



THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi
National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

April, 2006 No. 91

OUR CENTENNIAL HISTORY - Celebrating Iota Sigma Pi

The Making of the Centennial History

In 1980 Sister Mary Rose Stockton, National Historian, produced the fifth edition of the History of Iota Sigma Pi. When the history was published, the National President at the time, Anne Sherren, suggested to Sister Mary Rose that she begin work for the next edition of the history. At the time we thought that we had printed enough histories to last for 10 years. In fact, 25 years later we had used almost all of those histories just as the Centennial History was coming off of the press.

The quest for a new, updated history began again in 1989 when Anne Sherren took the job as National Historian. The National Council said "the Green History is out of date -- it is almost 10 years old, we need a new edition of the History." At that time Anne was teaching full time and also serving as Supplies Coordinator. In 1993 the message was repeated, and at the 1997 Interim Council Meeting Shannon Brown was appointed to be Supplies Coordinator with the idea that Anne would then have the time needed to work on updating the history.

Efforts on the new edition gained momentum at the 2000 Interim Council Meeting. Sharon Vercellotti agreed to scan in the 1980 edition to create Word documents that were proofread by various members of National Council. In the winter of 2001 Anne had a sabbatical term and spent time working on the history especially the individual chapter histories and the award

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Neptunium Chapter presents copies of the Centennial History at a reception in Houston. See story on page 2.



Pictured (left to right): Joe Hightower -Past Chair, ACS Greater Houston local section, Kristin Kulinowski - Chair, ACS Greater Houston local section, Madeleine Jacobs - CEO and Executive Director of the American Chemical Society, and Mamie Moy - Professor of Chemistry at the University of Houston. (Photo submitted by Corina Lupu)

The Stories Behind the Stories

The most exciting news in my Iota Sigma Pi Centennial History editing adventure was the arrival of an email from the Berkeley Bancroft Library asking whether I still wanted the photograph of Agnes Fay Morgan wearing her silver foxes. I had been searching for the photograph for two years. I had read the story of Morgan's nutritional research on pantothenic acid in an issue of the Iotan from 1983. She had convinced a local furrier to feed one fox a diet deficient in pantothenic acid, and the other a normal diet. The photograph of the experimental results had been published in the book, "The Academic Kitchen" by Marisa Nerad. I had written the author asking permission to reprint the photograph, but she said that all of the

book source material was in the archives at the Bancroft Library at the University of California Berkeley. After much searching, the archivist could not find the photo. I had given up long ago when the email arrived. I was very happy that we could dedicate the history to Agnes Fay Morgan in her fur finery that she had worn to accept the Garvan Medal from the American Chemical Society in 1949. (See page 8 of the Centennial History.)

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The Making...

recipients. After she retired in June of 2001 and recovered from her broken hip, Anne worked on the history full time. National Council Members would proofread the versions and offer suggestions. In January of 2002, Anne sent what she thought to be final edition and the needed pictures to Sharon Vercellotti, co-editor, for final editing.

While Anne had been working on the written portion of the History, Sharon had been working on a grant from the Dreyfus foundation to pay for part or all of the printing and distribution of this edition of the history. The plan was to distribute the history at the Centennial Convention in Berkeley in June of 2002. As often happens, one thing led to another and plans expanded. Anne did several more drafts and

made additions and finally in 2004 Sharon got the last items from Anne.

The final draft was available at the Triennial Convention in June 2005, and in July, the printed versions were distributed to members. One of the aspects of the grant was that this history would be widely distributed to college and university libraries. Members are currently presenting copies to various persons and libraries. Anne has made presentations to the Chemical Heritage Foundation and to North Central College. If you need a copy to present to a college or university library near you please contact Reiko Simmons, Supplies Coordinator.

