



ΠΣΑ Pi Sigma Alpha

The National Political Science Honor Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume 13

Spring 2005

Number 2

YEAR 2005 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Once again this year, Pi Sigma Alpha is pleased to be able to offer an impressive array of programs and awards which recognize and reward outstanding scholarship, effort and potential in Political Science. The Spring issue of the *Newsletter* has been devoted, in the recent past, to making sure the news of these programs reaches all chapter advisors and members in a timely fashion, and we are in turn pleased to be able to feature these announcements prominently throughout this issue. *Read this information thoroughly and carefully*—including requirements, nomination procedures and deadlines! Then, keep in mind that although many of the programs don't have deadlines until later in the year, including over the early summer, it's never too early to begin thinking about how your chapter will handle the process.

Take an active part in the 2005 Program process by discussing these awards at your next chapter meeting, and advisors should take just that extra few minutes over the next month or so to nominate students and/or student work that they believe is worthy of recognition! It's a great benefit of membership that the National Office is proud to be able to offer, and it may mean due recognition of someone in your chapter who has worked hard for the honors.

Student Paper Awards -nominations due by June 15

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 Chapter Advisor on department letterhead, must be received by the National Office by June 15, 2005. Chapter Advisors should be sure to include the author's home address and telephone number. In addition to receiving the cash prize, the winners will also have their names announced in the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter, in APSA's quarterly publication *PS*, and at the 2005 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

Undergraduate Class Paper Award: Winner \$250; Runners-up (2) \$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 just for this competition.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award: Winner \$250; Runners-up (2) \$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 -annual reports due by June 1

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: under 6,000; between 6,000 and 15,000; and over 15,000. The Best Chapters selection committee will review all annual reports received by June 1, 2005, and the awards will be announced by late August. The annual reporting requirements for chapters are listed in each issue of the *Newsletter* and on the Pi Sigma Alpha website.

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Best Chapter Advisor Awards -nominations due by June 1

To honor the best among the many dedicated faculty members who take on the role of Chapter Advisor, the National Office gives up to three Best Chapter Advisor awards each year. Each award includes a cash prize of \$1,000, a certificate, recognition in the *Newsletter* and in *PS*, and a letter of commendation which is sent to the president of the winner's college or university.

Nominations for Best Advisor awards must come from the advisor's department chair or dean. The enclosed letter explains the nomination process and encourages the chair to take advantage of this opportunity to reward an advisor who has demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication and service to the honor society. Their letters of nomination should certify that the advisor has served in that capacity for at least three years, and should give a detailed description of his or her contributions to Pi Sigma Alpha during that time. Please pass this letter along to your chair or dean, and provide them with the information they need to make the nomination. A selection committee will meet during June, and the Best Chapter Advisors will be announced by July 15, 2005.

APSA Student Memberships

Each chapter may select one outstanding member per year 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 and the National Office will process and pay the membership dues to APSA.

— CALL FOR PAPERS —

Dear Pi Sigma Alpha Advisors:

Purdue University's Delta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha is delighted to announce that we are accepting papers for the Spring 2005 edition of *The Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*. This journal provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduate students to publish their research in a competitive national journal. We hope you will encourage your students to submit their research to the journal.

Our chapter has published *The American Undergraduate Journal of Politics and Government* since the spring of 2001, and it has become a premier outlet for undergraduate scholarship in political science. Starting

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CHAPTER NEWS — SPRING 2005

Omega Mu, the Cedarville University chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, will host a roundtable discussion on the topic “The Ethics of Faith-Based Policy” in conjunction with its induction ceremonies this semester. The panelists participating in this event are Stephen C. Veltri (Professor of Law, Ohio Northern University), John Forren, Ph.D. (Associate Professor of Political Science, Miami University of Ohio) and Krista Sisterhen (Director, Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Office of the Governor, State of Ohio). This event will be covered by various media outlets and will be broadcast live on some local radio stations.

The **Sigma Mu** chapter at the University of Central Oklahoma was very active in the Fall 2004 semester. At the beginning of the semester, the chapter was given a National Chapter award for institutions with over 15,000 students. In late September, we also sponsored a voter education drive that was very popular with students. This voter education effort was completely bipartisan with bumper stickers, yard signs, brochures, web information about the initiatives on the November 2nd ballot, local candidates, US Senate candidates, and of course, the presidential campaigns. In just six days, we handed out 243 Republican bumper stickers/brochures/yard signs, handed out 168 Democratic bumper stickers/brochures/yard signs, distributed 229 voter registration cards, and registered 179 voters (73 Republicans, 72 Democrats, and the rest “no party,” for those who are curious!).

