



THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi
National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

April 2010 No. 102

Message from the National President

Dear Iota Sigma Pi members:

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and have settled back into your regular schedules! It has been unbelievable how quickly this past year had flown! I would like to provide you with an update on what National Council had been doing this past year since the 2008 Convention. National Council met during June 2009 in Cleveland, Ohio for the National Council Interim meeting. Fluorine Chapter has been chosen as the hostess chapter for the 2011 Convention to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel Cleveland-Rockside June 23-26, 2011. We hope you will consider attending as a chapter or MAL representative.

The Interim meeting is the time where National Council puts into action many of the motions or recommendations that had been approved at Convention. Some are easier than others to put into practice, but all are considered and discussed. This is also a time when we make plans for the upcoming triennial meeting. Among some of the highlights from our meeting is the creation of national Iota Sigma Pi sites on the social networking venues Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, and LinkedIn. National Council encourages social networking and also encourages chapters to create pages of their own. However, please remember that chapters are legal entities of the national organization. Just like chapter websites, the national organization needs to officially release permission to use the Iota Sigma Pi symbol on any chapter sites. Please notify National Council of any groups or sites you or

your chapter creates that contains the Iota Sigma Pi name and symbol. Other highlights from the meeting include an updated version of Rules and Regulations, revised student membership application forms, a photo release form, and an awards poster that includes both student and professional awards. The poster was suggested as a way to increase publicity for all Iota Sigma Pi awards. The awards poster will be sent to the chapter officers and will be available to the membership soon. A poster is also planned for the High School Student award. This award was created to honor female high school students and to help encourage them to consider chemistry or related science fields as their undergraduate major. We also hope this will increase awareness and name recognition of our organization.

Acting on one of the motions passed during the Convention, the initiation fee for new members and the annual dues for professional members had been increased. However, student member dues have not. The decision to increase the fees and dues was not made lightly, but only after much discussion and in response to the rising costs of mailing initiation packets, the printing and mailing of The Iotan and the directory and in holding the triennial convention. National Council has been looking at ways to decrease expenses. We have launched the electronic version of the Iotan in place of the printed version that was routinely sent in the past. There have been a few bugs along the way, but we are working through them. However, we continue to have a high proportion of unusable email addresses, as evidenced by the bounced emails each time an issue is sent. This is why it is important that all members provide

their correct email addresses (and their postal mailing addresses) so we can get the current Iotan to you as soon as the issue is "off the press". All changes should be forwarded to the Records Chair Nancy Hopkins (nhopkin@tulane.edu). If you prefer a printed copy mailed to you, please let Nancy know. We also have instituted an electronic version of the membership directory. The directory usually is printed once per triennium, resulting in its becoming out-of-date as soon as it was printed. The electronic version would be much more current and would lessen the financial expense its printing and mailing had incurred in the past. All members who are current with their dues can request a directory from the Records Chair.

If you reside in an area with a chapter, your officers should have received a mailing from the National Secretary, Jie Huang, and a chapter rebate check from the National Treasurer, Margaret Workman. Both mailings contain important items, so please look over them if you are a chapter officer. A portion of your membership dues is given back as a rebate check to the chapter or MAL fund for programs.

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The Secretary's mailing contains information about initiation and an updated version of Rules and Regulations as well as the new Awards poster. If you need copies of the awards poster, please contact Reiko Simmons, the Coordinator of Initiates and Supplies at r.simmons@csuohio.edu.

The members on National Council have been working very hard this past year on the motions and recommendations presented by the committees at the convention in addition to the regular responsibilities of their office. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their hours of volunteer work to continue the tradition of excellence that Iota Sigma Pi has always stressed.

We are now about halfway through the triennium. I want to take this time to state again my major focus during this triennium (and was initially expressed in my acceptance speech and reprinted in the October 2008 Iotan). It is to promote stronger interactions with our current members and to increase the public profile of our organization. And we can do so with your help!

