



Pi Sigma Alpha
The National Political Science Honor Society

N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 6 Spring 1997 Number 1

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Program Announcements

ΠΣΑ/Penniman Graduate Scholarships

Nominations Due by May 1, 1997

Pi Sigma Alpha is pleased to offer three scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to members entering an M.A. or Ph.D. program in political science in 1997 for the purpose of pursuing a career in academia or

public service. The scholarships will be awarded by a national selection committee on the basis of academic achievement and service to Pi Sigma Alpha, the university or college, and the community. Nominations are welcomed from all chapters without regard to the race, gender, religion or ethnicity of the nominee.

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

- a completed individual application form (available from the National Office)
- a statement by the candidate describing his or her involvement in the local chapter and related voluntary activities
- a statement by the candidate describing how graduate study in political science relates to his or her career goals
- a letter of nomination from the Chapter Advisor
- letters of recommendation from two (2) other faculty members
- an official school transcript
- a passport-style photograph of the applicant, not larger than 2" X 3", suitable for publication in the Newsletter.

Complete application packages must be received by May 1. The recipients of the Graduate Scholarships will be announced by June 1. The scholarship funds will be transferred upon proof of enrollment in a graduate political science program in 1997.

Student Paper Awards *Nominations Due by June 1*

Chapter Advisors are invited to nominate one outstanding student paper for each of these awards. Winners will receive cash awards and recognition in this Newsletter, and their papers will be considered for publication in the Newsletter.

Graduate Student Paper Award - \$250.

The author must be a graduate student in political science, and the nominated paper must have been presented at a state, regional, or national political science association meeting during the current academic year. One nomination will be accepted per chapter. Three copies of the paper, with a letter of nomination from the Chapter Advisor on department letterhead, must be received by the National Office by June 1, 1997. Chapter Advisors should be sure to include the author's home address. The winning paper will be announced in late August at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

**Undergraduate Paper Award- \$250;
Runners-up - \$100 each.**

The author must be a member of ΠΣΑ currently enrolled in an undergraduate political science program. The paper must be an existing paper written for a class or for a related activity such as a panel or forum, not written just for this competition. One nomination will be accepted per chapter. Three copies of the paper, with a letter of nomination from the Chapter Advisor on department letterhead, must be received by the National Office by June 1, 1997. Chapter Advisors should be sure to include the author's home address. The winning paper and runners-up will be announced in late August at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

*Best Chapter Awards
Annual Reports Due by June 1*

Six chapters will be chosen for Best Chapter Awards based upon the information they provide to the National Office in their annual reports. Two awards of \$500 each are made to chapters in three categories: those in institutions with enrollments under 6,000; those in institutions with enrollments between 6,000 and 15,000; and those in institutions with greater than 15,000 enrollment. The Best Chapters selection committee will review all annual reports received by June 1, 1997, and the awards will be announced in late August. The annual reporting requirements for chapters are outlined [elsewhere in this Newsletter.](#)

*Best Chapter Advisor Awards
Nominations Due by June 1*

To honor the best among the many dedicated faculty members who take on the role of Chapter Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha has created Best Advisor awards. Up to three awards may be made each year, and each includes a cash prize of \$1,000, a certificate, recognition in the Pi Sigma Alpha Newsletter and in *PS: Political Science and Politics*, and a letter of commendation which is sent to the president of the winner's college or university.

Nominations for Best Advisor awards must come from the advisor's department chair or dean, and the National Office will soon write to all chairs explaining the nomination process and encouraging them to take advantage of this opportunity to reward the advisors who have demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication and service to the honor society. Their letters of nomination should certify that the advisor has served in that capacity for at least three years, and should give a detailed description of his or her contributions to Pi Sigma Alpha during that time. Advisors may want to bring this opportunity to the attention of their chairs or deans, and provide them with the information they need to make the nomination. Nominations must be received by June 1, 1997. A selection committee consisting of National Office staff and Executive Committee members will meet during the summer, and the Best Chapter Advisors will be announced in late August.

