



Pi Sigma Alpha

The National Political Science Honor Society

NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2006

Number 2

2005 CHAPTER ACTIVITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

The National Office is proud to announce the winners of the 2005 Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Activity Grants Competition. Grant proposals were due on October 31. The grants committee* met in November and reviewed the proposals competitively. The awards were made on the quality and feasibility of the activity proposed, the completeness and appropriateness of the budget, and other factors. Some proposals received full funding, some received partial funding with instructions on how to scale back the activity, and some were rejected. This year the committee funded 90 chapter projects for a total of nearly \$60,000. Now in its 24th year, the Chapter Activity Grants program is the biggest and most important of the honor society's roster of awards both because of the size of its budget and the very large number of students it affects.

SCHOOL	CHAPTER AMOUNT	ACTIVITY
University of Akron	Initiation banquet	\$375.00
University of Alaska, Fairbanks	"Ethics of Education" forum	975.00
Allegheny College	Initiation banquet with speaker	525.00
American University	Awards banquet with speaker	900.00
Arizona State University	"Nerd Fest" with speaker	900.00
University of Arizona	Essay contest and awards banquet	875.00
University of Arkansas	Student attendance at Midwest convention	1,068.00
Auburn University	Awards banquet and speaker	775.00
Austin College	Campus-wide speaker	798.00
Baldwin-Wallace College	Panel on Economic Development	130.00
Barton College	Student essay contest	225.00
Benedictine University	Christmas stockings for Katrina victims	1,150.00
Boise State University	Awards breakfast	350.00
Cal State University - Chico	Initiation banquet with speaker	638.00
Cal State Univ. - San Bernardino	Initiation banquet with speaker	525.00
Capital University	Essay contest and banquet	475.00
Cedarville University	Banquet and roundtable on biology & politics	560.00
Centenary College of Louisiana	Induction ceremony	400.00
Univ. Of Central Oklahoma	Awards banquet	750.00
Christopher Newport University	Banquet with speaker	625.00
The Citadel	Initiation banquet	400.00
Clemson University	Banquet and forum on ethics	500.00
U. Colorado-Colorado Springs	Essay contest on globalization films	435.00
Creighton University	Student journal	425.00
DeSales University	Speaker	328.00
Dickinson College	Initiation banquet with speaker	650.00
East Central University (OK)	Week of Work" and essay contest	1,225.00
Eastern Michigan University	Panel discussion with speakers on "9/11"	600.00
Fayetteville State University	Model U. N. Conference	1,800.00
University of Florida	Initiation banquet	1,000.00
Florida International University	Initiation ceremony	795.00
Georgetown University	Initiation ceremony	500.00

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PI SIGMA ALPHA'S CHAPTER ACTIVITY GRANTS

The Chapter Activity Grant program is the oldest program administered by the national office of Pi Sigma Alpha. Local chapters identify an activity, project, or event to sponsor on campus and submit a proposal for funding to the national office. A proposal includes a description of the activity and a budget. The national office awards grants of up to \$2000 to finance activities based on the merits of the project and the quality of the proposal. This year the Chapter Activity Grant Committee awarded \$65,000 to 89 chapters. Grants to local chapters ranged from \$130 to \$1,988. The average award was \$730. The list of grant winners and examples of grant proposals can be found on the Pi Sigma Alpha website (<http://www.pisigmaalpha.org>)

The Chapter Activity Grant program is Pi Sigma Alpha's signature program. Few honor societies in the Association of College Honor Societies have a similar program and no honor society budgets as much for its program as Pi Sigma Alpha.

Pi Sigma Alpha is proud to pioneer this program. It gives local chapters a mission and the financial means to undertake it. In the process, the broader university community benefits from the activity, the local chapter gains visibility and respect on campus, and individual members hone their leadership, organizational, and communication skills by writing the proposal and organizing the event.

Honor societies exist to recognize academic achievement, character, and leadership. Implicit in the rationale for recognizing these three qualities is that each provides a cornerstone to making a difference in organizations and communities. The chapter activity program provides the opportunity to test this assumption as well as the empirical proof to support it.

The national office would like to see more chapters take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Because each chapter contributes to the program's budget through its initiation fees, each chapter is eligible to submit a proposal to finance an event or activity of its choice. If you would like additional information about the program, please don't hesitate to visit our website or to contact the national office. We look forward to receiving your proposal next year and reading about the success of the event and difference your chapter is making on campus.

