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Pi Sigma Alpha

The National Political Science Honor Society

N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 10

Spring 2001

Number 1

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Pi Sigma Alpha Radio is ON THE AIR!!!

Pi Sigma Alpha has often been on the forefront of member communications and membership program benefits for a collegiate honor society; as of this March, however, the Society has taken a bold leap forward with the introduction of PSARadio, a 24-hour-per-day internet broadcast (a “webcast”) using streaming audio technology to broadcast general and Pi Sigma Alpha-related news and information to its members over their computers.

PSARadio was launched on 3 March 2001 at 4:34 p.m. Eastern time, using the Live365.com webcast streaming service (www.live365.com) which has quickly grown over the past year into the largest community of internet broadcasters in the world. The service features a pre-set “broadcast loop” of programming, usually several hours long and encoded into the popular MP3 audio form. The loop begins again from the start when it finishes, and plays continuously until a new loop is programmed— which, according to Program Director John C. Kuzenski, will be roughly every two to three weeks at first. “This isn’t designed to be the kind of service someone tunes into and to which they keep listening for the entire day,” Kuzenski said, “it’s designed more to pattern the CNN Headline News type of format... users can listen for shorter periods and get information relevant to Pi Sigma Alpha and the general political science communities. We repeat the loop during a specified program period to ensure that everyone gets ample chance to hear what they want to hear, at whatever time they can afford to listen, before we put new material on the air.” The initial program loop included a rebroadcast of February’s presidential radio addresses, as well as a feature on the social and political tumult of the 1960s and an episode of InterVU, an interview program with a range of academic guests produced by the Vanderbilt University Office of News and Public Affairs and played weekly on Nashville, Tennessee local radio. Comments from Executive Director James Lingle and Representative Lee Hamilton’s Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture from the 2000 American Political Science Association conference have also be programmed.

The idea for the service, which marks the first known regular or continuous webcast sponsored by a collegiate honor society, was conceived by Kuzenski and the student members of the Beta Iota Chapter (The Citadel) in mid-Fall of 2000. After discussing the matter among themselves and receiving approval from the National Office to broadcast using the Pi Sigma Alpha name, members began putting together program content for the March debut of the webcast which is now in what Kuzenski refers to as the “initiation/experimentation/feedback” stage. National officers and the Executive Committee of Pi Sigma Alpha will be evaluating the usefulness of the service and how it could be used as an effective means of communication between chapters in the future; Pi Sigma Alpha members nationwide are also invited to send their comments, suggestions, and requests about the service during this time (contact psanews@citadel.edu). Chapters are also strongly encouraged to consider contributing their own programs to PSARadio; the service’s aim is to have as many chapters as possible from across the country providing material on a regular basis. Possible subject matter for broadcast may include a regular member-produced current affairs or interview show, tape recordings of guest lecturers or speakers (with the permission of same to broadcast comments) who come to your campus, short chapter reports and so forth. Programs contributed by chapters may be submitted either in pre-mastered digital (MP3 or WAV) format or recorded to cassette tape and mailed to the program director for digital mastering and posting in an upcoming program loop. One-time special presentations will be gratefully accepted, but the service is most interested in identifying chapters that are interested in producing their own programs on a regular basis.

Kuzenski, who worked his way through undergraduate and graduate school as a commercial radio announcer, news director and program director, has been on Live365 as a “devotee hobbyist” since December 1999. “Everyone has their passions,” he noted, “and despite becoming a political scientist and loving the challenges of academia, a small part of me has never been able to leave behind the excitement of my radio days!” He began his own 80s/90s and cajun/zydeco high-bitrate music stations, Planet Zeb and PZ-Acadienne (www.planetzeb.net), on Live365 in February 2000, and they have now become some of the most

popular music services in several of the service's available musical genres. Of PSARadio, Kuzenski added, "it just struck me as a natural way to capture and tame a great, uncharted region of new technology for the benefit of Pi Sigma Alpha. Emails, posters and newsletters, you have to read— it takes a commitment to active consumption. Broadcasts are easier— turn it on and poof... the material is fed to you by a voice or an image while you do other things. It's the same principle about which those of us in media and politics have lectured in our classes for years. "

PSARadio streams at a 32K bitrate to allow any user with a 56K modem or better (even up to a T1 network, cable or DSL connection) to tune in easily. All you need to hear it is an internet connection, a sound card and speakers. The direct-connection URL to type into your browser is: www.live365.com/cgi-bin/directory.cgi?autostart=pisigalpha

Mindful of the fact that many interested listeners may not want to type this every time they wish to hear the station, however, automated "hyperlinks" have or will be (in the near future) added to both the Pi Sigma Alpha national WWW site (www.pisigmaalpha.org) as well as Kuzenski's Planet Zeb website to allow one-click streaming of PSARadio. Listeners may use their favorite audio software such as WinAmp or RealAudio to listen to the station if it is their default computer audio package; if not, however, Live365 offers its own player to allow streaming of the program.

Many traditional broadcast radio stations have jumped onto the webcasting bandwagon in recent months, and according to the Arbitron radio ratings and research service, webcasts will become as commonplace as over-the-air broadcasts within the next several years. Audience shares for webcasts are expected to equal or exceed the number of traditional audio and video audiences within roughly the same time period. With the launch of PSARadio, the Society seems poised and prepared for the future. Chapters — start putting your program together today for broadcast!