We have made strides towards these goals by initiating the social network venues and the awards poster. However, we still have the continuing problem of keeping members active and with updated addresses. Please renew your dues promptly and remember that all officers must be members of good standing within the national organization. Any questions about dues, addresses or records can be directed to National Treasurer, Margaret Workman and Records Chair, Nancy Hopkins.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for your support to the Society. Without you there is no Iota Sigma Pi. National Council would be delighted to hear from you, so contact any or all of us to share your thoughts about the organization, accomplishments in your career and activities in your chapter, and especially your ideas to help your

organization continue "its tradition of excellence".

Thank you!

Kathryn Louie, National President.

**Message from Katie Collette, the
2009 Iota Sigma Pi Members-At-
Large Educational Re-entry
Award Winner**

In the spring of 2009, I was awarded the Iota Sigma Pi Members-At-Large Educational Re-entry Award. I spent the summer performing research in the lab of Dr. Van Doze in the Pharmacology, Physiology, & Therapeutics department at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. My research was funded by two national fellowships: the American Physiological Society's (APS) Undergraduate Research Fellowship (UGRF) and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). Unfortunately, the APS award, which I utilized first, required me to work five weeks before sending in my first payment voucher and then wait two weeks for the check to arrive. Luckily, I had my Iota Sigma Pi scholarship funds to tide me over! Then, once I received the first APS payment I used it and the rest of my Iota Sigma Pi funds to paint a room in my house, purchase gravel and pea rock for my pothole-filled driveway, and pay for several small projects on my house. As a single parent and student, it has been difficult to pay for necessary updates to my 100-year-old home, but my scholarship helped make several happen.

My summer research focused on the α_{1A} adrenergic receptor (AR) and its potential role in neurogenesis, the birth of new neurons in the brain, and the effect neurogenesis has on behavior. I performed behavioral assays using several types of transgenic mice either over- or under-expressing this receptor subtype. We found that mice over-

expressing the receptor had decreased anxiety and depression behaviors as well as markedly enhanced learning and memory when compared with wild type mice. Our next step is to ablate neurogenesis and run the same behavioral assays to find out if neurogenesis is the mechanism of action.

In Fall 2009, I completed the last of the required classes for my major in Chemistry and continued my research in Dr. Doze's lab. This spring, I am writing a Senior Honor's Thesis about my research, taking the last class for my minor in Psychology, and taking two electives in the PPT department. I have also applied to the Johns Hopkins Medical School Neuroscience program and am working on my application to the PPT graduate department here at UND. So far I am enjoying my classes immensely and looking forward to graduate school in the fall.

I'd like to thank Iota Sigma Pi once again for the wonderful scholarship and plaque. Even more importantly, I want everyone to know how much I appreciate the recognition of my hard work and professional goals. I am so happy and proud to be where I am and where I am going.

Thanks so much Katie! We are proud of you too!

Visit Our Website!
<http://www.iotasigmapi.info>

There is a wealth of information on opportunities, awards, job listings and also The Iotan in full color!

There is information on chapter resources and mini grants!

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Nominees Needed for 2011-2014 National Council Officers

Ever wonder what goes on “behind-the-scenes” in Iota Sigma Pi? Are you interested in being part of setting the future direction of the organization? Do you know someone in your chapter with leadership skills and the ability to get things done? Needing to boost your network and make some lasting friendships? Janet Clark, Immediate Past President and Chair of the Committee on Nominations, is seeking nominations or recommendations for national officer positions on the National Council for the triennium 2011-2014. Please contact her at jclark@smwc.edu or 812-535-5295 if you are willing to be a candidate or if you can suggest someone who may be interested.

The next election will occur in June 2011 and the elected National Council members will serve from July 2011 to June 2014. The national officer positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Coordinator of Members-at-Large, Records Chair, Editor, Director of Professional Awards, Director of Student Awards, Historian, Webmaster and Coordinator of Initiates and Supplies.

Nominees for the National President have to have served on National Council for at least one term in another position. Descriptions of the responsibilities of the positions can be found on our website under the Official Documents link to the Constitution and Rules and Regulations.

Please nominate yourself or another member by contacting Janet Clark today at jclark@smwc.edu or 812-535-5295.

