

# Members-at-Large NEWSLETTER

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National Honor Society for Women in  
Chemistry February 2006

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## 2005 Triennial Convention

The Lanthanum chapter of IΣΠ hosted the triennial convention June 6/9-6/12, 2005, in Lynchburg, VA at the beautiful facilities of Sweet Briar College.

## MAL Committee Highlights

Kristine Carlson, MAL, presented the committee report. The Outstanding Chapter Award was given to the Aurum chapter, and a commendation given to the Lanthanum chapter. The committee also wished to commend Kathryn Thomasson for the production of the MAL newsletter. No recommendations or motions were presented.

## Call for Nominations for the MAL Educational Re-Entry Award

A flyer is enclosed describing the Members-at-Large Educational Reentry Award. The award is \$1,500 of unrestricted cash and a plaque. If you have a qualified student, nominate them. IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE, TALK TO HER AND CONSIDER NOMINATING HER. IF YOUR COLLEAGUES KNOW SOMEONE, PLEASE HAVE THEM MAKE A NOMINATION. Nominators do not need to be Iotans. The students do not need to be Iotans either. If the student is not an Iotan and wins and meets membership qualifications, she will receive a year's complementary membership in Iota Sigma Pi.

## Serve on the MAL Award Committee

If you do not know anyone to nominate for a particular award, you can still participate!!! Volunteer to serve on the MAL Award Committee. Just let me know (see return address or email me at drjba2000@yahoo.com).

## MAL Listserv

Any user can subscribe or unsubscribe by sending a blank message to:

**ispmal-subscribe@whitman.edu** or  
**ispmal-unsubscribe@whitman.edu**

Make sure you send from the email address to which you wish to receive mail. You will receive a confirmation request to make sure you control the subscription address. Once this address is verified, the user is either subscribed or unsubscribed, depending upon the message sent to the list.

To send messages to the list, address them to **ispmal@whitman.edu**. It is a private list, meaning that only those of us subscribed can read the messages. If there are questions about the listserv, please contact Ruth Russo at **russorn@whitman.edu**.

## Websites

For the national IΣΠ

**<http://www.iotasigmapi.info/>**

For MALs

**<http://web.centre.edu/muzyka/ispmal>**

## Member Get-a-Member Campaign

As MALs, we have a policy in place for nominating new members. If you get two new members to join within a year, you are eligible for free IΣΠ merchandise from the supplies coordinator. National council lets you use the honor system, so when you've found two people tell the supplies

coordinator, and she will send you something. The new supplies coordinator is

### **Reiko M. Simmons**

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Look around you. Are there colleagues, subordinates, friends or students who qualify? Qualifications for membership can be found on our website mentioned above. Remember, *students don't need to be majoring in chemistry, but must have taken the minimum of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications). Professionals also just need to meet the minimum number of Chemistry credits; they don't need to be working as Chemists.* You can contact me for application forms. I look forward to seeing your nominations for new members. Institutions and chemists in the area must be included.

#### **In the News...**

##### **AWIS Newswire: Women on the Rise**

The famous remarks of Harvard University President Lawrence Summers speculated that female scientists may have difficulty winning tenure because of differences in "intrinsic aptitude," - and the furor generated by these remarks has actually had a positive effect on the debate about discrimination against women in academic science. In the aftermath of his remarks, a number of universities, including Harvard, have taken steps to improve the climate for female scientists and other women on their campuses. For more on this, visit <http://www.the-scientist.com/2005/11/07/s14/1>.

##### **AWIS Newswire: A Decade of Progress for Women in Science...**

Nancy Hopkins, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, writes her view of where academic women are, where they've been, and where they're going. She hopes for "perhaps a gender-blind workplace in another decade (or two)." To read the viewpoint of this pioneer woman scientist, visit <http://www.the-scientist.com/2005/11/07/s17/1>.

##### **Sweeping Online Changes by the Journal Science Will Make Career Support and News Freely Available**

Based on a merger of ScienceCareers.org and Science's Next Wave, the journal *Science* announced a new website that is believed to be the single most comprehensive, freely accessible source of online science-career support currently available for scientists, teachers, students, career counselors and the public. The newly tooled site at [www.sciencecareers.org](http://www.sciencecareers.org) offers job listings, a grants directory and other resources for the many facets of a young scientist's career, all in one place. Free to everyone and easy to navigate, the site also provides career advice, a CV database, meetings and events calendars, information about funding opportunities, advice on cover letters, interviews, career development, and more. Users will also find special topic portals, including the Minority Scientists Network and the Postdoc Network. The website's launch occurs along with a new design for the entire family of *Science* websites at [www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org).

