



ΠΣΑ**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 ANNOUNCES NEW EDITORIAL HOME FOR THE *UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL OF POLITICS*

by **James I. Lengle**, National Director
Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society

The National Office of Pi Sigma Alpha is pleased to announce that the *Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics* has been awarded to Union College for the next three years, beginning July 1, 2007. The *Journal* will be administered by the **Zeta Upsilon** chapter under the supervision of chapter advisor Zoe Oxley.

The *Pi Sigma Alpha Journal* Selection Committee consisted of Jon Bond of Texas A&M University, Chris Bosso of Northeastern University, Paul Herrnson of the University of Maryland, and Rosie Clawson of Purdue University. The Committee was very impressed with the proposals for hosting the *Journal* submitted from interested chapters. It was a very difficult decision, and the Committee would like to thank all the chapters who expressed an interest and/or submitted proposals.

The National Office of Pi Sigma Alpha also wants to thank the Delta Omega chapter at Purdue University for hosting the *Journal* during its first three years of existence. Under the supervision of Rosie Clawson at Purdue, the journal has gotten off to a great start as the only national

undergraduate journal of political science in the country. The Executive Committee of Pi Sigma Alpha is grateful to Dr. Clawson and her students for their commitment and dedication.

Copies of the *Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics* are distributed free to all campus chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha. If you haven't received copies of the journal, please notify Nancy McManus in the national office.

Also, please encourage your students to submit their papers to the *Journal*. It provides a wonderful opportunity to recognize and showcase the best political science research being conducted by undergraduates across the United States.

CHAPTER ADVISORS!

**Don't forget to order honor cords
and medallions for your members!
See page 12 (back cover) for details.**



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LEARNING BY DOING: PI SIGMA ALPHA MEMBERS ADMITTED TO INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Lauren Miner and Aramide Bajulaiye are two Pi Sigma Alpha members recently accepted for exciting internships in Washington, D.C. this Spring; Lauren is interning at Amnesty International, USA, while Aramide will be an intern at the U.S. Committee for the United Nations Development Program. Both students were accepted into the "Embassy and Diplomatic Scholars Program" offered by the Washington Internship Institute (WII).

Lauren is a junior at Roger Williams University who is majoring in Political Science. Aramide is a senior at Iona College, and is also a Political Science major. Their eligibility for and experiences with these internships and the WII program are yet another important advantage of Pi Sigma Alpha membership. WII is the premier internship program in the District of Columbia, featuring academic and experiential instruction. The interns spend four days a week at their internship sites and one day in classes, learning career specific techniques as well as professional skills. Program highlights include distinguished speakers, important site visits, off-the-record briefings and social events. Internships are investments in students' futures, and one that every student can make. Students are challenged during their internship to build skills to help ensure future success. Students practice critical thinking, presentation skills, and problem solving while building a professional network. Internships provide valuable work experience to add to a student's resume and put them ahead when entering the job market.

Opportunities are available each semester for this international-oriented program where students will intern within agencies that match their career objectives and goals. For additional information on WII or the D.C. internship program, contact Dr. Eugene Schmiel at 1-800-435-0770 or via email at gene@wiidc.org.

CHAPTER NEWS — SPRING 2007

Chi Epsilon Chapter at Mercyhurst College (PA) is pleased to have just successfully returned from its 3rd annual trip to Washington, DC from March 8th-11th. Students participated in a tour of the Capitol, visited the National Archives, and spent the afternoon at Mt. Vernon. Twenty students and two professors traveled to D.C. this year, the largest group to date that has participated. The chapter is now working on a Spring semester discussion event and its May, 2007 induction ceremony. This year, Mercyhurst Pi Sigma Alpha members also participated in a tee-shirt fundraiser and events such as “Christmas on Campus” a program dedicated to bringing inner city children to campus for Christmas crafts and an afternoon of fun.