*by Anne T. Sherren, Ph.D.
Co-editor, Centennial History of
Iota Sigma Pi
National Historian Iota Sigma Pi
Professor Emeritus of Chemistry,
North Central College*

Neptunium Chapter Presents Centennial Histories

The Np Chapter presented the Iota Sigma Pi Centennial History to Madeleine Jacobs, CEO and Executive Director of the American Chemical Society, on March 1, 2006. The presentation was made by Corina Lupu, President of Np, at the ACS Greater Houston Section meeting. Prior to the meeting, the Np chapter hosted a reception for all attendees to meet Madeleine. This reception was organized using a mini-grant awarded by Iota Sigma Pi.

Histories were also presented to Amber Hinkle, Chair of the Women Chemists Committee of the ACS, and to representatives of the Chemistry Departments at Houston Baptist University, St. Thomas University, Rice University, Texas Southern University and the University of Houston. The reception was an excellent opportunity for many students and professionals to learn about the mission and goals of Iota Sigma Pi.

Other Presentations and Donations of the Centennial History

- Kara Mitzel, Chemical Heritage Foundation by Anne Sherren, November 3, 2005
- North Central College President Harold Wilde, Librarian Carolyn Sheehy, and Academic Dean Devadoss Pandian by Anne Sherren, August 2005
- University of Cincinnati, Langsam Library - Radium Chapter

Do you have a presentation/donation to announce? Let us know!

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The Stories...

Another exploration began in the Centennial year 2002, when Agnes Riley of Lexington, KY introduced herself by letter, indicating that she shared the centennial birthday of Iota Sigma Pi. The small circle of our connections was demonstrated when she recalled her teaching at Newcomb College of Tulane University in New Orleans, near my hometown of Covington LA. Later that year our fifteenth Honorary Member, Ruth Benerito received the Lemelson-MIT Lifetime Achievement Award. Ruth was the chemistry teacher of my Covington chemist friend Annette Doskey. When Annette called to congratulate Ruth, Ruth said that her most influential teacher was Agnes Riley. Agnes had not been able to continue her teaching past the 1930's because of nepotism rules; her husband taught at the various universities in botany. What a loss for us all.

As I searched for quotations for each page of the history, I became acquainted with many outstanding modern women chemists through their inspiring words. As I searched through the Iotans for photographs, I became better acquainted with the pioneering women who preceded us. This was an education and a privilege for me. I thank Iota Sigma Pi for the opportunity to learn about these women. I thank the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation for their Special Grant in the Chemical Sciences for \$20,000 that allowed us to publish the Centennial History. I urge you as members to donate copies the Centennial History to your university and local libraries so that young women might learn about those women who came before us.

*by Sharon V. Vercellotti
Co-editor, Centennial History of
Iota Sigma Pi
President, V-LABS., INC.*

Would you like to donate a copy of the Centennial History?

Here's How:

- 1) Contact Reiko Simmons, Supplies Coordinator, to request an additional copy or copies of the Centennial History. The cost is \$25, however this fee is waived if the history is being donated to a university or college library, chemistry department, or other suitable organization.
- 2) Download the press release from the IΣΠ website (http://www.iota-sigmapi.info/centennial%20history/press_release.htm). Remember to take pictures! Send press release and photos to the university or college PR office as well as your local and regional news outlets.
- 3) Send digital photos and details of your presentation to the Iota Sigma Pi Webmaster, Christine Hermann and the National Editor, Paula Fox. (See contact information on page 7.)



IΣΠ Member News

Agnes Riley (MAL) sent an article from the Alumni News of the University of Chicago Magazine. It reads:

Agnes Graham Sanders Riley, SM'25, celebrated her centennial in 2002 and was honored by Iota Sigma Pi, the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry, in recognition of her 60-year-plus membership. Riley taught chemistry at Hollins College, and Newcomb College and worked as a research assistant at Tulane. She and her husband, the late botanist H.P. Riley, settled in Lexington, KY. Their son, Parkes Riley, is a political science professor in California.

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

Elizabeth Weisburger of Rockville, Maryland (formerly Cu) gave a paper for the Division of Chemical Health & Safety and was in charge of hospitality for the 230th American Chemical Society meeting in Washington, DC in August 2005. She also had two chapters published; one in "Dieta, Nutriçao e Cancer", Altheneu, Sao Paulo, Brazil (in Portuguese) and another in "Inhalation Toxicology"; 2nd ed, CRC Press/Taylor & Francis, 2005.