Pi Sigma Alpha and the ACHS: A Report from the Annual Meeting

Nancy McManus, Administrator
Pi Sigma Alpha National Office

The 76th Annual meeting of the Association of College Honor Societies took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in February. The theme of the meeting was "Connections in the Honors Community," and I thought two sessions illustrated this idea particularly well.

The first was a roundtable on "How to Promote and Implement Cooperative Honor Society Activities on Campuses," led by Dr. Patricia Graham of the University of Texas at San Antonio. Dr. Graham is in the university's Office of Student Affairs and is faculty advisor to both Alpha Lambda Delta honor society (freshman scholarship) and Omicron Delta Kappa honor society (leadership and scholarship in all academic fields).

Dr. Graham's campus hosts 37 honor societies, not all of which are active all the time. The active honor societies together host an annual "Honors Convocation" just after spring break when the weather is nice and exams haven't yet begun. The convocation features a distinguished speaker, a reception, a procession of honor society initiates and advisors with each delegation carrying its banner, and individual recognition of all honor society members. Parents attend in great numbers and all participants are most enthusiastic about this event, especially since honor society graduates receive no special recognition at graduation. Dr. Graham said that this convocation does not substitute for the individual societies' initiation ceremonies, however.

The several honor societies at UTSA have also cooperated for community service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, and are in the process of forming a more formal coalition which can seek funding for more ambitious projects.

Last year the UTSA honor societies organized a “Great Honor Society Think Tank” weekend retreat for the officers of all participating societies. Each group was responsible for putting together one session on the management of honor societies, recruitment of members, finances, programs, chapter web page design, etc., to share with all the others. This sounded like a wonderful project and a terrific experience for all the students involved.

Dr. Graham did point out that all-discipline honor societies such as ODK, ALD, Alpha Chi and Phi Kappa Phi have a natural advantage in assuming leadership of campus-wide cooperative activities. Oftentimes these general honor societies are run by a university’s student affairs office or other administrative office and so have easier access to university facilities and communications media than do the societies living solely within a single department. Even so, Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Advisors may be able to take hold of some of these ideas and put them to use in a smaller way. Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, and Pi Alpha Alpha in public administration are both natural partners for Pi Sigma Alpha chapters, often even living together in combined departments. The Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Activity Grants selection committee always looks with great enthusiasm on chapter proposals involving cooperation with other honor societies or with other campus partners.

A panel session on “ACHS Connecting with Honors Programs” featured four distinguished speakers who brought their four different perspectives to the same theme.

Dr. G. Hewitt Joiner led the program off. Dr. Joiner is President of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), the organizing body for collegiate honors programs. He is also Professor of History and Director of the Bell Honors Program at Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Joiner was followed by Dr. John Warren, President-elect (now President) of ACHS and representative of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Dr. Joiner and Dr. Warren both spoke of the need for finding and fostering connections between their two organizations whose interests and constituencies overlap to such a great extent. Dr. Warren stressed that any collaborative campus project would result in greater visibility for each of the organizations involved. Dr. Joiner talked of the role honor societies might take in opening disciplinary honors courses to honors students from other departments in the university.

Dr. Rosalie Otero, President-elect of NCHC, Director of the University Honors Program at the University of New Mexico, and Associate Dean of the University College, offered the perspective of a university administrator on the intersection of honors programs and honor societies. She noted that in most cases the relationship between the two is loose at best and often non-existent, a shame since both share a commitment to academic excellence. She suggested that individual campuses explore ways to build and capitalize on these dual competencies: that of honors programs to design academic curricula and that of honor societies to provide recognition for high academic achievement. She also pointed out that honor societies often serve as clearinghouses for fellowships and other awards frequently sought by honors students.

Dr. Gregory Butler, Professor of Political Science at New Mexico State University and a member of Pi Sigma Alpha’s Executive Council, spoke from his experience as an honor society chapter advisor and honors instructor. He said that honors programs and honor societies both exist to improve the educational experience of students, and that it is the task of faculty to find and make useful connections between the two. He outlined the existing connections between Pi Sigma Alpha and the political science honors program at New Mexico State University:

- Chapter presidents are usually honor students. The faculty advisor usually knows these students best and recruits candidates from their ranks. Giving them an opportunity to hold an office in the honor society is a good way to augment the students' academic experience with leadership training.
- Pi Sigma Alpha benefits financially from close connections with the departmental honors program because the honors program brings a bonus to the department's budget. The bonus may be used for such cooperative projects as an annual political science career fair.
- Pi Sigma Alpha members in honors course become steeped in the research interests of their faculty moderators, and often draw on these interests in writing excellent Chapter Activity Grant Proposals for national office funding.
- The honor society chapter can draw on all honors faculty as resources for panel presentations, special seminars, etc., and individual students benefit from such closer contact with faculty.
- Because the honors program is connected to the university fellowship office, the honor society chapter members have better access to fellowship and other award information.

