



THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

Fall 2016 No. 112



The Vanadium re-establishment and installation ceremony, held on 27 September 2016 at New York University. National President QuynhGiao Nguyen is left of center next to the table.

Vanadium Chapter (NYC) Re-established!

The installation ceremony was held on September 27, 2016, at NYU and was sponsored by Merck and the Chemistry Department of NYU. National President, Dr. QuynhGiao Nguyen, presented the charter. Dr. Wynne Kandur and Dr. Danielle Vellucci worked hard over the past year to re-establish the Vanadium Chapter, based in NYC, NY. They secured 10 letters of support and recruited 70 members ranging from undergraduate to professional women. The following institutions and companies are represented by the V membership: Union College, AMRI, St. John's University, American Aerogel Corporation, Iona College, Eastman Kodak Company, Miller & Weber, Inc., Columbia University, M. Sloan Kettering CC, Eastport-South Manor CSD, Manhattanville College, and NYU.

The Vanadium Chapter has established an annual seminar event, and the inaugural seminar was presented at the installation ceremony by Prof. Kathryn Uhrich of University of California, Riverside and entitled: "PolyAspirin: History, Invention, Innovation, and Inspiration".

If you are a Member-at-Large (MAL) in the NYC area or have just moved to the NYC area, you now have an Iota Sigma Pi chapter to join. For more information on how to transfer your membership to Vanadium or learn more about their events, please contact Debra Rooker at debra.rooker@gmail.com.
(More photos on pages 3 and 6.)

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2017 Triennial Convention Preliminary Program Indianapolis, Indiana.

Thursday, July 6, 2017

8 am – 5 pm current National Council pre-convention meeting
 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm Registration OPEN
 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Welcome Reception and Poster Session (light refreshments)

Friday, July 7, 2017

7:00 am Breakfast
 8:00 am – 9:15 am Opening of Convention; Roll Call; Instructions; NC Reports
 9:15 am – 9:30 am Slate of National Council Candidates Presented
 9:30 am – 9:45 am Break
 9:45 am – 11:00 am Chapter Reports Presentations
 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Luncheon (Speakers Panel)
 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm 1st Committee Sessions
 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm 2nd Committee Sessions
 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm National Council Election (all delegates and NC members)
 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Break
 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Photo Session for all attendees, delegates and NC/Social hour
 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Awards (formal) Banquet (Speaker: National Honorary Member)
 11:00 pm Committee reports due to National President

Saturday, July 8, 2017

7:00 am Breakfast
 8:00 am – 11:00 am Committee Reports
 11:00 am – 12:00 pm New Business
 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Luncheon (Speaker: Diller Award Winner)
 2:00 pm + Afternoon Tours & Activities; free time; dinner on own

Sunday, July 9, 2017

7:00 am Breakfast
 8:00 am – 9:30 am Resolutions Committee, Installation of new National Council, Closing Remarks
 9:30 am Delegates depart for home (TBD – additional activities)
 9:30 am – 10:30 am Joint (immediate past/current) National Council Post- Convention Meeting
 10:30 am Previous National Council departs
 10:30 am – 11:30 am New National Council Post Convention Meeting
 11:30 am New National council departs (TBD – additional activities)

From the Hostess Pu Chapter: Eileen Judkins and Heather Schoonover:

The Thursday evening mixer and reception during Convention brings everyone together and gives members a chance to showcase their science, chapter, and/or company/institution they work for. In addition, this year we would like to start a new tradition in which we recognize women who have made an impact on your scientific career and/or a contribution to the advancement of science. If you would like her to be recognized, please email Eileen or Heather (ejudkins@purdue.edu or hschoono@purdue.edu) and include a photo and brief description of her accomplishments and/or impact on your career for display during our Thursday evening reception/mixer.

Message from our National President

Dear Iotans,

Our 32nd Triennial Convention is quickly approaching. I am looking forward to meeting new faces and working with familiar ones again. The preliminary program is on page 2. At this time, I'd like you to reflect on the most recent years of your membership and answer the following questions for me:

- 1) What does my Iota Sigma Pi membership mean to me?
- 2) What am I doing to support the objectives of IOTA SIGMA PI, a national honor society for women in chemistry?

Objectives:

- o to promote interest in chemistry among women students
- o to foster mutual advancement in academic, business, and social life
- o to stimulate personal accomplishment in chemical fields

IOTA SIGMA PI serves to promote the advancement of women in chemistry by granting recognition to women who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and high professional competence by election into IOTA SIGMA PI.

- 3) Is it important to me to be a part of an organization that supports women in STEM fields? Why?
- 4) How would I take a more active role in supporting Iota Sigma Pi?

