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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The number of chapters sending in information about their activities has slowed down a bit, so I ask you again to send us your news. We hear from some chapters over and over again. We still need to hear from your chapter. What are you up to? What has your chapter been doing this year? We'd like to report on it, so have someone -- chapter advisor or student officer -- take a few minutes to send a brief report to me by e-mail: tierney@bc.edu. Ideally, your report should be in the form of an article, not just a listing of events. You may also send me photos for inclusion, as long as they're clear and the images are large enough to be reproduced faithfully. Please provide captions with the names, as appropriate. Please note also that the Newsletter is now being published two times a year instead of three.

John Tierney, Editor

Thomas Mann Receives Capital Area's PSA Award

Thomas E. Mann, Director of the Governmental Studies Program and the W. Averell Harriman Fellow in American Government at the Brookings Institution, has been selected to receive the National Capital Area Political Science Association 1999 Pi Sigma Alpha Award. The award recognizes a political scientist who has made a significant contribution to public affairs.

Mr. Mann is a graduate of the University of Florida and holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan. He is a former Congressional Fellow of the American Political Science Association, and later served as Director of the Program. From 1981 to 1987 he was Executive Director of APSA. He has taught courses at Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, and the University of Virginia; conducted political polls for the Democratic Study Group Campaign Fund; served on the Democratic National Committee's Winograd and Hunt Commissions dealing with presidential selection; worked as a consultant to the Public Broadcasting Service; and chaired the Board of Overseers of the National Election Studies. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Phi Beta Kappa. He was the winner, with Norman Ornstein, of the 1997 Policy studies Organization Hubert H. Humphrey Award.



Thomas E. Mann

Mr. Mann's published works include *Unsafe at Any Margin: Interpreting Congressional Elections*; *Vital Statistics on Congress*; *The New Congress*; *The American Elections of 1982*; *A Question of Balance: The President, the Congress, and Foreign Policy*; *Media Polls in American Politics*; *Renewing Congress*; *Congress, the Press, and the Public*; *Intensive Care: How Congress Shapes Health Policy*; and *Campaign Finance Reform: A Sourcebook*. He is also a frequent commentator on the "Lehrer Report" and "Nightline" as well as often being cited, in the print media. He is currently working on projects dealing with campaign finance reform, the independent Counsel Statute, and transitions from campaigning to governing.

The award was presented at the Spring Conference of the National Capital Area Political Science Association in Washington, D.C., on March 6, 1999.

Applications Due Soon for the 1999 Pi Sigma Alpha/Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarships

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is pleased to offer five scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to members entering M.A. or Ph.D. programs in political science in 1999. The scholarships will be awarded by a national selection committee solely on the basis of academic merit and service to Pi Sigma Alpha, the 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 award. 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): a completed individual application form; 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 (2) two other faculty members; an official school transcript; a passport-style, black and white photograph of the applicant, not larger than 2" X 3", suitable for publication in the PSA Newsletter. Applications must be received by April 15. The recipients of the Graduate Scholarships will be announced by May 15. The scholarship funds will be transferred with proof of enrollment in graduate political science programs in 1999.

Note from the National Office:

As the spring initiation season approaches I'd like to remind you to try to allow two weeks for this office to get membership certificates back to you. We print those certificates just as fast as we can, but with the huge volume of requests coming in during the months of March-April-May it's sometimes hard to keep ahead of the paper Tsunami. I'm generally in the office Mondays through Thursdays and almost never on Fridays. We're very lucky to have the same student helper this year as last year, and because he's experienced in the whole certificate preparation procedure he will be able to work by himself in the office on Fridays, preparing the already-printed certificates for mailing and actually sending them out.