A Letter from the President

Dear Pi Sigma Alpha Colleagues:



As I begin my tenure as your president of Pi Sigma Alpha, I want all of my colleagues in the society to know how grateful I am for having been given this honor and responsibility. My goal is to carry on and expand upon the traditions established by my recent predecessors-Robert J. Huckshorn (Florida Atlantic University), Naomi Lynn (University of Illinois-Springfield), and David Magleby (Brigham Young University). Each of these society presidents took the lead in developing new programs which increased the assistance the national office of Pi Sigma Alpha provides to its members, campus chapters, and the political science profession. Among their initiatives are student scholarships, expanded grants to chapters, awards for undergraduate and graduate papers, and the sponsorship of lectures at national, regional, and state political science meetings. Currently we are also starting a new program designed to reactivate inactive chapters through a special small grant program.

Among American honor societies, Pi Sigma Alpha is one of the most vibrant and active. It is a source of special pride that we are in the top rank of the nation's honor societies in terms of returning money to members, chapters, and political science associations in the form of scholarships, chapter grants, and awards for scholarship and chapter leadership.

As we enter a new year and school term, I hope that you will communicate with me and our responsive headquarters staff your suggestions concerning ways in which Pi Sigma Alpha can better serve its student members, campus chapters, and faculty advisors. The officers and staff are committed to enhancing the quality of undergraduate and graduate education in political science.

Sincerely,

John F.
Bibby
President

1996 Chapter Activity Grant Winners

Once again the National Office received an excellent batch of proposals for the Chapter Activity Grants Competition, and the grants committee was very pleased to be able to fund so many worthwhile activities. The competition is announced early in the fall of each year, and proposals are due by the end of November. The committee meets to consider the proposals early in December and the awards are announced by mid-December. Chapter activities funded through the program are to be carried out within six months of the award and chapters must report to the National Office on the expenditure of the grant funds before the next competition begins. The following grants were awarded for the 1996-97 academic year:

Albany State College	Series of Public issues forums
Brigham Young University	Regional student research conference
East Central Univ. (Oklahoma)	Initiation banquet
Eastern Washington University	Political science career luncheons
Univ. of Florida	Essay contest and awards
Univ. of Guam	Acquisition of political science library materials
Hartwick College	Political Science Department pamphlet publication
Univ. of Illinois - Springfield	Essay contest
Univ. of Illinois - Urbana	Seminar series for women's shelter residents
Illinois State Univ.	Regional student political science conference
Marquette Univ.	Brunch for old and new members
Mary Washington College	Scholarship competition for high school seniors
Univ. of Maryland-Baltimore Co	National political speaker and reception
Univ. of Massachusetts	Awards banquet
Univ. of Michigan	Survey of alumni members and chapter history project
Mississippi Valley State Univ	Visiting scholar lecture; debate on First Amendment topic
Univ. of Montana	Banquet with speech by Montana Governor Racicot
Univ. of Nebraska	Paper competition and awards banquet
New Mexico State Univ.	Symposium on US-Mexico relations
Northeastern Univ.	Speaker; awards for best papers in public law and international relations
Univ. of Notre Dame	Essay contest for middle school students
Purdue Univ.-Calumet	Student attendance at Indiana Political Science Conference and banquet
Coll. of St. Francis Joliet, IL)	Student attendance at MWPSA Conference
St. Francis Coll. (Loretto, PA)	Model U. N. for high school students
St. Olaf College	Best paper awards
San Jose State Univ.	Convocation and awards ceremony
Utah State Univ.	Induction banquet and speaker
Wake Forest Univ.	Guest speaker on narcotics trafficking in Latin America
Washington & Lee Univ.	Symposium on Elshtain's <i>Democracy on Trial</i> in conjunction with the author's visit to the university
Winthrop Univ.	Symposium on desegregation and busing

The members of the Grants Committee were James I. Lingle (Georgetown University and Executive Director), Karl A. Cerny (Georgetown), and Maurice Woodard (Howard University).

