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. Remember if you had signed on prior to December 6, 2002 you must sign on again because the listserv moved. Here's how:

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 listserve email: ispmal@ceemast.csupomona.edu

The Website
http://www.iotasigmapi.info/
Check it out for announcements, membership information, job announcements, who we are, awards, etc.

Nominate Someone for Membership
I've enclosed a membership application in this newsletter for your use in nominating colleagues and/or students for membership via National Council Action. Please feel free to make as many copies as you want. It reflects the cost increases in membership dues and initiation fees.

It's easy to nominate people for membership: (1) write an nomination letter and address it to the National Council, (2) get your nominee to fill out an application form with supporting documentation, and (3) send the complete application package to the MAL Coordinator (that's me and my address is on the outside of this Newsletter).

Remember that we have a policy in place for nominating new members for. If you get two new members to join, you are eligible for free ΙΣΠ merchandise from the supplies coordinator. National council lets you use the honor system so when you've found to 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: qnnguyen@grc.nasa.gov

Qualification for Membership in ΙΣΠ
Members are elected on the basis of scholastic and/or professional record. Those eligible for election. Realize they need not hold degrees in chemistry to qualify because we cover related disciplines; qualifications for students do depend on the number of Chemistry courses taken and GPA. Qualifications for professionals depend on scientific employment of some kind. The list of qualifications for each category follows.

Undergraduate Students
A. Are enrolled in a National Council Approved four-year college or university
B. Have achieved Junior status
C. Have an overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
D. Have completed at least six semesters of chemistry with a chemistry GPA of 3.0 or at least four semesters of chemistry with a chemistry GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

Note: the student does not need to be a chemistry major, but must have taken enough chemistry with the recommended GPA to qualify.

Graduate Students in Chemistry or an Allied Field
A. Have completed successfully at least nine semester hours (or equivalent) of graduate study in chemistry or a related science.
B. Have a GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and are not on probation.
C. Meet the eligibility requirements for undergraduate students listed above.

Note: again the student doesn’t need to be majoring in chemistry, but must have taken the minimum of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications).

Professional Applicants
A. Have a Ph.D. in chemistry or an allied science OR
B. Have a bachelors or masters degree in chemistry with a GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or at least three years of employment in chemistry or an allied field OR
C. Have a bachelors or masters degree in a related field with at least five years of employment in chemistry or a related field.

Realize that related fields include a variety of the Biological or Physical Sciences, Chemical Engineering, etc. If
you have questions, just ask me. I know fellow Iotans who are microbiologists, molecular biologists, biophysicists, geologists, and chemical engineers, and I know my list is not all-inclusive.

Check Out the ISP Speakers Bureau
www.radford.edu/~chermann/ISP_speakers_bureau.htm

Iota Sigma Pi promotes professional development and personal growth of women in chemistry and related fields through recognition, public outreach, and the formation of supportive networks. The Iota Sigma Pi Speakers’ Bureau was set up to promote professional interactions between women in chemistry. The participants in the Speakers Bureau have expressed an interest in giving talks on various aspects of chemistry. Check out the website to see whose interested in speaking.

A Note from the 2002 MAL Award Winner, Heather Marxen

I would like to thank the MALs in IΣΠ for the MAL Educational Re-entry Award I received last year. Since I knew that I would be venturing into the professional world, I used a significant amount of the award to fund a new wardrobe to go with my new job. I am currently working as a graduate teaching intern at a tribal college in Fort Totten, ND. I am enjoying my role here, and am currently negotiating a longer term position on the faculty. I have five students, all females, and they are outperforming my expectations of them grandly. I also serve as an informal mentor and role model for them, and without my association with IΣΠ, I wouldn’t do that job nearly as well. Thanks again.

Remember nominations for the 2003 MAL Award are due March 15, 2003. If you are interested in serving on the MAL Award Committee for reviewing applicaitons please contact me.

Kathryn Thomasson
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Questions for Thought and Response

Here is another story in our continuing discussion on How Professional Women Manage to Have Children. This story comes from an Iotan in Pennsylvania. She writes:

Wanting It All and Getting More Than I Bargained For

I was never the kind of mom who was home to meet her boys after school with fresh baked cookies. I knew I was not cut out to be a stay-at-home mom; and I rarely took much time off from work, even in the summer months when I could. My older son was born while I was still in graduate school. I took him to his first scientific meeting when he was only 9 weeks old, where he was blessed (well, at least smiled upon) by Nobel Laureate Paul Berg!

After finishing graduate school and a short post-doc, I took a position at a small, Liberal Arts college. My younger son was born a year later. I bought an old house, replaced windows, installed insulation, and tore out walls. With the house more torn apart than finished, I took a tenure-track position at Edinboro U. of PA, which gave me a daily, 150 mile, round trip commute through the snow belt south of Lake Erie.

I taught 12 contact hours per week, served on committees, wrote grants, and directed undergraduate research. When I had an 8 AM lab, thankfully only one semester, I had to leave home by 6. My husband and my sons were still fast asleep. After four years, I knew I was very likely to be awarded tenure when I became eligible the following year. All that hard work and time away from my family would soon pay off.