We try to turn ourselves into a well-oiled machine during this season, with the goal of filling as many certificate requests as possible as quickly as possible. The system works very well for routine, timely requests; it can break down if we have to shift out of automatic mode to deal with irregular situations, incomplete or illegible forms, etc. I share this perhaps excessively nuts-and-bolts information because it helps explain what happens to your certificate requests once they reach 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, and should both reassure you that your certificates will be returned to you within two weeks and at the same time remind you to take whatever steps are necessary to see that we HAVE two weeks (preferably, longer) to deal with them. Here are a few guidelines for the spring season:

1. All certificate requests will be filled in the order in which the completed forms are received. No exceptions.
2. Please allow us AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE to get your certificates back to you. We will turn them around within two weeks, but if you have your list and fees ready sooner PLEASE DO SEND THEM AS EARLY AS YOU CAN!
3. Please make sure your Membership Certificate Request Form is complete and legible. We really MUST HAVE the initiation date for each group of initiates as it's part of the printed text of the certificates. Forms without the date may be pushed to the bottom of the pile since I'll have to make a phone call to your department before they can be printed and I haven't much time for phone calls during this season. Forms without a complete return address may also be put aside until we have time to look up the address. A Campus Box number may look like a complete address to a student filling out the form; the Postal Service takes a different position.
4. Please make sure the check for initiation fees accompanies the form. We won't print the certificates without the check, and checks that come in separate envelopes sometimes take time to get matched up with their forms. Likewise, DON'T FAX A FORM OR LIST OF NAMES. We can't even put the list in the printing queue until we have the check.
5. I know I needn't mention it again but force of habit compels me: Remember to combine the initiation fees into a single check or money order for the whole list.
6. If you're ordering medallions, lapel pins, jewelry, banners, etc. at the same time as certificates, it's fine to combine the payments for all into a single check. In fact we prefer to handle as few checks as possible.
7. Please try to defer all special requests for information until after the initiation season is over. I'm very glad to provide you with a list of all your chapter's initiates from the date of its charter, for instance, but I would prefer not to do it during the spring.
8. IF you haven't received your certificates two weeks after we should have received the request, please do call or email me. Don't wait months since it never takes that long.
9. Finally, an initiation ceremony without certificates from the National Office is not the worst thing in the world. We routinely get certificate requests well after the initiation date; presumably the initiates were given dummy certificates at the ceremony and the Chapter Advisors will distribute the genuine ones at a later date. Of course it's much better to have the actual certificates for the ceremony, but circumstances may prevent you from getting the materials to us in time.

After all those instructions and requests that you toe the line, let me assure you that the only point is to make it possible for the National Office to serve all the chapters as efficiently as possible. Jim Lingle and I greatly appreciate all you do for your students, and we want to give you the best support we can in the National Office by setting clear, fair, policies and administering them effectively. Please let us know of anything we can do to make your jobs easier or to improve our service to the chapters.

Sincerely,
Nancy McManus, Administrator

Reactivation Grants Available for Inactive PSA Chapters

If your Pi Sigma Alpha chapter has been inactive for a period of time, the National Office would like to help you bring the honor society back to life for the students in your department.

Pi Sigma Alpha is the only national honor society for graduate and upper level undergraduate students of political science in the United States. With over 500 campus chapters and over 6,000 initiates annually, PSA is one of the largest constituent members of the Association of College Honor Societies, the body which sets the standards for honor societies in all disciplines and fields of study.

PSA also is also one of the leaders within ACHS in the percentage of its initiation fees that it returns to students and the political science profession through its service programs, including:

Annual Chapter Activity Grants Competition, over \$40,000 in grants for chapter projects each year;
Scholarships for Graduate Study in Political Science, five annually, \$1,500 each;
[Best Graduate Student Paper Award](#), one per year at \$250;
[Best Undergraduate Paper Awards](#), first prize \$250, two runners-up at \$100;
[Best Chapter Advisor Awards](#), three per year, \$1,000 each; and
[Best Chapter Awards](#), six per year, \$500 each.

Only active chapters are eligible to take advantage of these programs, however. If your campus chapter has had no initiates for over a year, and a small grant of \$250 from the National Office would be helpful to you in reestablishing PSA as a vital organization within the department, please consider requesting a Chapter Reactivation Grant. We need your request in writing, and it should include: the name and phone number of your chapter's faculty advisor, and a brief statement of the chapter-building activity for which you request the grant.