The **Rho Beta** Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at East Central University initiated 19 new members on February 13, which is the biggest class of initiates ever accepted at ECU. Coming off its Best Chapter Award in 2006, the group is busily planning its annual service project, the Week of Work. For the last three years, the Rho Beta Chapter has used its Chapter Activity Grant to fund a service-learning project in an under-served area of the local community. The benefits of this project go beyond building social capital with diverse groups of people; leadership opportunities it has afforded has helped many Pi Sigma Alpha graduates achieve other goals, such as entry into law schools, scholarships, and other service awards.

Sigma Pi Chapter at Wilkes University has had a somewhat quiet year thus far. The chapter held two meetings in the fall, and one meeting in February. It sponsored two discussions in the fall, one on the Iraq War and the other on the recent congressional elections. Both events were held in conjunction with the Public Affairs Club, and both involved students and Wilkes faculty. In the Spring semester, the chapter will participate in a program on empowering women and, with funding from the national office, will host a program titled “What Political Science Can Teach Us about Human Rights.” Three political scientists, Mark Annar of Penn State University, David Cingranelli of Binghamton University and Janice Bially Mattern of Lehigh University, will discuss their research on human rights in various regions of the world. This event will also serve as the backdrop for the chapter’s induction ceremony.

Upsilon Alpha Chapter at Minnesota State University-Mankato has been a busy chapter in recent days! In the fall, the chapter’s major activity was an October trip to Washington DC. Chapter officers Melissa Andersen (president), Dave Sanchez (vice president) and Mary

O’Connor (secretary) and member Takehito Kamata organized it all, and according to chapter advisor Dr. Fred Slocum, “we had a spectacular three days of touring, visiting federal government sites including the Capitol, the White House, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln, Jefferson and World War II Memorials and more. We experienced some of DC’s ethnic dining and spent two evenings in Georgetown (*Editor’s note: see photos in separate feature, this issue*). During our U.S. Capitol tour, by luck, our tour guide was MSU graduate (Class of 2004) Shain Bestick, who also was in Pi Sigma Alpha during his time at MSU. Shain was an intern in the Washington office of U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman.

Tau Epsilon Chapter at North Carolina Central University is pleased to announce the April initiation of five new members into the chapter, as well as the efforts it is making this academic year to implement a program in which all members—as part of chapter dues and fees—are provided with a Pi Sigma Alpha medallion and honor cord for their graduation robes. The chapter is also excited about welcoming Dr. John C. Kuzenski as its new faculty advisor (and a new member of the Political Science faculty) this year. Dr. Kuzenski is the department’s Director of Pre-Law Programs and teaches Public and Constitutional Law and American Government courses in the department. He holds the Ph.D. in Political Science from The University of Georgia and a J.D. with Honors from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Law. He is the current editor of the Pi Sigma Alpha *Newsletter*, and previously led the **Beta Iota** Chapter at The Citadel (SC) to two national Best Chapter Awards (1997 and 1998). He was named a Pi Sigma Alpha Best Chapter Advisor for 1999. The chapter is already busy working on recruitment efforts for Academic Year 2007-08, and looks forward to building its ranks with a goal of one hundred percent recruitment and initiation of all academically eligible Political Science majors over the next several years!

On February 20, 2006, Andrew Halverson, one of the founding members of the **Chi Omicron** chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, finished first in a five person race for Mayor of the City of Stevens Point. He faces a run-off with the second place finisher in April. He got almost three times the number of votes of that second place finisher and is poised to become the youngest mayor in city history.

Baylor University Press is pleased to announce the release of “Religious Interests in Community Conflict: Beyond

(CHAPTER NEWS continued on page 8)

MANKATO, MINNESOTA

THE PICTURE CAPITAL OF PI SIGMA ALPHA!

As noted in previous issues of the *Newsletter*, we love pictures around here; they bring words to life (approximately a thousand of them, if the old adage is correct), they illustrate the good works that Pi Sigma Alpha chapters and members are doing to advance the noble goals of the Society, and they're usually just fun at which to look as a way of bringing home the stories and articles kindly provided by chapters that contribute material to each issue. With the growth of digital photography over the last few years, in particular, pictures are easier than ever to snap, store and send along to the *Newsletter*. This lesson has not been lost on Upsilon Alpha Chapter at Minnesota State University-Mankato; below is a sampling of shots recently sent to the *Newsletter* that graphically documents their many activities! Special thanks are due to Chapter Advisor Fred Slocum for providing this material.