Neptunium CHAPTER NEWS

Kathryn Louie (Np), with assistance from (not currently members of ISP) assistant professor Edith Osborne and undergraduate students Kaci Pruser, Tania Estrada, Bethany Kendrick, Dara White, and Kristin Bohannon, presented “Using Chemistry Colors in Art” at the all-day Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science Conference workshops on Saturday, January 23, 2010 event sponsored by Angelo State University, College of Science and College of Allied Health in conjunction with the Girl Scouts of Central Texas.



An art project using color chromatography to make a butterfly.



Separating the colors from black and color inks in color chromatography.

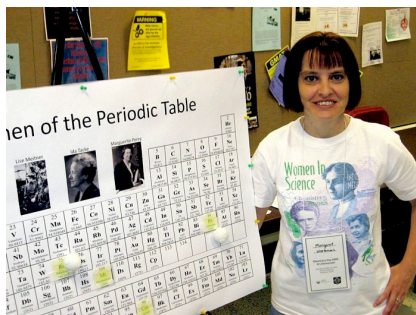
Girls from grades 6-12 participated and many had traveled from several towns surrounding the area to attend. The girls participated in hands-on experiments that involved using chromatography to separate colors and then used the technique they had learned to do an art project making chromatography butterflies.

Congratulations Neptunium !!!

Aurum Iodide CHAPTER NEWS

On October 24, 2009, the Aurum Iodide chapter participated in the National Chemistry Week activity hosted by the Chicago section of ACS. Chicago Chemistry Day was held at DePaul University and it included hands-on lab activities, element puzzles and games, exhibits, demonstrations, a poster making contest and Boy Scout Merit Badge workshops. The day ended with a "Chemistry Idol" competition where student groups performed chemistry shows.

The theme for National Chemistry Week was "Chemistry: It's Elemental" in celebration of the 140th anniversary of Mendeleev's Periodic Table of the Elements.



Margaret ready to explain the periodic table



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The AuI chapter decided to do a poster on the Women of the Periodic Table, in keeping with the theme. In order to make it more interactive, the poster was turned into a "dart board" where students threw balls at the periodic table and tried to hit an element that had either been discovered by a female chemist or named after one.

The students really loved the game and had a great time.

It led to many questions from the students, so it was a great learning tool also. We gave each student who participated either a bookmarker with a "Women in Science" theme or a pencil with "Women Taking the Lead to Save the Planet" embossed on it.

They also received an 8x10 copy of the Women of the Periodic Table poster with information about each of the female chemists.



(Periodic table Quilt)

In addition to the Women of the Periodic Table poster, we had a large Iota Sigma Pi poster that described the organization and its mission. We also displayed a quilt that was made by students and faculty of DePaul's Environmental Science Program for the retirement of their Director, Dr. Thomas Murphy. Each student/faculty made a quilt block in the shape of one of the chemical elements. These were sewn together to make a large periodic table quilt. We thought this

might attract people to our Iota Sigma Pi exhibit, and it worked! We gave out over 200 Women of the Periodic Table flyers!

Congratulations Aurum Iodide!

Lanthanum CHAPTER NEWS

Our recent Brownie Science Try-It Day was held on Saturday, January 23 in the Prothro cafeteria. Lanthanum chapter hosted 131 brownie girl scouts (ages 6-10) and their 50 parents and chaperones. The scouts participated in 32 science/math activities in pursuit of 8 Try-Its (their badges). 14 Troops were represented, from Albemarle, Appomattox, Blacksburg, Earlysville, Forest, Lynchburg, Staunton, Rivanna, Roanoke, Rockbridge, and Sweet Briar.



Kaitlyn explains it to the girls



Melaina getting ready to show them



Jenna and her captive audience



Volunteers included: 31 Sweet Briar Students, 6 Lynchburg College Students, 2 Randolph College Students, 4 Sweet Briar Faculty/Retirees, 2 Lynchburg College Faculty, 1 Randolph College Faculty; and 14 Junior and Senior Girl Scout volunteers from Troop 544 (Sweet Briar sponsored GS troop). We were also very happy to have Sweet Briar's new President, Jo Ellen Parker, visit the event and feature it on her Blog!! Very exciting :-)

<http://blog.president.sbc.edu/?p=1951>

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This year's Brownie Science Try-It Day was led by Student Director Caitlin Nealon, and assisted by Student Assistant Director Felicia McGuire. Many thanks go out to the Sweet Briar Community for making this event possible -- particularly and especially to the Prothro Staff who are so gracious to host the event.