James I. Lengle

National Executive Director

Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society

(CHAPTER GRANTS continued from Page 1)

Gettysburg College	Symposium	1,000.00
Hillsdale College	James Madison Lecture and dinner	813.00
College of Holy Cross	Speaker on pop culture & politics	650.00
Univ. of Illinois, Springfield	Awards banquet	750.00
Illinois State University	Political Science Student Conference	600.00
Jackson State Univ.	Mock Senate for high school students	638.00
Lamar University	Relief for Katrina animal victims	700.00
Lincoln University	Reception and essay contest	475.00
Louisiana State Univ. - Shreveport	James Madison Conference (2006)	600.00
Loyola College in Maryland	Student trip to Washington, DC	600.00
Marist College	Essay contest	175.00
Univ. of Mary Washington	Political science career day	965.00
Univ. of Maryland	Katrina victim benefit event	1,053.00
Univ. of Massachusetts - Amherst	Essay contest and awards banquet	813.00
Mercer University	Leadership and Service night; banquet	475.00
Mercyhurst College	Initiation banquet with speaker	925.00
Midwestern State Univ. (TX)	Essay contest and awards banquet	555.00
Minnesota State University	Student conference and awards banquet	1,750.00
Mississippi Valley State Univ.	Easter baskets for nursing home residents	250.00
Monmouth University	Banquet with speaker	900.00
University of Montana	Essay contest, awards banquet, speaker	875.00
Morgan State University	Essay contest, awards luncheon	600.00
Murray State University	Panel on emergency preparedness, luncheon	570.00
New Mexico State University	Initiation banquet	500.00
SUNY, Albany	Luncheon with speakers	875.00
Univ. at Buffalo, SUNY	Initiation banquet, speaker	1,055.00
SUNY, New Paltz	Essay contest, luncheon	435.00
North Carolina A&T State Univ.	Ethics panel and banquet	1,400.00
UNC - Charlotte	Initiation banquet	600.00
UNC - Greensboro	Student trip to Washington, DC	1,400.00
Ohio University	Peer mentoring program	300.00
Ohio Northern University	Student attendance at Midwest Convention	1,811.00
Univ. of Pennsylvania	Dinner & Discourse series	600.00
Providence College	Essay contest and awards banquet with speaker	1,125.00
Purdue University	Student colloquium and best paper awards	225.00
Purdue University - Calumet	Essay contest and awards banquet	600.00
University of Richmond	Awards banquet	400.00
St. Joseph's University	Research awards and banquet with speaker	875.00
St. Olaf College	Roundtable on environmental ethics	1,800.00
Univ. of St. Thomas	Panel discussion, initiation banquet	463.00
San Jose State University	Departmental convocation reception	250.00
Seton Hall University	Pi Sigma Alpha alumni reception	525.00
Sewanee, Univ. of the South	Essay contest, reception	455.00
University of South Florida	Student observers at FL state party conventions	1,980.00
Sul Ross State University	Host multi-honor society initiation ceremony	438.00
Temple University	Initiation banquet and speaker	1,988.00
Tennessee State University	Initiation banquet and speaker	722.00
University of Texas - El Paso	Programs for induction ceremony	61.00
Union College	Essay contest, awards banquet	850.00
Utah State University	Essay contest, awards banquet with speaker	1,375.00
Wake Forest University	Initiation banquet	750.00
University of Washington	Panel discussion on film, "Hotel Rwanda"	600.00
Wheaton College	Initiation banquet, speaker	550.00
Wilkes University	Panel on Supreme Court, multi-campus	674.00
Winthrop University	Essay contest on Social justice, banquet, speaker	1,600.00
Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison	Student journal	716.00
Univ. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point	Student journal	420.00

****The 2005 Chapter Activity Grants Selection Committee members were Professors James I. Lengle and Diana Owen of Georgetown University, and Professor Stephen J. Farnsworth of the University of Mary Washington.***

CHAPTER NEWS — SPRING, 2006

The *Newsletter* is pleased to note the myriad of exciting ceremonies, public service events, educational activities and other events that chapters all over the country are planning for Spring, 2006 semester. In this edition of Chapter News, we let these chapters' advisors, student officers or public information officers tell us largely in their own words what's going on in their part of the world! Many thanks to these individuals for keeping us up to date on their chapters' activities, so that we can all share in the range of ideas they present. Response to this semester's call for information was outstanding, and the *Newsletter* and the National Office wish to thank these individuals and chapters for responding with such wonderful news.

