Act enthusiastic and you'll be enthusiastic!

Dale Carnegie

THE ORIGIN OF CHAPTER NAMES

There is no explanation for the choice of the chapter name in any petition for a charter. A search of the archives, however, found an article "The Origin of Chapter Names" by Agnes Fay Morgan in the Winter Number of **THE IOTAN** pp. 15-16, (1956-1957). Much of the following has been taken from that article. Information about the names of the later chapters was obtained from the chapters.

AMERICIUM, at Boston University, chose its name for a very obvious reason since Boston was the cradle for the birth of our nation. **ARGENTUM** had the chapter members vote for the name from a choice of four names – chromium, natrium, argentum and calcium. Reasons were given for argentum, a precious metal and calcium; the Shenandoah Valley's chromium and natrium were not listed. When the votes were counted, argentum was the overwhelming choice. **AURUM** was chosen because it begins with A, as does Ames, the city in which Iowa State College is located. Argon had also been considered but since argon is an inert element, it was rejected as non-representative of the group. **AURUM IODIDE** was chosen because nearly all the charter members were alumnae of Aurum and Iodine, a natural and clever choice.

CADMIUM was chosen as the name for the Capital District of New York Chapter because of the letters Cd. **CARBON** was chosen as the name for the Stanford chapter because of its all pervasive presence in the organic world. The motto was "we may be small but we are likely to be everywhere." **CHLORINE** was chosen for the chapter name when the parent organization at Louisiana State University, Chi Lambda, was installed as a chapter in 1949. Although Cl was not an exact translation of this name, it was chosen as the best approximation possible. **COBALT** was the name chosen by the Indianapolis Chapter. It was suggested by Josephine Van Fleet (In) to suggest that the chapter would be active as is radioactive cobalt. **COLUMBIUM** was chosen by the group at Columbia University for an obvious reason. **CURIUM** was named for Madame Curie. The members of the chapter at American University could not understand why it had not been chosen earlier.

EINSTEINIUM was chosen for the name of the Tulsa chapter because it was "cool." Einsteinium was also chosen because Albert Einstein would be an excellent role model for very bright women in chemistry. With Einstein's example of hard work and perseverance the chapter should become strong.

FLUORINE was chosen by the chapter at Western Reserve University because of the long continued research of this element carried on by the late Dr. H.S. Booth, a member of the chemistry department and a devoted friend of the chapter.

HELIUM was chosen for the chapter at the University of Oklahoma when it was installed in 1921 because the gas was much in the news at that time for use in balloons, and the entire national supply was found in Oklahoma. **HYDROGEN** was chosen by Alchemia, at the University of California, Berkeley, when it united with groups at Stanford and Southern California in 1916 under the name Iota Sigma Pi. Since hydrogen in one sense might be considered the mother of all elements, so, too, was the chapter at Berkeley to be considered the "mother" of the new organization Iota Sigma Pi.

INDIUM was chosen by the chapter at Indiana University because of the obvious resemblance to the university's name. **IODINE** was chosen as the name of the chapter at the University of Illinois because I is the first letter of Illinois. **IRIDIUM** was chosen by the chapter at the State University of Iowa so as to have the letter I for Iowa. Iodine had been chosen for Illinois at that time.

KALIUM the old name for potassium was chosen by the chapter at the University of Kansas so as to have K for Kansas. **LANTHANUM** was chosen as a representation of the Lynchburg area (in Virginia) served by the chapter.

MANGANESE was chosen by the chapter installed at Hunter College in 1951. There is no information available as to why the name was chosen. **MERCURY** was chosen by the chapter at the University of Minnesota because its name and Minnesota's begin with the letter M. Also, Mercury is a heavy and substantial element but flexible and fast (like the Minnesota teams). **MOLYBDENUM** was chosen by the chapter because its name and Massachusetts begin with the letter M. There were three other significant reasons: (1) Molybdenum is used as a strengthening agent in the manufacture of steel. We, both individually and collectively, serve as just such agents in our academic environment. (2) It is not unrecognized by the group of founders that the letters of the chemical symbol molybdenum, Mo, are the initials of a founding member of this chapter, Dr. Mary Ondrechen. (3) Another founding member, Kay Onan, is an x-ray crystallographer; one of the major tools of her trade is an x-ray tube with a molybdenum target.

NEPTUNIUM was chosen by the chapter at the University of Houston for Neptune, the God of the Sea, because of Houston's nearness to the Gulf. **NIOBIUM** was chosen by the chapter at the

University of Oregon because it is a rare element and hard to isolate. It was chosen in fun rather than for any serious reason. **NITROGEN** was chosen by the chapter at the University of Nebraska because N might stand also for Nebraska.

OSMIUM was chosen by the chapter at Ohio State University because **Os** would also indicate Ohio State. **OXYGEN** was chosen by the chapter at the University of Washington because, since the discovery by Lavoisier of the part played by oxygen in combustion, it might be called the beginning of modern chemistry. Oxygen hoped to be united with other chapters in the beginning of a growing national organization.