In October, we sponsored a “debate watch party” for the Oklahoma U.S. Senate debate, where over 90 students and members of the public attended. The students also had the opportunity to speak directly to campaign representatives and pick up materials about each candidate. On Halloween, we then hosted a faculty-student mixer where over 30 students and 15 faculty members attended. In November, two of our Pi Sigma Alpha members received paper awards from the Oklahoma State Political Science Association, and one of those papers was presented by the student at the annual meeting. In December, our Sigma Mu chapter found out that it was the recipient of a national chapter grant. We also hosted an initiation/graduation party to welcome its new members and to say goodbye to the graduating ones.

The **Kappa Omega** Chapter at Lenoir-Rhyne College is pleased to announce the addition of eleven new member this year. The speaker for the chapter’s Initiation Banquet was Ed Williams, the editorial page Editor for the Charlotte Observer. The Kappa Omega chapter Co-Sponsored the L-RC “Election Central” (November 2, 2004), an event that saw about 125 students come together to review and monitor the 2004 election returns.

Moravian College established the **Alpha Gamma Delta** Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on November 30, 2004. Good news from some of our 16 charter members includes an announcement that Amy Frantz is spending Spring 2005 participating in American University’s Washington Semester Program. Amanda Logan, who participated in the Washington Semester last fall, is one of three recipients of the school’s

Meg Weekes Award. Amanda was one of 500 students enrolled in the Program during the semester.

This Fall, **Theta Alpha** chapter at Creighton University organized several “brown-baggers” on current events open to the public, sponsored faculty led discussions on each of the presidential debates, sponsored an election returns party for all political science majors, faculty, and “friends,” and helped sponsor a poster session for all seniors to present their senior theses to the university community. The university president and academic vice president were among those who attended. The chapter is now planning for the student delegation which will attend the annual Midwest Student Research Conference in March at the University of Minnesota-Morris. It will also induct new members at the annual senior banquet in April.

During the Spring semester, the **Sigma Pi** chapter at Wilkes University will host a conference for advanced (junior/senior) high school and college students in the Wyoming Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania entitled “International Issues/International Careers.” A panel of five scholars with expertise in five different areas of the world — Europe, Africa, South Asia, East Asia and the Middle East - will speak on the major issues in each region and then address career opportunities in the international field, e.g. the Foreign Service, intelligence, banking and finance, NGOs, and the Peace Corps. The conference is partially funded by a grant from Pi Sigma Alpha, and is scheduled for Friday, April 29. The chapter will also host several speakers during the semester and take a trip to Harrisburg for a legislative session.

During the 1995-96 school year while Teresa Logsdon was serving as the president of the **Zeta Phi** chapter at Murray State University, and Dr. Gene Garfield was serving as faculty advisor, the possibility of creating a Pi Sigma Alpha Scholarship was discussed. In the Zeta Phi Newsletter sent out the next year, Zeta Phi alumni were first asked to contribute to the scholarship fund. Initial contributions were received from eight prominent alumni, and in each successive year, contributions have been made to this fund. This year, the fund’s goal of \$20,000 has been reached in order for the scholarship to be endowed. The establishment of this scholarship is a remarkable achievement for the local chapter, and one in which we are certainly proud.

In September 2004 **Mu Nu** chapter at Westfield State College initiated a campus-wide voter registration rally. We registered 200 new voters in four hours, and continued our efforts by going door-to-door in the residence halls to register people and answer questions about the voting process. We also used the night before the elections to call people who registered to remind them to vote. We are currently fundraising to endow a scholarship to be awarded to a newly-inducted member of our chapter going into his or her senior year. We are working with students, alumni, and friends of the college through car washes, mailings, and Internet-driven donations. Our goal is to endow this scholarship before we graduate in May.

PI SIGMA ALPHA WASHINGTON INTERN SCHOLARSHIPS

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is pleased to announce the second year of its Washington Intern Scholarship program. Three (3) scholarships of \$2,000 each will again be offered for members participating in political science internship programs in Washington, DC, for either the summer term or fall semester in 2005.

The internship must take place in Washington, DC. It may be under the auspices of the candidate's own institution or any other recognized internship organization, and the home institution must award academic credit for the internship.

NOTE: The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars(TWC) will also provide \$2,500 toward housing costs for any of the 3 winners of the ΠΣΑ intern scholarship who participates in a TWC internship program. The Washington Center, founded in 1975, is the largest full-time internship program in the nation's capital, serving over 1500 students each year. Its housing is located in high-rise apartments in Northern Virginia. For further information, contact: The Washington Center, 2301 M Street, NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20037-1427 (info@twc.edu; www.twc.edu).

