leadership society? A Specialized society like Pi Sigma Alpha?
4. What kind of chapter has the best chance of being effective? A big chapter? A chapter in a big department? Or a chapter in a very small department where the chapter is the center of activity?
5. How important is the Chapter Advisor to the chapter's success?
6. How can the national organization of the honor society promote chapter effectiveness?
7. How can ACHS support honor society efforts to promote chapter effectiveness?

There were also very useful roundtable sessions on management issues for honor society executives, ideas for scholarship and other award programs, implementing cooperative honor society activities, planning student conferences, using the Web for member recruitment and services, and much more.

The Chapter Advisor email network now includes 464 recipients, about 100 short of our total number of

chapters. If you do NOT receive periodic informational emails from the national office under the misleading subject heading "Weekly Note to Chapter Advisors," please let us know by email (pisigmaa@erols.com) right away and we'll add your name to the list. Be sure to include your own email address in the message. These "weekly" announcements are frequently important and often interesting, and we would like to make sure they reach as many chapters as possible.

Since this is an even-numbered year, the Pi Sigma Alpha Biennial Business Meeting will take place during the APSA convention in Boston. The business meeting will be on Friday, August 30, probably at 5:30 p.m., and will include the election of the PSA President-elect for 2002-2004 as well as six Executive Council members. All chapter advisors will receive an official notice of the meeting, and the slate of nominees, by mail early in the summer. If you plan to attend the APSA meeting, mark your calendars now for the PSA business meeting! Advisors, be sure to let the National Office know of any way we can help you make membership in Pi Sigma Alpha a richer experience for your students.

What Must a Chapter do to Keep its "Active" Status

To keep its "active" status, every chapter is required to do only two things. First, it must initiate new members at least once in every academic year, and send their names and initiation fees to the National Office. It must also submit an annual report to the national office by June 15. Very active chapters will want to provide a full reporting of their year's activities since these reports are the basis for Best Chapter Awards. All chapters, however, must include at least the following information in their reports:

- Chapter Name
- Department Name
- College or University
- Total student enrollment of institution
- Name of Chapter Advisor
- Daytime phone number and e-mail address of Advisor
- Names and titles of chapter officers
- Dates of initiation(s) during the past academic year, and number of initiates
- Annual budget for chapter
- Amount of cash on hand
- Any national programs or services applied for during the academic year
- Programs sponsored during the academic year, including whether the programs were for members only, for department only, or for university community or public
- Any other notable activities during the academic year.

Remember... your chapter report is due by June 15, 2002. Be sure to let the National Office know what good works you've been bringing to your campus and community!

The Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Quiz

It's a very great honor, as you know, to compile the kind of overall and discipline-specific grade point average that qualifies you for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha. From there, some members even get to the point where they devote themselves to reading the Society's constitution and by-laws carefully, checking the national website at www.pisigmaalpha.org regularly, rapaciously devouring every copy of the Newsletter on which they can lay their hands, and so forth. These are the Pi Sigma Alpha leaders of both today and tomorrow (we like such devotion and encourage it wholeheartedly!). But now, to take your knowledge of the Society to the next level... how many of the following questions can you answer about the chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha?!!

Don't worry if your score isn't perfect at the conclusion of the assignment— Newsletter Editor John Kuzenski compiled these questions from the master chapter list available on the national office website, and even he only got one question right when he took the quiz. And that was immediately after he wrote it. And even then, he had to sneak a peek at the notes he wrote beforehand! Good luck, and may the force be with you.

1. OK, OK... you doubtless know that Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1920 at The University of Texas at Austin (Alpha chapter, naturally!), and that the organization began to grow regionally— and then nationally— shortly thereafter. But do you know, in all of the Lone Star State, what the only other Pi Sigma Alpha chapter with only one Greek letter is? Remember: once they got to "Omega," they had to start over again with "Alpha Alpha." Most current chapters have a two-letter designation!

2. This is one of those "alright, you know the first video played on MTV, but what was the second video?" - type of questions— you know the first Pi Sigma Alpha chapter to be chartered, but what were the other four that comprised the first five chapters in the Society's history?! Bonus points if you can get the years of induction.

3. Which state has the most Pi Sigma Alpha chapters as of Spring 2002?

4. What state has the record for most Pi Sigma Alpha chapter charters in a single year?

5. Who are the current Executive Director and National Administrator of Pi Sigma Alpha, who work very hard to bring you all of the programs and benefits of membership that Pi Sigma Alpha members currently enjoy?
[click here for the answers](#)