- From **Heather Vance**, President, *Sigma Mu Chapter* (University of Central Oklahoma)—In November 2005 our chapter held a student/faculty mixer. Lunch was provided for the Political Science faculty and honor society members. This provided a chance for honor society members to interact with faculty from the Political Science department in an informal setting. We are holding another student/faculty mixer in March 2006.

Our chapter sponsored the first "Political Awareness Week" at UCO in November of 2005. Local politicians were invited to UCO to address the student body in both formal and informal settings. Members from the Oklahoma State Legislature were among the presenters. The Oklahoma State Treasurer held a question and answer session on the state's economy. A debate was held between the College Republicans and the Young Democrats. Voter registration booths were set-up on campus. The week was a success, so we plan to hold a "Political Awareness Week" each semester. Our chapter is sponsoring the second such event on UCO's campus from April 10-14, but the final details of the week are still being worked out. Political leaders from around the state will be brought in to speak to students throughout the week. Professionals in the field of Political Science will talk to students about potential careers in the field. The week will end with an appearance by United States Congressman and gubernatorial candidate Ernest Istook (R-OK) for a town hall meeting on Friday, April 14th.

- From **Tom Baldino**, Faculty Advisor, *Sigma Pi Chapter* (Wilkes University)—The Sigma Pi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Wilkes University will host a conference on the Role of the Supreme Court in American Politics on April 6, 2006, funded by a grant from Pi Sigma Alpha. The panelists, David Adamany, president, Temple University, Bruce Allen Murphy, Lafayette College, and D. Grier Stephenson, Franklin and Marshall College, will speak on the evolution of

the place of the Court in American politics, with special consideration given to the recent confirmation of two new Justices. The conference is open to all area college students and advanced high school students.

The chapter will also participate in a trip to Harrisburg on April 4, 2006, to lobby state lawmakers for increasing the legislature's financial support of higher education. In conjunction with a program run by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), students will spend time with their state representatives and senators as well as members of Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and representatives of the state Department of Education.

- From **Randi Johnson**, President, *Eta Eta Chapter* (New Mexico State University)—The Eta Eta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha has several events coming up for Spring 2006. First, we will be holding the first initiation banquet on our campus in four years. We will be initiating ten new members, and we are inviting the faculty of our department to join us. Our members are all very excited to be formally initiated. Also, one of our faculty, Dr. Prindeville, is working to provide a system for abused women to attend NMSU, where the victims would all live on campus with their children and have the protections and other needs they require. Pi Sigma Alpha is teaming up with Dr. Prindeville to get this project moving.

We are participating with a campus-wide community service project called the Big Event, where campus organizations span out into the community to complete service projects, in March. Our chapter also has some fundraisers planned, and some other socials aimed at recruiting new members. One such activity will be the Spring Bowl-a-Thon, where we bowl for pledges. This is always very fun, and it is a great fundraiser. Eta Eta will also be running the polling for our annual Professor of the Year Award, by which we honor one of the faculty members in our Department. We do this every spring, and this is one of our favorite departmental projects, because the professors really appreciate receiving this award. Additionally, within our department, we will be hosting a luncheon, as we do each semester. We invite one faculty member to present or talk to us about their current political research, and we invite the students of our department to come and listen, in order to get to know their professors, and what they are working on outside of class.

- **Anjali Alva**, President, and **Tim Hayden**, Vice President, of the *Pi Nu Chapter* (Benedictine University) report the following—Benedictine University's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter has engaged in

several activities during the year. To begin with, we used our PSA Grant to fund our Hurricane Katrina Stocking Project. We collaborated with the Benedictine student club Circle K. A total of 75 stockings were assembled. Fifty of the stockings went to the Winnfield, Louisiana Community. The remaining twenty-five went to Catholic Charities in Illinois. Additionally, we donated the surplus toys, candy, and books (enough to fill another 75 stockings) to the Office of Family Support in Tallulah, Louisiana.

The chapter also held a Constitution Day on campus. We passed out informational quizzes and candy. We set up an information booth, and had a contest to see who could match the names of the founding fathers of the Constitution with their photos. The Pi Nu Chapter was also active in fundraising campaigns for Benedictine's Mock Trial and Model United Nations teams. We organized fundraising events in conjunction with a local restaurant to help raise funds for the teams.

