



Pi Sigma Alpha

The National Political Science Honor Society

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Contents

[Pi Sigma Alpha Goes West: A Report from the 2001 APSA Conference](#)

[National Office Releases Chapter Fee Survey Results](#)

[Pi Sigma Alpha Award Winners, 2001](#)

[Report From the National Office: A Standardized \(Optional\) Initiation Ritual For Chapters](#)

[PSA Profile: Ron King, Tulane University](#)

[CHAPTER NOTES](#)

[New Pi Sigma Alpha Chapters, September 2000 - August 2001](#)

Pi Sigma Alpha Goes West: A Report From the 2001 APSA Conference

The 2001 meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) was held this past August in San Francisco, California. Once again this year, the APSA conference provided a wonderful opportunity for political scientists from across the United States and the world to gather for several days of panels, symposia and similar events designed to disseminate the results of research and allow participants to engage in thought-provoking discussions of a wide range of political phenomena. As in previous years, Pi Sigma Alpha was wellrepresented at APSA 2001; the Honor Society held its Executive Council meeting on Thursday, August 30 and later that evening sponsored what has become a popular fixture at these conferences — the Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture, which this year featured New York Times Washington Correspondent Adam Clymer.

Executive Director James Lengle noted in his report to the Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Council, among other things, that the National Office was still meeting with great success in funding chapter activity grant proposals — last year, 71 of 73 requests were either completely or partially funded— at a cost of \$48,000. A record

\$83,000 was requested by these proposals. Lengle also reported that nine of Pi Sigma Alpha's most active chapters had received National "Best Chapter" Awards this year (more details in this issue of the Newsletter), and that three awards were made for the honor of "Best Chapter Advisor."

Pi Sigma Alpha also awarded five (5) first-year Howard Penniman Scholarships for Graduate Study in Political Science and two (2) second-year scholarships. Council members discussed ways to increase awareness of and interest in the scholarships, including email messages to departmental chairs and/or graduate school advisors in addition to chapter advisors. On a brighter note, however, Director Lengle noted a dramatic upswing in chapter interest with respect to the awarding of one-year student APSA memberships; this past year, Pi Sigma Alpha funded 21 such memberships compared to only five the previous year. Advisors and members are reminded that every chartered chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha has the ability to select one of its student members each academic year for this award; requests must come in writing from the faculty advisor on institution letterhead, and should be sent to Nancy McManus, Administrator of the National Office.

On behalf of Ms. McManus, Lengle also delivered the Administrator's report at the Council meeting. Within this report, there are some encouraging facts for Pi Sigma Alpha in general; eighteen new chapters were chartered over the previous academic year (more details in this issue of the Newsletter), bringing the total number of chapters to 565. Over the past three years, Lengle reported, Pi Sigma Alpha has chartered a total of 61 new chapters; the organization has grown because of its increased visibility, efforts to target smaller schools which otherwise meet eligibility requirements for new chapters, and the policy of waiving chapter establishment fees in appropriate cases. Although 112 chapters initiated no new members during the previous year and were therefore considered to be "inactive," the National Office announced plans to contact these schools and encourage them to revive themselves. Some funding and a selection of useful and important programs are available for this purpose.

New York Times Correspondent Adam Clymer attracted a rapt and interested audience later Thursday evening for the Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture, one of the premier events funded and hosted by the National Office each year. Clymer's address, entitled "Campaign Reporting: A View From the Major Leagues," focused on the strengths and shortcomings of media campaign coverage— as well as differences between print and electronic media reporting— in the recent 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore. At one point in his remarks, Clymer explained of the difficulties of reporting on the campaign trail:

Covering these stories in a way that makes sense of campaign proposals is one of the two most important things we do - along with measuring and explaining a candidate's record. Combined, they give voters a chance to know what to expect if he gets elected. Americans traditionally doubt that candidates keep campaign promises. But consider Bush's first eight months, and you will see a serious commitment to tax cuts, school testing, faith-based initiatives, missile defense, drilling in the Arctic, and partial privatization of Social Security. Every one of those ideas was articulated, repeatedly, during the campaign, and should have been thoroughly explained to readers.

