NEWSLETTER
Pi Gamma Mu
International Honor Society in Social Sciences

The mission of Pi Gamma Mu is to encourage and promote excellence in the social sciences and to uphold the ideals of scholarship and service.

Number 163 July 2009

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome our new PGM members. Many students join PGM in the spring, so this might be the first newsletter they receive. Anytime you move, such as after graduation, please notify the Pi Gamma Mu office immediately. We would appreciate it if you would e-mail the information to us at pgm@sckans.edu, or use the website (www.pigammamu.org). You can also mail a change of address card, post card, or letter with your name, old and new address to: Pi Gamma Mu, 1001 Millington, Suite B, Winfield, KS 67156.

NEWS FLASH: WE’RE GOING ELECTRONIC

Many Pi Gamma Mu chapter sponsors have been vocal advocates of the Pi Gamma Mu Newsletter, testifying that it provides useful information to them and that it attracts positive attention from our student members. The writing and editing of the international newsletter are valuable services provided to the honor society by our executive director at the international office in Winfield, Kansas. The Board of Trustees is always gratified to read comments about how our sponsors and other members enjoy reading the newsletter.

As was customary for newspapers and newsletters, the Pi Gamma Mu Newsletter has been published on paper, with headlines and columns, in much the style of the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune. In recent years, the new technology of Adobe Acrobat has offered the possibility of freeing our newsletter from its reliance on paper, ink, and postal delivery so that it would be electronic and deliverable over the Internet. The style, however, would not change: There would still be headlines and columns, as have typified newspapers and newsletters since Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1450. In surveys of chapter sponsors about whether they preferred a hardcopy newsletter or a softcopy newsletter, the sponsors proved to be, as a group, ambivalent some opposing abandonment of the paper version, some welcoming the Adobe-pdf alternative, and some pondering which would be more easily delivered to their chapters’ members.

The international office and the board now propose a more extensive change one that will not only end the use of paper, ink, and postal delivery but that will also bring about a redesign of the newsletter so that it looks more like the nytimes.com web page than the Times of the last half of the 19th century and of the 20th century. This redesign will make the newsletter available to many more people than we have been able to reach when paper copies have had to be distributed, the availability can be accomplished with both e mail and Pi Gamma Mu’s Web site, and the new design will be a design that our undergraduate students’ generation has come to find user-friendly and appealing.

We are mailing out a hard copy of this newsletter to subscribers, and also sending it to email addresses we have been collecting. As of September, the PGM Newsletter will be distributed via email only. Graduating seniors should check their email address since most colleges delete all students’ email addresses within a short time after graduation (from two weeks to six months). If you have received this newsletter by email, and are using a college email address, please follow the instructions at the bottom of the front page to update your email address as needed.

IDEALS OF PI GAMMA MU

There are seven ideals of Pi Gamma Mu. Do you know them?
1. Scholarship – it is basic to all the rest. With knowledge, we can build society and better understand humanity and what has been thought and said and tried in all generations.
2. Science – we need and admire the spirit of science – the firm belief that the problems that confront humanity can be solved if we will search out the facts and think clearly on the basis of those facts.
3. Social Science – we shall never understand or solve the problems of human association until we examine the souls of people, the passions, prejudices, hopes and fears.
4 Social Idealism – we believe in a human society fit for human life that humans themselves can build. “Where there is no vision the people perish.” We will not give up our vision.
5. Sociability – specialization makes us narrow. Our social problems are complex. They will never be solved without the cooperation of all the social sciences and of those who study them.
6. Social Service – the primary purpose of science is to know and to enable us to do. What we know, we want to put to work for the benefit of humanity.
7. Sacrifice – we are engaged in the greatest and finest of all the arts, the building of human society. Without giving freely, fully, and sacrificially of means, time, talent, energy and passion, all our other ideals will fall short and the contributions we hope to bring will never come.
NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT
A 30-Year Goal is About to Become Reality!

