WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome our new PGM members. We are doing a special summer issue (normally this would be our March issue) of the PGM Newsletter for all of you who became members this spring. Normally we publish a newsletter in January, February and March then don't resume publications until September. For those of you who joined during the spring membership drive, you would not receive anything from us until September. We did not want to wait until then to welcome you into our PGM family.

The Board of Trustees is looking into the possibility of emailing the PGM Newsletters to students instead of using the postal service. You would receive your publication sooner, and we would save on postage costs. We will be sending some of you this newsletter by email as a test. Please let headquarters know what you think — would you rather get your PGM Newsletters through the mail, or as an email? The Board members will discuss this issue during our October meeting, and we would love to hear your opinion. You can email your preference to headquarters (pgm@sckans.edu).

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our New Pi Gamma Mu Flag: A Call to Action

According to our history and documents in our headquarters, our first Pi Gamma Mu flag was designed by Dean Leroy Allen in 1928. The flag had squares for each chapter, each of which was about two inches by two inches. The flag was quite significant in our history, since it was an important symbol of identity at conventions and it gained us a great deal of notoriety when our flag was taken to Antarctica by Admiral Richard Byrd. According to our historian, Dr. Scott Johnston, the flag was dropped from his plane over Antarctica, where it may still remain. In 1950, our last known headquarters flag was burned in a late-evening fire at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, after it was used in an initiation ceremony. Without Dean Allen who died in 1947 and whom former Executive Director Ina Gray describes as a source of “determined energy” no effort was made to replace the flag.

To some, our flag was significant and remained a symbol of bold adventure into the world of academics because, inspiringly, Admiral Byrd had taken the flag to Antarctica. This spirit of bold adventure related to our flag inspired each new generation of students. On their membership invitation letters, many Pi Gamma Mu chapters mentioned the flag and asked initiates to remember our flag and think of the early spirit of our founders as our flag moved across space and time. We sometimes reminded new initiates that their success would depend on the kind of strenuous energy and bold vision of the future that our founders, especially Dean Leroy Allen, represented, but we sometimes wondered whether we would ever have a flag again.

One day, I shared the dream of reviving our flag with Chad Phillips, president of the North Carolina Lambda Chapter at Western Carolina University. Chad and other students contacted Heather Zavanelli at Zavanelli Designs. Heathah made some alternative flag designs for our board and staff to consider and modify. As you can see, our students, board, and staff suggested a man-and-woman design where they both hold the torch within a symbolic key and wreath. This design was selected after extensive involvement of students and the Pi Gamma Mu Board of Trustees and staff. Executive Director Sue Watters ordered three flags for conventions and future use from the Knipps Flag Company in Wichita, Kans. Finally our flag is flying again as we proudly display our flag of a new generation inspired by a timeless vision.

Flags often express our identity. The women and men who have led and are leading our country — and our honor society — are symbolized in our new flag. Our primary mission is to honor outstanding academic achievement and to support the progression of knowledge symbolized in the torch. Some say a flag symbolizes a mission larger than ourselves. Others consider a flag as symbolic of our history. There are others who think of flags as a call to action. Possibly President Woodrow Wilson was right when he surmised that we must attribute our own meaning to flags. I hope that some will see our flag as a call to action toward the noble purposes of our founders and Pi Gamma Mu ideals, as we move toward our major ideals of scholarship, social idealism, and academic excellence that we hope will contribute to solving humanity’s problems. As our society progresses and we honor recent graduating members, I am encouraged that our flag represents the dreams and vision of a new generation stepping forward to lead. We salute the academic accomplishments of our 2007 graduates.

Gordon Mercer
PGM President
IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITY HOLDS INITIATION RITES

The Pennsylvania Delta Chapter at the University of Pennsylvania, the third oldest of the Ivy League universities, held its annual initiation ceremony with pomp and pageantry on April 29, 2007. Over 200 outstanding juniors and seniors were initiated in a solemn candlelight ceremony at the Hall of Flags of Houston Hall from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The program included a procession, the presentation of Pi Gamma Mu’s mission, history, symbols, seven ideals and activities, a convocation address, the lighting of the seven candles, and two musical selections. Initiates were individually recognized and went up the stage to receive their membership credentials. A formal reception at the Bishop White Room of Houston Hall was hosted by the chapter executive council at 7:00 p.m. Built in the Collegiate Gothic style of the 1880s, Houston Hall was America’s first student union building and site of past Pi Gamma Mu chapter initiation rites.