Dr. Butler said that the potential for connection is not yet fully realized, and offered several ideas for closer cooperation between the honor society and the honors program. He has thoughtfully provided an outline of his comments to the Newsletter which appear on page 12 of this issue.

ACHS was founded in 1925 by eighteen organizations and now has 68 constituent member societies. Pi Sigma Alpha became a member in 1949. With 550 chapters, we are one of the largest honor societies in the group. For more information, visit the ACHS website at www.achsnatl.org.

Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Activity Grants, 2000

The National Office received proposals from over 70 chapters requesting over \$80,000 in funding! Both figures are higher than ever before. Since the Executive Council had authorized \$45,000 for the program this year, the selection committee was faced with the difficult and delicate job of paring the requests to fit the budget while still providing adequate support for as many worthwhile projects as possible. The committee, consisting of James I. Lingle and Diana Owen of Georgetown University and Maurice Woodard of Howard University, applied principles of thriftiness and realistic planning to the goal of the greatest good for the greatest number, and ultimately awarded grants as follows.

SCHOOL/ PSA CHAPTER NAME	ACTIVITY	GRANT AMOUNT
Univ of Alaska, Fairbanks (Pi Phi) + Univ of Alaska, Anchorage (Pi Rho)	Statewide forum on Alaska environmental org's	1,550.00
Albany State Univ (Sigma Tau)	Paper competition; awards luncheon with speaker	975.00
American University (Beta Psi)	Recognition banquet with speaker	1,000.00
Angelo State University (Phi Mu)	State Capitol Trip	800.00
Univ of Arkansas, Little Rock (Iota Mu) + Ouchita Baptist University (Chi Kappa)	Clinton Legacy conference & luncheon	1,100.00
Auburn Univ (Epsilon Nu)	Banquet with speaker	610.00
Austin College (Chi Chi)	Student paper award	265.00
Austin College (Chi Chi) + University of Texas, Arlington (Kappa Pi)	Joint student conference on election	162.00
Brigham Young Univ (Beta Mu)	High School Politics Bowl	780.00

Butler Univ (Sigma Gamma)	Initiation luncheon with speaker	675.00
Univ of California-Irvine (Pi Omicron)	Forum and dinner for political alumni + members	670.00
Univ of California-Los Angeles (Epsilon)	Paper contest and banquet; faculty honors	755.00
Cal State- Chico (Upsilon Delta)	Chapter dinner with speaker	1,150.00
Cal State - San Bernardino (Theta Iota)	Banquet with speaker	900.00
College of Charleston (Iota Sigma)	Undergraduate paper award	225.00
Chicago State Univ (Phi Theta)	Model U. N. luncheon & speaker	900.00
The Citadel (Beta Iota)	Issues forum	1,200.00
Creighton Univ (Theta Alpha)	Attendance at Midwest Student Research Conf	971.00
DePaul Univ (Xi Iota)	Awards Banquet	221.00
East Carolina Univ (Epsilon Lambda)	Political Science Career Day & luncheon	650.00
Eastern Washington Univ (Nu Gamma)	Essay prizes for high school students & banquet	735.00
Emory University (Alpha Epsilon)	Banquet with speaker	600.00
Univ of Florida (Beta Gamma)	Membership reception	1,220.00
Florida International Univ (Tau Rho)	Induction banquet	400.00
George Washington Univ (Eta Beta)	Best Undergrad Paper contest and banquet	322.50
Gettysburg College (Nu Psi)	Banquet with speaker; essay prize	685.00
Gustavus Adolphus College (Pi Gamma)	Banquet with speaker	600.00
Hobart & Wm. Smith Colleges (Chi Phi)	Initiation banquet with speaker	400.00
Univ of Idaho (Sigma Zeta)	Speaker	825.00
Univ of Illinois-Springfield (Tau Eta)	Banquet	
Illinois State Univ (Kappa Sigma)	9th Annual Student Poli Sci Conference	450.00
Illinois Wesleyan Univ(Omicron Lambda)	Banquet with speaker and essay contest	670.00
Johns Hopkins Univ (Gamma Rho)	Linda Greenhouse speech (partial funding)	350.00
Loyola Univ Chicago (Zeta Mu)	Student paper contest	270.00
Marquette Univ (Epsilon Omicron)	Initiation dinner	650.00
Mary Washington Coll (Kappa Upsilon)	Political science career forum	600.00
Univ of Mass, Amherst (Delta Lambda)	Banquet with student paper award	625.00
McNeese State Univ (Chi Psi)	Banquet with speaker	105.00
Mercyhurst College (Chi Epsilon)	Banquet with speaker	1,050.00
Univ of Michigan (Alpha Upsilon)	International affairs career forum	1,300.00
Minnesota State U - Mankato (Upsilon Alpha)	Career Day (joint w/other honor societies)	825.00
Mississippi Valley State U (Tau Upsilon)	Electoral College Forum and State Flag Forum	600.00