Why don't we explain these proposals better than we do - for we often don't do as well as we did that day in May? The glib answer is that we are wasting our energies probing the candidates' sex lives or spending our time over-interpreting tracking polls of little real significance. We may make those mistakes -- more about them later - but that's not why we often fail to explain a major policy proposal. We often fail because it's hard. For a reporter traveling with a candidate, with no research material to fall back on, and 45 minutes to write before the bus leaves, it's nearly impossible to do a thorough job on a complicated subject. But for major newspapers, that's not an excuse, because there is someone back in Washington who has more time and more resources - either for a separate analysis, or to fold into the report from Saginaw or Harrisburg.

In concluding his remarks, Clymer reflected on newspaper coverage of this history-making election and how or why media outlets around the nation could have made such errant victory predictions that bounced back-and-forth between the two major candidates as Election Eve '00 proceeded toward its surprising end:

Finally, I don't want to close without discussing a topic that in most years would be routine - the Wednesday morning story saying who won. There has been no end of examinations of how and why television got it wrong, The explanation of how dozens of papers, including The New York Times, got it wrong is pretty simple - newspaper editors watched television. In our case they also believed that if Gore was ready to concede, he must know something special, when in fact all Gore knew was what was on the tube. But what else could the papers do, since none has a staff big enough to really know what's going on all over the country, or is ready to invest the millions it would take to become a part of the Voter News Service?

Well, the answer is that newspapers could have paid attention to the Associated Press, to whom they pay millions in membership fees. AP is a partner in the Voter News Service and has access to its projections and vote count. The Associated Press also conducts its own vote count. And it counts on its state bureau chiefs, often nudged by Washington, to call elections. Last November, the AP's Washington Bureau Chief, Sandy Johnson, its Florida bureau chief, Kevin Walsh, and Will Lester, a polling writer who had worked in Florida and lived in Broward County never felt comfortable calling Florida for Bush. They held back even when the networks did, and when major newspapers like ours and Reuters, their only wire service competitor, decided the networks could not be wrong.

The last network call was at 2:20 a.m., and AP kept staring at its numbers, as members all over the country phoned to ask why it had not called the race. At 3:11 a.m. the news service sent out an advisory, telling its members:

"The lead in Florida for George W. Bush has dwindled to about 6,000 in the vote count. A small percentage of the vote has yet to be reported in several counties, including two predominantly Democratic counties. AP believes the uncounted votes in Broward and Palm Beach counties could allow a change of the lead in the Florida vote. We are watching the resolution of the actual vote count to assure if there is a change in the Florida results, which could yet have an impact on the outcome of the presidential election." That was the smartest campaign coverage of the night.

The text of Mr. Clymer's complete address is scheduled to appear in the December, 2001 issue of [PS: Political Science and Politics](#), published quarterly by the American Political Science Association.

National Office Releases Chapter Fee Survey Results

In April 2001, the Pi Sigma Alpha National Office solicited information from faculty advisors of chapters across the country regarding what their particular chapter did in the way of collecting dues or fees from members in addition to the \$25 national initiation fee. The results of this survey follow.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Number of chapters responding: | 103 |
| Chapters collecting NO extra dues: | 44 |
| Chapters collecting SOME extra dues: | 59 |
| Amounts/number of chapters: | \$ 5— 16 \$20— 5 |

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| | \$10— 24 \$35— 1 |
| | \$15— 5 \$40— 1 |
| One-time only dues assessment: | 46 chapters |
| Annual assessments: | 7 chapters |
| Semester assessments: | 5 chapters |
| Quarterly assessments: | 1 chapter |
| <p>NOTES: At least two chapters report that they apply part of the chapter dues to the purchase of enamel lapel pins for all members. Another two use \$10 of the dues for graduation medallions. One chapter notes that they make a profit on their annual initiation banquet, which they use in lieu of dues to fund chapter activities. At least two chapters have two-tiered dues schedules; one collects dues from “affiliate” members; the other requires senior members to pay \$10 for their graduation medallions in addition to the annual dues collected from all members. One chapter plans to institute chapter dues next year, while one other chapter plans to eliminate them during the same time period.</p> | |

Pi Sigma Alpha Award Winners, 2001

ΠΣΑ/Howard Penniman Scholarships for Graduate Study in Political Science, first-year students

Lisa Marie Carroll, Purdue University
Neelesh Laxmikant Nerurkar, University of Oklahoma
Todd Patrick Fox, LeMoyne College
Heather Louise Ondercin, Eastern Michigan University
Anna Maria Krasniewska, University of the South (Sewanee)

ΠΣΑ/Howard Penniman Scholarships for Graduate Study in Political, second-year students