Pictures from the chapter's Washington trip (see "Chapter News," this issue)



Professor Slocum also kindly forwarded pictures from the university's hosting of the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference, March 23-25, 2006. While space concerns prevented the *Newsletter* from publishing those pictures in this issue, we appreciate the chapter's willingness to share those images. To Upsilon Alpha Chapter and all others that have shutterbugs recording Pi Sigma Alpha events... Keep up the good work and keep sharing those photos with us!



APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS FOR 2007 AWARDS NOW OPEN

The Pi Sigma Alpha National Office would like to remind all chapters, members and faculty advisors that the deadlines for three of its most popular and rewarding member programs is rapidly approaching! The deadline for **Washington Internship Scholarship** applications is April 15, 2007. The deadline for **Pi Sigma Alpha/Howard Penniman Scholarships for Graduate Study in Political Science** applications is May 1, 2007. **Best Undergraduate Class Papers** and **Best Undergraduate Honors Theses** award nominations must be in by June 15, 2007. Full details regarding how to nominate papers or apply for these awards can be found on the Pi Sigma Alpha website, www.pisigmaalpha.org, under the “Programs” menu—once there, choose the “For Chapters and Members” option.

APPLY TODAY—AND GOOD LUCK!

PI SIGMA ALPHA: A BRIEF HISTORY AND AN IMPORTANT ONGOING PURPOSE

(adapted from “History” at the Society’s World Wide Web site, www.pisigmaalpha.org)

Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1920 at the University of Texas for the purpose of bringing together students and faculty interested in the study of government and politics. Professor C. Perry Patterson was an early leader of the first chapter and served as national president of PSA from 1920 until 1932. The success of the honor society at the University of Texas prompted other institutions to apply for chapters, with the Universities of Oklahoma and Kansas establishing chapters by 1922. In March of that year the society held its first national convention at the University of Oklahoma.

Growth in the honor society was gradual throughout the 1920s and 1930s, and accelerated after the Second World War. Today, there are over 650 chapters throughout the country. There is at least one college or university with a Pi Sigma Alpha chapter in every state and the District of Columbia and, as of 1995, the U. S. territory of Guam.

Purpose of an Honor Society

The Articles of Incorporation of Pi Sigma Alpha state as one of its purposes “to stimulate scholarship and intelligent interest in political science.” The society functions at the national level, sponsoring programs and events of value to the profession and teaching of political science, and at the chapter level. Each chapter is encouraged to provide a framework for enriching the exposure of its members and the wider university community to the study of government and issues of public concern. The goals of Pi Sigma Alpha are consistent with the aims of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) as set out in the ACHS Booklet of Information. This material provides a good framework for understanding the meaning and value of a political science honor society and its place on an American campus, and makes worthwhile reading.

Pi Sigma Alpha and the Association of College Honor Societies

The **Association of College Honor Societies** (ACHS) is the organization linking Pi Sigma Alpha to its 66 sister academic honor societies, both general and specialized. ACHS sets the standards for eligibility criteria, governance, and chapter structure for legitimate honor societies, and represents the honor societies within the larger higher education community. The member societies of the ACHS range from small (only 28 chapters) to quite large (816 chapters). Pi Sigma Alpha ranks third in size with more than 600 chapters.

To find out more about ACHS, including what other ACHS member-societies have chapters on your campus, visit the organization’s website at www.achsnatl.org.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

Editor's Note: *the following information was adapted from the IAPSS World Wide Web site at www.iapss.org. In the interests of preserving the organization's original message as much as possible, no effort was made to "Americanize" European spellings, punctuation, grammar, etc. Pi Sigma Alpha is happy to provide this information as a professional courtesy to IAPSS, as well as in the interests of informing our members about its programs, services and publications. No formal endorsement of IAPSS on the part of Pi Sigma Alpha, express or implied, should be read into or assumed from this feature.*

The International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS), as the globally leading association for political science students, aims to achieve cooperation through an international communication network. It generates and promotes opportunities for active engagement of political science students through activities on the local, regional and international levels.