Monmouth Univ (Iota Lambda)	Political Awareness Day	750.00
New Mexico State Univ (Eta Eta)	State Capitol Trip or Banquet	750.00
University North Carolina-Charlotte (Theta Epsilon)	Political Science recognition day	800.00
Univ of North Dakota (Nu Xi)	Issues forum events	610.00
Northern Arizona Univ (Theta Pi)	Policy roundtable	450.00
Ohio State Univ (Omicron)	Speaker on Azerbaijan	1,008.00
Univ of Pennsylvania (Beta Tau)	Best undergrad paper contest	270.00
Portland State U (Nu Pi)	Urban-rural conflict symposium	500.00
Providence Coll (Epsilon Chi)	Induction ceremony & banquet	500.00
Purdue Univ (Delta Omega)	Journal of Politics & Government startup	1,000.00
Randolph-Macon Coll (Chi Iota)	Banquet with speaker; paper contest	650.00
Saint Joseph's Univ (Eta Nu)	Dinner with speaker	1,050.00
St. Olaf Coll (Omicron Alpha)	Panel on immigration issues	600.00
Univ of St. Thomas (Chi Theta)	Banquet	320.00
Sewanee, U of the South (Gamma Sigma)	Banquet and essay contest	645.00
Skidmore College (Tau Gamma)	Video viewing, essay contest, banquet	486.00
Univ of South Florida (Zeta Pi)	Election 2000 symposium	600.00
Southern Illinois U (Gamma Iota)	Film & presentation on Kosovo	
Univ of Southern Maine (Psi Xi)	Resume-writing workshop	350.00
Univ of Southern Mississippi (Chi Delta)	Software for on-line student journal, & banquet	795.00
Temple Univ (Delta Rho)	Essay contest and induction banquet	995.00
US Air Force Academy (Phi Iota)	Public Policy Forum	720.00
US Military Academy (Chi Upsilon)	Member participation in New York PSA Conference	560.00
Univ of Utah (Alpha Kappa)	Essay contest and banquet	385.00
Utah State Univ (Alpha Iota)	Banquet and student paper awards	1,290.00
Virginia Tech (Epsilon Upsilon)	High School Essay Contest	425.00
Wheaton College (Upsilon Psi)	Essay contest	700.00
Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Epsilon Xi)	Banquet with speaker	1,125.00
Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (Chi Omicron)	Banquet with speaker	500.00

The Florida College Student Presidential Straw Poll:

A Big Success for Three Chapters

by Dr. Susan A. MacManus (University of South Florida)
with the assistance of Karen Reichley (University of Florida), Heidi Stoltzfus (University of South Florida), and Dr. Anne Hallum (Stetson University)

Nearly 1500 Florida college students participated in the first-ever presidential straw poll conducted by three Pi Sigma Alpha chapters — Zeta Pi (University of South Florida), Beta Gamma (University of Florida) and Tau Zeta (Stetson University). Zeta Pi chapter received a Chapter Activity grant to coordinate the poll across the three campuses involved in the project. University of Florida Chapter President Karen Reichly says that “conducting the straw poll not only helped to publicize Pi Sigma Alpha, but more importantly, helped the student community by preparing them for who would be on the ballot and informing them when to register and vote” (ten candidates for president were listed on the Florida ballot). On the UF campus alone, 150 new voters were registered at the straw poll site.



Results Received Excellent Media Coverage

The event, conducted October 9-13, received widespread attention from the Florida news media. The results overwhelmingly favored Democratic candidates. Gore defeated George W. Bush 54% to 32% and won on every campus but Stetson, where the two candidates tied for first place. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader secured 10% of the students' straw votes. Stories ran in the Florida Alligator, The Tampa Tribune, USF's Oracle, and were aired on the radio and on local TV stations (ABC, NBC, and Time-Warner Bay News 9) in the Tampa and Gainesville media markets.

Diverse Participation

Those who participated were a very diverse group from gender, racial/ethnic and partisan perspectives. The gender breakdown was 48% female, 52% male. The racial/ethnic profile of straw poll participants mirrored Florida's population at large: 15% were African American, 12% Hispanic, 5% Asian, and 2% Native American. The partisan splits were: Democrat, 42%; Republican, 29%; Libertarian, 2%; Green, 3%; Socialist Workers, 1%; Reform, 5%; other, 5%; and independents, 16%.

The UF Straw Poll: Excellent Promotional Activities....and Food!

Karen Reichley, President of the UF Chapter, reports that they posted approximately 70 fliers around campus, placed an ad in the school newspaper (the Florida Alligator), hung a large banner in a well-trafficked place and successfully secured publication of an article about the event in the Alligator. The Chapter's community service chair, Megan Vander Kerchove,

10 Tips on How to Conduct Straw Polls On Your Campus

1. Conduct an organizational meeting with interested parties, including student government, to discuss the mechanics of the poll.
2. Select the date well enough ahead of the election to be informative and to garner publicity for the event. Also, spread the voting out over several days to allow students with different schedules the opportunity to participate. If possible, select more than one site on campus to ensure more diverse input.
3. Adopt a uniform ballot format for statewide races, but leave room for each campus to add local races and issues of interest.
4. Advertise several days in advance of the event— distribute fliers, run ads in

even recruited members to paint a mural advertising the event on a locally famous wall used by students to call attention to upcoming, notable events. Political science faculty members announced the event in their classes. To save on printing costs, Beta Gamma chapter used 15 clipboards, each with the ballot attached. The students then filled out a computer-readable “scan sheet” to record their vote. A large poster board with the sample ballot was also prominently displayed at the voting site.