- From **Angela High-Pippert**, Faculty Advisor, *Chi Theta Chapter* (University of St. Thomas)— This Fall, two members of our chapter presented their research at the Minnesota Political Science Association Conference at St. Cloud State University. Maggie Gebhard, president of our chapter, presented her work on media coverage of the Darfur crisis, and Luke Grundman, member of our chapter, presented his work on media coverage of the Red Lake school shootings.

Our chapter also hosted a talk by Patricia Anderson, State Auditor of Minnesota. Anderson has served on the city council as its mayor and now holds statewide office, so she shared a lot of interesting perspectives on running for office at various levels of government. In March, we will use our chapter activity grant to hold an initiation banquet and speaker.

- From **Art English**, Faculty Advisor, *Iota Mu Chapter* (University of Arkansas at Little Rock)— Last Spring we sponsored a public service lecture series featuring former under secretary of Homeland Security, Asa Hutchinson, and Attorney General Mike Beebe. Both men are now major party candidates for Governor. Iota Mu is sponsoring a voting registration drive in early March and has a lecture scheduled for March 7th on Jewish Politics and Culture by Tal Frankfurt from the Jewish Federation of Arkansas. On March 9th Iota Mu will be hosting in the university student union a forum by Pulaski County Elected officials on relevant issues and information that citizens should know about our county. On March 21st we plan to host the candidates for state attorney general at a university forum. A picnic for political science majors is also on the agenda for April. We are busy and using our position at the university to enhance excellence in public service and greater student participation as citizens.

- From **Frederick Slocum**, Faculty Advisor, *Upsilon Alpha Chapter* (Minnesota State University, Mankato)— Our chapter was awarded a \$1750 Chapter Activity Grant this past December to host the 2006 Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference. We are planning this event for March 23-25, 2006 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. This will be the 16th year of this conference, which attracts students and faculty members from 6 to 8 Midwestern states. We hope to have 75 to 100 participants, and we plan stimulating panels in all subfields of political science. Students will be able to present their research and gain constructive feedback in a welcoming, cordial and non-intimidating atmosphere.

- **Leonard Feldman**, Advisor for *Beta Theta Chapter* (University of Oregon) reports the following— Chelsea Byers, our chapter's student president, reports that the chapter plans a forum on the relationship between universities and Department of Defense research grants. We plan to have a panel discussion with students and faculty of varying perspectives, constructively moderated to allow some talking points for each panelist and then town-hall style questions for the panelists. The second main event in the works is a forum for gubernatorial candidates during spring term. The structure would be similar to the defense discussion above.

A membership ceremony is planned for April 5. The guest list will include faculty, current members, and new members. The chapter has also put out the first edition of its newsletter, "Oregon Discourse." A spring quarter edition is also planned.

- Shippensburg University's Advisor for *Theta Gamma Chapter*, **Alison Dagnes**, notes—we're having a great semester with loads more fun to come. We've had a State of the Union Party where more than a dozen members watched the President's speech, enjoyed refreshments, and analyzed the evening. We organized a chilly February road race this past weekend that raised money for a Pi Sigma Alpha Scholarship. In two months we're having another fundraiser for our group - a silent auction with items donated from town merchants and the community bidding on the items. We're scheduled to take a trip to NYC to see "The Daily Show" and the United Nations in early April, and we'll wrap up the semester with an induction ceremony followed by a political panel on presidential prerogative power featuring experts from the university and the outside community. With more than a dozen new members, we're celebrating our 29th year as a chapter in grand style!

- From **Andrew M. Essig**, Faculty Advisor for *Alpha Beta Sigma Chapter* at DeSales University— In recognition of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on

SUSTAINABILITY: CHAPTER ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS WITH PROGRAMS

St. Olaf College's *Omicron Alpha Chapter* of Pi Sigma Alpha is proud to announce its upcoming forum, "How Do We Fuel Sustainability? Environmental Ethics and Energy Resources Today," to be held April 10, 2006. Omicron Alpha has traditionally held an annual Spring forum. However, this year's topic is particularly significant for a variety of reasons.

This year, St. Olaf is promoting a campus-wide theme of "Sustainability."

The campus focus fosters discussion and emphasizes the number of changes made at St. Olaf to promote a more sustainable environment, which include the impending installation of a wind turbine generator. Although there are many facets of environmental sustainability, we have chosen to focus the forum on the topic of energy resources as St. Olaf policies and current events such as the war in Iraq and Hurricane Katrina have brought energy policies to the forefront of political discussion.