Fluorine Chapter reports that **Yan Zhou** recently completed her doctorate degree at Cleveland State University and got married. **Susan Achberger** is attending Michigan State in the doctorate program for biochemistry and the masters program in forensic science. **Plousia Vassilaras** is attending Case Western Reserve University in the doctorate program for chemistry. **Elizabeth Clizbe** is attending Indiana University in the doctorate program for chemistry. **Karissa Kusick** is attending Ohio State University in the pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program. Susan, Plousia, Elizabeth, and Karissa are all graduates of Baldwin-Wallace College.

Mary Eloise Green of Columbus, Ohio passed away in September 2005.

Chlorine Chapter IΣΠ Award Winners at Region 8 Science Fair, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond LA



Pictured (l to r): Raquel Valverde, Sharon Vercellotti, and Gillian Brownlee.

Donation Requests * Please Note *

To all Iota Sigma Pi Members: I recently received an email informing me that "someone" had added Iota Sigma Pi to the database of an on-line shopping mall and that we, as a registered organization with them, will receive a percentage of all purchases bought in our name at this mall. Although legitimate companies do this type of fundraising for nonprofit organizations, there have been many more that turn out to be fraudulent.

Iota Sigma Pi only requests donations via our membership dues forms. Please proceed with caution if you receive notifications by a third party that "donations" will go to Iota Sigma Pi if money is exchanged. National Council has not endorsed nor permitted this type of solicitation. Please contact National Council if you have any questions.

Kathryn Louie
Vice President

Greetings from New Orleans! ~ *A letter from Nancy Hopkins, National Records Chair*

You may not have noticed that I did not send a greeting with the other members of National Council in the last Iotan, but at that time, I was still displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Chapter rebates were late this year because I was unable to produce the labels until I could replace my computers that were victims of the storm. We are now back in New Orleans, the computers have been replaced, I am back at work, and we are attempting to rebuild our lives, our home and our city.

You may have noticed that I didn't say we are back to normal. I'm not sure what normal is or when we will reach anything that feels like normal. Our city is extremely damaged, our people are scattered over much of the country, and no one is sure what our future will bring. Due to the storm, about 70% of all the homes in Greater New Orleans were severely damaged or destroyed and all of the colleges and universities were closed for the fall semester. I would like to share with you some of the impact of the storm on the scientific community in this area.

I am a biological chemist on the faculty of the Cell and Molecular Biology department at Tulane University and a member of Chlorine chapter of IΣΠ. The Chlorine chapter has continued to meet, but the local section of the American Chemical Society has not yet held regular meetings. Chlorine is fortunate because our membership includes the entire southeastern Louisiana area and women from outside New Orleans have been able to host meetings and keep the chapter going.

I am teaching a normal load this semester and we are offering a "Lagniappe" (a local term for 'a little something extra') semester as soon as this semester is over. We will teach a 14 week semester in 7 weeks. Most of the other colleges and universities are offering some mechanism to allow the students to stay on track for graduation.

I am attempting, with the help of a graduate student, to put my research labs back together. The science complex was without power for almost 2½ months and I lost nearly all of my research materials. Because I work with biological samples, the loss of refrigeration meant that 15 years of prepared samples and cell lines were lost. I also lost over \$30,000 in reagents and media and have spent many hours inventorying, discarding and recording these materials. We are beginning to meet with FEMA and the insurance adjustors to find out how much of these losses will be covered. Unfortunately, it may take 3 to 5 years before the payments for the losses will be made.

But I am more fortunate than many of the scientists in the area. Several of the scientists here lived in areas where there was little damage and were able to return to the area quickly. Two resourceful members of the chemistry department were able to secure tanks of liquid nitrogen and liquid helium and keep the NMRs, EPRs, electron microscopes and other super-cooled instruments filled and none of these were damaged. Several others came in before trees and power lines were cleared from the roads in order to rescue the "tank farm", large liquid nitrogen dewars containing tissue samples and cell lines, and the transgenic mice. These were transported to the Tulane Primate Center in a National Guard convoy.