Thanks from Troop Leaders:

"Our girls had a wonderful time and we leaders were awed by the smooth running of the whole operation - hats off to you and your team. The enthusiasm shown by your students for their work is a marvellous inspiration for our young girls as, indeed, is a visit to Sweetbriar itself. Thank you so much for what must be a mammoth task - here's to next year!!!"

"I wanted to send you a quick thank you to pass on to all the ladies and men who worked with our daughters Saturday. I really enjoyed the event! The girls were busy, interested, and safe. They had fun! The students (and a professor or 2 I think) kept their attention and were SO kind to the girls all day! I will recommend this to all Brownies if you do it again next year!"

"I want to thank you so much for today's Brownie event. All of my girls had a great time." "A belated thank you for another wonderful Brownie Try-It Day. My girls had a great time and enjoyed everything. Thank you and all the many volunteers that give of their time and energy to make this event so special. All the volunteers did such a great job and the event ran so very smoothly. Thanks for all your hard work and the great weather.

Aren't we all so glad the snow waited until this past weekend! Thanks for all you do."

Congratulations Lanthanum !!!

Aurum CHAPTER NEWS:

Reported by Ajitha Devarajan

On 7th April 2010, Aurum ISP community had an opportunity to have lunch with Professor Geraldine Richmond while she visited Iowa State University for the presidential lecture in chemistry series. Professor Richmond has given hundreds of talks over her career on a wide range of science oriented topics including such as science education, environmental and energy topics, workforce and career development in STEM fields, science literacy, and women in science. It was interesting to hear from professor Richmond that she had received an undergraduate award from Iota Sigma Pi society. Professor Richmond emphasized the necessity of cultivating the "inclusive culture" in science and society to include women and minority societies.



Back row: Marilu Dick-Perez, Dr. Sarah Cady, Nataliya Markina, Stacey Althaus, Erica Smith, Yan Gu, Dr. Cherry Shih, Selena Russell, Yanyan Hu, Dr. Yana Kholod, Dr. Ajitha Devarajan, Prof. Theresa Windus, Suzanne Sander, Prof. Patricia Thiel.

Front Row: Prof. Kathleen Trahanovsky, Prof. Malika Jeffries-El, Prof. Geri Richmond, Prof. Emily Smith.



Prof. Theresa Windus, Dr. Bosiljka Njegic, Prof. Emily Smith, Stacey Althaus, Prof. Geri Richmond, and Yanyan Hu.

On April 8th 2010, Professor Richmond gave a workshop entitled "Be Smart: Negotiating for What You Need to Achieve Your Personal and Professional Goals".

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In the workshop, Professor Richmond discussed the need for women to be less self-critical and feel good about their skills. Initially all participants were asked to give self- introduction including the fact about what they are good at. It was pointed out to many that being bold and clear about ones' skills is an important aspect of taking leadership roles. Then the group discussed the power of negotiation and how women need to learn to negotiate. The need for getting everything discussed as part of the contract in paper was elaborately demonstrated including real life situations.

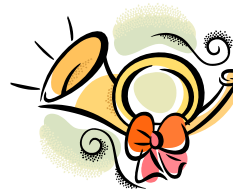
Also discussed in the workshop was how to handle difficult situations including questions during a seminar presentation, difficult discussions with the advisor, peers, and departmental heads.

Professor Richmond is the founder member of the Committee on the Advancement of woman Chemists (CoACh). CoACh has developed a series of workshops on a number of topics in the area of professional development, leadership training, institutional transformation, effecting change and recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty of top scholars. Workshops are offered at various professional meetings, academic and government laboratories and industries.