Food is always a powerful incentive for student participation. When the students turned in their ballots, chapter members gave them an “I Voted” sticker donated by the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections office. With the sticker, participating students were able to get pizza and a small smoothie donated by Domino’s Pizza and Smoothie King.

The USF Straw Poll: Multiple Campuses Involved

The straw poll was conducted at three of USF’s four campuses — Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota. On the Tampa campus balloting took place at several sites, including the University Center, the College of Arts & Sciences office and the Engineering School over a two-day period. Pi Sigma Alpha members Tara Klimek and John Mudd were interviewed by a number of Tampa-area television and radio stations. Both are also student government officers—Tara is student government vice president, while John is a senator. Student government on their respective campuses co-sponsored the Tampa and Sarasota straw polls; Sarasota student government president Claudia Barton coordinated the poll on her campus.

Heidi Stoltzfus, Zeta Pi Chapter Secretary, and James Terry, chapter Vice President, conducted the straw poll on the St. Petersburg campus on a single day, but at a highly trafficked area. Stoltzfus reported that “we decorated a table with a Pi Sigma Alpha sign, along with some of the fliers we created for advertising. We offered miniature candy bars to all those who participated— they were a great motivator! But I was shocked that some individuals chose to vote just so that they could have a candy bar.” Reflecting back, Stoltzfus said her experience in helping organize and conduct the straw poll made her more aware of the lack of interest in politics among younger cohorts— and more determined to do something about it.

Stetson University Poll

Over 200 Stetson University students participated in the straw poll conducted by Tau Zeta Chapter. Faculty advisor Dr. Anne Hallum reported that the event “was a lot of fun for everyone involved.” Stetson’s chapter chose to add a U.S. congressional seat contest to their straw ballot. Of all the campuses involved, Stetson’s students were the most evenly divided in their candidate preferences.

The Bottom Line: Straw Polls are Fun, Informative, and Easy to Conduct

Florida’s first college student straw poll was a rousing success! Each of the participating campuses has pledged to repeat the event in future election cycles, and several other Sunshine State Pi Sigma Alpha chapters that did not participate this time have indicated they are not going to miss the opportunity to do so in the future.

the campus newspaper, post large signs, get on organizational e-mail lists, etc.

5. Contact your campus newspaper and encourage the editor to run a story prior to the event (as well as after). Have a chapter member write an op-ed piece to be published prior to the poll.
6. Be sure to notify local TV and radio stations as well as local newspapers about the event.
7. Select high traffic (or “hub”) locations on campus to conduct the survey. Post large signs promoting the event. Coordinate with food giveaways if possible!
8. Have a central collection point and time for the results to be gathered and tabulated for distribution to campus newspapers and other media.
9. Make Chapter leaders and members available to the news media before and after the event.
10. Involve as many Chapter members and associate members as possible. And stay serious about the job, but have fun with it!

We strongly urge your chapter to conduct a straw poll for any interesting national, state, or local election and to coordinate it with a voter registration drive. It is an excellent way to interest and educate students about upcoming elections. It is also a relatively inexpensive undertaking— advertising, printing and scan-sheet (e.g. Scantron) purchase costs make up the bulk of expenses required to conduct a straw poll on campus.

Bush v. Gore: The Knockout Punch of the 2000 Presidential Election

The presidential election of 2000 was history-making and, in many respects, precedent-setting as well— it marked the first time in American history, for example, that two presidential candidates faced each other directly in the U.S. Supreme Court (*Bush v. Gore* 121 S.Ct.525, 12 December 2000). In its per curiam decision, quoting from the Court's opinion directly, the "Supreme Court held that (1) manual recounts ordered by Florida Supreme Court, without specific standards to implement its order to discern 'intent of the voter,' did not satisfy minimum requirement for non-arbitrary treatment of voters necessary, under Equal Protection Clause, to secure fundamental right to vote for President, and (2) remand of case to Florida Supreme Court for it to order constitutionally proper contest would not be appropriate remedy." Finding serious problems with the recount standards issued by the Florida Supreme Court the previous week, the Court also noted that the "recount process, in its features here described, is inconsistent with the minimum procedures necessary to protect the fundamental right of each voter in the special instance of a statewide recount under the authority of a single state judicial officer."

Even though the decision in *Bush v. Gore* was issued per curiam, that is, on behalf of the entire Court without identifying a specific Justice as author, there were many concurring and dissenting opinions written and attached to it over this explosive issue. Chief Justice William Rehnquist joined with Justices Scalia and Thomas in a concurring opinion to note that this was:

no ordinary election, but with an election for the President of the United States. In *Burroughs v. United States*. . . (1934), we said [that while] presidential electors are not officers or agents of the federal government. . . they exercise federal functions under, and discharge duties in virtue of authority conferred by, the Constitution of the United States. The President is vested with the executive power of the nation. The importance of his election and the vital character of its relationship to and effect upon the welfare and safety of the whole people cannot be too strongly stated. . . . If we are to respect the legislature's Article II powers, therefore, we must ensure that postelection state-court actions do not frustrate the legislative desire to attain the 'safe harbor' provided by section 5" [of Title 3 of the U.S. Code Annotated, which provides for the unquestioned certification of a state's electors within a given time frame].