Most of the scientists in the greater New Orleans area work with in the universities or at the government laboratories here. Most of the industry is in the outlying areas along the Mississippi River, but some is with in the city. The industries along the river were able to repair damages and most had returned to full operation with in a few weeks of the storm. On the other hand, the USDA labs in New Orleans were flooded and are still being repaired. They will not reopen before the summer and it may be 2007 before everyone is back. Our chapter president is in Georgia with her group. In addition, many of those who worked at the USDA lived in the nearby neighborhoods which were flooded by the levee collapse and are trying to deal with cleaning and rebuilding their homes while they are displaced.

The most adversely effected scientists are those who worked for universities and medical schools. One of the exceptions to tenure policies is overwhelming, unforeseen emergencies. Katrina certainly was that. All of the colleges and universities and both of the medical schools have laid off large numbers of faculty members, including a number with tenure. Xavier University dismissed about 45% of its faculty including several tenured chemistry professors. Tulane closed most of its engineering departments. Nearly all the visiting and adjunct faculty members of all the institutions of higher education were dismissed. As you know for various reasons, far more women scientists hold these types of positions. Those who have been retained are facing larger teaching loads and decreased staff support. Labs are damages and equipment and supplies are ruined adding to the difficulties. An added adverse effect of the storm is the loss of mentors for our students and less time to spend with the students for those of us that remain.

Although post-Katrina New Orleans is a very different place, I feel sure that we will rebuild. I have found great comfort in the offers of assistance that I have received both professionally and personally from other scientists. Janet Clark tracked me down when we were evacuated to see if I was alright. A large number of colleagues found me through the Tulane check in site and contacted me offering lab space and/or place to live. This has been the case for many scientists here in New Orleans. I know that the city will recover; in a few years, meetings will be held here again and I invite you to come and enjoy our city.

28th Triennial Convention - Committee Reports

On Friday, June 10, 2005 during the 28th Triennial Convention, delegates each took part in two sessions of committee meetings to address issues for the convention.

Awards Committee

Reported by Christine Hermann

The Awards Committee met to consider the awards offered by IΣΠ. The committee discussed a gift of \$55,000 donated to the Awards Fund by Violet Diller. Several recommendations were made including the following: to change the criteria section wording of the Centennial Award for Excellence in Teaching to include community and junior colleges among undergraduate institutions, and to give student award winners an engraved plaque for their department to display permanently, in addition to the framed certificate. The committee presented two motions to the convention that passed: (1) to increase the Professional Excellence and National Honorary Member awards from \$500 to \$1000, and (2) to rename the Award for Professional Excellence as the "Violet Diller Professional Excellence Award". A third motion, to consider splitting the Dir. of Student Awards into two positions, did not pass.

Budget and Finance

Reported by Margaret A. Workman

The Budget and Finance committee began their work by discussing whether or not to increase dues and decided to NOT have a dues increase for this triennium. The committee also discussed whether there was enough money in the budget to hire a paid staff person to work on fundraising and increasing membership and decided that there was NOT sufficient money in our budget to pay a staff person. Ideas for minimizing future dues increases, such as soliciting sponsors for the convention and advertisements in the Iotan, less stationery, and annual budgets, were also discussed. The committee also suggested that the National Council investigate cost savings of offering the Iotan electronically.

Chapter Program Development

Reported by Kathryn Louie

This committee considered programs that encourage member involvement at the local level and that aid in the retention of current members and in the recruitment of new ones, with the goal of maintaining the vitality of our chapters. Several recommendations were made during the committee session, including: making efforts to recruit more professional members and high school teachers, using the IΣΠ website as a resource for the exchange of ideas for chapter activities, and posting the Iota Sigma Pi general information display so that it may be downloaded for presentations by members. Three motions were presented and passed during the convention: (1) to continue the triennial Chapter Award for Outstanding Chapter at \$250, (2) to have a chapter grant (\$250, one-time award) for new or reactivated chapters to be provided once they have received National Council approval, and (3) to continue the mini-grant program to provide up to \$250 to a maximum of 10 chapters per triennium with only one award per chapter. The mini-grant may be used to support special projects, programs or events of the chapter (excluding routine chapter events).