The National Office mails the Chapter Activity Grants Competition program announcement to all chapters early in the fall of the year and this year it will also be broadcast to chapter advisors via the H-Net and put on the Web Site from where it can be downloaded. The announcement contains all the guidelines and rules for submission to the competition and should be read closely by chapters planning to submit proposals.

See [the following section](#) for an example of a winning proposal submitted in the 1996 competition.

A Winning Proposal

An Example from Washington and Lee University's Beta Omega Chapter

The grants committee takes account of the quality of the proposal itself, as well as the quality of the proposed activity, when making funding decisions. The following proposal from Washington & Lee University is reprinted as an example for chapters of what the committee likes to see. It describes a worthwhile activity of an appropriate scope, it demonstrates good planning on the part of the student organizers and shows that they have institutional support for the project, and the budget is clear and reasonable. The chapter advisor's cover letter, which is a required part of the proposal package, is also reprinted as a good example of the kind of faculty-oversight and cooperation that make such a difference to a chapter's chances of pulling off a successful program.

A Proposal to the Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Awards Committee

The Washington and Lee University chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha would like to organize a student-faculty symposium to discuss and critique the political commentary of a visiting lecturer. The chapter would like to obtain funding from Pi Sigma Alpha's 15th Annual Chapter Activities Awards Contest in the category of Society Affairs.

The Project:

The university has invited Jean Bethke Elshtain to speak on March 6th. A professor of social and political ethics at the University of Chicago, she is also the author of *Democracy on Trial*, and is renowned for her social and political analysis.

The Washington and Lee chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha would like to organize a symposium around this lecture. We would invite the members of the chapter and faculty members of the Political Science and Sociology Departments to participate in meetings at which we would engage in focused discussions of Ms. Elshtain's work. The chapter would provide paper back copies of *Democracy on Trial* to all participants.

Three symposium meetings would take place in the month before Ms. Elshtain's visit. Students and professors would be free to discuss any interesting aspects of the book, although the discussion might be focused around specific chapters for each meeting. Participants would then not only attend Ms. Elshtain's lecture, but would also be given an opportunity to participate in a smaller discussion with Ms. Elshtain at which they could ask her specific questions about her work.

Ms. Elshtain writes that modern society is experiencing a crisis of authority in which the institutional rules necessary to hold society together are construed as tyranny. She once said, "We find no meaning in anything above or beyond ourselves."

Participants in the symposium will attempt to define some potential sources of meaning in our society. They will explore the boundaries between tolerance and condemnation, and discuss various ways a society can apply moral pressure on its citizens. The goal will be to ascertain how modern democracies can impose limits on the behavior of their citizens without restricting any fundamental liberties, which the students will also have to define.

The study the symposium will undertake is interdisciplinary and comprehensive. Students will discuss subjects ranging from political theory to psychology and religion.

Funding:

Washington and Lee University will pay all costs associated with the speaker. Pi Sigma Alpha funds would only be used to purchase copies of her book for the symposium participants (estimated to be 20 people) and to purchase refreshments for symposium meetings. Potential participants will be invited through electronic mail so that no funds will be used for publicity purposes.

Budget:

20 copies of Democracy on Trial @ \$ 12.00 each	\$240.00
Refreshments for three meetings	\$90.00
TOTAL	\$330.00

Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Awards Committee
1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

To the Committee:

On behalf of Melissa Sawyer, this year's president of the Beta Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, I am submitting a proposal for the 15th Annual Chapter Activities Awards Contest. As Ms. Sawyer explains, Washington and Lee University has arranged for Jean Bethke Elshtain to speak on campus March 6, 1997. Professor Elshtain's public lecture will be sponsored by the William Fishback Visiting Writers Endowment. As preparation for her visit, the membership of Pi Sigma Alpha and several faculty plan to read *Democracy on Trial*, along with some of Professor Elshtain's other works and discuss them over the course of three meetings. It is our hope that we will be able to meet with Professor Elshtain during the afternoon of her visit to discuss with her some of her ideas. But even if that meeting doesn't work out, the readings and discussion will still provide a good foundation for students to take advantage of her visit.