The intern scholarships will be awarded by a national selection committee solely on the basis of academic merit and service to Pi Sigma Alpha, the member's university or college, and the community. Pi Sigma Alpha welcomes applications from any member without regard to race, gender, or ethnicity.

Each ΠΣΑ chapter is invited to nominate one candidate for the intern scholarship. A completed application package should be submitted to the ΠΣΑ National Office and must include **three (3) copies of each of the following** (one original and two photocopies are acceptable):

1. A completed individual application form
2. A statement by the candidate describing how a Washington internship relates to the applicant's course of study or career plans
3. A statement by the candidate describing his or her involvement in the campus ΠΣΑ chapter and related voluntary activities in the department and/or the university
4. A letter of recommendation from the ΠΣΑ Chapter Advisor. (If the candidate has not yet been initiated into the campus chapter, this letter must also confirm that s/he is eligible for membership in ΠΣΑ and will be initiated on a date certain.)
5. A letter of recommendation from one other political science faculty member who knows the candidate well
6. An official college transcript (3 copies; two may be photocopies)

Applications must be received by May 1. The recipients will be announced by June 1. Funds will be awarded upon confirmation of the candidate's acceptance by and enrollment in an internship program.

PSA PROFILES: ASHLEY SCHWEIZER



As it has done in previous issues, the *Newsletter* is pleased to provide another more in-depth profile of an outstanding student member, faculty advisor or friend of Pi Sigma Alpha through this, the latest in its series of *PSA Profiles*. In this issue, we highlight Ashley Schweizer, a graduating senior at Murray State

University, Murray, Kentucky. Ashley is the current chapter president of *Zeta Phi* Chapter at Murray State. She is also an initial recipient of one of Pi Sigma Alpha's new Washington Internship grants, which allow student members the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a setting of applied politics in our nation's capital. Asked to reflect on her academic career as she prepares to graduate, Ashley noted that "there have been a lot of positive influences in my life such as my Christian faith. My family has always supported me in my decisions, and I am very thankful for all of their help and guidance. All of my teachers growing-up were encouraging, and I appreciate that. My college experience has been wonderful. The faculty at Murray State, especially in the Department of Government, Law, and International Affairs, has prepared me very well for the future." Regarding Pi Sigma Alpha in particular, she added that she believed it remains "an outstanding organization, and I feel honored to be a part of it. I would encourage anyone who is interested to learn more about it and get involved."

The *Newsletter* recently had the good fortune to be able to ask Ashley about her background and aspirations, her experiences in college and as a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, and what she thought of her Washington internship. We're pleased to provide the transcript of that interview, below.

Newsletter: *Could you provide some basic biographical information about yourself? Where did you grow up? What did your parents do? When did you realize you had an interest in politics or political science? How did you wind up at Murray State?*

Schweizer: I grew up in a small town in Western Kentucky called Salem. Salem is in Livingston County, and it is about 35 miles from Paducah. My parents are Dr. Dale and Janice Schweizer. My father was a high school teacher in the neighboring county as well as an adjunct professor for area community colleges and Murray State. He recently retired from his position at the high school, but still teaches for Murray State. My mother works at an area bank, and she has been in the banking business her entire adult life. Both of my parents enjoy their jobs. I have one sister, and she is an elementary school teacher.

I have always been intrigued by politics, but it was not until high school that I really became interested in them. I began to seriously think about my future, and I decided I would like to go to law school. Once again, I had always

been interested in the law, and in high school I decided I wanted to be an attorney. I then made the choice to major in political science. It is obviously a common major for pre-law students, but it provided me the opportunity to explore politics and become more knowledgeable about the political world while offering me a good background for law school. I decided to attend Murray State for several reasons. It was fairly close to where I lived so it allowed me to be just far enough away from home, but not too far. I also liked the atmosphere it presented of a small college with an exceptional reputation. The small professor to student ratio was a definite positive for me as well. The location, atmosphere, and reputation along with other factors helped me to choose Murray State, and it was the best decision I made.

Newsletter: *How did you get involved in Pi Sigma Alpha, and what has been your impression of its activity around your campus or contribution to your department and its students in your time at college?*

Schweizer: I was introduced to Pi Sigma Alpha my freshman year, and I have been involved ever since. I liked this organization from the beginning. Pi Sigma Alpha allowed me to get involved on campus, meet people, and become better acquainted with my professors. Our chapter is very active. We have won four Best Chapter awards with the most recent one this past year. We sponsor forums that are open to all faculty and students. We have a pizza party at the beginning of each school year where freshmen, returning members, and professors can come and get better acquainted. We also have an event once a month called "Talk Politics," and this is where students and faculty meet at a local restaurant and talk about politics. It's a very informal time where students and professors can talk about politics outside of the classroom. As you can see, we contribute to our department, students, and college in a variety of ways.

