



# THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi

National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

February, 2005 No. 89

## Invitation to Convention from National President

*by Lily Ng, National President*

The **Iota Sigma Pi 28<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention** promises to be an exciting event as we meet to determine ways for our society to grow to meet today's challenges. The 28<sup>th</sup> Convention is the first Convention in the second century of our Society. We need your input and help in growing the Society.

We are all aware of some persistent issues faced by women chemists, and that networking and mentoring are some of the solutions. Our Society offers a network that is filled

with potential mentors with many years of experience in the different aspects of the scientific enterprise. We have members in all areas and levels of academia, industries and government agencies. The Triennial Convention is the place to be to meet these exceptional women and to network with them.

What more can Iota Sigma Pi do to encourage and promote interest in chemistry among women students? While the percentage of female students in chemistry is now increas-

ing, the overall number of students entering the academic area of chemistry has shown a decline. Is there more we can do to make chemistry exciting for the young students? Is there more we can do to mentor them along their chosen career paths?

What more can Iota Sigma Pi do to foster the professional advancement of women in chemistry and related fields? The "glass ceiling" is a very real thing in academia as well as in industrial organizations. What more can Iota Sigma Pi do to encourage and help women chemists to shatter the glass ceiling? What can Iota Sigma Pi do to help young women entering the profession and older women re-entering the profession after raising a family? How about to assist dual career couples navigate their professional paths?

What more can Iota Sigma Pi do to recognize the outstanding achievements of women chemists? We have steadily increased our number of awards, but can we increase their recognition?

### **Attention All Members-At-Large: MAL Coordinator Needed!**

National Council members are elected at the Triennial Conventions. This includes the MAL Coordinator! Kathryn Thomasson's term as MAL Coordinator ends at this convention. Please consider running for MAL Coordinator. The MAL Coordinator edits the MAL newsletter, communicates with women all over the world and works with the MAL treasurer and MAL Scholarship Committee to manage the Educational Re-entry Award. It's a great way to support IΣΠ without consuming an enormous amount of time. If you like being able to communicate with women on issues of common concern, this position is for you. Please contact Kathryn Thomasson, [kthomasson@chem.und.edu](mailto:kthomasson@chem.und.edu) if you are interested.

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# The party is in Sweet Briar, Virginia –

## Iota Sigma Pi's 28<sup>th</sup> National Convention

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by Susan Piepho (La)

We have reserved the entire Elston Inn & Conference Center (<http://www.sbc.edu/elstoninn/>) at Sweet Briar College exclusively for our event! Families are welcome! There are many exciting opportunities for site seeing and outdoor activities. Sweet Briar College is located in Sweet Briar, VA which is approximately 13 miles north of Lynchburg, 50 miles south of Charlottesville, and 165 miles southwest of Washington, DC on Route 29. Twenty-one of Sweet Briar's 30 campus buildings have been designated as the Sweet Briar College National Historic District. The College's historic gardens have recently been restored by the Garden Club of Virginia. The campus includes 3250 acres of rolling hills and meadows in the foothills of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Nearby sights include Thomas Jefferson's homes at Monticello and Poplar Forest, Appomattox (where the Civil War ended), the National D-Day Memorial, Natural Bridge, the University of Virginia, and the Sky Line Drive. History buffs will find numerous other sites to explore in Lynchburg and Lexington. For active people the campus offers a swimming pool, 2 lakes, numerous hiking and riding trails, and 14 tennis courts. Beautiful golf courses and hiking along the Appalachian Trail are very close to campus. The website <http://www.sbc.edu/about/> gives more information about the College and directions to the campus.

Have fun meeting your "sisters" from across the country, sharing experiences, and networking. Share your vision of Iota Sigma Pi for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and be a part of the leadership that plans the changes necessary to keep our society strong and vibrant.