Please jot down your answers and send them back to me by email or paper mail to the following address:

Email: quynhgiao.n.nguyen@nasa.gov

subject line – Iota Sigma Pi survey 2016

Paper mail:

QuynhGiao Nguyen
21000 Brookpark Rd
M.S. 49-3
Cleveland, OH 44135

Go, scientist, forward!

QuynhGiao Nguyen, National President

Presentation of Iota Sigma Pi History to New York University's Library



Photo taken with the Vanadium Chapter Officers: (Left to right) Dr. Wynne Kandur (reactivation chair), Nicole Bartolo (treasurer), Dr. QuynhGiao Nguyen (National President), Debbie Rooker (president), Sarah Blosser (membership activities coordinator), and Dr. Danielle Vellucci (secretary)

Join Our Leadership Team!

Nominees for 2017-2020 National Council Officers Needed

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? Need to boost your network and make some lasting friendships? Margaret Workman, Immediate Past President and Chair of the Committee on Nominations, is seeking nominations or recommendations for positions on the National Council for the triennium 2017-2020.

The next election will occur in July 2017, and the elected National Council members will serve from July 2017 to June 2020. 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 within the past 12 years. 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 Margaret Workman at mworkman@depaul.edu or [773-325-7445](tel:773-325-7445).**

Chapter News

STEM Outreach Activities Hosted by Chapters in 2015-2016.

Need ideas on outreach activities for your chapter? Check out the list below of activities that Iota Sigma Pi chapters hosted during the 2015-2016 year and contact them for more information.

NCW = National Chemistry Week

Aurum Iodide: Biennial Undergraduate Research Symposium & ACS Chemistry Day- "Chemistry Colors Our World", contact: Danielle Volk and Vivian Sullivan at lotaSigmaPiMAC@gmail.com.



Members of Aurum Iodide at the ACS Chemistry Day Event

Calcium: NCW at Santa Ana Zoo- Rainbow Paper Bookmarks, contact Bianca M. Ceballos bceballo@uci.edu Erika Lucas Ellucas@uci.edu or Victoria Lim limvt@uci.edu Boys and Girls Club: "Scientist in the Room" --Activities ranged from classical physics to chemistry topics lead by Danielle Watt ([dwatt@uci.edu](mailto:d watt@uci.edu)) and her Chemistry at the Space Time Limit (CaSTL) team of educators.

Chlorine: Super Science Saturday, an NCW event in Baton Rouge, LA, serving about 1000 children each year

Einsteinium: Girl Scouts STEM Day- Making and using 3D glasses, OK NSF EPSCoR Women in Science Conference- "Finding DNA in Strawberries and Soap Film in 3D shapes", & Brownie Day, Contact: Marissa Schmauch at marissa-schmauch@utulsa.edu.

Lanthanum: Brownie Day- activities to earn Senses, Hiker, and Household Elf Badges. Contact: Pam Simpson at psimpson@sbc.edu.

Plutonium: NCW – "Solving Mysteries through Chemistry", contact Hilary Florian, hflorian@purdue.edu Alex Kararo, madsena@purdue.edu Alyssa Snyder, snyde137@purdue.edu.

Chapters support aspiring scientists through recognition and awards. Several Iota Sigma Pi chapters have recognized and awarded outstanding young women scientists at local, regional, and state science fairs, as well as the work of talented undergraduates at research symposiums. Congratulations are in order to the following award recipients:

Aurum Iodide:

Frances Krausz Seabright Award (Outstanding Research Presentations at the Biennial Undergraduate Research Symposium): Elizabeth Senese, Bihgha KraKra, Dana Cairns

Hoylande Young Failey Award (Given at 2016 Science Fairs): Brianna McDaniel, St. Walter School, "A Dash of Salt," Juliana Tichota from Niles North High School, "Insoluble Cyclodextrin Polymers for the Removal of Toluene from Contaminated Water Supplies," and Lekha Durai, Plum Grover Junior High, "The Effect of Temperature on Vitamin C Content in Orange Juice"

Chlorine:

Outstanding Female Student in the areas of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Related Sciences at Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair: Alexandra Miserendino, "What is the effect of different photocatalysts on the photo degradation of oil?"

More chapter news on page 6!

SHOP AND SUPPORT Iota Sigma Pi!