Justices Stevens, Ginsburg and Breyer, on the other hand, dissented strongly and called for judicial restraint, commenting that the:

Constitution assigns to the States the primary responsibility for determining the manner of selecting the Presidential electors. . . . When questions arise about the meaning of state laws, including election laws, it is our settled practice to accept the opinions of the highest courts of the States as providing the final answers. On rare occasions, however, either federal statutes or the Federal Constitution may require federal judicial intervention in state elections. This is not such an occasion." Acknowledging that a substantive enough case and controversy existed because of the Florida recount process, the dissent nevertheless suggested, contrary to the concurring opinion, that constitutional and judicially manageable standards were, in fact, in place: "Admittedly, the use of differing substandards for determining voter intent in different counties employing similar voting systems may raise serious concerns. Those concerns are alleviated--if not eliminated--by the fact that a single impartial magistrate will

ultimately adjudicate all objections arising from the recount process.”

Concluding in addition that the Florida Supreme Court did not, on the basis of their review of the state’s election code, “rewrite” the election laws in issuing its earlier orders, the dissenters summed up by saying:

In the interest of finality, however, the majority effectively orders the disenfranchisement of an unknown number of voters whose ballots reveal their intent--and are therefore legal votes under state law--but were for some reason rejected by ballot-counting machines. It does so on the basis of the deadlines set forth in Title 3 of the United States Code. . . . But, as I have already noted, those provisions merely provide rules of decision for Congress to follow when selecting among conflicting slates of electors. They do not prohibit a State from counting what the majority concedes to be legal votes until a bona fide winner is determined. Indeed, in 1960, Hawaii appointed two slates of electors and Congress chose to count the one appointed on January 4, 1961, well after the Title 3 deadlines. . . . Thus, nothing prevents the majority, even if it properly found an equal protection violation, from ordering relief appropriate to remedy that violation without depriving Florida voters of their right to have their votes counted. As the majority notes, “[a] desire for speed is not a general excuse for ignoring equal protection guarantees.”

The full text of the opinions and orders in *Bush v. Gore* are available from a variety of online research resources, including the subscription-based Westlaw (www.westlaw.com) and the free service FindLaw (www.findlaw.com) George Bush won 30 states and 271 electoral votes as a result of adding Florida to his camp after this important Court decision; he also garnered close to fifty and a half million votes nationwide. Al Gore won 21 states and 266 electoral votes, also winning the popular vote with just under fifty-one million votes. Last but not least, here’s the definitive answer to the most popular presidential trivia question of 2001; the last time the popular vote winner lost the presidency was 1888, when Benjamin Harrison defeated Grover Cleveland 233-168 in the electoral college despite losing the popular vote by just under 100,000 ballots (source: World Almanac)!

If you have some research notes or interesting findings from a project on which you’ve been working that you’d like to share with the Pi Sigma Alpha community, please contact the Newsletter. We’re always on the lookout for material of general political interest to members!

CHAPTER NOTES

Spring 2001

The Chi Psi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA inducted seven new members at a banquet held in their honor on February 15, 2001. Crystal Segura was elected president of the chapter and Dallas Kingham was elected secretary. The banquet address was delivered by Dr. Padraic Kennedy, who spoke on Irish history with attention given to the importance of civil liberties. Besides Segura and Kingham, 2001 inductees included Chad D. Hollier, Ryanne C. Leicher, Heather A. Narbit, Sherri D. Sartin and Jill Walker. Outgoing President Dominic Beggan and Secretary Julie Hoag Klumpp presided over the induction ceremony.

The University of Montana’s Epsilon Mu Chapter has had an active

Newsletter Email Address Changes... Slightly!

With the transfer of editorship of the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter effective the beginning of the 2000-01 academic year, things were bound to change at least a little. One of the things the new editorial staff has tried to do is to make it easier for chapters, members and faculty advisors to get in touch with the publication to provide news and information, make comments and ask questions. To this end, the Newsletter is happy to report a new email address for all such contacts:

year to date; Fall semester 2000 saw the chapter working with the Montana Alliance for Better Campaigns, urging state media to commit more time to political discourse. The chapter also participated in the National YouthVote 2000 coalition and sponsored two debates for Senate and House offices, respectively, which were televised by the Montana PBS system. In November 2000, Epsilon Mu initiated 11 new members. Chapter President Jordan York reports that “our big event for the year will be our Spring Banquet planned for May 5th, which will feature Montana’s Attorney General, Mike McGrath as speaker. We hope to have between 50 to 100 people attending.” Besides York, the other officers of the chapter are Annie Lamar (Vice President), Erica Dean (Secretary) and Scott Jenkins (Treasurer). Their faculty advisor is Ramona Grey.

The George Washington University’s Eta Beta Chapter held an initiation reception in the Fall, and it is currently in the process of recruiting new members for Spring. With its successful application for a chapter activity grant from the National Office, President Jason Buchsbaum reports to the Newsletter, “we are conducting an essay contest within the political science department.” Other officers of the chapter this year include Erin Bingham (Vice President) and Laurne Ernst (Treasurer).