At Washington and Lee, we have found over the last few years that these kinds of reading groups, which focus on the work of a particular author, have enabled the students and the faculty to profit greatly from that author's appearance on campus. This will be one of our most ambitious attempts, and the support of Pi Sigma Alpha would lend an even greater degree of seriousness to our efforts. We appreciate your consideration and I hope you will let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Ruscio
Associate Dean and Associate
Professor
(Chapter Advisor)

Pi Sigma Alpha and the Electronic Communication Age

The honor society now has three separate routes on the information superhighway, all serving different purposes:

World Wide Web Site: <http://www.georgetown.edu/departments/government/psa>. This Internet site contains the Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Handbook, the latest issue of the Newsletter, all national office forms and announcements, lists of awards and award winners, information on how to start a new chapter of the honor society, links to the Web sites of individual chapters, the American Political Science

Association, and other political science organizations, and much more. Everything on the Web Site can be downloaded, including the membership certificate request form, order forms for jewelry, medallions and mugs, the Newsletter, scholarship information, etc. The Web Site is maintained for the national office by an independent contractor and is updated three times per year. When your chapter sets up a home page and would like to be sure it is linked to the national site, please [send the information to the National Office](#) and be patient. It may be that we will be able to update the Web Site more frequently in the future, but for now it is every four months.

E-mail to the National Office: pisigmaa@erols.com. Please note that this is a new e-mail address for the National Office. We will continue to maintain the old one along with the new one for a couple of months, but please start using the new - simpler - address immediately. E-mail to the National Office is best used for short communications and questions that need a short and quick reply.

New!! Chapter Advisor E-mail Network: Through the good offices of the American Political Science Association, ΠΣΑ has been able to join the H- Net e-mail list server run by Michigan State University. This service will allow the National Office to communicate, via e-mail, with all Chapter Advisors at once and will provide a way for Chapter Advisors to share information with each other. Important messages and announcements such as program application deadlines will be posted by the National Office and will come to each advisor on the list as a regular e-mail message. Individual advisors will also be able to offer messages of general interest to the list editor who will decide whether to post them to the whole list.

To participate in the H-Net, chapter advisors must identify themselves to the list server. Neither the National Office nor H-Net will be responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the list; when an advisor turns over responsibility for the chapter to another faculty member it will be up to them to correct the H-Net address list. The National Office urges all chapter advisors to take advantage of this new service right away, and not miss any important deadlines. To subscribe to the H-Net List:

- Send an e-mail message to: LISTSERV@H-NET.MSU.EDU
- In the text of your message (not on the subject line), write: SUBSCRIBE APSA-PISIG firstname lastname, university or other affiliation
- Example: SUBSCRIBE APSA-PISIG Mary Smith, Michigan State University

After you sign up you will receive a "welcome" message on your e-mail, including some guidelines for participating in the network, sending messages to the editor, changing your e-mail address, and more. Thereafter you will automatically receive whatever messages the National Office puts on the system.

Robert Dahl Videotaped Lecture Available to Chapters



Professor Robert A. Dahl of Yale University, First Speaker in new videotaped lecture series.

The National Office is very pleased to announce that the first videotape in the new Pi Sigma Alpha Distinguished Speaker Series is now available. The series, conceived by Past President David B. Magleby, is intended to provide members with opportunities to hear lectures on the discipline of political science by some of its most preeminent thinkers and teachers, and to give chapters a focus around which to organize meetings or special events.

This first videotape features Professor Robert A. Dahl of Yale University speaking on "The Politics of Equality and Inequality: Facts and Causes in a Normative Perspective." Professor Dahl delivered this lecture at the 1996 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association and graciously gave permission to Pi Sigma Alpha to tape his talk and share it with our chapters.

The videotape is 60 minutes long and is of very high quality both technically and substantively. It would make an excellent focus for a chapter meeting or even an event for the whole department organized by a chapter, and will surely stimulate deep and lively discussion among the students and faculty who view it. The National Office will provide the tape at no charge to any chapter advisor who requests it. The tape is for academic use only and may not be modified, transcribed, duplicated, resold, or used for any commercial purpose.

