Members-at-Large
NEWSLETTER
March 2004

Remember MAL Award

The application deadline is March 15. If you don’t know someone to nominate, volunteer to serve of the Award Committee. E-mail me for more info: kthomasson@chem.umd.edu

Going to the ACS Meeting in Anaheim? has a booth for the Alumni Social Hour on Monday March 29 from 6-7:30 PM at the Anaheim Convention Center 213C. Join other Iotas for good company, food, a raffle and prizes.

Websites
For the national
http://www.iotasigmpi.info/
For MALs
http://www.iotasigmpi.info/MAL/

Member Get-a-Member Campaign
As MALs, we have a policy in place for nominating new members. If you get two new members to join within a year, you are eligible for free merchandise from the supplies coordinator. National council lets you use the honor system so when you’ve found two new members you will tell the supplies coordinator and she will send you something. The new supplies coordinator is

QuynhGiao N. Nguyen
NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field
Mail Stop 106-1 Environmental Durability Branch
21000 Brookpark Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
Email: Quynhgiao.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov

Look around you. Are there colleagues, subordinates, friends or students who quality? Qualifications for membership can be found on our website mentioned above. Remember, students don’t need to be majoring in chemistry, but must have taken the minimum of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications). Professionals also just need to meet the minimum number of Chemistry credits, they don’t need to be working as Chemists. You can contact me for application forms. I look forward to seeing your nominations for new members.

Guidelines for Stating a New Chapter
A minimum of six women who are ISP members (Members at Large) or who qualify for membership must petition for a charter. Qualifications for membership are listed on the ISP website.
http://www.iotasigmpi.info/about.htm

An acting chapter liaison should be named. She will be in charge of arrangements for chartering the chapter. She will also communicate with the National Council through the National Vice President and handle all the correspondence for the chartering procedure. If the liaison is a student, she must provide the name of a permanent faculty or staff member who will serve as a sponsor for the chapter. This will ensure stability of the chapter as students come as go.

One packet with the signed petition (with signatures of charter members and proposed name of the chapter) with appropriate attachments for each of the prospective members: (1) application forms (available on the web site) for membership; (2) individual membership fees; (3) Curriculum Vitae for professionals and transcripts for students.

Please send the above to the National Vice President at:
Julie A. Teetsov, Ph.D.
GE Global Research and Development
Building K-1, Room 2C14
1 Research Circle
Niskayuna, NY 12309
Phone 518-387-7551; Fax –6972
teetsov@crd.ge.com

The petition should include general info on the region from which the members will come (colleges, universities, research institutes and chemical industries). All chapters are required to be organized as metropolitan chapters. If the chapter is to be head quartered at a specific academic or industrial institution, a proposed plan for how the charter members will outreach to other institutions and chemists in the area must be included.

A letter of recommendation for the establishment of the chapter from Department Chairperson, Industrial Department Leader, Dean, Academic Vic-President and/or Iota Sigma Pi member (not a necessary condition, but recommended in order to facilitate integration of ISP into the academic or industrial community).

I must receive the above information and documentation AT LEAST one month prior to when you plan to have your official installation (combined with new member initiation) ceremony. National Council must have time to review and vote on your petition and membership applications must be processed and certificates made and sent out.

National Council wishes this to be an easy procedure for your potential new chapter, and we are very excited about your interest in Iota Sigma Pi! Please feel free to contact me with any questions!
Julie Teetsov
National Vice President

MAL Listserv
Our listserv is up and running again. Not many folks have signed on. I’ve been posting ISP news and other items of interest to the listserv. It’s not a noisy listserv if you are concerned about getting a lot of junk email.
To join the list serve, send a message to
listserv@ceemast.csupomona.edu

In the subject part of the message type: ispmal.

You should receive a message beginning with " This is an automated message:
You have been subscribed to the ispmal mailing list.
To send a message to the list send an e-mail to: ispmal@ceemast.csupomona.edu
To unsubscribe, send a message to: listserv@ceemast.csupomona.edu
with "unsubscribe ispmal" without quotes as the subject"

To send a message to the listserv email: ispmal@ceemast.csupomona.edu

MAL Treasury Report
We have a new MAL treasurer, Donna Iannotti (who spearheaded the MAL quilt project) is now our treasurer. Her report for July 1, 2002 through January 31, 2004 follows.