#### **Chapter News**

**Pm February Meeting:** Angela Hoffman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Portland gave a presentation entitled "Adventures in China", about her recent trip to that country. Angela

went to China for a conference on conservation of yew trees. The conference was at a hotel - resort with a lot of buildings, including a gym, hospital and hot springs. Angela showed us pictures of the gigantic greenhouse where they were doing tissue cultures to develop better yew trees. Many of these small yew trees are sent to the father of Angela's host who had large fields of bigger yew trees. After the conference, Angela went with a group on a side trip to a street called Hutong which is outside of Beijing. The group was invited into the home of their tour guide's friend and Angela showed us pictures of this home. Angela showed us pictures of the Great Wall of China – that is, the section near where they were staying – she did not travel its whole length. Angela showed us pictures of a silk manufacturing plant where they were making silk comforters, a Jade carving factory and Ming Tomb. In Ming Tomb there was no sprinkler system so instead Angela showed us a picture of one of the huge jugs of water. These jugs of water are available so that you could dip out water and put out a fire if one started. Angela showed us pictures of Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, a cement boat, Yantai Brewery, and numerous granite sculptures. Angela told us about Qingdao, which was founded by German immigrants and where there is a lot of manufacturing and air pollution. Angela also took pictures of the construction at the site of the 2008 Olympics. A really fascinating presentation.

J.P. "Perky" Kilbourn

**La Chapter:** Just wanted to give you a quick "official" report on Brownie Science Try-It Day 2006, which was held at Sweet Briar College, Lynchburg, VA on Saturday, Jan 21st. Unlike the previous six years... this year's BSTID saw unusually warm weather! Which was a terrific blessing!

And, although this event has always had tri-college sponsorship through Iota Sigma Pi, this year's program was record breaking in the extent to which there was tri-college student participation. We have Anne Reeve (LC) and Ann Fab (RMWC) to thank for that !!

BSTID 2006 was Science Wizardry, Senses, My Body, Numbers and Shapes, and Math Fun. We had 97 registered Brownie girl scouts and 91 in attendance. There were 7 Girl Scout troops represented. (4 from Lynchburg, 1 from Fincastle, and 2 from Amherst Co.)

We had 29 adult leaders and chaperones in attendance, and we had 36 volunteers - a terrific mix of folks this year! They included:

- 8 student and faculty volunteers from Lynchburg College;

- 6 student and faculty volunteers from Randolph-Macon Womans College;

- 4 older Girl Scout volunteers who were responsible for activity tables;

- 8 student and faculty volunteers from Sweet Briar;

- 4 students and faculty from Sweet Briar "behind-the-scenes" crew; and 6 Junior Girl Scout volunteers who served as Aides for the day.

Special thanks go to the Prothro staff for accommodating all of these extra diners for the day and for allowing us to utilize the Josey dining room for the event! As usual -- they were terrific!!

Sweet Briar volunteers were: (in no particular order) Logan Fitzgerald, Erika Kennedy, Lauren Martin, Jessica Mercier, Ashley Figueiredo, Doreen McViegh, Kathy Wilson, Kim Wilson --- STUDENT CO-LEADER for the Day! THANKS!!!

Susan Piepho, Robin Davie, Pam Simpson  
Jill Granger

Lynchburg College volunteers were: Steve

Waters, Krista Kelly, Michaela Knapp, Jess Shell, Shana Sakolsky, and Sarah Zimmermann; Anne Reeve and Bill Lokar

Randolph Macon Womans College volunteers were: Chi Pham, Naomi Hollifield, Rachel Wolpert, Wendy Satterwhite, Heather Laughridge Ann Fab

Girl Scout volunteers were:

Beth Woerner, Aimee Rucker, Jodee Harris Catey Doss

Junior Aides were: Amanda Pettyjohn, Danielle Granger, Jesse Granger, Aliyah Cabell, Anna Cabell, Keanah Turner

That's a wrap.

Jill Granger, President La Chapter

### General News

**Sponsored by the National Science Foundation**, the Materials Research Science & Engineering Center at Northwestern University offer a paid research program for middle school, high school, and college science teachers - Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Program at Northwestern University(NU).

The Teachers program (RET) runs for 8 weeks from June 19 - August 11, 2006. During the summer, teachers focus on a research project and create a curriculum concept for their students based on their research. Each teacher receives a stipend of \$5,500 for full participation in the program. For an application and program information, please visit

[http://www.mrsec.northwestern.edu/mrsec/education/edu\\_ret.htm](http://www.mrsec.northwestern.edu/mrsec/education/edu_ret.htm).