We will offer a special amended version of the highly recommended ACS "LEADERSHIP in SCIENCE" workshop as an optional activity to all participants. *How you'll benefit from the course:*

- learn the importance of effective leadership in modern organizations
- understand the key differences in styles and communication
- identify and leverage differences in styles and communication
- assess and benchmark your own leadership skills, be able to identify leadership & followership skills in others, and form personal development plans to strengthen skills
- understand ways to enhance innovation and creativity
- learn the importance of both intelligence (IQ) and emotional intelligence (EQ) in dealing with people
- understand and practice effective teamwork.

This workshop is an abbreviated version of Dr. Judy Benham's workshop offered through the American Chemical Society for a much higher fee. It will be held Saturday afternoon 2-6 pm, during a scheduled free time. If you wish to attend, include this fee along with your registration. National council does not cover this cost for delegates. The course will make extensive use of *The Leadership Challenge*, 3rd Edition by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner (ISBN 0787968331) and *The Leadership Challenge Workbook* (ISBN 0787968218). Both books may be purchased from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for a total price of around \$25 with postage. It is strongly suggested that you buy these texts and read them prior to the workshop. Alternatively, books will be provided at the convention if you elect the \$35 option above.

*The instructor for this course will be Dr. Judy Benham*, current member of the ACS Board of Directors, with over twenty years of industrial management experience with 3M Company, St. Paul, MN. She has managed R&D and project teams, global R&D organizations, and business groups, and has additional leadership experience in non-profit organizations. Her most recent assignment at 3M was Business Director, Industrial Services and Solutions Division. She is currently a principal with Mueller Enterprises, a venture enterprise group.

**Deadline for registration is April 1, 2005.** Upon receipt of registration forms and fees, Susan Piepho ([piepho@sb.edu](mailto:piepho@sb.edu), 434-381-6198 (office), 434-381-5959 (home)) will send confirmation and other information to the registrants. Lodging is based on double occupancy; roommates will be assigned, or a specific roommate may be re-

# **All Iotans are invited! Please Attend!**

## **Thursday June 9 to Sunday June 12, 2005**

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quested on the registration form. Alternatively, Iotans can pay a Single Supplement to reserve a room for single or family occupancy.

The final program for the convention is published on page 4 of this issue of *The Iotan*. Convention **check-in begins at 2 pm on Thursday** for those who arrive early to participate in the technical poster session and reception hosted by the local **Lanthanum Chapter**. All chapters and National Council members are encouraged to submit posters on their activities over the past three years. Posters may be set up at 6:30 pm; the reception begins at 7 pm. Light refreshments will be served. **Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to Susan Piepho**, ([piepho@sbc.edu](mailto:piepho@sbc.edu); 434-381-6198 (office); 434-381-5959 (home)). Abstracts should be submitted **no later than May 1, 2005**.

Each active chapter may send one voting delegate, with the exception of **AuI, F, and Np** which may send two delegates due to the size of their chapters. Members-at-Large (**MAL**) will be represented by six delegates. Delegates are chosen from among those who have been active members of their chapters during the past three years or who will take on a leadership role in the upcoming year. If a member of your chapter is a nominee for National office (and is not currently a National officer), she should serve as the chapter's delegate. If you are interested in being a delegate (and your dues are current), contact your chapter officers or MAL Coordinator for further information. You may contact Pat Fish ([fishpatricia@yahoo.com](mailto:fishpatricia@yahoo.com)), National Records Chair, to verify your dues status and obtain names and contact information for your chapter officers.

The major expenses for the delegates will be paid from the National Convention Fund. Delegates are encouraged to obtain the lowest price non-refundable coach fares with a Saturday night stay; reimbursement will be made at the convention. **Prior permission from the National Treasurer Kathryn Louie will be required for airline ticket reimbursement over \$400**. Double occupancy lodging is provided in the Convention Package; single rooms are available for a supplemental fee. The Convention Package does not include meals on Thursday, dinner on Saturday night, phone calls, and miscellaneous expenses. Chapters often provide their delegates with additional money to augment the convention package. Cost to non-delegates will be \$265. See the Registration Form for details.