At the University of Pittsburgh, Xi Chapter has been active this year! President Melyssa Jenkins told the Newsletter that members of Pi Sigma Alpha there have been busy planning a trip to Washington D.C.—“several of our members have connections there, so we hope to do a variety of different activities. We would like to visit Capitol Hill, the US Dept. of the Treasury, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the FBI and perhaps tour some of the usual DC attractions.” The chapter is also sponsoring an essay contest for Pittsburgh elementary and middle school students; winners will be invited to campus for a banquet, where prizes such as bookstore gift certificates and other education-related items will be awarded. Jenkins also noted that the chapter is busily moving ahead with plans for the future, as well, including “...One we hope will be a panel discussion on the new Bush Administration and a prediction for the next few years. The other will be a discussion on Clinton’s legacy led by a professor here, Dr. Burt Rockman.” The Xi Chapter Faculty Advisor is Professor Robert Donaldson; chapter officers for this year in addition to Jenkins are Danielle Lebens (Vice President), Amanda Sines (Secretary) and T.J. Fazio (Treasurer).

PSANEWS@CITADEL.EDU
(that’s PSA....news... get it?!!)

Please remember this new email address—and use it as often as you please to send the Newsletter your chapter news! It doesn’t take long to send in a quick blurb on your activities every couple of months, and in fact some chapters even devote this responsibility to a specific officer, member or committee. Tell the Pi Sigma Alpha community what you’ve been up to; we hope to hear from you in time for the next issue, and remember.... no information is too small, unimportant or insignificant to report if it involves your Pi Sigma Alpha chapter!!!

FAQs from the National Office

At this time of year, during the thick of the PΣA initiation season, the National Office fields many, many contacts from chapter advisors and officers asking routine questions. These FAQs should help some of you get your answers more quickly.

What is the PSA membership fee?

The lifetime national membership fee is \$25.00. Individual chapters often collect additional money from each initiate to use for their own chapter programs. The initiation fee is the only payment members ever make to the national office of the honor society; there are no annual dues.

How should the fee be paid?

Deadline Alert!

Chapter advisors are reminded that June 15, 2001 is the deadline for chapter reports. These reports are required in order for you to maintain your chapter’s “active” status and its eligibility for a variety of national programs and awards! Penniman Scholarship applications are due by April 15, and the deadline is looming for other Pi Sigma Alpha awards programs such as the Best Undergraduate Class Paper, Honors Thesis and Graduate Student Paper of the year as well. Visit www.pisigmaalpha.org today for more details about these programs and their deadlines—and don’t be late submitting the proper materials!

The national office requires that the initiation fees for the whole group of new chapter members be sent in the form of one single check or money order, never multiple individual checks. The single check may be drawn on a university account, a chapter account, the chapter advisor's personal account, or, if absolutely necessary, on the personal account of one of the chapter's student officers. A money order is far preferable to this last option, both for the national office and for the students involved.

It sometimes happens that a student decides to accept membership in a chapter too late to be included on the original list sent to the national office, or his/her name was inadvertently left off the original list. The national office will of course accommodate these latecomers. Their names must still be sent in on a Membership Certificate Request Form signed by the chapter advisor, and their membership fees paid by money order, university or chapter check, or chapter advisor check.

How long does it take to get membership certificates from the national office?

The short answer is two weeks. If the names of new initiates are sent in on a Membership Certificate Request Form, accompanied by appropriate payment, and if the form is completely and legibly filled out (including the critical initiation date information!), the chapter should have the certificates back within two weeks. If any information — such as the initiation date — is missing from the form, if something on the form is illegible or if the money is wrong, the turnaround will be longer since the national office will have to get in touch with the chapter before the certificates can be printed. Remember, the national office does not mail the certificates to individual members but rather to the chapter office. Each certificate has signature lines for chapter officers, so be sure to allow time for signing before distributing to members.

How can I get these Membership Certificate Request Forms?

They can be downloaded from the Pi Sigma Alpha website at www.pisigmaalpha.org, or paper copies may be requested from the national office while supplies last. When supplies run out, the forms will be available only via the website.

Can I fax the form or e-mail the names to get the printing process started, and send payment later?

Short answer: NO. Long answer: The national office will not initiate any certificate printing until a request is complete, and that means complete with payment of fees. There's no point in sending the names without the payment.

Can I pay by credit card?

As of now the national office does not have any credit card contracts. If this changes, chapters will be notified immediately.

What can I do to expedite the return of membership certificates?

Because the national office prints and mails the certificates as fast as possible and always in the order in which the requests are received, the only stage of the process which can be expedited is the shipping. Chapters may send their forms to the national office by any fast delivery service they choose and, if necessary, may enclose prepaid self-addressed FedEx labels for the certificates' return journey. Please don't do this unless you really feel it's necessary, however, and remember that enclosing a FedEx return label has no bearing on your request's place in the printing queue.

How do I order PSA merchandise?