Values

Political Independence: We value political independence as we believe the association should not speak or act in a single voice on political issues. Declaring itself as non-political does not mean that IAPSS neglects the importance of democratic principles and the values of fundamental human rights.

Professionalism: We value professionalism as we believe that every member should be committed to and act responsibly within the IAPSS community, which implies loyalty, belief in viability of the organisation and unrestrained, unselfish efforts in working towards realisation of IAPSS' commonly recognized goals.

Respecting Diversity: We value diversity as we believe tolerance is of crucial importance for successful communication, cooperation and exchange on the wide international scale.

Knowledge: We value knowledge as we believe it is a precondition for critical thinking and a sound basis for justified and active involvement. IAPSS honours and strives to promote intercultural and cross-academic exchange of theoretical and professional knowledge.

Transparency: IAPSS values the principle of transparency, since we believe that the organisation is internally strengthened by open dialogue between its respected members.

Mission: To expand and diversify its existing network with the aim to enhance communication, cooperation and implementation of activities on wider international scale so to create conditions for active engagement of political science students.

IAPSS' Five Pillars

1. Network:

Expanding an international network for political science students and stimulating further the exchange of information and knowledge through organisation and coordination of common projects and events.

2. Intercultural Exchange:

IAPSS promotes and stimulates interconnectedness through worldwide exchange of political science students, and it offers a basis for cross-cultural cooperation and learning.

3. Academic Development: IAPSS encourages research, academic debate and cross-academic initiatives through its various projects, thus stimulating academic development of political science students.

4. Professional Career: IAPSS strives to alleviate the process of integration of political science students into the highly demanding professional world through an elaborate network between students, universities and potential business partners, with the aim to bring to the mutually beneficial cooperation.

5. Active Citizenship: IAPSS stimulates the value of active citizenship through projects created and implemented with the purpose of encouraging political science students and those interested in political science issues to actively take part in the civil society.

For more information, visit the IAPSS World Wide Web home page at www.iapss.org.

ETHICS AND POLITICS: A SPECIAL CHAPTER EVENT REPORT

The **Epsilon Iota** Chapter at San Jose State University hosted “Ethics and Politics: A Black Tie Event” on March 9th, 2007. The event was made possible by a grant awarded from the national office of Pi Sigma Alpha. Under the direction of Senior Policy Advisor Breeanna Mierop, five prominent speakers from student, local, and national government were invited to share their thoughts about the relation between ethics and politics. An audience of eighty people included members from other Bay Area chapters including the University of San Francisco, San Francisco State University, and Chico State University. The speakers list included Associated Student President Alberto Gutierrez, Associated Student Vice President Che Angkham, San Jose City Council Member Sam Liccardo, California State Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr, and Les Francis (political consultant from Washington DC, former Deputy Chief of Staff for President Jimmy Carter, former Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee). Each speaker provided a unique perspective on ethics and politics based on their experience within the political arena.



Back Row (from left to right): Steven Neese, Darren Ponce, Associated Student President Alberto Gutierrez, California Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr., Les Francis, San Jose City Council Member Sam Liccardo, Chris Thomas, Corina Reyes, Faculty Advisor Lawrence Quill.

Front Row (from left to right): Breeanna Mierop, Chavila Tornoe, Sarah Bronstein.

ANOTHER PI SIGMA ALPHA SUCCESS STORY: KEVIN MALECEK

Pi Sigma Alpha alumnus Kevin Malecek is the District 3 Councilman for the city of Willoughby Hills, Ohio, taking office on January 1, 2004. Defeating a four-year incumbent by winning over seventy percent of the vote in November 2003, Malecek ran a door-to-door grassroots campaign focused on restoring services to the residents of the city and bringing new leadership and ideas to the Cleveland suburb. On January 3, 2006, Malecek was elected Vice President of City Council by his colleagues. As Chairman of the Safety Committee and Select Committee on Zoning Improvements committees of council, Malecek is dedicated to shaping a new zoning code for the city, while also concentrating his legislative agenda on utilities and service interests.