**Each chapter is required to submit a triennial chapter report** via e-mail (instead of an annual report) to Vice President Julie Teetsov ([teetsov@crd.ge.com](mailto:teetsov@crd.ge.com)) **by May 1, 2005**. Official guidelines will be sent by the National Vice President. The selection of the Triennial Award for the Outstanding Chapter (\$250) is based on this written report and its timely submission. The chapter delegate should be prepared to present a poster on Wednesday evening and give a brief (3 minute) oral summary of the chapter report at the convention on Friday morning.

Each delegate will also serve on one or two committees on Friday afternoon; indicate preferences on your registration form. If no preferences are indicated, assignments will be made. Non-delegates may also participate on these committees and should indicate their desire to do so. These committees accomplish a great deal of work during the convention; of greatest importance, they evaluate our current status and set goals and action items for the national organization for the next triennium.

Alternate delegates may also be sent to the convention. Their expenses are the responsibility of the members themselves or the chapter, if the chapter so elects. All members are welcome to attend all or part of the convention at their own expense. We encourage all Iotans to participate in all activities, but only delegates may vote.

In addition to governance sessions and elections, eight national award winners will be recognized at the convention. The Friday evening award banquet is traditionally a dressy affair. Casual business attire is appropriate for most other events during the convention. Time has been set aside for sight-seeing and social events.

# 28<sup>th</sup> National Triennial Convention Schedule

June 9, 2005 to June 12, 2005

## Wednesday 6/8/2005

Evening: National Council members arrive and check in

## Thursday 6/9/2005

8 am-5 pm Pre-convention National Council  
Beginning at 2 pm Registration for delegates, awardees, non-delegate members, and guests (hospitality suite)  
7:00 pm-10:00 pm Reception and poster session; light refreshments will be served

## Friday 6/10/2005

7:30 am-8 am Continental breakfast  
8 am-9:30 am Opening of convention and NC Reports  
9:30 am-10:30 am Chapter Reports  
10:30 am-10:45 am Break  
10:45 am-11:00 am Slate of new Officers  
11:00 am-1:00 pm Lunch (Agnes Fay Morgan awardees: panel)  
1:00 pm-3:00 pm 1st committee meeting  
3:00 pm-3:15 pm Break  
3:15 pm-5:15 pm 2nd committee meeting  
5:15 pm-6:30 pm Committee report preparation  
6:30 pm-8:30 pm Dinner (National Honorary Member as speaker)  
Memorial service  
8:30 pm-10:00pm Leadership workshop/fun activity

## Saturday 6/11/2005

7:30 am-8:00 am Continental breakfast  
8:00 am-10:30 am Committee reports  
10:30 am-10:45 am Break  
10:45 am-11:30 am Committee reports continued, new business  
11:30 am-12:30 am 2005-2008 national council election, photo session  
12:30 am-2:00 pm Lunch (Professional Excellence Awardee as speaker)  
2:00 pm- 8:30 pm Tours/Fun Activities/Free time to relax  
8:30 pm-10:00 pm Leadership workshop

## Sunday 6/12/2005

7:30 am-8:00 am Continental breakfast  
8 am-9:30 am Resolutions Committee, new business, installation of new National Council, closing remarks  
9:30 am- Delegates: free-time activities and depart at leisure  
9:30 am-11:30 am Joint National Council post convention meeting  
11:30 am National Council departs



**Iota Sigma Pi**  
National Honor Society  
for Women in Chemistry

## Attention Chapter Officers!

All chapter officers should have received a mailing from Janet Clark, National Secretary in December. This mailing contained several important items such as the 2004 revised Constitution and the revised Rules and Regulations. Please share these documents with your chapter members. Remember they can also be found and printed (pdf format) via the Iota Sigma Pi webpage, <http://www.iotasigmapi.info/Events.htm>. The membership application and initiation report forms were also included in this mailing. Remember to contact QuynhGiao Nguyen ([Quynhgiao.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov](mailto:Quynhgiao.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov)) in advance regarding initiation since she prepares the certificates and initiation packets. These forms can also be found on the website at <http://www.iotasigmapi.info/chapters.htm>. If you are a chapter officer and did not receive this mailing, please be sure your chapter officer information is current with the Records Chair and Vice President (see national council info inside Iotan) Please contact Janet Clark if you have any questions ([jlark@smwc.edu](mailto:jlark@smwc.edu)). Good luck with initiations and chapter operations this year!