Pictured below are the members of the chapter executive council led by Dr. Henry Teune, chapter president and professor of political science, together with the guest of honor and convocation speaker, former US Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr. just before the processional began. In his memorable address to the Pi Gamma Mu Batch of 2007, Secretary Coleman acknowledged the gains made over the last 50 years toward addressing past injustices and inequities in this country. But he also challenged the new members to remain conscious of their civic responsibility and its relevance in a society where contemporary problems of inequality require candor, sincerity and good faith. Secretary Coleman was inducted into this chapter in April 1941 before he graduated summa cum laude from its Wharton School. He finished magna cum laude and first in his Harvard Law School Class of 1946. He wrote the winning brief in two historic cases decided by the US Supreme Court: Brown v. Board of Education (1954), which outlawed racial segregation in public education and paved the way for the Civil Rights Movement, and Bob Jones University v. US (1983) which held that the tax-exempt status of organizations that are contrary to established public policy could be revoked. Secretary Coleman, who served seven US presidents and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, is presently senior partner in a prominent international law firm and senior adviser to the US Secretary of Defense.

Chartered in April 1927, the Pennsylvania Delta Chapter counts many prominent alumni in its roster. Chapter leadership is vested in a 16-member executive council consisting of faculty from each social science department and representatives from undergraduate and graduate students and alumni. Other chapter officers include Dr. Jacqueline Mancall, vice-president for programs, Anthony Orlando, vice-president for student affairs, Allina Boutilier, treasurer, and Dr. Roger Mendoza, secretary. Founded in 1740 by Benjamin Franklin, the University of Pennsylvania is the nation’s fourth oldest university.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 9/1/07

Chapter sponsors should have received their Annual Report form in the mail. It is very important that you fill it out and return it to headquarters. The Annual Report is on our website (www.pigammamu.org) so if you would prefer to send your report electronically, you have the opportunity.

If you would like to see your chapter’s activities mentioned in the Newsletter, you must send in your Annual Report and tell us what your chapter has been doing this year. Even better, send us pictures to put in the Newsletter to accompany the activities you sponsored (they can be sent in an email to headquarters). You need to brag about your students and what they are doing. The deadline is September 1 to have the report back at headquarters.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Anytime you move, such as after graduation, please notify the Pi Gamma Mu office immediately. This will prevent your mailings from being interrupted or discontinued. The PGM Newsletter now costs us $.75 for each piece of mail that is returned by the postal service. We would appreciate it if you would 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. You can also e-mail the information to us at pgm@seckans.edu, or use the website (www.pigammamu.org).
CHAPTERS IN ACTION

One of the ideals of PGM is Social Service, and, as the ritual for initiation states, “The pursuit of our ideals requires giving freely, fully, and joyously of our time, talent, and energy. The fruit of our scholarship, science, and idealism is reaped through service to others for the benefit of all humanity, and this, in turn, requires the cooperation, dedication, passion and participation of all people and of all the social sciences.”

The members of Pi Gamma Mu are very generous with their time and talents. Look at some of the projects undertaken this past year - you might see one your chapter could participate in.

The West Virginia Zeta chapter at Glenville State College took time to clean up trash around their campus. Chapter sponsor, Dr. Arthur DeMatteo, and a group of students spent time and energy to help the appearance of their campus.

The Kansas Alpha chapter at Southwestern College sponsored the Political Science day for their “Lunches with Leaders” event.

At University of Nebraska at Omaha, the Nebraska Epsilon chapter hosted a presentation by a visiting scholar from the Ukraine. Tat'yana Chernetskaya gave a presentation to the PGM members, students and faculty on the Orange Revolution. They co-sponsored a trip to the Truman Library in Independence, MO. The trip included the presidential decision-making simulation in which students work with the information actually available to the president in making a significant decision in history.

“Internship 101” featured representatives from the City of Omaha, the district U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate offices, and state political campaigns talking to students about available internship opportunities.

The Kansas Iota chapter at Emporia State University had a movie/pizza party during their fall semester.

The Nebraska Delta chapter at Wayne State College was extremely busy this past year. They sponsored a speaker during the fall, Anthropologist Dr. Susan Ellis who spoke on “Czech it out: 2005 Nebraska Semester Abroad Experience in the Czech Republic.” They sponsored a Student Senate Debate for President and Vice-President of the Student Senate. They sponsored two Graduate School Workshops to provide information for students interested in going into a graduate program. During the spring they sponsored two speakers, Dr. Chuck Parker who spoke on “Economics and Law: It All Started with Ronald Coase,” (who won a Nobel Prize in Economics) and Bob Phaiah, VA Social Worker, on “Returning From Combat: The Challenges of Adjusting to Civilian Life.”