By day, Kevin is the Director of the Part-Time MBA Program at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. Prior to his appointment at Case, Kevin was the Program Director of the Teaching American History Grant Program at Cleveland State University, a nearly one-million dollar U.S. Department of Education effort to improve history teaching in Cuyahoga County public schools through professional development. He is also President of the Lake Geauga Young Democrats. In June 2005, he was appointed by the Lake County Commissioners to the *Laketran* Board of Trustees.

Prior to his return to his native Willoughby Hills and Northeastern Ohio, Kevin earned a Master of Arts in Government and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from American University in Washington, D.C. Kevin was an honor student at A.U., and was inducted into the Beta Psi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha in 2000. While at the university, Malecek ran the day-to-day operations of the Campaign Management Institute, one of the oldest and most prestigious political campaign schools in the United States. In his earlier Washington years, he interned for members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate while volunteering on numerous campaigns throughout Maryland and Virginia.

Malecek has lectured at the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, Mount Union College, and has appeared to discuss being a candidate at American University in Washington, DC. As a graduate student at American University, Malecek was also quoted by *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal* regarding graduate education.

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the Culture Wars,” written by **Paul A. Djupe** and **Laura R. Olson**. The book demonstrates the influence of religion in some of the most controversial issues in current American politics. Dr. Olson and Dr. Djupe are both members of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Several members of Lewis University’s **Alpha Delta Gamma** Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha experienced successes during its inaugural year. Senior member Kim Polzin participated in The Fund for American Studies Internship in Washington, DC during the Spring 2007 semester, working for various senators. In addition, three senior members—Caitlin Banach, Andrea Valdivia, and Jessica Barbosa—presented their paper “Political—Cynicism, Ideology, and Party Affiliation among College Students: A Case Study of Lewis University” at the Honors Council of the Illinois Region’s Annual Student Research Conference at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois on March 3, 2007. They plan on submitting their paper later in the semester to Pi Sigma Alpha’s undergraduate journal.

On March 8th 2007 the **Beta Mu** Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha organized Brigham Young University’s annual Annihilation Cup. A rapt lunchtime crowd in BYU’s student center listened as debaters from the College Republicans and College Democrats debated immigration, the minimum wage, and the troop surge in Iraq. Professors from both the Political Science and the English departments judged the debate. After the scores from the hour-long event had been tallied, the College Republicans were awarded the Annihilation Cup and one year’s worth of bragging rights. Last year the Democrats won the debate, and this year the Republicans had honed their debating skills and were eager to win the cup.

On March 13, the **Tau Rho** Chapter at Florida International University sponsored a lecture by Dr. Richard Olson on “Disaster Scenarios and Transitional Regimes in Cuba,” which discussed the prospects and political repercussions of a post-disaster Cuba. Dr. Olson’s analysis of the Cuban political and social landscape after a catastrophic event was very relevant considering Cuba’s current regime uncertainty and the extreme hurricane cycle the Caribbean faces. Tau Rho began this lecture series a year ago with Dr. Clement Fatovic’s discussion on presidential prerogative powers - an appropriately timely issue given President Bush’s Iraq policies - and continued its theme of relevance to current affairs with a post-midterm election analysis following last November’s congressional elections. The chapter has also been active in community service — most recently a drive to raise materials for the Carousel of Angels daycare.

CHAPTER UPDATE: GOOD IDEAS FROM OMICRON ALPHA CHAPTER

The Omicron Alpha Chapter at St. Olaf College has been hard at work this year, building upon past successes and breaking new ground in our scholarly and social pursuits.