Chemistry Awareness & Outreach

Reported by Joanne Bedlek-Anslow

This committee met to consider goals and strategies for outreach and presented three motions, to the convention. The committee moved that IΣΠ establish an outreach section on the website that would include a list of ideas, links to other organizations, and resources. This motion was passed unanimously by the convention. The second motion was to establish a web-based discussion forum to facilitate communication and networking between members and chapters. This motion was also passed unanimously. A final motion stated that the information provided to new chapters should include the chapter reports and

contact information for the delegates from the most recent triennial convention, and a pamphlet from the Speakers Bureau. However, after some discussion about whether such contact information should be required to be sent by this proposed motion, the motion was withdrawn and turned into a recommendation. Susan Marine reminded the chair that several years ago, the Plutonium chapter put together a very nice chapter revitalization packet that might be useful for new chapters.

Communication & Webpage -

Reported by Anne Gorden

The Communication and Webpage committee discussed how to better improve communications between chapters and members. It was noted that the supplies coordinator, Reiko Simmons, can help individuals with obtaining membership directories or materials for initiation. In addition, many additions have been made to our website: <http://www.iotasigmapi.info> including announcements, forms, initiation instructions, membership applications, and contact information for National Council. Previous editions of the Iotan have also been linked to the website and a copy of the Speakers Bureau has been added. The committee recommended that any photos, reports of great activities, or awards received by chapter members, should be forwarded to the website coordinator to share ideas and successes.

Extension & Publicity

Reported by Paula Fox

The Extension and Publicity Committee discussed the need for increased visibility of IΣΠ. In addition to the creation of new business-sized cards that would be available to members and chapters, the committee considered the benefits of creating a paid part-time position or new National Council position(s) to assist with these duties.

After hearing Budget Committee report the Extension and Publicity committee decided not to propose the paid position

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but instead proposed the addition of National Council positions. An amended motion to have the President appoint a National Director of Communications and Publicity, failed.

A motion to have Council consider subsidizing members who attend conferences to present papers or posters about IΣΠ was made, but withdrawn. Instead, a motion was made that the National Council determine a method to meet the communication and publicity needs by the Interim Council meeting and then actively pursue their decision so that results can be evaluated at the next Triennial Convention. This final motion passed unanimously.

Long Range Planning

Reported by Janet Clark

The Long Range Planning Committee was charged with identifying how the organization plans to continue being successful by retaining and recruiting members and increasing visibility. The committee reviewed the current objectives of IΣΠ (found them to still be appropriate) and discussed the unique aspects of the organization. These aspects include being a chemistry-specific honor society, giving professional and student awards, and recognizing our members as successful chemists due to our high membership requirements.

Recommendations included the development of a non-monetary award for female high school chemistry students and a feature article for the *Iotan* on the "benefits of membership". Additional recommendations were made for increasing visibility such as wearing pins and including membership on resumes and during seminars or presentations. To help retain membership, the committee suggested recognition of membership anniversaries (1, 2, 5, 10, etc.), adding an "Update Contact Information" link to the website, and requesting information on "members on the move" (job changes, graduation, etc.) to be included in the Chapter Annual

Report. It was also recommended that the webmaster develop templates for the Chapter Annual Reports to be submitted on-line and for chapters to develop their websites.

Members-at-Large

Reported by Kathryn Thomasson

The MAL Committee discussed the desire to continue to keep an Excel database of MALs separate from the National Database. The frequency and content of the MAL Newsletter was also considered. The committee discussed strategies for involvement of MALs; a previous activity, the collaborative quilt that was raffled off at the 2002 Triennial Convention, was suggested as a future activity. A map of MALs was also suggested as a way for MALs to find each other and as a possible tool for promoting formation of new chapters.