Newsletter: *If you were telling a new freshman in your department about why he or she should join Pi Sigma Alpha, what would you tell that student?*

Schweizer: If a freshman were considering joining Pi Sigma Alpha, I would tell them this is a great organization that will benefit them and provide them with a lot of opportunities. They can meet people and get involved in the department and on campus. Pi Sigma Alpha offers scholarships that they may want to pursue in the future. It is a reputable, national honor society that does not demand a lot of you, but will definitely help you if you get involved in it.

Newsletter: *What has been your most exciting or enjoyable academic experience at Murray State? What about within Pi Sigma Alpha?*

Schweizer: My most exciting academic experience at Murray State has been my experience in Political Science classes. We have a great department at Murray, and the entire faculty

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is exceptional. I have enjoyed each class, and I feel they have prepared me well for the future. My most enjoyable experience in Pi Sigma Alpha was being chosen for a Pi Sigma Alpha Washington Internship scholarship. I was pleasantly surprised because I was competing against applicants from all across the country, and I honestly did not consider the possibility of winning. Nevertheless, I was very excited, and it was an honor to win. Another exciting Pi Sigma Alpha experience was being elected Chapter President for the 2004-2005 school year. It was a wonderful feeling knowing that my peers felt I was qualified for that position, and I just hope I don't let them down.

Newsletter: *You recently won one of Pi Sigma Alpha's new Washington Internship grants—so first, congratulations! Next, tell us what you did this summer in DC, and your impressions of the experience.*

Schweizer: This summer was an experience that I will never forget. I can't wait to go back someday. However, when I was preparing to go, I knew I wanted to make the most of this opportunity, and I did. I worked in my representative's office for five weeks, and I felt I really made a contribution. When I was there I worked during the week and then went sightseeing on the weekends. I saw a lot of things and took a lot of pictures. I met other interns from around the country, and I attended lectures by some very prominent past and present leaders. I had several jobs, but my favorite one was giving tours of the Capitol. My internship was more than I ever imagined, and I am very thankful I had the opportunity to do it.

Newsletter: *What would you like to do with your life and/or career once you complete your undergraduate studies? Where would you like to be in 10 years?*

Schweizer: After graduation, I would like to attend law school. That has always been an aspiration of mine, and I want to try to accomplish it. I have worked towards that during my undergraduate studies, and hopefully that is where I will be next year. In 10 years, I would like to be a practicing attorney with a successful career and a happy family. That is my ultimate dream.

- If you would like to nominate a student member of Pi Sigma Alpha, faculty advisor or other contributor to the well-being of the Honor Society for inclusion in an upcoming *PSA Profile*, please contact the National Office, or email *Newsletter* Editor John Kuzenski with the name and contact details for your nominee, as well as a short statement about why you believe he or she should be recognized. It's our pleasure to be able to bring the great work of our members to the attention of its chapters nationwide, as a reminder of the positive difference Pi Sigma Alpha makes on so many colleges and universities, and in so many varied communities, every day!

“STRAW POLLS & TV SHOWS” - A REPORT FROM ZETA PI CHAPTER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

On October 12, 2004, Zeta Pi Chapter and the USF Student Government Association conducted a campus-wide presidential straw poll. It was third time the two groups had teamed up to conduct a straw poll, with Pi Sigma Alpha taking the lead. Nearly 800 students, staff, and faculty “voted” for their favorite candidate for president and for the U.S. Senate. They also weighed in on eight proposed constitutional amendments. Local television and radio stations and newspapers covered the event and featured Pi Sigma Alpha members. On the presidency, the campus was split: Bush 45%, Kerry, 44%, Nader, 1%. The actual results on November 2 were not that close: Bush, 52%, Kerry, 47%, and Nader, less than 1%. But once again, as the USF campus “voted” in the straw poll, so voted Florida on Election Day.

On election night, Pi Sigma Alpha students were invited to assist at two Tampa area television stations—WFLA-TV (NBC) and WTVT-TV (FOX). In each station, the students worked long into the night, helping the stations collect election statistics from 10 counties for use on the air. Many were seen on the air by family, friends, and USF classmates. It was great to see first hand how television stations put their election coverage together.



Zeta Pi Chapter members tally up the returns from the ballots cast in the campus-wide presidential straw poll, October 12, 2004. Left to right, Stephanie Green, President Amber Davis, Acimaa Cruz, and Kevin Hettinger.