## Sources of Iota Sigma Pi Supplies and Information

### Supplies

The publicity pamphlets: "Membership Information" and "National Awards". History, Constitution and Bylaws, Rituals of Iota Sigma Pi, Rules and Regulations, *The Iotan*, Speakers Bureau

Supplies Coordinator

QuynhGiao N. Nguyen

NASA John H. Glenn Research Center

Mail Stop 106-1

Environmental Durability Branch

21000 Brookpark Rd.

Cleveland, OH 44138

### Initiation

Membership Application

Report of Initiation Forms

National Secretary

### Forming a Chapter

Procedural information and application forms

National Vice President

Charter Certificates

National Historian

### Financial Reports

Financial Report Forms

National Treasurer

### Awards

Awards criteria and nominations forms

Director for Professional Awards

*Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award*

*National Honorary Member*

*Award for Professional Excellence*

Director for Student Awards

*National Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry*

*Anna Louise Hoffman Graduate Research Achievement Award*

*Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship*

### Dues

Dues statements and payments

National Treasurer

### Chapter Operations

Changes in the Chapter Officers list

Forms for reporting local elected officers

National Vice President

Address Labels and Membership List

Change of address and member death

Records Chair

Historical Information

National Historian

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See National Council listings elsewhere in *The Iotan* for officers' names and addresses.

# IOTA SIGMA PI NATIONAL COUNCIL 2002-2005

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### Director for Student Awards

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# 2005-2008 National Council Candidate Biographies:

## Janet Clark

Dr. Clark, a **MAL** member of ISP and Assistant Professor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, has been National Secretary since 1999. She received a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry in 1996 from Purdue University and worked as a research chemist at ExxonMobil Process Research Labs from 1996-2003. Currently in her second year at SMWC, she teaches chemistry, and physics and physical science. Dr. Clark joined the **Plutonium Chapter** of Iota Sigma Pi in 1992 and served as secretary, vice-president and president. While at ExxonMobil, she was a member of the **Chlorine Chapter** where she also served as secretary and two terms as president.

## Anne E. V. Gorden

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Dr. Gorden grew up in the north Dallas area in Texas. A National Merit Scholar (1992), and recipient of two General Electric Faculty for the Future Fellowships (1995, 1996), she graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1996 earning a B.S. in chemistry as well as completing a second major in literature. She then returned to Texas, attending graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, where her thesis work under the direction of Professor Jonathan L. Sessler concerned the design and synthesis of novel expanded

porphyrins and oligopyrroles for selective ion coordination. This was a collaborative project with Los Alamos and Argonne National Laboratories as a Seaborg Research Fellow (1999) and as a Seaborg Institute Research Fellow (2000-2002). In 1999 and 2000, she was awarded two Delta Gamma Foundation Graduate Fellowships for Women in Science. While at Texas, she was an active member in restarting the **Tellurium Chapter of ISP**. Completing her dissertation in 2002, she began a postdoctoral appointment at the University of California at Berkeley with Professor Kenneth N. Raymond investigating the structural and solution properties of siderophore-based actinide sequestering agents. Dr. Gorden is currently the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Seaborg Center Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