Professor Richmond suggested that each scientific community such as ISP should have as part of their activities sessions that would improve the negotiating skills and skills to handle difficult situations. Interesting data presented was that women from minority communities have dealt with more difficult situation and hence can offer more to the all others in general to handle difficult situations.

Overall, Aurum ISP members had a wonderful experience attending the workshop and through discussions with Professor Richmond. All of us agree that such activities sharpen our skills to handle difficult situations.

ISΠ Member News



The 2008 ISΠ Honorary Member Award winner, Professor. Patricia A. Thiel, Ames Laboratory, Iowa State University, Aurum Chapter Member, has been named the winner of the 2010 David Adler Lectureship Award. The award, presented by the American Physical Society, recognizes Thiel as an outstanding contributor to the field of material physics, who is noted for the quality of her research, review articles and lecturing. The Adler award is sponsored by the American Physical Society, division of materials physics, and, the friends of David Adler. Professor Thiel was also recently named the winner of the 2010 Arthur W. Adamson Award for Distinguished Service the Advancement of Surface Chemistry, presented by the American Chemical Society.

Congratulations Professor Thiel!

Our ISΠ national vice president and Fluorine chapter member, Dr. QuynhGiao Nguyen (Durability and Protective Coatings Branch), NASA Glenn Research Center, Structures & Materials Division, has been selected for recognition as "Technology All Stars" at the 14th Annual Women of Color STEM Conference.

Congratulations Dr. Nguyen!

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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 2008-2011

President

Kathryn Louie

3573 Grandview Dr.
San Angelo, TX 76904
325-947-1369

klouie@suddenlink.net

Vice President

QuynhGiao N. Nguyen

21000 Brookpart Rd,
MS 106-5, Cleveland, OH 44135
(216)-433-6073(w)

Quynhgio.N.Nguyen@nasa.gov

Secretary

Jie Huang

Senior Research Scientist
AMRI, 26 Corporate Circle
Albany, NY 12212-5098
(518) 512-2607 (w)

huangcertain@gmail.com

Treasurer

Margaret Workman

DePaul University
Environmental Science Program
1110 W. Belden Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614
773-325-7445 (w)

mworkman@depaul.edu

Historian

Anne T. Sherren

North Central College
555 Foxworth Blvd, Apt. 630
Lombard, IL 60148
630-932-0481

atsherren@noctrl.edu

Records Chair

Nancy Eddy Hopkins

Dept. of Cell & Molecular Biology
Tulane University
2000 Stern Hall, 6400 Freret St.
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-862-3162 (w)

nhopkin@tulane.edu

Coordinator of Members-at-Large

Karen Knaus

University of Colorado Denver,
Department of Chemistry B194,
1201 5th Street,
Denver, CO 80204

Karen.Knaus@ucdenver.edu

Director for Professional Awards

Sara Paisner Senior Scientist,
Microelectronics Technology
Lord Corporation. 110 Lord Drive
Cary, NC 27511

919-469-2500, Ext 2490 (w)

919- 469-9688 (fax)

sara_paisner@lord.com

Director for Student Awards

Kathryn A. Thomasson

University of North Dakota
Chemistry Department, Box 9024
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9024
701-777-3199 (w)

kthomasson@chem.und.edu

Immediate Past President

Janet Clark

Dept. of Sciences and Mathematics
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876
812-535-5295 (w)

jclark@smwc.edu

Editor

Ajitha Devarajan

124 Spedding Hall, Chem. Dept,
Iowa State University/Ames Lab,
Ames, IA 50014.

(515)-294-6940(w)

ajitha.devarajan@gmail.com

Supplies Coordinator

Reiko Simmons

Chemistry Department, Room 301
Cleveland State University
Cleveland OH 44115

(216)-687-3969 (w)

r.simmons@csuohio.edu

Webmaster

Christine Hermann

Chemistry and Physics, Box 6949
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142
(540)-831-5413 (w)

chermann@radford.edu

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Iota Sigma Pi
The Iotan, c/o Lily Ng
P.O. Box 22466
Beachwood, OH 44122

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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

Ajitha Devarajan, Editor
Ajitha.devarajan@gmail.com
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.