RET Application Deadline = March 15, 2006. Typically, we process all of the applications two to three weeks after the deadline. We have rolling admissions;

therefore, outstanding applicants may be notified before the deadline. Online application for the program is available at

[http://www.mrsec.northwestern.edu/mrsec/education/edu\\_intro.htm](http://www.mrsec.northwestern.edu/mrsec/education/edu_intro.htm).

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### Member News

**Karen Goodwin, 2005 MAL Reentry Award Winner writes:** First of all, I would like to thank the members of Iota Sigma Pi for selecting me as one of the recipients of the MAL educational re-entry award for 2005. I am in my final year of undergraduate studies, and I will graduate with a B.S. in chemistry in the fall of this year. I still plan to go on to graduate work, to become a teacher at a community college. I have also started some new research with my advisor, Dr. Cynthia Kellen-Yuen, involving green chemistry. Currently, I am trying to optimize the synthesis of esters via microwave, especially esters that utilized low-boiling acids and alcohols. My main motivation behind this research is to take experiments that are frequently used in undergraduate chemistry labs and convert them to a more green synthetic method. This semester, my former organic chemistry teacher at the community college, Dr. Kristin Casale, has agreed to let me come into her classroom and give a talk on the advantages of green chemistry, and then have her students try the microwave esterification. I am really looking forward to the additional teaching experience, and am thankful for the strong women role

models that I have the privilege to call my mentors and my friends.

The money that the award provided was extremely appreciated, as was the honor of being selected. I used the funds to purchase a laptop computer, which has been so helpful in my studies – I don't know how I survived this long without one! I also used some of the money to fulfill a pact I made with my three children. When I decided to return to school after being a stay-at-home mom, I knew it would almost be a bigger adjustment for them than it would be for me. We made a deal that if they would do their best to "put up with Mom" when I had homework or other school commitments that might conflict with time I used to spend with them, I would take summer off to spend with them, rather than take summer classes or work full time. Because of the funds from Iota Sigma Pi, I was able to work 10-15 hours a week on a research grant, which does not pay as much as an outside job, but which was much more useful to my future career and not as time demanding. The kids and I were able to go on vacation for two weeks and had a great summer. I would not have been able to do this without the award money, and I am extremely grateful to know that there are other women that have been in my shoes and understand the trials and triumphs of being a mom and a chemist. Thank you Iota Sigma Pi! If there are any are any members-at-large in the Sacramento, CA area, I would like to correspond with you [ochemgoddess1@aol.com](mailto:ochemgoddess1@aol.com)

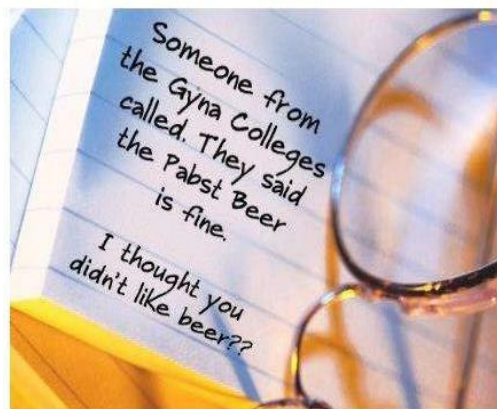
**Janet Clark, the National President writes:** Abigail Renee Clark arrived on Monday, December 5, 2005 around 4:00 PM weighing in at 6 lbs, 6 oz. and 20 in. long! We are all doing well! Dan, Janet, Betsy and Abby

**Joanne Bedlek-Anslow, the MAL Coordinator writes:** Thank you for all of the help I have received from National Council and chapter officers. 2005-2006 has brought to me the start of a new career, the expectance of our first baby, and the MAL Coordinator position. Life has been challenging, and I thank the wonderful ladies of Iota Sigma Pi for all of their help and advice as I get on my feet, especially our immediate past MAL Coordinator, Kathryn Thomasson.

### Daily Joke

I actually received this the other day from my former male manager – enjoy!

### Why men shouldn't take messages



### chemistry.org Joke-a-Ram

Q. If a bear in Yosemite, and one in Alaska fall into water, which one would dissolve faster?

A. The bear in Alaska because it's polar.

A neutron walks into a bar, sits down and asks for a drink. Finishing, the neutron asks "How much?"

The bartender says, "For you, no charge."

### **Newsletter Delivery!!!!**

Do you wish to receive the newsletter electronically rather than by the traditional paper route? If so, please send me an email at **drjba2000@yahoo.com** with **ISP electronic newsletter** in the heading. I will put together a list of people and send you the newsletter electronically (pdf format) the next printing. If you like to get the paper version, please do not worry. I will continue to print it out and send it in the mail. Please respond only if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically.

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