Please do not hesitate to call or email Nancy McManus in the National Office with any questions or concerns you have, and do visit our website for a good picture of the range of activities our fine chapters undertake as well as suggestions for chapter management, lists of our grant and award winners, and much more. We're eager to help you help your best students by making PSA membership possible for them.

Former U.S. Senator Paul Simon Calls for Stop to Pandering

Speaking last November at the Illinois Political Science Association's 1998 Annual Meeting in Springfield, IL, former U.S. Senator Paul Simon criticized politicians for basing their decisions on public opinion polls. "One of the reasons for so much cynicism toward government today is that those in public office, of both political parties, are following the polls so much," Simon said. "The public senses that we're pandering rather than leading."

In a Pi Sigma Alpha-sponsored speech titled "Lincoln and the Modern Age," Simon said modern politicians need to learn from Abraham Lincoln, who often took unpopular stands and then persuaded his audiences to

agree with him. Simon now teaches journalism and political science courses at Southern Illinois University's Carbondale campus and serves as director of the Public Policy Institute.



Paul Simon

1999 Award Program Announcements

Student Paper Awards, nominations due by June 1

Chapter Advisors are invited to nominate one outstanding student paper for each of these awards. Three copies of each nominated paper, with a letter of nomination from the Chapter Advisor on department letterhead, must be received by the National office by June 1, 1999. Chapter Advisors should be sure to include the author's home address. In addition to the cash prize and recognition in this Newsletter, the winners will also be announced at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association and in APSA's quarterly journal PS. Graduate Student Paper Award: \$250. The author must be a graduate student in political science, and the paper must have been presented at a state, regional, or national political science association meeting during the current academic year. Undergraduate Paper Award: \$250; runners-up, \$100 each. The author must be a member of PSA 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.

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 of institutional enrollment: under 6,000; between 6,000 and 15,000; and over 15,000. The Best Chapters selection committee will review all annual reports received by June 1, 1999, and the awards will be announced in late August. The annual reporting requirements for chapters are listed in each issue of PSA Newsletter and on the PSA website.

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, the National Office gives up to three Best Chapter Advisor awards each year. Each award includes a cash prize of \$1,000, a certificate, recognition in PSA Newsletter and in PS, 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. The enclosed letter explains the nomination process and encourages the chair to take advantage of this opportunity to reward an advisor who has 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 PSA during that time. Please pass this letter along to your chair or dean, and provide them with the information they need to make the nomination. A selection committee will meet during the summer, and the Best Chapter Advisors will be announced in August at the APSA Annual Meeting.

Members of Zeta Gamma Chapter at Texas A& M Mobilize to Help in Honduras

[This report was submitted by Dr. JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz, Assistant Professor and Chapter Advisor.]

Last summer I took some students to Central America for a 13 day seminar. During our stay in Honduras, we met and visited La Casa Refugio in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, which is the only shelter in the entire country for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The "shelter" is a three-bedroom home with one bathroom. At times, overcrowding can be a problem. When we returned from our stay, members of the Zeta Gamma chapter, along with the Women in Political Science for Global Awareness (WPSGA) decided to form

a solidarity link with the shelter and to help in a positive way. We began what we called the "Suitcase to Honduras" program where we would find people travelling to the capital city and ask them to carry a suitcase for us to the shelter. The shelter relies totally on any grant funding from outside sources, donations, etc., to stay afloat. Moreover, because the women and children often arrive at the shelter with only the clothes on their back, our suitcases would contain items of clothing, toiletries, over-the-counter medicines, etc..

When Hurricane Mitch hit the region last October, naturally we were concerned about our new found friends. While they were fortunate in that the shelter/house was not destroyed by the rains, they faced shortages of food, water, etc., as did many others. Also, one of the groups that has carried suitcases for us in the past, a ministry in Sulphur Springs, Texas, called Fruitful Harvest, was trying to help people in the northern community of La Cieba-a community that they visit several times a year to give medical aid, etc..