By incorporating Pi Sigma Alpha's continuing ethics theme with our own campus theme, we will provide a program where the values of sustainability are not just accepted but examined and applied in different ways. In doing this, we hope to provide the opportunity for students and community members to reflect upon their own ethics of sustainability so as to further their understanding of the implications of related College, state, and national policies. With the help of a Chapter Activity Grant awarded this Fall, we will be bringing in three speakers to participate in this forum: Donald A. Brown from the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy, Myron Ebell from the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and Dr. David Morris from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. These speakers represent two different partisan viewpoints as well as the non-partisan position of a civil servant from a state-level environmental policy agency. However, we will

challenge these speakers to move beyond their partisan policy positions and examine the ethical foundations from which their arguments are based.

Additionally, Omicron Alpha has extended the theme of sustainability and ethics beyond our annual Spring forum to events that we have sponsored throughout the year. This Fall semester we co-sponsored the lecture series, "Politics as a Vocation," as well as events to promote camaraderie between the political science department faculty and chapter members at St. Olaf. Through this effort, we hope to create a sustainable environment here at St. Olaf and beyond when members can continue to uphold the ideals of St. Olaf College and Pi Sigma Alpha as they enter the workforce. Leading up to our event this Spring we will be co-sponsoring two events that examine ethics in public policy. The first event will feature the showing of "The Fog of War," an Academy Award-winning documentary of the political history of 20th century America, which will be followed by an ethics driven discussion. Former FBI Agent Colleen Rowley will come and speak to the topic of "whistle blowing" for the second event that will be held as a part of our focus on ethics.

Through these events, we hope to encourage participants at St. Olaf and in the surrounding communities to examine the moral and ethical implications of their own actions and decisions, as well as those of the political figures who represent them in forming public policies on the local, state, and national level. By fostering discussion of these issues, Omicron Alpha hopes to instill in members of the St. Olaf community a furthered sense of responsibility in their role as political citizens. For more information concerning the forum on the ethics of sustainability or other events, please contact Omicron Alpha Chapter President Caitlin Groh (groh@stolaf.edu).

CHAPTER NOTES (continued from page 5)

September 17th, the Alpha Beta Sigma chapter at DeSales University set up a station in the DeSales University Center with information on the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Constitution trivia, and a Suggestion Box for how students would change the U.S. Constitution without having to go through the arduous ratification process. Tara Rabenold, a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, collected the suggestions and wrote an article on them in the university newspaper, *The DeSales Minstrel*. In March 2006 the Alpha Beta Sigma chapter plans to host Colonel Vincent Coglianesi, USMC, who will share his experiences from his tour of duty in Iraq. This event is supported by a Chapter Activities Grant from Pi Sigma Alpha.

In April 2006 the next initiation ceremony will take place for the three new candidates of Pi Sigma Alpha. The guest speaker will be Dr. William Hunter, Lehigh University, who will be speaking on the topic of globalization.

- Advisor **Graham Lee** of *Eta Nu Chapter* (St. Joseph's University) reports— On Friday, April 21, 2006, the chapter will have its annual induction dinner and speech ceremony, this year to feature Professor Colleen Sheehan of Villanova University. Sheehan is a former state representative and a nationally recognized scholar on the founding of the U.S. republic. The title of her address is "Madison and Republicanism." On April 27th, we will sponsor the Eighth Annual Pi Sigma Alpha Distinguished Lecture. This year's recipient is the Hon. William H. Pryor, Jr., Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Pryor is a former Attorney General of the State of Alabama, and his topic will be "The Role of a Catholic in the Public Service."

PSA PROFILES: DONALD RODGERS

Dr. Don Rodgers, Faculty Advisor for *Chi Chi Chapter* of Pi Sigma Alpha at Austin College (Sherman, Texas) is relatively new to the Pi Sigma Alpha organization, as is the chapter—it received its charter in 1999. Both the advisor and the chapter, however, have done a lot in a very little amount of time; Chi Chi Chapter received a Best Chapter Award in 2003, and its previous advisor, Lori Cox Han, received a Best Chapter Advisor Award the following year. Professor Rodgers has been at Austin College only for about three years, but has continued to build on a considerable record of research in International Politics, currently specializing in Taiwan, that he brought into the position. His academic credentials include language study at the National Taiwan Normal University and a Summer Institute in Political Psychology at Ohio State University. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from The University of Georgia, with a certificate in Global Policy Studies. While there, he worked closely with Dr. Han S. Park on the politics of developing Asian economies. The *Newsletter* is pleased to feature Dr. Rodgers as this issue's *PSA Profile*!