The committee decided to increase the amount of the annual MAL Educational Re-Entry Award to \$1,500 to address increasing educational costs. Although MALs retain the prerogative to give more than one award in the future, the committee agreed to continue giving only one award per year. (*For more information on the MAL Educational Re-Entry Award, please go to <http://web.centre.edu/muzyka/ispmal>.)*

To address the increasing number of highly qualified applications, a new discretionary award, the MAL Certificate of Commendation, consisting of a certificate and a one-year membership, was created.

The MAL committee selected the winner of Outstanding Chapter Award - Aurum Chapter at Iowa State University. The committee also gave a commendation to the Lanthanum Chapter.

Publicity Committee

Reported by Nancy Hopkins

The Publicity Committee discussed ways to better publicize IΣΠ to both members and the general public. The committee reviewed the format and frequency of publication of the *Iotan* and held that the present format was

the best one to use and that the *Iotan* should be published three times a year, fall (November), spring (March/April) and summer (July/August). Chapters may request additional copies from the editor to use for recruitment. The committee recommended that the website feature upcoming conventions, chapter news & awards, and recognition of members. The committee also recommended that the editor, in consultation with the National Council, should delegate large print jobs, when appropriate.

Rituals and Ceremonies

Reported by Paula Fox

This committee reviewed the rituals and ceremonies of IΣΠ and suggested changes where appropriate. Numerous recommendations regarding the Initiation Ceremony and Rituals pamphlet were presented. Several motions were made including: changing the wording in the Rituals to reflect wording in the Constitution and adding Historian to the list of officers to be sworn in. All motions were passed unanimously by the convention. A final motion for the President to assign someone the task of these revisions so that a new pamphlet can be printed was also passed. (*Note from Janet Clark: The Rituals pamphlet is being revised and modernized and should be published within the next year.*)

Speakers Bureau

Reported by Christine Hermann

The Speakers Bureau Committee met to evaluate the use and existence of the Speakers Bureau. The committee reported that Lily Ng, Immediate Past President, has offered to take over the Speakers Bureau and become the main contact person. The following recommendations were made: (1) that the brochure be updated and sent out with annual mailing, (2) that an advertisement be published in the *Iotan* to promote the Speakers Bureau, (3) that the web site be amended to include an additional speaker listing by state, linking back to speaker description, and (4) that speakers notify the contact person of the Speakers Bureau after delivering a talk.

Sources of Iota Sigma Pi Supplies and Information

Supplies

For "Membership Information" and "National Awards" pamphlets, History, Constitution and Bylaws, Rituals of Iota Sigma Pi, Rules and Regulations, *The Iotan*, Speakers Bureau information, contact the Supplies Coordinator.

Initiation

For Membership Application and Summary of Applicants forms, contact the National Secretary.

Forming a Chapter

For procedural information and application forms, contact the National Vice President.

For Charter Certificate, contact the National Historian.

Financial Reports

For Financial Report forms, contact the National Treasurer.

Awards

For criteria and nomination forms: *Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award*, *National Honorary Member*, or the *Violet Diller Award for Professional Excellence*, contact the Director for Professional Awards.

Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry, *Anna Louise Hoffman Graduate Research Achievement Award*, *Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship*, contact the Director for Student Awards.

Dues

For dues statements and payments, contact the National Treasurer.

Chapter Operations

For changes in Chapter Officers list and forms for reporting local elected officers, contact the National Vice President.

Address Labels & Membership List

For change of address and member death, contact the Records Chair.

Historical Information

Contact: National Historian

See National Council listing for officers' names and addresses.

IOTA SIGMA PI - NATIONAL COUNCIL 2005-2008

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Wait!

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
Paula Fox, Editor
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or contact by phone for fax information.

Items for "Chapter News" or for general information are also solicited. Send a photo of your activity (electronic format preferred). Please include your chapter name.