Pi Sigma Alpha jewelry (pins, keys, tie tacks, necklaces), coffee mugs, podium banners, medallions, and enamel lapel pins may all be ordered on the same merchandise order form. The form is available from the national office or may be downloaded from the website. Be sure to fill out the form completely. Jewelry, mug and banner orders are forwarded by the national office to the manufacturers who then ship the merchandise directly to you. Jewelry orders take 4-6 weeks to fill; banners about 3 weeks; mugs about 10 days. The national office fills orders for medallions and enamel lapel pins directly from its stock, and shipping is very

quick.

Must I write separate checks for memberships and merchandise?

We prefer to handle as few checks as possible. As long it's easy to figure out what the check is meant to cover from the accompanying forms (10 memberships + 10 medallions + one banner = \$395, for instance), we are glad to have combination payments. Likewise, it's a good idea to combine individual medallion orders, pay with one check, and have them all shipped to one address.

How long does it take to get a medallion?

Even though the national office typically ships medallions within a day or two of receiving the prepaid order, we urge you to plan ahead so as not to be nervous about getting your medallion in time for graduation. Each medallion costs \$10; any fast shipping service — which you will have to pay for in advance — will at least double the price of the medallion. Please don't ask us for special consideration because you've neglected to place your medallion order in time; this office is swamped during the springtime with certificate and medallion requests and the only fair way to handle chapter and member needs is to deal with each in the order in which it comes in. Chapter Advisors, you might consider ordering a supply of medallions and/or enamel lapel pins from the national office and retailing them to your members as needed.

Can I join Pi Sigma Alpha on my own?

Membership in the honor society is possible only for students currently enrolled in political science programs in departments where chapters are located, who meet the specific academic eligibility criteria. Their eligibility must be verified by the chapter advisor, and their names sent to the national office on an official form. Individuals cannot join on their own.

Can I get on the mailing list for Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter?

The national office does not maintain a mailing list of individual members. Multiple copies of the Newsletter are sent to each chapter when each issue is published, and chapters may request additional copies at no charge. Each new issue is also put up on the website shortly after the print version comes out.

My questions still aren't answered!

Then by all means please e-mail the national office with your questions. Be sure to indicate your chapter in your email, and provide a mailing address if something needs to be sent to you.. We'll answer as quickly as possible!

Summary of Remarks: Professor Greg Butler, New Mexico State University From the ACHS National Conference

I. NMSU Honors Societies and the NMSU Honors Academic Program: Existing Relationships

1. As the Pi Sigma Alpha faculty advisor for almost 10 years, I have always been convinced that the key to a successful year is finding a strong chapter president. Ultimately, of course, Pi Sigma Alpha members are responsible for the democratic selection of their president, but there are some things that the advisor can do to facilitate the process. I do what I can to encourage the nomination of those in their ranks that seem to have the right sort of leadership skills, and almost always the

Foot in Mouth Disease: Famous Political Misstatements

"The police aren't there to cause disorder; the police are there to preserve disorder."

—Richard J. Daley, Mayor of Chicago responding to criticisms of police misconduct at the 1968 Democratic National Convention

students that come to mind are also involved in the honors academic program, and have done honors coursework with me. I get to know my honors students in a way that I cannot get to know students in my much larger regular course offerings; I am thereby afforded the opportunity to discuss with select students the nature of Pi Sigma Alpha, typical activities of the organization, and benefits of membership. In my experience, students approached in this way respond very favorably; they like the fact that a faculty member has taken such an interest in them. Our best chapter presidents were all encouraged in this manner, as a direct result of a relationship started in the honors classroom.

2. Pi Sigma Alpha benefits financially from the Department of Government's regular participation in the university honors program. To compensate departments for using their faculty, the honors program augments departmental operating budgets. At NMSU some of this additional money is used to support Pi Sigma Alpha.

3. Because of small class size and seminar settings, Pi Sigma Alpha members who are also in honors courses become familiar with faculty research interests. On a number of occasions in recent years this fact has led directly to the creation of some outstanding PSA activities, including a free speech forum and a border issues forum. Our honors students feel comfortable approaching faculty members for ideas and assistance, largely because the small honors class provide us with an opportunity to cultivate more open and less formal relationships.

II. Stronger Cross-Involvement in the Future

1. The director of the NMSU honors program and I are in agreement that there could be better communication between the honor societies on campus and the honors program regarding the honors curriculum. One suggestion is to use the chapter presidents as conduits through which upcoming course offerings are relayed to potential honors course enrollees. This would simply involve sending an electronic version of each semester's honors brochure to the societies via email, with subject specific courses highlighted.

2. The director of the honors program and I are in agreement that the existing connection on campus between the honors program and the university fellowship office (UFO) could be used to the benefit of the honors societies. As a clearinghouse for fellowship and scholarship information, the UFO could easily keep on hand information pertaining to the many honors society-based awards. This would strengthen the triangular relationship between honors academics, awards, and honor society members, since students entering into any one of the three components would be brought into contact with the other two.

3. Through the university fellowship office, faculty are currently involved in the nomination and selection process for various scholarship/fellowship programs. This involvement could be strengthened by specifically enlisting the help of honor society faculty sponsors/advisors for such purposes. Such participation would again strengthen the same triangular relationship mentioned above, particularly if the connections can be clearly indicated and cross-linked on the respective web sites of the three entities.