Iota Sigma Pi is now a participant in the Amazon Smile program. You can shop and support women in chemistry at the same time. To join Amazon Smile, go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/> and login using your regular Amazon password. Choose your charity as "Iota Sigma Pi National Council". For current subscribers to Amazon Smile, use the direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6093887> to change charity to Iota Sigma Pi. Then keep shopping, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us at NO cost to you. **Try it out today!**

A Message from our Vice President

I have really enjoyed serving as your Vice President and getting to know more about each chapter over the past 2 years. I truly believe that membership in Iota Sigma Pi is worthy of our time, as it is a unique professional organization among scientific societies. Iota Sigma Pi offers its members a network that is large enough to help you create, support, and live your ideal career, yet it is small enough to make it happen on a personal basis. I have been working hard to develop programs to add value to your membership and appreciate all of the support you have given me as I work on them. I also appreciate your honest feedback on new ways to improve Iota Sigma Pi to meet your expectations. The following are some of the programs I have already started or am working on starting to add value to your membership:

Initiative #1: Increase recognition and visibility by highlighting member's awards/grants/ accomplishments/graduation in a press-release style article on the National Iota Sigma Pi website, Facebook page, and Iota.

- This program was off to a great start! Several members responded to my request for information on their awards and/or new positions. I enjoyed the opportunity to learn a little more about the highlighted member and was so excited to see the following each of you received on Facebook-increasing your recognition and career profile on the internet.
- Please let me be your Career Champion. Please email me (meganbourg@gmail.com) information about a fellow member's or your own accomplishments/new position. This is a safe place to boast/brag about your fellow members and yourself! All I need to get started crafting the biography to post on Facebook/website/The Iota is a name and email address of the member to be highlighted. It is a quick and painless process!

Initiative #2: Increase collaboration and support of research projects and scientists through short description of research project, links to published articles, and advertisement of the day/time of conference presentation on Iota Sigma Pi website and Facebook page.

- I am still working on this initiative and could really use your help. Please email me information pertaining to this initiative and I will get it started.

This is a great initiative as Iota Sigma Pi membership is large enough to support collaboration, but it is small enough to actually make it happen. Again, this is relatively easy, just email me information on your published articles and/or presentations and I will do the rest!

Initiative #3: Increase opportunities for members in their careers by compiling a centralized list of internships, summer research programs, postdoctoral fellowships, permanent positions, and connections to professional members at different institutions on Iota Sigma Pi website and Facebook.

- I have not created a centralized list yet, but have been posting opportunities that I come across on the Iota Sigma Pi Facebook Page. If you have participated in an internship or your company/school has open internships/fellowships/positions, please email me, and I will post it to the Iota Sigma Pi Facebook page. This is an easy way to get exceptionally qualified candidates and to help your fellow Iota land a dream position!
- Did you know that Iota Sigma Pi has a group on LinkedIn with 528 members? What a fantastic resource for networking! Request to be added to this group via the LinkedIn site.

Initiative #4: Increase outreach opportunities and decrease the amount of time to implement them by creating a resource page that lists outreach events and successful hands-on activities/demos with supplies lists/procedures on the Iota Sigma Pi website.

- Each chapter is different and has different access to resources, so I think that this is a great idea to enable all of us to work smarter and not harder. In this edition of The Iota, you will find a list of chapters, the STEM outreach activity that they performed, and the contact information for the member that organized the event. If the activity sounds good to you and you would like more information on supplies/procedures, please feel free to contact the member via email that is listed after the STEM activity.

If you have feedback on how to improve upon these ideas or how I can add value to your Iota Sigma Pi membership, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Megan Sassin, National Vice President

Dr. Barbara Finlayson-Pitts Receives 2017 National Honorary Member Award

Dr. Barbara Finlayson-Pitts received her Ph.D. (Chemistry) from University of California, Riverside. She is currently Professor of Chemistry at University of California, Irvine. In 2008, she formed



and served as the Director of the AirUCI (Atmospheric Integrated Research at University of California, Irvine) Institute, the mission of which is to "address urgent challenges we face in air and water quality, human health, climate change, and green technology through the

integration of research, education, and outreach". In addition to its cutting edge research activities, AirUCI has conducted, under her leadership, significant outreach activities to the community in the form of "Community Day" showcases of the research activities, as well as an annual teacher training program, that consists of a two-week educational experience during which a total of 200 middle and high school teachers since 2005 gained hands-on education and laboratory training in advanced subjects in atmospheric and environmental chemistry.