Balance 7/1/02 $24,682.16
Deposits: 
Dues $1,537.00
Donations $430.00
Interest $642.27
Expenses
MAL Award $1,030.00
Newsletter/Postage $1,057.82
Balance 1/31/04 $24,203.61

Concerns about the treasury include the award funding. With the poor economy, we no longer are capable of earning the interest to pay out the Educational Re-entry award at a rate of $1,000. We have been able to recoup some of the costs through donations and through dues rebates. Any suggestions on how to handle the problem appropriately will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me (kthomasson@chem.und.edu) or Donna Iannotti (douglas774@aol.com).

Questions for Thought & Response
I am posing the current question based on a story that appeared the Department of Chemistry Iowa State Newsletter and is about Kathleen Trahanovsky. She was the first professional woman chemist I ever met (I met her while I was a graduate student at Iowa State), and she has served as a role model. She writes that Dave Gieseke originally wrote the following story for the LAS college internal faculty newsletter. Kathleen also says that the local Iota Sigma Pi chapter (Aurum) is active this year thanks to a good number of woman students.

What happens when your spouse is tenured and you still want to work as a chemist? A pact with a fried brought Kathleen Trahanovsky to Iowa State's Department of Chemistry 40 years ago. While that friend didn't stay long on campus, Kathleen did, completing her master's degree in chemistry. "My intention was only to get a master's degree," she said. "I went back to Boston after I completed my degree." In Boston, Kathleen taught some course and found she enjoyed being a teacher. So it was back to Iowa State, where she began working on a Ph.D. in organic chemistry and serving as a teaching assistant in the Department of Chemistry.

On her first day back in Ames, Iowa, when met a young new faculty member (Walter Trahanovsky) and that relationship lead to marriage, children and when her husband earned tenure, an uncertain job future. "There were no other real employment opportunities for me if I wanted to continue being a chemist," she said. "The (chemistry) department would add a section or a faculty member would go on leave and they would call me up an ask if I wanted to teach."

For the first few years, Kathleen said that arrangement was fine. Her children were young requiring a flexibility that a full-time position wouldn't have allowed. The trouble was there was no future, no security, no status," she said. "I was never evaluated and from semester to semester, I didn't know if I would have a position. I could have been a free postdoc, but that didn't appeal to me." During that time frame, Kathleen thought she was in a unique situation. Then she found out that other women chemists at research universities across the country were in the same boat.

At a meeting of the women chemists Committee of the American Chemical Society, Kathleen decided to see if anyone could give her some advice on the situation. "I stood up and told the group that I had been temporary teaching for eight to ten years and I was bothered by my status," she recalled. "The room responded almost as one. Everyone either had gone through the same situation or knew someone like me."

Kathleen stayed involved with the Women Chemists Committee, chairing that ACS group from 1989-91. During that time and since then, she has become an advocate for raising the consciousness of academic departments, particularly in the sciences, about hiring more female professors. She remains a frequent speaker on encouraging women in science. In recent years, she has gained a permanent, full-time teaching position within the Department of Chemistry, first as a temporary assistant professor and currently as an adjunct associate professor. She also serves as the associate coordinator of general chemistry.

In 1993, Kathleen became director and an active member of Science Bound, a program for 8-12th grade students in the Des Moines School system whose mission is to increase minority involvement leading to enrollment in technical degree programs at Iowa State. Since 1999, she has also served as Principal
Investigator for Pipelines, a NASA funded subcontract from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, whose goal is to attract more minority students to research careers in science.

That activity and 20 years of teaching general and organic chemistry to Iowa State students have netted Kathleen Trahanovsky several departmental and college awards for teaching. The latest come this past fall, when the ISU Alumni Association named her a recipient of a Faculty citation, which "recognizes ISU faculty for inspiring service to students, alumni, the university and the profession."