Help the University of Guam Build A Library

Upsilon Nu Chapter at the University of Guam received a chapter activity grant for a project that provides a rare opportunity for chapter cooperation and outreach. This chapter plans to create a departmental political science library with books and journals donated by other chapters, and the chapter activity grant funds will pay for shipping the materials to Guam.

The proposal laments the main University library's lack of political science resources, both classical works in the field and current journals. Moreover the library's journal subscription budget has recently been halved. With 35 political science majors, many of them hoping to attend graduate school, the need for access to library materials is pressing. The chapter grants committee awarded Upsilon Nu Chapter

funding for overseas shipping of books and journals; now it is up to other chapters to donate or locate materials to be shipped. Retiring political science faculty members are very often on the lookout for suitable homes for their libraries, and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to contribute their collections to a very worthy group.

Chapters with access to political science library materials for donation, especially recent runs of the major journals in the discipline, should contact Upsilon Nu Chapter directly:

Prof. Robert Statham, Advisor
Upsilon Nu Chapter,
Political Science Program
Division of Social/Behavioral Sciences
University of Guam
303 University Drive, UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96923
(671) 735-2870 Fax: (671) 734-5255

A Report From...

Epsilon Iota Chapter San Jose State University

San Jose State University has an active group of students who are members of the Epsilon Iota chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. We have held several successful events this year and we are currently in the planning stages for this semester's activities.

Last semester we organized an election forum in which three of our professors served as panelists. Each panelist was responsible for local, state, or federal issues that would be decided in the November election. Since California has an initiative process it is very important that voters understand what is on the ballot so that they can make informed choices. We publicized this event in the *Spartan Daily* as well as in local newspapers because we wanted everyone in the community to know they were welcome to participate in this informative discussion. We were very happy when more than 100 people came, many with thoughtful questions for our panelists.

We were also pleased in the way our annual holiday celebration dinner turned out. Again, we had about 100 people who came to eat and dance and celebrate the end of another challenging semester. In attendance were many members of the political science faculty and their guests as well as past and present PSA members. A good time was had by all!

Epsilon Iota also sponsored talks given by experts in varying fields ranging from NATO enlargement to

Affirmative Action. This semester we plan to sponsor debates on issues that are relevant to our community such as the right of faculty to engage in free-speech and the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Our activities are not always so intense and controversial. We hold monthly "Plato Club" meetings at a local pub, and we are planning a camping trip to the redwoods in mid-April.

The Epsilon Iota chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha is also busy making plans for our May graduation ceremony that is held exclusively for political science majors and minors. This event enables graduates to invite their families to attend as they receive individual recognition from the Political Science department for their accomplishments here at San Jose State. Departmental scholarships will be awarded to outstanding students who are not yet graduating, as well as recognition to an outstanding professor who will be chosen by students in the department.

We are very proud of our group; everyone is always enthusiastic and supportive. We have remarkable faculty support as well, they gladly provide leadership and advice whenever we ask for it, which is greatly appreciated. Our success would not be possible without the support from both students and faculty.

by Donna M. Fisher, President



*Pictured in Photograph from left to right:
Dr. Ken Nuger, Faculty Advisor; Donna
Fisher, President (foreground); Jo Tobar,
Vice President (behind Donna); Shone
Session, Treasurer; Dr James Brent,
Incoming Faculty Advisor*

Chapters' Annual Reporting Requirements

All chapters are required to make an annual report to the National Office. The information will be used to update National Office files and to assist in the Best Chapter Award selection process, so make your report as complete as possible. To make it easier to include all the information you need to, we have

discarded the old annual report form and now ask chapters to provide the information as a narrative report. Please make certain that, at the very least, your report includes the following information:

- Chapter name
- Department
- College or University
- Address
- Total student enrollment of institution
- Name of chapter advisor
- Daytime phone number of chapter advisor
- Names and titles of chapter officers
- Dates of initiations in 1996
- Number of initiates in 1996
- Annual budget for chapter
- Amount of cash on hand
- Number of faculty who are society members
- Number of students who are chapter members
- Number of regular chapter meetings per year
- Any national programs or services applied for in 1996
- Programs sponsored (Note whether for members only, for department only, or for university community or public)
- Any other activities or services you think the National Office (or the Newsletter) should note