Newsletter: What is your current faculty position and position in Pi Sigma Alpha, and when did you start both?

Rodgers: I've been an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Austin College since Fall, 2003. I took over the PSA organization at the end of Fall Semester, 2004.

Newsletter: How long have you been a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, and what brought you into the organization?

Rodgers: Only since I arrived at AC. I became a member to get more actively involved in the organization with the students.

Newsletter: What has been your most memorable or rewarding experience in Pi Sigma Alpha to date?

Rodgers: The completion of a student research journal spring/summer 2005. All of the refereeing and editorial work was completed by our students, and they completed a very impressive-looking journal with solid content.

Newsletter: How many members, on average, does your chapter have and what are the requirements for membership? What kinds of activities does the chapter undertake on a regular basis?

Rodgers: We have approximately 20 members and anticipate initiating an additional 20 or so this semester. The organization hosts speakers, seminars on graduate school, internship and career opportunities. Our PSA group has paired up with the international relations club on several

occasions to host meetings focused on discussion of current events around the world.

Newsletter: What, in your opinion, recommends Pi Sigma Alpha (or any honor society) membership to qualified undergraduates?

Rodgers: An opportunity to network and share conversation with students who share similar interests, as well as an opportunity to learn more about professional opportunities available to political science majors.

Newsletter: Where did you go to college/university, and have you always been a political science major? What are the fields or subfields in which you specialize in your own work, and/or what are the research projects on which you're working at the moment?

Rodgers: I went to Ohio Wesleyan University and majored in International Studies, an interdisciplinary major that included a heavy dose of political science. I studied abroad in Taiwan during my Junior year. I have continued to maintain close ties to and academic interest in Taiwan. My current research investigates the ideology and agenda of the Taiwan Independence Movement in Taiwan and abroad. I investigate how the movement attempts to influence or change the political agenda in Taiwan and to garner support from foreign governments.

Newsletter: How or why did you choose those particular issues in which to specialize?

Rodgers: I was always intrigued by and planned to major in international politics or international studies when I started college. But my interest in Asia was sparked when I took an outstanding course on Chinese history from Professor Terry Weidner at Ohio Wesleyan.

Newsletter: What courses do you regularly teach at Austin College?

Rodgers: International Relations Theory, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Development, Chinese Politics, International Human Rights, Political Psychology.

Newsletter: What interests or hobbies do you have outside your life as an academician?

Rodgers: I have no life outside of being an academician! Seriously, I enjoy bike riding, playing mahjong, watching Georgia Bulldog football, and reading biographies of dictators.

PI SIGMA ALPHA WASHINGTON INTERN SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Deadline: April 15, 2006

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is pleased to announce the third year of its Washington Intern Scholarship program. Three (3) scholarships of \$2,000 each will again be offered for members participating in political science internship programs in Washington, DC, for either the summer term or fall semester in 2006. Internships may take place up to one year after graduation. The internship must be in Washington, DC. It may be under the auspices of the candidate's own institution or any other recognized internship organization, and the home institution must award academic credit for the internship.

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

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Newsletter: Are there any personal accomplishments, honors, notorieties, etc. that are the most meaningful to you?

Rodgers: The most interesting accomplishment since I started at Austin College was to receive a Freeman Foundation Asianetwork Student Faculty Fellows Grant that allowed me to take 4 students to Taiwan to conduct independent research during the summer of 2005. The students did excellent work and are presenting their findings at several academic conferences this semester.

Newsletter: Last but not least—Godzilla v. Britney Spears, no-rules caged death match. Who wins?

Rodgers: Britney, hands down. Godzilla has never confronted anyone as tough as a grumpy, seat-belt-hating pop star suffering from post-partum depression.

Notes from the National Office

GET THE BENEFIT!

Pi Sigma Alpha's popular and successful member award programs are continuing in 2006. The Pi Sigma Alpha/Howard Penniman Scholarships for Graduate Study, the scholarships for Pi Sigma Alpha members enrolled in Washington internship programs, the prizes for best undergraduate class paper and best undergraduate honors thesis, are benefits available only to members of the honor society. Please pay close attention to the program application rules and deadlines posted on the website, and grab the chance to take advantage of these membership benefits. For more information, visit www.pisigmaalpha.org and click on *Programs*.