We are currently putting the final touches on our annual Spring Forum to be hosted on April 17th 2007. This year's forum "The Ethics of Intervention: A Responsibility to Protect?" will explore the role of the international community in responding to humanitarian crises with a particular focus on the Responsibility to Protect framework of intervention developed by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS). Our forum will feature Professor Thomas Weiss, Presidential Professor of Political Science at The CUNY Graduate Center and former Research Director of the ICISS, and Professor Fernando Teson, Tobias Simon Eminent Scholar and distinguished international law scholar. St. Olaf Professor Anthony Lott will moderate the event. We feel our forum is well aligned with St. Olaf College's "Global Citizenship" annual theme and Pi Sigma Alpha's interest in projects addressing ethical issues. The forum has been made possible by generous grants from the PSA national office as well as two on-campus organizations.

In other news, our chapter has hosted an ongoing political science alumni speaker series. We have enlisted the help of a diverse group of former political science majors who share a political science education as the foundation of their careers. Speakers have included Bill Thomas, environmental lawyer at Clifford Chance and former Omicron Alpha President; Brad Moore, commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; and Julie Wilson, professor at the John. F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

On a final note, Omicron Alpha embarked on a brave new course this year by sponsoring our first annual Peace of Westphalia Risk Tournament. Realizing that the Political Science department and the college at large had failed to celebrate the historic occasion of the signing of the Peace of Westphalia, we strove to correct this error by calling upon political science majors and professors to join us in a department-wide Risk board game tournament. St. Olaf Professor Kristina Thalhammer began the event with a brief but rousing talk on concept of sovereignty as it related to the pivotal event in 1648 and to the work of various faculty members in the department. After the introduction, professors and students battled it out to see who would be the true sovereign champion. However, time constraints forced us to push back the final round until next year's second annual tournament, which promises to be even grander in scope...

Michael Reading
President, Omicron Alpha
St. Olaf College

Recent Alumni News:

Two alumna and former Omicron Alpha officers, Kristin Anderson '06 and Kristin White '05 recently received Fulbright scholarships. Anderson is studying in the United Arab Emirates, while White returned from Japan in Summer 2006.

“IN WALKED THE GOVERNOR”: ZETA PI CHAPTER GETS A SURPRISE BRIEFING AT THE GOVERNOR’S MANSION

“He [Governor Charlie Crist] almost opened the door on me coming into the Florida Room. I nervously blurted out “Governor.” He responded calmly “Hey man, what’s up?”

Zeta Pi Member Adam Carls

“I just know the look on my face was priceless.”

Zeta Pi Member Kaity Nakagoshi

“The importance of this surprise did not lie in the celebrity status of Governor Crist (R), but in seeing the human side of our elected officials. It can be very easy to place elected officials on pedestals and to dehumanize them. For a student to be able to meet a high profile elected official and see his human attributes is very important.”

Zeta Pi Member Robert Armstead

A tour of the Governor’s Mansion was a “must do” part of the University of South Florida Zeta Pi Chapter’s trip to the Capitol in March, 2007. Little did we know that the Governor would actually be in the residence working on his State of the State address to be delivered the following Tuesday. Our members were excited just to be told he was there, never expecting in a million years that they would actually see him! Imagine our excitement when the door to the Florida Room flew open and in he walked, dressed in jeans and a sports shirt. Member Beth Jenkins captured the sentiment of the group: “I think we were all shocked when he walked through the door.”

The Florida Room in the Mansion is a favorite with visitors. The sunshine pours through windows surrounding the room into a colorfully-furnished area filled with photographs, cameos of the state’s first ladies, and other interesting historical artifacts. It was the last stop on our tour and certainly one of the most memorable.

Governor Crist spent some 20 minutes with us discussing everything from his election night euphoria to the time pressures involved in gearing up to take office. He talked about life in general – its ups and downs – including the stresses of getting into law school. Christine Balarezo appreciated the wide range of topics covered and the Governor’s low key style: “Governor Crist entertained us with a question-and-answer discussion, commentary, and jokes. It made the visit all the more memorable.” Andrew Quecan observed that meeting the governor in an informal setting “made us realize that politicians have a very personable nature to them in their everyday living.” Elizabeth Pareja concurred: “I hadn’t expected that he would be so easy to talk to or that he would be so kind and outgoing.”