Several PGM students used illustrated poster boards to display the results of their class research at the on-campus “Natural and Social Sciences Research Day Celebration.” Several PGM students gave research presentations at South Dakota State University at the annual South Dakota State Undergraduate Geography Conference. One of the most popular events with this chapter is their “Faculty vs. Students Bowling Challenge” which is hosted twice a year. Approximately 50 students and faculty are in attendance at each event. PGM organized and hosted the year-end Social Science Banquet held at the local country club. PGM members coordinated “bloopers” awards to faculty during a very successful evening.


At Salisbury University, the Maryland Gamma chapter set up a table at Oktoberfest. The table was decorated with PGM information to advertise PGM’s presence on campus. The chapter also hosted a lecture by Councilman Ed Taylor who spoke on the Korean War. Mr. Taylor had written a book, “Just God and Me: A Korean War Veteran Remembers.” During his time in Korea, Mr. Taylor received two bronze stars for outstanding combat action. The event was co-sponsored by the History Department, and a reception was sponsored by the Office of the President.

The Appalachian State University PGM chapter, North Carolina Epsilon, inducted their oldest member to date. Mrs. Anita Weaver Yates of West Jefferson, NC graduated with a degree in Sociology at the age of 76. She began her undergraduate education in 1948 at the college, but left school to marry "the love of her life" and raise a family. Both of her children have college degrees and she eventually went back to school with the family’s encouragement.

The North Carolina Delta chapter at North Carolina Central University sponsored the University Black History Month program. Each year the chapter applies for a PGM lectureship to sponsor a lecture on campus. The lecture this year was entitled, “Blacks, Indians, Spaniards in the Eastern Andes.”

The North Carolina Mu chapter at Campbell University co-sponsored, along with Phi Kappa Phi, a lecture on “Hard Times in the Mill: Working Lives Past and Present” with the help of our lectureship grants.

At California University of Pennsylvania, the PA Lambda chapter had a guest speaker, Dr. Norman P. Conti of Duquesne University. His topic was, “A Visigoth System – Adopting an Interaction Order in Police Training.”

The South Carolina Theta chapter at University of South Carolina, Aiken had Dr. John Shelton Reed as guest speaker during their initiation ceremony. Dr. Reed helped found the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill’s Center for the Study of the American South. He presented an informative and entertaining talk about, “What’s Southern about the South.”

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, they 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 for $15.00.

Send your order to headquarters – Pi Gamma Mu, 1001 Millington, Suite B, Winfield, KS 67156.
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HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY

Pennsylvania governor for PGM, Dr. Wayne Burton, presided over the chartering and initiation ceremony at Holy Family University’s new chapter, Pennsylvania Alpha Nu. It was a very nice ceremony with many extra touches like honor cords and a blue-tipped white rose given to each new initiate. Visiting scholar, Dr. Andrzej Podraza, was given an honorary membership in PGM during the ceremony. Dr. Podraza is an associate professor of Political Science at Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. Dr. Podraza lectured at Holy Family University on the European Union, and was the keynote speaker, along with Dr. Burton, at the initiation ceremony. He and his wife, Anna, who is the Chief Prosecutor for the City of Lublin, Poland, had a very good visit while in the United States. Dr. and Mrs. Medvec took them on several tours, including a trip to Washington D.C.

Polish exchange students, Martyna Rybak, Agnieszka Salamon and Anna Osinska pose with Dr. Medvec and Anna Podraza. The students enjoyed visiting with Dr. Medvec and Dr. and Mrs. Podraza in their native tongue.

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 sent out invitations during the spring semester but will hold their initiation in mid-July. A chapter can send members to headquarters any time during the year, but to be counted during the 2006-07 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 around 20 reactivations this year, and anticipates substantial growth next year also.

FIRST IDEAL

At the International Banquet at Radford University recently Dr. Charles McClellan was named RU’s International Educator of the Year, and presented with a very nice plaque. This was the first time the award was given. Dr. McClellan felt very honored and also surprised since he did not know that he had been nominated. Dr. McClellan is retiring from Radford, as well as his position as chapter sponsor of the Virginia Epsilon chapter of PGM, after a very impressive career there. Dr. McClellan is Second Vice-President of the PGM Board of Trustees.