Many chapters forget to take advantage of an opportunity offered by the national office to reward an outstanding chapter member each year with a one-year student membership in the American Political Science Association (APSA). Chapter Advisors, you only need to write to us on official university letterhead confirming that a Pi Sigma Alpha member has been selected to receive the award, and give us the student's name and home (not campus) address. We will take care of the rest.

Besides these specific Pi Sigma Alpha award programs, there are some benefits available to student members of all the honor societies in the Association of Honor Societies (ACHS). These include automatic merit scholarships for Washington Internship Institute programs, as well as limited scholarship help for participation in programs of the Fund for American Studies and the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars. Check the following websites for detailed info:

www.wiic.org

www.tfas.org

www.twc.edu

There has been some confusion about the employment benefit the Federal Government offers honor society members. Here it is in a nutshell: Any college graduate who is a member of an ACHS honor society and is applying for an entry-level position through the U. S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is eligible to apply for a position listed at a higher grade than s/he would be eligible to apply for without the honor society membership. The OPM does not reclassify a position or raise the pay level to match the applicant's qualifications.

PROGRAM REMINDERS

Howard Penniman Scholarships for Graduate Study are awarded annually to up to 5 members entering graduate school in political science. Nominations must come from the chapter advisors, accompanied by an official application and supporting documents as specified in the program announcement. Nominations are due by May 1, and the winners are announced by June 15. Each scholarship is \$2,000.

How to Nominate

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

- Completed individual application form (see below)
- A statement by the candidate describing his or her involvement in the local chapter and related voluntary activities in the department and/or the university
- A statement by the candidate describing how graduate study in political science relates to his or her career goals
- Letter of nomination from the nominee's Chapter Advisor
- Letters of recommendation from (2) two other faculty members
- Official school transcript
- Passport-style, black and white photograph of the applicant, not larger than 2" X 3", suitable for publication in the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter.

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

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

Also remember. . .

Best Advisor Awards

Best Advisor Awards honor long-serving chapter advisors whose contribution to his or her chapter has been outstanding. Three awards are made each year, and each award is \$1,000.

Nominations must come from department chairs by June 1, with the winner announced by July 15.

And also remember. . .

Best Chapter Awards

Best Chapter Awards are cash awards of \$500 to up to three chapters in each of three college enrollment categories. The winning chapters may use the prizes for any activity they wish.

The selection is based on chapters' annual reports to the National Office, and other evidence of extraordinary levels of activity.

OBSERVING STATE POLITICAL PARTIES GEARING UP FOR AN ELECTION YEAR IN A “PURPLE” STATE

Zeta Pi Chapter (University of South Florida) members got an “up close and personal” look at why Florida is such a competitive two-party state and how state parties gear up for an important election year featuring high profile U.S. Senate, gubernatorial, and state Cabinet races.

Our Chapter Grant funded trips to the Florida Democratic Party’s Statewide Convention December 9-11, 2005 and to the Republican Party of Florida’s Annual Statewide Executive Board Meeting January 20-21, 2005. Both events were at Disney hotels in Orlando. At each event, the state party strongly endorsed this educational experience by allowing Zeta Pi members to work as volunteer observers.

Here are some comments from some of our members about their experiences:

President Thomas A. Watson: “By observing and participating in these two events, Pi Sigma Alpha students were able to compare and contrast organizational methods, executive leadership styles, public relations and campaign strategies of the two major political parties in the most contested battleground state.”

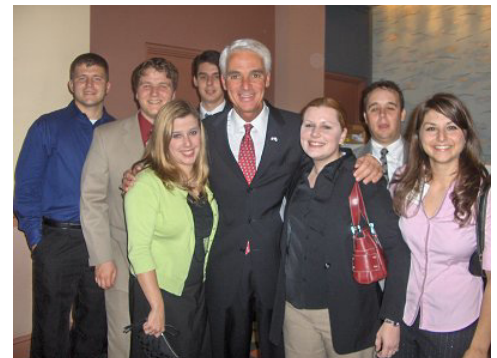
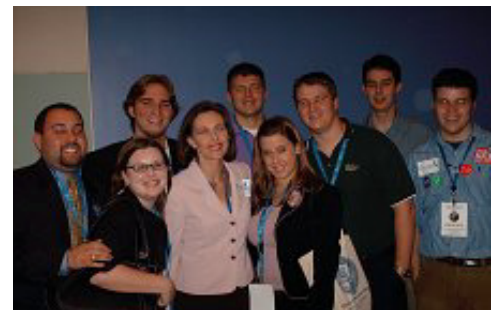
Jennifer Watson: At the Democratic Convention: “I was touched to see the wife of the late Governor Lawton Chiles and excited to hear former U.S. Senator and vice presidential candidate John Edwards and U.S. Senator Barack Obama of Illinois speak. In fact their speeches moved me so much that I cried a little. At the GOP Meeting: “Best of all, we were able to attend the luncheon where Governor Jeb Bush gave his last Executive Committee Meeting speech as Governor.”