For other members like Mark Vila, the informal discussions with the Governor made him feel more comfortable with his vote choice in the November 2006 election: “It was easy to tell that Governor Crist was very smart and down to earth and it left me resting easier knowing that I had made the right decision.” And for Chapter President Kristine Zooberg, it was the Governor’s enthusiasm that impressed her: “His excitement and energy for his new position and his love of Florida were contagious.”

Andrea Polk observations of the meeting demonstrate why such experiences help to broaden one’s education: “It is always exciting to encounter a famous political figure in public, but spending time alone with such a prominent official added depth to our experience and provided insight into the governmental process, something we would have never received with a tour alone.”

Zeta Pi Chapter’s trip to the state capitol, funded by a Chapter Activity grant, also included tours of the Florida Political History Museum in the old Capitol, the Florida Supreme Court, the Museum of Florida History, the Senate and House chambers, the Cabinet meeting room, the interiors of the offices of the Governor and the Chief Financial Officer, and

the Capitol itself. The group was briefed by former Zeta Pi Chapter President Tara Klimek, now the Communication Director for Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink (D), and Mark Simpson, assistant news director for Florida Public Radio. It was a wonderfully educational trip, made all the more memorable by a special visit from Florida's chief executive.



Governor Charlie Crist (left) talks with University of South Florida Zeta Pi Chapter members in the Florida Room of the Mansion



Left to right: Andrea Polk, Charlie Aguirre, Christine Balarezo, Kaity Nakagoshi, Kristine Zooberg, Dr. Susan MacManus, Gov. Crist, Beth Jenkins, Robert Armstead, Elizabeth Pareja, Andrew Quecan, Adam Carls, and Mark Vila.

NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE TO PI SIGMA ALPHA MEMBERS

Don't Forget the Goodies!

Remember that one of the benefits of membership in Pi Sigma Alpha is the right to wear the honor society's cord and/or medallion at graduation and on any other occasions when academic regalia are the norm. Be sure to place your orders with your Chapter Advisor in plenty of time for her to include them with the group order she sends to the national office. This is the only way you can get the cords and medallions; you can't order them on your own. It takes only two weeks for the national office to get the graduation regalia back to your chapter, but the more time you allow the less likely you are to be without your medallion and cord for graduation.

There are other items you *can* order on your own, though. Pi Sigma Alpha offers lovely gold fraternity-type keys, pins, and tie tacks, and a lavalier necklace. Most come in 14 karat, 10 karat, and gold filled options. Pi Sigma Alpha coffee mugs make a nice addition to your dorm room or apartment kitchen. And don't forget to have something on hand to present to your chapter's guest speaker at the induction banquet.

Take a look at the "Store" section on the Pi Sigma Alpha website to see photos of all the available Pi Sigma Alpha merchandise, and find the order form in the "Forms" section.

Lost Certificate?

Have you lost your Pi Sigma Alpha membership certificate? Was it damaged in a mysterious dormitory disaster? No worries. The National Office will gladly print you a new one. The charge is only \$5.00, and you need not go through your Chapter Advisor to get it. Simply write to the National Office requesting a replacement certificate, include your name and the name of your chapter, and enclose a check or money order for \$5.00. **DO NOT SEND CASH!** And don't forget to provide your mailing address!

Do You Need a Letter Confirming your Membership?

If you need a letter confirming your membership in Pi Sigma Alpha for a job application or graduate school application, the National Office will provide one. Please don't request the letter until you actually need it; there's no time limit on this service as we maintain your name and initiation information in our membership data base forever.

Internship Aid

As a member of an honor society in the Association of College Honor Societies you are eligible for tuition reduction from three prominent Washington internship organizations. This is a terrific benefit for all ACHS students and is completely independent of our own Pi Sigma Alpha Internship Scholarships. Remember, the benefit is only available to inducted members of the honor society; the internship organizations check with the national office to confirm applicants' memberships. See the web sites below for more details:

The Washington Internship Institute <http://ielnet.org>

The Fund for American Studies www.dcinternships.org

The Washington Center www.twc.edu