PALLADIUM was chosen by the chapter at Pennsylvania State University because its symbol contained P as in Pennsylvania. The group would have preferred Platinum but that was already in use at Denver University. In any case, they wished to have the name of one of the noble metals. **PHOSPHORUS** was chosen by the chapter at the University of Michigan. There is no information to be had about the origin of the name. **PLATINUM** was chosen by the University of Denver after much discussion as to the best of the remaining royal metals. At the installation of the chapter, Dysprosium was chosen in order to keep the letter D "in the family", but the National Council advised the chapter to reconsider the name because of the doubt about the authenticity of Dysprosium. **PLUTONIUM** was chosen by the chapter at Purdue University because the symbol Pu had the letters P.U. for Purdue University. **POLONIUM** was chosen by the chapter at George Washington University in honor of Madame Curie, a native of Poland and discoverer of the element. **PROMETHIUM** was chosen by the metropolitan chapter at Portland, Oregon because the element and the city both begin with the letter P.

RADIUM was chosen by the chapter at the University of Cincinnati because the members of the chapter had great admiration for Madame Curie, who discovered Radium and who had been elected the first Honorary Member of Iota Sigma Pi the year before the young women of the University of Cincinnati petitioned for a chapter. **RUTHENIUM** was chosen by the chapter at Rutgers University for obvious reasons, Ru for Rutgers University.

SAMARIUM was chosen by the metropolitan chapter at South Bend, Indiana because of the association of Saint Mary's College with Sm the symbol of the element. Saint Mary's agreed to be the "home" institution at the time the petition was being written and underwrote the initial expenses involved in writing the petition. The group had considered antimony, Sb, for South Bend but the area covered by the chapters covered other cities,

Marjorie Young Vold
Sulfur, Pacific Coast Research Award Winner in 1952, member of Carbon. Golden Jubilee photograph.

too. Neodymium, Nd, for Notre Dame was rejected since no support from Notre Dame had been received and it was a traditionally male institution. **SCANDIUM** was chosen by the chapter in South Carolina because of the obvious resemblance to the state's name. **SULFUR** was chosen by the chapter at the University of Southern California because they wished to have the letter S for south and because sulfur is important in nature.

TECHNETIUM was chosen because of the similarity of Technetium and Technology. Rochester Institute of Technology was the home institution of many of the charter members. **TELLURIUM** was chosen by the chapter at the University of Texas because T is the first letter in both Tellurium and Texas. **TUNGSTEN** was chosen by the chapter at the University of Colorado because Boulder County, Colorado contains the largest deposits of wolframite in the world and also because the honorary member, Dr. John B. Ekeley, at the time of the installation, had just developed a commercial method for the extraction of pure tungstic acid from wolframite.

URANIUM was chosen by the chapter at Texas State College for Women because of its stability, long life and key position in the atomic hierarchy. **VANADIUM** was chosen by the chapter at Fordham University because its rediscoverer Sefstrom named it after Vanadis, the Scandinavian goddess of beauty, because of the beautiful colors which the solution of compounds found in the slag of Taberg iron displayed. **YTTERBIUM** was obviously chosen by the chapter at Yale University because both the element and Yale begin with Y.

I have been working on the topic of lifting the glass ceiling for my whole career. I focused for years on the idea that if the numbers of women would hit critical mass, the ceiling itself would rise

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LOCATION OF CHAPTERS

STATE	CHAPTER (YEAR INSTALLED)	LOCATION
California	Hydrogen (1902)	Berkeley
	Carbon (1913)	Stanford University
	Sulfur (1914)	University of Southern California
Colorado	Platinum (1924)	University of Denver, Denver
	Tungsten (1918)	University of Colorado, Boulder
Connecticut	Ytterbium (1920)	Yale University, New Haven
Illinois	Aurum Iodide (1939)	Chicago
	Iodine (1918)	University of Illinois, Urbana
Iowa	Aurum (1920	Iowa State University, Ames
	Iridium (1926)	University of Iowa, Iowa City
Indiana	Cobalt (1971)	Indianapolis
	Indium (1930	Indiana University, Bloomington
	Plutonium (1963)	Purdue University, Lafayette
	Samarium (1978)	South Bend
Kansas	Kalium (1924)	University of Kansas, Lawrence
Louisiana	Chlorine (1949)	Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
Massachusetts	Americium (1968)	Boston University, Boston
	Molybdenum (1981)	Northeastern University, Boston
Michigan	Phosphorus (1917)	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Minnesota	Mercury (1923)	Minneapolis, St. Paul
Nebraska	Nitrogen (1912)	University of Nebraska, Lincoln
New Jersey	Ruthenium (1974)	Rutgers University, New Brunswick
New York	†Columbium (1947)	Columbia University, New York City
	†Manganese (1951)	Hunter College, New York City
	†Vanadium (1965)	New York City
	Cadmium (2004)	Albany
	Technetium (1987)	Rochester
Ohio	Fluorine (1925)	Cleveland
	Osmium (1963)	Ohio State University, Columbus
	Radium (1923)	Cincinnati
Oklahoma	Einsteinium (2004)	The University of Tulsa
	Helium (1921)	University of Oklahoma, Norman
Oregon	Niobium (1960)	Oregon State University, Corvallis
	Promethium (1979)	Portland
Pennsylvania	Palladium (1930)	Pennsylvania State University, University Park
South Carolina	Scandium (1989)	Greenville
Texas	Neptunium (1966)	Houston
	Tellurium (1930)	University of Texas, Austin
	Uranium (1947)	Texas Woman's University, Denton
Virginia	Argentum (1979)	Staunton
	Lanthanum (1998)	Lynchburg
Washington	Oxygen (1911)	Seattle
District of Columbia	Curium (1973)	Washington
	Polonium (1937)	George Washington University

(Year of Installation in parenthesis, † Merge-Metropolitan)