For many decades Pi Gamma Mu international honor society discussed the need to have a way in which to contact our lifetime members. Preliminary discussions with Harris Connect began this past spring about preparing a directory of all Pi Gamma Mu members. Our Board of Trustees had a number of questions about how the directory would be organized and whether members could be looked up by university as well as state. A committee composed of board members Larry Heck and Amy Orr and executive director Sue Watters was asked to make a recommendation. Its consensus was that the essence of organizations is the ability to communicate with members, and that we needed to have a directory. The committee also noted that members of Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor society for the liberal arts, working with Harris Connect, have such a directory. Our student trustees pointed out the importance of networking, and strongly supported the effort of making a Pi Gamma Mu directory available to lifetime members. We found that nearly all major universities and colleges work with Harris Connect. After establishing the overwhelming support of the board, we signed a contract with Harris Connect for a directory that may be purchased by all members, but not by non-members.

Please alert members of your chapter that the directory should be available in May 2010. It is important that each member respond when Harris Connect calls for an update on information that the member wants to appear in the directory. Harris Connect will also establish whether there are enough members who want to purchase a directory to support its publication. We think that this directory, in addition to facilitating student and alumni networking, will enable our leadership to become aware of the career paths that our members have selected. The directory will help local chapters to locate and contact alumni whom chapter officers might want to invite to speak at their chapter meetings and special events.

The most important breakthrough is that, finally, we will be able to send our newly designed electronic newsletter to lifetime members for the first time. We will all be connected with the latest news about the Pi Gamma Mu international honor society. Our current trustees are to be commended for wanting to amplify Pi Gamma Mu’s ability to communicate with all of our members. You can do your part by helping Harris Connect to ensure that your information is updated and by ordering a directory that will help you locate and reconnect with other members. We hope that our chapters will share the board’s enthusiasm for this project!

Gordon Mercer
Pi Gamma Mu International President

HALL OF FAME AWARDS

During each Triennial PGM Convention, a group of people is selected for our Hall of Fame Award. Those chosen during this convention were:

Honoree Extraordinaire: Dr. Orville D. Menard served with distinction as President of Pi Gamma Mu from 1990-96. Dr. Menard was a professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He reactivated the chapter of Pi Gamma Mu at UNO in 1978 and continued as chapter sponsor until his retirement from the university in 1998. His chapter each year received either Role of Merit or Role of Distinction. He took very seriously his constitutional role of making sure that the board policies were implemented. His influence on Pi Gamma Mu was significant and profound.

Mr. Dan Quigley was the PGM attorney for more than 20 years. He served with selfless dedication to PGM. As parliamentarian, he carried a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order and scrupulously applied it in every meeting. His wit was often demonstrated as he lightened them to our benefit. Caution was his position on amendments to the PGM Constitution, wanting to ensure that the document was altered only with great care, sustaining its purpose as our fundamental governing guide. Mr. Quigley was a keep judge of character, able to discern other’s motives and recognize individuals whose concerns were fixed on PGM’s best interest, not their own.

Honoree Superior: Dr. Stephen L. Fisher, although never a chapter advisor, was always active in the Virginia Delta chapter at Emory & Henry College. He would find and recruit student and faculty members, helping the chapter choose projects, raise money for any trips they attempted, and generally doing the “community organizing” that is involved in PGM. He was certainly the drive wheel for all things the chapter did for at least thirty years. Each year the chapter gives out the Steve Fisher Award, a medal with his image on it, to reward the PGM member who was most active in community service and community organizing activities.

Dr. Patricia Mulvey, was the founding sponsor of the West Virginia Theta chapter at Bluefield State College in 1994 and continued to guide the chapter until her death in 2007. This chapter consistently earned honors by being named to either the Roll of Merit or Roll of Distinction and was much involved in activities that served the local community. She and her students consistently attended PGM regional meetings and conventions, frequently presenting papers at both. Dr. Mulvey was an active Latin American historian, specializing in Brazil. She later became fascinated with the life of Elizabeth Kee, the first woman elected to Congress from West Virginia, and published a book about Ms. Kee’s life. In addition to publications about Ms. Kee, Dr. Mulvey also acted to have the federal building in Bluefield designated in Kee’s name.
CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

The following Pi Gamma Mu sponsors have reached an important milestone. We want to recognize your years of excellent service, and we congratulate you:

CHAPTER SPONSORSHIP
5 Years – Thomas Walton, Warner Southern University, FL
   Jose’ da Cruz, Armstrong Atlantic State University, GA
   Dani Thomas, Wartburg College, IA
   John Green, Delta State University, MS
   Lloyd Johnson, Campbell University, NC
   Clement Gilpin, Pennsylvania State University @ Harrisburg, PA
   Barbara Johnson, University of South Carolina
10 Years – Jean Stern, Siena College, NY
   Corrine Nicholson, St. Andrews Presbyterian College, NC
   Kwame Boateng, West Virginia Wesleyan College
   James Voelker, Bluefield State College, WV
   Cheryl Banachowski-Fuller, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
15 Years – Barry Friedman, North Georgia College & State University
   Virginia Shingleton, Valparaiso University, IN
   William Farrell, St. Anselm College, NH
   David Prok, Baldwin-Wallace College, OH
   Gary Kappel, Bethany College, WV
20 Years – James Armishaw, Delta State University, MS
25 Years – James Crissman, Benedictine University, IL
   Jance Monti, Dominican University, IL
   Clara Small, Salisbury University, MD
   Gordon Mercer, Western Carolina University, NC
40 Years – Mary Bush, Nazareth College, NY

ATLANTA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION PHOTOS

We had a wonderful time at the convention last October (see photos) and are already planning for the next convention in October, 2011 in Washington, D.C. We would love to have you join us in our nation’s capital to have fun, tour D.C., get to know other social science professors and students, gain knowledge, and catch our enthusiasm for Pi Gamma Mu. More details will be in future newsletters.
MEET YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Hello!

My name is Mark Bender and I am one of two newly inducted student trustees for Pi Gamma Mu. I grew up in the Pittsburgh, PA area and am currently a senior at Washington and Jefferson College. I am on track to graduate with B.A.s in Economics and History at the end of the Spring 2009 semester. As for the next step of my life, I am interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in Economics.

Within the field itself, I plan to specialize in Experimental Economics and/or Industrial Organization, both of which are topics that fascinate me.

On campus, I am involved in many various activities. I am a member of several other honor societies: Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Epsilon, Phi Alpha Theta, Kappa Delta Epsilon, Powder Puff, Alpha Lambda Delta, Lambda Sigma Sigma, and Order of Omega. I am an active brother of the fraternity Alpha Tau Omega in which I dedicate a lot of my free time. I participate in many campus clubs and activities including Model European Union, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Outdoors Club, Economics Club, and mentoring programs. I especially enjoy my work with our college radio station, WNJR, in which I am both a music director and show host.

Anyone who knows me will admit that I am a huge music buff.

During my tenure as a student representative, I hope to supplement creativity, vigor, youthfulness, and excitement on the board. My friends often compliment me by saying I have a unique ability to think of ideas that nobody else can fathom, and I hope to use that ability to aid Pi Gamma Mu’s development. I am also a representative for all student members of Pi Gamma Mu, so if you ever have any comments or concerns, feel free to contact me. Finally, I recommend any student who uses Facebook to join Pi Gamma Mu’s group page; Facebook can be used for other means besides creeping!

Peace!

Mark Bender

MEMBERSHIPS

Please remember that memberships are open for each year through August 31. Some chapters send out membership invitations at the beginning of the fall semester. Most chapters hold their initiations in the spring. Western Carolina University sends out invitations during the spring semester but hold their initiations in July. A chapter can send members to headquarters any time during the year, but to be counted during the 2008-09 school year those members need to arrive before August 31.

Our goal this year is for all chapters to send in members. Pi Gamma Mu has had many reactivations this year, and we anticipate substantial growth next year also.

PGM ITEMS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

Headquarters is selling the royal blue PGM sweatshirts in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL for $35.00. We have navy blue polo shirts, embroidered with the PGM key in white, which are always a popular item. We have them in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL for $35.00. You can order your honor cords any time during the year. They can be worn at graduation, draped around your PGM membership certificate on the wall, be creative – but be sure to order yours.

There is an order form on the merchandise page of our website, pigammamu.org. You can also call headquarters and purchase these items with a credit card and they will be mailed to you immediately.