Cara Lynn Alison, Maxwell School, Syracuse University
Sara Elizabeth Croco, University of Michigan

Best Chapter Advisors 2000-2001

Maj. Susan Bryant, Chi Upsilon Chapter, U.S. Military Academy
Professor Art English, Iota Mu Chapter, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Professor Robert Langran, Villanova University

Best Chapters in schools with enrollment under 6,000:

Alpha Nu Chapter, Dennis University. Paul A. Djupe, Advisor
Zeta Mu Chapter, Loyola University Chicag.. Juliet Johnson, Advisor
Omicron Alpha Chapter, St. Olaf College. Charles E. Umbanhowar, Advisor

Best Chapters in schools with enrollment between 6,000 and 15,000:

Epsilon Mu Chapter, University of Montana. Ramona Grey, Advisor
Zeta Phi Chapter, Murray State University. Gene J. Garfield, Advisor

Theta Iota Chapter, Cal State University San Bernardino. Brian Janiskee, Advisor

Best Chapters in schools with enrollment over 15,000:

Pi Chapter, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Colette Niland, Advisor

Alpha Iota Chapter, Utah State University. Shannon Peterson and William Furlong, Advisors

Eta Eta Chapter, New Mexico State University. Nadia Rubaii-Barrett, Advisor

Best Undergraduate Honors Theses

FIRST PLACE: "The Interaction of the Supreme Court, the Media and the Public: A Study on How the Media and the Court Influence the Public," by Lauren Ernst, Eta Betas Chapter, George Washington University.

RUNNER-UP: "Politics of Humanitarianism: The Implications that Kosovo and the Extradition of Pinochet Provide for the Future of Human Rights Enforcement," by Jessica Shapiro, Gamma Rho Chapter, Johns Hopkins University.

RUNNER-UP: "The Rise of the Republican Party in the North Carolina General Assembly, 1894-2000," by Seth Whitaker, Zeta Epsilon Chapter, North Carolina State University.

Best Undergraduate Class Papers

FIRST PLACE: "Dueling Paradigms: The Void within the Realism-Globalism Dichotomy and Its Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy," by David J. Brulé, Iota Epsilon Chapter, Stephen F. Austin State University.

RUNNER-UP: "Divided Government, Congress, and Balkan Policy," by Brett S. Yellen, Rho Omicron Chapter, Tufts, University.

RUNNER-UP: "Mixed Electoral Rules and their Implications for Party Nomination Strategies: The Cases of Russia and Ukraine," by Ryan Kennedy, Theta Tau Chapter, Truman State University.

Best Graduate Student Paper

"Black Feminist Consciousness: Finally, It's Been Factored," by Evelyn Simien, Delta Omega Chapter, Purdue University.

Report From the National Office: A Standardized (Optional) Initiation Ritual For Chapters

A formal initiation ritual lends a measure of gravity to an induction ceremony. It reminds inductees of their connection to the national organization of Pi Sigma Alpha and to the other chapters of the honor society, and to political science scholars who have gone before them and who will follow. It helps make the occasion a memorable event of their academic lives. Such a ritual should reflect the meaning of the honor the students are receiving, and inspire them to continue to pursue academic excellence. The Pi Sigma Alpha initiation ritual offered here may be modified, expanded, or embellished to conform to the needs of a local chapter or the particular occasion. If the induction event includes a speaker from outside the university, he or she may be included as an honorary member of the chapter. There may be remarks from other persons. Graduation medallions and/or other PSA merchandise may be given with the certificates. The PSA banner may be displayed, etc. It's important only that each chapter have a dignified and appropriate ceremony for the induction of members.

Pi Sigma Alpha Ritual of Initiation (Optional) Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, candidates for initiation, and friends: We are here today for the purpose of initiating new members into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1920 at the University of Texas in Austin to

encourage and recognize superior achievement in the study of government and politics at the undergraduate and graduate level. With chapters numbering well over 500 at the beginning of the millennium, and with over 6,000 students joining its ranks each year, it is still the only recognized college honor society in the discipline and is now one of the largest constituent members of the Association of College Honor Societies.