## Christine K. F. Hermann

Dr. Hermann, a professor of chemistry at Radford University, is in her twentieth year of teaching. In addition to teaching organic chemistry, Dr. Hermann has also taught general chemistry, qualitative organic chemistry, and advanced organic chemistry. She is a founder of the Virginia Operation Chemistry program, which is based on the national Operation Chemistry program, developed by the Educational Division of the ACS. This program

teaches hands-on chemistry activities to elementary school teachers using locally obtainable chemicals and equipment. Dr. Hermann, along with other colleagues and students, have presented thirteen local workshops near Radford University. Nineteen workshops have been presented, by her, at professional meetings. Students working with Dr. Hermann have given thirty-nine presentations, the majority of these having been at the Undergraduate High School and Poster Session, sponsored by the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Hermann has authored fifteen publications in professional journals. She coauthored the 7<sup>th</sup> edition (1998) of *The Systematic Identification of Organic Compounds*, published by John Wiley and Sons. Dr. Hermann also wrote the *Solutions Manual* for this textbook. She authored the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the same book (2004), along with the *Solutions Manual*. Dr. Hermann has created a question bank for "New Student Tutorials" for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Organic Chemistry* by Wade. She is currently working on an *ActiveBook* for this textbook. The *Activebook* is an online copy of the textbook, containing additional features such as student tutorials, movies, animations, and molecules. In her involvement as a member of the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society, Dr. Hermann has been chair-elect and chair. Dr. Hermann is currently the chair of the awards committee. She co-ordinates the James Lewis Howe award, to recognize outstanding undergraduate chemistry seniors, and the outstanding high school teacher award. The annual High School and Poster Session has been organized by Dr. Hermann for the past thirteen years. She is the past secretary and past president of the **Argentum Chapter** of Iota Sigma Pi. Dr. Hermann organized the national speaker's bureau and has reviewed candidates for the several national Iota Sigma Pi student awards. She is currently the National Director for Professional Awards for Iota Sigma Pi and has held this position for six years. Dr. Hermann's avocations include being a private pilot and owning an antique airplane. She also holds a technician class amateur radio license.

## Slate of Nominated National Council Officers for 2005-2008

New National Council officers will be elected at the Convention.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
President.....	Janet Clark
Vice-President.....	Kathryn Louie
Secretary.....	Anne Gorden
Treasurer.....	Maggie Workman
National Editor.....	Paula Fox
Records Chair.....	Nancy Hopkins
Director of Professional Awards.....	Sara Paisner
Director Student Awards.....	Chris Hermann, Kathryn Thomasson
Historian.....	Anne Sherren (continues, no election)
Immediate Past President.....	Lily Ng (no election)
MAL Coordinator.....	Candidate(s) still needed

# 2005-2008 National Council Candidate Biographies:

## **Kathryn Louie**

Dr. Louie received her B.S. degrees in both Math and Chemistry from the University of Houston and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston. She has recently moved to Tucson, AZ where she is currently applying for positions in the area. Her research interests include lipid biosynthesis, lipid metabolism in the retina, gene therapy of retinoblastoma, and effects of obesity on diabetes. Dr. Louie has been a yearly presenter for the *Expanding Your Horizons* workshop in math and science for middle school girls sponsored by the West Houston Chapter of the American Association of University Women. She has been involved with the Building a Pipeline to the Sciences, an annual project sponsored by Cole Chemical Company and Aldine Independent School District for 2000 elementary school children. Dr. Louie has been Chair of the Public Relations Committee of the ACS-Greater Houston Section since 1997, and Secretary since 2001. She has helped in coordinating the hands-on activities annually for National Chemistry Week. Dr. Louie is a past co-chair of the Asian American Women's Forum Conference and a volunteer at the Friends of Bellaire Parks. She has been a member and a volunteer for the Friends of Hermann Park since 1992, a member of the Board of Directors since 1997, and Vice President of Programs from 2000-2003. She was chair of the Programming committee and co-chair of the 5K Fun Run/Walk in Hermann Park. Dr. Louie was President of the **Neptunium Chapter** of Iota Sigma Pi from 1980-81 and 1993-2004 and the chapter delegate to the 1993, 1996 and 1999 Triennial Conventions. She is currently National Treasurer (1999-2002 and 2002-2005).