Our Zeta Gamma members immediately got in contact with Fruitful Harvest to see how they could help. Mr. Sickles, pastor at Fruitful Harvest, told our members that they would be shipping items down to this community and that the members of their mission would be in La Cieba to personally distribute whatever items were collected. Our President, Mark Rynders, located a company who dedicated shipping containers to ship items to this coastal community. Also, Mark got a local Greenville business man to donate the use of a U-Haul so that we could deliver the items to the shipping containers where they would reach the people of La Cieba. Their efforts filled over 6 shipping containers of needed supplies. People from all over the campus and community called and our Zeta Gamma members began picking up boxes of clothing, food, shoes, medicines, etc, which we stored in our department until the day we loaded up the U-Haul.

Chapter members also coordinated a relief project to help the women at La Casa Refugio. To this end, Zeta Gamma members Donna McKnight (political science senior) and Aaron Hale (political science graduate student) voluntarily agreed to pay their way to accompany me to bring cash and whatever we could carry in suitcases to the women and children at the shelter. Some of the other "materials" inside the suitcases included basic toiletries, cloth diapers, clothes, blankets, toys, candy and other presents for the shelter's residents. This part of the project resulted in \$1200 in cash collected, which we personally delivered along with 6 suitcases of the needed supplies.

We spent several days in Honduras with the women and children at the shelter and their gratitude was overwhelming. The conditions they faced were horrible. Gas is rationed, clean water is not available, things we take for granted they don't have. [After the damage from Hurricane Mitch, Honduras dropped from the third poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere to the poorest.] While in Honduras, we used purified water to brush our teeth so we wouldn't get sick. Aaron forgot one day and brushed his teeth with impure water and was sick for about a week after he returned to Texas. I'd also like to note that Donna and Aaron took the time from preparing for finals to make the trip with me to Tegucigalpa. While we were there we got to really interact with the Honduran people as the women took us to makeshift shelters for the people left homeless from the storm. These women would take us to a spot and say "This was my house." Whole houses were swept away without leaving a trace behind.

We also took the women and children out to the countryside one day to help them collect wildflowers. They dry these flowers and then use them to create all purpose greeting cards. They sell the cards and return the profits to the House of Refuge. Pi Sigma Alpha also sold some cards on campus last semester to help raise funds for the women and children. After returning, Zeta Gamma has been working to bring the director and founder of the women's shelter, Emma Mejia, to campus to have her be our guest speaker at our annual women's history month luncheon. Also, we are continuing in our efforts to send suitcases to Honduras. I can't say enough about the unselfish work they did to make this global service project a success. Unfortunately, it took the devastation of a hurricane to accomplish this.

Zeta Pi Chapter at Univ. of South Florida Encourages Effort to "Show Them We DO Vote"

This past Fall, Zeta Pi Chapter organized a highly-successful Political Fair and Forum for students, faculty, and staff at the University of South Florida, with the cooperation of USF Student Government. Leaders from the University of Central Florida's Mu Sigma Chapter also attended. A huge banner publicizing the event and the forum theme "Show Them we DO Vote" (selected by Zeta Pi) was posted at the campus entrance several days before the Fair.

The event, held October 5, 1998, ran from Noon until 7:00 P.M. Candidates for a wide range of national, state, and local offices made their pitch to the students. Candidates, political parties, area election supervisors, and interest groups were given space to display their literature, sign up volunteers, and mingle with attendees.

Many chapter members and their classmates were thrilled to be interviewed by the local electronic and print media, and by USF journalism students. Several TV stations conducted live broadcasts from the floor of the forum. Students were featured registering to vote, voicing their opinions about issues, and participating in a straw poll for governor. The results-giving the edge to Republican Jeb Bush-almost perfectly mirrored the statewide vote on election day.

Twice during the campaign season, Zeta Pi chapter members assisted local NBC affiliate station WFLA-TV with its Voice of the Voter polls. Chapter members took calls from the public for two hours. The results, once tallied, helped WFLA News Channel 8 shape its election coverage.

The Zeta Pi Chapter at the University of South Florida is home to Susan MacManus, national President-Elect of PSA . The University of South Florida was a winner of the "Best Chapter" award in 1997.

New Chapter at US Air Force Academy Gets Off to Fast Start

The Phi Iota Chapter at the US Air Force Academy was established in 1996. During 1997-98 the national office funded a competition for the best paper written on a security topic, and that successfully elicited interest in political science and Pi Sigma Alpha across the departments at the Academy.