Dr. Finlayson-Pitts' research area is in the elucidation at the molecular level of the chemistry and photochemistry of reactions of atmospheric interest. Her research has revealed exciting new fundamental processes important in the formation of photochemical air pollution. Dr. Finlayson-Pitts has published over 185 refereed research papers, given numerous invited research lectures and education lectures. She is consistently in demand as an invited lecturer, conference presenter and as members of editorial boards, including *Science*, *International Reviews in Physical Chemistry*, *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*, *Journal of Environmental Science and Health*, (cont. page 7)

More Chapter News

Iota Sigma Pi members and Pu Chapter received the following awards in 2016:

Brycelyn Boardman: Goodman Faculty Award

Barbara Reisner: Charles Harris Award of Distinction: Kirstie Thompson

Kathleen Krist: ACS-Outstanding Senior Award

Alana Rister: Mary Baldwin College to an outstanding chemistry senior Award

Celine Brooks: Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges Award, ASBMB Undergraduate Research Award, and the Mary Baldwin Biochemistry Undergraduate Research Award

Plutonium Chapter received the Women's Giving Circle Award!

The Women's Giving Circle awards grants support to projects or programs that help women/children in your organization gain self-sufficiency and/or significantly addresses barriers to opportunity for women/children.

Keep up with ΙΣΠ on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/IotaSigmaPi

Vanadium Reactivation Ceremony's Seminar Speaker:

Dr. Kathryn E. Uhrich – Dean of College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, University of California, Riverside). Dr. Uhrich is an Iotan.



(left to right:) Debbie Rooker (Vanadium chapter president), Dr. Uhrich (Speaker) and Dr. Wynne Kandur (Vanadium chapter reactivation chair)

Members on the Move

Congratulations to the following members on their graduation and we wish you success in the next step of continuing your education

Pursuing PhD

Alana Rister
Kathleen Krist
Devon Shircliff
Kirstie Thompson
Brenna Walsh
Ngoc Pham
Kiersten Garcia
Lauren Grant
Tiffany Chen

Pursuing DVM

Lauren Penley
Madeline Coleman
Hailey Montalbano

Pursuing Pharm D

Heather Rucker
Alyson Black

Smithsonian Material Conservation Institute

Leah Humenuk

Congratulations to the following members for joining the ranks of PhD chemist, and we wish you success in your next position

Post Doc

Mary Elizabeth Daub
Kristina Kesely

Academic/Teaching

Joanna Laird
Cory Antonakos
Lauren Wagner

ORISE Fellow

Jessica Roman

ACS/AAAS Congressional Science Fellow

Leah K. Rubin

Industry

Yashaswi Shrestha
Alice Pilo
Chelsea G. Gordon
Sun Kim
Latisha Paw U

(Continued from page 6)

International Journal of Chemical Kinetics, Atmospheric Environment, Research on Chemical Intermediates.

In recognition of her research achievements, Dr. Finlayson-Pitts has received numerous prestigious awards and honors.

Prof. Finlayson-Pitts is not only a visionary scientist but also a passionate educator. She invests a lot of her energy on development of new educational material for undergraduate students and makes her work broadly

available through a number of publications in educational journals.

Prof. Finlayson-Pitts is a great mentor, and a strong proponent of the education and professional preparation of women at all levels. She serves as the Faculty Advisor to the Iota Sigma Pi Calcium Chapter.

Iota Sigma Pi is happy to recognize Dr. Barbara Finlayson-Pitts' outstanding research achievements and her exceptional contributions to her profession and to bestow on her this highest honor from the Society.

NATIONAL COUNCIL 2014-2017

President

QuynhGiao N. Nguyen, Ph.D.
216-433-6073 (w)
Quynhgioa.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov

Vice President

Megan B. Sassin, Ph.D.
(512) 797-7956
meganbourg@gmail.com

Secretary

Anne K. Taylor, Ph.D.
(707) 774-6586
akt1208@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Donna A. Iannotti, Ph.D.
321-433-5295
iannottid@easternflorida.edu

Historian

Susan Marine, Ph.D.
513-727-3372 (w)
mariness@miamioh.edu

Records Chair

Janet L. Marshall, Ph.D.
513-727-3398 (w)
marshall@miamioh.edu

Coordinator of Members-at-Large

Gail Blaustein, Ph.D.
913-360-7515
MAL.lotaSigmaPi@gmail.com

Coordinator of Initiates & Supplies

Reiko Simmons, Ph.D.
216-397-1573 (work)
rsimmons@jcu.edu

Director for Professional Awards

Lily M. Ng, Ph.D.
612-455-9354
lilymsng@gmail.com

Director for Student Awards
Kathryn A. Thomasson, Ph.D.

701 777-3199 (work)
kathryn.thomasson@und.edu

Webmaster

Teresa Bixby, Ph.D.
815-836-5715 (work)
drteresabixby@gmail.com

Immediate Past President
Margaret Workman, Ph.D.

773-325-7445 (work)
mworkman@depaul.edu

Editor Open



THE IOTAN
Janet L. Marshall, Ph.D.
57 Vermont Avenue
Wyoming, OH 45215

Nonprofit