## **Sara N Paisner**

Dr. Paisner received her A.B. at Dartmouth College, and her Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley. At Berkeley, she did organometallic chemistry developing chiral molecules for catalysis with Professor Robert G. Bergman. She worked as a postdoctoral researcher for Professor Joseph DeSimone at the University of

North Carolina in Chapel Hill where she worked on developing new low K dielectric materials. Dr. Paisner currently works for the General Electric Company at the Global Research Center in Niskayuna, NY. She has published a variety of articles, along with a patent and book chapter. She currently works in the electronic materials industry, developing thermal interface materials for microelectronics. Dr. Paisner was the founding President of **Cadmium Chapter** of Iota Sigma Pi, co-founded with the local the Eastern NY Section Women Chemist's Committee, which recently organized a highly successful the Eastern NY Section National Chemistry Day (>100 volunteers, > 600 visitors). She has been a member of IΣΠ since 1997, and a member of the ACS since 1996.

## **Kathryn A. Thomasson**

Dr. Thomasson earned a B.A. in Chemistry with a Biology minor (1982) from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. She then went to Iowa State University in Ames where she earned her Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry in 1990. Dr. Thomasson worked for Biosym Technologies Inc (1990-1991) in San Diego, CA before becoming a *Dreyfus Postdoctoral Fellow Visiting Assistant Professor* in Chemistry at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, TN (1991 - 1993). She is currently a Professor of Chemistry at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Her research involves computational chemistry and biology including molecular modeling, Brownian dynamics (BD), and predicting circular dichroism (CD). She is currently using BD to predict interactions between cytoskeletal proteins like F-actin with glycolytic enzymes and examining substrate channeling in the glycolytic pathway. Dr. Thomasson also is developing a quantum mechanical/classical approach to electromagnetic theory to predict CD for peptides and proteins. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in chemistry, biochemistry, and biophysics, is chair the department's undergraduate program committee, and is helping establish a new Biochemistry emphasis for the UND undergraduate chemistry program. She has been very active in IΣΠ on both the

local and national level. Most recently, Dr. Thomasson served two terms as **MAL** Coordinator. She also serves as the Faculty Liaison Officer of IΣΠ for the North Dakota University System. Since joining IΣΠ in 1983, she has served on several of scholarship committees including, the MAL Scholarship committee (1992-7), Undergraduate Excellence Award committee (1996), Gladys Emerson-Anderson Scholarship committee (1995), Anna Louise Hoffman Award committee (1994). She has contributed articles to the MAL Newsletter and the Iotan, and is always active in recruiting and nominating members and serving as a local representative at the triennial meetings. Initiated into the **Aurum Chapter**, she served Aurum in several capacities including President (1985-6), Treasurer (1988-9), Membership Chair (1987-8), and Historian (1984-5).

## **Margaret Workman**

Dr. Workman received her BS degree with honors in Chemistry from the Ohio State University in December 1991. She was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa while at Ohio State. She then went to Purdue University and received an MS degree in Chemistry Education in 1994. Her Ph.D. work was in the area of Atmospheric Chemistry. She studied various oxides of chlorine and bromine and their possible role in ozone depletion cycles in the stratosphere. While at Purdue she was initiated into the **Plutonium Chapter** of Iota Sigma Pi. She is currently at DePaul University in the Environmental Science Program. Her work at DePaul focuses on biogeochemical cycling in the urban woodlands of Chicago. She is currently a member of the **Aurum Iodide Chapter** of Iota Sigma Pi. Dr. Workman served as Outreach Coordinator (planning outreach activities with children in the community) and President of the Plutonium Chapter while at Purdue. She is currently the Treasurer for the Aurum Iodide Chapter of Iota Sigma Pi (and has been for 3 years). She attended the 27<sup>th</sup> National Triennial Convention of Iota Sigma Pi (2002) and served on the Chapter Program Development Committee and the Publications, Communications, and Website Committee.