SEND REPORT TO:

**PI SIGMA ALPHA
NATIONAL OFFICE
1527 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036**

Pi Sigma Alpha Lectures: Funding Available

This is just a reminder to Chapter Advisors and other faculty members who are active in their regional and state political science associations that Pi Sigma Alpha supports lectures delivered by political figures or commentators at the annual meetings of those associations. Each of the regional associations may request funding in the amount of \$1,000 for the "Lecture in Politics," which must be a plenary event at their annual meeting and meet other requirements. The state associations may request \$500 each for similar events. Applications for the awards must be made by letter to the Executive Director of Pi Sigma Alpha and must include the date and location of the meeting at which the lecture is to be delivered, predicted attendance, a description of the publicity arrangements, and a brief biographical sketch of the speaker.

The lecture must be advertised in the meeting program as the "Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture in Politics," the program must explicitly acknowledge that funding was provided by Pi Sigma Alpha, and an officer of the honor society must be on hand to introduce the event. Requests are approved for specific speakers only. If a speaker withdraws, the national office must approve any substitute speaker.

For more information about the program see the [Awards Descriptions](#) section of the Web Site or write to the National Office.



Kelleyanne Fitzpatrick, President of The Polling Group, speaking to a statewide college student forum hosted by the University of South Florida.

Chapter at University of South Florida Sponsors Speakers

The Zeta Pi chapter at the University of South Florida (Tampa) used its 1996 chapter award grant to bring in two speakers last fall. On October 5, 1996, Kellyanne Fitzpatrick, president of The Polling Group (Washington, D.C.) spoke at a statewide college student forum on the subject of "The Youth Vote in 1996."

Later in the month, the chapter sponsored an appearance by Professor Anthony Corrado of Colby College (Waterville, Maine). Professor Corrado is one of the nation's leading experts on presidential campaign finance.

Both speakers were viewed on television, covered by local newspapers, heard on the local NPR-affiliate radio station, and listened to by many students, faculty, and staff.

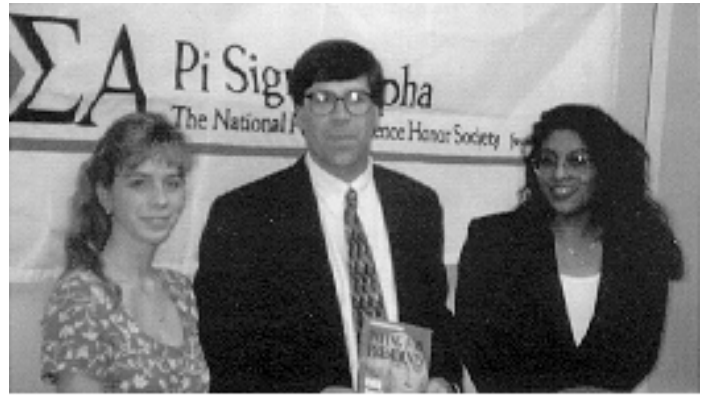
Zeta Pi chapter members were also heavily involved last fall in activities associated with their university's hosting of the Vice Presidential Debate between Al Gore and Jack Kemp.

ΠΣΑ Constitution Amended

The Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Council proposed at its 1996 meeting to amend the honor society's constitution so as to shorten and simplify the procedure for establishing a new local chapter. The language of the amendment was sent to all the chapters in October, and the chapters voted overwhelmingly to adopt it. Article V, Section 2 of the Constitution now reads:

Petitions.

All petitions for the establishment of a new local chapter shall be sent to the Director whose duty it shall be to determine the eligibility for membership. If the petition is approved by the Director, who may consult with the Executive Committee, a charter will be issued to the petitioning school.



Colby College Professor Anthony Corrado, with Tonya Kessler (left), President of the Zeta Pi Chapter at the University of South Florida, and Irosha Ratnaseker, a chapter member.