University of South Florida presidential straw poll co-sponsored by Zeta Pi Chapter and USF Student Government Association.

ANNOUNCING THE 2005 PI SIGMA ALPHA/HOWARD PENNIMAN GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FIRST- YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is pleased to offer **five** scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to $\Pi\Sigma A$ members entering M.A. or Ph.D. programs in political science in 2005. 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 or college, and the community. Pi Sigma Alpha welcomes applications from any member without regard to race, gender, or ethnicity.

Each $\Pi\Sigma A$ chapter is invited to nominate **one** candidate for the scholarship. A completed application package should be submitted to the National Office by the candidate's Chapter Advisor, and **must include three (3) copies of each of the following** (*one original and two photocopies are acceptable*):

- a completed individual application form
- a statement by the candidate describing his or her involvement in the local chapter and related voluntary activities in the department and/or the university
- 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 $\Pi\Sigma A$ Chapter Advisor
- letters of recommendation from (2) two other faculty members
- an official school transcript
- a photocopy of official GRE score notification
- one passport-style, black and white photograph of the applicant, not larger than 2" X 3"

Applications must be received by May 1. The recipients of the Graduate Scholarships will be announced by June 15. The scholarship funds will be transferred with proof of enrollment in graduate political science programs in 2005.

NOTE: Pi Sigma Alpha no longer offers scholarships for graduate students entering their second year of study.

CALL FOR PAPERS (continued from page 2)

with the Fall 2004 edition, the title of the journal changed to *The Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*, and we are being sponsored by the Pi Sigma Alpha National Office. Thanks to the generous support of the National Office, we are soliciting manuscripts from more schools and publicizing the journal more widely. In addition, we will be providing free copies of each issue to all Pi Sigma Alpha chapters.

The Journal is a student-run enterprise with an editor, deputy editor, and editorial board who are undergraduate Pi Sigma Alpha members from Purdue University. We also have an advisory board consisting of Purdue faculty and members of the Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Council.

The Journal welcomes submissions from undergraduates of any class or major; submissions from Pi Sigma Alpha members are especially encouraged. Our goal is to publish manuscripts of the highest quality in the areas of American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Public Policy. In general, papers selected for publication have been well-written with a well-developed thesis, compelling argument, and original analysis. We typically publish papers approximately 15-30 pages in length that have been written for an upper level course.

Students should include a short abstract (roughly 200 words), and citations should follow an endnote format. Submissions must be in the form of a Microsoft Word document and should be e-mailed to journal@polsci.purdue.edu. Please include name, university, contact details (mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number), and complete works cited information. Students may be asked to revise their manuscript before it is accepted for publication. The preferred deadline for this edition is March 18, 2005, **although we accept manuscripts on a rolling basis.**

We greatly appreciate your efforts to encourage student submissions to the Spring 2005 edition of the Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to e-mail us. Thank you for your time and we hope to hear from your students soon.

Sincerely,

Clifford Pederson
Editor-in-Chief
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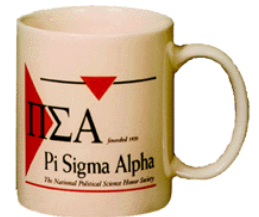
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PI SIGMA ALPHA ACCESSORIES

Part of the benefits and honors of membership in Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is that members are entitled to order and wear a variety of available Pi Sigma Alpha accessories such as the items below. In addition, the Society is pleased to make available a range of other items that commemorate and celebrate your academic achievements!

ΠΣΑ Coffee Mug

Beige ceramic mug with Pi Sigma Alpha insignia. Excellent choice for presentation to guest speakers at chapter events. Perfect as a desktop accessory!



ΠΣΑ Podium Banner

A fully lined, 18" X 18" screen-printed banner in "ΠΣΑ red" and black on white satin with gold fringe at the bottom and a "shirt tail" top for securing to the lectern or speaker's table.

ΠΣΑ Jewelry

Pi Sigma Alpha offers keys, pins, tie tacks, and chains in 10K gold, 14K gold, and Goldklad. Each item is engraved on the back with the member's initials, chapter letters in Greek, and date of initiation.

ΠΣΑ Medallion

Hard-fired enamel on brass-finish metal, hung lavalier-style from a broad grosgrain ribbon. Suitable for wearing with cap-and-gown and on other official Pi Sigma Alpha occasions.



ΠΣΑ Honor Cords

Red-black-white intertwined cords, to be worn with cap-and-gown. May be ordered alone, or in "special combo" with the medallion.

The order form and prices for all Pi Sigma Alpha merchandise may be found in the "Store" section of the Pi Sigma Alpha website at www.pisigmaalpha.org.