The study of politics and government is one of the noblest of academic pursuits because a deep and true understanding of the principles by which we govern ourselves contributes directly to the quality of our lives and the well-being of future generations. You have demonstrated, both by your interest in and commitment to this discipline and by your high scholastic achievement, that you have the potential to excel as citizens and scholars and so deserve the honor of membership in Pi Sigma Alpha. With this special honor come the special obligations of leaders to exemplify and safeguard the academic aims of this college (or university), the honesty and integrity of its scholars, and the ideals of your Alma Mater. '

You have earned membership in this illustrious society by attaining the highest standards of scholarship not only in the discipline of political science but in your overall academic work as well, in accordance with the rigorous criteria set forth in the national constitution of Pi Sigma Alpha, the by-laws of _____ chapter, and the strict requirements of the Association of College Honor Societies.

WILL THE CANDIDATES FOR INITIATION INTO PI SIGMA ALPHA PLEASE STAND.

Your eligibility for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha has been vouched for by (name of Chapter Advisor) and so you are duly invited to lifetime membership in both the national organization of Pi Sigma Alpha and this (name of chapter) chapter. By accepting this honor you signify your acceptance of and commitment to the ideals of high scholarship, integrity, and citizenship embodied in the goals of this institution and of Pi Sigma Alpha. Please come forward as -I call your name. (Each initiate steps forward and receives his/her Membership Certificate from the Chapter Advisor, Department Chair, Chapter President, or other designated official, with appropriate words of congratulation.)

RON KING
Faculty Advisor
Alpha Sigma Chapter, Tulane University

Professor Ron King has reason to be proud of Alpha Sigma chapter, as do its members; having won a national Pi Sigma Alpha Outstanding Chapter Award in 1999-2000, it has since that time continued to serve its members, department and university with a litany of active, useful programs and events designed— as Pi Sigma Alpha's mission entails— to promote and encourage excellence in the study of Political Science. For this Fall's PSAProfiles, therefore, the Newsletter exchanged comments with Professor King, who is not only a proud advisor but also a distinguished scholar in American Politics, from Tulane's home city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

PSAProfiles: How long have you been associated with Pi Sigma Alpha, and with Sigma Alpha chapter specifically at Tulane?

King: I've been associated with Pi Sigma Alpha since my undergraduate days at the University of Pennsylvania. Actually, I was chapter president during my senior year there and helped to organize programs— including faculty debates over the "behavioral approach" to political science and the value of the "new politics" critique of mainstream research. Here at Tulane, I'm now in my second term as chapter faculty advisor.

PSAProfiles: And as an advisor, what do you find to be the greatest rewards of affiliation with the Society, or of the Society's presence on your campus?

King: Pi Sigma Alpha membership is a reward given in recognition of academic achievement—but it has meaning far beyond that. To me, the greatest value of Pi Sigma Alpha is to help students become better connected to the scholarly community of the university. They can see themselves as members— albeit at the introductory stages— of an intellectual enterprise known as “political science.” As a consequence, they are encouraged to participate in discussions, help sponsor lectures and become involved with their major department.

PSAProfiles: What are the major challenges facing Pi Sigma Alpha in the future— either on your campus, or generally?

King: The main challenges facing Pi Sigma Alpha are the same ones facing the discipline of political science in general— to maintain serious student interest and engagement in our civic culture, despite an increasingly apolitical, even anti-political, climate in the United States.

PSAProfiles: The Alpha Sigma chapter at Tulane has certainly earned its place among Pi Sigma Alpha's most active and dynamic chapters; can you give us a sense of what it has been up to lately, and your most enjoyable personal moment as advisor during these past few years?

King: I am especially proud that the chapter at Tulane was recognized by an Outstanding Chapter Award (Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter Fall 2002 7) from the National Office in 1999-2000. As for our group over the past several years, we've organized a number of successful activities— these include helping to sponsor lectures by visiting faculty, sponsoring or co-sponsoring debates on current issues, arranging student lunches with foreign representatives such as ambassadors or consuls present in New Orleans, presidential debate viewing events (complete with pizza-and-discussion sessions afterward!) and organizing peer counseling for students during preregistration, giving them informal advice on courses and our curriculum.

PSAProfiles: In closing, can you tell us a bit more about yourself and your work as a political scientist? What types of research do you do, and what are some of your personal interests?

King: I got my undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and my graduate degrees from Oxford University and the University of Chicago, respectively. Before coming to Tulane 13 years ago, I taught for a number of years at Cornell. My major interests are American politics and policy, and recently I've been working in the area of American political development, applying social science theory and methods to historical data. I have single-authored books from Yale and Georgetown University presses, and have published articles in various historical journals. This Spring, I'll be at a comparative welfare state institute in Denmark, thanks to a Fulbright grant.