Matthew Strenth: “I gained meaningful insights into how the state parties operate. I also gained great first-hand information pertaining to my research. I was able to hone my networking skills which will be critical to my future success. I think it is great that Pi Sigma Alpha is willing to make this type of experience available.”

Amanda Chew: “These meetings shed a new light on politicians for me. Usually when they are seen on TV giving speeches, they are so cold and political. But here they were so real and personable, willing to take their time to stop and talk with us about issues they are facing. It really motivated me to keep my life in track so that I can be in that position someday.”

Kristine Zooberg: “The exposure that I had to significant political officers and candidates far surpassed any other experience I have had. Although I spent a semester interning in Washington, D.C. last fall, I still did not meet the number of leaders in person that I met while at the event in Orlando.”

Brandon Ward (our graduate student member from out-of-state): “I enjoyed getting to know everyone in Pi Sigma Alpha and have learned immeasurably about Florida politics.”





Furman University Pi Sigma Alpha Initiation and Awards Banquet, 2005.

(INTERNSHIPS continued from page 8)

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

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

1. A completed individual application form
2. A statement by the candidate describing how a Washington internship relates to the applicant's course of study or career plans
3. A statement by the candidate describing his or her involvement in the campus Pi Sigma Alpha chapter and

related voluntary activities in the department and/or the university

4. A letter of recommendation from the Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Advisor. (If the candidate has not yet been initiated into the campus chapter, this letter must also confirm that s/he is eligible for membership in the honor society and will be initiated on a date certain.)
5. A letter of recommendation from one other political science faculty member who knows the candidate well
6. An official college transcript (3 copies; two may be photocopies)

Applications must be received by April 15. The recipients will be announced by June 1. Funds will be awarded upon confirmation of the candidate's acceptance by and enrollment in an internship program.

THE PI SIGMA ALPHA DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER VIDEOTAPE SERIES

The Pi Sigma Alpha Distinguished Speaker Series consists of videotapes of lectures delivered at Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association by eminent members of the political science profession and others. The Series was instituted in 1996 by ΠΣΑ President David B. Magleby (Brigham Young University) as a way to provide chapters of the honor society with an opportunity to hear from some of the most prominent thinkers in the discipline of political science and to experience the flavor of the APSA convention which draws an attendance of over 5,000 each year.

Chapters are encouraged to use the videotapes as focal points for chapter meetings and to organize larger events around screenings of the tapes. The series is intended for academic use only. The tapes may not be duplicated, modified, transcribed, resold or used for any commercial purpose. Each tape is approximately one hour long.

AS OF 2004, THE SERIES INCLUDES FIVE VIDEOTAPES:

“The Politics of Equality and Inequality: Facts and Causes in a Normative Perspective,” delivered in 1996 by Robert A. Dahl of Yale University.

“What I Wish Political Scientists Would Teach about the Congress,” delivered in 2000 by Lee H. Hamilton, U. S. House of Representatives (D-IN), 1964-1998, Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University.

“Supermajority Rule in the U. S. Senate,” the APSA 2002 James Madison Lecture by David R. Mayhew, Yale University.

“Democracy and American Foreign Policy,” the APSA 2003 Ralph Bunche Centennial Lecture by Fareed Zakaria, Newsweek International.

“Reconstructing Brown’s Faded Legacy: A New Paradigm for Race, Class and Equality,” delivered in 2004 by Lani Guinier, Harvard Law School.

ΠΣΑ CHAPTER ADVISORS MAY ORDER A SINGLE COPY OF ANY TAPE FOR CHAPTER USE AT NO CHARGE. PLEASE USE THE ORDER FORM BELOW.

Dahl Mayhew Hamilton Zakaria Guinier

Chapter Name _____

Chapter Advisor _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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