I’d love to share other stories like Kathleen Trahanovsky's in the MAL Newsletter. Send them to me at the address at the end of the MAL Newsletter or E-mail me. Kathryn Thomasson, MAL Coordinator E-mail: kthomasson@chem.umd.edu

General News

New Fellowship Program to Encourage Minorities and Women. The American Association of University Women and the United Negro College Fund have developed a legislative proposal for a new program in the Higher Education Act entitled the Patsy Mink Fellowship. The fellowship will target minority and women who plan to teach at degree granting institutions of higher education. Underrepresented minorities including, African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Latino/Hispanic, and Native American make up less than 14 percent of all university professors. Women constitute one third of all college faculty, but they tend to receive less senior positions. This results in minority and women students not having the role models they need. The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) has endorsed this legislative proposal to help support minorities and women in higher education. For more information on the proposal or the scholarship go to http://www.awis.org/voice/endorsement.html.

Report Released on Need for Diversity Faculties. On January 15, 2004, "A National Analysis of Diversity in Science and Engineering Faculties at Research Universities" by Donna J. Nelson and Diana C. Rogers was released. The report is an exhaustive analysis of the faculties at the top U.S. universities. It shows that women are rare in tenured positions and minority women are all but invisible. This means that, even though more women are graduating in science and engineering, many of them will never meet a woman professor in their field. Our own Dr. Nelson (MAL at the University of Oklahoma) published much of the underlying data reported in the study in AWIS Magazine. The release was held at the National Press Club and was moderated by Catherine Didion, Executive Director for Association for Women in Science. To read more about this important study, visit www.now.org/issues/diverse/diversity_report.pdf.

2004 National Parks Scholarships. Canon National Park announces its 2004 competition. The program will be awarding eight U.S. $78,000 scholarships to Ph.D. students throughout America. The students are expected to perform research critical to conserving the national parks in their regions. Research projects that are eligible include biological, physical, social, cultural science, and technological innovations in support of conservation science. Applications must be received by May 3, 2004. For more information, please visit www.nature.nps.gov/canoscholarships.

Register your Doctoral Dissertation Online. Ph.D. Data has recently improved their search and registration options. Students will now be able to register their dissertations online. This service will help avoid duplications in doctoral dissertations and will create a meeting place for researchers. It will also aid in interaction between Ph.D. students. For more information, please visit www.phddata.org.

MentorNet Seeking Faculty to Become Mentors. MentorNet is an E-Mentoring Network for women in Engineering and Science that seeks tenured faculty as mentors for its Academic Career E-Mentoring Program. Women graduate students and postdocs with an interest in faculty careers are matched with tenured faculty members for an eight-month mentoring relationship via E-mail. Currently the program has 170 students from diverse fields seeking matches. AWIS is on the advisory board for this organization and is an active supporter of MentorNet. For more information, please visit www.MentorNet.net/documents/about/programs/academic.aspx.

Member News

Ashika Severin writes: "I decided to take a short hiatus from Chemistry and I am currently a grad student in the School of Public Health at Yale University. My focus is Chronic Disease Epidemiology, but I am considering forensic epidemiology so that I can marry my Chemistry background with my current Public Health interests. I plan on enrolling in a PhD program in Chemistry after completing my Master's program in Epidemiology here.

Helen Stewart has been named the Maquaketo Rotary Citizen of the Week for the week of February 23, 2004. She helped establish the local Meals On Wheels program, is a member of the Jackson County Zoning Commission, and volunteers at the Jackson County Historical Society Museum. She is involved with the Community Cupboard and the Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse Resource Center. Helen has been active in her church too, the United Church of Christ. In the past, she has been in the choir, been a youth-group sponsor, and is currently the Women's Fellowship Chairman. Her
hobbies are: volunteering, reading almost anything, and sewing and needlework.

Corrine Kvamme, the 2003 MAL Educational Award recipient writes: I was accepted at UND med school! I am very excited. It doesn't seem real. I keep thinking that they will say "just kidding!"

Joke of the Day

A couple goes on vacation to a fishing resort in northern Minnesota. The husband likes to fish at the crack of dawn. The wife likes to read. One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors and continues to read her book.

Along comes a game warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says "Good morning Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?")
"You're in a restricted fishing area," he informs her.
"I'm sorry officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading."
"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."
"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.
"But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden.
"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start any moment."
"Have a nice day Ma'am", and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.