[Personally], I also fence competitively, winning the open division in men's foil at the recent Louisiana Games. This year, I took 5th in the U.S. National Championships, over-50 men's foil, and was named an alternate to the U.S. team for the Veteran's World Fencing Championships.

Do you know of a Pi Sigma Alpha member who should be interviewed for PSAProfiles? Please nominate him or her by email or a letter to the editor! Profiles may include any (nonhonorary) member of Pi Sigma Alpha in good standing, including students, faculty advisors or alumni of your chapter.

CHAPTER NOTES

Fall 2001

Omega Epsilon chapter at St. Leo University (Florida) has been busy with an ambitious program of activities early this academic year; the chapter recently sponsored a panel discussion entitled “Diversity in Difficult Times” according to its WWW site, and also provided an LSAT preparatory class and practice exam to interested students. Last March, a group of the chapter’s members visited the Florida State Legislature and visited with some state officials, including Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente.

A report from Professor Donald Pienkos, past faculty advisor for Epsilon Xi chapter at the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee, indicates that Pi Sigma Alpha continues to be a dynamic presence on that campus under new advisor Dr. Douglas Ihrke. Last year, the chapter set up a number of educational programs to inform political science students about “a variety of aspects of political science and the careers in government that flow from concentrated study in the field,” according to Pienkos; in Spring 2001 semester, Epsilon Xi held a dinner “at the Milwaukee Public Museum that featured a talk by the former mayor of the city.” Over the past eight years, Pienkos estimates, the chapter has enrolled more than 200 students into Pi Sigma Alpha’s ranks!

Chapter President Mathew Sampson of Xi chapter (University of Pittsburgh) emailed the Newsletter to note that he and other chapter members have enjoyed listening to PSARadio, Pi Sigma Alpha’s streaming internet news and information service, and the chapter is considering options with respect to “contributing lectures and potential programs from the Xi chapter to future programming. Besides Sampson, other officers of the chapter this year are Katie King (Vice President), Megan Handley (Secretary) and Gretchen Cregar (Treasurer).

Remember... the staff of the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter needs your chapter information so that we can spread the word about your chapter’s good works— or new officers— or anything else that’s fit to print! Please send news or other items for inclusion to psanews@citadel.edu, or respond in kind if you are contacted by one of the Newsletter’s editorial assistants. Also remember that if your chapter has a web site that hasn’t yet been added to the directory of links provided by the National Office (www.pisigmaalpha.org), YOU NEED TO TELL THE NATIONAL OFFICE ABOUT IT so that you can get the exposure your web page deserves! Contact National Administrator Nancy McManus at pisigmaa@erols.com with the URL of your site so that it can be added soon to this ever-growing list of chapters.

New Pi Sigma Alpha Chapters, September 2000 - August 2001

The Newsletter would like to welcome the following colleges/universities, their faculty advisors and their charter members to the Pi Sigma Alpha family. Congratulations on starting your chapter, and may Pi Sigma Alpha and its noble goals and mission flourish on your campus in the years to come!

[Editor’s Note: we also expect you to stay in touch with the Newsletter at psanews@citadel.edu regularly and tell us all the latest and greatest news from your chapter — or, in the Halloween spirit, the Pi Sigma Alpha boogey-man will come after you. We don’t tell many people about his existence, but trust us... he can be frightening!]

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| Omega Gamma | University of the Incarnate Word | Texas |
| Omega Delta | University of North Florida | Florida |
| Omega Epsilon | St. Leo University | Florida |
| Omega Zeta | Franklin Pierce College | New Hampshire |
| Omega Eta | Drury University | Missouri |
| Omega Theta | Troy State University | Alabama |

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|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Omega Iota | West Texas A&M University | Texas |
| Omega Kappa | Hood College | Maryland |
| Omega Lambda | Georgetown College | Kentucky |
| Omega Mu | Cedarville University | Ohio |
| Omega Nu | Campbell University | North Carolina |
| Omega Xi | Millsaps College | Mississippi |
| Omega Omicron | Illinois College | Illinois |
| Omega Pi | Towson University | Maryland |
| Omega Rho | College of St. Catherine | Minnesota |
| Omega Sigma | Brown University | Rhode Island |
| Total number of chapters, August 2001: 565 | | |
| Additional chapters: | | |
| Omega Tau | Barton College | North Carolina |
| Omega Upsilon | Texas A&M International University | Texas |