Just when I began to feel like I’d “arrived,” I began to notice odd sensations. Whenever I looked down I would get an electric shock-like sensation in my left hand. I figured I must have a pinched nerve. Then I found that I could not grip things. I could no longer use a can opener. I dropped bottles in the refrigerator almost every day. The left side of my face began to go numb. Now, I couldn’t tell myself that it was a pinched nerve anymore. The facial nerves are cranial, not spinal. I had to go see a doctor.

I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 19 months ago – shortly before I was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. I will never underestimate the importance of job security or of the excellent benefits package that the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education provides. I am still not a “June Cleaver” kind of mom, but I have begun to take a lot more time off over Christmas break and through the summer months. I had to refocus my undergraduate research projects, but not as much as I had feared. I may start buying pre-poured polyacrylamide gels instead of teaching the students to pour them. I can no longer take on any student who wants to do research. I have to be choosier. My students will have to be more independent and more self-motivated than some I have had in the past. I may have to sell the house I love and move closer.

I have learned that I can adjust. I still have the “do what it takes” attitude – only now it isn’t what it takes to make the grade or to impress colleagues, it is doing what I can reasonably do, and doing it so well that more will not be expected. I wanted everything:
career, family, a home 2 blocks from Lake Erie. I got all that, and just a little extra surprise.

Lisa M. Unico, Ph.D.

Also concerning this topic Grace Miller writes: "I muse about the 'feminist chemists' who discover how great being a mother is. Too bad that women who have degrees (+ intelligence) often are not patterned to enjoy motherhood by our culture."

I agree with Grace's comments about our culture. It reminds me of a panel discussion I attended three years ago at the Biophysical Society discussing how professional women can 'have it all'. At one point several members who were not American pointed out that Americans are crazy because the culture actually discourages women having children in a timely fashion. Some even pointed out that their own cultures encourage even professional women to have children in their mid-twenties. Such timing would be before the biological alarm clock starts screaming you are out of time.

Please continue to send me your stories and comments for sharing. Believe it or not, discussions like these are actually finding their way into the academic hierarchy even within my own institution which means awareness is rising when even a few years ago it wasn't mentioned. I'm less familiar with business so perhaps one of you could comment.

Chapter News

Mark your calendar now to attend the Iota Sigma Pi Dinner!

Hosted by the Chlorine chapter during the New Orleans ACS Meeting
All Iotans and interested friends are welcome!

Ralph Brennan's Bacco Restaurant
310 Chartres, New Orleans
Sunday, March 23, 2003, 7:00 PM

Bacco is one of the Brennan's restaurants featuring Creole and Italian cuisine. Check out the menu at www.bacco.com. Location is three blocks off Canal Street between Bienville and Conti Street in The French Quarter. Please RSVP to Janet Clark at janet.r.clark@exxonmobil.com or 225-977-8551 by March 14 so we can get an idea of numbers. Dutch treat, no ticket is required. Entrees range from $10-225. We hope to see many of you there!

Welcome New Members
We have 10 new members who have been initiated by national council action. Please join me in welcoming them.

- Courtney Reynolds Martinez, CA
- Karen Wendling, Wydmoor PA
- Irene Atamah, Richardson, TX
- Lauren Brothers, Irvine, CA
- Rachel Stephenson, Claremont, CA
- Karen Howard, Girard, OH
- Nicole Savig, North Mankato MN
- Mary Jacobs, Bridgeville, PA
- Jeana Alexander, Fresno, CA
- Jane Lind, Baltimore, MD

Remember, your friend or colleague could be listed here next time if you nominate them for membership!

Member News
Alice Fay writes: "Thank you for managing the MAL newsletter. I like to get it, even though I am long out of chemistry. My Ph.D. was from Berkeley, 1950, so I am retired as you must figure. (I knew Agnes Fay Morgan, at least by sight, while I was a graduate student, if my memory serves me correctly.) I last taught in at the Univ. of Nairobi, Kenya, with a Volunteers for Africa program, 1995-97. I taught agriculture and engineering students their first-year general and organic chemistry, with others running the labs for the courses.

Now I am in my second career, having been ordained a deacon in the Episcopal church in 1995, and am very active in that work. My husband and I went to Nairobi three days after my ordination, and I am attached to All Saints’ Cathedral, the national cathedral, in Nairobi. Now I am at St. Stephen's Episc. Church, Milledgeville."


Share Your Story Online (http://echo.gmu.edu/wise/). Attention all woman scientists and engineers! Take part in George Mason University's ECHO (Exploring & Collecting History online) and share the story of your career. In doing so, you will help educate aspiring women scientists and engineers and facilitate historical research. You may enter the survey anonymously, or close your entry from public access. Numerous contributions by other women are already available for reading online:


If you have questions, call the Center for History and New Media at 703-993-4585.
Joke of the Day

Why Did The Chicken Cross The Road?
Dr. Seuss: Did the chicken cross the road?
    Did it cross to get some gold?
    Yes! The chicken crossed the road,
    Why it crossed, I've not been told!
Ernest Hemingway: To die. In the rain.
John Lennon: Imagine all the chickens
    crossing roads in peace.
Aristotle: It is the nature of chickens to cross
    the road.
Karl Marx: It was an historical inevitability.
Captain Kirk: To boldly go where no chicken
    has gone before.
Colonel Sanders: What, I missed one?
Anonymous: To get to the rooster on the
    other side.
Albert Einstein: Did the chicken really cross
    the road or did the road move beneath the
    chicken?