Last December the national office awarded a second chapter activity grant to fund a Cadet Public Policy Forum speaker series. Speakers during the past year addressed a variety of topics: political parties, US space policy, peaceful and military uses of space, and the economic costs of the Cold War and nuclear weapons. With the new funding from the National Office, Phi Iota already has hosted the Dean of Colorado College, who spoke on leadership. And in early March , the chapter heard from a retired commander of US forces in Europe discuss US policy in the Balkans.

Later this semester the chapter will have a speaker on UN peace keeping missions, and another on the sources of US foreign policy making in the founding era and in the immediate

From the Executive Director

Dear Department Chair:

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, has a program to honor the best of our dedicated faculty members who serve as advisors to local chapters. The Chapter Advisors are our strongest link to our student members, and the level of leadership they provide within their chapters is the most important stimulus to student interest and involvement in the society. The National Office of PSA is grateful to all the advisors for their service and recognizes the amount of time and effort required just to keep a chapter viable. To show its appreciation for those who take on this important role, the Executive Committee of Pi Sigma Alpha created the Best Chapter Advisor Awards. Up to three Awards may be made each year, and each award 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 university or college.

The nomination for the award must come from the Advisor's dean or department chair. If your Chapter Advisor has demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication and service to Pi Sigma Alpha, please write to us. Your letter 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.

Nominations must be received by June 1, 1999. A selection committee consisting of National Office staff and Executive Committee members will meet during the summer, and the Best

post-WW II era. The PSA funds help us to defray the costs involved in the speaker forum, and I am sure we could not have so many good speakers without PSA's help. This forum is a good opportunity for busy cadets to hear about and discuss politics outside the classroom, and the faculty think it is a crucial part of their training as officers and informed citizens. So, we are grateful to PSA for the help.

Paul Carrese,
Faculty Advisor

Chapter Advisor will be announced September 1, 1999.

If you have any questions about the award or about Pi Sigma Alpha in general, please do not hesitate to call the National Office. Thank you very much for helping us carry out this program.

James I. Lengle
Executive Director

Northeastern University's Delta Gamma Chapter Hosts U.S. Attorney, Lecture Series

Sixty students, faculty, family members, and alumni heard a keynote address by Donald K. Stern, U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, at the annual Pi Sigma Alpha dinner and awards ceremony, held on June 4, 1998, on the Northeastern Campus. At the dinner twenty-four students were inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha. Jill Leavens, now employed by a political consulting and public relations firm located in Boston, was named political science major of the year. The Pi Sigma Alpha/Robert L. Cord Award for best undergraduate paper in law and public policy went to Saubiya Khan, now at the London School of Economics, for "Towards a British Bill of Rights."

Events in the current academic year included a lecture series including, "The Legacy of the Warren Court," delivered by Prof. Morton J. Horwitz, Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History at Harvard Law School, and the annual Presidents' Day Address, delivered this year by William Crotty, the Thomas P. O'Neill Professor of Public Life at Northeastern. Prof. Crotty's topic was "History and the Bill Clinton Presidency."

Christopher J. Bosso
Faculty Advisor

University of Pittsburgh Chapter Works to Make Itself "a Force" in PSA

The University of Pittsburgh chapter of PSA continues its revival from moribund to extremely active status as an organization this year. We have held several symposiums, community service outreach programs, fundraisers, and hold two organizational meetings a week. We have a core group of twenty students who have excelled in political science and are mobilized to undertake planning and implementation for the organization at any time. Prof. Robert Donaldson is our faculty sponsor, and our mentor is Prof. William Keefe [national president of Pi Sigma Alpha], on faculty at Pitt.

We plan to become a regional and national leader -- a force -- in PSA, with plans underway to host modest regional PSA conferences this year or next fall, in preparation for a national conference next spring hosted by our chapter at Pitt. We keep our standards high, and hope to swing into next year with a great deal of momentum. We have a new website that can be accessed from the PSA National Office Page.

Daniel A. Weiss
Chapter President

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