# IΣΠ Member News

**Agnes Riley (MAL)** shares her birth year with Iota Sigma Pi, and IΣΠ is 102 years old this year! Agnes writes that she wants to thank all of the members who have written to her wishing her well. Agnes lives in Lexington, KY and is a member and regular visitor to the University of Kentucky Faculty Club. Congratulations Agnes! We all wish you another 102 years of IΣΠ friendship.

The **Oxygen** chapter reports that **Margaret Pitts** passed away on April 18, 2004. Margaret was the treasurer of the Oxygen chapter for many years and attended the last Triennial Convention. The Puget Sound Section of ACS included the following in their "In Remembrance" section. "Margaret resided in Tacoma but was born and raised in Spokane, attending Lewis and Clark High School. She attended Washington State University and received a degree in Chemistry. She finished her rich career at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. For 50 years, she lived in the Seattle area and served as the assistant editor of the Puget Sound Chemist during this time and was active in the section activities regarding the hazardous properties of chemicals. She also served on the voluntary consensus standards technical committees of the American Society of Testing and Materials on hazardous properties of chemicals."

**Mamie W. Moy (Np)** received the 2004 **Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach** at the 6th Annual Chemluminary Awards on August 24, 2004, during the 228th American Chemical Society National Meeting in Philadelphia. Congratulations Mamie! What a double IΣΠ honor: to be recognized for such wonderful work and by an award named after another outstanding IΣΠ member!

**Ruth Rogan Benerito (CI)** was inducted into the Agricultural Research Service's Hall of Fame. The ARS is the chief scientific research agency of the U.S.

Department of Agriculture. Ruth Rogan Benerito is recognized as one of the foremost inventors of the 20th century.



Through her pivotal role in developing wrinkle-free cotton fabrics, she helped make cotton fiber competitive with synthetics. Her basic research in the physical chemistry of cellulose opened up vast potentials in the manufacture of wood and paper products as well as those made from cotton. Benerito was research leader at the Cotton Chemical Reactions Laboratory in New Orleans, Louisiana.

For 33 years, Benerito worked at what is now the agency's Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, La. As research leader of the Physical-Chemical Investigations Unit in the Cotton Chemical Reactions Laboratory, she played a key role in groundbreaking research that helped bring smooth-drying properties to cotton fibers, boosting their competitiveness with synthetic fibers introduced in the 1950s and '60s.

That cotton became the standard for apparel fabrics is because it combined comfort and breathability with easy care. Her work helped to trigger a remarkable 20-year expansion of cotton use for apparel, revitalizing an old industry. It also earned Benerito a Lemelson-Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lifetime Achievement Award for Invention, which honors individuals for their lifelong

commitment to improving society through invention. [Taken from <http://www.ars.usda.gov/careers/hof/browse.htm> - benerito and <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2004/040915.2.htm>]

**Francis Seabright (AuI)** died January 27<sup>th</sup> after falling in her home; she was about 95. Fran had been a charter member of Aurum Iodide Chapter and served as National Secretary 1978-1981. She was also convention chair for the 1978 Convention and a big help in 1990 when AuI hosted convention. Fran and Anne Sherren both became life members at the same time; Fran was IΣΠ lifetime member #120. Fran was very active in ACS and also was instrumental in getting Anne to attend the AuI meetings in the late 1960s. Francis Seabright will be sorely missed. – Anne Sherren

## Graduation is Just Around the Corner!

Honor the Iota Sigma Pi graduate with an IΣΠ braid for their graduation ceremony. The attractive braids are worn over the shoulder or around the neck of the graduation gown. The braids consist of three ropes about 5 feet long with tassels at the ends; each rope is an IΣΠ color: green, gold, and white. It can be worn braided or unbraided. The price is \$10. Checks should be made payable to Iota Sigma Pi. Please contact QuynhGiao Nguyen at [Quynhgio.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov](mailto:Quynhgio.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov)

Check out the IΣΠ web page [<http://www.iotasigmapi.info>] for a color photographs of all IΣΠ merchandise!



# IΣΠ Chapter News

## Chemistry Rules at the New York State Museum

submitted by Sara Paisner (Cd)

Chemistry demos are sparking the interest of a whole new generation, thanks to a team of volunteers from Global Research working together with the Eastern New York section of The American Chemical Society (ACS).

National Chemistry Week (NCW) has been a Capital District tradition since 1987, and this year the event was held at the New York State Museum in Albany. The newly formed chapter of Iota Sigma Pi and the Women Chemists Committee (IΣΠ/WCC) coordinated the event, which is sponsored nationally by the ACS. When IΣΠ/WCC started looking around for a project to do in the community, they found that the local National Chemistry Week event had declined in recent years. "We thought that revamping an event that had been so popular in the past would be a great way for us to contribute to the community," said NCW co-chair (and Cd IΣΠ/WCC outreach coordinator) **Marianne Harmon**, "and this year was the second largest attendance in the event's history."

Thirteen different groups from local companies, universities, and government labs participated, along with high school students who volunteered at the event for extra credit. "This is an exciting chance for us to get the next generation of scientists interested in chemistry, but it is also a good networking opportunity for the high school and college students. They are participating in the event together with the companies and government agencies that are going to be hiring chemists when they graduate," said **Sara Paisner**, co-chair of NCW and president of Cd IΣΠ/WCC.

Over 400 children came from local schools, boy scouts, and Girls Inc., and a large number came in costume to participate in the Haunted museum and Howling Holiday Parade. This year's theme was "Health and Wellness" but the entire day was dedicated to showing that science, and chemistry in particular, can be fun. The demos included a bubble machine,

glitter slime, invisible ink, and science used in crime solving. "It must have been a huge success," laughed Marianne, "The

museum has already asked us to confirm a date for next year's National Chemistry Week event!"



October 24, 2004

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to send greetings to each of you celebrating National Chemistry Week at the New York State Museum. I think the Eastern NY Local Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Capital District Iota Sigma Pi and the Women Chemist's Committee for sponsoring this event.

Today brings together ACS local sections, businesses, schools and individuals to celebrate chemistry's contributions to society and our quality of life. During National Chemistry Week, exhibits and Hands-on demonstration will take place at the New York State Museum reaching out to the public, elementary and secondary school children with positive messages about chemistry.

Founded in 1976, ACS is the largest professional scientific society in the world with a membership of over 159,000 devoted to the advancement of chemical science in the public interest. With the collaboration of organizations, local universities, businesses and government offices, National Chemistry Week will foster a deeper appreciation to the contributions of chemistry in our everyday lives and encourage children to learn more.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful and successful event.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator

### *The Iotan*

Editor Jodye I. Selco - jiselco@csupomona.edu

Feature Editors are needed! If you are interested in "covering a beat" such as interviewing 50+ year members, chapter news, industrial chemists, etc., please contact the editor, Jodye Selco at the above e-mail address, at (909) 869-4552, or at

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Manuscripts for *The Iotan* may be submitted to the Editor at the above address. Suggestions for articles are appreciated. Feature articles and book reviews are acceptable. Documents should be on floppy disk, or emailed, typed, double spaced, and no longer than one page.

Deadlines for consideration for the November, February, and May issues, respectively, are September 15, December 15 and March 15. Manuscripts will not be returned and are subject to editing. Publication is based on editorial assessment of reader interest and space available.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and may be published. Letters should be no longer than 250 words.



*The Iotan*  
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News about you makes this publication interesting for other Iotans. Please take a few minutes to jot down what you are doing.

- 1) Speeches, papers, symposia, invited talks
- 2) Publications, patents, grants awarded
- 3) New positions, appointments, promotions, awards, honors  
    retirements, postdoctoral research
- 4) Offices held in professional societies
- 5) Avocational achievements, miscellaneous

**Please send news and information to**

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Items for “Resources” or “Chapter News” are also solicited. Send a photo of your activity. Please include your chapter name.

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